



NEWSLETTER

October 2026

FALL MAINTENANCE BE PREPARED FOR WINTER

- Schedule your furnace for a check-up if you think it's due! Call an HVAC company now before they book up!
- Be sure to TEST your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors before you turn your A/C to Heat. Consider changing out batteries.
- Check battery in your thermostat.
- Check windows for cracks and leaks and check all locks and latches for full functionality.

POOCH PLUNGE 2026

Another fantastic Pooch Plunge we had. About 18+ attendees and several dogs. The little spotted spaniel continued to go in the water having a blast. The weather was exceptional thanks to the No Rain God. Sophia and Bebe got baths ahead of time which seemed a bit odd but were not dressed this year. We tried an evening party in place of our usual Sunday afternoon. I had my reservations regarding the turnout, but it was well attended and included Kendra and Tracy. Yay!

As always for the last 14 years Kat the Superwoman, brought doggie



treats, and cider and donuts

for the humans. Even though there was a black lab that didn't know that and almost ate my hand. We had fun and are looking forward

to next year already.



Mark your calendar for **our Pet Parade on Saturday, October 24th at 2:00 PM.** We will meet in the office parking lot and march down Pittsfield Boulevard to the

notorious John Sprentall's unit, then circle back. No celebration is complete without John, the dog that he is! Back at the office we will have treats and award prizes for the best costume. Everyone having either 2 or 4 legs is expected to dress up, and please BRING NOISE MAKERS! See you there.



Thanks for the support in making fun. We are a fabulous family!

--Barb De Longchamp

Pet Parade

*Saturday, October 24th at
2:00 pm*



TREE WORKING GROUP

Tree Working Group upcoming events!

Redbud Rescue is upon us Sunday the 18th of October at 1pm. We will meet at the southern intersection of Pittsfield and Edgewood. We will be planting many little Redbuds in the Natural Boarder Restoration Area. Feel free to bring as many potted Redbuds as you can carry from your gardens. No pressure to bring some as we will have many Redbuds already that need planting.

Oak Propagation event is on! We will be meeting on **Sunday the 1st of November at 1pm** in the Community Room at **1pm**. No need to bring anything but yourself (Gloves could be needed but will be provided). We will be planting acorns in small crafted protected pots that you can take home! These are made from our existing Tree Tubes that led to the Beetle Infestation! These will provide a nice protected pot to grow our little acorns in. We hope to get some very mighty oaks from this project, trees we can plant here in the Village!

If you want to find out more or have questions feel free to email kylermelmoth@gmail.com. We are looking forward to seeing everyone who can make it! --Kyler Melmoth, Landscape Committee

Board Beat: October 2026

Submitted by David Brassfield, Member of the Board

Over the summer this column has been on hiatus. With the advent of fall, it now returns! The Board's monthly agendas of late have been fairly short, and daily managerial business has for the most part been quite routine.

Here are updates on matters of interest that have transpired since last I wrote.

1. Improvements Project. Except for the southern intersection with Edgewood, all of Pittsfield is now paved and in most places open for parking. Edgewood and Carolyn are currently getting the utilities and pavement overhaul treatment. The big question: will weather hold into December so that Fernwood, the last street on the project list, can be completed in time for Christmas?—or, will completion be delayed till spring?



2. Trees! Trees! Trees! Led by Landscape Committee members Kyler Melmoth and Kevin Peshick, the Tree Working Group (fittingly, they've dubbed themselves TWIGS) have continued work on the major project of **inventorying all the trees** growing on our 55-plus acres of green space. In addition, they have been tending to a **large assortment of protected seedlings** planted in locations throughout the section of our Village to the west of Pittsfield Boulevard. Trial **restoration efforts** are underway in the border area recently denuded by DTE power corridor maintenance crews near the intersection of Pittsfield and Edgewood. If the efforts there prove effective, then similar planting projects will go forward in other boundary corridors hard hit here by subcontractor axes and chainsaws.

- **New Trees Funded by the U.S. Forest Service!** All of the work described above will be of immense value in years to come, and significantly all of it has been carried out at minimal expense: volunteer leadership and labor, low-cost plants and materials. Now, however, comes a huge, well-funded landscaping project on our land to the east of Pittsfield Boulevard! Drawing on approximately \$100,000 in funds made available through a U.S. Forest Service grant, this fall and in the spring, the City of Ann Arbor in consultation with our Tree Working Group and our exceptionally knowledgeable landscaping contractor Les Crots, will be **planting close to 3 dozen hardy medium- and large-sized "caliper" trees of various species** carefully chosen for their long-term growth potential and ability to increase the size of our tree canopy. The shade they provide will expand year in and year out, helping to compensate for ever-rising atmospheric temperatures caused by climate change. Estimated value of these trees: \$25,000! The Margolis Companies will carry out the work.

