

# Cascade Connections

Winter 2004

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

## Office Hours

Monday  
through Friday  
8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

## Holiday Closings

The Cascade Township Office  
will be closed December 23rd,  
24th, 25th, and 31st.

## Department phone numbers:

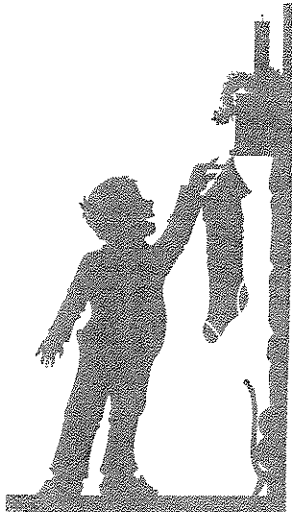
Manager .....	949-1500
Clerk .....	949-1508
Treasurer .....	949-6944
Assessing .....	949-6176
Planning .....	949-0224
Building / Inspections .....	949-3765
Fire .....	949-1320
Sheriff .....	336-3113

*Happy Holidays*

*from your Township*

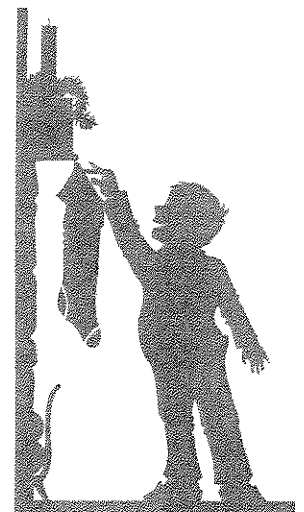
*Board, Commissions,*

*and Office Staff*



## Toys for Tots

Cascade Township Fire Station, 2865  
Thornhills Avenue, is a drop-off site for new,  
unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots.



## 2004 Winter Tax Bills

Winter tax bills were mailed to all property owners during the first week of December. This tax bill is due without penalty by 5:00 Tuesday, February 14, 2005.

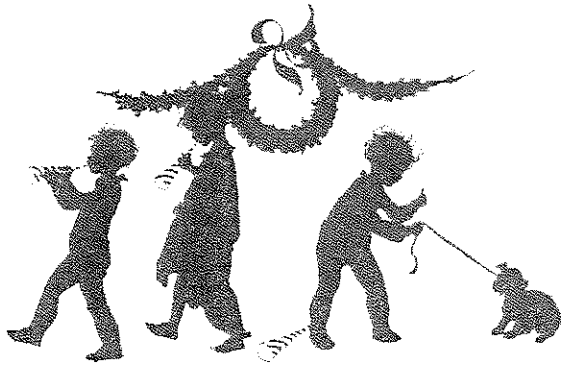
### Procedure for Mailing Tax Payments

1. Mail Early. Please use return envelope provided with your tax statement. Payments are receipted on the business day they are physically received in the Treasurer's office. We recommend that you allow seven (7) days for mail handling. The Treasurer's Department is NOT responsible for delays in the postal system.

2. Return Receipt. If you would like a paid receipt returned to you, please mail in your entire bill. We will stamp the top portion of the statement "paid" and return it to you. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment.

3. Make checks payable to:  
Mary J. Carpenter, CMFA  
Cascade Charter Township

Late payments which do not include penalty and interest will be applied as a partial payment.



## Snowplowing

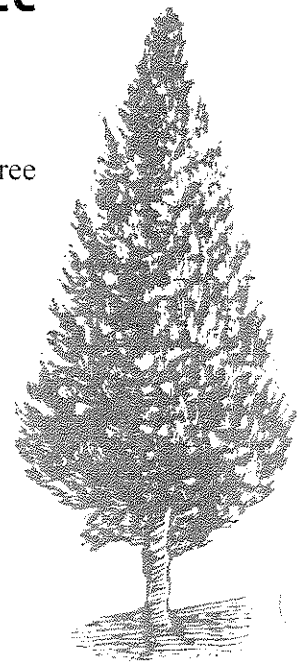
Snowplowing contractors and the residents they serve should be aware that State law prohibits the disposing of "snow, ice or slush onto or across a roadway in a manner which obstructs the safe vision of the driver of a motor vehicle". The law further states that no snow, ice or slush can be deposited on any roadway or highway (see MCLA 257-677a).

We recommend that residents who have a snowplow service make sure the snow from their driveway is deposited on their own property, no in the roadway, the road right-of-way or a neighboring property. The road right-of-way extends wider than the paved section of the roadway.

If you call the Township with problems or concerns regarding a snowplow contractor, it is helpful if you can identify the contractor.

