



CALEDONIA VILLAGE NEWS

JANUARY 2006

From our President:

Dreams can, with dedication and effort, become reality, as proven in recent months by our very own Caledonia High School Football Team. Anyone even remotely connected to the Caledonia Communities found it difficult not to be enthralled at watching their amazing odyssey unfold. Unranked, against all odds, these young men achieved their dream, and brought a State Championship home to a very proud community.

As we enter the New Year, it is customary to reflect on the past and make plans for the future – for most of us, those plans are a mix of short-term reality and long-term dreams.....dreams we hope to see realized, such as a new home or retirement. Communities need to plan also.....and I submit that dreaming is part of that plan.

Just as a dream was born in the minds of a group of Caledonia fourth graders some years ago, so should community dreams be born in the minds of our residents, and business and government leaders. As a community, how do we dream together as a team, to achieve the same greatness we witnessed on the gridiron?

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Scott Williamson



Caledonia Fighting Scot Mascot Fund Drive

The 'State Championship' window decal will go on sale Dec. 21st at each of the schools and at the Village Office. The price for a decal is \$3.00 or 2/\$5.00. These will make great stocking stuffers for Christmas. The proceeds from this sale will go to the 'Scary Scot' retirement fund. The Athletic Boosters are currently researching companies to design and create a mascot that best depicts our school spirit. Donations to that fund can be sent to: Caledonia High School Athletic Boosters 9050 Kraft SE, Caledonia, MI 49316 Mark for the Mascot Fund!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

*Wishing you a healthy and prosperous
year to come!*

Friendly 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-sacs and dead ends pose a plowing challenge. Please park off of the street when snowfall is expected. Wave to Roger as he goes by but don't follow the snow plow too close or you might get peppered with salt.



Rural Mailboxes - Check to see that your mailbox is firmly attached to the post. Snow from the plow can knock off poorly attached boxes. You are responsible to keep your mailbox post in sturdy and stable condition.

House Numbers - Please check your home for adequate size identification from the street. House numbers should be no less 3 3/4" high. Bigger is better! Help our rescue personnel reach you in time!

Speed Limit - The Speed limit in the Village is 25 MPH. Watch out for children... School is in session.

Basketball Hoops - Please move your basketball hoops back away from the edge of the road so that the snowplow doesn't hit them.

Trash Dumpsters—Once the streets need to be plowed, please be certain to keep your dumpster back from the edge of the roadway so that we don't bury or upset it.

School Buses - Allow plenty of distance to stop behind our school buses now that the winter weather is upon us. Snow banks and darkness make for a very dangerous combination.



Drain & Vent Stack Maintenance...

Each plumbing fixture in your home has a drain trap, a J-shaped piece of pipe designed to provide a water barrier between your home and the danger of sewer gas. The trap holds water, which prevents the airborne bacteria and odor of the sewer gas from entering the house. If any fixture is used infrequently, it should be turned on at regular intervals to replace evaporating water and insure that the barrier remains intact. Floor drains should have a gallon of water poured down them monthly.

Another common source of sewer odors is the vent stack located on the roof of your house. Sometimes the vent gets clogged with leaves or other debris thereby cutting off the airflow that ventilates the drain system in your house. Another symptom of this problem is a gurgling sound as air is pulled through the trap into the house when drains are used. Professional expertise may be required to correct this situation.



Change your furnace filter frequently.

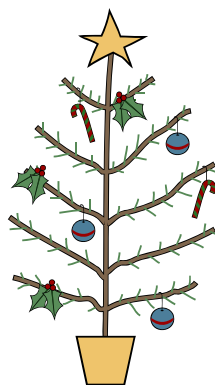
Check your smoke detector batteries regularly.



Thank you for your help in keeping Caledonia a friendly place to live!

Independence Day—Celebration in the Park

Suggestions for new activities to be held at our annual Independence Day Celebration are being sought. If you have any new ideas, please contact Terry Mulvihill of the Independence Day Committee at 891-9974. Many volunteers are needed to have this event take place. Are you interested in helping to organize or run events within the celebration? We would like to invite you to become a part of this important annual event. The event will be held June 30th & July 1st.



CHRISTMAS TREES WILL BE PICKED UP FOR RECYCLING.

Please remove all lights, ornaments, stands and tinsel. Cut trees over 8' tall in half and place the tree away from your regular trash pickup area.



Phone Book Recycling offered at Cascade Christian Church

Your new phone books will be delivered during the month of January. You can recycle your old ones (any brand) at the Cascade Christian Reformed Church (corner of Cascade Road) 2829 Thornapple River Dr. The Books are shredded into insulation by Nu-Wool and they donate it to Habitat for Humanity.

