

CALEDONIA VILLAGE NEWS

OCTOBER 2009

LEAF COLLECTION

Paper yard waste bags are available at no charge from the Village office or can be requested for drop off at your home by a simple call to 891-9384 or E-mail the office vilof-cal@villageofcaledonia.org. Branches and brush still will be required to be cut to lengths of less than 6' and bundled. Remember, no animal waste or trash is to be included in these bags.

Once the Village leaf collector is brought out, (about the time the leaves really start to fall), it will vacuum up piles

of leaves placed on the lawn area **between the sidewalk and curb, closest to the curb until Thursday, November 12th. (After that, please resume bagging your leaves.)** Try not to place the piles near trees, mailboxes, utility posts or parked vehicles. The vacuum is designed to collect leaves only. Please separate out any brush, rocks, nuts, debris, etc. from your leaf pile to avoid damage to our machine. Try raking the leaves in your back yard onto a tarp to drag them to the curb!

Snow Reminders



Odd Even Parking -November 1 – April 15 between the hours of midnight and 6 AM. Motor Vehicles can be parked only on the even numbered side of the street on even numbered days; and motor vehicles can be parked only on the odd numbered side of the street on odd numbered days. **Cul-du-sac's** pose a plowing challenge. Please help to keep the streets clear of vehicles. Vehicles not adhering to this policy will be ticketed. Remember—there is NO parking on Main Street from Church to Mill from 3AM-6AM ALL YEAR LONG.

Snow from your driveway... Private snow contractors must clear all snow from the public roadways after plowing out private driveways. Residents or contractors can be fined for leaving piles in the street. (State Law!) These piles can cause a real hazard to motor vehicles if they are large or become frozen. Residents are prohibited from blowing or shoveling snow into the streets.



Sidewalk Maintenance... Please clear snow daily from all sidewalks. (Within 6 daylight hours from any time the snow storm shall cease) Taking care not to direct snow at or into any public street. Vacant lots are not excluded from this requirement. For those of you who head south for the winter, please make arrangements to have the sidewalks in front of your entire property cleared regularly.

Please keep your walks clear so that those who use them can stay out of the street. If you must walk in the street, please walk against the flow of traffic so you can see oncoming traffic & snow plows!!! Our plow uses momentum to move the snow, please move out of the way if you see him coming!

Mail Box Post Stability Please check your mailbox post for stability before the winter season comes. Mailboxes and / or supports that are damaged as a result of snow or debris being scraped or plowed into the mailbox / support are not subject to replacement by the Village. Take a moment each year to tighten the screws holding the box onto the post.



Trash Bins, Basketball Hoops, Skateboard Ramps, & Hockey Nets Should not be left close to the edge or in the road to prevent damage from flying snow. Sidewalks should remain clear for pedestrian traffic.



Stakes are placed in strategic places throughout the Village to assist our snowplow driver in locating corners and road edges. **It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep the stakes in place or notify us of the disappearance of those stakes.**



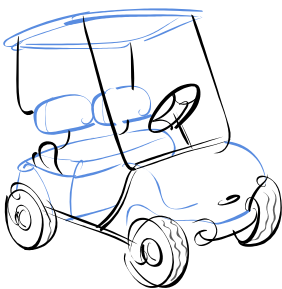
Skateboards & Golf Carts in the Village



Calls voicing concerns about skateboarding & the use of golf carts on Village streets have been received at the Village office. In answer to our inquiries, Lt. Jeff Devries of the Kent County Sheriff has supplied the following documentation from the Uniform Traffic Code for Cities, Townships, & Villages. You can view this document in its entirety online at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/UTC_50201_7.pdf.

The Michigan Motor Vehicle Code does not specifically reference skateboarding on a public street. So skateboarding on the roadway is not inherently against the law as long as that person on skateboard is not violating another portion of the vehicle code or state law. An example of a violation would be if that person on the skateboard, in the public roadway were to interfere with traffic they would be in violation. Michigan Motor Vehicle Code 257.676b(1) *A person, without authority shall not block, obstruct, impede, or otherwise interfere with the normal flow of traffic upon a public street in this state, by means of a barricade, object, or device, or with his or her person.*

The Village of Caledonia has adopted the Uniform Traffic Code (UTC) which does specifically address the use of skateboards. Uniform Traffic Code R28.1204 Rule 204 (2) *A person who is on a skateboard or roller skates, including in-line skates, shall be considered a pedestrian and is subject to all of the rights and duties of a pedestrian, except as provided in subrule (3) of this rule.* (3) *The traffic engineer may designate those roadways and areas where the use of skateboards, roller skates, or in-line skates are prohibited and shall designate these areas through the posting of appropriate signs.* Unless there is an official sign prohibiting the use of skateboards on the roadway, it is perfectly legal for someone to ride a skateboard on the roadway. Legal but not necessarily safe.



Riding a skateboard on private property is another matter. Often KCSD is called when persons on skateboards are riding their skateboards on private business property without permission. When a person enters upon the property of another after having been forbidden to do so, or is on the property of another after being notified to depart and refused to do so, that person would be trespassing in violation of MCL 750.552 (30 day misdemeanor).

Golf carts are not allowed to operate on a public roadway. This would be in violation of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code 257.216 requiring vehicles to be registered in order to be driven on the roadway.

