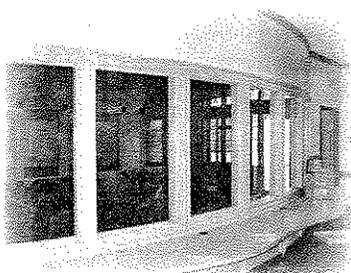


CASCADE CONNECTIONS

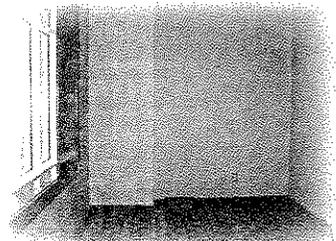
Spring 2006

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

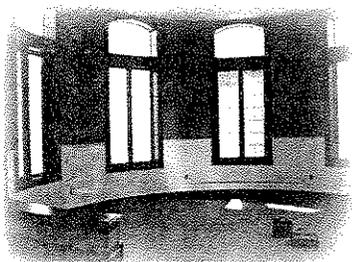
PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE WISNER CENTER RIBBON-CUTTING



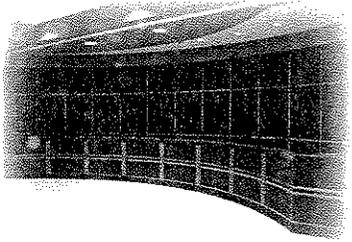
Doug & Maria DeVos & Family Teen Room



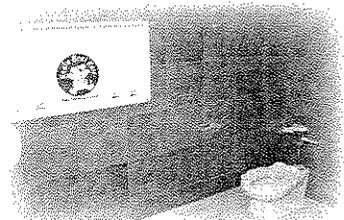
Study Room
donated by Patrick & Lynne Marie Quinlan



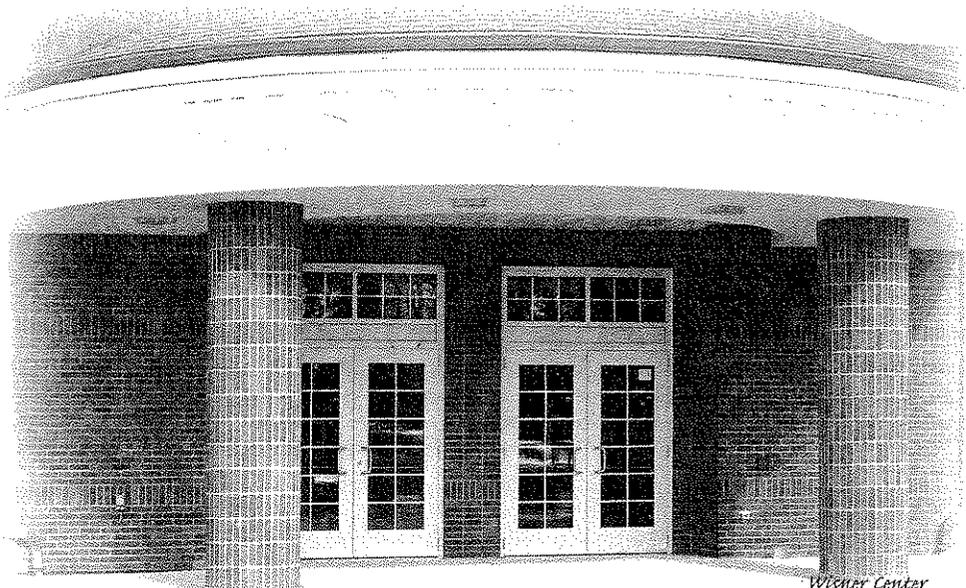
Dan & Pam DeVos & Family
Early Literacy Room



