

The Pittsfield Villager

Curbside Compost Collection Resumes Monday, April 3

on regular curbside trash collection days.

The compost program accepts yard trimmings such as leaves, plants, garden debris, twigs and branches up to 6 inches in diameter and less than 4 feet in length. Branches must be properly tied into bundles with natural twine with a maximum diameter of 18 inches. Ann Arbor residents using optional compost carts may also place grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps, branches under 6 inches, leaves and plate scrapings (including meat and bones) inside the carts, with the lids properly closed, for municipal collection. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to, plastics or plastic bags, treated or painted wood, trash, stones, dirt, sod, animal waste, logs over 6 inches in diameter and over 4 feet in length.

Residents may also use 30-gallon paper bags, available at stores, for leaves and other yard waste. Food or plate scrapings and grass clippings are not allowed in bags. Participating residents must place their compostables at the curb before 7 a.m. on their weekly waste collection day — and allow at least 3 feet between each cart. Limited time free wood chips

Beginning on Monday, April 3, wood chips from the city's recent storm damage cleanup will be available, for free, at five locations. Those interested should bring their own shovels, as staff assistance will not be available. While there is no limit on pickup, we encourage everyone to be respectful and take only what is needed and not use the material for commercial purposes. Woodchips will be in parking lots located at:

- ◆ Olson Park, 1505 DhuVarren Road.
- ◆ Huron Hills Golf Course Overflow Parking Lot, 3465 E. Huron River Drive.
- ◆ Southeast Area Park, 2901 E. Ellsworth Road.
- ◆ Almendinger Park, 655 Pauline Boulevard.
- ◆ West Park, 215 Chapin St.

For more information on Ann Arbor's compost operations, including carts, guidelines for setting out compostables, acceptable material, available of mulch and much more, please visit www.a2gov.org/compost.



EASTER – TIME PARTY

Saturday, April 15

1pm to 3pm

Stop by for some fun!

Easter movie!

Easter craft!

Frost Easter cookies!

Egg Hunt!





The Pittsfield Village Home and Garden Tour

Sunday, June 25th

1:00 – 4:00 PM

We are excited to announce the 1st Pittsfield Village Home and Garden Tour!
Lots of creative ideas to be had, inside and out.
Take this opportunity to explore ideas for kitchen and bath remodeling, unique storage, interior décor, and garden design.

Reserve your tickets now!

Tickets are \$5 each, available only to Village residents and their guests.

Limit 4 per household. No charge for children under 12.

Ticket delivery to your Village home on Sunday, June 11.

Proceeds will be used by our Landscape Committee for Village beautification

Ticket Payment options:

Check: Make out and mail to Ellen Johnson, 2817 Pittsfield Blvd

or

Paypal: Go to [PayPal.me/lisalembler](https://www.paypal.com/US/lsalembler)

You must have a PayPal account to use this option.

Enter \$5, \$10, \$15, or \$20 depending on the number of tickets you are ordering.

Under PayPal 'notes' enter "Village Tour" and your address (for ticket delivery)

More to come in the May Newsletter!

If you are interested in offering your home or garden, we may have a few openings left for this tour, or for next year's tour!

Please contact VillageHomeTour@AOL.com to let us know how to reach you.



IN THE GARDEN

By Staff Horticulturist,
Lisa Joseph

April is the month to put together your spring planters. Pack the plants in tightly, and you'll have color all through April and May, until conditions are suitable to change them out with summer annuals.

Ideas for spring planter materials:

Choices for the tall center feature- Bleeding Heart, Columbine, or brightly painted twigs. Pleasing fillers to add mass include Primrose, Ranunculus, Pansies, Nemesis, Diascia, Marguerite Daisy, Pinks, Ornamental Kale, and Forget-Me-Not.

Spillers I like to use to soften the pot edges - yellow Creeping Jenny, variegated Ivy, creeping Phlox, and creeping Sedum with bright chartreuse foliage.

There is a new series of Aster that I am anxious to trial this season called Kickin' Aster. When designing and planting in spring, it's a common mistake to concentrate only on the spring and summer displays and forget about the upcoming fall season that will be in need of late season color. The Kickin' Aster series promises colors of fuchsia, pastel pink, light lavender, and deep lilac blue, perfect to enhance the oranges, yellows, and reds of fall-colored foliage, the browns of the Ornamental Grass seed heads, and the russet and bright pinks of the big Sedum flower clumps. Each variety grows to a height of two to three feet and has a yellow button at the center of each flower.

"There is a new series of Aster that I am anxious to trial this season called Kickin' Aster"

Showy 'Kickin' Asters have been advertised to be spectacular performers, rich in color, and disease-resistant. I'm hoping that they deliver on these endorsements!

