
❖ Around the Village ❖

Volume 16 Issue 2

February 2006



Settlement of the Malletts Creek Area 1824–1853

Submitted by Lisa Lemble

Malletts Creek runs along the western edge of The Village. You can follow it on foot north from Scheffler Park at Platt and Edgewood, past Redbud Park (which you can also enter at Parkwood and Jeanne Streets), behind Village homes along Parkwood, up to the point where it is “tubed”—run in a culvert underground—behind Denny’s at Huron Parkway and Washtenaw. Before this area was annexed into the City of Ann Arbor in 1956, it was part of East Ann Arbor. Long before that—after the land was ceded to the federal government in 1807 by several Native American nations—both white and black settlers lived in the general area of Packard and Platt roads. This was known as the Malletts Creek Settlement.

The following information is from the Pittsfield Township Historical Society, as found in an article in The Washtenaw Post of May 29, 1924, by R. C. Campbell.

The terms “settler” and “settlement” are associated with frontier conditions and pioneer days. Some settlements developed into villages and cities while others never went beyond being rural neighborhoods. Such was the case with what was known as the Malletts Creek Settlement located in the northeastern part of the township now called Pittsfield.

Settlers began to come into this region in 1824. Samuel D. McDowell was the first man to take up land in Pittsfield. He located on section 2, in April 1824, where

U. G. Darling now lives (as of 1924). In May 1824, Ezra Maynard took up land on section 3, half a mile west of Mr. McDowell. On June 5, 1824, Mr. Maynard wrote a letter to his son in Whitesboro, N. Y. which has been preserved among the Pioneer records. He says in part:

“After examining many places in the territory of Michigan, we have taken up a half section of land on the lower Huron, forty miles west of Detroit and two and one half miles south of the county seat in Washtenaw county, but not in the same town. Many locations have been made within ten days. As we are the first family that has commenced a house, we have taken the liberty to name the place Richland. There is a lack of timber generally. We have plenty of timber, water and stone, 50 acres are ready for the plow.

“Mechanics of all kinds have come to the county seat, which has been established since we came, by the government.”

Mr. Maynard, or “Deacon” Maynard, as he was commonly called, was enthusiastic about the site of Ann Arbor, for he writes “It is the most delightful place for a city or village in the world. All agree in this opinion.”

Some time after John Allen came to Ann Arbor, some of his people from Virginia followed him. They left their old home on the 28th of August, 1824, and arrived at Ann Arbor on October 16 of the same

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Light Up The Village Winners

The Events Committee selected the following residents as \$50 winners in the Annual Light Up the Village contest. Thanks to all the residents who contributed to the wonderfully decorative holiday light displays.

And the winners are:

- 2395 Jeanne
- 3410 Oakwood
- 2258 Parkwood



Holiday Decorations

If you haven’t done so already, please remove your Christmas decorations from the exterior of your unit. ■

Perpetual Calendar

Snowman Contest	Winter
Egg Hunt	April
Flower Giveaways	May
Craft Fair	May
Annual Meeting	May
Pool Party/Kid Festival	July
Community Barbecue	August & June
Community Yard Sale ...	September & June
Pumpkin Carving	October
Light Up the Village Contest	December



Be Safe, Not Sorry

Your smoke detector is essential to protecting your property and your life. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates that there are now more homes with smoke detectors that don't work than homes without detectors at all. Once installed, your detector should never be forgotten! Monthly testing of your smoke detector is recommended. At the very least, plan to change your smoke detector batteries every time you change your clocks for daylight savings. If you can't remember how long it's been since you've checked your smoke detector batteries, run (do not walk) and check them right now!

You should also check with the other residents living in your building to make sure they too have taken this simple, critical precaution. About five years ago there

was a fire in a Village home which caused over \$40,000 worth of damage. The smoke detector in that unit did not even have a battery in it. Other units in that building also sustained damage. Please do yourself and your neighbors a favor, and check your smoke detectors today.

