

VALENTINE'S DAY



Everybody knows Valentine's Day is a day of romance and love.

After all, it's the holiday for writing love letters and watching a rom-com. And for those who want to celebrate female friendships, there's Gal-entine's Day, too!

Some cynics say Valentine's Day is just a manufactured holiday to sell greeting cards, chocolates and flowers. And while it's true that Valentine's Day sees a big rush of spending, the holiday actually has a long history dating back to Christian martyrs and Roman fertility festivals.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 250 million roses are grown in preparation for Valentine's Day each year. We take red roses for granted as a Valentine's Day staple. But roses actually don't grow in February weather in the U.S. because it's too cold. Instead, millions of flowers are grown around the world and shipped to the U.S. specifically for February 14th. Most of the roses we gift for Valentine's Day come from Ecuador, Kenya and Colombia.

The color of flower given on Valentine's Day holds meaning.

While a red rose has traditionally symbolized love, other colors like deep pink, purple or white — which symbolize happiness, royalty and sympathy respectively — may be given on the holiday too.



Valentine's Day has its roots in an ancient Pagan festival.

Valentine's Day also has pagan roots alongside its connection to St. Valentine. It may have originated in Lupercalia, a festival of fertility celebrated on February 15 in ancient Rome. Lupercalia was dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture, Faunus, and the founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. It was celebrated with animal sacrifices and gently slapping women and crop fields with goat hides dipped in blood, which was thought to help fertility.

In the 1300s, it officially became a holiday associated with love; however, the origins of Valentine's Day are murky. But it is thought to have been made a holiday in the fifth century when Pope Gelasius outlawed the celebration of Lupercalia. It wasn't until much later that it became associated with romance. In the Middle Ages, it was believed that February 14 was the start of birds' mating season. Chaucer cemented the connection between Valentine's Day, birds and romance with his 1375 poem "Parliament of Fowles," writing, "For this was on Saint Valentines day, When every foul cometh to chase his mate." The rest, as they say, is history!

According to the National Retail Foundation, Americans spent nearly \$26 billion on Valentine's Day gifts in 2023. People are also expected to spend an average of approximately \$193 for Valentine's Day.

Cupid has roots in Greek mythology. According to Time, the ubiquitous cherub can be traced back to 700 B.C. In Ancient Greece, Eros, the Greek god of love, was depicted as a handsome young man and had the power to make people fall madly in love. Over time, he was adopted by the Romans and became known as Cupid, his image changing to the little boy with the bow and arrow. Because of his love-inspiring powers, he became linked to Valentine's Day by the turn of the 19th century.

The first Valentine was sent in the 15th century. According to History.com, the oldest Valentine we have record of is from 1415. Charles, Duke of Orleans, wrote it to his wife while he was a political prisoner in the Tower of London. One of the lines in the poem: "I am already sick of love, My very gentle Valentine." Swoon! Not until the 1840s did we get the first mass-produced Valentines.

In the 17th century, people started exchanging cards and letters with their lovers and friends. But the first mass-produced Valentines didn't arrive on the scene until the 1840s. Known as the "Mother of the American Valentine," Esther A. Howland sold cards with lace and ribbons that commercialized Valentines in America.

Getting to Know You

Welcome to another adventure into the Village People. It is our chance to get to know our family.



This month we have the pleasure of talking with the adventurers in our Village, Mike and Sheryl Wytychak. Translated from Ukrainian, the last name means Wanderer, and they are!

Mike is a retired lawyer and practiced Elder Law in Idaho. Sheryl was the office manager. They were in Idaho for 30 years. The open spaces, great walks and friendly people directed them eventually towards our little Village with the similarities. While practicing law, he asked clients about retirement. He was told "Don't wait"! With that thought in mind, they developed their "exit strategy". This included hiring law school students to work for them. The "exit strategy" eventually turned out to sell the business to one of them.

One of their great loves has been sailing. In Idaho they enjoyed sailing on Lake Coeur d'Alene. Starting with one small sailboat, they eventually owned a 36-footer.

After retiring, they moved onto their boat, which was named Raven Dancer. They were "live aboard" for 6 years. Raven Dancer had 7 berths, including a V berth in the bow. Sailing the inland waters of the Pacific Northwest, they visited various islands in Washington and British Columbia.

Moving to Michigan came about to help out with their newly born grandson (Jack), and then another (Henry). The joys of their life. They decided to make Ann Arbor their home by "swallowing the hook" and "living on the hard." Do they sound like pirates? I think so!

Mike and Sheryl have fallen in love with Michigan. No surprise. They are such happy positive people I think they would always see and live the positive. Traveling around our Mitten, they visited Isle Royale. It was magnificently rustic with 200 moose and 50 wolves.