If you are a resident who cares for your own garden, you may be interested in a more organic approach. Organic gardening, once seen as something practiced only by health conscience types and hippies, is no longer a fad. Now it is a mainstream practice for many gardeners who wish to have a kinship with nature. Here are some steps to get you started:

(PLEASE KEEP IN MIND: CHANGES TO THE EXTERIOR OF ANY UNIT MUST FIRST HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S MODIFICATION COMMITTEE)

1. Make a compost pile at least 3 feet square. Compost is the main ingredient for developing rich organic soil. Healthy soil feeds plants and keeps them flourishing and resistant to insect damage and disease pathogens. You can use almost any kind of organic material to make compost- fallen shredded leaves, weeds that haven't gone to seed, grass clippings, kitchen scraps, and shredded newspaper. If you've started a Vermicomposting manufacturing system (an indoor worm farm), you'll be happy to know that worm castings are high in nutrients and micro-organisms. Your plants will love you for your effort.
2. Control weeds - a weed is any plant that you don't want growing in an area. Try heat to control weeds in rock, cracks, and open areas. Boiling water poured on a weed is very effective. Add low plants that withstand foot traffic between stepping stones. The mats formed by these plants will help control weed seeds from germinating. Take care to read the plant information and avoid any that are "aggressive" spreaders.
3. Use organic mulch such as bark, wood chips (used by landscape crew here at Pittsfield), and cocoa bean hulls. Mulch will gradually break down and enrich the soil. It will also control weeds, moderate soil temperature, and slow evaporation to reduce watering needs. Avoid painted mulches!
4. Encourage birds, worms, and beneficial insects into your garden. There are many plants that will attract beneficial insects to help control the pest population. These include Angelica, Aster, Borage, Fennel (in pots), Goldenrod, Yarrow, Shasta Daisy, and Marigold. Last summer, I had Hover Flies flocking to my Marigolds. They mimic bees and wasps in appearance, possibly to avoid being eaten by birds and other predators. Hover flies get their name from their ability to



..IN THE GARDEN

quickly dart around, even backwards, and then hover like a helicopter. Hover Flies are important pollinators and lay their eggs by aphid colonies. The larvae feed on aphids, scale insects, thrips, and caterpillars. The larvae are green, legless and wormlike. Beware- they are killed by insecticidal soap if you decide to spray the aphids. Be sure to thoroughly check your plants for good guys before using any kind of control spray.

5. The last step is to keep plants healthy. Supply supplemental water when needed. With nourishing soil, sufficient water as needed, and proper light exposure, your plants will be strong and robust. Prospering plants are much better able to fend off disease pathogens and pest insects. Your garden will flourish.



LISA'S FEATURED PLANT:

Hydrangea 'Tiny Tuff Stuff'-
3' x 3'

A charming lace cap Hydrangea that is blanketed all season long in blossoms that start out a pale blue and change to a gorgeous orchid pink.

This plant's small size makes it perfect for a planter. 'Tiny Tuff Stuff' is one of the new improved varieties of lace cap Hydrangea that bloom on both old and new wood. They prefer moist, well-drained soil and require supplemental water when necessary in hot dry weather.

If you plant 'Tiny Tuff Stuff' in the ground, avoid pruning it except to remove dead wood or dried blossoms in early spring. Morning sun and dappled afternoon shade are needed for best flower display, color, and stem strength. Fertilize in early spring, after the ground has thawed and before new growth begins. Use a granular fertilizer with a higher percentage of phosphorus (the P in the NPK ratio). Phosphorus encourages bloom production and increases stem strength.

Make your own general-purpose fertilizer with these amendments (choose only one from each column:)

Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)
2 parts blood meal	3 parts bone meal	1 part kelp meal
3 parts fish meal	6 parts rock phosphate	6 parts greensand

The migrating songbirds are arriving back from their warmer headquarters. The spring peepers have announced the beginning of spring with their chirping, sleigh bell calls.

Buckle up folks, the growing season is upon us!



POOL ATTENDENTS NEEDED

- MUST BE 18
- Must be able to work both shifts (11-4 and/or 4-9)
- Must be able to start work Memorial Day THROUGH Labor Day
- APPLY AT THE PITTSFIELD VILLAGE OFFICE

734-971-0233



SLOW DOWN

The speed LIMIT throughout Pittsfield Village is 25 MPH and sometimes, even THAT is too fast. Please spread the word. Keep our community safe

APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 M & M Mtg 6pm	5	6 Committee Budget Meeting	7	8
9	10	11 Landscape Mtg 6pm	12	13	14	15 1pm-3pm Easter Party
16 EASTER SUNDAY	17	18	19	20 <u>deadline,</u> <u>if applicable:</u> INSTALL GAR- DEN MARKERS	21	22
23	24	25	26 6:15 open; 6:30 Board Mtg	27	28 Ldsp Commit- tee Spring Walk	29
30						

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017

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What's Happening?

Garden Marker Sign up forms have been mailed. If you register for this program, you MUST bring the form to the office in exchange for the garden markers.

ANNUAL MEETING TIME!

The meeting will be held on an evening in May. LOOK for the official mailing in mid-April.

Landscape Annual Calendar

We have put together a schedule of the regular lawn and landscape tasks, so you have an idea of what and when. Look for this in the mail with the garden marker form.

Antiques for Sale:

Beautiful antique round oak table with six (6)

leaves \$350

Beautiful antique walnut ar-
 moire—great for storage \$600

734-231-0871

