

The Pittsfield Villager

January 2017



1st Annual Chili Cook-Off

**ATTENTION! ATTENTION! CHEFS AND ALL CHILI LOVERS
MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

Are you hungry for something new, delicious and exciting?
The First Village Chili Cook-Off will be held on Saturday, February 25th at 3:00 PM. If you are a Chili Chef, bring a gallon of your favorite homemade chili in a stay warm container for tasty treat sampling. If you are a Chili Lover, bring your appetite. Samples will be provided for all.

On the day of the cook-off, just bring your finished product to the Village Office/Garage. Judging will be done by all tasters as they anonymously cast their vote for their favorite. A \$20 gift certificate will be awarded to the winner.

Please pre-register with the Village Office to provide a count.

Thank you in advance for your participation — whether you're stirring the pot or sampling it.

Call Barb De Longchamp at 734-395-4974 with questions.



In the Garden

Lisa Joseph, Staff Horticulturist

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! I love to be outdoors on a sunny winter day after a fresh snowfall. On dreary, cold and cloudy days, however, I like to cozy up indoors with a nice cup of Earl Grey and browse through gardening magazines and my garden journal. I diligently write down my observations right from the get-go in spring and keep record of great successes and dismal plant performances throughout the season. For example, when the spring-flowering bulbs emerge, the only way to keep track of areas where you'd like to add more bulbs in the fall is to take notes and map out the area. I use small rocks to

outline the areas where I'll be adding new bulbs, and then I notate in my journal which bulb types I'll plant in each area.

Also, as I'm browsing through magazines and gardening blogs, I write down ideas I find that I'd like to recreate in my own garden. I can't tell you how many times in the past I would find a cool plant or design in a gardening publication and then forget where I had seen it. I've learned over the years to write these things down. To make things simple, use only one notebook as your gardening journal.



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Light up the Village Winners!

Thank You all for Lighting Up The Village! This last month especially, was wonderful to have so many lovely light displays of all types and sizes in the community. And even if we think there might have been too much of it at times, the snow made the lights look even lovelier.

We thank everyone who took the time to put up lights and decorations or all of us to enjoy, and are happy to announce the following winners of the Whole Foods gift certificates to the residents of the these PV homes:

3405 Norwood

2409 Pittsfield

2395 Jeanne

NO FROZEN PIPES!

Please remember to leave your heat ON when you leave for any extended period of time during the winter months.

If the unit is kept at a temperature of at least 65 degrees, then the chance of frozen (and burst) pipes is slim.

If you have any questions, please contact the maintenance department at PV.

office@pittsfieldvillage.com

734-971-0233

M-F

8:30 am to 5:00 pm





Tulipa "Little Princess"

..IN THE GARDEN

My list of desired garden tools for the tool shed:

1. Hand rake- a small handheld rake handy for clearing debris, especially in tight spots and around thorny roses.
2. Hori Hori- the scary-looking serrated blade cuts through tough fibrous roots with ease, making dividing perennials a breeze. It is also good for light digging, weeding and planting, but do take care not to slice your finger.
3. Wheelbarrow, garden cart, garden tub, or tarp- convenient for hauling debris, heavy items, and tools. I love rubber tub trugs. They are pliable and easy to carry.
4. Gardening gloves- everyone has different desires, so find what you like. My new favorites are goatskin gloves I purchased from Womenswork. They are thin enough to feel detail, yet the tough material resists thorns. I also love my rose gloves that are made of rugged leather and come up to my elbows. Roses may be lovely, but the tenacious thorns make them a downright pain to prune!
5. Pruners and loppers- necessary for pruning smaller diameter branches and plant material. I also have needle-nose snips for cutting flowers.
6. Hand Hoe- at just 18" long, it's easy to maneuver and quite useful for weeding and making furrows for seeds.
7. Trowel and shovel- for digging holes, weeding, planting, and transplanting. My favorite trowel is fairly narrow with a rounded

point. My beloved shovel has a fiberglass handle and is lightweight. Find your favorites and write your name on them like I do!

8. Bed Edger- an edger will make the dreaded edging of the beds so much easier than using a shovel. I prefer a step-on edger for more power and control.

9. Watering can- always a useful gardening tool shed staple. Even with a watering wand attachment for my garden hose, I still use my watering cans. Oftentimes it's easier than dragging the hose a long distance to water a planter. Also, I use my watering cans to mix fertilizer. My favorite is a lightweight plastic watering can that holds 3 gallons and has a large opening at the top.

I advise that you avoid cheap copies. Tried and true designs last for years and are well worth the higher price. Another bonus is that less trash ends up in the landfill when you pay more for quality.

LISA'S FEATURED PLANT: TULIPA 'LITTLE PRINCESS'-

Species Tulip

A minor bulb, when planted en masse in the fall, draws the eye and really pops in the garden. At just 4 to 6 inches in height, the fiery orange is greatly appreciated in mid April when the diminutive plants bloom prolifically. The colorful inside of each tulip is reddish orange with a vivid lemon yellow stripe surrounding the blue black eye. Orange is my new pink. I've always been a huge fan of all that is pink. Although I still adore pink, the vivid oranges have captured my heart as well.

A home surrounded by a beautiful garden is said to bring great fortune to the inhabitants.

Bundle up and get out and play.

MOVIE NIGHT OR CRAFT NIGHT?

WE WANT YOU to help us decide on something fun to do together in March. What should we do between winter and spring?

Please email us your suggestions and ideas. We would love to hear from you!



JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 M&M Committee 6pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Landscape Committee 6pm	11	12	13	14
15	16 MLK Day = no US Mail	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Board Meeting 6:15 open forum; 6:30 meeting	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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