



P.O. Box 760042
Lathrup Village, MI 48076

NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Season's Greetings to all

Cambridge Village Association

Established 1952

www.cambridgevillageassociation.org

IT IS LUMINARIA TIME

For more than 60 years, Cambridge Village residents have created this seasonal display which is the envy of other subdivisions. This tradition comes to us from the Southwest, where these are more accurately called farolitos. Some think it first started by using Chinese paper lanterns, but they were a fire hazard and not great for outdoor use, and were costly. Eventually, they switched to using flat-bottomed brown paper bags once those were invented in 1872. We prefer white bags as the light is more visible.

At dusk on Dec. 24th, place your bag at the curb. We recommend cuffing the bag at the top, and use a long match or lighter. Make sure the wick is standing upright and imbed the candle in the sand. If the weather holds, the candle should burn until morning. It is best to check the candle after a bit, sometimes the flame may go out, but generally stays lit on the second try. If you will be away, ask a neighbor to light your luminaria...it looks best if everyone can participate.

A HISTORY OF US

You might enjoy reading an updated unofficial history of our subdivision: <https://tinyurl.com/CVAhistory> and an early brochure promoting the sub: <https://tinyurl.com/CVAbrochure>. If you have anything to add, let us know, as the Board is anxious to preserve any historical facts about our subdivision's past.

RETAIL IN THE NEWS

Something is going on at the old Big Lots on Southfield Rd., but we are not sure yet what it is. You may have heard that Costco has proposed a regular store with gas station in the area behind the former Star Southfield theater, by demolishing the Galleria 1 and 2 office buildings (3 and 4 will stay intact). There are still some hoops to jump through so it is not a firm go as of this writing. The "data center" proposed for 11 Mile/I-696 comes with some controversy, but it is nothing like the ones proposed for Howell and Saline. This one is quite small and should not make much impact on the community. But the City Council is investigating, so watch this space. We note a frozen custard place, Rita's, has moved into the old ink place near the old Panera (now Middle Eats is in that space) in Lathrup Village. Despite being an indoor operation, it is closed for the winter, re-opening in March! Meantime, you can get your custard fix at the new Culver's across from Home Depot which is open every day.

CVA DUES NOTICES ARRIVING SOON

The annual dues (\$10 per household) will be due by Jan. 31, 2026 for homeowners and landlords. Any dues payment received after Jan. 31 will be assessed a \$10 late fee. Payment can be made on the CVA website (credit card via PayPal) or you may send a check to the address in the included envelope. Direct website payment: <https://tinyurl.com/CVAdues>

ALTERNATIVE TO HOME TITLE INSURANCE

There are lots of commercials lately for a paid Home Title Lock company, but you can add free alerts yourself from Oakland County. Go to: <https://www.ocmideeds.com/MIOakland/MVPSearch.WebSite/super-index> or use <https://tinyurl.com/OaklandSafe> then create an account in the upper right ("Login" then "Create Account" at the bottom of the box). Then add an alert, choose "other", put in your address, then choose "add alert" for your address). You can have the alert message sent daily, weekly, or monthly, presumably saying "no activity".

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Special thanks to webmaster **Jamar Wright** for fixing the CVA website that had gone awry