

Keep Your Kitty Cat Safe and Healthy; Keep Your Household Happy

Over the last few months there have been a few postings on the Pittsfield Village Condominium Facebook page about lost and found cats. “Loose” cats were also a topic of discussion at the annual meeting in May and at the June board meeting. Although the City of Ann Arbor and Pittsfield Village have rules and regulations regarding cats and dogs out unattended, there are many other reasons loving pet owners should consider when letting their cherished pets out. Here are some from the American Humane Society.

Disease

Cat to cat contact can lead to a number of feline diseases that can be serious or potentially fatal. Common examples include:

- feline leukemia (FeLV)
- feline AIDS (FIV)
- FIP (feline infectious peritonitis)
- feline distemper (panleukopenia)
- Upper respiratory infections (or URI).

Parasites

While usually not life-threatening for cats, several common parasites can be picked up by your kitty when venturing outdoors, including:

- fleas
- ticks
- ear mites
- intestinal worms
- ringworm (a fungal skin infection)
- giardia (a protozoa that cats pick up from drinking from puddles)

These parasites can cause a variety of moderate to severe symptoms, such as scratching, skin infections, vomiting and diarrhea.

In addition, these creepy crawlies can hitch a ride into your home and infect your family. Parasites can be very difficult to eradicate from your pet, from humans and from your home.

Cars

Contrary to popular belief, cats do not have the innate instinct to avoid busy streets, and they frequently get hit by cars.

Danger from other mammals

Cat haters unfortunately are members of our society. They may tease or harm your kitty for sport. Cats also get into territory fights with dogs, raccoons, possums, etc. After a fight with a raccoon in the Pittsfield School dumpster kitty could lose his life or tail.

Cats Just Get Lost

It is very sad when a beloved kitty goes on a walk-about and does not return home “on schedule”. Often times, the neighbors do find them, but other times, we never do find out what happened to Fuzzball.

If You Decide Your Cat Needs Outdoor Time

- Protect your kitty from other cats. Keep him/her on a leash or secured in a cage or other confined space where she can't get out (and other cats can't get in). A search for “catio” on the Internet can give you ideas of how to make a safe outdoor area for your cat on your deck.
- Take your cat for a stroll. Pet stores sell a number of models of cat strollers. It will be healthy for you and your cat.
- Make sure an adult supervises your kitty's outdoor time to ensure strays cannot come into contact with him/her.

Annual Yard Sale



Judy again brought out her perennially popular needle crafts at the corner of Whitewood and Norwood



Things were busy on Pittsfield. Ladies gathered to talk while shoppers browsed.



Do any of these cookbooks have ideas for fish?

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Healthy, Cutting Edge News

Darleen Boynton

M&M Committee

Lawn mowing of Pittsfield Village's 57 acres of lawn is in full swing. We have contracted with Superior for 26 mows this year. This takes into account that some weeks in the summer the grass will be dormant from the summer heat and will not need to be mowed. Last year spring was extra early and Superior was out cutting the grass in tune with that jump start to the mowing season. Yet, the drought gave us extra weeks of dormancy so our contract still worked out right. Most years it is spot on. We have contracted with Superior for many years now because they have given us the best bid and have given us dedicated service.

Pittsfield Village practices many of the recommend best practices for healthy lawns. We cut high and let it lie. This means that we do not cut the grass too close (it gets cut to about 3 inches) and we leave the clippings on the lawn. The clippings are a source of nitrogen (i.e. fertilizer) for the lawn. They also add organic matter that keeps the soil healthy.

In the fall much of the leaf matter in the Village is mulched back into the lawn. Superior mows over the leaves instead of raking. The leaf litter also adds organic matter and nitrogen to keep the lawn looking lush.



Pittsfield Village does use a service to apply herbicide to control dandelions and other weeds in the lawn. Currently we are having two applications of herbicide a year: one in the spring and one in the fall. The applications attack different kinds of weeds. The spring application takes care of weeds such as dandelions. The fall application goes after "creeping Charlie" weeds. Although at this time we are using two weed applications our neighborhood has a history of using one application a year if the lawns look like they are in good shape. In recent years the weed population was coming back a bit so we went back up to the 2 applications a year. By many standards this is considered very conservative. However, many people in Pittsfield Village appreciate having our lawns being less toxic than other places. This approach is also better for the watershed.



A final consideration is that it saves us all money by being conservative.

The city of Ann Arbor does not permit application of fertilizers with phosphorous because the Huron River watershed has too much phosphorous from runoff. Pittsfield Village is unusual that we have only weed applications not weed and feed applications. Our grass is so lush and healthy that we have not needed additional fertilizer. Again, this is healthier for everyone.

Another healthy contribution Pittsfield Village makes to the Huron River watershed is that we do not water most of our acreage. Watering the lawn with potable water is a stress on the water system. Runoff from lawn watering that hits the sidewalk also leads to pollution entering the watershed. Pittsfield Village's conscientious lawn care practices have earned our neighborhood recognition in the Washtenaw County Clean Streams program (http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/drain_commissioner/dc_webWaterQuality/dc_cpcs/frontpage).

