

Cascade Connections

Winter 2005

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

Holiday Closings

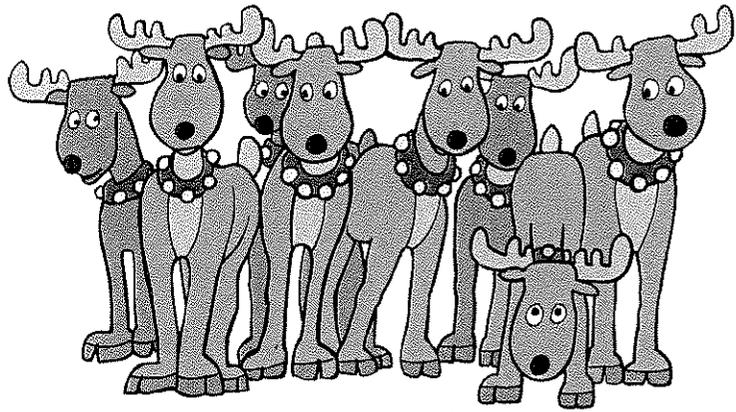
The Cascade Township Office will be closed Friday, December 23rd, Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Bring your used Christmas tree to the parking lot above the tennis courts at the Cascade Township Park from December 26th to January 11th for recycling. Please remember . . . trees can only be dropped off during park hours.

Happy Holidays!!

Happy Holidays



from your Township Board,
Commissions and Office Staff

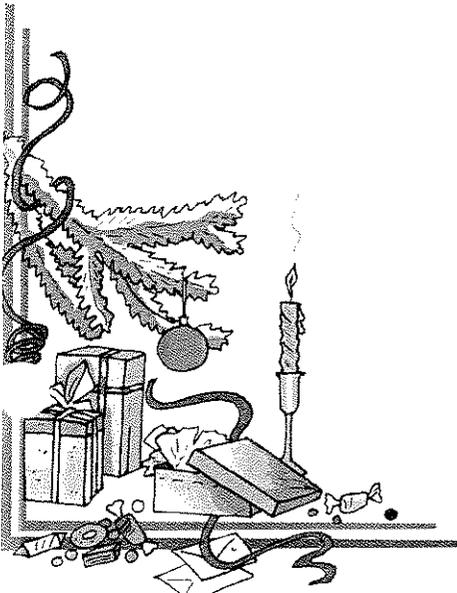
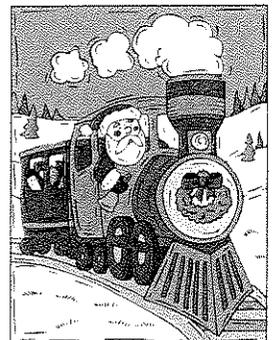
ANGEL TREE

Cascade Township is proud to participate in the Angel Tree Program. The Angel Tree program allows a person to select a tag from the tree that represents a child in need. After the gift is purchased, place the tag on the unwrapped gift and return it to Cascade Township or any Angel Tree site. All toys collected will be delivered in time for the children to have a Merry Christmas.

If you would like to participate in the Angel Tree program, please stop at the Cascade Township Office, located at 2865 Thornhills Ave. to select a tag. Gifts must be returned by December 19.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Cascade Township Fire Department is accepting toys for the Toys for Tots Program. You may drop off new, unwrapped toys at the Fire Station, located at 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE from November 18th through December 31st.



Cascade

A Note from the Kent County Road Commission

WINTER MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Now that the winter season is upon us, your Kent County Road Commission would like to make you aware of a few winter maintenance practices that will help minimize this winter's impact on you.

Trucks are dispatched based upon priorities that provide service to the heaviest traveled roads as follows:

- State Trunkline roads and major County primaries;
- Medium and low volume primary and local collectors;
- Plats and lake drives;
- Cul-de-sacs.

Plats, lake drives and cul-de-sacs are not plowed on weekends unless snow accumulation is over five inches.

Snow from driveways and parking areas is not permitted to be deposited into or across the public roadway. Doing so creates hazards for our plow drivers and motorists.

Snow removed from drives should be placed to the side of your driveway in the direction traffic is flowing. This will prevent our plows from depositing it back into your driveway. Our plows have to make multiple passes during and after a storm; therefore, snow will be deposited into your drive more than once.

