



It was another great Pooch Plunge this year. Over 20 canines showed up to have a dog-gone good party. The weather was perfect and the little dogs came out in droves to rule the pool. It was so cute watching the little ones prancing around taking control, doing tricks, or just acting like Napoleon! Everyone had a blast, big and small alike. A few went



in the pool with their shark vests on. Sophia and Bebe were of course at the gate dressed in proper attire, to welcome all new comers. Doggie treat bags were put together & donated by Kat. If you've never attended, think about it for next year. Over 20 adults and kids were there without dogs. Watching is fun, too! Thanks to Kendra, Pittsfield Village Board and Staff for the continued support. See you next year!



Watch for our next pet event for Halloween! See write-up on next page.



A NOTE FROM DTE ENERGY



As we continue building a stronger grid, DTE Energy crews are busy Identifying locations where equipment upgrades are necessary. At the corner of Parkwood and Jeanne in Ann Arbor, crews and engineers decided that this location needed a new transformer to help increase the electric capacity in the immediate area.

The installation will help improve the performance of the grid and will help with the reduction of outages. This work will help strengthen the grid to support our residential and commercial customers as the demand increases. The better performance will really shine during the extreme weather conditions as the chance for any transformer-related issue during that time will be reduced.

These infrastructure upgrades are critical for minimizing outages and boosting the grid's resilience and reliability.

By modernizing equipment, DTE is strengthening the current system and positioning it to meet future energy needs. Our commitment to these improvements ensures that customers will continue to receive the dependable service they expect.

DTE energy is dedicated to

constructing a smarter stronger and more resilient grid to enhance reliability. Our commitment to customers is to reduce power outages by 30% and to cut outage durations in half by 2029.

This upgrading work is part of DTE's plan to build the grid of the future. That plan, now well underway, includes transitioning to a smart grid, upgrading existing infrastructure, rebuilding significant portions of the grid and trimming trees.

You can explore DT energies, power improvements map or visit empoweringmichigan.com.

ROCK PAINTING
CRAFT NIGHT



Thursday, October 17
Pittsfield Community Building
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Let's paint more rocks together!
You can bring a picture or idea to copy onto a rock, or just use your imagination to create your very own design!



All Welcome!



Paint markers and rocks will be provided, but you may bring your own if you prefer


Join us!



**PITTSFIELD VILLAGE
CHILI COOK OFF
2024**

Saturday, November 9
1 pm to 3 pm



Stir up your favorite recipe to share with your neighbors!

Hot and spicy? Sweet or savory? Thick and rich? We want it all!

Come enjoy some hot chili on a chilly afternoon!

The event is held in the garage at the PV office building. Just come around back!
(parking is limited, so walk on down if you're close!)

Please let us know if you want to participate as a cook or as a taste-tester! We will supply bowls, spoons, and toppings!

**Mark your
Calendar!**



**WINDOW BOX
CONTEST**

Pittsfield is absolutely GORGEOUS right now! Here is an update on the contest: The Landscape Committee is reviewing pictures of potential winners of our First Annual Flowerbox contest!

Stay tuned!

Theresa Moore, Landscape



RE M I N D E R

1. Is your furnace ready for winter? Contact your heating & cooling company for a furnace checkup if needed.
2. Fresh batteries may be needed in your thermostat.
3. Do your windows shut and lock properly? If not, call the office and we'll write up a work order for you.
4. Daylight Savings Time is November 3rd this year. This is the time to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detector(s) batteries.



Halloween is creeping up on us and it's almost time for our 2nd Pet Parade.

Last year, our trial year, was a success, so let's do it again!

The event will be held on Saturday the 26th (rain date Sunday the 27th).

Let's meet at the office parking lot at 2:00 PM.

Just as we did last year, we will march down Pittsfield, circle the roundabout, and then head back to the office. Please bring noisemakers this year. Last year was just too quiet. A drum would be nice, too. All participants, both humans and pets, are required to be dressed in costume. There will be 3 prizes awarded, so everyone dress up and be creative!

Afterwards there will be cider and donuts provided for all!