## Christmas Tree Recycling

Bring your used Christmas tree to the parking lot above the tennis courts at the Cascade Recreation Park from December 26th to January 10th for recycling. Please remember...trees can be dropped off only during park hours.



# Connections

## Paying Your Property Taxes By Credit Card

You may now pay your property taxes by credit card. Payments may be made by telephone or on the internet with AMERICAN EXPRESS, DISCOVER, MASTERCARD AND VISA.

To pay by credit card on the internet, simply visit [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) and go to the Payment Center link. You will be prompted to enter Jurisdiction Code 3230. You will also be notified of the convenience fee that will be charged based on the amount you are paying. The fee for a tax bill in the amount of \$1,000 would be \$30. The Township does not receive any of this fee.

To pay by credit card over the phone, call Official Payments Corporation toll-free at 1-888-272-9829 and follow the instructions. You will be prompted to enter Jurisdiction Code 3230 on the telephone keypad. When you call, you will be informed of the convenience fee charge based on the amount you are paying. You will be given a confirmation number at the end of the call which you should keep for your records. Your payment will be effective on the day you make the charge.

### Support Your Local Cascade Historical Society

## FOR SALE

**Heirloom Quality  
Keepsake Afghans  
\$75 each**



Give a Piece of History to Family and Friends

Each afghan is embroidered with Cascade Township's most significant historical sites.

Afghans are 100 percent loomed cotton and machine washable.

Proceeds will help fund construction of the future History Rooms at the Cascade Library.

Five colors are available while they last.

Please stop by the Township Offices at 2865 Thornhills Avenue SE to make your purchases. Thank you!

## Dog Licenses

Dog licenses will be available at the Township Offices from December 1, 2004 through March 1, 2005.

This year you may purchase or renew a dog license on the internet at [www.kentcounty.org](http://www.kentcounty.org). After March 1st, licenses may be purchased only at the Kent County Treasurer's Office or at the Animal Shelter. Bring the post card that you received in the mail from the Health Department along with the current rabies certificate good for the next 30 days and proof of neutering from your veterinarian. License fees for 2005 are as follows:

Female/Male	\$20.00	8
Unsexed	\$9.00	5

Citizens over 62 years of age are eligible for a discount.

## Winter Driving Safety Tips

Once again, the snow, ice, and sleet are here. While driving in the winter months, there are several things we should do in order to stay as safe as possible while traveling on the roadways.

Preparing for winter driving:

1. Before you even take your vehicle out onto the road, have a tune up done on your vehicle.
2. Test your brakes, battery and check fluid levels.
3. Prepare an emergency kit to keep in your trunk. This kit should include cat litter, shovel, ice scraper, jumper cables, blankets, flashlight, and a cell phone for emergencies.
4. Keep your fuel tank as full as possible. The added weight will help your traction on the slippery ice, and a small amount of condensation in your fuel lines could freeze so your vehicle will not start.

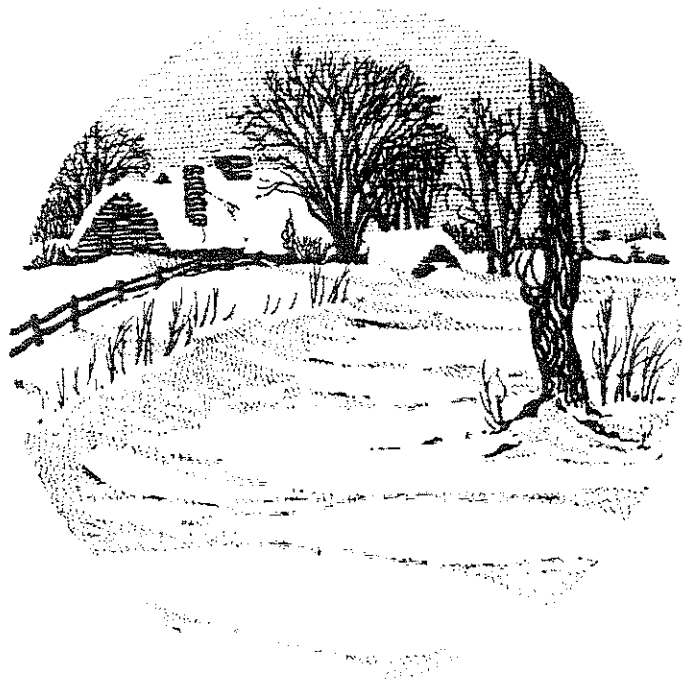
Safe Winter driving tips:

1. Warming up your vehicle: Always pull the car out of the garage so the carbon monoxide does not build up.
2. Frost: Prior to driving, make sure you scrape all the frost off of all the windows.
3. Snow: Brush all the snow off of windows, headlights, taillights, mirrors, and your license plate.
4. Braking: Always be mindful that the slippery roads require additional braking distance, so make sure there is extra space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.
5. 4X4: If your vehicle has four wheel drive, it may help you get started faster, but it will not help you stop any better. A four wheel drive vehicle can lose traction just as fast as a regular two wheel drive vehicle.

