



Cascade Connections

Autumn 2007

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through
Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00
p.m.

Department
Phone Numbers:

Assessing:
949-6176

Building /
Inspections:
949-3765

Clerk:
949-1508

Fire:
949-1320

Manager:
949-1500

Planning:
949-0224

Treasurer:
949-6944

Sheriff:
336-3113

THE PASSPORT FAIR COMES TO CASCADE

WHERE: The Wisner Center at the Cascade Library
2870 Jacksmith Avenue S.E.

WHEN: September 19, 2007 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

WHY: Passports are required to enter the United States even by car from Canada or Mexico as of Jan 1, 2008

To accommodate anyone who cannot come in during regular office hours

HOW: Bring the necessary pieces of information:

1. **Proof of citizenship (certified, sealed birth certificate, or your most recent passport, or naturalization papers, if born outside the US; or a certificate of citizenship)**
2. **A current photo I.D. (Drivers License)**
3. **Two passport photos**
4. **Appropriate fees (must be check or money order)**
5. **For minor children under the age of 14, both parents must be present to sign the application or a notarized form from the absent parent must be attached to the application**



Ordinarily (if your schedule permits), you have the convenience of applying at the Cascade Township Office (Acceptance Agency) any weekday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost is the same as it would be in any Passport Acceptance Agency. There are a few things to keep in mind when applying.

PLAN AHEAD TO SAVE MONEY AND REDUCE STRESS

Don't wait to apply for your passport. You should plan on twelve weeks to process your passport and have it returned to you. The two-part fee (paid with two separate checks) is \$97.00 for those 16 years old and older (\$30.00 Acceptance Agency, \$67.00 US Dept. of State) and \$82.00 for those 15 years of age and younger (\$30.00 Acceptance Agency, \$52.00 US Dept. of State). If you need to have it processed faster it will cost an **additional \$60.00 to expedite**. The expedited passports are **returned in four weeks**. By getting the passport early, you can save money and eliminate the stress and concern over the timely arrival of that important document.

Remember to bring all the necessary information. Passport pictures can be taken at several convenient places: Walgreens, Meijers, Cosco, to name a few.

PAYMENTS MUST BE BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER (no credit cards)

Please call Carol, Denise or Ron at 949-1500 if you have any questions.



Cascade



July 4th, 2007

With the skies threatening and the forecast calling for rain, it appeared that this 4th of July was going to be a soggy one. But as the Friends of the Library book sale prepared for the historically long line of people waiting to buy books, the weather began to cooperate. The always-popular book sale was again a huge success.

The Kent County Sheriff Department Motorcycle Patrol led a record number of youngsters and parents on bikes, wagons, and strollers decorated red, white, and blue, along with people on roller blades along the parade route. This was the youngster's time to show off their "stuff" to parade watchers.

At 10:30 a.m. parade watchers were given a fantastic aerial display by the Battle Creek Air National Guard's A-10 Warthog. What a privilege to watch this fighter jet make multiple passes over the parade route to a thunderous applause. With the flyover completed, the parade began.

This year we were honored to have Rev. and Mrs. Gaylord as the Grand Marshal. We were also privileged to have the Northern Lights Home School Marching Band participate in our parade. This band commits to five or six parades every year and Cascade was fortunate to be selected for one of the 2007 dates.



After the completion of the parade, the street fair began. The street fair offered many opportunities for young and old to have fun. Live music provided a festive atmosphere and the sounds of laughter and joyful screams from the children and adults alike filled the air.



The July 4th celebration event could not exist or run smoothly without the help of all the volunteers. A very Big THANK YOU goes to the parking attendants, those responsible for the parade line up and traffic control at the staging area as well as the numerous other volunteers who assisted with or provided Cascade Township with donated goods or time.

The financial sponsors of this event include Cascade Township, as well as those listed. We are very grateful to have individuals and companies willing to help make this event happen. A thank you also goes to

Noto's Old World Italian Dining for the use of their property for the street fair event.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me at 949-1320 at the Cascade Fire Department or via email at skorhorn@cascadetwp.com. Thank you again to all participants, attendees, and volunteers who made the 2007 July 4th celebration a wonderful success.

