

News and Events

August 2025



To prepare for a successful back-to-school season, focus on establishing routines, prioritizing healthy habits, and fostering open communication with your child. This includes adjusting sleep schedules, creating a designated study space, and encouraging healthy eating and physical activity. Open dialogue about their feelings and concerns can help ease anxiety and build confidence.

1. Establish Routines:

Gradually shift back to earlier bedtimes and wake-up times a couple of weeks before school starts to help adjust sleep cycles.

Set a Consistent Bedtime: Ensure your child gets enough sleep (8-10 hours for most school-aged children).

Create a Homework Routine: Designate a quiet, organized space for homework and establish a regular time for completing assignments.

Plan for After-School Activities: Factor in time for extracurriculars, relaxation, and family time.

2. Prioritize Healthy Habits:

Healthy Eating: Pack nutritious lunches and snacks, and encourage balanced meals.

Hydration: Ensure your child stays hydrated throughout the day, especially in warmer climates.

Physical Activity: Encourage daily physical activity to help with focus and energy levels.

Limit Screen Time: Reduce excessive screen time, especially before bed, to promote better sleep.

3. Foster Open Communication:

Talk About Their Feelings: Create a safe space for your child to express their worries and concerns about returning to school.

Listen and Validate: Acknowledge their feelings and help them problem-solve any specific anxieties.

Encourage Positive Self-Talk: Help them focus on their strengths and abilities.

Connect with Teachers: Reach out to teachers to discuss any specific needs or concerns.

Attend Open House: Take advantage of school orientations to familiarize your child with the environment and teachers.

4. Prepare for the First Day:

Review the Schedule: Go over the school day schedule, including classes, lunch, and extracurricular activities.

Pack the Backpack Together: Involve your child in organizing their backpack and ensuring they have all necessary supplies.

Plan the Morning Routine: Prepare clothes and organize items the night before to minimize stress on the first day.

Rehearse the Morning Routine: Practice walking or taking the bus to school to build confidence.

5. Additional Tips:

- * Choose the Right Backpack: Ensure it fits properly and isn't too heavy.
- * Review Safety Rules: Discuss safety procedures for walking to and from school, riding the bus, and interacting with others.
- * Set Goals for the School Year: Encourage your child to think about what they want to achieve academically and socially.
- * By implementing these tips, you can help your child have a smoother and more successful transition back to school.

Credit: Anonymous. Taken from the internet.

Trees of Pittsfield Village: The Tulip Tree

Evan Bradley, Landscape Committee



The tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is a beautiful and towering tree species found within Pittsfield Village, Ann Arbor, and throughout the temperate forests of North America. It is among the tallest trees native to this part of the world, with mature trees easily reaching 80' tall and over 100' in good conditions. Some extraordinary specimens have exceeded 150' in height, equivalent to a 12-story building.

Also known as tulipwood, tulip poplar, fiddle tree, and yellow poplar, the tulip tree takes its name from the tulip-like flowers that adorn its branches during late spring. These showy flowers are alluded to in the species' scientific name, *Liriodendron tulipifera*—from the Greek *lirio* (lily) and *dendron* (tree), as well as the Latin *tulipifera* (tulip-bearing). Despite the name, the tulip tree (or tulip poplar) is not related to tulips or poplars. It is, however, related to magnolias. The indigenous peoples of North America frequently used the long, straight trunks of tulip trees to craft dugout canoes, leading white colonizers to refer to the trees as “canoewood.” Those same long, straight trunks make the tulip tree an excellent lumber tree, and the soft, off-white wood has similar qualities to white pine.

How can you find this unique species around Pittsfield Village? Luckily, tulip trees are one of the easier trees to identify. Besides the great height of the mature tree, tulip trees can be distinguished by their tall, surprisingly straight, and branch-free trunks. On older trees, the lowest branches might still be well out of arm's reach. During late spring, the tree's large and bright flowers are an obvious means of identification. However, the easiest way to identify the tree may be its unique, four-pointed leaves. (These leaves also somewhat look like a tulip, though I prefer to think of them as little t-shirts fluttering in the breeze.)

In Pittsfield Village, one younger specimen can be found near the playground between Parkwood and Fernwood. **WHERE ELSE?** They are also a common street tree throughout Ann Arbor. Once you know what to look for, you'll start seeing them everywhere.



Tulip trees are uniquely able to provide our neighborhood with a number of aesthetic and ecological benefits. They are tall and broad, making for an excellent shade tree, and thrive in full-sun areas. Their beautiful flowers, deeply ridged bark, and distinctive leaves create year-round interest. The species also serves as an abundant food source for pollinators and other fauna—a single 20-year-old tree can produce enough nectar for up to 4 pounds of honey, and the seeds are eaten by many birds and mammals. The species also serves as a host plant for the eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly.



The tulip tree's fast growth also makes it an ideal tree for our neighborhood. In the right conditions, tulip trees can reach 40' tall at just 15 years of age. Despite this remarkable growth, many of the issues that plague other fast-growing tree species, such as weak wood or short lifespans, are absent from the tulip tree. The species' fast growth and large size also makes it an excellent tree for sequestering carbon dioxide—absorbing the greenhouse gas from the atmosphere and transforming it into wood, bark, and leaves. As a landscape architect, I frequently encourage clients to utilize these trees in their landscape for the many benefits they provide. (They are also among one of my favorite tree species, alongside the delightful hickory.) As we slowly add to (and replace) our neighborhood's trees, and work together to create a more “green” and climate-resilient neighborhood, the tulip tree can be one of many options in Pittsfield Village's sustainability toolbox.

