



P.O. Box 760042  
Lathrup Village, MI 48076

# Cambridge Village Association

Established 1952

[www.cambridgevillageassociation.org](http://www.cambridgevillageassociation.org)

## NEWSLETTER

December 2024

### TIME TO LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

During the darkest week of the year, Cambridge will bring forth the light on Dec. 24, just as it has done for more than 60 years. Based on traditions common to New Mexico and the Southwest, this sub-wide event was one of the first in the area and really has no equal in participation.

On Dec. 24, at dusk, place your luminaria at the curb and embed the votive candle into the sand so it is secure. It helps to cuff the top of the bag for stability. It is easiest to light with a long-necked lighter, but if the weather is not perfect, do check from time to time and re-light the flame if it has gone out. For some reason, the second lighting often holds better on a windy evening. If you cannot be home that night, ask a neighbor to light it for you. If the weather holds, the candle should burn until morning.



It is hard to imagine that the Phoenix Desert Botanical Garden puts out 6,000 luminarias; just doing our 288 homes is a major operation with up to 20 participants to make it so!

### ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The CVA Annual Meeting took place on Sep. 26, 2024. It was good to see several first-time attendees, and some new residents. After a summary of the year's activities, there was discussion of proposed bylaws changes. These were mostly clarifications and error corrections, and the attendees approved the changes. (The revised bylaws are on the CVA website, see masthead.) Three new members were elected to the CVA Board: Melva Eddings, Debra Finch, and Saadatu White (term 2024-2026). There was an update on I-696 construction and discussion about drivers running stop signs (please report to 248-796-5500), and of course, the deer. The number of available rental homes has dropped by 40% vs. owner-occupied homes, which indicates increasing home values in the sub. The summer storms hit the sub hard, but overall, there are fewer power outages than a few years ago, so DTE's promised improvements may be helping.

### HIGHWAYS ARE OPEN! FOR NOW...

I-696 is now fully open (well, there is a little bit of work still going on here and there) all the way to Lansing. Telegraph and 8 Mile is open now, and that has switched to the new, safer "double-diamond" style, similar to 12 Mile/I-75 and along Big Beaver (it's terrific and so much safer!). The new flex lanes in Novi will be functional in early 2025.

With this joyous news, it will not last long. We will detail the eastbound closure of I-696 from Lahser to I-75 for the next few years in an upcoming newsletter. Westbound will remain open but may be down to two lanes which sounds miserable. Many of us have lived here long enough to drive our section of the I-696 on its opening day in December 1989, and now it is going to be rebuilt!

**LIGHT THE NIGHT, Part 2:** Especially during the holidays, it is wise to have a light on a timer to indicate you MIGHT be home, to thwart thieves. A totally dark house is trouble waiting to happen. Also, it is a good investment to get a light-sensitive timer for your outside holiday lights (goes on at dusk, stays on for 2 to 10 hours per your choice). This type works even after a power failure...it just resets itself each night, whereas a mechanical timer will be off by hours until you reset it.

**DUES REMINDER:** At the first of the year, you will receive your annual dues notice for the association, \$10 per household, and paid by the home owner, not the renter. The due date is January 31, 2025: pay by then to avoid the \$10 late fee. It is easy to use the CVA website (see the masthead above) to pay by credit or debit card (powered by PayPal), or you can mail a check in the envelope included with the dues notice. Just make sure to **put the home's address** along with your name so your account is credited properly. This may well be the lowest association fee in Oakland County.

**SNOW** is coming, so remember to clear your sidewalks, it is the City's regulation...or you could get a ticket. If you did not clean the leaves from the curb, it is best to do so now. You won't regret it! The leaves will become a sludgy mess, water on the road will back up, and ice will form making things worse. It is a little thing that will pay big dividends.

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