- **Even More Grant Money to Fund Deferred Tree Maintenance!** New trees are not the largest focus of the grant. In addition to the expansion of our tree canopy, this Forest Service project will bring to us **additional and much-needed professional tree maintenance services**. The City contractor chosen for this work is Greenstreet Tree Care. In the Village we have **a backlog of trees that require removal** or expensive pruning work. Others are merely in need of routine care, but that, too, costs money. With restrictions imposed by bare-bones budgeting in recent years, it has been a challenge for the Village to keep up with all the work required. The City grant will now allow us to catch up on many fronts. And **for every tree that must come out, a replacement will be planted**. As with the choice and location of new trees described above, our own Tree Working Group members and landscape service professionals have worked closely with the City and Greenstreet to develop a comprehensive plan to be implemented over the next year. Approximate value of this portion of the grant allocation: \$75,000!

- **Read the New Tree Project Write-Up.** At the end of the column is a report prepared by Kyler and Kevin, providing more detailed information on the species selected and locations for planting under the Forest Service grant program. I think you will find it quite interesting.

3. **Parking Lot Repairs and a Funding Request.** The Village owns the entrance drive and the staff and visitor parking lot to the south of our Office and Maintenance Workshop complex. We also own a portion of the paved area that wraps around the fenced corral on the west side of the complex. In recent years the pavement in these areas has become badly deteriorated, and we've now come to the point where spot patching is no longer a good solution. It's time for an overhaul, an expensive overhaul—cost estimates we have received total about \$86,000.00.

Every day, large trucks turn in from Pittsfield Boulevard and cross through our paved drive and parking lot, making deliveries behind the dozen or so businesses with frontage along the Washtenaw service road. That daily traffic is responsible for a fair portion of the pavement damage that has occurred over time. Because of this, the Board has been in discussions about asking those businesses to pay a reasonable portion of the upcoming repair costs. With blessings from our legal counsel, we will be sending out letters of request quite shortly to each of the owners involved.

4. **Xfinity/Comcast Agreement.** Some years ago the Association entered into an agreement with Comcast, granting the company access to our buildings so that residents could subscribe to its cable and internet services. With the most recent agreement nearing the end of its term, this past summer the Board and Comcast negotiated a 10-year renewal. Under the provisions of the new contract, Comcast will continue to have the right to run its lines and equipment up to our buildings and market services to our residents. As compensation, the company will pay us an access fee of \$125 for each of our 422 units, remitted in yearly prorated amounts over the life of the contract. Total amount: \$52,750 by contract's end. Besides guaranteeing access, we also agree to provide our residents with Xfinity/Comcast promotional and marketing materials, making brochures and flyers available at the Office and running periodic advertising notices in our monthly Newsletter.
5. **Boxwood Devastation.** As reported in the August Newsletter, the Village is facing the loss of most of our hundreds and hundreds of boxwood foundation shrubs over the course of the next few years. Boxwood plants have long been subject to damage by leafminers, psyllids, mites, and fungi, but those pests have not been especially difficult to combat. Now, however, a much more virulent invasive insect has moved in—the box tree moth—and it looks as though this one may spell the end of the boxwood shrub in southeast Michigan. The only effective defense so far appears to be careful monitoring, removal, and destruction larva-by-larva—a totally impractical approach for us to undertake in the Village. For a quite informative article on the box tree moth menace, please see this piece posted on the MSU Extension website: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/safeguard-against-spreading-the-invasive-box-tree-moth> .
6. **Missing Picnic Grills.** Some residents sharing green space behind units bordering Pittsfield, Edgewood, and Richard are requesting restoration of the picnic facilities that the Association removed a number of years ago because at the time tables and charcoal grill installations had become dilapidated and deemed potentially unsafe. It was thought that they did not see enough use to justify repair or replacement and that in any event residents could use their own grills and decks for cookouts. More recently, though, the Association has been required by its insurance carrier to ban the use of private charcoal grills; so a new rule to that effect was promulgated along with an assurance that die-hard charcoal proponents were still free to use the fixed grills and adjacent tables available in each of the several picnic areas at locations across the Village. The problem for the Pittsfield-Edgewood-Richard group: theirs no longer existed. As a first step in addressing their concerns, the Board has

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asked our management staff to look into what it might cost to restore what has been lost. The matter will likely be taken up again at the October or November meeting.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 21, 6:00 pm, at the Village Office or remotely online. All residents are welcome to attend.



The Forest Service Tree Equity Grant Project at Pittsfield Village

New Tree Selection and Placement Guidelines

By Kyler and Melmoth and Kevin Peschick

Editor's note: *The program under which the City of Ann Arbor has obtained funding in support of tree planting and maintenance in Pittsfield Village and other parts of the city falls under the heading of building out the urban canopy while advancing so-called “tree equity” among the various economic demographics of a region. You may find more information at the City’s website here: [Ann Arbor Receives \\$1,000,000 to Advance Tree Equity](#).*

Here are the guiding principles behind our selection and placement of species.

