



### SNOW AND ICE ARE COMING OUR WAY

Just a reminder to all residents at Pittsfield Village that ice melt is available at the office. You may want some for your porch, steps, deck, or up-walk. We do our best (well, our snow removal contractor does) to keep walkways clear of ice and snow, but as an extra and added precaution, we have ice melt available to everyone, so please stop by and see us!

Low-cost and availability are the common issues, since snowmen are usually abandoned to the elements once completed. Snow becomes suitable for packing when it approaches its melting point and becomes moist and compact. Making a snowman of powdered snow is difficult since it will not stick to itself, and if the temperature of packing snow drops, it will form an unusable denser form of powdered snow called crust. Thus, a good time to build a snowman may be the next warm afternoon directly following a snowfall with a sufficient amount of snow. Using more compact snow allows for the construction of a large snowball by simply rolling it until it grows to the desired size. If the snowball reaches the bottom of the grass it may pick up traces of grass, gravel or dirt.

In Europe and North America, snowmen are built with three spheres depicting the head, torso, and lower body. The usual practice is to then decorate and optionally dress the snowman. Sticks can be used for arms, and a face is traditionally made with stones or coal for eyes and a carrot for a nose. Some like to dress their snowmen in clothing such as a scarf or hat, while others prefer not to risk leaving supplies out doors where they could easily be stolen or become stuck under melting ice.

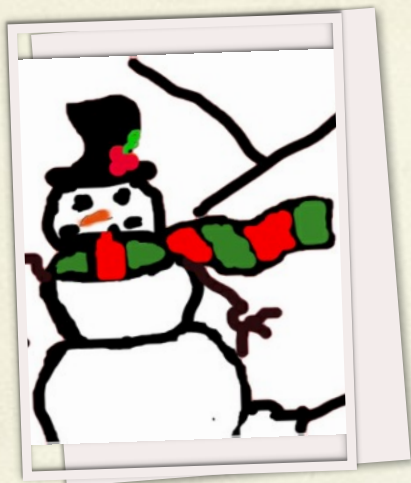
### HOW TO BUILD A SNOWMAN

A snowman is an anthropomorphic snow sculpture often built by children in regions with sufficient snowfall. In North America, typical snowmen consist of three large snowballs of different sizes with some additional accoutrements for facial and other features. Common accessories include branches for arms and a rudimentary smiley face, with a carrot standing in for a nose. Human clothing, such as a hat or scarf, may be included.





## BUILD A SNOW- MAN!!!!... continued



There are variations to these standard forms; for instance, the popular song "Frosty the Snowman" describes a snowman being decorated with a corn cob pipe, button nose, coal eyes and an old silk hat (usually depicted as a top hat). These other types range from snow columns to elaborate snow sculptures similar to ice sculptures.

The annual **Mitten Tree** will be set up in the  
Pittsfield Village Community Building from  
**December 5 -16.**

Help us decorate the tree with your donated mittens, hats and gloves for children of all ages! Your generous donations will be given to the Pittsfield School for children who really need these items.

When you bring in your donation you can enter a drawing to win a tablet from Xfinity. On Friday, December 16 from 3-5 PM join Xfinity at the Pittsfield Community Building for Christmas treats and the raffle drawing!



## LIGHT UP THE VILLAGE CONTEST

If you've lived in The Village for at least a year you've seen the great light displays some residents have been inspired to create. Light displays provide warmth and cheer as we walk and drive by, and even small displays scattered along a street change our experience as we go through the neighborhood.

If you're not a "light person", don't like standing outside in the cold, or hate the idea of using the electricity—"daytime" decorations are also appreciated. Colorful ornaments in windows or greenery in window boxes are festive whether there is snow on the ground or not.

So, light 'em if you've got 'em, or do some other kind of display. Our small group of judges will bestow three awards after surveying the community on or around December 16.

The winners will be announced in the January newsletter.