This is not just for dogs. All guinea pigs are welcome too. Sophia, Bebe and I will see you there for more fun!

I do wonder if Mr. Incog Nito will return?

Barb De Longchamp



LOST? FOUND?

Residents who find items along the sidewalks or in the streets will often turn in these found items to the office rather than let them be. You may have gone back to retrace your steps without luck.

If you are missing keys (we have lots of keys!) or other items, perhaps left at the pool this summer, please contact the office. 734-971-0233.

Board Beat: Welcome to Fall

Submitted by David Brassfield, Member of the Board

The Wednesday, September 25 Board meeting took up a number of matters, all of them quite routine. Here are the highlights.

- **Specifications.** As previously reported, the Maintenance and Modification Committee over the past several months has worked up additions to our catalog of specifications for permissible changes and additions to the interiors and exteriors of our homes. Two came before the Board for review and both were approved.



- *Whole-House Back-up Generators.* Residents who have a compelling need for uninterrupted electrical service during outages may apply for permission to arrange for installation at their own expense. Costs can run as high as \$15,000 plus ongoing maintenance. In recent years we have become all too familiar with the inconvenience and expense that outages caused by storms and high winds have brought to the Village. Indeed, the latest figures from DTE show that for all of 2023, on average, homes in our service area were without power a total of 48.6 hours out of the 8,760 hours' worth the utility was expected to provide. Help may be on the way, however! See the "Note from DTE Energy" on Village grid hardening, page 1 of this Newsletter. Full text of the new specification may be found on the Village website: <http://pittsfieldvillage.com/doc/specs/exterior/Generator%20Spec.pdf>.
- *Outdoor Storage.* M & M undertook a major revision of the specification that has been in effect for a number of years now. Walk-throughs of the property had shown a proliferation of sheds and boxes of all sorts, many out of compliance and many out of scale with our buildings, decks, and porches. Structural dilapidation and unsightly clutter marked a number of the units surveyed. The new specification seeks to bring order and uniformity back to the selection and placement of outdoor storage units. The revised spec will now provide the basis for compliance enforcement going forward. Full text of the new specification may be found on the Village website: <http://pittsfieldvillage.com/doc/specs/exterior/Exterior%20Storage%20Box%20Spec.pdf>.
- **Maintenance Expenditures.** The Board approved several contracts requiring major financial outlays.
 - *Pre-Season Salt and De-Icer Buy:* To get the best rate for the coming snow season we regularly authorize Margolis to purchase salt and de-icer in bulk while product is plentiful and prices are low. Any product not used this year is carried over to next year. Total purchase: \$26,754.93.
 - *Replacement of Shared Water Service Line for 2664 and 2666 Pittsfield.* \$12,500 to Hutzel. The City will reimburse us for this work.
 - *Major Foundation Repair at 2397 Jeanne.* \$30,388.70 to Home Spec. Such work is funded from our Capital Reserves.
- **Next Board Meeting:** Wednesday, October 23, at 6:00 pm, in person at the Village Office or remotely online. Log-in information will be provided via email before the meeting. All residents are welcome to attend. Complete minutes of the September meeting will be posted online after acceptance at the October meeting.

(Continued on following page)

News from Our Standing Committees

- Landscape.** The Committee is quite busy with resident requests, restoration and rejuvenation work, and future projects planning. At the Board meeting, Chair Theresa Moore called attention to a growing problem for our Landscape contractor. A number of residents have been accosting workers onsite and requesting special services, and sometimes going so far as to obstruct them in their work. Residents must address their requests and concerns to the Office, not to the individual employees who care for our landscape.
- Maintenance and Modification.** The October meeting agenda was quite full. A rear storage box received approval as did a bathroom renovation and a crawlspace encapsulation project. Each of these proposals met the requirements of the relevant specifications. Three others required extended discussion, two because they were novel proposals for which we have no specs, and one because the co-owner had proceeded without prior approval. One of the two novel proposals was for the addition of shared fencing to enclose a patio and the area extending over to the neighboring deck. This proposal was tabled so that the co-owners could make revisions in response to Committee comments. The other non-standard proposal was for installing gutters to direct water away from a co-owner's front trash enclosure. This also was tabled pending development of a specification for such work. The rejected proposal was for an owner-installed Starlink satellite dish put up without prior approval. The workmanship was deemed unsatisfactory and the co-owner will be required to remove it and either seek a professional installer or work with our Maintenance staff to route the wiring so as to comply with our installation specifications.



