



**HAPPY
valentine's day!**



Heartfelt Thanks

I would like to say thank you to the Neighbor who sent me the postcard for our Christmas Decorations this year. I can't believe I was the only person who received that "Great Card" in the mail.

I, myself would also like to say: "Thank You Everyone that decorated this year."

To our neighbor on the corner of Pittsfield and Norwood, I would like to say, "Beautiful!"

To everyone that didn't or couldn't decorate, please try to next Season. It's just such fun.

And to all those who see our Santa in the front yard sitting in his chair, HE DOES TALK!! The little ones that do come by to see him get excited when he speaks to them!

Thank you again to everyone and to "MY NAMELESS NEIGHBOR!" Thank you for the card! You really made me feel great! Thank you!

**Your Neighbor at 2395
Jeanne!!**



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Finance Committee

OPEN

Landscape Committee

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Community Manager

Tracy Vincent

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Wanda Buster

Bookkeeper

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Design and Nature Photography

Karen Tuttle of klizaDESIGN.com

Then and Now

In the early days of Pittsfield Village small trees were planted within inches of the foundation. This has led to significant damage to building foundations as well as to water and sewer pipes.

This mature sycamore tree (one of many that were planted along Fernwood) had to be removed in recent months due to costly damage to the foundation.

The board has made assessing the potential damage of certain trees a priority, as well as the ways that this damage can be most effectively mitigated. In some cases, this will require removal of trees. The board, along with many residents, are saddened to see these trees removed, but their primary concern is the integrity of village foundations and water systems.

The landscape committee continually strives to plant trees that will offer shade and beauty. In some places trees were planted 10 years ago in anticipation that foundation trees were going to need removal. This has given the plantings a chance to grow a bit to lessen the impact of losing a foundation tree.



Five Home Fixes That Won't Put A Dent In Your Weekend

Problem: Slamming Bedroom or Bathroom Door

Solution: Get a wide rubber band (such as the kind around broccoli) and wrap it around the doorknobs on both sides, stretching it across the edge of the door. Don't cover the latch.

Problem: Marked-Up Linoleum Floors

Solution: Rub the spot with white toothpaste and a dry cloth or with an eraser. Or spray WD-40 on a towel and rub lightly, making sure to degrease the area afterward with liquid dishwashing soap and water.

Problem: Dirty Ceiling Fan Blades

Solution: Slide an old pillowcase over a fan's blade then pull the fabric back, keeping all the dust and dirt contained.

Problem: Bathtub Stains

Solution: Combine equal amounts of cream of tartar and baking soda with enough lemon juice to make a paste. Rub the mixture into the stain with your fingers or a soft cloth. Let sit for a half hour, then rinse well with water.

Problem: Porch Light Bulb Flicker

Solution: Contact Tracy at the office by phone or email for a work order. Pittsfield Village will come at no charge!

Why do we make a budget?

Margarita Garcia Roberts
Finance Committee Chair

In January, the Finance committee, in coordination with the Board and Kramer Triad staff, begins the annual operating budget cycle. The various committees and staff begin to gather their information, discuss their financial needs and decide on their portion of the draft budget. By March, all input from committees and staff has been gathered and the annual budget meeting convenes with the Finance committee, Board members, committee chairs and staff to discuss and make adjustments to the drafted budget. This cycle ultimately concludes with an approved budget in April, and in time for the required annual meeting of the Association which occurs in May.

So, you might ask, why do we make an operating budget every year? As an association we have legal obligations, but we also have obligations to each other as co-owners. Since the Board and Finance committee members act in good faith and on your behalf, it is also important that we report to you what is done with your money for your benefit, and this is done through our annual Association meeting in May.

- Here are some very important reasons to have a budget:
- Having a budget gives us a written plan for our fiscal year
- We track what our income and expenses are
- We determine whether an increase of fees is necessary for the fiscal year
- We keep track of reserves (a "savings" account required by state law, this is unassigned money for unexpected, non budgeted costs)
- We are better able to reach our budgeted goals for the fiscal year

In recent years our annual income has been about 1.3 to 1.5 million dollars. We spend it on everything from the payroll of our Kramer Triad staff, to the shrubs that are planted, to purchasing a Gator vehicle, to paying for our annual pool party, to placing money in our reserves as required by state law and much more. The operating budget has always helped us to meet the projected goals in the years of our existence as a Co-operative and a Condominium, and a big thanks to every volunteer on the Board and committees who have worked hard over the months and years of keeping our budget on track.

Candy-Free Valentines

by Karen Tuttle
Pittsfield Village Newsletter Designer

Each year, my children look forward to Valentine's Day and the festivities that come along with it. I have always been astounded by how much candy they bring home and decided to find creative, candy-free Valentine projects. Here are a few of my favorites. Use these for a fun Saturday afternoon with your children or grandchildren.

Playdough

Search the internet for homemade playdough and you will find plenty of recipes. Some are even edible! Divide the batches into small portions and put into snack-sized ziplock baggies. Your kids can decorate the baggies with stickers or tape a note to the side.

Coloring Pages

Websites like www.crayola.com have several categories of coloring pages. Pick a few and print out enough for each student. Attach a few crayons with ribbons to complete the Valentine.

Origami

Consider learning a new skill and make a heart, rose, or your child's favorite animal. Look for YouTube tutorials as well as website instructions. Older children might enjoy trying several patterns.

Child's Drawing

Fold a standard piece of paper into quarters, then have your child draw a Valentines picture in each "box". Make color copies of the paper and cut the copies into quarters, making a nice variety of small Valentine's cards. These are also nice to find in a school storage box a few years later!

Perler Beads

If you have more perler beads than you know what to do with, use them up by making Valentine's shapes. Look online for templates of your child's favorite characters. Attach a small card by leaving one bead out of the shape and tying a ribbon through the card and shape. Speaking from personal experience... make sure your shapes are small enough to finish quickly!

With a little time and creativity, you and your children can make homemade, candy-free Valentines that will impress their classmates!



Pittsfield Village
Communications
Committee

Bulletin

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!

MESSAGE FROM COMCAST

Peace of mind and control is what the XHS Home Security from Comcast provides. You set the rules so you can know what's happening at home when you are away. Contact the Village's personal Xfinity representative, Terri at 734-827-4951 for more details. Call if you need transfers, upgrades and new service. Special pricing for Village residents!

Recycling


ARE YOU LEAVING ENOUGH ROOM TO STAGE YOUR CARTS APPROPRIATELY?

According to the City of Ann Arbor, carts must be placed 3 ft. apart on Fridays for service.

This requirement is mandated by city ordinance, Chapter 26 of the Solid Waste Code.

Thank you for any assistance that you can provide regarding this situation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Recycle Ann Arbor**- Recycling Program directly.

2420 S. Industrial Hwy. Ann Arbor,
MI 48104 • (734) 662-6288, ext. 113

1	2	3 6pm M&M Committee meeting	4	5 6pm Landscape Committee meeting	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16	17 6pm Finance Committee meeting	18	19	20 Newsletter articles due	21
22	23	24	25	26 6:15pm Open Forum 6:30pm Board Meeting	27	28
29	30	31	 February 2015			

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

Mark Your Calendar

- March 3rd – M&M Committee Meeting
- March 5th – Landscape Committee Meeting
- May 12th – Annual Meeting
- May 16th – Flower Day
- June 6th – Annual Yard Sale



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