Sincerely, Stephen W. Korhorn

Thank You to the 4th of July Celebration sponsors, who made the FREE rides and games possible:

- Anonymous
- Brann's Steakhouse & Grill
- Cascade Firefighters Assoc.
- Cascade Hospital for Animals
- Chemical Bank West
- Costco
- Dickinson, Wright PLLC
- D&W
- Emerald Tree
- Falcon Printing
- Family Fare
- Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber
- Funny Business Agency
- HME
- Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter
- Huntington Bank
- Impact Vehicle Damage Erasure
- Independent Bank
- Joyce & Tom Wisner
- Kawasaki Motors
- Kingsland True Value
- Koenes Auto Body
- Lake Michigan Credit Union
- LET, Inc.
- Meekhof Lumber
- Meijer
- MVP Sports Clubs
- My Personal Credit Union
- National City Bank
- Noto's Old World Italian Dining
- Nye Uniform Company
- Performance Systematix, Inc.
- ReMax Real Estate Professionals in Forest Hills
- Spartan Stores
- Staples
- Subway
- Superior Asphalt
- Thornapple River Nursery
- United Bank
- Verburg's Automotive
- Watermark Country Club



Connections

Attention Business Owners...

The Cascade Business Association is pleased to announce that it will resume its monthly meetings beginning September 19, 2007, when Fred Keller of Cascade Engineering will address the membership about the advantages of doing business in Cascade Township.

The meeting will be held at Noto's Old World Italian Dining, 6600 - 28th St. SE, at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday September 19, 2007. Coffee, tea, fruit, and pastries will be served. There is no charge for this event. Please RSVP to Noto's at 493-6686 by Wednesday, September 12, 2007.

The members of the Cascade Business Association are dedicated to improving the Cascade business experience by meeting the dynamic needs of the community.

Please join us for our breakfast meeting on Wednesday, September 19, and for our 9 monthly meetings throughout the rest of the year.

Future meetings will typically be held the third Wednesday of the month at various times at different locations to acquaint members and their guests with the wide variety of businesses in Cascade Township.

Future meetings are scheduled to include:

October 17, 2007 (evening)

Meet Your Cascade Neighbors
Watermark Club Rooms

November 14, 2007 (noon)

Judge Sara Smolenski
MVP Fieldhouse

December 19, 2007 (noon)

Annual Holiday Gathering
Noto's Old World Italian Dining.

If you would like additional information, please visit our website at www.cascadebiz.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Property Tax Information Available on the Web

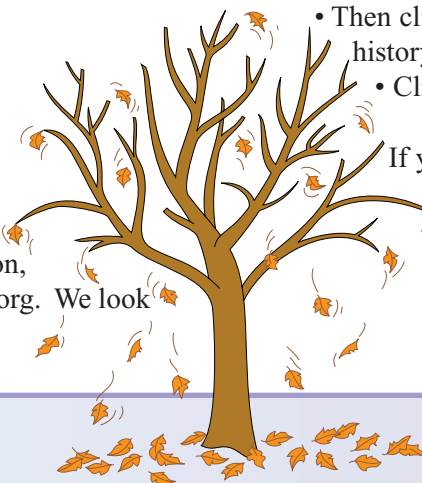
Summer 2007 taxes are due by 5:00 PM, September 14th, 2007. The township does not accept postmarks and is not responsible for delays in the postal system. Payments are receipted on the same business day they are received. Mail your payment early to ensure timely delivery.

Information is available on the Cascade Township Internet Services web site to help you verify the amount of summer property tax paid or amount due. For your convenience, this information is available thru a link on the Township's website. The link will connect you to our software provider, BS&A, for information on property taxes, building and assessing information.

Instructions for our web site are: www.cascadetwp.com

- Departments
- Treasurer 's Department
- Assessing, Building and Tax Information
- Click on the link to B S & A "please click here"
- Current Tax Search (left side of the screen)
- Search selections, parcel number, name or address.
- Click "Search" (bottom of page)
- Then click on the parcel number (in blue) for the history of that property.
- Click on (+) sign for detail of history.

If you have not received your 2007 summer property taxes yet, please check the web site or call our office at (616) 949-6944 for the correct amount due.



Meet Your Township Board

Please join the Cascade Township Board for an informal meet and greet on Wednesday, October 3, 2007. This will be an opportunity to meet Cascade Township elected officials and Cascade Township Department Heads, ask questions, and learn about

township matters. This informal open house will take place at the Wisner Center of the Cascade Library (2870 Jacksmith Avenue) from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided.

Cascade

Fall Events at the Library...

October 7 - Community Appreciation Day: Free - a thanks to the community for their support
"The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Friends" 1:30 - 3:30 for ages Birth to 5

"Community Appreciation Day"
2:00 - 4:00 for all ages - Balloon Man, Face Painting, lots of surprises!

October 18 - Booked-For-Lunch - **"Ladies of the Lights"** with Dianna Stampfler (Lady Lighthouse Keepers) - Program and Catered Lunch. 12:30 PM Members \$8.00, Non-Members \$10.00, Program only - \$4.00
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED! (by Oct. 14)

October 27 and 28 - FALL USED BOOK SALE
Saturday, Oct. 27, 10:00-4:00
Sunday Oct. 28, 1:00-4:00

Monday, November 19 at 10:00 AM **"Author Visit"** during our regular BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP. Ada author Michael Lindley will be present to discuss his book, *The Seasons of the Emmalee*. Free

New Service at the Cascade Library: Express Pick Up

Have you ever needed to pick up a book, but the library was closed? Try the Express Pick Up at the Cascade Branch. You may request to have library items placed in a locker to be picked up at your convenience. Call the library during open hours to obtain a pass code for a locker, 647-3850

Check out www.kdl.org for access to our **Digital Library**. Download books onto your MP3 player or computer or view videos, all for the "price" of your library card!

Fall means a new selection of programs for preschoolers to teens to adults. Go to www.kdl.org for a calendar of events and programs. Don't miss the 3rd Annual Community Appreciation Day sponsored by the Friends of the Cascade Library. Special fun events and refreshments can be enjoyed by visitors!

Watch for our exciting new website to be released this fall.

New Donor to Open Center in Cascade

Grand Rapids: As part of an expanding outreach effort to make blood donation more convenient in more communities, Michigan Community Blood Centers will open a community donor center in Cascade.

The Cascade Community Donor Center, opening Monday, September 24, will be located at Kent District Library – Cascade Branch, at 2870 Jacksmith Avenue SE in Cascade. Blood donors will be welcomed from Noon to 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every other month (2007/2008 dates: Nov 26, Jan 28, March 24, July 28). Opening day festivities will include grilled hot dogs for donors and anyone who attempts to donate will receive a t-shirt.

Michigan Community Blood Centers also operates 14 other community donor centers in Kent, Barry, and Ottawa counties; a main donor center in Grand Rapids; and mobile blood drives in Kent, Allegan, Barry, and Ottawa counties.

"Research has shown that convenience is a big motivator for people thinking about donating blood," said Kristen Sisson, who oversees community donor centers for Michigan Community Blood Centers in West Michigan.

"The community donor centers provide reliable places and times for people to count on giving blood. We hope this new site will help more people make blood donation part of their regular activities schedule every two months."

Two months (56 days) is the minimum interval required between blood donations. Any healthy person 17 or older who weighs 110 pounds or more may be eligible to give blood.



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.

Cemetery News

Please note that flower decorations at gravesides will be removed by our staff on October 15. If you would like to keep decorations you have placed at the graveside of a loved one, we ask that you remove them prior to October 15.

Each household in Cascade Township is eligible for two burial sites at one of the three township owned cemeteries. These sites are for Cascade residents only and are assigned at time of need. Although there is no charge for the sites, there is a \$500 fee for opening and closing the gravesite. The cemeteries are located at 7200 30th Street, 3131 Snow Avenue and 5601 Whitneyville Road.