Mailboxes are not targets that we aim for! Occasionally we will strike a box, and if we do, we will repair or replace it with a standard Kent County Road Commission box and post assembly, but only after all plowing operations are completed. The majority of calls we receive for mailbox damage are due to snow being plowed into the mailbox. We do not repair or replace boxes and posts damaged due to snow impact.

Sprinkler systems placed in the road right-of-way are the property owner's responsibility and are not repaired by the Kent County Road Commission.

Please keep children away from roadside snow banks. Our drivers have difficulty seeing children playing in

and on the snow banks.

Remove abandoned and parked vehicles near the roadway to prevent accidents/damage.

Cul-de-sacs are not deposit areas for driveways. Placing snow in the cul-de-sac makes our job more difficult and results in snow buildup in the cul-de-sacs.

Winter deicing materials become less effective when temperatures approach 20°F and below.

Snow removal trucks need to make frequent stops and back up movements, especially at intersections. Do not crowd in behind trucks. If you cannot see the driver in the truck's side mirror, then they will not be able to see you!

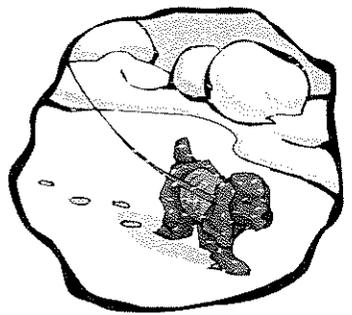
As you enjoy the winter season, please drive carefully and safely!

DOG LICENSES

Dog licenses are available December 1, 2005 through March 1, 2006 at the Township office. Please bring the post card from the Health Department along with the current rabies certificate good for the next 30 days and proof of neutering from your veterinarian.

This year you may also purchase or renew a dog license on the internet at www.kentcounty.org

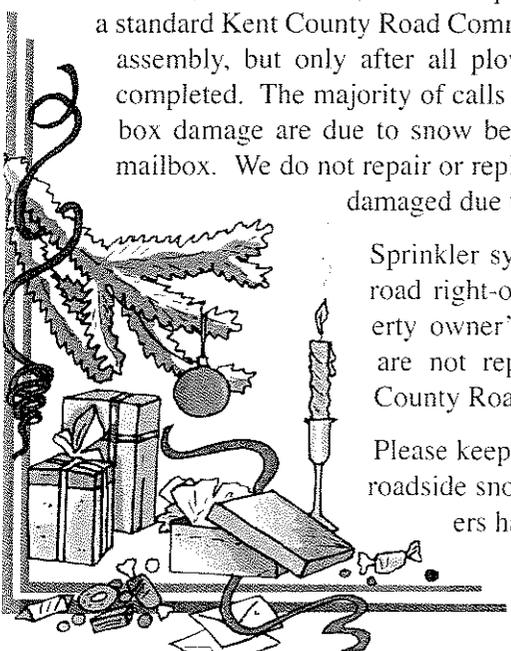
License fees for 2006 are as follows:

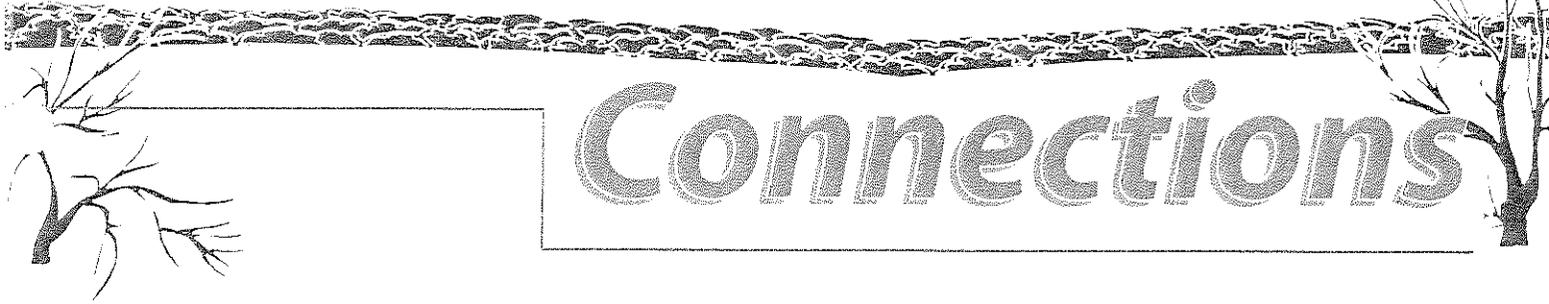


	Regular	Discount
FEMALE/MALE	\$20.00	\$8.00
UNSEXED	\$9.00	\$5.00

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

After March 1st, licenses may be purchased only at the Kent County Treasurer's Office or at the Animal Shelter.





