

Pittsfield Village News



May 2013

www.pittsfieldvillage.com



www.facebook.com/pittsfieldvillage

Get Ready for Spring Blooms!



This window box on Pittsfield Boulevard brings visions of July 4th fireworks to mind!

New Budget Process

Aaron Pressel
Board President
Dear Residents,

In your annual meeting mailing, you will receive a copy of the approved budget for the upcoming fiscal year "FYE 2014". The board has approved a budget that will keep fees flat for the coming year. It is the goal of the board every year to only raise fees if it is absolutely necessary.

In fact, every year at the beginning of the budget process since I have been involved, the board has looked at the budget and asked ourselves the following question - "is there anything that can be cut from the budget without reducing services to the residents?"

This year however, we decided that we had been asking ourselves the wrong question, and instead, we decided to ask - "what is our vision for the future of Pittsfield Village

and how will that help inform us in making prudent financial decisions?"

That question has led to a new budget process this year and a new style of budgeting as well as the beginning of the development of a 3-year plan. This 3-year plan helps us see the bigger picture of what Pittsfield Village needs to accomplish in order to become a more vibrant community while maintaining a strong financial portfolio.

For the purposes of the budget this year, instead of trying to cut money from line items, we have moved to zero-based budgeting, where each line item starts at zero and money is only allocated to that line item when an expenditure... **continued page 2**

Easter's Special Guest



The Easter Bunny was spotted among the crocus on Norwood.



Here he is again posing with ladies at the office. Is that Dee there too? After so many years of working here her car must still steer to the Village.

A Friendly Reminder to Pet Owners

I know what you're thinking... not another reminder for residents to pick up poop, but, YES, unfortunately, the office has been receiving calls complaining about pet waste on lawns. Please be courteous to your neighbors and pick up after your pet.

Board of Directors

Aaron Pressel

President

(734) 678-4074

aaron.pressel@pittsfieldvillage.com

Jessica Lehr

Vice President

(734) 891-6073

jessica.lehr@pittsfieldvillage.com

Kat Irvin

Treasurer

(734) 477-0380

kat.irvin@pittsfieldvillage.com

Sarah Deflon

Secretary

(734) 358-1946

sarah.deflon@pittsfieldvillage.com

Member at Large

Vacant

Committee Chairs

Vacant

Communications Committee

Margarita Garcia-Roberts

Finance Committee

Barbara Scoville

Landscape Committee

Darleen Boynton

Modification &

Maintenance Committee

Management Office

Terri Leirstein

Community Manager

Tracy L. Vincent

Administrative Manager

Wanda Buster

Bookkeeper

Monday—Friday

8:30am - 5:00pm

2220 Pittsfield Blvd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Phone (734) 971-0233

Fax (734) 971-3421

office@pittsfieldvillage.com

PittsfieldVillage.com

Facebook.com/PittsfieldVillage

Spring Cleanup

Darleen Boynton

Modification & Maintenance Committee Chair



A Superior Staff member has been cutting up willow branches behind the 2880 block of Pittsfield.

Spring really, really must be here. Crews from Superior have arrived to clean up fallen branches from the winter. The landscape committee works hard to keep up with tree removal and trimming all year so that Pittsfield Village has minimal storm damages. Winter snow this year did bring some branches down and a tree but compared with the neighborhoods surrounding the Village we had very minimal damage.

“What is our vision for the future of Pittsfield Village and how will that help inform us in making prudent financial decisions?”

New Budget Process continued from Front Page

can be justified and specifically accounted for. For example, we are planning to replace x chimneys at y amount for a total line item of z.

This has led to a need to be more informed about costs and needs. With a 57 acre property that is almost 70 years old, this has been no small task. However, in concert with the management team, we are building tree maps, water line maps, concrete maps, and creating lists of the status of foundations, roofs, chimneys, trees, and buildings - so that we can better anticipate spending in the future.

However, not all expenditures can be anticipated ahead of time. Last year, a water line on Pittsfield Blvd. broke and required us to spend almost \$20,000 to repair it. A couple of years ago we addressed this concern by creating a reserve account called “future funding”. The idea was two-fold. First, we have money set aside in case of an unexpected expense; and second that we

could begin to plan for future projects by beginning to save for them in our reserves, thus reducing the year-to-year variation in expenditures. It also allowed us to track money more carefully. For example, under foundations, if you look at future funding we have a target allocation of \$40,000 in our reserves. This means, in any given year we can spend \$40,000 on foundations if we have an emergency situation. However, if we only spend \$10,000, instead of allocating that \$40,000 each year, we only need to replenish what we spent in the previous year. Because we have already hit our allocation targets for most of our emergency expenditures, we need to commit very little of our income to these line items. This means, long term that our expenditures in a given year will decrease.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2013.

From your Board President, Aaron Pressel

We Want You!

