



# VILLAGE NEWS

SUMMER 2009



## Western Week

The Wagons are circled. The annual Western Week will be held Tuesday June 23<sup>rd</sup> through June 26<sup>th</sup>, followed by the Independence Day Celebration on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>. What a great way for family and visitors to enjoy a week in our Village!

**Tuesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 7pm will be the **Softball Game** between the Caledonia Merchants and the Caledonia Fire Department at the Duncan Lake Middle School's ball diamond. Everyone is invited after the game for great specials at an ice cream social taking place at the Caledonia Station.

**Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup>** Horses come to the Village featuring "A Vaulting Connection" who will be demonstrating gymnastics on horseback. Also back this year the very popular roping demonstrations, Strongman feats and Draft Horse wagon rides for everyone to enjoy.

**Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup>** brings back the highly successful Antique Appraisals at Barber School museum, Tack Sale/Farmers Market, and Caledonia Hair Company's "Hair Makeover", on stage. **Taste of Caledonia** promises to be a real taste feast. Also watch the Tractor pulls by Lakeside Park. The day will come to a wonderful family close with a Outdoor Movie Night, including free popcorn and candy.

**Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>** enjoy Dancing in the street with performances by Caledonia Dance, and learn line dancing with the Get In Liners. The annual truck pull will continue to be held in Lakeside Park. A **Street Dance** caps off the day featuring music by the Phoenix Rose band.

These are just the highlights, please set this week aside now, bring the family out and attend this year's festivities!



## Independence Day Celebration

You know summer has officially arrived with the annual Caledonia Independence Day Celebration. A big thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Davenport University. And another thank you to all the Caledonia business owners who make all this possible.

The Celebration this year will be Saturday June 27 in the Village downtown. The entertainment stage will be at Lake and Main. Though there will be tables and chairs you are strongly encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

The **antique tractor pull has been moved to Thursday June 25**. Weigh-in begins at 5pm, competition starts at 6:30pm. Same location as previous years, west side of Lakeside Park. The truck pull will be on Friday night starting at 6:00pm. Again, same location as previous years.

The 5k Kilt Classic is back. The Classic begins Saturday at 8:00am with a Kids Fun Run at 9:15am.

The parade will start from the Duncan Lake Middle School parking lot. For those participating in Parade please be there by 9:45am to line-up. The Parade begins at 10:30am. At 12pm the festivities begin in the Village downtown.

There will be prize give-a-ways during the entertainment on the Stage. Our very own Caledonia dancers will perform, too. Be sure not to miss the opening ceremonies at 12pm.

This year promises to be the best ever for kids! There will be several inflatables along with games to play. Thank you to the Caledonia Merchants Association for sponsoring the Kids Zone. Delicious food and drinks will be available.

Bring your families and meet your friends. It'll be a fun day for everyone! Any questions may be directed to Terry Mulvihill at 891-9974.



## Yard Waste Bag Weight Limit 30#

Collection of yard waste will be done 2-3 times weekly. All yard waste must be placed in paper bags (available free from the Village office) or cut to 6' or less in length and bundled. No plastic bags will be picked up. No animal carcasses, animal waste or trash is to be included in these bags. Please place these bags on your parkway, not in the gutter. Avoid allowing these bags to sit in puddles or sprinklers.



## Portable Signs & Banners

Business owners should keep in mind that portable signs with wheels, changeable letters & hitches for towing, temporary signs (similar to political or garage sale signs), balloons, banners, & sidewalk signs are **prohibited** in the PUD/C1, C2, & I1 Districts within the Village limits. Please do your part to keep our business districts clutter free.

## Dogs in the Village

Just a reminder to please keep your dogs on a leash & clean up after them while walking them throughout the Village streets, Rail Trails & Caledonia Community School properties..



## Did You Know...

According to the Kent MSU Extension Office:

~Bagging your grass clippings adds **40%** more time to the job?

~Grasscycling can **replace** one fertilizing application per year?

~Grass clippings do not contribute significantly to thatch. They are 90% water, break down rapidly, & **return nitrogen to the soil.**

~For best results: Remove no more than **1/3** of the blade height, use a **sharp blade**, mow when the grass is **dry**.

~If you can't bear to leave the clippings lay, try this. Mow without bagging the first time and install the bag to **"vacuum"** up the little bit of hay you see.

~Standard mowers can be retrofitted with mulching blades for **under \$20.00** which double cut the clippings.



## Village Street Repairs

The following streets will be patched, repaired & chip sealed in summer of 2009:

Duncan Lake Avenue (between Johnson & 100th Street), Casey Court (all)

Church Street (between Emmons & Main), Lake Street (between Main & Kinsey)

Maple Street (between Main & Kinsey).