Before traveling, know what the road conditions are and listen to the radio for accidents that are on roads you plan to travel. Also, make sure to allow extra time for traveling.

Please keep these things in mind as you travel this winter. If you have any questions or there is something that is not addressed in this article that you have questions about, please feel free to contact me.

Kent County Sheriff Department  
Community Service Unit  
Deputy Ryan Coil  
632-6435  
[Ryan.Coil@kentcounty.org](mailto:Ryan.Coil@kentcounty.org)



# Connections

Publication Notes.....  
2865 Thornhills Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
(616) 949-1500  
www.cascadetwp.com

Township Board  
Michael R. Julien, Supervisor  
Ron Goodyke, Clerk  
Mary J. Carpenter, Treasurer  
Robert Beahan, Trustee  
Brian Currier, Trustee  
Sandra Frost Parrish, Trustee  
Jim Koessel, Trustee

Zoning Board of Appeals  
Rob Beahan  
Jack Lewis  
Mel Casey  
Gary Crawley  
Christopher Estes

Planning Commission  
Eric Richards  
Jim Koessel  
Fred Goldberg  
Jack Lewis  
Lorissa MacAllister  
Brian Logue  
Tom McDonald  
Claude Robinson

Community Foundation  
Claude Robinson  
Susan Roeder  
Jack Lewis  
Mary Carpenter  
Sandra Frost Parrish  
Pat Vredevoogd  
Michael Julien  
Rob Beahan  
Carl Kerekes  
Bill Green  
Michelle Bottrall

## Cascade Township wishes to thank the following Township Board Trustees for their service over the years:

Ron Goodyke  
Richard Jones  
Mickie Kleinheksel (Clerk)  
Robert Timmons

And welcomes the new Trustees to the Board:

Robert Beahan  
Brian Currier  
Ron Goodyke (Clerk)  
Jim Koessel

## Welcome

Cascade Township has welcomed a new deputy Treasurer, Mildred Pinder, on November 1st. Mildred has retired after 25 years of working for the Kent County Fiscal Services Department. She and her husband, Curtis, have four grown children. Her hobbies include reading, music, golf and bowling. Please stop by to welcome Mildred to Cascade.

## Election Wrap-Up

The 2004 Presidential Election is now in the history book and once again Cascade Township made its own history. Cascade Township had a record voter turnout of 88.81213% citizens casting their ballots. Congratulations! We had the largest turnout in Kent County, which includes 9 cities and 21 Townships. We also took first place in the 2002 Election.

A special thank you to everyone who made this election possible: all the voters who stood in long lines (especially in the morning) and waited patiently to cast their vote, and to the election workers who put in a long and extremely busy day (several missed their lunch).

A hearty thanks to those who lend their facilities to use without charge. We realize that it entails a lot of wear and tear on the facility as well as additional work for the custodian.

Forest Hills Administration Building  
Thornapple Evangelical Church  
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church  
Cascade Christian Church (2 Precincts)  
Thornapple Community Reformed Church  
Cascade Fellowship CRC

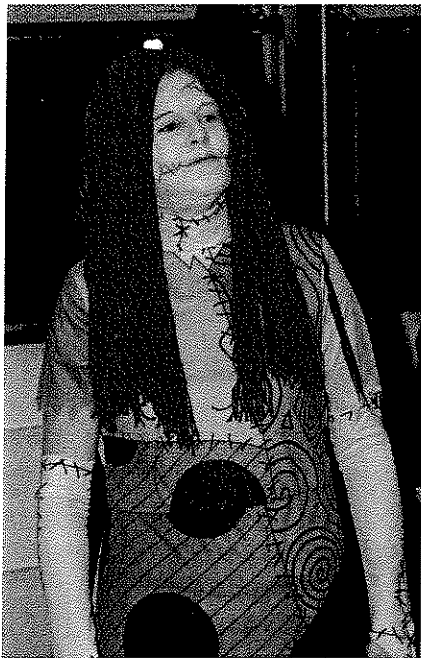
We appreciate your willingness and cooperation in providing excellent accommodations for the election process. We couldn't hold elections without your generosity. Thanks again!