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WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

Once again, the snow, ice, and sleet are on the way. The following tips will help keep us safe while driving during the winter months.

Preparing for winter driving:

Before you take your vehicle on the road, have a tune up done.

Test the brakes, battery and check fluid levels.

Prepare an emergency kit to keep in your trunk. This kit should include cat litter, a shovel, an ice scraper, jumper cables, blankets, a flashlight, and a cell phone for emergencies.

Keep the fuel tank as full as possible. The added weight will help with traction on the slippery roads, and a small amount of condensation in the fuel lines could freeze and keep your vehicle from starting.

Safe Winter driving tips:

Warming up your vehicle: Always pull the car out of the garage so carbon monoxide does not build up.

Frost: Prior to driving, scrape the frost off all the windows.

Snow: Brush snow off windows, headlights, taillights, mirrors, and your license plate.

Braking: Always be mindful that the slippery roads require additional braking distance. Make sure there is extra space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.

4X4: Please keep in mind that vehicles with four wheel drive may get better traction when starting out, but can lose traction when stopping just as quickly as a two wheel drive.

Before traveling, know what the road conditions are. Listen to road reports and be mindful of accidents in case you need to alter your route. Allow extra time for traveling in case of last minute traffic backups.

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 a question about, please feel free to contact me.



Kent County Sheriff Department
Community Services Unit
Deputy Ryan Coil
632-6435
Ryan.Coil@kentcounty.org

Support Your Local Cascade Historical Society

Give a piece of Cascade history to family and friends this holiday season. Share your love of the Cascade area with an Heirloom afghan, a Cascade Chronicle, a fun map of Cascade or Note cards.

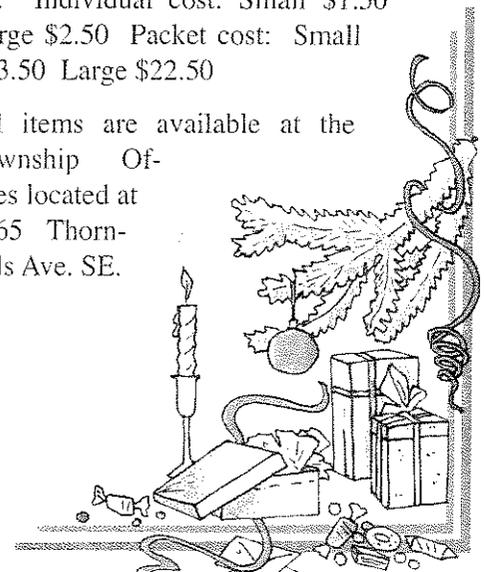
Heirloom Afghans are embroidered with some of Cascade Township's significant historical sites. Afghans are 100 percent loomed cotton and machine washable. Five color selections are available. Cost \$75.00

The Cascade Chronicles was published in 1987. Our history book contains memories and history collected by Historical Member Marjorie Mallory Wykes and her committee. Cost \$10.00

Fun Maps of the Cascade area with roads and public sites are available. Cost \$5.00

Note cards have a pen and ink sketch of the Cascade Museum Building. They are available individually or in packets of 10. Individual cost: Small \$1.50 Large \$2.50 Packet cost: Small \$13.50 Large \$22.50

All items are available at the Township Offices located at 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE.



Cascade

2005 WINTER TAX BILLS

Winter tax bills were mailed to all property owners the first week of December. This tax bill is due without penalty by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 14, 2006.

Payment Methods

Mail Early. Please use the 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. Postmarks are not accepted.

Return Receipt. If you would like a paid receipt returned to you, please mail 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.

In person at Cascade Township office located at 2865 Thornhills Ave SE.

