

January 2021



## Christmas tree free drop-off sites

While Christmas trees cannot be discarded on the street or be left out on extensions, the City of Ann Arbor instead provides four free drop-off locations for undecorated Christmas trees through Monday, Jan. 18, 2021.

The four park locations will be open for Christmas tree drop offs during normal park hours, 6 a.m.–10 p.m. The collected trees will be chipped on a regular basis at the park sites.

The drop-off locations are:

1. Southeast Area Park located on Ellsworth at Platt. Trees may be left at the dirt lot north of the basketball courts.
2. West Park parking lot off Chapin near West Huron Street.
3. Gallup Boat Launch parking lot (not the Gallup Livery), entrance on the southeast side of Geddes Road, East of Huron Parkway.
4. Olson Park parking lot, 1515 Dhu Varren Road, near Pontiac Trail.

For more information on disposal of Christmas trees, winter composting and other recycling and trash information, please visit [www.a2gov.org/solidwaste](http://www.a2gov.org/solidwaste).

## Winter Reminders

**Thank you for picking up after your dogs!**

**Please take down all holiday decorations outside by January 15.**

**Ice Melt / Salt is available at the office (garage). Please stop by for some, if extra is needed.**

## WELCOME TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Board member appointee, Nick Oliverio has lived in Ann Arbor for 15 years, and has been a resident of Pittsfield Village since August 2016. Prior to the pandemic, he worked making open source scientific devices. Since then, he organized making PPE for the community, did some woodworking around the neighborhood, and finished reading all the books he had on his nightstand. Nick lives with his fiancé Leah and their dog Cookie. He looks forward to serving the Village however he can.



From the Michigan DNR

There are so many ways to explore Michigan in winter, and during this busy time before the new year, sometimes carving out just a few minutes to get outside – even in your own backyard – can make a big difference in your physical and mental health.

copy and paste the [link](#) below to your browser:

[Find more winter fun ►](#)



## Sharing is Caring

### From Newsletter contributor, Robalee Chapin

From the Michigan Dept of Health & Human Services:

You can protect yourself & your family by downloading the COVID app to see if you've possibly been exposed. Download it here: <http://healthymi.site/alert2>

## MSU offers free on-line courses to help us through the pandemic

MSU Extension Mindfulness for Better Living

### Programs

Research shows that practicing mindfulness can reduce stress-related symptoms such as worry, depression and physical tension, and may help manage chronic conditions such as cardiac disease and diabetes. MSU Extension offers a variety of mental health and stress reduction programs that encourage the use mindfulness and other self-care skills to help you feel better and enjoy life more. To learn more about any of these programs, contact MSU Extension educator Holly Tiret or check out our calendar of mindfulness events.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/mindfulnessforbetterliving/programs>

## IN THE GARDEN

By Lisa Joseph, Community Horticulturist

Welcome January 2021! As you hibernate or stay home to stay well, I have another fun project. I have been making the most fabulous salt scrub and putting the mixture into cute little jars to gift to loved ones. The recipe is easy, and the scents of the essential oils cozy up my whole house. My Relax Blend is incredibly soothing. The best jars to use for storing the scrub are shallow with a wide mouth so that it's easy to dip your hand in to scoop out the salt scrub.

### RECIPE:

1 cup Epsom Salt

1/4 cup coconut oil

1 squirt of almond oil (optional)

Add essential oil to scent as desired. My Relax Blend contains Clary Sage, Bergamot, Sandalwood, and Lavender. A less expensive alternative is to buy an Essential Oil Blend already mixed in one bottle. These are available in various blends to suit your desired mood.

Store your salt scrub in a jar; keep aside for a few days before use to let the mixture meld together. Rinse your skin afterward with warm water. Apply a lotion if desired. I like to use an unscented lotion so that the essential oil scents linger on my skin. Note: For an out of this world exfoliating Foot Scrub, add 1/4 cup Sea Salt or Kosher Salt as well. This salt is chunkier and more abrasive for heels.



### CHRISTMAS CACTUS

My Grandma Hazel always had the most beautiful Christmas Cactus growing and blooming in the room they dubbed the library of their home. The windows faced east. Gram was one of those people who didn't fuss over her plants, but they flourished anyway. An accidental gardener. A true green thumb.

One of my clients moved and gave me a Christmas Cactus she couldn't take along. Last year I was gone for most of the winter, and this neglected plant thrived and bloomed beautifully. This year I'm home and have been coddling this thing, but now the foliage is purplish, wrinkled, and droopy. It hates me! I consulted Google for advice and found out that Christmas Cactus prefers to be ignored.

I found these tips as well:

~Christmas Cactus originates in the jungle so it prefers bright indirect light, not full sun. I had moved mine from the east window where it was holding its own to the sunny kitchen window. My first mistake. Reddish or purplish foliage is an indicator that the sunlight is too harsh. ~Check weekly for water needs. The soil should dry out between waterings. Droopy foliage is a sign of overwatering.

~They like to be snug in their pots in a fast-draining cactus soil mix. When you do re-pot your plant, do so in the spring when the days are starting to get longer. ~Christmas Cactus prefers temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees, and they'd like some humidity. I have placed some pea pebbles in the saucer, and I add water as needed to create humidity. If you try this, do make sure that the pot sits above the water to avoid root rot and use a nonporous saucer. ~Fertilize in March through mid August with a water-soluble cactus fertilizer according to the package directions. ~Prune your plant back yearly by cutting between two leaf segments. This will trigger your plant to branch out better. When a Christmas Cactus does bloom, the flowers are so bright and colorful and cheerful. One man on a gardening show called them, "living baubles". A perfectly fitting description.



### INVASIVE WEED ALERT!

This news is not good. There has been a sighting of an invasive vine from Asia called MILE-A-MINUTE near Albion College just west of Jackson. This annual weed vine grows a whopping 6 inches a day. The vines have triangular-shaped leaves, menacing barbs, white flowers in spring on stems with little round leaves, followed in July by purple berries. On top of its impressive growth rate, Mile-A-Minute vine also has the advantage of producing seeds that live in the soil for up to 6 years. This vine has two masterful means of dispersal- firstly, birds and mammals eat the berries and spread the seeds far from the mother plant; and secondly, the seeds



are buoyant in water and can float down the river, establishing colonies near and far.

### ONE ADVANTAGE THAT WE HAVE IF IT INVADES OUR SPACE:

It is shallow-rooted and is easily pulled from the soil. Wear puncture-resistant gloves when doing this to avoid being pricked by the fierce barbs, and if possible, pluck it out before the fruits ripen.

MY NEW YEAR RESOLUTION: get happy again. Did you make one for yourself this year?

Warmest wishes to all. May you find happiness, good health, and many blessings in the coming year. Go play outside whenever possible.

## Pittsfield Village Office

Monday— Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

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

[www.pittsfieldvillage.com](http://www.pittsfieldvillage.com)

[www.townsq.io](http://www.townsq.io)

## COMMITTEES

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Landscape: Brian Rice, Chair

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M & M Committee Meeting Link:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/861269965>

BOD Meeting Link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/167170158683547919>

Please Note: the **Landscape Committee**  
will not meet again until March 9, 2021

## JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 office closed Happy New Year!	2
3	4	5 M&M Virtual Meeting	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Board of Directors Virtual Meeting	28	29	30
31						