

September  
2018

## Flower Box Contest

Congratulations to the lucky winner, Suzanne LaLonde!



# Around the Neighborhood

Calvary Presbyterian is looking into possibly using some of their property for **community gardens** to serve the neighborhood, either in partnership with Project Grow or on their own. This is right next to Pittsfield Village, on the southwest side. They are looking for interested parties from the neighborhood to be part of the planning and discussing feasibility of this idea.

If you have an interest in community gardens, or just want to stay updated as the discussion progresses, please contact Steven Backues at [sabackues@gmail.com](mailto:sabackues@gmail.com) or 734-249-2854.

**Packard Neighborhood Picnic** is happening on Calvary's lawn on **Sunday, Sept. 23 from 4-7 PM**. It's being organized by some folks at Calvary and a couple of neighborhood residents to the west of us, but Pittsfield is also part of the "Packard Neighborhood" (as defined by Nextdoor.com) and it would be great to have some of you there! I'm hoping to talk to people more about the gardens then, but it's really just a social event.

All are invited to the **Packard Neighborhood Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 23rd from 4-7 PM** on the lawn of **Calvary Presbyterian, 2727 Fernwood Ave** (*rain date Sept. 30th*). This is being organized by the neighbors and for the neighbors, and will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to share and a blanket or lawn chair to sit on.

We have music and activities planned, but more are welcome - bring your ideas! Setup begins 4 PM - pitch in and help out! There's no need to RSVP; just show up.

For questions contact Steven Backues ([sabackues@gmail.com](mailto:sabackues@gmail.com)).

By Lisa Joseph

Welcome to late summer!

**WHAT IS THAT GORGEOUS PLANT?**

Many people have been asking about the plant with the huge 8” wide light pink blooms and dark maroon foliage on the corner of Fernwood and Park-wood. It’s a Hardy Hibiscus, Hibiscus Summerific ‘Perfect Storm’.

At 3’ tall with a 5’ spread, Hardy Hibiscus needs room to stretch out.

Hibiscus prefers full sun and needs moist, well-drained soil. Keeping these plants watered well will result in larger flowers and lush foliage. Deadhead-ing will improve the appearance of the plant, but is not necessary for contin-ued bloom.

Do not trim back in fall. Wait until spring and then cut back the stems before new growth appears. A strong pair of loppers or a pruning saw will be necessary to cut this plant back. Be advised that Hibiscus is always one of the last perennials to emerge in spring. Be patient and don’t assume that it’s dead.



**ATTENTION FOLKS! Weed Alert:**



**H**ibiscus trionum- Venice Mallow;  
**F**lower-of-an-Hour

This plant is a garden thug disguised as a pretty perennial. Don’t be fooled!

At maturity, the plant is 18-24 inches in height with lobed leaves and showy flowers that are light yellow to white with a purplish maroon base. The seedpods that develop are large and inflated and lined with maroon ridges. When the seeds mature, the dried papery pod opens and remains on the plant. The seeds are distributed indiscriminately throughout the garden. This “charming” plant soon becomes a weedy invader. The seeds can lay dormant in the soil for up to 50 years as well. Therefore, it is important to rid

your garden of this plant by hand-pulling or spraying with herbicide before it sets seed.

**COMMON PROBLEMS TO WATCH FOR NOW:**

**Verticillium Wilt in Shasta Daisy**

Healthy Shasta Daisy plants just give and give and give with nary a problem. And then sometimes seemingly robust plants will suddenly start to yellow and wilt stem by stem, leaving you scratching your head in confusion. This disease, a soil-borne fungus, starts gradually with midday wilting followed by evening recovery so that it seems like the plant is just thirsty. Soon however the foliage yellows and wilts. The infection kills stems and entire branches and leaves them paper bag brown. Once infected with this fungal disease, the daisy must be removed and disposed of properly.

Shasta Daisy isn't the only perennial that is susceptible to this disease. Do some research to find a perennial that is resistant to verticillium wilt before re-planting.

**Leaf Spot on Black-Eyed Susan (Septoria rudbeckiae)**

Septoria is a fungal disease that infects the foliage. The disease first starts to appear on lower leaves in June or early July as a few small dark purple-brown spots that are most likely not really visible. By August, though, the number of



black spots increases, and the spots enlarge and coalesce. When the plant is badly affected, it turns almost entirely black before summer's end. Septoria spores are spread by water droplets, from rain or overhead watering. When a drop of water hits a contaminated leaf, the fungal spores splash over to a neighboring leaf or plant.

**To reduce the impact of the disease, here are a few simple things you can do:**

1. Buy healthy plants; avoid any plants with dark leaf spots.
2. Site the plant in a well-ventilated location where the foliage will dry out quickly after rain or dew or overhead watering.
3. Fertilize moderately. Too much nitrogen will encourage rapid, weak growth that is more vulnerable to disease pathogens.
4. It is best to water Rudbeckia from below and avoid moistening the foliage. Try also to water in the morning so that the foliage dries out. The cool humidity of evening combined with wet foliage offers a smorgasbord to fungal pathogens.
5. **The fungal spores overwinter in infected plant debris so it is recommended that the plant be pruned down at the end of the growing season.**

**OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CREW:**

We have been working with several residents to remove undesirable invasive ground covers from their foundation beds. Aegopodium (Snow-on-the-Mountain) is one that has exceptional tenacity . The reason is that Aegopodium spreads by super aggressive rhizomes (which are underground horizontal stems that



root and send up new shoots all along their length). Any little piece left behind while trying to dig it out will take root and carry on its quest to take over the garden. The only effective method to completely eradicate many weedy ground covers is to apply herbicide.