Board Beat: August 2025

Submitted by David Brassfield, Member of the Board

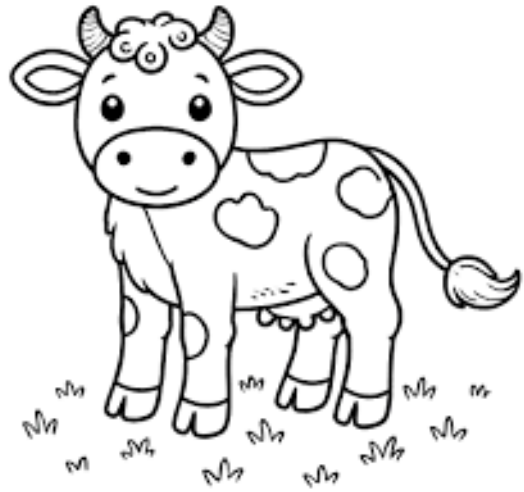
The Board had very little business to attend to in the public portion of the Wednesday, July 23, monthly meeting. That session ran only an hour, half of which was given over to the open forum. Much more time was spent in executive session, reserved primarily for confidential discussions and actions involving individual residents.

Village news to share:

- **Trees!** We are blessed in our trees. Upward of a thousand grace our grounds, flowering in spring, providing shade in summer, and vibrant with color in the fall. Many, many species: maples, oaks, hickories, tulip poplars, redbuds, crabapples, magnolias, locusts, pines, even willows! We have saplings just planted, shade trees that pre-date our buildings, trees in their prime and trees in decline. Every year some trees must come out and new ones are planted. Right now the Landscape Committee is conducting a comprehensive survey of what we have, recording species, size (DBH—"diameter at breast height"), condition, placement. All trees will be tagged and listed. As previously announced in this newsletter and in email blasts, this project welcomes volunteers. Once the survey is complete, the data it provides will allow us to make informed decisions about where to focus care, what changes to plan for, what to take out, what to put in, and how to budget.
- **Two Trees of Note:**
 - *The Magnificent Sycamore* near the pool! Kyler Melmon of the Landscape Committee recently took its measurements and is confident that it is the largest specimen of its kind in the City. We plan to nominate it for next year's entry in the City's Roll of Champion Trees.
 - *Our Mighty American Elm* soaring high in the green space near the corner of Fernwood and Parkwood. After all these years—it likely predates construction of the Village—it has sadly succumbed to Dutch Elm disease. It must come out soon. To preserve its legacy, an effort will be made to nurture several of its offspring that have sprouted in nearby foundation beds.
- **Department of Sustainability:** The small group of Villagers who have come together to form a liaison committee to work with the City's Department of Innovations and Sustainability "A2 Zero" initiative report that the Energy Assessments Profiling Project at the Village is now complete. Eight homes representative of our various unit configurations went through the assessment process in order to produce a profile of areas where energy savings measures might be implemented for greatest impact throughout the Village in coming years.
- **Fire Damage Restoration:** Good progress is being made on repairing the damage sustained by the three units on the south end of Pittsfield involved in a fire that broke out in the late evening of March 10. The company which the Village has engaged to manage restoration work, Concraft, is reported to be moving things swiftly along, efficiently coordinating with owners, insurance adjusters, and contractors.
- **Interim Manager:** Our indispensable Association Manager, Kendra Zunich, goes on maternity leave for three months next Monday. Coming in to fill Kendra's shoes will be longtime Kramer Triad exec, Linda Martin. Kendra gives Linda high marks, which means she'll be a fine stand-in. Also stepping into the breach while Kendra is gone, of course, will be the others who make up our superb Management Staff: Admin Tracy Vincent, Keeper of the Accounts Wanda Buster, Maintenance Supervisor Dave Walke, and Dave's crackerjack crew, Ryan Pustay and Derek Caldwell! We wish Kendra the very best and extend a warm welcome to Linda.



Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 27, at the Village Office or remotely online. All residents are welcome to attend.



Do you love to draw or color or simply create?
Me too! So I think it's time for another CRAFT NIGHT.
Let's get together to make something special!

Watch for details, but pencil us in September 18!

IMPORTANT!

Outside Dryer Vent Hoods

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Violate City Code**

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Get Ready for the Annual Pooch Plunge!

Date/Time: TBA (Sept 13 or 14)

Watch for official announcement coming soon

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

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

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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

MEETING LINKS

Landscape Committee: Aug 12

<https://meet.goto.com/434463741>

BOD (Board of Directors): Aug 27

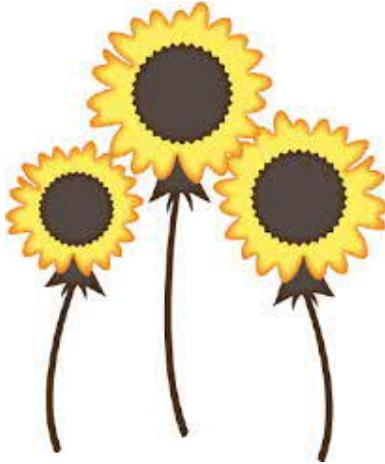
<https://meet.goto.com/133663277>

COMMITTEE contacts:

⇒pittsfieldzero@pittsfieldvillage.com

⇒landscapecommittee@pittsfieldvillage.com

⇒mm@pittsfieldvillage.com



August

Maintenance/General Questions:

office@pittsfieldvillage.com

734-971-0233

KRAMER-TRIAD ON-SITE STAFF

Wanda Buster, Bookkeeper:

wbuster@kramertriad.com

Tracy Vincent, Admin:

tvincent@kramertriad.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 M&M Committee 6pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Landscape Committee 6pm	13	14	15	16
17	18 Go-Doc 3pm	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 BOD Mtg 6pm	28	29 Office closes early	30
31						

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