



The Pittsfield Villager

MARCH 2017

SPRING IS IN THE AIR.....

And that means **LANDSCAPING** around here!

MULCH PROGRAM MAILING WENT OUT!

REMEMBER to turn in your form (Mulch Program) by the deadline if you do not want pre-emergent applied in your garden beds, or if you prefer not to have a new layer of mulch.

SOON, look for the **Garden Marker Program** sign-up sheet.

Each program has a deadline—so get your forms filled out and turned in as soon as you can!

Many thanks from the PV Staff.

MEET RON BEUTNER

Ron comes to Pittsfield from Associa/Kramer-Triad where he spent his first 18 months with the company as a “floater”.

Ron grew up in Livonia, Michigan and is an avid outdoorsman. Ron worked as a machine repairman for 20 years, and then in apartment maintenance for 15 years.

Join us in welcoming our “new” addition!

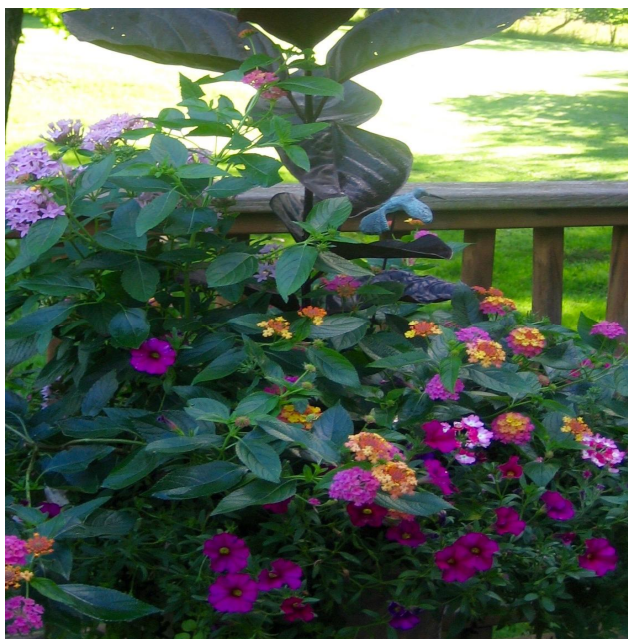


RON BEUTNER



IN THE GARDEN

By Staff Horticulturist,
Lisa Joseph



This is the month when gardeners get restless. Be patient. Poke around in the garden to check out the conditions. Working in soil when it is still too wet will harm soil structure. Soil compaction does not allow for water and air penetration and takes years to correct. Stay diligent, though, and be ready to act as soon as circumstances improve.

Garden chores for March:
Carefully rake the leaves and debris out of the beds. Watch that you don't harm the earliest spring-blooming bulbs that may have already pushed through the earth.
Prune out tatty foliage from evergreen perennials such as Coralbells, Hellebore,

"The last frost date for our area is May 10th"

and Yucca. This will encourage the plant to put out fresh attractive foliage.

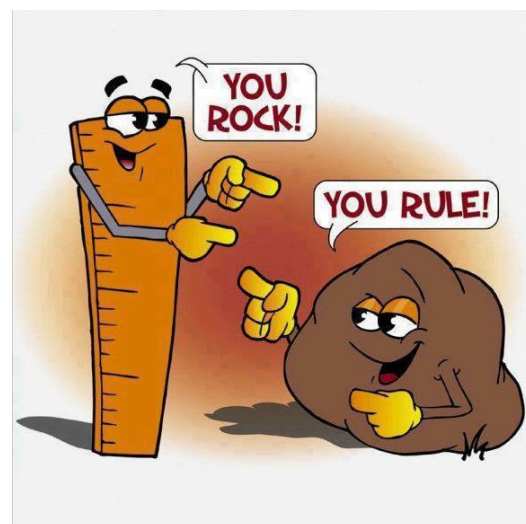
Cut down last year's Sedum flower stalks before the new foliage emerges. This isn't imperative but does make the task much easier and quicker to accomplish.

Cut down Ornamental grasses. I found that a rabbit had taken up residence in one of mine last year! It was fortunate that I pruned it down early in spring and forced her to move out before she decided to have little ones and set up shop there for the season.