1. The Tree Equity Grant addresses the need for increased canopy and shade to help reduce temperatures as the climate warms. Therefore, we prioritized broad-leaf, large-canopy, and long-lived trees to benefit future generations.
2. We are planting calipered trees, larger than the seedlings planted by our “TWIGS” group and the balled trees installed by our landscape contractor. We took this opportunity to focus on slow-growing, long-lived species as it is unlikely that we will plant calipered trees in the future with our budget constraints. While these trees, given their size, will provide an immediate visual impact, our primary goal is lasting shade and benefits for future residents. The City’s original plan included dogwoods and redbud calipered trees, better suited for streetscapes and are best planted by our landscape contractor. The City allowed us to substitute medium- and large-sized trees instead.
3. A key challenge is providing shade for asphalt and concrete areas. These unshaded areas will contribute tremendously to the heat island effect in the future. Our network of overhead and underground utilities complicates this effort. We identified a few locations to possibly place trees closer to the road. We will coordinate final placement with the tree planting contractor and Ms. Dig.
4. We selected species that scientists project will thrive in a warming climate, focusing on true natives to enhance genetic diversity and survival. We also avoid over-representing any single species to reduce risk. For example, maples are currently overrepresented and are expected to perform poorly as temperatures rise.
5. We avoided pines because they are not great shade trees and are not projected to survive our warming environment; however, we are planting a set of arborvitae along the fence line of the eastern border where there is a very exposed view of the neighbors' backyards.
6. We are planting water-tolerant, medium-sized trees near the new reservoir on the south side. We are avoiding the still back pool (detention pond) near Whitewood, as it will likely require future regrading.

For species placement, refer to the map that follows.

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A detailed map of the Forestbrook Pittsfield Village area, showing the locations of various tree species. The map includes major roads such as Fernwood Ave, Edgewood Dr, Richard St, Oakwood St, and Pinecrest Ave. The central area is labeled 'FORESTBROOK PITTSFIELD VILLAGE'. Various tree species are marked with colored icons and labels: Swamp White Oak (purple), Hackberry/Blackgum (green), Basswood (red), Red Oak (yellow), Bur Oak (blue), River Birch (orange), and Hackberry/Blackgum (green). The map shows a high density of trees, particularly along the roads and in the central village area.

CityTreePlantingLocationsSheet1_XYTableToPoint

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TWIG



Why You Shouldn't Tie Your Dog (or anything) to a Tree

--Brian Rice, Landscape Committee

Have you ever noticed those circular rings around the base of this tree? Those rings were made when someone attached a metal chain dog tie-out to the tree.

The problem is that as the dog moves, the chain rotates around the tree trunk, cutting through the bark and eventually through the cambium layer, (the tree's circulation system), killing the tree.

A child's tree swing can affect the branch it's attached to in the same manner.

Please don't do this. Ever. It is a violation of our House Rules (PETS 2.5.c) which may result in a warning, fines and/or replacement cost of the tree.

RECYCLE HOUSEHOLD ELECTRONICS IN ANN ARBOR!

Mark the Date: Free Household Electronics Take-Back

OSI, the Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations, is holding a FREE Household Electronics Collection Event:

When: Saturday, October 24
Time: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Where: Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty
Free: to Ann Arbor Residents



Online Registration Required:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/household-electronics-collection-event-october-2026-tickets-2002584371764?aff=oddtcreator>

CONTINUED...RECYCLE HOUSEHOLD ELECTRONICS IN ANN ARBOR!

Items Accepted:

- Desktop and Laptop Computers
- Servers
- Phones (landlines and cell)
- Cords/Cables/Wires
- Televisions and Monitors
- Amplifiers
- Receivers
- Reel-to-Reel Tape Decks
- Batteries
- Vacuum Cleaners
- Tablets and eReaders
- Gaming Consoles and Controllers
- Keyboards and Mice
- Networking Equipment
- Audio/Visual Equipment
- Receivers
- Turntables
- Home Printers/Copiers/Scanners but NOT Floor Models
- Small Appliances
- String Lights

For any item not listed, email cdeblanc@a2gov.org to confirm whether it will be accepted.

Next Collection Event: January 4 and 5, 2027, 7:00am—7pm, at City Hall, North Vestibule (off of Ann Street). Free to Ann Arbor residents. No registration required.

ASSOCIA / KRAMER-TRIAD

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

Call or email the office with
Questions/concerns, and requests:
office@pittsfieldvillage.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-2027

condoboard@pittsfieldvillage.com

Ellen Johnson, President
ellen.johnson@pittsfieldvillage.com

Jessica Lehr, VP
jessica.lehr@pittsfieldvillage.com

John Sprentall, Member at Large
john.sprentall@pittsfieldvillage.com

David Brassfield, Secretary
david.brassfield@pittsfieldvillage.com

Linda Ross, Treasurer
linda.ross@pittsfieldvillage.com

OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Maintenance & Modification Committee Mtg 6:00 pm	7	8	9	10 Tree Working Group meets at 11 am at the school
11	12 ("Leave the Leaves" applications due)	13 Landscape Committee Mtg 6:00 pm	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 pm	22	23	24 2:00 pm: HALLOWEEN Pet and People Parade! Gather at the office.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN 