

Ashford Village News

Spring 2023

Seeking Homeowners for AVHOA Leadership Positions

By AVHOA President Don Reichert

Are you a homeowner with ideas to improve our Ashford Village community? Have you thought about providing feedback on some AV projects? Becoming an Ashford Village Board member may be a way for you to contribute some interest, time, and talent.

Over the past 30 years, we've been fortunate that many neighbors have been willing to contribute time and talents as board members. Your current board has taken on projects to ensure the long-term viability of the AVHO community.



As the years pass, life changes happen to all of us. Children grow up, move off to college, and favorite neighbors move away, and new folks move in. The current board is at this crossroad. Our current members have given many years of time, talent, and service, and some board members will be closing their time on the board.

We are looking for two to three homeowners to join the board so we can have a successful handoff, training, and transition for our AVHOA board.

I know you may be thinking "I don't have time," "I am not politically inclined," or "I don't want the drama." I can assure you that we strive to make this as simple, efficient, and drama-free as possible. The time commitment is usually less than an hour a month (mostly responding to emails), with hour-long board meetings held quarterly.

As president of the board, I welcome contact from anyone who wants more information. I am eager to have a conversation to discuss and answer your questions.

In closing, we are looking for 2 to 3 homeowners to join the board. I hope that I have spurred some of you to reach out to me so we can discuss the possibility of your joining the AVHOA Board. In the past, it is your neighbors that have answered the call to serve. It is time some new neighbors step up to continue the good work. If you are interested, please send an email to ashfordvillage@gmail.com with your contact information so I can reach out to you.

Approval Required for Exterior Home and Property Changes



Before beginning an exterior home or property improvements project, homeowners must submit their intent and plans to the AVHOA Architectural Review Committee for approval. Our governing documents state that “No building, structure, landscaping or any exterior improvement shall be commenced, erected or maintained on any Lot, nor shall any exterior addition to or change or alteration therein or change in the exterior appearance thereof or change in landscaping be made until the plans and specifications showing the kind, size, shape, height, colors, materials, topography and location of the same on the Lot shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by an architectural review committee (the “Committee”).”

Examples of projects needing approval are:

adding or replacing a deck at the rear of house, building an addition to the house, updating front landscape/sidewalk, removing a healthy tree, installing a generator on the side of house, and changing the color or surfacing material of the house.



The form to submit a modification request to the architectural review committee is on the Ashford Village website (<http://ashfordvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/AshfordVillage-alteration.pdf>).

Help to Keep Our Neighborhood Beautiful and Safe

Our Ashford Village volunteer board members and management contractor do our best to notice and enforce the approved rules for the neighborhood. But we don't have eyes everywhere, and we don't make it our business to snoop around each home looking for violations or unsafe and unsightly conditions. We rely on every neighbor to help! If you see trash in a common area, please pick it up for proper disposal. If you have concerns about anything you see, please take a few minutes to call RTI at 810-991-1235 or email the board at ashfordvillage@gmail.com. It takes everyone to keep our neighborhood beautiful!

Please Share or Update Your Email Address!

Help the HOA save money on postage and get information out to you more quickly! We are working to build our homeowner email list. Currently we have good email addresses for about half of homeowners. Join our email list by sending your information to ashfordvillage@gmail.com. We will also be working to be more consistent about sharing information through the website and Facebook page, but those outlets don't reach everyone. Many people do not participate in social media information outlets.

Get to Know Your Neighbors – Join the AV Social Team

Calling all Community Builders! What makes a strong community? Connections. The AV Social Team is looking for a few more energetic and organized folks who would enjoy helping to build connections in our beautiful neighborhood. Do you like planning parties, picnics, book groups, sledding parties, Easter egg hunts, board game nights, potluck dinners or other gatherings? This might be the group for you! Email ashfordvillage@gmail.com with a note about your interest and contact information.

Springtime Means Garden Season! Join the Weeding and Wine Team!

(No whining allowed!)

