

**REMINDER.....**  
 The filing deadline for **NEW**  
 homestead exemption affidavits  
 is May 1st.

## YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM SPRING 2003

Purchase Yard Waste Tags at the reception desk of the  
 Township Offices from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Tags are \$.85 each**  
**Pick up will be every Monday**  
**April 7 through May 12**

- Please have your yard waste near the curb by 6:00 a.m. to assure pick up. Place a tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches. (No grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand, or rocks please.)
- Please use 30 gal. plastic bags or paper yard waste bags. Sticks should be no longer than 4 feet in length and branches, logs, and stumps are not to exceed 1 inch in diameter.
- Residents 62 years of age or older and residents with disabilities will receive 20 tags FREE!
- This service is only available in the restricted burn area. The yard waste dumpsters will be available behind the Thornhills Fire Station May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

*For more information, please call 949-1500.*

*Note: If you have tags left from last year and intend to use them, please contact the Township Office so your address can be added to the pickup list.*

### Cascade Charter Township

2865 Thornhills Ave. SE  
 Grand Rapids MI 49546  
 phone: 616.949.1500  
 fax: 616.949.3918  
 www.cascadetwp.com

PRST STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT No. 653  
 GRAND RAPIDS MI



Spring 2003

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township



## PHONE NUMBERS

*As many of you have noticed, the Cascade Township phone numbers were omitted from the 2003 Ameritech phone directory.*

*For your reference we will print department phone numbers in each newsletter this year.*

TOWNSHIP OFFICE	949-1500
ASSESSING	949-6176
BUILDING PERMITS	949-3765
CLERK	949-1508
FIRE	949-1320
MANAGER	949-1500
PLANNING	949-0224
TREASURER	949-6944
KENT CO. SHERIFF	632-6188

*On January 22nd, Township Board Members presented our 72nd District State Representative, Glenn Steil, Jr., with a framed copy of the Cascade Township Museum Building painting. The original painting, done by local artist Don Prys, hangs above the reception desk in the Township Offices. Representative Steil will hang the painting in his Lansing office.*



*Representative Steil surprised Board Members on February 26th, showing up at the board meeting to present the Township with a State of Michigan flag that was flown over the State Capitol Building.*

Watch the next edition of this newsletter for information on Gypsy Moth spraying.



## Friends of the Cascade Library Garden Party Set for April 24th

"Booked-for-Lunch" will feature Brent Dennis of Meijer Gardens who will discuss expansion plans and a new children's garden. This event includes lunch and music by harpist Julie Mowery.

Thursday, April 24th  
12:30 p.m.

Thornapple Covenant Church  
6595 Cascade Road SE

Members \$6, Non-members \$8,  
Program only \$2  
Reservations require: 647-3850

## FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT....

- CPR classes are offered through the Fire Department. Call 949-1320 to set up a time for training.
- Blood Pressure is taken by qualified Department personnel at the Thornhills Fire Station Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Want to tour the fire station? Call and set up an appointment.
- The Cascade Firefighters Association continues to sell and install Reflective Address Signs.

## PATHWAY ETIQUETTE

*For the comfort and safety of others using the pathway...*

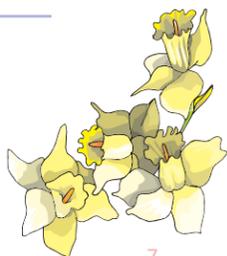
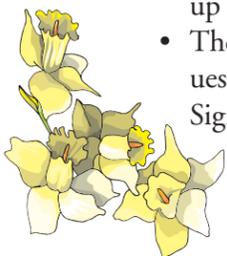
- Always clean up after your dog.
- Walk, run, or cycle on the right side of the trail in the direction you are going. Pass on the left.
- Remember if you wear a headset you may not hear someone approaching from the rear.

## Did You Know?

The picnic pavilions, gazebos, softball fields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, and soccer fields at the Cascade Recreation Park and Leslie E. Tassell Park may be reserved for events. For reservation information, please call Marilyn at 949-0224.

## KENT COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION FOUR-YEAR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLANS

ROAD	PROJECT LIMITS	IMPROVEMENT
<b>2003</b>		
Spaulding Ave.	Cascade Rd. to North of Burton	Sealcoating
Kraft Ave.	60th to North End	Sealcoating
Quiggle	36th to Cascade Rd.	Sealcoating
36th Street Extension	Kraft to Thornapple River Dr.	New five-lane road including curb, gutter, storm sewer and bridges over CSX railway
48th Street	Thornapple River Dr. to Thornapple Bayou	Reconstruct roadway to all-weather standard and replace bridge over Thornapple River
Cascade Rd.	Thorncrest to 36th Street	Reconstruct and widen to provide left turn lane, storm sewer, curb and gutter
<b>2004</b>		
36th Street Extension	Kraft to Thornapple River Dr.	Continued
Thornapple River Dr.	Camel Back Bridge	Replace
48th Street	Thornapple Bayou to Whitneyville	Reconstruct
<b>2005</b>		
60th Street	East Paris to M-37	Reconstruct / Widen
<b>2006</b>		
Cascade Rd.	36th to Whitneyville	Reconstruct
Spaulding Ave.	Burton to Cascade Rd.	Reconstruct
28th Street	Kraft to Cascade Rd.	Resurface





