

Pittsfield Village News

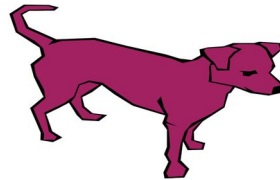
MAY 2016

POOL ATTENDENTS NEEDED



PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON AT THE
PITTSFIELD VILLAGE OFFICE

PLEASE remember to
ALWAYS pick up after
your pet! Thank you!



ANNUAL MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTION

Tuesday, May 17th

Sign-in: 6:30 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

Pittsfield School—Multi-Purpose Room

Pittsfield Village needs your participation at the Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend to vote on who you feel is the best candidate for your Board of Directors. Your vote counts!

If you cannot attend, please send in your proxy to be counted toward quorum.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for
one of the biggest events held here at
Pittsfield Village!

Saturday, MAY 14

FLOWER GIVEAWAY

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Stop by (*the office parking lot*) for your annuals
and enjoy a hot dog — on us!

HINT: It's a good idea to bring a wagon if you have one!

This incentive, paired with your hard work
and dedication makes a significant impact
on the beauty of our neighborhood—thank
you!

Spring is in the Air



Ice Cream Social

Pittsfield Elementary School. Rock Wall Slide, Money Machine Inflatable, Big Splash Dunk Tank, games, raffles, a silent auction, balloon artist, and caricature.

Pizza, beverages, and ice cream available.

5:30-8 p.m. Friday, June 3

Pittsfield School, 2543 Pittsfield Blvd.

Free admission (charges for food & games).

734) 997-1218.

And the ants are in my cupboard!.....If you are experiencing a problem with insects that fly or crawl, call the office to schedule the exterminator.



Eradico Pest Control comes to PV every Thursday this time of year, so let us get you on the schedule!

PV office hours: 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday.

FREE sump pump system for your home!

Contact PERIMETER LLC today to qualify your home for a free system.

734-424-9280

You may also select ONE FREE incentive below:

Upgrade to water-powered back-up

Sanitary sewer video inspection

Radon mitigation system

10ft of basement-dry system

Or a gravity/recessed sump lid w/floor drain

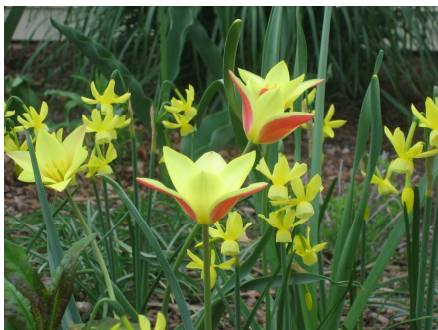


The flower bed in our traffic circle has grown over the years & in winter serves as a place to dump snow when the streets are cleared. Several years of snow and salt have taken their toll, and this spring we're replanting. Stay tuned!

Earlier this year Arbor Tree Service removed several dead limbs from a shade tree on Whitewood Avenue.



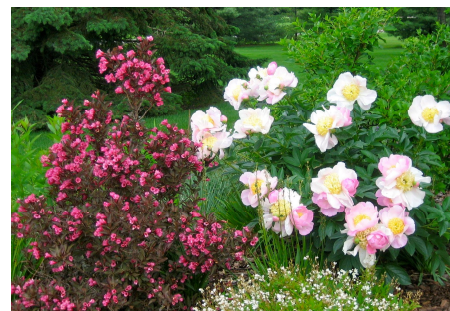
Sprucing Up!



May is the month that my favorite bulb pairing makes its stunning exhibition. Tulipa 'Tinka', a 12" tall species tulip with red outer petals and a primrose yellow interior paired with Narcissus 'Hawera', a charming miniature species daffodil that has downward-facing butter yellow blooms with swept back petals. In the photo, they are planted in front of Calamagrostis 'Karl Foerster', Feather Reed Grass, an ornamental grass that greens up earlier than other ornamental grasses, making it a fine backdrop for brightly-colored bulb blossoms.

This summer I'm going to try growing Angelica (Angelica gigas), a 5' tall stately biennial with dark purple blooms from summer to fall. Precious bees and other pollinators find this plant irresistible. I'm told that it will self-seed in the garden, but in such a way that finding a seedling is most welcome. At 3 to 6' in width, however, this beauty does require her space.

I'm also anxious to trial some of the new re-blooming hydrangeas that have inundated the market. In addition to the popular Endless Summer varieties, there are also the Everlasting Series and the Let's Dance series. My favored Endless Summer Hydrangea has always been 'Twist and Shout', a 4 to 5' tall lace cap variety with stunning violet and bright pink blooms. Some of the new ones I'll seek out this season are Hydrangea Everlasting 'Amethyst' (fuchsia and violet; 4 x 4') and 'Opal' (lavender pink; 4 x 4') and Hydrangea Let's Dance 'Starlight' (lace cap pink; 3 x 4') and 'Rave' (vivid fuchsia pink; 3 x 4').



Let's talk worm castings. I've written before about my love of worms, about how I used to gather up all the worms in the street after a rain and put them in a dirt pile in my red wagon. Worm castings (otherwise known as worm poo) are the richest natural fertilizer available. Worm castings stimulate plant growth, improve the soil texture and boost the ability of the soil to retain water, and the nutrients they provide are absorbed easily and immediately by plants. Worm castings contain a mixture of bacteria, enzymes, remains of plant matter and animal manure, as well as earthworm cocoons. Castings are rich in water-soluble plant nutrients essential for plant growth. The cocoons excreted in worm castings each contain between 2 and 10 eggs that will hatch within 2 weeks. Provided that the soil is damp and rich enough, the young earthworms will then go to work, keeping the soil loamy and fertile. Worm castings don't have an offensive odor. I find that they smell pleasantly woody! Worm castings won't burn plants so use as much as you want. My advice is to use castings in the garden beds and as a mulch in your planters.