Please excuse the mess while we improve our Village streets.



**Swimming Pools** - The availability of the new deeper inflatable swimming pools has caused many people to assume that they are not required to provide a barrier because it is not a "real" pool. A swimming pool is described as **any** structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that is deigned to hold **24"** of water or more. This includes in-

ground, above ground, and on ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. The Barrier Requirements are in place to provide protection against drownings by restricting access. The top of the barrier shall be 48" above grade measured on the side of the barrier that faces away from the pool. The bottom of the barrier shall have no more than 2" measured on that same side. There are further restrictions on fencing that can be answered by our building inspector Imperial Municipal Services 800-442-2794.



### Salvation Army Pick Up Here Saturday, August 29

A collection truck from the Salvation Army will in town be behind Cherry Valley Presbyterian Church 9185 Cherry Valley in Glen Valley Retail from 3-6PM. Perfect timing to donate those left over garage sale items!

### Village Garage Sales August 28 & 29 9AM to 5PM



## 2009 Village & Township Joint 5 Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan now available for your review on our website [www.villageofcaledonia.org](http://www.villageofcaledonia.org) .

Goals & Objectives include: **Programming** - Continue to cooperate with the Caledonia Community School District, regional YMCA and others for programming to suit community needs. Provide access to recreation, leisure and cultural programs that are accessible and affordable to all citizens. **Administration & Organization** – Investigate innovative ways to fund programming. Continue to investigate and develop partnership opportunities for programming and recreation. Create mechanisms to maintain positive public relations. Continue and improve coordination with schools. Continue to work with Kent County and be a part of their Master Plan and granting opportunities. Develop a relationship with neighboring communities to help expand recreational opportunities for both communities. Develop relationships with trail associations to coordinate events and partnership opportunities. **Facilities** – Provide facilities that meet the community recreation needs of the Village and Township of Caledonia residents. Your input is valuable and will contribute to making the new Plan our very own. Please take the time before June 16<sup>th</sup> to be part of the process! Thank you!



### Community Forestry Grant Benefits Our Village

The Village of Caledonia's goal of having a tree in front of every home is closer to reality. The Community Forestry Grant we received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources allowed us to add 30 more trees to our Urban Forest. We concentrated on the main thoroughfares to give the Village a lush and complete feel. The secondary roads are on the radar to continue planting until we complete our mission. The aesthetic benefits of street trees are hard to argue. According the Arbor Day Foundation, health benefits include reduced blood pressure & tension within 5 minutes when people are exposed to trees. Environmental benefits include preventing erosion, consuming carbon dioxide & producing oxygen. The financial benefits are a real bonus. For example: healthy, mature trees add to property values. If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%." Street trees shade the pavement in the summer, preventing the concentration of heat. Excess heat causes the pavement to break down faster, so the placement of street trees actually reduces the cost of maintaining our streets! Finally, trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly & tenants stay longer.

The Village is grateful to the Michigan DNR for allowing the means to promote our tree program!



### Calendar

June 23-26	Western Days
June 27-28	Independence Day Parade & Festivities
July 3	Independence Day - Village Office Closed
July 13	Village Council Meeting 7:00PM
July 23	Village Planning Comm. Meeting-Tentative
August 10	Village Council Meeting 7:00PM
August 28&29	Village Garage Sales
August 27	Village Planning Comm. Meeting-Tentative
September 7	Labor Day - Village Office Closed
September 14	Village Council Meeting 7:00PM
September 24	Village Planning Comm. Meeting-Tentative



### Village Street Sweeping

The Village streets are swept once a month April to September. They arrive in the early morning hours to complete the downtown business district and surrounding streets. This is to accommodate street parking for our businesses.



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A Friendly, Growing Community*

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## **DO YOU HAVE A SUMP PUMP? IS IT CONNECTED TO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM?**



- Basement footing drains and sump pumps that keep your basement or crawl space dry must **NOT** be connected to the public sanitary sewer system. The local ordinance prohibits ground or storm water from being discharged into the public sewer.
- We are experiencing a 25% increase in “wastewater” volume and we believe that a majority of the increase is due to sump pumps that may have mistakenly been connected to the public sewer.
- Approximately 50% of your monthly sewer bill pays for treatment of wastewater at the Village Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- If we are unable to minimize “new” water entering our system (from sump pumps), rates will need to be increased, perhaps as much as \$3.00-\$4.00 per month in the near future.
- If you have a sump pump, please make sure it is not connected to the public sewer system. Call your plumber to disconnect and pump it outdoors or to the storm water drain system.
- If you are unsure, we offer free inspections and assistance, as well as an “amnesty” program for those systems that are discovered and then corrected. Please phone our office 891-9384 to schedule.