## SUPERVISOR JULIEN MAKES 2003 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

### Planning Commission (Terms expire 12/31/05)

*Jack Lewis has served the Township as a township board trustee, ZBA member, Cascade Community Foundation trustee and member of the Planning Commission. He is a very committed, long-time Cascade resident who will add much experience to our Planning Commission.*

*Fred Goldberg is a former member and chair of the Planning Commission. His experience in planning matters will serve our community well.*

*Melissa Erickson has served three years as first alternate on the ZBA. She is outspoken, has a very good attendance record and has shown great interest in planning issues while on the ZBA.*

### Zoning Board of Appeals

*Claude Robinson has served our community as a member and chair of the Planning Commission. He is also President of the Cascade Community Foundation. His term will expire 12/31/04.*

*Rob Beahan has served on both the Planning Commission and ZBA. He is a longtime resident who is very committed to bettering our community. His term will expire 12/31/04.*

*Mel Casey is a retired real estate director for a bank, a wholesaler and a large commercial real estate broker. He will serve as first alternate until 12/31/05.*

*Chris Estes returned to Cascade after growing up here. He has a variety of work experience with banks and technology companies. He will serve as second alternate until 12/31/05.*

### Downtown Development Authority

*Joann Noto (term expiring 12/31/06)*

*Daniel Wallace (reappointed until 12/31/05)*

*Lorie Chu (term expiring 12/31/06)*

### Parks Committee (Terms expire 12/31/05)

*Michelle Bottrall (second term)*

*Stephen D. Channer*

*Larry Snyder*

*Judy Bouley (Forest Hills Schools representative)*

*Barry Hobrila (Lowell Schools representative)*

## BOARD GOALS SET FOR 2003

### The Township Board compiled and approved the following goals for 2003.

1. Create a community outreach program that would help the Board receive resident opinion.
2. Complete construction of the second river crossing water line as required by the City of Grand Rapids.
3. Investigate the establishment of a sidewalk construction policy for non-residential areas.
4. Complete the Cascade Library expansion study and address the need for a Historical Room in the facility.
5. Review the long-term funding options for staffing, equipment and facility needs of the Fire Department.
6. Develop a Master Plan for McGraw Park.
7. Form a Financial/Budget Subcommittee to plan future financial needs of the Township.
8. Determine the Township's options for our property at 2502 Thornapple River Drive.

## Summer 2003 Tax Bill Changes

Public Act 244 of 2002 requires the State Education Tax (SET) be wholly collected on the summer tax bill. For 2003 only, the SET millage rate will be 5 mills, reduced from the normal 6 mills collected in prior years. Taxpayers will receive a one-year savings on the SET as compensation for the collection timing change. After 2003, the SET millage rate will be returned to the usual 6 mills. The SET millage will no longer be collected on the winter tax bill as it has in the past.

Summer deferments are still available to certain individuals with disabilities, full-time farmers, and lower income seniors who can defer the payment of summer taxes with no penalty until the winter bill is due. Deferment forms are filed yearly with the treasurer's office. The deadline to receive a deferral is September 15th for 2003. More detailed information on this program will be mailed with your summer tax bill during the first week of July.

## SIGN NOTICE

*The current Sign Ordinance, adopted in 1997, completely prohibits the placement of temporary signs in the Township. The most common of these signs include the portable trailer signs, pennants, and banners. All of these signs are a violation of the Sign Ordinance and should be removed. One of the most asked questions is: What are the regulations in regard to Garage Sale signs and Real Estate signs? The answer is: the Township Sign Ordinance regulates both of these types of signs by restricting them to the site on which the garage sale is located and to the property that is for sale. No off-premise signs are allowed. This includes posting signs on telephone and utility poles. The Township actively removes signs that are in violation of the Sign Ordinance. If you would like to retrieve a sign which has been removed by the Township, please contact Darrin McSorley at 949-1500. If you have questions regarding the Sign Ordinance, please call the Planning Department at 949-0224.*

## Plant - Loving Volunteers Needed

*The trees are here and we need your help! The Friends of Thornapple River Drive, an all volunteer group dedicated to restoring the natural beauty of Thornapple River Drive, needs helping hands to plant trees and shrubs this spring. To participate in this community project, call Julie Johnson at 949-2238 or leave your name and phone number with the Township Office (949-1500). Just say you're calling to help The Friends of Thornapple River Drive.*