Snow Removal from Public Sidewalks & Streets

Snow on your sidewalks. Please clear snow daily from all sidewalks within 6 daylight hours from any time the snow storm shall cease according to Village Ordinance section 8.9. Taking care not to direct snow at or into any public street. For those of you who head south for the winter, the sidewalks in front of your home **must** be cleared regardless if you are out of town. Unshoveled sidewalks force pedestrians to walk in the street, posing a real threat to their safety. Please make arrangements to have your walks cleared regularly.



Not complying with the Village Snow Removal Ordinance could result in a citation with penalties of \$15.00 for the first offense and \$50 for a subsequent offense, in addition to all costs, damages, and expenses provided by law.

Snow from your driveway. Private snow contractors and the residents they serve should be aware that State law prohibits the disposing of "snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safe vision of the driver of a motor vehicle". The law further states that no snow, ice, or slush can be deposited on any roadway or highway (see MCLA 257.677a). Contractors can be fined for leaving piles in the street. 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.



We recommend that residents who have snowplow service make sure the snow from your driveway is deposited on your own property, not in the road right-of-way, blocking a sidewalk, or a neighboring property. The road right-of-way extends wider than the paved section of the road.

Citizen Police Academy

Under the direction of Sheriff Lawrence A. Stelma, the Kent County Sheriff's Department's Citizen Police Academy has been established to continue the positive relationship between Kent County citizens and the Sheriff Department. The main goal of the Academy is to develop and enhance citizen awareness and understanding of the police's role in the community.

The Academy is designed to be informational as well as instructional. Topics mirror those mandated in traditional police academies across the state. Completion of the Citizen Police Academy, however, does not grant any police powers.

The Kent County Sheriff Department's Citizen Police Academy covers the following topics over a twelve-week period (meeting one evening a week):

- Kent County Sheriff Department history and overview
- Tour of the Kent County Correctional Facility
- Tour of Kent County Sheriff Department and Communication Center
- Patrol officer standards, training, duties and patrol vehicle equipment
- Traffic Division - accident investigation, radar & O.U.I.L. enforcement
- Support Services - Community Policing, DARE, Crime Prevention
- Investigative Division - Detective Bureau, Vice
- Scientific Support Unit
- Use of Force Continuum
- Special Operations - TACT Unit & Marine Division
- Firearms Shooting Simulator
- Legal System - from arrest through the courts

The Citizen Police Academy is open to all Kent County citizens, 18 years of age and older. Participation in the Academy requires a routine background check and waiver of liability. For details on the next Academy, please contact Sgt. Mike Breen at (616) 632-6178 (x4166) or call (616) 632-6116 to leave a message.

Caledonia Cable - Channel 22

Members of the Cable Committee want to know: What sort of programming do you want to see on your local access cable channel? Nature, history, school sports, music, or other programs? Do you have any tapes or videos that you would submit for review to possibly be played on our channel? This is your channel, what do you want it to offer you? Are you happy with the background music or colors and speeds of notices? We want to know! Contact Caledonia Community Cable 891-9330 or Ed Fischer 891-8761.

Newsletter Suggestions

Your quarterly Village Newsletter can serve many purposes. As a reference for those ordinances that you know exist but don't remember the specifics of, as a calendar for local events, or as a source of interesting facts and information about our history and current events. What would you like to see here? After 7 years, I'm starting to tread on old ground. I'm looking for your suggestions! Thanks! Lisa

Village Website

www.villageofcaledonia.org

Just after the first of the year, you can expect the Village Website to be available again. What sort of data would you like to see there? Some possibilities: Building Permits, Planning & Zoning Applications, lists of local contact numbers and links to helpful websites. This is for you. What would you like to see??? Call 891-9384 or email vilofcal@villageofcaledonia.org Thanks! Lisa

Village of Caledonia

250 S. Maple
Caledonia, MI 49316-9434
Phone: 616-891-9384
Fax: 616-891-9730

"A Friendly Growing Community"

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:30 – 3:30

E-Mail vilofcal@villageofcaledonia.org

Congratulations Fighting Scots on your State Championship!



Address service requested



Sewer Bills

Your next quarterly sewer bill will be sent out on the first of January. This is for the period of January, February, & March of 2006. The payment must be received by the 31st of January to avoid penalties. Your quarterly bill will reflect the recent increase to \$17.00 per month or \$51.00 per unit quarterly.



Calendar

January 5	Planning Commission (Tentative)
January 9	Council Meeting
February 7	Planning Commission (Tentative)
February 13	Council Meeting
March 7	Planning Commission (Tentative)
March 13	Council Meeting

Village Officials

President	Scott Williamson	
Treasurer	Jill Harrison	
Clerk	Sandy Ayers	
Trustees	Dan Erskine	Terry Mulvihill
	James Bierlein	Michael Maviglia
	Victoria Peabody	Karen Hahn
Village Manager	Sandy Ayers	
Administrative Assistant	Lisa Segard	
Utilities Superintendent	Buff Rodgers	
DPW Manager	Roger Loring	