Back home in A2 they joined Elderwise. This group delves into science, culture, art, crafts, and a book club. They meet on various days: Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 10-12 or 1-3. It is \$30 to join or \$10 per class.

Mike is also involved with Common Cycle. It is a bike co-op which teaches you how to repair your own bike. He also repairs bikes for others.

So much these two have done! Always with the spirit of giving back. You will see them at many of our functions, including the Pet Parade as our photographers.

Thank you Mike and Sheryl Wytychak for letting us GET TO KNOW YOU! Barb De Longchamp



Board Beat: Mid-Winter Update

Submitted by David Brassfield, Member of the Board

Ending its customary long holidays hiatus, the Board returned to regular meetings on the last Wednesday of January. Business was mostly routine. Here are the highlights.

- **Service Contracts:** the following renewals were approved:
 - (1) Two-year contract for Shrub and Bed Care by Superior Mow and Snow.
 - (2) One-year contract with Mastercraft to paint buildings in this year's rotation along with the eaves re-shingled in our now-completed 11-year roof replacements project.
- **Major Repairs:** Two more units with failing foundations will be repaired at an approximate cost of \$51,000.00.
- **Community-Wide Plumbing Inspections:** Remarkably, with the coordination and legwork of our superb Maintenance and Office staff, coupled with the near universal friendly cooperation of our Association residents, **ALL BUT A DOZEN OF OUR 422 CONDO UNITS(!)** were visited and documented in the month of January. A full two months had been allocated for this work.

A side benefit: in the course of these visits our staff noted a significant number of maintenance items that had gone unreported, items such as malfunctioning porch lights, faulty storm door closers, cracked sewer stacks, and many others. All these have now been scheduled for repair.
- **Annual Budget Deliberations:** When February and March roll around, it's time for Board and Committee members to hash out a budget for the new fiscal year beginning on May 1. This work takes place outside regular Board meetings, and generally three sessions are required to cover all the necessary items. Two of those sessions have been scheduled, one in February and another in March. Deadline for completion is the end of March, when the packet for our Association Annual Meeting must be sent out. As always, great care will be taken to minimize fee increases.
- **Open Kitchen Proposal:** A resident has submitted a novel plan for creating an open kitchen in her unit. At present when the wall between living room and kitchen are to be removed, we require that a header and support post be installed to carry the load. If the wall between kitchen and dining area is to come out, we require that a two-foot section be retained between front outer wall and the existing kitchen doorway.



The Board has now received an architect's proposal for a completely open design that dispenses with both supports and addresses the structural issues by adding a support beam in the attic and beefing up the roof truss system. To sign off on this proposal the Board will require an engineer's stamp and will consider whether to bear the expense of professional review if it proves out and thus becomes an option for others planning open kitchen renovations in the Village.

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 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 January meeting will be posted online after acceptance at the February meeting.

'New Me' Month Ideas

..... Ordinary & *Happy*

SIMPLE

- Tidy up your living space for 10 minutes every evening.
- Write 1-3 things in a gratitude journal every morning.
- Take a 5-minute break for deep breathing when there's a lot going on.
- Do 10 minutes of bodyweight exercises every morning.
- Dedicate one evening a week to no-screen leisure time.
- Say "no" to some events and social commitments to give yourself space.
- Charge your phone away from your bed at night.
- Wake up an hour earlier.
- Clear your inbox.

POSITIVE

- Call or text one friend or family member every day.
- Practice kind self-talk in the mirror every morning.
- Walk or cycle instead of driving for short trips.
- Set aside 10 minutes each evening to plan the next day's priorities.
- Practice standing up straight and improving your posture.
- Spend 5-10 minutes daily doing something creative.
- Do something kind for someone.
- Take up a 30-day home DIY or decoration project.

HELPFUL

- Start your day by making your bed.
- Declutter your phone and organize your apps.
- Read positive and inspiring news.
- Spend 15 minutes a day learning something new.
- Clean out one drawer or shelf every week.
- Spend 15 minutes a day outside getting fresh air.
- Listen to an inspiring podcast on your commute.
- Schedule 10 minutes of quiet reflection every evening.

IT'S STILL COLD—SO PLEASE PLAN AHEAD

If you leave town for any extended period of time, DO NOT turn off the water without first contacting maintenance 734-971-0233 (this does not only apply to the winter months!) Also, leave your thermostat set at no less than 65 degrees, and open your kitchen cabinet doors (upper and lower) to keep pipes warm. Consider also, during the extreme frigid temperatures, letting the faucets drip to avoid freezing pipes.