LISA'S PLANT OF THE MONTH:

PAEONIA L. 'DO TELL' (PEONY; 3 x 3'): This Japanese peony has the most exquisite shell pink blossom with a darker rose-colored center. In late May, this charmer is covered in blooms for quite a long period. It pairs splendidly with 'Wine and Roses' Weigela, 'May Night' Meadow Sage, 'Purple Sensation' Ornamental Onion, and Siberian Iris. I plant Peonies more toward the middle of the garden so that once they have finished their show, their dark green foliage will act as a backdrop for later-blooming perennials.

The annual Flower Give-away Day is fast approaching. It's a lovely day to spend outdoors, meeting friends and neighbors while picking out annuals to get a jumpstart on your fabulous gardens. Remember to bring your manners and be respectful of others. I must remind you that it is frowned upon to remove plants from other window box kits to bulk up your own. There are fourteen plants per kit. Though they may arrive looking scrawny, these plants will fill in your boxes quite nicely. Use a good potting soil and remember to fertilize. Idea: top off your window boxes with worm castings! Another good option is to purchase a few treasures of your own from local garden centers to add to your boxes. Many of my favorite annuals that I recommend you try aren't available to us for this venue: Lantana 'Sunrise Rose, Verbena 'Superbena Bright Pink', Begonia Bossa Nova Rose, Fuchsia 'Gartenmeister Bonstedt, and Coleus 'Strawberry Drop', a trailing variety of Coleus. Go wild this season and get your green thumb on!

Greetings Pittsfield Village Residents,

As you know, Pittsfield Elementary School is at the heart of your Village.

If you walk by the school and notice a brightly colored addition (next to the flag pole) -that is our Little Free Library!



REMINDER

This project was born out of a great idea for a community project, parents volunteering to construct and install it and our 5th graders decorating it leaving their mark on the school.

This Little Free Library is not just for us - it is for YOU too! Do you or your children want a book to read? Have a look and grab one to take home! Do you have books you don't want anymore? Drop them off. The library is there for your enjoyment. The library is currently full of children's books, but as it evolves the selections will as well.

We hope you enjoy this new feature at Pittsfield Elementary and please utilize it to your heart's content! Thank you, Pittsfield Elementary PTO

WEED INVASION!

PURPLE DEADNETTLE- LAMIUM PURPUREUM

Lisa Joseph, Staff Horticulturist

This weed is hardy enough to emerge in the cold soil of early spring to take advantage of the wide-open space before other plants and weeds make their appearance. Before you know it, Purple Deadnettle has leisurely spread out to form a dense groundcover mat.

Identification: Purple Deadnettle is a member of the mint family. It has a lightly hairy square stem, fuzzy spade-shaped leaves, and small fuchsia pink tubular flowers. The larger leaves at the base are green, and the smaller upper leaves have a purplish tinge.

This weed serves as an early food source for pollinators. It will also self-pollinate to ensure reproduction. It sends out runners to form a groundcover. Purple Deadnettle is a winter annual, meaning that the seed germinates in the fall, and the small plants overwinter. In early spring, the plants grow larger and spread and flower. Each plant sets thousands of seeds. The plant then turns yellow and withers away in the heat of summer.

Control: Purple Deadnettle is shallow-rooted and easily pulls out of the ground. Grasp it at the base of the stem. Use a trowel to ensure you get the entire root system. Large infested areas are easily controlled with herbicide. If you wait it out, the plants will disappear in the summer heat. Remember, however, that each plant will set copious amounts of seeds that will germinate in the fall.

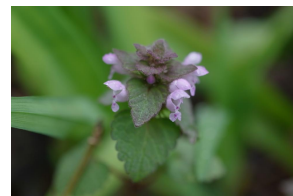
Control in the lawn: It is best to practice proper turf fertilization to improve turf density and keep this weed from taking over sparse lawn areas.

Gardening Opportunity for Kids and Adults

We are inviting kids and adults in the Village and surrounding area to join us in making the Pittsfield School garden a growing thing. The garden is set up for the kids to get some hands on learning about how food is grown and to be able to taste the results of their efforts. The Village also gets the benefit of an attractive and tasty neighborhood garden. If you want to help prepare the beds, sow the seeds, pull weeds and/or harvest the garden you are most welcome. You can certainly join us at any time, but if you would like to be kept informed of work days and special projects and harvests please send me an email to suhan722@gmail.com.

Su, Sam, Sandra and Tiffany

Of course, herbalists eat the leaves in salads or use them to make tea. You are free to hunt and gather in your garden!



MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 M&M committee meeting 6pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Landscape committee meeting 6pm	11	12	13	14 11 am —1 pm FLOWER GIVEAWAY
15	16	17 ANNUAL MEETING AT PITTSFIELD SCHOOL—6:30 sign-in	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 POOL OPENS!
29	30 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	31	LOOKING AHEAD: JUNE 4: ANNUAL COMMUNITY YARD SALES		LOOKING WAY AHEAD: JULY 30: ANNUAL POOL PARTY	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

Aaron Pressel, President
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Zach Bloomfield, Treasurer
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Sarah Deflon, Secretary
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Cindy Samoray, Member at Large
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ellen Johnson, Maintenance & Modification
Brian Rice and John Sprentall, Landscape

MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Manager, Kristi Charles
Bookkeeper, Wanda Buster
Administrative Manager, Tracy Vincent

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