

Pittsfield Village Condominium's 3rd Annual Pooch Plunge

**Bring Linus, Rocky or Daisy
For a dip in the pool...
after season, of course
Wednesday, September 9
5:00pm to 7:00pm**



HEALTHWISE

School Daze

With money being tight, getting the kids ready for school does not have to break your budget. When school starts money is needed for basic school supplies, along with school pictures, fund raisers, field trips, and extracurricular activities. When it comes to the basics, that is really all you need, just the basics. Check the school's web site for the school's calendar to aid in planning the family calendar.

Plan your shopping ahead by getting the printed "School Supply" list for each grade. Split the list into categories, reusable items (book bag, rulers, notebooks, etc.), just as good (used shoes, books and PC's), and must have new (clothing, books, etc). Most school supplies are inexpensive. Check magazines and the local news ads, grocery fliers, and grocery stores have their school supplies

available at the check-out lanes. Also have the kids go online to compare prices of needed items, and print coupons. Check resale shops and the dollar stores. Remember to revamp, repurpose, renew, and redo by having a "get ready for school" craft night, this can included family and friends. Instead of paying double price for "spiffed up" book bags, notebooks or t-shirts, get the group together to decorate with their own pizzazz.

This is the time to make annual doctor and dental appointments.

Save time and frustration when getting kids ready for school by preparing ahead of time and beginning a family schedule one to two weeks before school begins, i.e. home work habits, have the kids to read at an assigned time each evening.

During the school year prepare everything the night before i.e., clothing and backpacks are readied, this will make the morning easier. Also showers and baths can be taken right before bed time. Be sure to check the back packs/book bags every evening for notes that need to be signed and/or a forgotten homework paper. If possible, fix your child's hairstyle the night before with small French braids, corn rows (these can last for a week) or pony tails.

Start each school day with hugs and kisses.

May you have the best school year,

Brenda Webster

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Monday—Friday
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Design and Nature Photography
Karen Tuttle of klizaDESIGN.com



RECYCLING

ARE YOU LEAVING ENOUGH ROOM TO STAGE YOUR CARTS APPROPRIATELY?

According to the City of Ann Arbor,
carts must be placed three feet
apart on Fridays for service.

**This requirement is mandated
by city ordinance, Chapter 26
of the Solid Waste Code.**

Thank you for any assistance that you can
provide regarding this situation. If you have any
questions or concerns, please contact Recycle
Ann Arbor- Recycling Program directly.

2420 S. Industrial Hwy. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734-662-6288, ext. 113

For Sale

Sturdy bunk-beds with quality
mattresses for sale: \$250.

Call (734) 730 5011



Pittsfield Village
Communications
Committee

Bulletin

PEST PROBLEMS?

Pest Control Services are provided by
Eradico Services every Thursday. They will
treat for ants, spiders, bees, mice, etc.
Please call the Pittsfield Village office to
schedule service.

COMCAST / XFINITY

The Village has its own Xfinity representative:
Terri—(734) 827-4951. Special pricing for
Village residents!

Moving? Call Terri for a quick and easy
transfer! Get more for your entertainment \$\$\$!
Call Terri for a quick review of your current
service provider!

Peace of mind and control is what the XHS
Home Security from Comcast provides.
You set the rules so you can know what's
happening at home when you are away.

Terri—Your dedicated Xfinity representative.
Call today: (734) 827-4951.

CONDO OWNERS: STILL WRITING CHECKS?

If you are still writing checks each and
every month, worrying about getting the
payment in on time, using ever-increasing
postage stamps, well, we have a solution
for you! Perhaps you are interested in safe,
easy, convenient and reliable method for
paying your monthly Association Fees. If
so, we urge you to consider signing up for
Direct Debit from your checking or savings
account! All you have to do is complete the
short form and return it with a voided check
to Wanda Buster at the Pittsfield Village
office. The monthly fee will be automatically
withdrawn at the beginning of the month
and you'll NEVER have a late fee! PLEASE
NOTE: THERE IS NO EXTRA CHARGE TO
HAVE YOUR MONTHLY ASSOCIATION
FEES AUTOMATICALLY WITHDRAWN
(DIRECT DEBIT)!