Dear Neighbor,

A City of Ann Arbor ordinance requires that carts be kept behind homes where they are out of view, but the City Council agreed it can be a hardship for many of us—especially those not on the ends of buildings—to pull carts around the building, across the grass, snow, or slush. Therefore, the City gave Pittsfield Village a waiver to allow carts to be kept in front as long as they are screened.



You have the choice of keeping your carts behind your home, next to your deck, but when they are in front, they must be screened by shrubs or an approved fence (PV Maintenance Dept can install a fence on a bill-back basis).

So, please keep your carts behind your home or in front where they are screened to keep us in compliance with the City ordinance.

If you have any questions, please call the office at (734) 971-0233 or email office@pittsfieldvillage.com.

Thank you! Pittsfield Village Condominium Association

Your Local Neighborhood Mobile Auto Detailer

Mo's Auto Detailing

Mohamed Asker
Passionate car enthusiast and meticulous cleaner turned professional detailer

SERVICES

- INTERIOR**
 - Thorough Brush & Vacuum
 - Carpet & Seat Extractions
 - Pet Hair Removal
 - Steam Cleaning
 - Leather Conditioning
 - and more! @ website
- EXTERIOR**
 - Hand Wash & Wax
 - Claybar
 - Wheel Polish
 - Hybrid Ceramic Wax
 - Engine Bay
 - and more! @ website

WAYS TO BOOK:

- Online at MosAutoDetailing.com/contact
- Text 734-726-4307

WEBSITE:

INSTAGRAM:

FACEBOOK:

Scan QR Codes with Photo mode

In Addition to the services offered, I make informative and fun behind the scenes content. Transitioning from hobbyist to professional detailer, my lifelong passion for automobiles and meticulous cleaning has led me to perfect my craft in the art of vehicle maintenance.

MosAutoDetailing.com
734-726-4307

Dedicated- Passionate
Mobile - Ann Arbor
+ Washtenaw county

VIOLIN AND VIOLA LESSONS

For Elementary School Students to Adults!

Lessons are held at Calvary Presbyterian Church at the corner of Fernwood & Norwood

Call Linda Speck,
734.730.4525 for more
information

aa3013@wayne.edu



GROUNDHOG DAY

Barb De Longchamp

This is a day that has different meanings around the world.

In Europe it is a bear venturing from his cave. He is checking the weather as well.

In China it is during the Chinese New Year or Lunar Feast. A time for renewal depending upon which animal the calendar has. This year it is the Year of the Snake. A wood snake to be exact, for prosperity.

The Roman Catholic Church celebrates Candlemas. A blessing of candles, religious articles and throats for the coming year. It is also the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple.

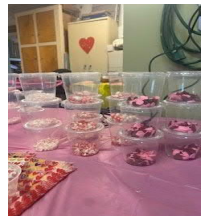
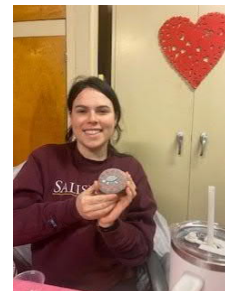
Here in the USA it is a groundhog. Also known as a marmot, woodchuck, or whistle pig. A whistle pig because the little guy whistles when in danger. If Phil sees his shadow, we will have 6 more weeks of winter. If he does not, it's instant spring. Phil's wife's name is Phyllis and she claims that Phil is a pathological liar. He is credited with being right 40% of the time.

There you have it! The Nutcracker, dressed as a judge, is holding a statue of Phil. Of course there is also someone in the Village that has a Groundhog Dinner every year in Phil's honor. Only the silliest people are invited and everyone must dress as a groundhog with whiskers, ears, etc. This year the sillies from the Village were: Paul Najar, Mike and Sheryl Wytychak, Suzanne Giraud, Barb De Longchamp, Dr. David Lyman and outside extras. Dinner includes a meatloaf in the shape of a groundhog, faux groundhog stew, pies, of course, and lots of extras.

We had a blast with a groundhog trivia game and Paul playing his guitar with a sing a long. Yes, it takes all kinds. But we have fun and enjoy life together.



Craft Night Fun





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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024—2025

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Pittsfield Village Office

Monday— Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

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

www.pittsfieldvillage.com

Visit the PV website, call or email the office with your **Questions/concerns/requests:**

office@pittsfieldvillage.com



COMMITTEE direct emails:

⇒ pittsfieldzero@pittsfieldvillage.com

⇒ landscapecommittee@pittsfieldvillage.com

⇒ mm@pittsfieldvillage.com



FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 M&M committee 6:00 pm	5	6 CRAFT NIGHT! 5:30 to 7:00	7	8
9	10 Go-Doc committee 3:00 pm	11 Landscape committee 6:00 pm	12	13	14 	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 BOD MTG 6:00 pm	30	31	