Meeting Dias



Kids Bathroom

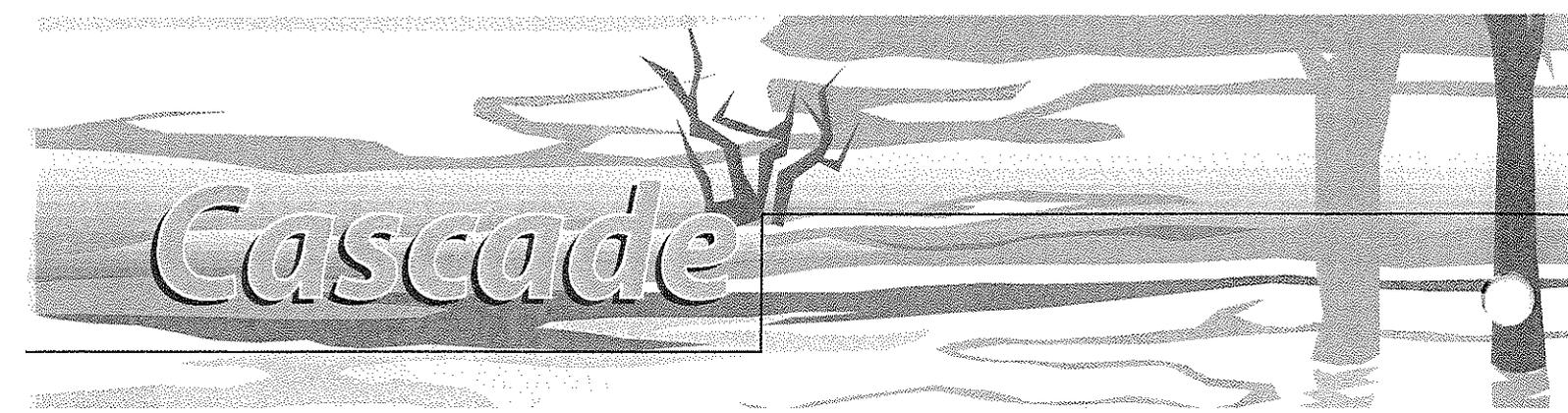


Wisner Center

*Realizing the possibilities at The Wisner Center
in the newly renovated
Cascade branch of the Kent District Library.*

*You and your family are cordially invited to attend
the dedication of this exciting new facility at
2870 Jacksmith Avenue SE.
on Sunday, April 23 at 2:00 p.m.*

Tours, refreshments, and fun activities for all ages will follow the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Cascade

BOARD SET GOALS FOR 2006

Tax Payment Information Available on the Web

With the IRS income tax filing deadline approaching, our taxpayers may need to verify the amount of property tax paid in 2005. For their convenience, this information is available thru a link on the Township's website. The link will connect them to our software provider, BS&A, for information on property taxes and assessing information.

Instructions for our web site are:

www.cascadetwp.com

- ① Departments
- ① Treasurer's Department
- ① Tax & Assessing information
- ① Click on the link to BS&A
- ① On the left side of the screen click Current Tax Search
- ① Enter your parcel number, name (last name only) or address
- ① Click Search button at the bottom of the screen
- ① Scroll down for tax year/season; Amount Paid & Date Paid
- ① If you want more detailed information, click on the plus sign
- ① On the left side of the screen is Property Information. Click one of the other buttons for more information on your property.

If you have not paid your 2005 real estate property taxes, we can no longer accept payment at the Township. Please contact the Kent County Treasurer's Office at 616-632-7500 for the amount due.

- Create a plan for future pathway extensions and timeframes for implementation also consider funding options for pedestrian pathway beautification.
- Review opportunities and decide on land acquisition for open space preservation.
- Develop a policy to replace Township vehicles with fuel efficient vehicles, including hybrids.
- Review benefits and costs of a community-wide tornado alarm system.
- Complete evaluation of the feasibility of a high speed wireless network for designated areas of the township, including unserved commercial and industrial areas.
- Investigate and identify ways to add efficiency in our Township government's structure, departments, outsourcing, job duties and develop a 5-year personnel plan.
- Perform a historical building and farm inventory and consider historical preservation options.
- Investigate incentives for energy efficient building practices.
- Form a government / business task force to recruit industrial businesses Cascade's industrial area.
- Investigate new opportunities to expand the Township's service roles with surrounding communities.

PASSPORT NEWS

Please remember if you need a passport to travel...

The Cascade Township Office will accept passport applications Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

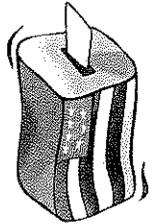
Each applicant will need to complete an application and bring:

- Certified Birth Certificate or Previously Issued US Passport or Certificate of Naturalization
- Two "Passport" Photographs
- Valid Drivers License or State Issued ID (That of a parent if the applicant is under 16 years of age or both parents if the applicant is under 14 years of age)
- Application Fee – Separate check or money order
For Each Applicant - \$67 if 16 years of age or older
- \$52 if under 16 years of age
- Execution Fee – Cash or Check \$30 per applicant

All applicants, including children, must appear at the time of processing. Passport applications for those under 14 years of age must be signed by both natural parents. Please allow 6-8 weeks for routine service. Expedited passports can be completed in 2-3 weeks for an additional charge of \$60.00 per applicant.

