

News and Events

June 2025

Make Music! Day Comes to The Village

Saturday, June 21st

Burgers and Dogs starting at 2:00 pm

The band starts playing at 3:00 pm

Behind 2328 Fernwood

Hosted by Patti Smith and Lisa Lemble

Sponsored by the Ann Arbor District Library



Two Soups and the Salad Bar is a horn-pop band based in Michigan Center, performing an eclectic mix of hits from the '60s to now, along with engaging originals from brothers Robert and Will Janz, backed by an 8-piece horn section and powerhouse rhythm players.

Throughout over 10 years of performances and releases, the Janz brothers have refined a unique musical voice, infusing crowd favorites with jazz sensibilities and improvisation. What makes the Two Soups project truly special is the unmatched

bond between the brothers and friends. Each performance invites the audience to join in the joy found on stage and amid saxophone solos and synthesizer flourishes, and to explore the broad musical world of Robert and Will Janz.

Take a couple hours out of the longest day of the year to soak up some music.

Feel free to bring a blanket or a chair.

Questions? Email lisaemble@gmail.com

Website: www.janzlife.net

Socials: @twosoupsmusic

NEXT MONTH

Mark your Calendar

July 19

5pm - 8pm



Landscape Reminder: Routine Trimming / Pruning

Regardless of the occupancy status of the unit (tenant vs co-owner) or your garden marker participation status, the Association maintains the trimming of all trees and shrubs. The Association engages with a landscape contractor, Superior, to handle this routine landscape maintenance. The Association will not notify or ask prior permission to carry out routine budgeted landscape maintenance. All plantings in the limited common and common areas are property of the Pittsfield Village Association and remain the responsibility of the Association to maintain. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Pittsfield's landscape policy as it pertains to trimming of trees and shrubs, you are welcome to attend a Board of Directors meeting. Unless otherwise noted, the Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm. Meetings are held hybrid. You may attend at the community building or online. Meeting links are published on the back page of the monthly newsletter, or you can contact the office prior to the meeting.

Trees of Pittsfield Village: The Dawn Redwood

By Brian Rice, Landscape Committee

Scattered around Pittsfield Village's 60-some acres are several examples of a rather unusual conifer. What makes them unusual is that unlike almost all other conifers, these trees are deciduous, meaning they drop their leaves in the winter. What are they? Where did they come from?

The answer is long, convoluted, and multinational, involving World War II, the Chinese Revolution and even out to the Chinese Cultural Revolution of 1967-1976.

In 1941, a Japanese botanist, Shigeru Miki, working with tree fossils from the Mesozoic era, noticed a leaf form belonging to a new genus which he named *Metasequoia*. At about that same time, a Chinese botanist, Chan Wang, working in central China noticed a deciduous conifer which appeared very similar to Miki's fossil conifer. Wang collected specimens of this plant but did not identify it.

In 1945, another Chinese botanist, W. C. Cheng, receives Wang's specimens and realizes it is not a species currently known to science but rather something entirely new. Or so he thinks, though he doesn't yet know just what he's got. The next year, Elmer D. Merrill of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum and yet another Chinese botanist, H. H. Hu, are both informed of the new discovery by Cheng. Hu is then able to match the specimens collected by Wang and others back to Miki's fossil *Metasequoia*. **Bingo!** A tree species that once flourished in the age of the dinosaurs but long thought extinct has been rediscovered alive and well in a remote region of China.

In 1947, Cheng sends a specimen to Merrill at Harvard and later that year also sends a batch of seeds. Seeds were also propagated and distributed to botanical gardens and arboreta across the United States and Europe.

News of the rediscovery makes headlines and is widely reported in the news media of the day. The *San Francisco Chronicle* sends a reporter, Milton Silverman, to accompany yet another expedition to China led by Ralph Chaney, a botanist and paleobotanist from the University of California, Berkeley. He writes a series of six vivid articles about his journey and yet another upon his return. The resulting headlines created a public misconception that Chaney was the re-discoverer and led to a years-long war of words between Merrill and Chaney.