We're seeking a few hardy folks to join our team of neighbors to keep these garden beds looking great. About once a month through the growing season, we'll meet to pull weeds in the entrance gardens, followed by sharing conversation and cold beverages on a neighbor's back deck. If this sounds like a fun way to get to know a few new friends, email ashfordvillage@gmail.com with a note about your interest and contact information.



Separate from this fun team of volunteers, ALL residents are encouraged to do your part to keep the common areas free of trash. If you see garbage when you're out walking or driving through the neighborhood, please pick it up for proper disposal.

AV Garage Sales – July 13-16



Ready to clean out your closets, basement and garage? Your junk is someone else's treasure! Neighbor Jana Andringa is seeking a co-chair who will take over next year as the team leader. Jana will handle the social media advertising for the sales, and the co-chair will be responsible for creating and placing all the signs. Email ashfordvillage@gmail.com with a note about your interest and contact information.

Is It time to Trim Your Branches?

No one wants to be forced to do the tree branch limbo! If trees in your yard are hanging over the sidewalk or street, perhaps it's time to give them a trim. Take a walk on the sidewalk in front of your house. Raise your hand straight over your head as you walk under your trees and shrubs that overhang the sidewalk. If your hand is close to the branches, please pull out the pruner or saw. Branches must be no lower than 7 feet above the sidewalk, and to improve driving visibility and avoid damaging cars, 13 feet above the street.

Keeping trees trimmed is the homeowner's responsibility. Any accidents on homeowner's property could result in homeowner liability.



Do You Have a Storm Drain Grate Near Your House?

Many of our storm drain grates get clogged with leaves, sticks and other debris. This can be especially problematic and dangerous as ice starts to accumulate on the roads. If there's a drain near your house and you notice it's clogged, please take 5 minutes to clear the drain. This will help prevent flooding in our streets with heavy precipitation. Thanks.

Thank You to the Homeowners Who Repaired Your Sidewalks!



The board would like to send out a HUGE thank you to the many neighbors who followed up on our request last Spring and repaired or replaced damaged or raised sidewalk tiles. If you haven't repaired yours yet, you can expect to receive a reminder letter soon from AV's management company, RTI.

Have you checked the sidewalks in front of your house for safety? If an edge of a sidewalk tile is raised more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch relative to the next tile, it is a very real trip hazard, especially at night! In addition, these raised edges create areas for water to pool and freeze during winter months. We all need to work together to keep our neighborhood safe, and each homeowner needs to take care of the sidewalks that border their property.

This isn't just a rule for Ashford Village. Pittsfield Charter Township, Michigan, Code of Ordinances, Sec. 28-52 directs that all township homeowners are required to maintain, repair, and keep safe sidewalks adjacent to their lots along the public street. Sidewalk defects creating pedestrian hazards such as those caused by trees or other growth are the responsibility of the abutting homeowner to repair. Homeowners are liable for all costs resulting from lack of repair or maintenance of the sidewalk.

Keeping sidewalks in good repair is the homeowner's responsibility. Any accidents on homeowner's property could result in homeowner liability.

Textile Drainage Pond Native Planting Project Update

As many of you are aware the Board is working in conjunction with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office to create a vegetated buffer strip around the Textile Rd detention basin. This includes removing the turf grass and planting native plants that are adapted to the site conditions.

Phase one was completed by preparing the site by applying a water-safe herbicide to remove the existing turf grass and weeds. This year, live plugs of perennial native plants will be planted, and native seeds will be scatter to create a buffer strip. The buffer strip will be between 10-15 feet wide.