Connections

ELECTION NEWS



On May 2 there will be an election for school board members at Forest Hills, Caledonia and Lowell.

Forest Hills voters will be asked to vote for two unopposed candidates. They are Lynn Buchanan and Walter Perschbacher III.

In Lowell there are three candidates, Todd R. Smithee, Peter Haefner and Patrick Nugent running for two positions.

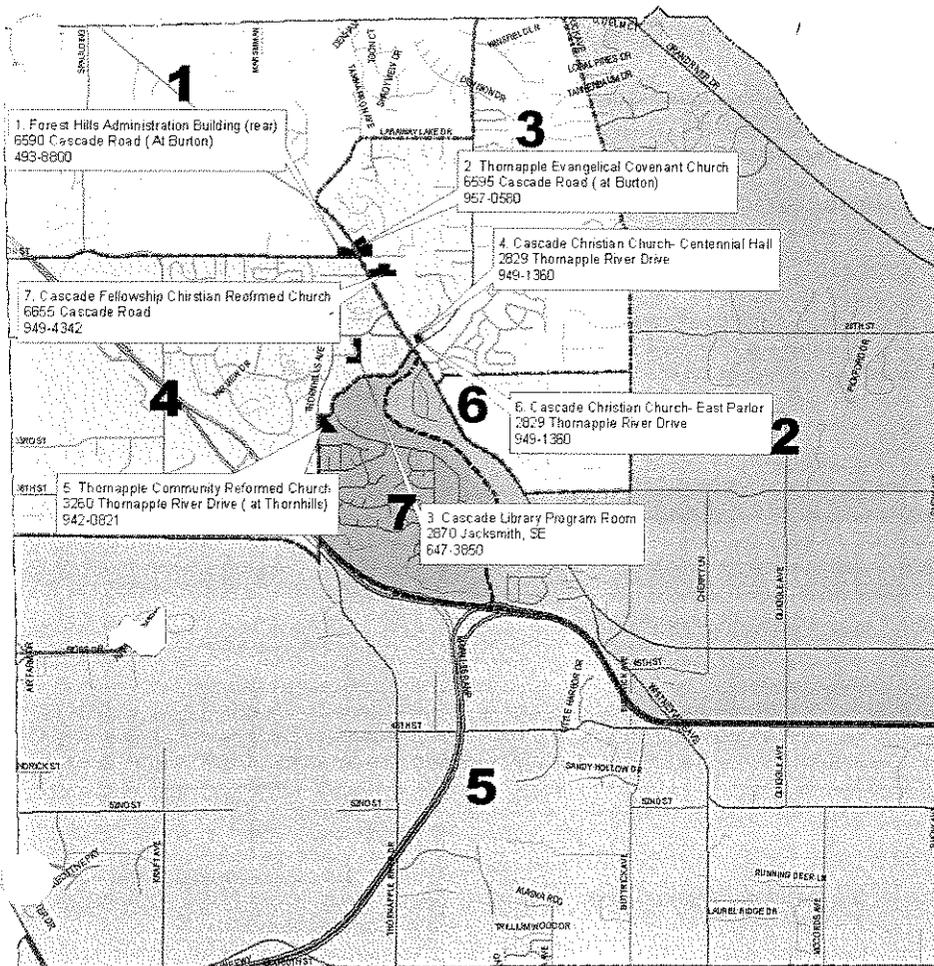
Lowell Area Schools will also vote on restoration of the 18-mill non-homestead levy. This millage applies only to industrial, commercial, business, rental and second homes. Voters will see two proposals on the ballot, one to renew the 18 mills and one to override the Headlee rollbacks. This does not affect the millage on owner-occupied primary residences.

Caledonia voters must choose two members of the Board of Education from a field of six candidates. Running are: Ken Yonker, Walter Fish, Pat Johnson, Bernard Nagel, Brad Walbridge and Randy Wilcox

Caledonia voters also are voting on the renewal of the 18 mill non-homestead tax levy.

