

Pittsfield Village News

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT: ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

It's that time again -

Pittsfield Village's annual meeting is almost upon us.

The annual meeting is the once a year gathering of the condominium membership and a time for the Pittsfield Village Board of Directors to speak about the state of the community, the progress that has been made in the past year, and notify membership about any budget changes for the upcoming fiscal year. It is also the time to elect the membership for the board for the upcoming year.

There are three seats up for election – two seats for two-year terms, and one seat for a one-year term which is currently vacant.

I am truly very excited to see you all at this meeting. The Board, Management, and Committees have worked incredibly hard and I am looking forward to sharing all that we have accomplished this year with you including a discussion of Pittsfield Village's 3-year plan which is currently being developed.

This year the board has decided that to encourage direct participation by members at the meeting, we will be conducting a raffle for a \$300 credit towards

association dues. Tickets will be dispersed before the meeting begins and the prize will be raffled off at the end of the meeting. You must be present in order to win. Formal notification of the annual meeting will be sent out by mail at least 30 days before the date of the meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013. Included along with the notice will be a form which you can use to run for election to the Board as well as a sheet that you can use if you are unable to attend which allows another member to vote on your behalf by proxy. Thank you so much for a great year, and I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting!

Aaron Pressel, President

**Keep an eye out for your Annual Meeting Package
in the mail coming soon!**



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Spring is slowly approaching and enthusiasm and optimism often follow directly behind it. It is with that sentiment that I write to let you know that there are great opportunities to get involved in your community.

There will be three board seats up for election, one which is currently vacant, as well as important positions to fill on the Maintenance and Modification committee and Finance Committee. These positions and the volunteers that fill them play a very important role in the community and participation of people like you is essential.

No experience or special skills are necessary, just an interest in contributing to your community. This is also a great time to get involved because in May we begin a new fiscal year and the Association is currently developing the Community's three-year plan. Volunteering doesn't require nearly as much time as you think. Committees meet for about two hours a month and need to be available by email about once a week. Board members meet about six hours a month and are required to be available by email 2-3 times a week.

Here is a brief description of what each position does:

Finance Committee – Examines the Community budget, contracts, bids and any other financial matters it feels are important and makes recommendations to the board. No special knowledge of finance is required, and budgets and other financials are presented in simple formatting and explained clearly by the Community Manager who attends regular meetings.

Maintenance and Modification Committee – Reviews and makes decisions about building upgrades and changes, reviews bids and contracts, approves building specifications and alterations and develops a budget of maintenance expenditures in Pittsfield Village. No special knowledge of architecture or building codes and regulations is required. All maintenance and building issues are presented at meetings and explained thoroughly by the maintenance staff and Community Manager, who attend regular meetings. Please consider giving your time to your community.

It's an easy way to make a difference in your own backyard.

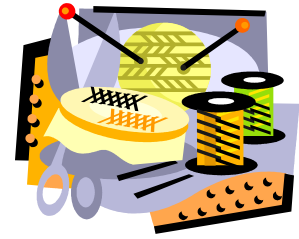
Aaron Pressel

Stitching!

Do you like to stitch or want to learn?

The Ann Arbor Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America is meeting at the condo office on **Monday, April 15 from 6:45-9:00 p.m.**

Our program that night will be on cute up-cycled book purses that one of our members is working on. Come for the program or just to stitch with some friendly folks. All are welcome. For more information call Jan Frank 477-5802 and check out our web site www.aastitchers.org.



COUPON BOOKS



Out of coupons for your monthly fees? Don't worry.

As you may or may not know, Pittsfield Village's fiscal year-end is April 30th. New payment coupon booklets have been ordered and

you will receive them sometime in April — that is, of course, unless you are utilizing Automatic Withdrawal of your Association Fees. For more information, please call 734-971-0233 and ask for Wanda.

For the Health of it

Would you be interested in a low impact exercise class held in our Community Building? We have someone in our community who is training to be a fitness instructor at the Washtenaw Rec Center (nearby on Washtenaw) and to get more comfortable in front of a group she'd like to work with some neighbors. Perhaps 45 minutes, one evening a week. If you think you might be interested, please email office@pittsfieldvillage.com or call 971-0233.



FLOWER GIVEAWAY



The Annual Flower Giveaway has been a Pittsfield Village tradition for many, many years. The date has been set for **May 18th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Please refer to the landscape information packet recently delivered to your door.

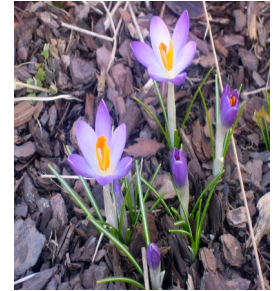


By Lisa Joseph, Horticulturist

Are you starting to feel the quiet awakening from winter's hibernation? As the days get longer and a few warm days sneak in, we start to have a new bounce to our step, a glow about us. Are you anxiously awaiting the spring-flowering bulbs to start blooming? All that work last fall to plant them and now we finally get to see the fruits of our labor! I usually hold my breath and hope the display is spectacular. One of my favorite early bulbs is *Crocus tommasinianus*. I call them the harbingers of spring, such a welcome sight of gorgeous color. My all-time favorite bulbs are lily-flowered tulips in bright jewel tones of yellow, purple, orange, and bright pink. Tulips aren't reliably perennial though, petering out after only a couple of years. However, I gladly plant new tulip bulbs every fall because I do so dearly love them!