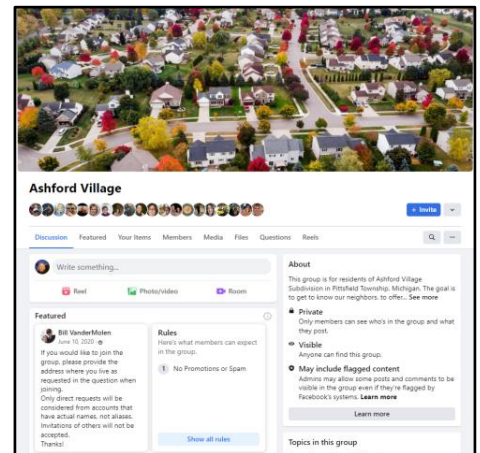
If you have any questions, please send the board a message to ashfordvillage@gmail.com.

We Have a Facebook Page!

Many neighbors stay connected through the Ashford Village Facebook page. This is a great way to meet new people, learn about upcoming neighborhood activities and events, review home maintenance contractors your neighbors have used, ask for advice, find a babysitter or lost pet, invite neighbors to an event at your child's school and more. To protect our neighborhood, this is a "closed group".

Want to join? Follow these simple steps:

1. First, create a Facebook account and profile. On your internet browser bar, go to www.facebook.com. Follow the directions to create an account. You'll need your email address, and you will need to create a password.
2. Once you have a Facebook account, in the Facebook search browser, search for "ashfordvillage" or in your internet browser, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ashfordvillage/>
3. Once you find the Ashford Village group page, under the picture across the top, click "join."
4. An administrator will review your request and notify you that your request has been accepted.



Once you've joined the group, you can post comments or reply to other neighbors' posts. You will also be able to invite other neighbors to join the group. Those people will be emailed an invitation. If they accept, the administrator will notify them when their request is accepted.

Note: This page is not sponsored or maintained by the Ashford Village Board. If you have a question or feedback best addressed by the board, your best bet is to email the board directly at ashfordvillage@gmail.com.

How to Contact the Ashford Village Board

All our board members are your neighbors and are VOLUNTEERS doing their best to provide neighborhood oversight and maintenance consistent with the intent of our bylaws and covenants, and to provide responsible fiscal management.

Because many maintenance issues and questions regarding the AVHOA Bylaws and Covenants are actually typically handled by our management company, RTI property Management, Inc., the best way to contact our board is through the official AVHOA email address – ashfordvillage@gmail.com. This is also the address that is linked to requests sent through www.ashfordvillage.com. If you need more urgent response, you may call RTI.

Friendly Reminders for the Spring Season

To help keep our neighborhood safe, please remember to do the following:

- Do not block the sidewalks with your vehicles or with those of your guests. We have children who must get to the bus stops and others who use the sidewalks on a daily basis.
- Drive at slower speeds throughout the neighborhood for everyone's safety. There are a lot of children playing, and neighbors walking and biking in the neighborhood.
- Keep your porch or garage lights on to improve the lighting throughout the neighborhood.
- Pick up debris around your home that may have accumulated during the winter.
- Please remember to mow your lawns. If you have neighbors who have not mowed their lawn for several weeks, please notify RTI Property Management at 810-991-1235 bpurdom@rtipropertymanagement.com. After investigation, arrangements can be made with our landscaping company to mow those areas.
- Remember to safely take down/remove all holiday lights and decorations.

According to Ashford Village Homeowner Association's Covenants and Bylaws:

- Remember to store garbage cans in your garage and to remove them in a timely manner after the trash is picked up on Tuesdays.
- The covenants do not allow homeowners to store wood, tools, equipment, and so forth on the side of the garage. Use your garage to store all items.
- All vehicles must be properly registered. Vehicles with expired tags are not permitted.
- The association dues are \$100 paid quarterly. Remember to make your payment on time. The late fee is 5% each month with an annual interest rate of 7%. Homeowners who are delinquent are pursued with legal action. Liens have been placed on homes when dues were not paid.
- If anyone violates the covenants or bylaws, the homeowner will receive a first warning with no fine. If the situation is not remedied, the homeowner will receive a second warning and fine of \$50. With a third warning, the fine is \$100, and with a fourth warning, it is \$200.

*Thanks and have a wonderful Spring.
The Ashford Village Board*