The polling places will be the same as last year.

The information below is also available on the Cascade Township website at www.cascadetwp.com.



Precinct Locations 2006

- 1. Forest Hills Administration Building (Rear)
- 2. Thomapple Evangelical Covenant Church
- 3. Cascade Library Program Room
- 4. Cascade Christian Church- Centennial Hall
- 5. Thomapple Community Reformed Church
- 6. Cascade Christian Church- East Parlor
- 7. Cascade Fellowship Chirstian Reformed Church

Cascade

Cascade Township office is open to process passport applications daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please call the Clerk's office at 949-1508 if you have any questions.

2006 GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING PROGRAM

By the first week of June, the Gypsy Moth Spraying Program will be underway in targeted areas throughout the township (see accompanying map). The Township will have 1,223 acres of property sprayed this year. This is an increase in the number of acres being sprayed when compared to previous years.

Our consultant has indicated that last season's weather and growing season were good for the moth. Fortunately, the density of the egg masses is still reasonably low so no major defoliation or nuisance problems are expected.

The program area will be sprayed with a non-toxic biological agent called *Bacillus thuringiensis* or "Bt". Here are some of the most common questions about gypsy moths.

What does "Bt" do to gypsy moths?

Gypsy moth larvae pass through different life stages: egg, caterpillar, cocoon and adult. Trees are endangered by the gypsy moth at the caterpillar stage only. When the caterpillar eats leaves sprayed with "Bt", it releases a protein that damages their stomachs. The caterpillars become sick and stop eating. During the next two or three days, bacteria enters the caterpillar's blood, eventually killing them.

Is "Bt" dangerous to people, pets and livestock, or other beneficial insects?

One of the benefits of "Bt" is that only young caterpillars are affected. "Bt" is harmless to people, even at high dosages. "Bt" does not harm other mammals, birds or fish. Most beneficial insects, including honeybees and ladybugs, are not affected.

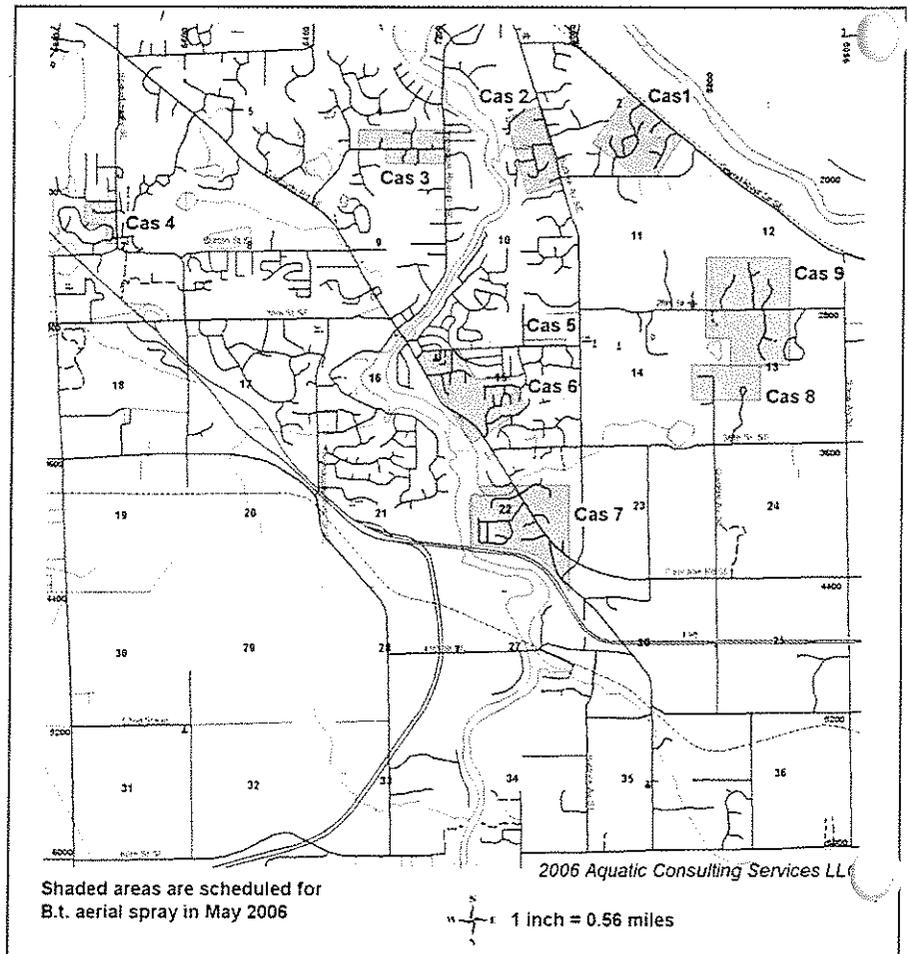
What does a gypsy moth caterpillar look like?