We can all feel proud of our wonderful yards. It is a luxury most people do not enjoy. Be a partner in keeping Pittsfield Village a beautiful healthy place: pick up stray items from the lawn. The front yards are mowed on Wednesday and the backs are done on Thursday weather permitting. Dog stakes are not permitted in Pittsfield Village but at times they do appear. Please make sure that they are not in the lawn on lawn mowing day. They can be hard for the mower to see and can be dangerous to run over. If you are using a sprinkler do not over water- if you are getting puddles you have watered too much. It is not helpful to the lawn, it wastes money and it is bad for the watershed. Also, if you are using a sprinkler do not have the water hitting the sidewalk. The runoff is money down the drain.

Perhaps this summer you will be out on the lawn throwing the Frisbee, playing croquet or watching a little one learn to walk. See you out in the yard!

In the Garden

Lisa Joseph, Master Gardener
Staff Horticulturist

June is a crazy month for me. Getting annual beds and planters done is major crunch time! And then... time to take off to Lake Michigan for a few days. I will sit on the beach. I will take a quick dip in the frigid water. I will soak in the warmth and freedom. If you need me to answer questions, I will be back in the saddle soon.

Garden Tips for July:

1. If rain is lacking, water plants as needed. It is best to water in the morning to reduce water loss from evaporation.
2. Be sure beds have mulch to help conserve water and to deter weed seeds from germinating.
3. Stake floppy plants.
4. Deadhead annuals and perennials to encourage continuous bloom.
5. Pinch back Asters, Sedums, and Chrysanthemums one last time.
6. Repot houseplants as needed.
7. Fertilize roses. I use a product that is a systemic fertilizer and pesticide in one. I mix it in a bucket and water it in. Done!
8. Watering container plantings daily leaches out nutrients. Therefore, it is important to fertilize annuals every two weeks with a water-soluble fertilizer. Hibiscus, Mandevilla, and Petunia like to be fed every 10 days.

9. Monitor plants for insect infestation. If the population isn't too large, let the beneficial insects do their work. You can also dislodge insects such as aphids with a strong blast of water. If Japanese beetles are a problem, you can hand pick and drop them into a bucket of soapy water.

I'm excited to watch my container plantings start to fill in and grow. The hummingbirds love my verbena and lantana. This year I'm growing two Dahlias in my large planters. One is 'Night Queen', a 3 to 4' tall beauty with dark claret flowers and dark green leaves. The other is 'Gallery La Tour', a 3' tall prize with large pastel pink flowers and dark purple leaves. I can't wait to see how they perform. I planted Dahlia 'Edinburgh' in the Village pool planters. 'Edinburgh' has large white and purple flowers and dark green leaves. You'll have to check them out when they start blooming!

Someone asked me what I thought were the smells of summer. My answer? Linden trees in flower, freshly cut grass, and ripe watermelon.

July already. Take it slow and easy and enjoy every moment!

SOLD

Tracy Vincent
Administrative Manager

The sales activity throughout the Village has been "brisk" for the last few weeks. Since January, there have been 9 units sold. As of June 6, there were 11 units on the market and 6 of them were pending sales. The average 2 bedroom sales price is \$76,000 with the

highest sold being \$82,500. The average days on the market before a home sells has been 8 over the last three months. The market is strong and Pittsfield Village seems to be a hot commodity this summer and that is GREAT news for your home value!!



Pittsfield Village
Communications
Committee

Bulletin

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 Pittsfield 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 office@pittsfieldvillage.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Water Conservation Tips

Darleen Boynton
M&M Committee

Pittsfield Village has a common water and sewer bill. Contentious use of water can help us all save money. For the next few months, we will include a water conservation tip for you to consider. Check faucets and pipes for leaks. A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons. Call the office for a free inspection if you suspect a leak in your home. A common place for us to have leaks is at the hose bib outside. Our staff will come and fix these at no cost to you.

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|-----------|---|---|-----------|---|---|-----------|
| | 1 6pm M&M Committee meeting <i>Community Building</i> | 2 | 3 | 4 Independence Day PV Office Closed | 5 PV Office Closed | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 6pm Landscape Committee meeting <i>Community Building</i> | 17 | 18 6pm Finance Committee meeting <i>Community Building</i> | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 6:30pm Communication Committee meeting <i>Community Building</i> | 24 | 25 | 26 6:15pm Board of Director's Meeting <i>Community Building</i> | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  July 2013 | | |



Annual Pittsfield Village Community Pool Party
Saturday, August 24th

With entertainment provided by George Bedard & The Kingpins.

Look for more details over email and in the August newsletter.

A Message from the Board of Directors

If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or problems, please contact your board representatives or the office for assistance. You can also anonymously place something in the office drop box and if we are able to, we will address the issue in the newsletter.



[Facebook.com/PittsfieldVillage](https://www.facebook.com/PittsfieldVillage)

Looking for Conversion Financing?



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