- Governing Documents.** The committee has worked its way through proposed revisions to the Association Bylaws and is in the process of compiling a document that shows “before and after” changes. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future to review this work with our legal counsel.



• The City’s “Pittsfield Village Improvements Project”: Updates

A couple of things bear mentioning since my last report:

- Storm and Sanitary Sewers.** As part of final preparations for the major construction work to begin next spring, the City has contracted with pipeline rehabilitation specialists SAK Construction to perform the following services in the Village. This work began last week and will continue for several more:
 - Pipe Cleaning:* All sections deemed suitable for relining will be thoroughly reamed out and cleaned.
 - Camera Inspections:* Though the City has collected extensive video footage in the past of both our storm and sanitary sewer pipes, SAK will do a complete update on all the sections slated for

(Continued on following page)

relining instead of excavation and replacement. A pipe must be seriously compromised before it can be deemed unsuitable for relining.

- *Relining:* This fascinating process is called Cured-in-Place-Pipe or CIPP Relining. The end product is for all practical purposes a new pipe capable of trouble-free service for years to come.

You may find further information and a video of the CIPP process here: <https://www.sakcon.com/cipp>



- **Pittsfield Boulevard Bicycle Route.** A number of residents have raised additional questions about this project element, so I tracked down the City’s comprehensive transportation blueprint and spoke again with OHM Project Engineer Chris Elenbaas. These are the clarifications I obtained: (1) In the “all ages and abilities” bicycle route network that the City is working to build out over the next several years, our small Village portion is classified at the lowest level, as a “local” route. (2) The PV Improvements Project includes just the segment of Pittsfield that runs from Edgewood to Washtenaw and the short stub of Edgewood west of Pittsfield that lies within the Village. (3) Bicyclists on “local” routes share the road with motorists; nothing is set aside for their exclusive use. (4) As a local bike route, the Pittsfield roadway will be painted at intervals with markings called “sharrows,” and along the curbs will be signs with bicycle icons and the words “Share the Road.” (*See below.*)



“Local” Route with Pavement “Sharrows” (see also, Icon at lower left) and Curbside “Share the Road” Sign

Further Information: At the Board’s September meeting, resident and bicycling enthusiast Mike Wytychak provided helpful background about the City’s planned network in general and the “all ages and abilities” concept in particular. He referred us to the comprehensive transportation plan that City Council adopted in June 2021. That plan defines an “all ages and abilities” bike route as “a route that is designed to feel comfortable for people of any age and any bicycling skill level.” The City feels that the new Pittsfield traffic calming additions and the bike-friendly “share the road signage” will create a route that riders will feel quite safe in traveling. The City’s plan for bicyclists begins on page 59 of the comprehensive plan: https://www.a2gov.org/departments/engineering/Documents/Ann%20Arbor%20Moving%20Together_Final%20Plan_June%202021.pdf

Superior and Crew out and about in October at Pittsfield Village



Fall Cleanup

The Horticulturist and crew will perform the final FRONT garden bed cleanup of annuals and perennials in garden beds without garden markers. If you LEAVE YOUR GARDEN MARKERS in, YOU AGREE TO PERFORM the FALL CLEANUP by November 10, 2024.

The on-site staff will remove all remaining garden markers from garden beds after the landscape crews complete their cleanup (typically by the last week of the month). If your garden beds have not been winterized when this occurs, it will be done for you and the labor charges will be billed back to your unit account.

Leaf Cleanup

Superior will be on-site the last week of October and through November, weather permitting.

They will make multiple passes through our community picking up fallen leaves.