The mature caterpillar reaches a length of approximately two inches. The caterpillar can be identified by the distinctive color pattern on its back. It will have a series of blue colored spots that are grouped in pairs, followed by a series of red spots grouped end to end. The head is beige with dark marks. It has no silk tents. They are usually attached to the bark of the tree trunk.

Visit the Cascade Township website www.cascadetwp.com and you will find more information on identifying the gypsy moth caterpillars.

Remember, the gypsy moth does its damage during the caterpillar stage, which is during mid-May to mid-June. If your trees are being defoliated later in the summer, it's caused by something other than gypsy moths.

Cascade Charter Township Gypsy Moth Treatment Areas 2006





Connections

YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM SPRING 2006

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 \$1.00 each

Pick up will be every Monday
From April 10 through May 8

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.

Each calendar year, residents 62 years of age and 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 April 28th, 29th and 30th.

For more information, please call 949-1500.

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

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

Cascade Township is offering a spring clean up day this year in conjunction with Ada Township. The spring clean up day will be held on Saturday, May 20th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Kent County Road Commission building at the end of Fase Street in Ada Township.

Any resident of Cascade Township (you must show your driver's license) is welcome to bring trash, household items or yard waste. Appliances are welcome, however, the Freon must be removed prior to dropping the appliance off or you may be charged. No household hazard waste products or tires will be accepted. For household hazardous waste disposal, please contact the Kent County Department of Public Works at 336-2501.

If you have any questions regarding spring clean up, feel free to contact Sandra Otey at 949-1500 or by email at sotey@cascadetwp.com.

KENT COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS

The following road projects have been proposed by the Kent County Road Commission in years 2006 and 2007. Please keep in mind these projects are subject to change.

ROAD 2006	PROJECT LIMITS	IMPROVEMENT
Spaulding Ave	Burton to Cascade Rd	Pulverize existing pavement and resurface from north of Burton to approximately 500 feet south of Cascade Rd. Reconstruct and widen northerly 500 feet to provide additional left turn lane storage south of cascade Rd and improve sight distance.
Patterson Ave	44th to 36th	Resurface with thin concrete overlay (whitopping)
36th	At Patterson	Reconstruct and widen for dual left turns onto Patterson Ave. Work includes curb and gutter, storm sewer, pavement markings and signal modifications.
Whitneyville Ave	I-96 to Cascade Rd	Sealcoating
McCords Ave	60th to 52nd	Sealcoating

Local road overlays will be reviewed by KCRC maintenance department and Township Manager in the spring.

2007		
Patterson Ave	28th to 36th	Resurface
Cascade Rd	36th to Whitneyville Rd	Resurface
28th Street	Kraft to Cascade Rd	Resurface

The filing deadline for NEW Primary Residence Exemption affidavits is May 1st.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

The Library Advisory Board (LAB) has two vacancies it needs to fill. The LAB meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining this board, please submit a letter of interest to Michael Julien, Township Supervisor, 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

LOST AND FOUND

We occasionally find lost items in our Parks and place them in our lost and found. The items we are currently housing are:

- A camera
- A watch

If you are missing one of these, please call our office at 949-1500 or stop by to identify it.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

April 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cascade Library Wisner Center
Call the Library to reserve your spot!

