



Pittsfield Village

GREEN SPACES • GREAT NEIGHBORS



www.pittsfieldvillage.com

August 2014

Dog Days of Summer

The Dogs of Pittsfield Village



Linus, the Mini-Goldendoodle



*Claire the wire haired pointer
sitting nicely on the porch.*



David's new Husky puppy—such pretty eyes!



*Kids on a junket with their baby
sitter and their dog*

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Management Office

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Bookkeeper

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Design and Nature Photography

Karen Tuttle of klizaDESIGN.com

PARKING COURTESIES

We all know that parking on our streets can be difficult at times. We also know that parking is First-Come, First Serve. In an effort to maintain the peaceful friendly environment we have all grown to love and appreciate

about life here at Pittsfield Village, the staff here asks that everyone makes the extra effort to try to park in front of their own unit whenever possible.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

On www.pittsfieldvillage.com, you will find a lot of helpful information about your Association, Pittsfield Village Condominium.

Do you want to modify your unit? You can download the Modification Request Form or the Landscape Modification form. You will also find design specifications for decks, doors, windows, and more.

Other helpful resources: the monthly calendar, current and past newsletters, Annual Budgets, board and annual meeting minutes, the Master Deed and Bylaws for the Association, plus Maintenance Guidelines (who's responsible?) and how to submit a work order.

You may enjoy perusing through the photos of our beautiful community, your neighbors' gardens, and the annual events! Log on today!

Buzzing Around Our Landscape

by Judy Tomer

Did you know that many bees, not just honey bees, are important pollinators for many of the fruits, vegetables, and nuts that we love to eat? Here's a little quiz for you: how many different bee varieties live here in Michigan? The answer is at the end of this article.

Our recent brutal winter finished off so many boxwood shrubs and roses here in Michigan, that the MSU co-op extension service web site posted a note about this last May. About 40 Pittsfield Village boxwoods were killed or damaged to the point they need removal, which probably will be later this month. Will the removed bushes be replaced? Not in this year's budget, but next year we can consider replacement on a case-by-case basis. Over the years we've planted a variety of boxwoods

(including winter gem, green gem, green velvet, and wintergreen).

The good news is that our Knockout roses came through the winter just fine.

On another note, this past June MSU celebrated National Pollinator Week with its third annual Bee Palooza event, located in their horticultural gardens. Here's a link about protecting bees that may visit our gardens: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/how_to_protect_bees_in_my_yard_and_garden.

August 2nd is MSU Garden Day; for details see <http://www.hrt.msu.edu/our-gardens>.

Have you guessed how many bee varieties there are in Michigan? 400!



Extensive damage.



This boxwood will survive.

In the Garden

Lisa Joseph, Master Gardener
Pittsfield Village Staff Horticulturist



Pittsfield Village
Communications
Committee

Bulletin

Welcome to the invasion of the Japanese Beetles! Good grief. They are completely eating my Dahlias, Hibiscus and purple leaf sweet potato vine! The only remedy I can offer is this: go out in the morning and again in the evening with a bucket of soapy water. Pick them off your plants by hand and drop them into the bucket. You can put the bucket underneath and knock them into it if you are squeamish about touching them. Be vigilant every day because more of these voracious pests will return and can do a lot of damage in a short time.

My featured plant for August is a purple coneflower called

ECHINACEA 'POWWOW WILD BERRY'.

This variety of coneflower has tons of vivid bright rosy purple flowers with an orange brown center cone. The flowers retain their color longer than other varieties. This perennial stands about 2 feet tall with sturdy stems that don't require staking. The plant sends out many branches resulting in more blooms, which are so vibrant in color that you can see them from far away. 'Powwow Wild Berry' was the 2010 All-America Selection winner. If you'd like to see it in person, it is planted in the Pool Walkway Perennial Border Garden.

I have three to five bats in my back yard every evening, flying back and forth eating their fill of insects. I heartily welcome these small helpful mammals. They are devouring mosquitoes, moths, and possibly those pesky Japanese beetles and other pest insects that wreak havoc in the garden. Although they usually stay outdoors, this morning I awoke

at 5:00 to a little brown bat flying around my bedroom! I was determined to help him get outside without harming him. He ended up tiring himself out and landing low on the wall. I ran downstairs and grabbed my cooler. I gently put the cooler over top of him, and he crawled into it. He didn't move while I closed the lid as if he knew I was helping. I got him safely outdoors and off he flew! How exciting was that? Now I am researching bat houses to supply him with a nice cozy place of his own to roost outside of my house.

Be sure to keep your plants well watered. Insect pests and diseases are prevalent right now, and stressed plants are more susceptible to infestation and invasion. Powdery mildew is quite rampant now due to the cooler days without much sunshine and the cold nights. If your Dahlias or Phlox are showing signs of powdery mildew (yellowy crispy foliage and a white powdery substance on the upper leaf surface), prune out some of the middle stems and some leaves to allow for better air circulation.

July didn't really bring the sunny, sultry days that I was hoping for, but there were a few great days in there. The dog days of August are upon us and summer is quickly winding down. There is still plenty of time, though, to get the smoking hot days that I so desire.

Garden on.

CONDO OWNERS: STILL WRITING CHECKS?

If you are still writing checks each and every month, worrying about getting the payment in on time, using ever-increasing postage stamps, well, we have a solution for you! Perhaps you are interested in safe, easy, convenient and reliable method for paying your monthly Association Fees. If so, we urge you to consider signing up for Direct Debit from your checking or savings account! All you have to do is complete the short form and return it with a voided check to Wanda Buster at the Pittsfield Village office. The monthly fee will be automatically withdrawn at the beginning of the month and you'll NEVER have a late fee!

PITTSFIELD VILLAGE GARDEN NETWORK

Gardeners all - veggie gardeners, flower gardeners, new gardeners, been-gardening-for-a-long-time gardeners: contact me and we will set up an online group to support each other, to give away extra plants, produce, etc., as well as a place to get advice from your neighbors. Contact Su Hansen suhan722@gmail.com (734)417-8397 to join the list.

By the way, last I heard there were still some plots available through Project Grow: www.projectgrowgardens.org on Platt Rd where the old Juvenile Detention Center was. Happy Gardening!



Echinacea 'Powwow Wild Berry'

Pittsfield Village's Annual Pool Party

The rain held off for us this year, so all of our finger-crossing paid off! The face-painting was again a HUGE success. Many thanks to our artist, Sarah Deflon.

Of course, there was good food, arts and crafts, sweet treats, and great music by George Bedard and the Kingpins!



All meetings to be held in Pittsfield Village Community Room unless otherwise noted.

					1	2
3	4	5 6pm M&M Committee meeting National Night Out	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 6pm Landscape Committee meeting	20	21	22 Newsletter articles due	23
24	25	26 6pm Finance Committee meeting	27	28 6:30pm Board of Directors Meeting	29	30
31						

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



The introduction of National Night Out, “America’s Night out against Crime”, in 1984 began an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. NATW’s National Night Out program culminates annually, on the first Tuesday of August (August 5, 2014).

It’s a wonderful opportunity for communities nationwide to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie. While the one night is certainly not an answer to crime, drugs and violence, National Night Out represents the kind of spirit, energy and determination to help make neighborhoods a safer place year round. The night celebrates safety and crime prevention successes and works to expand and strengthen programs for the next 364 days.”

For more information, visit natw.org

Mark your Calendar!



Second Annual Pooch Plunge
September 4th, 5pm-7pm



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Facebook.com/PittsfieldVillage