The exact dates of these cleanups will be determined by weather and leaf drop.

Fall cleanup in the garden doesn't mean what it used to

BY JESSICA DAMIANO AP

Cleaning up the garden — or “putting the garden to bed” — has traditionally been a fall endeavor. In recent years, however, as information about the migrating or hibernating habits of birds, pollinators and other beneficial wildlife has seeped into the mainstream, many gardeners are postponing their big cleanups until spring. And that's a good thing. But there are quite a few tasks that still should be tended to now. Some are holdovers from the old protocol; others are new ways of tackling conventional chores that have evolved with our better understanding of the ecosystem. Take leaf removal.

Raking (and more recently, blowing) has long been a harbinger of fall. However, bagging and trashing those leaves — and the shelter they would provide for overwintering insects, not to mention the pollinator eggs attached to their undersides — has given way to the “leave the leaves” movement in recent years.

Homeowners are realizing that sending a plastic bag of organic matter to a landfill not only ensures it will outlast themselves, but also amounts to throwing away free fertilizer. Allowing leaves to remain where they fall around perennials, trees and shrubs, and moving them from lawns to beds and borders enriches the soil with plant-boosting nutrients. It also provides shelter and habitat for overwintering pollinators. Instead of cutting every perennial to ground level before the first frost, gardeners are now being selective. Allowing the dried seed heads of plants like purple coneflower (Echinacea), black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia), anise hyssop (Agastache), goldenrod (Solidago) and others to stand all winter will provide food for nonmigratory birds. Leaving ornamental grasses standing provides shelter for wildlife and traps snow, which insulates and protects roots.



A few plants, however, should be cut down in the fall. Hostas are a favorite hideaway for overwintering slugs and pests, while winter-standing irises protect the dreaded iris borer eggs. Plants susceptible to mildew, like peonies, phlox and bee balm, are best cut back, even if they weren't infected. The above-ground growth of plants that were diseased this past season also needs to go, regardless of the pathogen. Don't allow their fallen leaves or plant parts to remain on the ground, or they'll infect the soil and next year's plants. Never compost them. Fall is also the time to dig up and store tender bulbs like gladiolas, dahlias, cannas, tuberous begonias and elephant ears. Pull up spent annuals and collect their seeds. Store them in a paper envelope or glass jar in a cool, dark place for next season. And weed. There's an old expression that goes, “One year's seedling makes seven years of weeding.” That's an understatement, as some weed seeds can remain viable in the soil for decades. Pull them up by their roots before they set seed. You'll thank yourself next year. Terra cotta absorbs water, and pots can become damaged when that water freezes and expands. Store them indoors. Finally, prepare yourself for the magic of spring. I'm not being hokey. It really is magic: Those leaves you spend hours cleaning up or pushing aside now will magically reappear in a few months, and you'll find yourself raking again. I can't explain why. You just will.

Jessica Damiano writes weekly gardening columns for the AP and publishes the award-winning Weekly Dirt Newsletter. You can sign up here for weekly gardening tips and advice. For more AP gardening stories, go to <https://apnews.com/hub/gardening>.

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Getting to Know You

by Barb De Longchamp



This month, we have the pleasure of meeting Amber Morin on Pittsfield. She is a delightful young woman with a 5-year-old daughter, Mackenzie, and their cat Hermie. They reside near the school. How perfect is that when you have a school-age daughter?

Amber hails from quaint Holly, MI, and is familiar with the Renaissance Festival. Her first job was at the historical Holly Hotel where she got a good look at one of their famed ghosts in a mirror. Whoa!

She has a degree in business administration from Northwood University, with a concentration in hotel, restaurant, and resort management. This degree and Amber's exuberant outgoing personality, has allowed her to hold some pretty interesting positions.

For years she was a Wedding Planner. Yep, just like in the movies. In one summer, she planned 120 weddings. She admits it was just a bit intense.