Garden tasks for April:

1. Complete spring cleanup. Remove debris from garden beds. Weed, weed, weed!
 2. Add compost to enrich soil. I like to top dress around each plant.
 3. Place peony rings. I not only use them on peonies, but also on any plant that topples such as Purple Coneflower, Russian Sage, tall Phlox, Balloon Flower, and Anise Hyssop. Once the plant grows tall and full, the peony ring support is pretty much invisible.
 4. Prepare bare-root roses for planting by first soaking them overnight in fish emulsion. Then go ahead and plant them.
 5. Sow summer annual seeds in the garden according to package directions.
 6. Plant new and divide existing perennials. Perennial clumps that are 4-5 years old may be dead in the center, diminishing the flower display. Lift the entire clump, and using a sharp knife or spade, cut out 4 or 5 healthy outer sections of the clump. Be sure that each section has healthy roots and a few shoots. Plant these sections to the same depth. Friends and neighbors would be thrilled to get your divisions if your garden is just too full for any more treasures.
 7. Prune late flowering shrubs now. In late March, early April, I prune many shrubs right down to 1 foot from the ground. This not only controls their size, but also encourages healthier new growth. Shrubs that I hard prune include: pink Spirea, 'Knock Out' Roses, Purple Smoke Bush, Butterfly Bush, Smooth and Panicle Hydrangea, and Rose of Sharon. Take note, when Purple Smoke Bush is severely pruned like this, you will sacrifice the flowers (the smoke) for that season. The foliage, however, is bigger and bolder, much more colorful and gorgeous. This plant need only be pruned hard every 2-3 years.
 8. Fertilize roses. Fertilize perennials when you see 2 or 3 inches of new growth.
 9. Plant a spring container. I use plants such as Dianthus (pinks), pansies, Columbine, creeping Phlox, and brightly colored Gerber Daisies and Ranunculus. I love that the sweetly scented pinks are closer to nose level where you can drink in that fabulous aroma.
- So now take a few deep cleansing breaths, stretch, and prepare to hit the ground running. Get ready for the lush green, the warmth on our skin, the renewed life. We've been waiting for this, now let's take it all in.



Heads or Tails? Pittsfield Village Won the Snow Game in 2012/2013!

By Darleen Boynton



In November, 2012 the Pittsfield Village Board of Directors debated and debated if they should sign a contract for snow removal that was based on the cost per push of snow where the Village would pay based on how many times the contractor came out and how much snow fell, or a contract with a fixed fee for the winter no matter how much snow fell.

If we had light snowfall similar to last year the contract based on the "per push" would be the better value. If we had a winter of heavy snowfall similar to the winter of season of 2010 where 33.1 inches of snow fell in February alone (source Ann Arbor.com) a contract with a fixed amount no matter how much snow fell would be the better value. It really was a case of heads or tails. The Board chose the fixed

contract so that the Village could be certain of the cost to the budget. Now that the heaviest winter weather is over, how well did the board choose?

According to data on AnnArbor.com the board won their case of heads or tails. This winter was the 2nd snowiest on record in Ann Arbor. The month of February dumped on us 29.9 inches of snow on Ann Arbor. The last big storm was not only fairly deep snow, it was very dense and wet; the most expensive kind when it comes to removal. Margolis was on top of things for us. They had the road salted before freezing rain storms. They were true to their word about keeping equipment on site so that they could be here quickly. They had staff ready to come like the cavalry. An early morning tour of Pittsfield Village on February 27th by Darleen Boynton (after

the heavy wet snow fell overnight) found that Margolis had plowed out the roads for early commuters. They were working on shoveling our up-walks. It was Darleen's observation that the roads in Pittsfield Village were wide open before many people had left for work. Good job to the consideration given to the contract by our Maintenance Staff, Terri and the Board. We made it!



APRIL 2013

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 **Maintenance & Modification Committee Mtg 6:00 pm** 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 **Landscape Committee Mtg 6:00 pm** 17 18 **Finance Committee Mtg 6:00 pm** 19 20
May Newsletter Deadline

21 22 23 **Communications Committee Mtg 6:00 pm** 24 25 26 **Board of Directors Mtg: 6:15 Open Forum; 6:30 meeting** 27

28 29 30

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aaron Pressel, President
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734-678-4074

Jessica Lehr, Vice-President
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Kat Irvin, Treasurer
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734-477-0380

Sarah Deflon, Secretary
sarah.deflon@pittsfieldvillage.com
734-358-1946



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Darleen Boynton, Maintenance & Modification
Frank Lotfian, Ad-Hoc
Margarita Garcia-Roberts, Finance
Barbara Scoville, Landscape

MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Manager, Terri Leirstein
Bookkeeper, Wanda Buster
Administrative Manager, Tracy Vincent

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