## Halloween Party

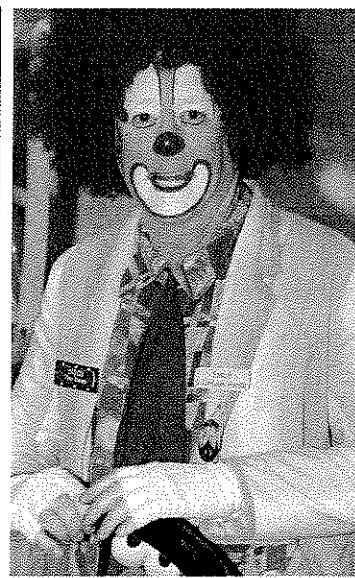
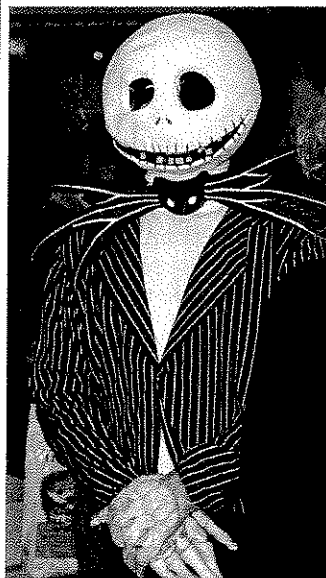
On Saturday, October 30, Cascade Fire Station 1 was transformed into a haven for ghosts, goblins and scary creatures from across the Township. Over 700 costumed kids were treated to a large bag of goodies and treats. Apple cider, donuts, cookies and coffee were provided for the kids and their parents.

To wrap up the evening, a costume contest took place and prizes were given for different age groups. The age groups ranged from 1 day old - 4 years old, 5 years - 9 years, 10 years - 18 years and over 18 years old. The top vote getters in these groups received special prizes; however, due to the tough competition in these categories, all contestants received prizes for their involvement in the costume contest.

We appreciate your participation in this Halloween event and look forward to seeing you next year.



Images Courtesy of  
[www.lookatyourpictures.com](http://www.lookatyourpictures.com)



# Connections



## Thank You to the Halloween Party Sponsors

On behalf of Cascade Township and the Cascade Township Fire Department, we would like to send a special thank you to the following businesses and sponsors for their donations and contributions to the 2004 Halloween party. Without the help of these businesses, we would not be able to host this event. Please take notice of these businesses and express your appreciation of their help with the Halloween party.

Acosta	Impact Collision
AmeriSuites	Independent Bank
Amoco	Joe & Beverly Albright
Applebee's	John M. Shipley
Arby's	Kingsland True Value
Bank One	Koenes Auto Body
Baseball Card City	Libation Station
Batson & Associates	Mama's Pizza
Best Cleaners	McDonald's
Big Boy	Meadowbrook Mobil
Blackie's T.V.	Medawar's Jewelers
Bond Insurance - Mike Bond	Meijer, Inc.
Brann's Steakhouse & Grill	Napa Auto Parts
Carlos O'Kelly	National City Bank
CarQuest	Northern Jet Management
Cascade Automotive	Noto's Italian Dining
Cascade Barber Shop	O'Neill's Body Shop
Cascade Car Wash	O'Neill's Transmission
Cascade Engineering	Panera Bread
Cascade Firefighter's Association	Pepsi
Cascade Hospital for Animals	Perkin's Family Restaurant
Chemical Bank West	Powell Moving
Citgo	Red Roof Inn
Comercia Bank	Rick Veldman - First Horizon Home
Crowne Plaza	Loans
D&W Food Center	Rite Aid
David & Lynne Deering	Sam's Club
Days Inn	Sentinel Pointe
Elan Nutrition	Standard Federal
Family Fare	Tuffy Muffler
Family First Chiropractic	United Bank
Family Video	Verburg's Automotive
Fifth Third Bank	Yummy Yummy Café & Deli
Gordon Food Service	Walgreen's
Hampton Inn	WalMart
Hershey Foods - Gwen Berry	Wiltse & Co.
Huntington Bank	Wolverine Vending



# **Cascade Connections**

## **Writer's Workshop**

The Cascade Historical Society is planning a winter writer's workshop. Our workshop will be held in two evening sessions, January 13 and March 10, at the Cascade Museum.

Save those dates and watch the  
Township website

([www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com)) for more details on these workshops, which will assist you in recording the life history for the generations that follow.

### **Cascade Charter Township**

2865 Thornhills Ave SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49546  
phone: 616.949.1500  
fax: 616.949.3918  
[www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com)

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