Village Services

- Village Council
- Planning Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Construction Board of Appeals
- Master Planning, Zoning Ordinance & Ordinance Code
- Sanitary Sewer System & Waste Water Treatment Plant

- Storm Sewer System
- Street & Traffic Lights
- Street Signs
- Street Maintenance & Repairs
- Street Sweeping
- Snow Plowing of Village Streets
- Crosswalk & Traffic Control Markings
- Brush, Leaf, & Grass Pick-up

- Yard Waste Bags
- Leaf Vacuum
- Street Tree Planting, Maintenance, & Removal
- Tree City USA—14 Years!
- Flags on Main St
- Christmas Decorations
- Main Street Reconstruction, Parking Lot Improvements & Streetscape 2007

CALENDAR

October 10th	Fall Plant Exchange 9:00 AM - 11:00AM
October 12 th	Village Council Meeting
October 17th	FFA Toy Show @ CHS
October 24th	Make a Difference Day Community Clean-up Duncan Lake & Kraft Meadows Middle Schools
October 31st	Make a Difference Day—Rain Date
October 31st	Halloween – Trick or Treating 6:00-8:00 PM
November 9 th	Village Council Meeting
November 26th	Thanksgiving – Village office closed
December 4th	Santa Claus Parade 7:00PM
December 14 th	Village Council Meeting
December 24th & 25th	Christmas—Village office Closed
December 31	Village office closed
January 1st	New Years Day—Village office closed

Thinking Ahead - Sprinkler Head Locations...

Lots in Glen Valley do not have curbing which makes it difficult while plowing to determine the exact edge of the pavement. With this in mind, it is recommended that sprinkler heads be installed at the edge of the sidewalk facing toward the street as opposed to on the edge of the street facing the sidewalk. Pedestrians will appreciate this in the warmer, walking seasons. If you already have heads on the street side, you should stake them yourself to reduce the odds of having your sprinkler heads damaged or destroyed by the snowplow or parked cars.

**Message from
Jill Harrison,
Village Treasurer:**



Summer property taxes were due 9/14/09. With the Township now collecting them, you may continue to pay them at the Township office through February 2010. However, for any taxes still unpaid, 1% interest was added on 9/15/09 and an additional 1% will be added the first of each month hereafter. An additional 3% penalty will be added during the period of February 17-28 for those taxes still unpaid. Any taxes not paid by February 28, 2010 will be turned over to the Kent County Treasurer as delinquent. Please note, Personal Property Tax payments are accepted at the Township office throughout the year.

Friendly Reminders...

Portable Signs & Banners - Business

owners should keep in mind that portable signs, temporary signs, balloons, sidewalk signs, and banners are prohibited within the Village limits.



Dogs – All dogs in the Village of Caledonia must be confined to your yard or leashed at all times. Loose dogs will be picked up and held by Kent County Animal Control 336-3210. Barking dogs should not be tolerated. Call Kent County Sheriff at 336-3113 with those complaints. Dog owners, please clean up after your pets when they are off your property. If disposing of your pet’s “deposits” in the downtown trash cans, please seal or tie the bags shut to minimize their odor.

Burning

Brush burning is allowed between the hours of 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM, not on any paved streets or sidewalks, or within 10 feet of any building or lot line. Any smoke emanating from such open burning shall **always** be controlled, so as not to be a nuisance to your neighbors. **Bonfires** must be a minimum of 25 feet from any building. No person having started either a brush or bonfire shall be absent at any time. **Trash burning is not permitted** in the Village limits. Notify Caledonia Fire Department before kindling any fires. 891-0140.



Fall Plant Exchange

Saturday, October 10th, a Fall Plant Exchange will be held in the parking lot of the Village & Township Hall, 250 S. Maple beginning at 9:00AM. Please put your divisions in containers or plastic bags marked with their name and color. Contact Lisa Segard at 891-9384 with questions 8:30-2:30 M-Th. Surplus plants will be sold at the Caledonia Township Library. All \$ goes toward the building fund!

Kent County MSU Extension - Master Gardener Hotline Answers to your lawn & garden questions! 336-3881



Welcome New Businesses!

The Village of Caledonia has been fortunate enough to have several new businesses open in recent months. All business owners are invited to contact the Village office and request a ribbon cutting ceremony. We welcome all new businesses and wish them to be prosperous.
A reminder to all residents please shop locally!

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE



Tree lighting ceremony on Monday, November 30 at 7:00 PM at the Clock Tower in Caledonia Village Center.

Friday, December 4 at 6:00PM, come see **Santa** and his helpers in our annual **parade** down Main Street.



www.caledoniamerchants.com for more information

Village of Caledonia

250 S. Maple

Caledonia, MI 49316-9434

Phone: 616-891-9384

Fax: 616-891-9730

Email: VILOFCAL@VILLAGEOFCALEDONIA.ORG

Website: www.villageofcaledonia.org

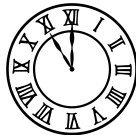
"A Friendly Growing Community"

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:30 – 3:30



Address service requested



Daylight Saving Time Ends—Fall back on Sunday, November 1st at 2:00AM. While adjusting all of the clocks in your home, think about changing the batteries & testing your smoke alarms too!

Village Officials

President

Scott Williamson

Treasurer

Jill Harrison

Clerk

Sandy Ayers

Trustees

Dan Erskine

Glenn Gilbert

Karen Hahn

Craig Mitchell

Sharon Mortensen

Terry Mulvihill

Village Manager

Sandy Ayers

Administrative Assistant

Lisa Segard

Utilities Superintendent

Buff Rodgers

DPW Manager

Roger Loring

DPW Assistant

Jim Tolan

Make a Difference Day Saturday, October 24th



From 9:00 AM to Noon, Duncan Lake & Kraft Meadows Middle School student volunteers will be raking leaves as a community service to those that could use a hand. If you or someone you know would benefit from their help, please contact the Village office prior to Thursday, October 22nd at 2:30 PM. Rain date October 31.

Halloween

This year we will be celebrating on Saturday October 31st from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

The Traffic Squad of the Kent County Sheriff Department will be providing cider & donuts at the former Fire Barn @ 230 Maple Street from 6-8 PM.