E-Z PAY- The tax payment is taken right out of your checking or savings account. E-Z Pay guarantees your tax payment will be made on time. Just fill out the form enclosed with your tax bill. Applications must be submitted two weeks prior to the tax payment date selected.

Credit card payments will be accepted through the Official Payments program until 5:00 pm February 14, 2006. Call 1-800-272-9829, or visit their website at www.officialpayments.com. Our Jurisdiction Code is 3230. The provider for this service charges a fee. Payment by credit card may not be made at the Township office.

Make checks payable to: Mary J. Carpenter, Treasurer.

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

Thank You to Sponsors for Pathway Walk

The Cascade Community Foundation wishes to thank everyone who participated in and helped to sponsor our 2005 Pathway Walk. You all helped to make the event very successful!

A special thank you goes to our

PRESENTING SPONSORS:

Tom & Joyce Wisner



Thank you also to our **HAPPY TRAILS SPONSOR!**

MEIJER

Our "Skippin' Along Sponsors" really helped make the event a fun one!

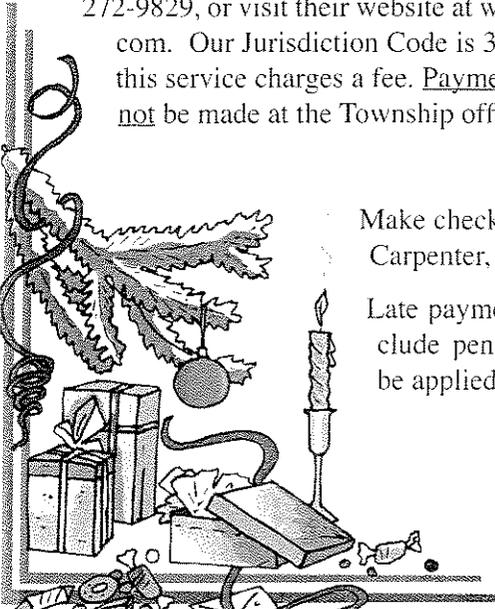


A nice place to be!

Williams
Kitchen & Bath

FOREST HILLS

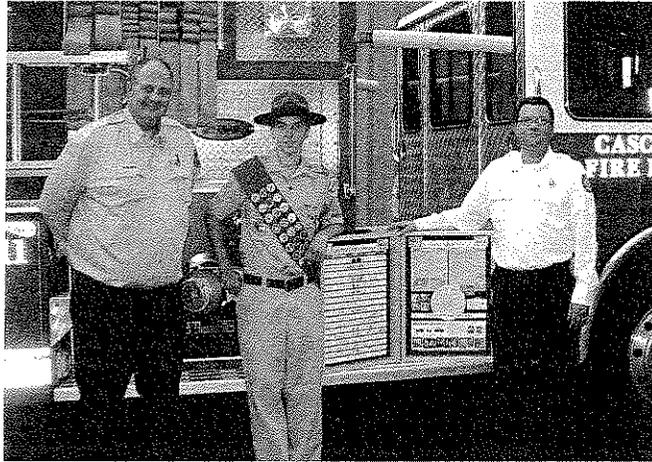
Thanks also to the "I love to Walk Sponsors!"



Connections

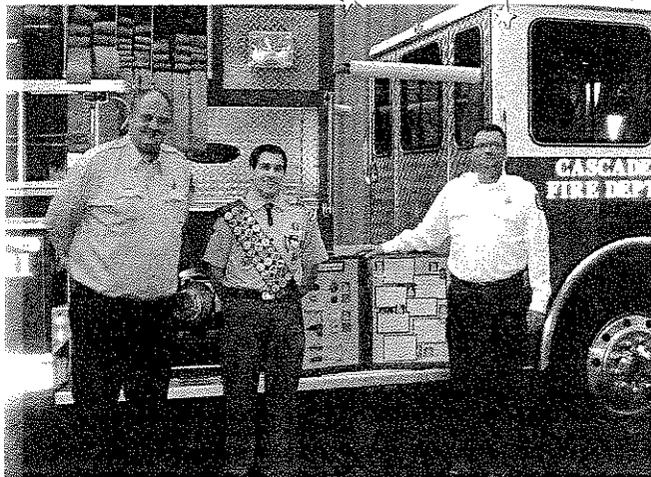
EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Tony Helmholdt, son of Charles and Diane Helmholdt, was recently honored by the Cascade Fire Department for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Tony built a cabinet that shows examples of over-the-counter pills and medications that look similar to candy. The cabinet displays examples of pills and common household chemicals that young children can easily mistake for candy, food or drink. This cabinet will be used by the Fire Department