**To learn more about the project, visit [www.restore-trd.com](http://www.restore-trd.com)**

**For information on the Cascade Historical Society, contact Mary Carpenter at 949-6944.**



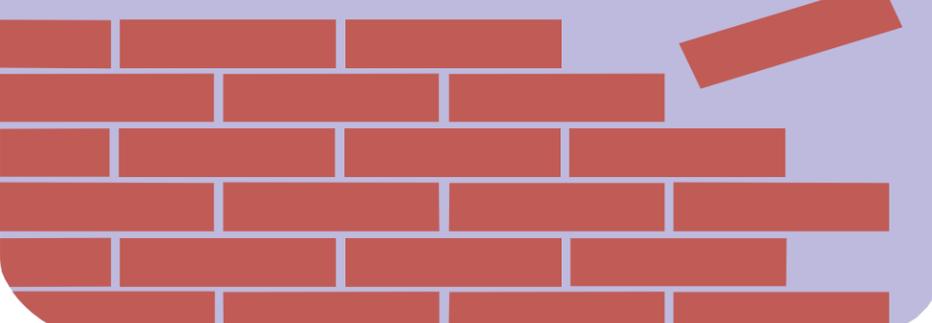


The Veterans of Cascade Township are planning a Memorial Day Program on Monday, May 26, at the Cascade Library, 2870 Jacksmith Drive.



## UNDER CONSTRUCTION!!!

Please be aware that our current website is in the process of being redeveloped. The website at [www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com) is still accessible and we will attempt to keep it as up-to-date as possible. The new site should be online in approximately 2 months. Thank you for your patience.



## Give 'em a Brake!

Don't see RED when you see ORANGE

The employees of the Kent County Road Commission want to thank our Township residents for the positive support given during the winter season.

As we look ahead to another busy summer maintenance and construction program, we want to remind you to drive carefully, especially within Kent County Road Commission's construction work areas. You can make a difference!

When you see the orange signs, barrels, and cones, please slow down and drive alert. With your help, we will have another productive and safe road improvement season.

[www.KentCountyRoads.net](http://www.KentCountyRoads.net)



**Publication Notes.....**  
2865 Thornhills Ave .SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
(616) 949-1500  
[www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com)

**2003 Township Board**  
Michael Julien, Supervisor  
Mickie Kleinheksel, Clerk  
Mary Carpenter, Treasurer  
Robert Timmons, Trustee  
Sandra Frost Parrish, Trustee  
Richard Jones, Trustee  
Ronald Goodyke, Trustee

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
Claude Robinson  
Jack Lewis  
Rob Beahan  
Barbara Wilson  
Robert Timmons  
Mel Casey  
Christopher Estes

**Planning Commission**  
Eric Richards  
John Nuereberg  
Tom McDonald  
Lorissa MacAllister  
Jim Koessel  
Jack Lewis  
Fred Goldberg  
Melissa Erickson  
Richard Jones

**Community Foundation**  
Mary Carpenter  
Michael Julien  
Jack Lewis  
Sandra Frost Parrish  
Claude Robinson  
Susan Roeder  
Pat Vredevoogd

**Board of Review**  
Paul Schurr  
Bruce Poppen  
Barb Manus-Averill

Editor: Jeanie Neve

## SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

After the recent electrical accident, which resulted in some power outages or surges, a few suggestions came to mind that we would like to pass along to our residents.

We have had several reports of smoke detectors and Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) devices that have tested satisfactorily but do not operate properly when tested with smoke. GFCI device outlets and breakers come equipped with a test button. Regular testing is recommended but not always correct when done only with the test button. Home Center stores now have available a tester designed for GFCI devices that is inexpensive, accurate, and easy to use.

Smoke detectors stand guard in our homes year after year but often are not maintained or tested. Whether your smoke detector is electric, battery, or low voltage, we recommend using an approved test spray that is available at a Hardware or Home Center store. After testing the integrity of the device is a good time to install new lithium batteries.

If testing these devices identifies defective equipment, replace it immediately.

Please contact myself or one of our electrical inspectors at 949-3765 if you have questions.

Butch Visser  
Building Official

## HELP WANTED

Buildings and Grounds Department

Applications are now being accepted for full-time seasonal (April - October) positions.

Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Maintenance of township parks
- Maintenance of township buildings
- Maintenance of pedestrian pathways
- Maintenance of flower beds and landscaping
- Maintenance of village streetscapes
- Maintenance of power equipment
- Mowing and trimming
- Trash removal and disposal

General knowledge of, and experience with power equipment is necessary. Mechanical and carpentry skills desired.

Pay rate for these positions will be \$9.27 per hour.

Applications are available at the Cascade Township Offices, 2865 Thornhills SE, or contact Darrin McSorley at 949-1500.

## CASCADE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

"The mission of the Cascade Community Foundation is to enhance the quality of life in Cascade by building a permanent endowment fund."

A charitable gift to the Cascade Community Foundation is welcome at any time of year. Our foundation was started in 2001 as a component fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, the oldest community foundation in Michigan. The Grand Rapids Community Foundation assists with administrative support and investment expertise so that our seven member Board of Trustees can focus on the charitable needs of the Cascade community.

When you make a gift to the Cascade Community Foundation, it joins a pool of resources given by other donors in a permanent endowment fund. Your gift can save substantial money with the Michigan tax credit. Check with your financial advisor regarding your specific situation.

If you have questions regarding the Cascade Community Foundation, please call Claude Robinson at 285-4747 or Susan Roeder at 682-0150.