Smoke detectors can be purchased for as little as \$10 at hardware and department stores. In households with children, parents should be aware that research has shown that children in a deep sleep are often not wakened by high-decibel smoke alarms, yet they will awaken to a parent's familiar voice. Detectors are now available that play a recording of a parent's voice. An added advantage with these types of detectors is that the child can hear the parent giving instructions about what to do in the event of a fire. ■

Settlement

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year. These items are gathered from a letter written by James T. Allen, brother of John Allen. Mr. Allen continues: "Deacon Maynard and his family were at Malletts Creek living in a bark shanty. He had the body of his log house up but had no roof on it. In passing through Malletts Creek with our heavy Pennsylvania wagon we stuck in the mud and the Deacon helped to pull us out with his oxen."

Perhaps it might be added that Mr. Allen did not write the whole story—that we know—because he afterwards became the Deacon's son-in-law.

The Evolving Township

In 1834, the township of Pitt was organized. The old records of the township do not show that there was any formal motion made to change the name to Pittsfield, but from 1838, that is the name used in all the official records. For a time

Mr. Parsons kept a "Wayside Inn" and a post office called Pitt was a part of the establishment. In the office of the Register of Deeds there is recorded a lease given by Alpheus Collins to the school board in 1834. It leased a plot of ground 20 rods west of Platts Corners on the south side of the road, as a site for a school house. The period the lease was five years and Mr. Collins was to be paid 5° pence.

End of the Settlement

The year 1853 may be said to mark the end of Malletts Creek settlement, as from that time on, the territory around Malletts Creek was divided into two distinct school districts. Children living west of Platt Road went to Stone School and those living east of Platt Road went to Carpenter School; both schools are still in existence today but not their original buildings. [The first Stone School was destroyed by fire; the second was built in 1911 and still stands at Stone School Road and Packard and it now houses a nursery school]. ■

Holiday Decorations



If you haven't done so already, please remove your Christmas decorations from the exterior of your unit. ■

Parking Etiquette

Each Village resident is expected to park directly in front of his or her home as much as possible so all residents can have regular, convenient parking. If you have more than one car, make sure you are not inconveniencing your neighbor. If necessary, park extra cars further away from the building in a space not directly in front of someone else's home. Talk to your neighbors if you're not sure about whether you might be causing problems. Let's make life easier for our neighbors and ourselves by observing this simple parking etiquette. Also, during the winter months, if your neighbor shovels out a space for his or her vehicle, please be considerate and refrain from parking in that cleared spot. It is hard work to shovel an area, only to have someone else park in it. ■



Snowman Competition

We would like everyone to participate this year in the annual snowman competition. Take a picture of your snowman and take it to the office. You may submit as many pictures as you wish and a winner will be presented with a \$50.00 gift certificate to Toys R' Us after the snow decides to stop falling. ■

Around The Village Seeks New Editor

Duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Send monthly article reminders to committee chairs and board members.
- b. Summarize (bullet point style) minutes of meetings and synthesize information such as project approvals that are acted on by more than one committee.
- c. Take basic information from committees and turn it into articles. Edit content as needed to provide computer information for Village residents. Follow-up as necessary to get any information needed.
- d. Clean up spelling and grammar.

Over and above that, the editor could develop new content by asking committee members to write about things that appear in meeting minutes, etc. and/or find information of interest to Village residents in the newspaper, via the internet, etc. For more information about this role, please contact Melissa Brown, Site Manager, or Wendy Everett, Newsletter Committee Chair (see panel on page 4). ■

Winter Household Safety

Have your furnace inspected to find any problems before an extended cold spell tests its limits. We also recommend investing in a carbon monoxide detector. Carbon monoxide can be produced by a number of household sources, including wood or gas fireplaces, and gas furnaces. The danger of carbon monoxide poisoning increases when the house is closed. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to those of the flu, so you might not realize you are being poisoned until it is too late. Although most smoke detectors also come with a carbon monoxide detecting option, a carbon monoxide detector itself can be purchased for less than \$30 at the hardware store and should be installed near your sleeping area(s). ■

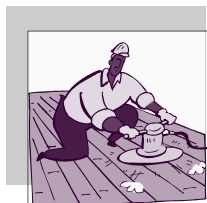
George Leckrone

Phone: 734.358.6440

E-mail: cwfloors@aol.com

Call or e-mail for estimates
and references from my
customers in The Village

**Hardwood
Floor
Refinishing**



from the manager

by Melissa Brown

Spring Projects

We are starting to look into our spring projects so take a look around and make a list of projects that when the warm weather comes you can get started right away. The maintenance staff would be more than happy to repair or replace any screens on the windows of your home. So call in that work order and scratch it off your list.