TWO OF LISA’S FAVORITE PLANTS FOR  
LATE SUMMER COLOR:

Anemone ‘Pamina’- 2-3’ height of flowers; 2-3’ sprawl

This beauty blooms from late summer into fall when most of the summer blossoms have finished up and color is much appreciated. The flowers are bright rose pink and attract butterflies and other beneficial insects. Anemone prefers partial shade, morning sun is best. It is not tasty to rabbits- a big plus when here we are in the midst of an all-out bunny boom! And it was a winner of the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) Award of Garden Merit.



Prune this plant down during fall cleanup and divide and transplant in the spring. Anemones appreciate an application of general fertilizer or compost in late fall or in early March.

Fothergilla m. ‘Mt. Airy’ or Fothergilla gardenii

‘Mt. Airy’ mature size is 5 x 5’; for a smaller garden, Fothergilla gardenii mature size is 3 x 4’.



I first spotted this enchanting shrub at a botanical garden during spring in Wisconsin. I smelled this delicious honey scent in the air and quickly found a line of Fothergilla all in flower. The profuse, fragrant white flowers looked like little bottlebrushes. Following the spring flowers, lovely blue-green foliage unfurled. The plants stayed attractive all summer with no disease or insect problems. In the fall, the best show of all began- the most spectacular fall color in shades of orange and yellow and maroon drew a crowd daily.

Fothergilla grows beautifully in partial shade. It will tolerate full sun, but you take a chance that the foliage will get crispy edges.

And there you go. Now go outside and play.

**SKUNKS, SKUNKS, SKUNKS !**

By guest-reporter, Barb DeLongchamp

There has been a lot of talk about these cute little furry animals. They come in various colors of black n’ white, brown n’white, grey n’ white, or any of those in solid colors. Cute little buggers are they not?



In France there are many coats made out of them, perfume free. Around the world many countries are familiar with them and have many jokes about them.

Yes, they are around! Here in the Village we seem to have the traditional black n’ white variety. Cats and dogs are finding new friends! Our nasty grub population is beginning to dwindle. They eat meat and veg-gies with an occasional small meaty animal. Certainly not a giraffe.

Our mail carrier Jim, found a baby sleeping on a porch. He tiptoed away. Never wake a sleeping baby!

But as you would know , the mutant has arrived! Huge, over 6’ tall with a giant tail. He seems to be per-fume free, but you never know. Try to find him, if you dare!

**POOL CLOSING**

On Monday, September 3 (Labor Day) the pool hours will shorten to 11:00am-8:00pm through the remainder of the season. Last day to enjoy the pool is September 16, 2018!



**Upcoming Events**

**September:**

Pooch Plunge

Saturday, September 22

Join us at the pool from 4pm-6pm! Treats & gifts for all doggies! See page 6

**October:**

Halloween Party & Pumpkin Carving

Saturday, October 27th

Stop by to carve a jack-o-lantern and have cider and donuts. Costumes optional, but of course encouraged!



# A2 Area Cider Mills



- Dexter Cider Mill, Dexter, OPEN
- Erwin Orchards, South Lyon, OPEN
- Parmenters Cider Mill, Northville, OPEN

- Plymouth Orchards & Cider Mill, Plymouth, Sept. 2
- Three Cedars Farm, Northville, Sept. 1
- Wiards Orchards County Fair & Store, Ypsilanti, Sept. 9

It’s that time of year. Cider. Donuts. Pumpkins. Scarecrows. Hay rides. Fresh apples and corn.

**It’s a good time of year to enjoy what Michigan has to offer!**



# 7th ANNUAL POOCH PLUNGE

Calling all dogs! Anyone with a wagging tail, a friendly attitude and able to do the doggie paddle are welcome. Oh yes, they must be able to bark, no meowers allowed. As in previous years swimsuits are not required of doggies but if chaperones plan on taking the plunge with their date, well they do require suits, please.



Treats, treat baggies and gifts for all doggies are given freely. Please come and make this year another success.

**SATURDAY,SEPTEMBER 22**

**4pm-6pm**

Hosted again by Kat Irwin with Madonna, and Barb De Longchamp with Sophia and Bebe.

See you there for a howling good time!

## Have you registered for TownSq?

Log-in to [townsq.io](https://townsq.io) or download the app from the App store and check it out!

**TownSq** makes it easy to connect with **Pittsfield Village** and access the resources you need for better community living, all through one user-friendly app!

**TownSq** is the best single-platform solution for managed communities. No other tool addresses the unique social and administrative aspects of condo living all in a single app, allowing managed community members to use one place to manage community members to use one place to:

- Engage with neighbors (who are registered)
- Pay Association fees from any device
- Reserve the clubhouse
- Track your maintenance requests
- Access Association documents
- Get updates when community projects are complete



# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	4 M & M Com- mittee 6:00 pm Open / 6:15 pm	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Landscape Com- mittee 6:00 pm Open / 6:15 pm Meeting	12	13	14	15
16 Last day of pool service for 2018!	17	18	19	20	21	22 Pooch Plunge 4pm-6pm
23	24	25	26 Board Meeting 6:15pm Open/6:30pm Meeting	27	28	29
30						

## Pittsfield Village Office

Monday— Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Office: 734-971-0233 Fax: 734-971-3421

Email: [office@pittsfieldvillage.com](mailto:office@pittsfieldvillage.com) / [www.pittsfieldvillage.com](http://www.pittsfieldvillage.com)

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## COMMITTEES

**Maintenance & Modification:** Leif Millar, Chair

**Landscape:** Brian Rice, Chair

## 2018-2019

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Meets the last Wednesday of the month*

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