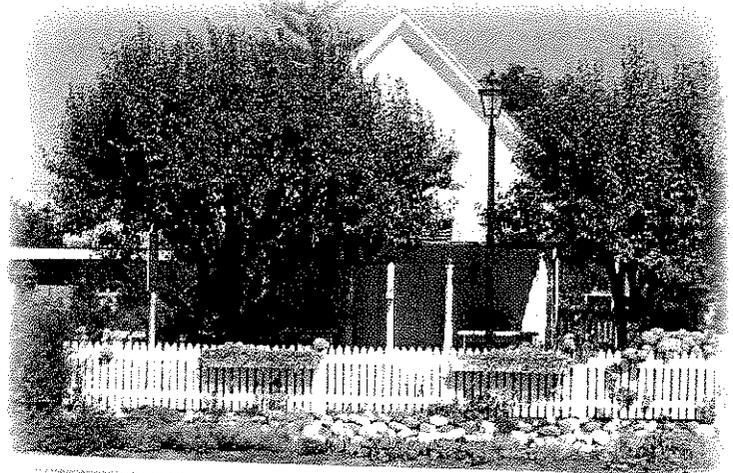
647-3850

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

The Veterans of Cascade Township are planning a Memorial Day Program on Monday, May 29th, at the Cascade Library, 2870 Jacksmith Drive. Join them at 10:00 a.m. to honor veterans of all wars and conflicts.

CASCADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History is literally in the making as the new Wisner Center addition of the library will have a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday, April 23rd at 2:00 p.m. with an open house to follow. The Cascade Historical Society will be on hand to guide



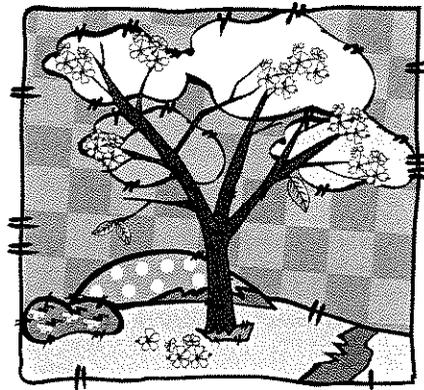
people through its new History Room with featured exhibits on the history of the library and Cascade Township. We encourage residents to join us for the opening. The Township museum building (see photo) will have larger exhibits in the future.

SPRING FLOWERS

As remembered by Jesse Vanden Berg April 1984

When the Kent County airport was graded and built, the tamarack trees in a large swamp were cut down and the swamp filled in. Tamarack swamps were not common in this area and this swamp always harbored deer and other wildlife.

When the I-96 interchange was built on 28th Street, a small swamp on the north side of the road was filled in. This was the home of the lovely fragrant, evergreen vine, the trailing arbutus that would blossom in the spring.



Until recently, the rare fringed gentian could be seen in swampy areas along the banks of Cascade's School Creek.

I never see the birdfoot violet now, but when we were kids hiking to Shuman School, we picked what was called sand pansies on the roadside along Kraft Avenue. I scan the roadside carefully every spring, but the pansies are gone.

The Historical Society meets the first Thursday of the month and welcomes all who are interested in Cascade Township history. If you are interested in attending a meeting or would like to join the Historical Society, please call 949-6944.

Connections

EAST PRECINCT NEWS . . .

It has been brought to my attention that solicitors are beginning to work in the Cascade Township area once again. This is not only a problem for our township, but for most of the Kent County area.

All solicitors, even those soliciting for charitable, nonprofit or religious purposes, in Cascade Township are required to have a permit, issued by the township. If a solicitor approaches your residence, ask to see their permit from the township. If they are not able to produce one, please contact the Kent County Sheriff's Department dispatch at 632-6100. Please try to provide our dispatchers with a description of the subject, a description of a vehicle, and which direction they are traveling. If the subjects are traveling by car, please try to obtain a license plate number.

This will help the responding officers contact them, if they are not able to be located in your area.

If your subdivision or neighborhood has signage displayed stating "No Solicitors" or "No Trespassing", persons with solicitation permits may only approach residences by appointment.

If you have ongoing problems with one person or group of people soliciting in your neighborhood, please feel free to contact me with any questions or information you might have.