## IN THE GARDEN- December 2016

By Lisa Joseph, Staff Horticulturist

At the start of December, I hit the ground running and begin creating winter planters. This year I'm using branches from a White Birch as the framework and filling in with greens, berries, pinecones, and holiday décor such as bur-lap ribbon, silver stars, and sparkly balls. Other good options for tall accents in winter planters are branches from Red-Twig Dogwood, Holly with the red berries attached, and potted small evergreens such as Arborvitae and Dwarf Alberta Spruce.

In November, my landscape helpers and I planted spring-flowering bulbs in the Roundabout Bed. Beginning in early spring, keep your eye out for these charmers:

**Allium 'Purple Sensation'** (Ornamental Onion) grouped with **'Ballerina'**, **'Marilyn'**, and **'Purple Dream' Tulips**. These dazzling blooms appear in late spring/early summer. The statuesque Alliums stand at 30" tall and have baseball-sized round violet blooms. The three tulips are lilyflowered, vary in height from 20" to 24", and are orange, white with a raspberry streak, and rich violet purple.

**Chionodoxa 'Pink Giant' (Glory of the Snow) with Iris 'JT Dijt'**. This harmonious pairing blooms in early spring. The Glory of the Snow is light pink and 8" tall, and the 6" Iris is reddish-purple.

**Hyacinth 'Fondant' with Hyacinth 'Peter Stuyvesant'**. Hyacinths bloom in mid-spring. The colors of this pairing are traditional spring Easter egg colors of velvety purple and light rose pink.

**Hyacinth 'Gypsy Queen' with Hyacinth 'Woodstock'**- I've used this partnership many times. The peachy coral of the 'Gypsy Queen' makes the beet red of the 'Woodstock' just pop. Glorious.

**'Audubon' Daffodil**- Standing at 20" tall, it blooms in late April. The flowers are bright ivory with a vivid coral-rimmed cup. This daffodil is on my short list of all time favorite daffodils.

**'Golden Echo' Daffodil**. This deliciously fragrant Jonquil Daffodil blooms in mid April and stands at 14" in height. It is white with a long yellow cup. These were planted to the edge of the bed so that you can get up close and smell their heavenly fruity scent.

**'Hawera' Daffodil with 'Lilac Wonder' Tulip**. I use this adorable late-flowering union often. Blooming in late spring, the Daffodil is light yellow, and the tulip is rosy lavender with a yellow heart.

**'Las Vegas' Daffodil**. A 20" tall show stopper with white petals and a large yellow cup. Everyone covets this jewel when it is blooming in late April.

**'Little Gem' and 'Topolina' Daffodils with Puschkinia (Striped Squill)**- This is an early-blooming, diminutive combination. The 'Little Gem' is golden yellow and 'Topolina' is white with a long yellow cup. Puschkinia is one of my treasured minor bulbs. The fragrant flowers are light blue with darker blue stripes.

**LISA'S FEATURED PLANT:**  
**MISCANTHUS SINENSIS**  
**'GRAZIELLA'- Maiden Grass**  
**(mature size- 5' tall x 4' in width; flower heads rise to 6')**

Maiden Grass is my favorite ornamental grass. Vase shaped, tall and majestic, it offers multiple seasons of interest. The fine-textured foliage is green in summer, turning brilliant copper and orange in fall, followed by beige in the winter, poking through the white snow and rustling pleasantly in the wind. The tassel-like flowers appear above the foliage in mid-summer and turn into silvery white showy plumes as the seeds mature. Cut down the foliage in late winter, early spring. Divide in late spring when needed, discarding the woody center.

Miscanthus combine well with Purple Coneflower, Black-eyed Susan, Dahlia, Sedum 'Autumn Fire', Garden Phlox, and tall Zinnias.

Bundle up and get out and play.





## PITTSFIELD VILLAGE CONTACTS

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## DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Mitten Tree donations being accepted now thru the 16th</i>	6 <b>M&amp;M Committee Meeting 6:00 pm</b>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 <b>Land-scape committee meeting 6:00 pm</b>	14	15	16 3pm—5pm Mitten Tree Social	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 PV OFFICE CLOSED	24
25	26 PV OFFICE CLOSED	27	28	29	30	31