The last frost date for our area is May 10th. I'm going to start seeds indoors for my new cutting garden. Normally, the time to do that is about 6 weeks before the last frost date. Seeds can also be directly sown into the garden after May 10th. I have been browsing seed catalogs to make my choices. One of the annuals on my favored list is *Celosia argentea spicata*, Wheat Celosia. With its narrow dark rose, arrow-shaped plumes, it works as both a tall accent or as a filler in a vase. It also dries beautifully. Remove the foliage and hang the bunch upside down to dry.

Another good cut flower is Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*). Many of the older varieties prefer cool weather and will stop blooming once the heat of summer arrives. Not ideal. I discovered a gorgeous heat-resistant variety, however, called Madame Butterfly Bronze. It grows to 3 feet in height with brilliant coral pink full blooms with ruffled petals.

In early summer, one of the best cut flowers is peony. Cut peony flowers for your arrangement when they are three quarters open. Most peony plants grow to 3 feet in height and width. I plant them to the back of the border or leave space in front of them to add annuals to fill in and provide the fireworks once the peony is done blooming. A variety I'm anxious to try is 'Sarah Bernhardt', an heirloom peony with huge double light pink blossoms. The peony varieties with large heavy round blooms like this require a grow-through support to keep them from flopping and lying on the ground after a rain. Remember to have the grow-through support in place early before the foliage gets too tall.



..IN THE GARDEN

LISA'S FEATURED PLANT:

SuperCal Petchoa 'Neon Rose'

I trialed this annual in my planters last summer and was blown away by its beauty and outstanding performance. Petchoa is a hybrid that showcases the best characteristics of its parents, Petunia and Callibrachoa (Million Bells). It exhibits strong vigor, excellent heat tolerance, vibrant blooms, and no sticky residue left on your fingers after pinching! The Neon Rose variety pairs perfectly with Lantana, peach Verbena, orange Million Bells, 'Sweet Caroline Sweetheart Lime Sweet Potato Vine, and the dark purple foliage of Tradescantia. Every year toward the end of May, my mom and I head to East Grand Rapids to our favorite garden center. Last year this was the only place where I could find SuperCal Petchoa. Here's hoping that it's going to be available in our area this season. If not, I'll be taking orders for my trip to west Michigan!

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." Fred Rogers (or as I called him when I was a kid, My Man).



Get out and play until spring arrives and the garden beckons.

Look what your neighbor has done!--Beautiful!



REMINDER

Ice melt buckets/baskets

Please return all empty baskets or buckets
that you may have laying around

2017 Chili Cook-off Highlights And the winner is.....John Sprentall!

FIRST VILLAGE CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, February 25th was our Chili Cook-Off and it was a huge, huge success. Mother Nature helped us with the weather and made sure it was chili/chilly weather. LOL

We had 13 in attendance including Chefs and Tasters.

John Sprentall was our winner with his Chocolate Chili (yummy). Susanne Giraud came in second with her White Chili. So much fun was had by all. From the cooking, to tasting, to the sitting around the round table and jabbering. It was all fun and a great way to meet the nicest people, who just happen to be your neighbors.

We are all looking forward to next year's Cook Off. I think we've started a great new tradition here in Pittsfield Village!

Thanks to all who participated. A special thanks to the organizing done by Tom and Tracy. Great job everyone!! See you next year.

"Saving the world one smile at a time." Feel free to join me! Barbi



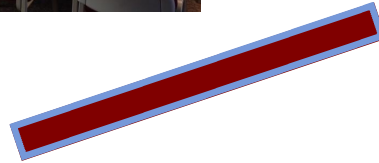


Some residents and staff members enjoyed being creative on 2-13-17




Craft Night

March 24



MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 M & M Mtg 6pm	8	9	10	11
12 DST- SPRING FORWARD	13	14 Landscape Mtg 6pm	15	16	17 	18
19	20 MULCH FORMS DUE	21	22	23	24 CRAFT NIGHT 6pm	25
26	27	28	6:15 open forum; 6:30 Board Mtg			

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017

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Vice-President, Sarah Deflon:
Secretary, Lara Cooper:
Treasurer, Cindy Samoray:
Member at Large, John Sprentall:

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