When she began working for the Ilitch regime, various doors were opened to Amber. Initially, she joined the

Group Sales department at the Fox Theatre. She remembers doing a private tour with her mom and the head organist who played Phantom of the Opera for them. During the tour, she had the thrill of using the private stairwell behind the stage. The walls are covered with the autographs of famous performers like Elvis Presley, The Temptations, Frank Sinatra, Prince, Cher, magician David Copperfield, and comedian Chris Rock. It's tradition for anyone performing to sign the wall.

Remaining with the Ilitch's, Amber became a Ticket Service Representative for the Detroit Red Wings. She had an average of 550 season ticket accounts and still maintains the record for highest renewal rate at 98% during the exciting move from Joe Louis to Little Caesar's Arena. Her memories include meeting Nicklas Lidstrom, attending Gordie Howe's memorial, and flying on the team plane to an away game against Boston. She also had the "pleasant" experience of holding a dead octopus! Yikes!

Presently, she works with the U-M College of Pharmacy as part of their advancement (fundraising) team and loves it. The structured hours and flexibility allow Amber to spend quality time with her daughter and work in her garden. Amber also enjoys reading, especially books by author Sarah J. Maas, practicing tarot and oracle card readings, and getting outdoors. She is already decorating for Halloween and can't wait to see all the trick-or-treaters this year!

Here in the Village, Amber enjoys the friendliness of her neighbors, especially when she is working in her garden. Don't we all?

We thank you, Amber Morin, for being part of our little Village Family. It was great, GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

Does Your Deck Need Help?

Ellen Johnson

When most of us moved into our homes there was a deck out back, typically 10' X 10' and built of pressure-treated boards with some variation on the standard railing. With the conversion to condos, decks became a co-owner responsibility, though our condo association power washes and re-stains decks every few years as a courtesy.

Over time, however, decks wear out: boards rot or sag, railings get wobbly, and steps may no longer be very safe.

This past summer, the time came for me to renew my decks. (Yes, I have two of them, as I'm one of the co-owners with two units next to each other.) My doxies' feet started getting stuck in the holes in the boards: not good!

I tapped into the carpenter skills of one of our residents: Nick Oliverio. He'd done a good number of repairs on neighbors' steps and decks and I was keen on making use of Village talent.

Long story short: over the course of about 5-6 weeks, Nick worked his magic. He:

- removed the old boards from deck #1 and replaced them with new ones
- sanded, planed and trimmed old boards to use for steps on either side of the space between decks
- took part of the railing from deck #1 and moved it to deck #2, then extended the railing another few feet, using leftovers from other 'retired' deck pieces
- installed panels on either end of the space to afford me and my neighbors a bit of privacy
- re-shaped and re-installed the short picket fence between the decks
- helped fill the space with pea gravel, offering a closed area for my doxies to do their thing
- and did 95% of the staining of the whole shebang.

Deck #1 BEFORE



Deck #1 AFTER



Shown here are a couple of before/after pics; there are plenty others of the entire process.

Important note: no permit or permissions were needed for this project, as the work replaced structures that were already there. Deck foundations and posts remained in place.

Deck #2 BEFORE



Deck #2 AFTER



If you'd like to come have a look, swing by on Saturday morning, October 12, after 10:00 (I'm not a morning person) and before noon. I'll have cider and donuts (from Washtenaw Dairy—where else???) to share. Nick said he'd be there too. I can offer info on costs for the project or chat about other projects dear to you. Hope to see you then! Ellen

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COMMITTEE direct emails:

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mm@pittsfieldvillage.com

OCTOBER Meeting links

(copy & paste in your browser)

M & M

<https://meet.goto.com/743086045>

Landscape

<https://meet.goto.com/968350053>

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In addition to the services offered, I make informative and fun behind the scenes content. Transitioning from hobbyist to professional, I share my lifelong passion for automobiles and meticulous cleaning. Let me help you perfect my craft in the art of vehicle maintenance.

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OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 M&M committee meeting 6pm	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Landscape committee meeting 6pm	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Rock Painting at PV—5:30 pm	18	19
20	21	22	23 BOD meeting 6pm	24	25	26 PET COSTUME PARADE 2pm
27	28	29	30	31 Happy Halloween		