A note of thanks goes to Darrin McSorley and his crew for the great care they take in maintaining the cemeteries.

Please stop at the Clerk's office if you have questions or call Clerk Ron Goodyke or Deputy Clerk Denise Biegalle at 949-1500.

Sign Notice

The current Sign Ordinance 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 removed signs that are in violation of the Sign Ordinance. If you have questions regarding the Sign Ordinance, please call the Planning Department at 949-0224.

Construction Notes:

Depending on where you live in the Township, you may be affected by the following construction projects this fall.

- The installation of a sewer line down Burton Street from Cascade Pointe to Kraft Avenue.
- The installation of a left turn lane on Cascade Road from Beard Dr. to Mont-Rue Dr.
- The installation of a traffic signal at Thornapple River Drive and 36th Street.
- The upgrade of the traffic signal at Thornapple River Drive and Cascade Road.



Safe At Home Program

It is that time of year, the kids have gone back to school and the Cascade Fire Department Safe At Home instructors are gearing up to head back into the class rooms of Thornapple and Pineridge elementary schools to teach fire safety skills. The Safe At Home program was developed by the Michigan State Police seven years ago and has been taught in our two elementary schools for the past six years to first and third grade students. Topics covered include stop-drop-roll, burn prevention and treatment, home escape planning, and how to use 911. Parents are not left out of the fire safety lessons. Parents of first and third graders should be on the lookout for fire safety homework and drills the kids will need help with.

The Cascade Fire Department is very grateful to the principals and teachers that allow us the time to teach your children these potential life saving skills.

Fire safety education is not limited to schools. Every year the Cascade Fire Department hosts numerous pre-schools, scout groups, birthday parties, and other groups to teach fire safety. If you or your group would like to set up a fire safety talk, please call the Cascade Fire Department at 949-1320.

Cascade Historical Society - August 2007

In June 2007, the Cascade Historical Society members provided research on the Thornapple River and the natural features of the river valley for an event held by the Cascade Community Foundation. The research committee enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about this wonderful natural gift we share in Cascade. Did you know that the Indian name for the Thornapple River is Me-Nos-So-Gos-O-She-Kinks? Chief Hazy Cloud called it a swift running little stream, where trout could be easily netted and beaver, deer, opossum and bear could be trapped. The committee learned many other historical facts about the early settlers, the river islands, the Cascade dam and bridges. Please consider membership in the Cascade Historical Society (CHS). This project was very enjoyable and provided a benefit to our community!

Are you interested in preserving the Heritage of Cascade? Please consider becoming a member of the Cascade Historical Society to show your support of our community. Several different membership levels are available. The Cascade Historical Society meetings are held at the Cascade Museum (corner of Cascade Road and Thornapple River Driver) on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am. Please contact Mary J. Carpenter at 949-6944 for additional information.

The Cascade History Room located in the Cascade Library has a member of the CHS there to offer assistance each Thursday from 1 to 3 pm. Come and share your stories about early Cascade. If your organization has an idea for the display windows for the History Room please contact the Cascade Historical Society at 949-6944 or stop by the History Room on Thursday. In the past our window displays have focused on the history of Cascade Library, Fire Service, Girl and Boy Scouts. Your collection or story could be the basis for a future display.

Have you noticed the historical pictures on display at the remodeled D & W grocery store? Do you remember when? It is wonderful to see photos of early Cascade. If you or your family has pictures of early Cascade, the CHS would love the opportunity to add a copy of your photo to our collection. Call Mary at 949-6944 or come to the CHS meeting to learn more about this photo collection project.

Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft

Tips from the East Precinct Community Services Office

Protecting you and your family's personal information is vital to combating this growing crime trend. Please review the advice provided below, in an effort to help you protect your family identity.

Do not provide any organization with your Social Security number, Driver's License number, or any bank or credit card information

- Use discretion when providing bank or credit card information over the internet
- Shred all personal information, bank statements, and credit card receipts before throwing them away
- Review financial and credit card statements each month for unauthorized activity

If you discover that you are a victim of Identity Theft, there are several steps that need to be taken to prevent further damage to your identity.