Deputy Ryan Coil, East Precinct Community Services
632-6435 • Ryan.Coil@kentcounty.org

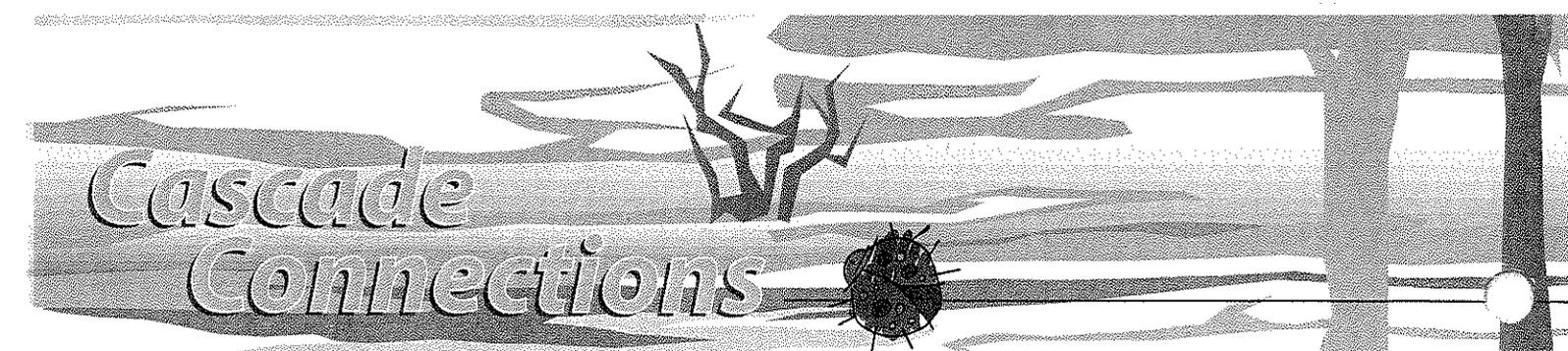
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Below are some phone numbers and websites that may be of interest to you.

Cascade Charter Township Office	949-1500
Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	
Passport Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	
Assessing Department	949-6167
Building Department	949-3765
Clerk's Office	949-1508
Fire Department – Non-Emergency	949-1320
Manager's Office	949-1500
Planning Department	949-0224
Treasurer's Office	949-6944
Consumers Energy—Report a power outage	800-477-5050
Consumers Energy—Report a Burnt Out Streetlight ...	800-477-5050

Kent County 63rd District Court	336-3570
Kent County Animal Shelter	336-3210
Kent County Road Commission – Main Number	242-6900
Kent County Road Commission (South Complex) – Potholes	336-2982
Kent County Road Commission (South Complex) – Snowplowing Issues	336-2982
Kent County Sheriff's Department – East Precinct Non-Emergency Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	632-6394
Kent County Sheriff's Department – Non-Emergency	632-6100
Kent District Library – Cascade Branch	647-3850

Cascade Charter Township	www.cascadetwp.com
Kent County	www.accesskent.com
Kent County Road Commission	www.kentcountyroads.net
Kent County Register of Deeds	www.accesskent.com/YourGovernment/RegisterofDeeds/deeds_index.htm
Kent County Sheriff Department	www.accesskent.com/CourtsAndLawEnforcement/Sheriffindex.htm
Kent County Health Department	www.accesskent.com/Health/HealthDepartment/HealthDepartment.htm
State of Michigan	www.michigan.gov
Campground and Harbor Reservations	www.midnrreservations.com/
Child Day Care Centers & Homes	www.dleg.state.mi.us/brs_cdc/sr_lfl.asp
Public Sex Offenders Registry	www.mipsor.state.mi.us/
Michigan History	www.michigan.gov/som/0,1607,7-192-29938_30240---,00.html
Travel & Recreation	www.michigan.gov/som/0,1607,7-192-29907---,00.html
Employment Resources	www.michigan.gov/som/0,1607,7-192-29943_31422---,00.html



Cascade Connections

PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY ETIQUETTE

Cascade Township maintains approximately 17 miles of pedestrian pathways for Township residents to enjoy. However, for the comfort and safety of pathway users, please remember the following:

- 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.
- If you are on a bicycle or rollerblades and are approaching a pedestrian from the rear, please use common courtesy when passing.
- Remember that cyclers 14 years and under are required to wear a helmet.

ATTENTION: DOG OWNERS

Please remember there is an ordinance regarding leashes and cleaning up after your dog. The ordinance states that all dogs on public or private property other than their own shall be controlled and on a leash not exceeding twenty (20) feet in length at all times. It goes on to state that any person shall not permit a dog to commit a nuisance within the Township by defecating upon any public or private property without the consent of the owner or person in lawful occupation of such property. Remember to clean up after your dog. These ordinance violations are a misdemeanor and could result in a fine. If you would like to read this ordinance in its entirety, feel free to visit our website at www.cascadetwp.com.

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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