IN THE GARDEN

By Lisa Joseph, Horticulturist

At the beginning of June, during annual-planting time, I have numerous flats of 4" pots on my deck. Every year, without fail, a toad takes up residence in one of the pots. He makes a little indentation where he nestles down into the cool, moist soil for the day. This year, I watched for him and once I found his spot, I left his little haven untouched. The plant is still out on my deck, and I have re-potted it into a slightly larger one because it was becoming too root-bound. Toad is still happy with his new situation and was lounging there yesterday morning when I checked. I also have enchanting little baby toads hopping around in the garden beds now! The first year that I moved here before knowing about the toad's habit, I grabbed a bunch of flats, loaded them into my vehicle, and took off for a planting job at Ashley Mews in downtown Ann Arbor. While unloading the flats at the job site, I saw a toad jump out of one of the pots right onto the busy sidewalk! I hurriedly scooped him up, put him back into one of the pots, and left the plant in my vehicle for the day. But, boy, it was a hot day, and I worried excessively about my toad friend in the stifling van. So I kept going back and watering his pot to keep him cool. I just wasn't comfortable leaving him there, in a busy area with traffic and people who may not appreciate toads the way I do. I'll report to you that he made it safely back to my house and spent his summer days chilling in his pot.

LISA'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

HOSTA 'FIRE AND ICE' (15" tall by 24" wide)

The slightly twisted leaves of this outstanding specimen are thick and puckered to deter slugs. The leaf margins are dark green, making the white centers really stand out and brighten a shady spot in the garden. It was awarded Hosta of the Year in 1997. Remember that Hosta favor shade or morning sun only. Plant Hosta 'Fire and Ice' with Heuchera 'Midnight Rose' (Coral Bells) and Athyrium nipponicum 'Pictum' (Japanese Painted Fern) for a gorgeous vignette.

I must share with you another Plant of the Month for a sunny location, a tuber called **DAHLIA 'KARMA CORONA'**. This has been my first experience with this tall Dahlia, and I highly recommend that you give it a try next year. I planted it in my front garden bed

amongst the annuals. Much to my delight, 'Karma Corona' shot up to 3' tall on strong stems that require little staking. The large blooms are exquisite in colors of tangerine, yellow, and wine. Dahlias are tubers that are spring-planted. I usually pot mine up and keep the pots in a warm spot until the Dahlias emerge and begin to grow. By then the garden soil is warmed enough to plant outdoors. I will definitely plant this glorious Dahlia again next season!



I added three Agastache 'Tango' plants in one of my garden beds this year in early summer. They have been in full bloom for a number of weeks now with dazzling orange and bright red tubular flowers. The hummingbirds adore this plant! Agastache is very particular about the soil moisture level and abhors wet feet. The bed in which I planted them inevitably gets buried in the snow I shovel off the back stoop, so the Agastache probably won't make it through winter. I will gladly replace it, though, every year if need be. The hummers are worth the cost. They are just so smitten with the flowers! I've also read that Goldfinch enjoy the seed. I will leave the plants standing for the winter.

I promised I would tell you about my ootheca story. An ootheca is an egg case, and the one I found was that of a praying mantis. In the fall, females produce eggs, deposited in a frothy secretion that hardens into the egg case which then enables the eggs to survive the harsh winter temperatures. The female attaches her egg case to twigs, leaves, or structures. A couple of years ago, I found an egg case while completing a fall garden clean up for a client. I brought it home and kept it over winter in my shed in a large jar stuffed



with garden debris. When spring came along, I brought the jar indoors and set it on a shelf in my mudroom. As the days grew ever warmer and no life was showing, I worried that it wasn't a viable egg case. At the time, I didn't realize that it takes up to 8 weeks of warm weather to hatch the approximately 100 to 200 nymphs. As you may have guessed, my egg case hatched, and I had tiny praying mantids everywhere! I grabbed the jar and ran outdoors to the nearest plant that seemed to be suffering from insect damage. The praying mantis nymphs will feed on small insects such as aphids and spittlebug nymphs. They are such voracious little predators that they may eat each other, so it's best to release them on several different plants where there are enough pest insects to go around. I had little praying mantis nymphs crawling up my arms, so I was able to get a close up look at them. They are such delightful little creatures!



August and September are the months for dealing with the untidy and unruly characters in the garden. Some well-placed snips, staking of the floppy plants, weeding out the unwanted, pruning out brown crispy leaves... these chores will buy you some time and make a big difference in the garden's appearance before the impending frost arrives to end the season.

Get out there and get it done. Save some precious time to enjoy the beautiful fall weather too.

 Pittsfield Village <small>GREEN SPACES • GREAT NEIGHBORS</small> September 2015		1 6pm M&M Committee meeting	2	3 6:15pm Open Forum 6:30pm Board Meeting	4	5
6	7 Office Closed	8	9 5-7pm 3rd Annual Pooch Plunge	10 6pm Landscape Committee meeting	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Newsletter articles due	19
20	21	22	23	24 Board of Directors Meeting	25	26
27	28	29	30	<i>All meetings to be held in Pittsfield Village Community Room unless otherwise noted.</i>		



Superior has upgraded the orange machine you see delivering our trees and other materials to a newer eco-friendly machine. This machine complies with California tier 4 emissions and is much quieter than previously available, and is very fuel efficient.



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