But through the efforts of Merrill, Chaney and others, the Dawn Redwood was gradually introduced into commerce in China and the rest of the world. In part because of the publicity surrounding its re-discovery, it immediately became a popular tree. It also helped that it is easy to grow in temperate climates like ours, hardy to USDA Zone 5 and tolerant of soggy soils.

In China, these trees are threatened due to a loss of habitat. But in the U.S., they are quite common due to their ease of growth. But every single Dawn Redwood in the U.S. dates to the 1940's and no earlier.

So then. Where can you see one? There are several planted in what was once a volleyball court between Pittsfield and Whitewood south of Oakwood. Still others can be found along the east side of Fernwood between Edgewood and Oakwood.

SOURCES:

VALDER, Peter, *The Garden Plants of China*, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 1999

MA, Jinshuang, *The Chronology of the "Living Fossil" Metasequoia Glyptostroboidea (TAXODIACEAE): A Review (1943-2003)*

http://flora.huh.harvard.edu/china/Harvard_Papers/Ma_8_1_009_018.pdf



A2 Zero Clothing Swaps



A²ZERO Week Clothing Swap

📍 Ward 3: Arbor Oaks Park
🕒 12:00 pm, June 7th, 2025

Give your gently used clothing a new home instead of sending it to the landfill and find something you've been looking for without having to buy it!



Find out more about A²ZERO Week:
osi.a2gov.org/a2zeroweek



RSVP at lu.ma/a2zeroswaps
Or scan the QR above!

We are currently working on organizing a series of Clothing Swaps in collaboration with [ZeroWaste.Org](https://zerowaste.org). These swaps are intended to be a part of the City's A2ZERO circular economy goals—a main component of which involves reusing items instead of sending them to the landfill.

These clothing swaps are a chance for community members to share items with others or find something new. They will take place from June 3 to June 7 at the A2ZERO Ward Parties.

Ward 3's Swap: Saturday, June 7
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Arbor Oaks Park

Additional information about the Clothing Swap:

There is no requirement to bring items in order to take them, so we are hoping that the Swap Day will provide an opportunity for Villagers to acquire gently used clothing at no cost.

Please feel free to email Claire DeBlanc (cdeblanc@a2gov.org) or Lydia McMullen-Laird (lydia@zerowaste.org) if you have any questions.

Kyler Melmoth, Pittsfield Village Member

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Exotic forest plants

Bill Cook, [Michigan State University Extension](#) - August 19, 2014

Exotic pests are one of the more serious threats to forest health. While few exotics pose serious challenges, there are some insects, diseases and plants that do. Eradication is possible if small infestations can be detected early.

Over 40,000 exotic species have been introduced into North America, and most have proven to be useful to humans and benign to the natural environment. Most exotic introductions fail to establish, but some have grown invasive and damaging.

According to [Michigan State University Extension](#), a large number of exotic plants cause problems in our forests, lakes, wetlands and other habitats. The forest has a fewer number, due to the inherent characteristics of most exotic plants, but their presence is important and widespread across much of Michigan.

Successful [exotic plant invasions](#) are often facilitated by other plant and animal species that cause disruptions of forest ecology. This pattern is sometimes called a “cascade effect.” Interestingly, eradication of the exotic plant will not necessarily restore earlier conditions. Garlic mustard is one such exotic plant.

[Garlic mustard](#) does best when white-tailed deer, slugs (exotic), earthworms (another exotic) and other forest components produce this cascade effect. When garlic mustard is successfully eradicated, [restoration of the forest floor still fails](#).

Garlic mustard tends to dominate the forest floor over time, helping to preclude regeneration of other plant species. It prefers richer, mesic soils that also support northern hardwood forest types. Viable seeds can persist in the soil for many years.

[Glossy buckthorn](#) and European or [common buckthorn](#) are shrubs that occupy more open woodland sites and can quickly colonize after a timber harvest. Glossy buckthorn prefers moister sites near wetlands while common buckthorn is a more upland invader. Both can overtake habitat by displacing, sometimes almost completely, native plants. The attractive fruit is spread by birds but provides little nourishment.



Glossy buckthorn prefers moister sites near wetlands while common buckthorn is a more upland invader.

