



Village News



Summer 2010

I want to thank all of our Village residents who involved themselves in our recent budget discussions, by offering comments, suggestions and valuable feedback which allowed Council to make more informed decisions for the upcoming fiscal year. Budget discussions are never enjoyable in a tight economy, and the need to tighten our belt even further to provide funds for future infrastructure improvements made this year more painful than usual.

I am pleased to be able to report to you that we were ultimately able to maintain Village service levels as before, while implementing a very modest increase in property taxes of 1.0 mil. The result is still a very tight budget, and the Finance Committee is planning to meet monthly to keep a very close eye on expenditures versus budget to ensure we stay on course.

The way Council, Staff and Village residents handled themselves through this process makes me very proud to serve this community. It is rare these days that civility and respect govern the process, and I am grateful to all that Caledonia is able to rise above the norm. We are fortunate to live in great little community.....let's be sure to keep it that way!

Have a safe and enjoyable Summer!

Scott



Independence Day Celebration Events—Saturday, July 3

***5K Kilt Classic** takes place on July 3rd and begins at 8:00am. Please keep in mind you can either run or walk as a participant. The **Kids' Fun Run** returns, too. This will take place at 9:30am, July 3, on the High School track. Any questions please email Heidi Hilton at zemhilton@yahoo.com or call 616-406-9766.

***Parade** begins at 10:30am. If you would like to be a part of the Parade, line-up begins at 9:45 am in the parking lot on the west side of Duncan Lake Middle School. Park here again for the **Fireworks** which will commence at dusk and will be launched from the same locale as last year.

***Antique Tractor Pull** will take place on Saturday, July 3, with weigh-in at 10:00am and the pull starting at 1:00pm. Enter off Kraft Ave. at the Kraft Meadows Middle school entrance to access the west side of Lakeside Park. Powder Puff (Women only) Tractor Pull immediately following. No tractor required.

*Our afternoon **Celebration** has been moved back to the shade of Lakeside Park. Activities commence at 12:00pm with the singing of the National Anthem and the presence of the Caledonia Legion Post Color Guard. After drawing rave reviews from last year's Celebration attendees, the band "Front Row" will be back to entertain. Later, our very own Caledonia Dance will wow you with their moves, they are always a special treat to watch perform. Look for lots of entertainment for the kids and food booths for all to enjoy. The Frog and Turtle Races will be back. Prizes from the stage will be given out. Watermelon and pie eating contest are always a favorite.

*Please keep in mind that this wonderful family entertainment would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. **Davenport University** has again stepped forward as this year's Presenting Sponsor with a very generous donation. I would like to personally thank all those businesses that have sponsored this year's Celebration whether it was in kind or monetary. You are the best! Terry

*Bring your families and meet your friends. It will be a blast for all. 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 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 2010:

Church Street (between Emmons & Oak)

& Pleasant Street (between Emmons & North)

Please excuse the mess while we improve our Village streets.



Village Garage Sales

August 27 & 28
9AM to 5PM



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.

WESTERN WEEK

The 3rd annual Caledonia Western Week is planned for June 22-25. Be sure to mark your calendars for another week of no cost/low cost family fun. Events will begin at 5:00 pm each evening. Event schedule brochures are now circulating throughout Caledonia. If you have any questions or are interested in helping out with an event, please contact Julie Rines at 260-1472 or Terry Muller at 891-9171. Also, check us out on Facebook! Search: "Caledonia Main Street Western Week"
See you there! Caledonia Main Street Merchants & Western Week Committee



FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds Village Tornado Siren! Spartan Stores contribution pays the match!

It has taken 10 years, but the goal has been attained! Using grant funding (75%/25% match) provided by the Michigan Department of State Police, Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division and a very generous donation by Spartan Stores, the Village has upgraded the antiquated manual tornado siren with a remote model dispatched by the Kent County Sheriff. Located near the Village water tower in Glen Valley, the sound is capable of traveling 1 mile radius, covering the Village, Caledonia Lakeside Park, Caledonia Community Schools and the majority of their playing fields. The siren will be triggered to alert us of extreme wind associated with Severe Thunderstorms & Tornadoes. Kent County has experienced 31 tornados from 1950 to 2009. The entire state of Michigan averages 15+/- tornados per year. See the back page of this newsletter for further information on severe weather alerts.

Caledonia Township

The Kent County Sheriff Department is investigating the arson of a snack building and POD structure located behind 9230 Kraft.

These buildings and contents are owned by Caledonia Youth Baseball League and were destroyed in the fire. The fire occurred sometime during the evening of Saturday 5/29/10 or the early morning hours of Sunday 5/30/10.

There are several rewards being offered including rewards from the Youth Baseball League, Silent Observer and an award of up to \$5000 from the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee. The Kent County Sheriff Department is interested in any information that can help identify the individual/individuals responsible for this arson. Incident number 10-27571.



Lt. Jeff DeVries

Contact Information:

Kent County Sheriff Department Detective Bureau- 616-632-6125

Michigan Arson Prevention Committee- 1-800-44-ARSON

Silent Observer- 774-2345

Calendar

June 22-25	Western Days
July 2 & 3	Independence Day Parade & Festivities
July 5	Independence Day - Village Office Closed
July 12	Village Council Meeting 7:00PM
July 22	Village Planning Comm. Meeting-Tentative
August 9	Village Council Meeting 7:00PM
August 27&28	Village Garage Sales
August 26	Village Planning Comm. Meeting-Tentative
September 6	Labor Day - Village Office Closed
September 13	Village Council Meeting 7:00PM
September 23	Village Planning Comm. Meeting-Tentative



Village Street Sweeping

The Village streets are swept periodically April to November. 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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WHAT DO SIRENS MEAN WHEN YOU HEAR THEM? Seek shelter indoors & tune your radio or television to a local station for official announcements. Outdoor warning sirens are used to advise citizens of possible dangers to the community. Some of these events include tornado warnings or high wind warnings issued by the National Weather Service or chemical emergencies.

WHEN ARE SIRENS TESTED? Local sirens are tested by the Kent County Sheriff dispatch on the first Friday of each month from April through October at Noon.

WHERE CAN I TAKE SHELTER The safest place to take shelter during high winds or a tornado is underground in a basement under something sturdy. If there is no basement, take cover in the center of the house or building on the lowest floor in a small room (such as a bathroom or closet). The more walls between you and the outside the safer you may be. Residents in a mobile home should seek shelter elsewhere at the first sign of severe weather. Contact the Park Manager prior to an emergency for information

on available substantial shelters. If you are in a vehicle when a tornado warning is issued, seek shelter in a safe structure, ditch or ravine away from the vehicle. Do not seek shelter under a highway overpass. If you are out of doors away from any sturdy building, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and hold onto something on the ground if possible.

A Tornado WATCH is issued when conditions are favorable for tornado activity. A Tornado WARNING is issued when a tornado or funnel cloud has been spotted. A funnel cloud is a becomes a tornado when it touches the ground or water.

Visit <http://www.accesskent.com/CourtsAndLawEnforcement/SheriffsDepartment/LEPC/pdfs/KentCountySirensInfo.pdf> for information on creating a family emergency plan & safety kit.