Dean Korhorn, Fire Inspector, Tony Helmholdt, John Sigg, Fire Chief

for demonstrations at safety fairs, schools and other events. It will also be used by the DeVos Children's Hospital Regional Poison Center for their safety events. Tony is an Eagle Scout of Troop 334 of the Gerald R. Ford Council. He attends Grand Rapids Community College. Thank you Tony and congratulations from all of us at Cascade Fire!



Dean Korhorn, Fire Inspector, Christopher Magnifico, John Sigg, Fire Chief

Christopher Magnifico, son of Tom and Cindy Magnifico, was recently honored by the Cascade Fire Department for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Christopher built a cabinet that displays cigarette lighters that look like toys. The display has lighters that look like cars, boats, guns, radios and kids toys. This display will show adults that not all cigarette lighters look the same and will assist them in recognizing potential dangers to help keep all lighters away from children. The

cabinet will be used at neighborhood association events, fire safety events and displayed at schools. Christopher is an Eagle Scout of Troop 290 of the Gerald R. Ford Council. He is a senior at Forest Hills Central High School and active in the band. Thank you Christopher and congratulations from all of us at Cascade Fire!



New Faces in Assessing

Assessor: Patricia Armstrong-Bolle has been hired as the new contractual Level IV Assessor for Cascade Township. She has replaced Richard Cleveland, who retired this June. Patti is owner of Assessment and Valuation Services (AVS), which is located in Haslett, MI.

Board of Review Member: Sara Fazio has been selected to replace Phyllis Danielson-Gille as the new member of the Board of Review beginning March 2006. Sara resides in Cascade Township and is an attorney at Stenger & Stenger in Grand Rapids.

The Assessing Department and Cascade Township welcome both Patti and Sara.

Cascade

Year End Appeal

Dear Cascade Residents,

The year 2005 has been an eventful year for *The Cascade Community Foundation*. Now into our fifth year, we are, as anticipated; at the point in which we are now beginning to gain some exciting momentum. Our goal all along has been to build an endowment fund from which to make grants to cultural, recreational, and social programs and initiatives that benefit the folks of Cascade.

It's happening! In 2005 *The Cascade Community Foundation* continued to raise funds through various appeals and special events. Because of the incredible generosity of individuals and businesses, we have grown the endowment fund and were able to make the first grant for the River Beat concert series held this past summer at the Leslie E. Tassell Park. The River Beat Concerts were so successful that we are currently planning on adding additional concerts to the series.

Our next project for *The Cascade Community Foundation* is to begin distribution of the Cascade Directory. This project was another fund raiser initiative, but also a benefit to all of the businesses and residents of Cascade. It is designed to be a handy directory of all our friends and neighbors in Cascade, as well as our business partners.

We need your help in order to maintain the momentum. ***Would you please consider a year-end contribution to the Foundation?*** Your dollars do make a difference. As an all volunteer board driven only by a passion for our community, you have our commitment to the highest level of stewardship and accountability. And, because of a partnership agreement with The Grand Rapids Community Foundation which allows for very low administrative costs, almost all of your financial contribution goes directly into the endowment fund.

Also, please remember that donations to a community foundation in Michigan qualify for a special state tax credit. And, the Ketra Act allows for some additional tax credits for donations made through the end of 2005. Please seek the advice of your tax preparer for additional information on these two benefits.

Thank you for helping to make 2005 a pivotal year for *The Cascade Community Foundation*, and we hope you can join us in making 2006 an even more eventful year.

The Cascade Community Foundation

Below are some websites that may be of interest.