Photo credit: Bill Cook | MSU Extension

European Buckthorn. Photo credit: Bill Cook



Buckthorn is an alternative host for certain agricultural pests and diseases. The shrubs, along with other exotic species (especially earthworms), can alter soil conditions that favor buckthorn and work against many native species. Contrary to what the name suggests, the species has no benefit to white-tailed deer.

There is a native species of buckthorn; therefore, identifying the species correctly is important.



Autumn olive, once recommended as a wildlife planting, is an aggressive invader of old fields. Dense stands with sharp false thorns are daunting. Flowers are fragrant and distinctive, easily caught in the spring air. The red fruits are tart and tasty. The foliage often has a green-gray shade. With practice, one can easily identify the structural form.

Autumn olive. Photo credit: Bill Cook



Various species of exotic honeysuckle are yet another invasive shrub group, a common sight in many residential areas and urban parks. Like other exotic shrubs, honeysuckles can be part of the “cascade effect” that leads to semi-permanent habitat degradation. Watery berry-like fruits are orange to red, depending upon the species. There are also native honeysuckles but they do not reach shrub size.

Exotic honeysuckle. Photo credit: Bill Cook

Lastly, Japanese barberry is a common problem in much of southern Michigan and certain areas in the rest of the state. The ornamental shrub is a landscape favorite but an enemy of the forest. A small-leaved plant, with red berries and sharp spines make it reasonably easy to identify.

Japanese barberry. Photo credit: Bill Cook



None of these exotic species are particularly palatable to deer, so they have a competitive advantage over many native species in areas where browsing pressure is high. Each of them has reproductive strategies and environmental tolerances that have contributed to their success.

More information about these, and other, exotics can be found from either the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI (Michigan Natural Features Inventory)) or the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN). The MNFI (Michigan Natural Features Inventory) has a good field guide. None of these species are likely to be eliminated from Michigan’s landscape; however, the populations might be managed to minimize their impact, if research-based strategies are used with ecosystem restoration in mind. Sometimes, simple removal will not be enough.

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 and 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 should keep your carts behind your home next to your deck, but if 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

**Another great
Flower Giveaway!**

The Landscape Committee would like to thank all those who participated in our annual Flower Giveaway last month. Special thanks to those who filled out the short survey. We are currently compiling the results. For those who provided contact information: you should expect something via text or email in the coming weeks.

Remember to keep your window box plantings watered during the summer months. No doubt we will all enjoy the fruits of our labor as we drive or walk through Pittsfield Village. It's a beauty!

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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.

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ASSOCIA / KRAMER-TRIAD ON-SITE STAFF

Kendra Zunich, Manager: kzunich@kramertriad.com
Wanda Buster, Bookkeeper: wbuster@kramertriad.com
Tracy Vincent, Admin: tvincent@kramertriad.com

General Info / Maintenance: office@pittsfieldvillage.com



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

COMMUNITY MEETING LINKS

copy and paste into your web browser

M & M—June 3

<https://meet.goto.com/377878789>

Landscape—June 10

<https://meet.goto.com/535849981>

BOD—June 25

<https://meet.goto.com/380971389>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025—2026

condoboard@pittsfieldvillage.com

Ellen Johnson, President

ellen.johnson@pittsfieldvillage.com

Jessica Lehr, Treasurer

jessica.lehr@pittsfieldvillage.com

John Sprentall, Member at Large

john.sprentall@pittsfieldvillage.com

David Brassfield, Secretary

david.brassfield@pittsfieldvillage.com

Linda Ross, VP

linda.ross@pittsfieldvillage.com

COMMITTEE emails:

- ⇒ pittsfieldzero@pittsfieldvillage.com
- ⇒ landscapecommittee@pittsfieldvillage.com
- ⇒ mm@pittsfieldvillage.com



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 M&M Committee 6 pm	4	5	6 <i>Dumpster onsite!</i>	7 9 am—4 pm Yard Sales + <i>Dumpster onsite!</i>
8 <i>Dumpster onsite!</i>	9	10 Landscape Committee 6 pm	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 BOARD meeting 6 pm	26	27	28
29	30					