

## POOCH PLUNGE



Another wonderful Pooch Plunge! This was our sixth year and each year it grows. Six years ago we had maybe 6-10 dogs, just a sampling. Now it is over 50. What a wonderful time most had running, barking, stealing treats, and oh yes, swimming. Some just sat on their mom's laps (such as mine) others were out and about. Treats were given to all doggies, and cider and donuts were available to their human partners.



A BIG THANK YOU to everyone that participated. I hope everyone had fun. We wish to especially thank Kendra and her family, Colin and of course, the one and only, Kat (always there to lend a helping hand, leg or ear).



We are looking forward to next year with our adorable pooches. Please keep in mind, this event is for socialized dogs. Thanks again to everyone.

Barb De Longchamp



## Halloween Pumpkin Carving

Join us on Saturday, October 26th from 2:00pm  
to 5:00pm in the garage at the Pittsfield Village  
office building. We'll carve pumpkins and  
enjoy cider, donuts and other Halloween treats!

Thank you to our generous donors, Superior Mow &  
Snow and Comcast!

Costumes encouraged!



# Reminders...

## Are you enrolled in the Garden Marker Program?

Fall garden bed cleanup begins soon. If you would like the Village to handle fall cleanup for you, remove your blue garden markers by October 21, 2019. Please return your garden markers to the office. **If you do NOT remove your markers, you are responsible for cleaning your beds by removing dead plant material BEFORE WINTER.** Please remember to clean out dead plant material from the window boxes as well. Thank you!



No pet is permitted to be tied up or staked on the common or limited common elements. All pets, including cats, are to be confined to the interior of the unit EXCEPT while on a leash under the pet owner's direct control.

## Paws & Tails Pet Care

I'm located right here in Pittsfield Village!

Have peace of mind while you're away with quality care and affordable rates for your furry family member!

I provide daily dog walking for people who have long, busy, work hours, new puppies who need potty breaks and socialization, or for those that want their dog to have a fun break in their day!

I also provide house visits for dogs, cats, and small animals for those gone on vacations and business trips. Boarding is also available for pups in my home for 24/7 care!

Email to book your free meet and greet with me and to receive more information. [Irenehayes03@yahoo.com](mailto:Irenehayes03@yahoo.com)



## Halloween, October 31<sup>st</sup>

Traditionally in Pittsfield Village, residents who wish to participate in Trick-or-Treating place an orange paper pumpkin over their porch light, letting the children know they are home and handing out sweet treats (lights cannot be turned off). If you need a "pumpkin" they are available in the lobby of the Community Building. After regular business hours, they'll be in the box outside.



# Raising Monarch Butterflies in Pittsfield Village Gardens

This summer has been a wonderful nature adventure for me, my husband, and our four-year old daughter, as we watched and raised beautiful monarch butterflies—both in our rear garden beds, and inside our condo! At one point, we found seven monarch caterpillars in one day on our swamp milkweed and butterfly weed in the rear garden. While it is much more difficult to find the chrysalises (monarch caterpillars can wander up to thirty feet from the host plant to form them), our eagle-eyed daughter found two in the wild: one on a tree in our backyard, and one on some weeds I had pulled up.

I hadn’t intended to raise any butterflies indoors, but because we are not allowed to have milkweed in the front beds—and no common milkweed at all, which spreads more aggressively than other varieties—I’ve had to be vigilant about my front beds. Whenever I took milkweed out, I would check it for eggs and boy did we find a lot! Originally, I hatched the eggs indoors, and then put a leaf with a minuscule caterpillar on a milkweed plant in the rear garden bed. This worked great, but then we decided to raise some caterpillars indoors as a science project with our child. While there is some early evidence that caterpillars raised indoors are less likely to migrate to Mexico than those that grow in the wild, it is still a wonderful way to learn about these incredible creatures. Watching the caterpillars grow, form their chrysalises, and emerge as butterflies has been an incredible experience for our family (happy to share videos if anyone is interested!). My husband and I have learned as much, and been as excited, as our four-year old. □ Jessica Lehr



## Monarch Facts

A monarch caterpillar grows to two-thousand times its birth size in two weeks. If a human baby could do that, it would be the size of a school bus at two weeks old!

While monarch butterflies eat the nectar from a multitude of flowering plants, they will only lay their eggs on milkweed. Fortunately, there are many varieties of milkweed, some of which are allowed in our community.

Note: varieties of milkweed allowed in Pittsfield Village are Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). These can be grown in the rear garden beds if seed pods are removed (garden marker program only).

Monarch chrysalises are incredibly beautiful: they begin light green with gold flecks and turn transparent about twenty-four hours before the butterfly emerges. If you look closely at this point, you can see the orange markings of the butterfly’s wings!

Monarch populations have been on the decline for many reasons. Backyard butterfly gardens, particularly those with host plants for the caterpillars, are a valuable part of helping these beautiful butterflies survive.

Much of what scientists have learned about monarchs and their migrations has been dependent on the help of “citizen scientists,” who catch and release monarchs in the wild after tagging them with adhesive labels and recording the date and location where they were seen.

The monarch butterflies we see in our neighborhood in late summer undertake one of the most impressive epic migrations in nature: they fly across the Great Lakes, up to a mile high, to reach their overwintering sites in Mexico. The following spring, those that survive fly to Texas to mate and lay the eggs for the next generation.

## Learn more

If you enjoy butterflies and want to learn more about monarchs, I highly recommend the following: 44-minute documentary *Flight of the Butterflies* (<http://www.flightofthebutterflies.com/home/>) – I was able to watch it free via our Roku, and it is available on DVD from the Ann Arbor District Library *How to Raise Monarch Butterflies: A Step-By-Step Guide for Kids* (Pasternak, Carol) – also available at the Ann Arbor District Library.



\* The viewpoints expressed in this article are those of the author.



2019-2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meets the last Wednesday of the month @  
6:15pm

Ellen Johnson, President

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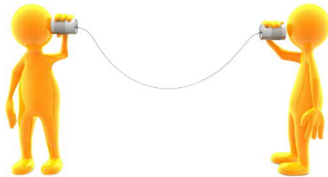
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**Pittsfield Village Office**  
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Maintenance / General Inquiry: [office@pittsfieldvillage.com](mailto:office@pittsfieldvillage.com)

**COMMITTEES**  
**Maintenance & Modification:** Lisa Lemble, Chair  
*Meets the 1st Tuesday @ 6:00pm*  
  
**Landscape:** Brian Rice, Chair  
*Meets the 2nd Tuesday @ 6:00pm*

# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 M&M Committee 6:00 pm Open / 6:15 pm Meet- ing	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Landscape Committee 6:00 pm Open / 6:15 pm Meet- ing	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Halloween Pumpkin Carving Party <u>2pm to 5pm</u>
27	28	29	30 Board Meet- ing—6:15 pm OPEN FORUM / 6:30 pm Meeting	31		4