Sarah Deflon
Secretary



Are there things going on in Pittsfield Village that you really like? Are there things you are unhappy about? Do you have ideas for how this could be a better place to live? Do you think it's good to have new people join the Board every few years so that the community's direction is influenced by new ideas and perspectives? Or, have you never thought about any of this before? If not, perhaps now is the time. There are three Board seats up for election at our Annual Meeting on May 14th, and we need YOU to consider running. The Board is a key part of our community's leadership, and it's a great way to get involved. Anyone in our community can run, as long as they own and reside in a condominium unit.

This is my first year on the board. I have learned a lot about many different things, worked with some great people and I've been able to influence the direction of our community for the past year.

I've agreed to be the current Board member contact for anyone interested in running. If you might be interested, or if you just have questions about what it means to be a Board member, send me an email (sarah.deflon@pittsfieldvillage.com) or give me a call at (734) 358-1946. I hope you will consider running—our volunteer leadership is only as strong as those willing to get involved!

Landscape Survey Drawing Winner

Terri Leirstein
Community Manager

Congratulations to Darleen Boynton from Whitewood Street for winning the drawing for a \$50.00 gift card at Downtown Home and Garden for turning in her mulch survey. When Darleen learned that she won she reported that she turned in the survey just for the chance to win. Darleen has lived on Whitewood Street for more than 15 years. She enjoys walking through the Village and watching the changes that occur from day to day and season to season. She has enjoyed the many friends she has made here - both human and canine.



Window Box Blooms

Darleen Boynton
Modification & Maintenance
Committee Chair

It's time to start filling gardens and window boxes! Use plant fillers, spillers and thrillers for spectacular window boxes. "Fillers" fill the most of your box. "Spillers" are plants or flowers that hang over the edge. "Thrillers" are flowers that add a punch. If your window boxes need repairs, please contact the office.



Pittsfield Village
Communications
Committee

Bulletin

GREEN THUMBS WANTED

We are currently looking to hire a seasonal grounds person to maintain the corner beds, pull weeds and water flowers and trees throughout the summer. The position is part time from early May through September. The right candidate should be able to work 20-24 hours per week, LOVE gardening and know the difference between a flower and a weed. If you are interested in joining our team, contact the Pittsfield Village office for more information.

TUTORING FOR VILLAGE KIDS

I am a Michigan certified teacher and experienced tutor, available for tutoring grades 1—8 in reading, writing, math, and general homework help. Anyone interested please call Lisa Headings at 734-546-5298 or email lisa2472@gmail.com.

VILLAGE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Do you have a hobby or craft that you enjoy? Would you like to get together with other knitters, painters, photographers, gardeners, bookmakers, for example, to work or just talk about your shared interest? Or perhaps you would be willing to do an informal demonstration for folks who might like to learn more about your particular craft? I'm sure there are many creative, clever people in the Village who have much to offer. It is a great way to get to know your neighbors and pick up some tips and ideas. Sessions could be held in the community room. If you are interested in a special interest group on some particular subject, please contact the office.

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.

			1	2	3	4
5	6 6-8pm Maintenance and Modification Committee Meeting Community building	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 6:30pm Registration Begins 7pm Annual Meeting Pittsfield Elementary	15	16	17	18 11am-1pm The Flower Giveaway
19	20	21 6-8pm Landscape Committee meeting Community building	22	23 6-8pm Finance Committee Meeting Community building	24	25 10am Pool opens for the season
26	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 6:30pm Communications Committee Meeting Community building	29	30	31	Note No board meeting in May due to Annual Meeting

May 14—Annual Meeting

Just a reminder that the Annual Meeting of the Pittsfield Village Condominium Association is to be held Tuesday, May 14, 2013 (6:30 p.m. registration, 7:00 p.m. meeting) at Pittsfield Elementary School. If you would like your name placed on the Election Ballot for a position on the Board of Directors, please submit your nomination profile as soon as possible. If you cannot attend, please send your proxy to be counted toward Quorum, or give it to a neighbor to represent you. Finally, if you would like to review the draft minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting, please visit: www.pittsfieldvillage.com.



Pittsfield Elementary Ice Cream Social

Friday, May 31
5:30-8pm

Come join your neighbors and support your local school!

Inflatables, games, raffles, and a silent auction. Pizza, beverages, and ice cream. New this year: a photo booth and karaoke!

Free admission (nominal charge for food and games)

June 8—Annual Community Yard Sale

Clean house and earn money at the Annual Pittsfield Village Community-Wide Yard Sale! Taking place throughout the community on Saturday, June 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., this annual event brings in people from all around the area. The more people that participate, the more people will stop and shop and that means more money in your pocket!! So take a look around your home, grab your stuff and display it out in front of your unit.

FACEBOOK.COM/PITTSFIELDVILLAGE



Like us on
Facebook