- Place fraud alerts on your credit report
 - Close any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently
 - Make copies of bills and associated documents related to your complaint
- Contact the Kent County Sheriff Department to file a report

For further information on Identity Theft, please visit either one of these websites: www.ftc.gov/idtheft or www.michigan.gov/ag.

Deputy Ryan Coil • East Precinct Community Services
Ryan.Coil@kentcounty.org • (616) 632-6435



Connections

A Citizen's Guide to Household Hazardous Waste

The average U.S. household can have as much as 100 pounds of hazardous waste stored throughout their house and garage. Improper disposal of these materials can contaminate drinking water, harm the environment, and create health hazards for you and your family. Simple alternatives can replace many hazardous substances. However, if you choose to use commercial products, make sure to dispose of them properly!

Where Can I Take My Household Hazardous Waste?

To drop off your household hazardous waste, schedule an appointment with the Kent County Department of Public Works to participate in the free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program for Kent County residents. To schedule an appointment, or for additional information, call 1-888-217-2850 or 616-336-2570. Appointments can be made at any of the four centers located in Kent County. For more information on this program visit www.accesskent.com.

The Kent County Household Hazardous Waste Program accepts the following waste materials:

- Oil based paints and stains
- Paint thinner
- Pool chemicals
- Weed killers
- Insecticides & pesticides
- Cleaners
- Household batteries
- Gasoline & kerosene
- Mercury & acids
- Automobile liquids
- Solvents



Fall Clean Up Day

Cascade Township is offering a fall clean up day this year in conjunction with Ada Township. The fall clean up day will be held on Saturday, October 27th 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. You must be in line no later than 2:30 to drop items off.

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 hazardous waste products or tires will be accepted. For household hazardous waste and tire disposal, please contact the Kent County Department of Public Works at 336-2570.

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

Where Can I Take Recyclables?

Kent County operates two recycling drop-off sites for their residents. The Kentwood Recycling Center and North Kent Transfer Station accept plastics, paper, glass, metals, and cardboard. For more information call -888-217-2850 or 616-336-2570.

2908 Ten Mile Road, Rockford
Fridays, 9 am – 12 pm

5068 Breton Road, Kentwood
Tuesdays, 3 – 6 pm

1500 Scribner Avenue, Grand Rapids
Mondays, 1 - 4 pm
Wednesdays, 9 am – 12 pm

2350 Ivanrest Avenue, Grandville
Call 616-261-3564 for an appointment

YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM FALL 2007

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 October 15th through November 19th

- 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 and older and residents with disabilities will receive 20 tags FREE per calendar year!
- This service is only available in the restricted burn area.
- The yard waste dumpsters will be available behind the Thornhills Fire Station on on October 19-21 and November 17-25.

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.

Fire Department Consolidation Study

A committee of the Cascade Township Board is working with Ada and Grand Rapids Townships to determine the viability of a combined Fire Department. In light of stagnant funding, there is the trend among local government units to seek ways to improve services and gain efficiencies. The three townships have successfully combined to provide police protection with the establishment of the Kent County Sheriff Department "East Precinct". The result is better protection, more convenience and shared costs.

The committee is studying the idea for a combined fire department to be more effective and efficient in several areas including equipment, training, facilities, and personnel. The Chiefs of the three townships have been analyzing logistics, staffing, equipment and facilities. They are doing an in depth study of call reports to determine where the areas of highest concentration exist and what type of calls are being processed. The matter of governance is being studied by the committee

with the assistance of attorney John Gretzinger.

In order for this consolidation to be enacted it must be determined that the citizens will be protected by the best trained firefighters with state of the art equipment. No committee recommendation will be made until our research is complete. The committee has steadfastly maintained the stance that no current fire personnel will lose his/her job and that it must prove to be in the best mutual interest of Cascade, Ada, and Grand Rapids Townships. Providing the finest in Public Safety Services for our three communities in the most cost effective manner is our mission.



Cascade Charter Township

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