Cascade Charter Township - www.cascadetwp.com

Kent County - www.accesskent.com

Kent County Road Commission - www.kentcountyroads.net

Register of Deeds - www.accesskent.com/YourGovernment/RegisterofDeeds/deeds_index.htm

Health Department - www.accesskent.com/Health/HealthDepartment/HealthDepartment.htm

Kent County Sheriff Department - www.accesskent.com/CourtsAndLawEnforcement/SheriffsDepartment/sheriff_index.htm

State of Michigan - www.michigan.gov

Campground and Harbor Reservations - www.midnrreservations.com

Child Day Care Centers and Homes - www.dleg.state.mi.us/brs_cdc/sr_lfl.asp

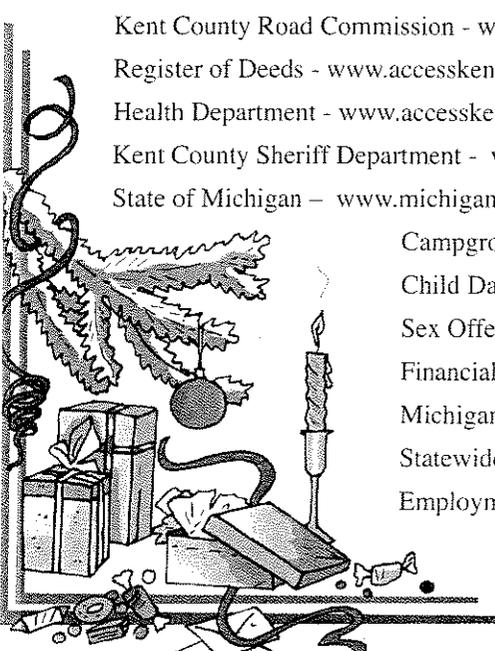
Sex Offenders Lookup - www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1589_1878_24961---,00.html

Financial Aid and Scholarship Information - www.michigan.gov/som/0,1607,7-192-29940_32268---,00.html

Michigan History - www.michigan.gov/som/0,1607,7-192-29938---,00.html

Statewide Lane Closures - <http://mdotwas1.mdot.state.mi.us/public/LaneClosure>

Employment Resources - www.michigan.gov/som/0,1607,7-192-29943_31422---,00.html



Connections

Halloween Party

On Monday, October 31, Cascade Fire Station 1 was transformed into a haven for ghosts, goblins and scary creatures from across the Township. Over 800 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.



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 2005 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	Culver's	National City Bank
Amoco	D&W Food Center	Noto's Italian Dining
Applebee's	David & Lynne Deering	O'Neill's Body Shop
Arby's	Days Inn	O'Neill's Transmission
Bank One	Elan Nutrition	Panera Bread
Baseball Card City	Family Fare	Pepsi
Batson & Associates	Family First Chiropractic	Perkin's Family Restaurant
Best Cleaners	Family Video	Powell Moving
Big Boy	Fifth Third Bank	Red Roof Inn
Blackie's T.V.	Hampton Inn	Rick Veldman – First Horizon Home Loans
Bond Insurance – Mike Bond	Hershey Foods – Gwen Berry	Rite Aid
Brann's Steakhouse & Grill	Huntington Bank	Sam's Club
Carlos O'Kelly	Impact Collision	Sentinel Pointe
CarQuest	Independent Bank	Spartan Stores
Cascade Automotive	Joe & Beverly Albright	Target
Cascade Barber Shop	John M. Shipley	Tuffy Muffler
Cascade Car Wash	Kingsland True Value	United Bank
Cascade Engineering	Koebes Auto Body	Verburg's Automotive
Cascade Firefighter's Association	Lake Michigan Credit Union	Walgreen's
Cascade Hospital for Animals	Mama's Pizza	WalMart
Chemical Bank West	McDonald's	Wiltse & Co.
Fitgo	Medawar's Jewelers	Wolverine Vending
Comercia Bank	Meijer, Inc.	Wrigley Sales Co.
Costco	My Personal Credit Union	
Crowne Plaza	Napa Auto Parts	



Cascade Connections



Recreational Vehicle Storage

Please remember that the storage of recreational vehicles (RV), including boats, travel trailers, motor homes, sea doos, snowmobiles and other vehicles of similar nature is prohibited in all front yard areas from December 1st to May 15th. Recreational vehicles may be stored within any enclosed building or in the side yard, provided they are located a minimum of five (5) feet from the property line. Any RV stored on the property must be owned by the property owner. If you have questions, please contact the Township Office at 949-1500.

Cascade Charter Township

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

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