

The Villager

AUGUST 2017

Pittsfield Village

GREEN SPACES • GREAT NEIGHBORS

~POOL PARTY~

Saturday, August 5th

5:00 pm — 8:00 pm

Around Town

The Concert in the Parks Summer series will continue with three additional concerts in August:

Playin' Chicken Concert Aug 6;

John E. Lawrence & the Power Band Motown Jazz concert, Aug 13;
and our final summer concert Cadillac Cowboys, Aug 20.

All concerts start at 3 p.m. outside the Burns Park Shelter on the corner of Wells and Baldwin Ave. Rain location is just across the park inside the Ann Arbor Senior Center.

We also hope you will help support our annual can food drive for Ann Arbor families in partnership with Community Action Network (CAN) and Food Gatherers.

Drop off nonperishable food at each summer Sunday concert in Burns Park or to the Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave, Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. between July 30 and Aug. 20. For more information on the concerts or the Food Drive visit <http://www.a2gov.org/ParkConcerts>. See attached flyer.

Volunteers needed

Family Fun with GIVE 365 at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market Wednesday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m.-noon.

Volunteers are needed for kid's activities, a water station, set up, and take down. We are looking for volunteers who might want to face paint or run games for kids. Let us know if you are interested: volunteer@a2gov.org or 734.794.6445.



ABOVE: Lisa, our horticulturist, along with Katy, horticultural assistant, working in the Roundabout garden

Maintenance and Modification Update

In June of this year, the M & M committee did a walk-through, inspecting the back of the Pittsfield Village condominiums in an effort to assess non-compliance with the Pittsfield Village guidelines.

The most common violations that were found were the following:

- ⇒ storage on deck or in limited common elements
- ⇒ unauthorized construction
- ⇒ fire and grill violations
- ⇒ owner modifications that extend beyond 12 feet from the building

In the fall of this year, a specific form letter notifying residents of violations are being mailed for these types of violations.

Residents are encouraged to review the condo Association guidelines in anticipation of the mailing.



Last month I developed a painful rash with blisters on the palm of my hand. I believe it was dermatitis caused by the latex-based milky sap exuded by the weed, Spotted Spurge. (LEFT) Not everyone will have this reaction, but it is important to be able to identify this weed just in case you are sensitive to its irritating sap. Spotted Spurge is a dark green plant with red stems that grows low to the ground in a mat. The leaves are oval-shaped with a red spot in the center.

My advice when August = Garden Fatigue:

- Push through the best you can by spot-cleaning, keeping tasks manageable by completing just one area at a time.
- Edit out garden blemishes. Bedraggled garden plants are floppy, yellowing, or have leaves full of holes. When there is no hope of fixing these unsightly areas, I use targeted trimming and dead-heading to make the garden appear more inviting.

Try not to become overwhelmed. If you feel yourself becoming less than enthused, take a break. Grab a glass of iced tea and sit on your deck and ignore the ugly spots. For a little while anyway.

LISA'S FEATURED PLANT: Achillea 'Apricot Delight'- Yarrow
BELOW, RIGHT

Mature size: 24" in height by 24+" in width

Exposure: requires full sun

I came home at the beginning of July from a long weekend out of town to find that the deer and rabbits had eaten most of my perennial garden and almost all of the annuals in my planters. After my initial anguish, I doggedly began to plan a new garden design using more critter-resistant plants. 'Apricot Delight' was added, and I couldn't be happier with its exceptional performance. The habit is compact with sturdy stems of aromatic ferny foliage. Bloom colors range from soft apricot to rose pink and attract butterflies and other beneficial insects. The long-lasting blooms make a great cut flower and dry very nicely.



This is a variety chosen by Blooms of Bressingham for its outstanding and reliable growing performance. Yarrow is tolerant of heat, humidity, road salt, and dry soil. This plant will spread so give it room or keep it in check. Remove spent blooms to promote continuous flowering. Leave fresh fall foliage to overwinter. Divide in spring or fall every 4-5 years.



CREATURE FEATURE

Dung Beetle

Before you crinkle your nose in disgust, remember that we all have jobs to do. Dung beetles break down, bury, and consume animal waste. They eat the excrement of other organisms, preferring herbivore droppings. Most take a chunk of animal waste and make a large ball and roll it to their lair moving backward using their hind legs. It's just the cutest sight! Not all dung beetles roll balls of poop, however. Some dung beetle families dwell right within the dung they find, often in large cow patties. Other dung beetle families tunnel under the dung pile, making a burrow to inhabit and to store their provisions of poop. The dung beetle female usually deposits each individual egg in its own tiny dung sausage. That way, when the larvae hatch, they will each have their own food supply. An important lesson for these beetles to learn is to grab your poop prize and retreat quickly! The dung beetle's

life is not always an easy one. Fresh scat is a melee of dung beetles trying to grab a good hunk and roll it away. Dung beetle bullies lie in wait for another beetle to roll out a neat dung ball and then dash in and steal it away!

Late summer is the time to order your spring-blooming bulbs. After finding many of my bulbs unearthed by chipmunks and voles, I've developed a list of critter-resistant bulbs. My choices: Narcissus (Daffodil); Allium (Ornamental Onion); Camassia (Quamash); Fritillaria; Hyacintha (Hyacinth); Eremurus (Foxtail Lily); Leucojum (Snowflake); Galanthus (Snowdrop); Eranthis (Winter Aconite); Chionodoxa (Glory of the Snow); Scilla (Squill); Muscari (Grape Hyacinth); and Hyacinthoides (Spanish Bluebell). Even though they are destructive in the garden, I think voles are adorable with their stout little bodies and stubby tails. Every year they eat or destroy my Crocus bulbs. I replant them every fall, though, because I love their bright colors in early spring, and they aren't expensive to purchase. Apply bulb fertilizer in the spring when bulbs begin active growth and green shoots are emerging. Use an all-natural organic fertilizer intended for bulbs.

Powdery mildew, white to gray powdery spots on leaves, stems, and buds, has been quite rampant this year. This surface fungal disease prefers cool temperatures with high humidity. Poor air circulation and too much shade contribute as well. If a plant is severely infected, foliage may turn yellow and fall prematurely. Pick up and dispose of all fallen leaves so that the spores won't re-infect the plant. Don't add infected leaves to your compost. I've had excellent results using the following home remedy.

Organic Solution for Powdery Mildew:

½ quart skim milk

3 teaspoons of baking soda

one drop of liquid dish soap

Mix well in a spray bottle

Spray tops and bottoms of leaves in the morning (avoid spraying in the heat of midday as this may burn the foliage)

Re-apply once per week

Get out and play and enjoy the dog days of August.

AUGUST 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<u>1</u> M&M committee Meeting 6pm	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> 5-8pm Pool Party!
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> Landscape Committee Meeting 6pm	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> 6:15 open forum; 6:30 pm Board Meeting	<u>31</u>		