Community

I know we all want to feel a part of the community so come to a meeting. The Village has several committees and welcomes everyone to come and see what is going on in the community. We will paint buildings again this year along with deck sealing, Phase III landscaping and a bunch of other projects.

Radon Tests Available

A committee member has brought it to my attention that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reminds homeowners that it is a good idea to test your home for this health threat. Radon comes from naturally occurring radioactive gas found in almost any kind of soil. Radon has no taste, odor or color. Test kits range from \$5-\$15 and are available at the health department. For a free information packet, call (800) 723-6642 or visit www.michigan.gov/deq for more info.


Ice Melter

Ice melt is available in the Village office for residents to pick up. If you want to swing by the Village office and quickly pick up a bucket of ice melt, just enter the office building from the maintenance entrance located off the parking lot. Bring an old five-quart bucket for filling, or pick up one of the many pre-filled buckets the maintenance staff keep handy during wintertime. If you have picked up a bucket already filled, please try to re-use it. This will help keep costs down. We go through several buckets per year. ■

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*planning to sell your
village home?*

Contact the lady responsible for a majority of Village sales. Call Anita Slocum of Triad Realty at (734) 971-0230 to discuss your sales options. She has done a superb job of selling within the Village at great prices. Anita will help you sell your home at the best price possible. ■

<p>Board of Directors 2005–2006</p> <p><i>President</i> Brian Rice 973.0613</p> <p><i>Co Vice Presidents</i> Maureen Burns 973.6664 Jack Rowe 677.2618</p> <p><i>Secretary</i> Laurie Howland 971.1908</p> <p><i>Treasurer</i> Kris Heinzman 971.6870</p> <p>Committee Chairs</p> <p><i>Architecture</i> Darleen Boynton 973.9791</p> <p><i>Events</i> Maury Kroopnick 975.4671</p> <p><i>Finance</i> Margarita Garcia-Roberts 973.2628</p> <p><i>Landscape</i> Krysta December 645.0623</p> <p><i>Marketing</i> open</p> <p><i>Newsletter</i> Wendy Everett 677.1822</p>	<p>Management Office</p> <p>Office: 971.0233 Sales: 971.0230 Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.</p> <p><i>For after-hours emergencies, call the office and leave a message with the service.</i></p> <hr/> <p>Newsletter Committee</p> <p>Lisa Lemble, Distribution Judith Persiko, Distribution Assistant Wendy Everett, Layout</p> <p>Newsletter Carriers</p> <p>Kerry Ellis, Susan & Karen Hansen, Margie Heinzman, Ellen Johnson, Rosie Klauscher, Maury Kroopnick, Jessica Madsen, Amy McKinley, Patricia McMillan, Brian Rice, Sue Sterling</p> <hr/> <p>Printed on recycled paper </p>
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SWAP SHOP

Floor Refinishing. Many people in The Village have asked me who refinished my floors about a year ago. I had lost the phone number, but recently found it. I don't remember everyone who asked about this, so please see the ad in this issue for George Lekrone. Lisa, 2328-2330 Fernwood.

Village Rooms for Rent. \$400/mo. each plus utilities or a flat \$475. Large bedroom with built in closet; share bath; available February. Lower level bedroom with private bath; available April. Call Lisa at 260.9026.

February 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Arch/Main Committee 6:30 pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Marketing Committee 6:30 pm	15	16 Events Committee 6:30 pm	17 Newsletter Deadline	18
19	20	21 Landscape Committee 6:30 pm	22 Finance Committee 6:30 pm	23	24 Board Meeting 6:30 pm	25
26	27	28	Visit www.villageco-op.com for the latest on activities, committees, and advertisements in your community!			

Events and meetings are at the Clubhouse unless otherwise noted and are open to all community members.