

Pittsfield Village News

December 2012

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WINTER IS ON THE WAY!

Words & Photos by **Darleen Boynton**

The board has approved a contract for snow removal with Margolis again this year. They will be storing equipment on site so that we are ready for fast response.

The contract is for the upwalks, sidewalks, the parking lot at the community building and the streets. As with past years Pittsfield Village will

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Light Up the Village!

Jason Beckerleg

Communications Committee Chair

Help spread holiday cheer throughout The Village by participating in this year's *Light Up the Village Contest*. A winner will be decided on Friday December 21st. Make sure all of your lights and decorations are turned on this night so the judges can see and make a decision on the top three winners. The prize will be a \$25.00 gift card for Ace Hardware so make sure the lights are shining brightly. The winning home will be featured in next month's newsletter and on our facebook page.

Holiday Tree Disposal Info

The City of Ann Arbor is providing four free drop-off locations for undecorated Christmas trees Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012 through Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013. All tree stands, nails, ornaments, tinsel and plastic bags must be removed from the trees and discarded. Once again the parking lot adjacent to the Drop-off Station at 2950 E. Ellsworth near Platt Road will be available for 24/7 holiday evergreen tree drop-off. Three park locations have been added this year to provide more local recycling options for city residents. These sites are available during normal park visitation hours from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The collected trees will be chipped on a

weekly basis at the park sites. The park locations for Christmas tree drop-offs are: West Park parking lot off Chapin near W. Huron; Gallup Boat Launch parking lot, 3000 Fuller Road, near Huron River Drive; and Olson Park parking lot, 1515 Dhu Varren Road, near Pontiac Trail.

Visit www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/fieldoperations/solidwasteunit/Pages/RecyclinginAnnArbor.aspx for details.



COLIN'S CORNER



Colin Breed

Head of Maintenance

This is the time of year that most of us start preparing for the holiday season. In addition to the home decorating that may be done for the holidays, we also need to prepare our homes for the winter season. Here are a few items to keep in mind:

- Check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. If your home does not have any detectors, now would be a good time to install them.
- Disconnect outside hoses. PV maintenance went around and disconnected most already but please check to make sure.
- Pick up a container of ice melt at the Village office to use on your porch. They are prepared and ready for pick up Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.
- Have your furnace checked by an HVAC professional. Change the filters and set up a monthly schedule to change the filters in the future.
- Sit back and wait for the first beautiful snowfall of the season and have a happy and safe holiday season.



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Margarita Garcia-Roberts

Finance Committee

Chair Position is Open

Landscape Committee

Darleen Boynton

*Modification & Maintenance
Committee*

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WINTER from Front Page

get a partial refund from the city for doing the streets ourselves. Although plowing the streets ourselves has not always been perfect it has been better than when we were strictly at the mercy of the city. Far more people had a cleared place to park after the snow than when we relied on the city.

A study of newspaper articles found at the Ann Arbor District Library and newsletters dating back to the start of Village Cooperative showed how times have changed in regards to snow removal approaches. When Pittsfield Village was apartments, management did not clear the snow from the property at all. If residents wanted snow cleared they had to do it themselves.

Changes in city law required all property owners to clear city sidewalks. The maintenance staff began clearing the sidewalks and residents cleared



their own upwalks.

In the 1990's the city was fairly relaxed about clearing snow from the streets. This was a little easier on the Village. The city was not throwing heavy snow up on the sidewalks that needed to be cleared. People were not getting their cars blocked in by plowed snow. Residents in the Village also worked with the city to have plowing done during the day when the maximum number of cars were gone.

Times changed again. They city started plowing pre-dawn and coming back more fre-

quently after the sidewalks were cleared forcing the Village to clear the sidewalks again. It was getting expensive and frustrating. A few years ago the Village began doing the streets ourselves. It has seemed to work better for everyone although it has been more expensive.

Feel free to stop at the office and pick up a container of snow melt for your porch. Sometimes spots get icy just from being in the shadows.

Although the popular motto is "Think Snow" let's hope it is not too much.



Dawn Redwood Trees

Darleen Boynton

*Modification & Maintenance
Committee Chair*

Some people have in their yards Dawn Redwood trees, one of the few conifer trees to lose needles in the winter. Don't worry, they will come back full and lush in the

spring.

Dawn Redwood trees love watery places. This makes them an excellent specimen for many spots in the Village. These trees are thriving in a place that used to be known for being a bit swampy. The trees are helping to take up some of that water.

Arborists refer to Dawn Redwood trees as "living fossils" and "dinosaur trees". Fossilized Redbuds make up a large swath of the fossilized plants in the Badlands of North Dakota. The trees are fast growing. Although they are related to the Sequoia trees they do not grow so tall.

Window Box Decorating for the Winter Months

Darleen Boynton

Modification & Maintenance Committee Chair

Decorating your window boxes with free greens can take some of the blah out of winter. Often times you can get free evergreen trimmings from Christmas tree lots by asking for the branches left when people trim off the bottoms of their trees. About 20 branches will give you a very full window box. Just stick them into the dirt left over from your flowers. They will

keep until the spring. A stem of berries are like jewelry—they add a pretty punch. The berries in the picture are Michigan Holly berries purchased at the farmers market.

If you are looking for a more minimalist look, simple pine cones are nice too. (They also keep cats from using your window box for more than a bed). A nice early winter stroll around the Village should help you discover some to gather. The Village has a variety of species so you should be able to gather a number of sizes and textures.



Photo Courtesy **Darleen Boynton**

December 2012 Community Calendar

December 18th TUESDAY

Landscape Committee Meeting

6:00PM - 8:00PM @ The Community Building

December 20th THURSDAY

Finance Committee Meeting **CANCELLED**

6:00PM - 8:00PM @ The Community Building

December 24th 25th & 31st

Have a Safe & Happy Holiday!

The Pittsfield Village Office will be closed on these days

Looking Ahead. . . January 2013

January 1st TUESDAY

Happy New Year!

The Pittsfield Village Office will be closed

January 3rd THURSDAY

SPECIAL Finance Committee Meeting

6:00PM - 8:00PM @ The Community Building

January 7th MONDAY

Maintenance & Modification Committee Meeting

6:00PM - 8:00PM @ The Community Building

January 25th FRIDAY

Board of Directors Meeting & Open Forum

6:15PM Open Forum, 6:30PM Meeting @ Community Building



Pittsfield Village

Communications
Committee

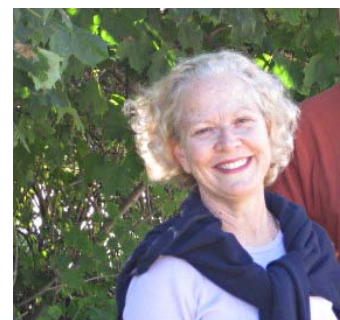
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CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG

Saturday, December 15th at 3:00 pm Calvary Church. Come join us in singing Christmas Carols. Bring an instrument if you like. Just an old-fashioned sing-along in the spirit of Christmas. Snacks and beverages afterwards. No charge. No agenda

HOWDY NEIGHBORS!

It's me ...Amy, your handy dandy neighborhood Professional Organizer. Yes I am here just in time to help you with your Holiday decluttering to make your homes more beautiful for your guests. And for you... a special holiday discount applies... \$10 off your 1st session! Call me and let's dig in. Amy Griffith @ 734-741-8852.



SEEKING NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

We are looking for residents to contribute to this newsletter! Anyone interested in contributing in any way is encouraged to contact us via email at pittsfieldvillage@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

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