



# Cascade Connections

Winter 2008

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township



## Christmas Tree Recycling New Drop Off Location

There will be a new drop-off location for used Christmas trees this year. The Rec Park will no longer be a drop-off site. Instead, bring Ol' Tannenbaum to the parking lot behind the Buttrick Fire Station (Buttrick & 30th Street) from December 26 - January 11. Please remember to remove all ornaments, lights, tinsel, & tree stands. Happy Holidays!



## 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 18 through December 18.



## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Cascade Township Office will be closed Wednesday, December 24th, Thursday, December 25th and Thursday, January 1st.



## 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. The tag is placed on an unwrapped toy and returned to the selection site and then collected for that child to have at Christmas time.

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 from November 26 through December 22.

# Cascade

## Supervisor's Message



I would like to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to serve you and Cascade as Supervisor. As a third generation resident, I have seen many changes in the area and feel we can continue moving forward in the same consistent and progressive manner with the careful planning and thought we have exercised in the past.

Cascade has been fortunate to have not only concerned residents but also ones that have been willing to participate in various aspects of helping govern and shape the policies of the Township through various activities such as planning, zoning, administration, parks and fire and safety protection, to name a few.

People like Paul Slater and Mary Carpenter, past Treasurers, Carl Kerekes, Lee Patterson past Managers, and Wendell Champion and especially Mike Julien, past Supervisors have helped lay a strong foundation for Cascade to continue to grow on.

The Township is also fortunate to have an experienced and extremely knowledgeable staff ready to assist you.

The new Township Board that you elected is a strong one, with a diversity of thought and talent that will serve the Township well in the coming period.

I would also like to thank you, the voters for passing the millage for Cascade's natural areas. It will allow a legacy to be created in these natural areas we purchase with benefits not only to Cascade but all of the surrounding communities. The passing of the millage is just one of the many steps involved in acquiring these properties. Once everything is completed we will be able to make these beautiful pieces of property available for everyone's use and enjoyment.

*Rob Beahan*

## Jack Lewis

### Township Trustee



Cascade Township would like to welcome Jack Lewis to the Township Board as a Trustee. Jack has been a resident of Cascade Township for 40 years. During those 40 years, he has served Cascade in a variety of leadership positions. Those positions include 10 years on the Township Board as a trustee from 1974-1984. During his time on the Board, the population of Cascade was 4,500, the fire department was a volunteer department and the library was not yet constructed. He has also spent 15 years on the Zoning Board of Appeals, 20 years on the Planning Commission and 7 years on the Cascade Community Foundation. Jack spent time on the Township Park Board, served on the citizens Library Building Committee and on the last three Advisory Committees to update the Township's Comprehensive Plan.

In addition to the above responsibilities, Jack was married for 47 years to Helen Lewis who

taught and retired from Forest Hills Schools. They have two children who graduated from Forest Hills Central and have two grandchildren who currently attend Forest Hills Eastern. Jack is retired as a District Manager after 35 years with a pharmaceutical company.

In serving the people of Cascade, Jack believes there is no such thing as a "small role". Every appointment to any Township Board or Commission is very important. Jack also says the recent passing of the Open Space Mileage by the people of Cascade did not surprise him. He believes that the citizens love living in the Township and are open to ideas that will guarantee the continuation of their life style.

Jack would like people to know that "If you want to see what kind of a job a person will do in the future, look at the kind of job they have done in the past".

# Connections

## Holiday Sales sponsored by Cascade Historical Society

December 1st to December 31st

Give a piece of Cascade History to Family and Friends this Holiday Season. Share your love of Cascade area with an heirloom afghan, Cascade Chronicles, and/ or Note Cards.

Heirloom Afghan - embroidered with Cascade's significant historical sites. Afghan are 100 percent loomed cotton and machine washable. Five color selections are available. Regular cost \$75.00 **Sale \$60.00.**

Cascade Chronicles - published in 1987. Our history book contains memories and collected history by the Historical Member Marjorie Mallory Wykes and Her Committee. Regular cost is \$10.00 **Sale \$8.00.**

Note cards have pen and ink sketch of the Cascade Museum Building available in packets of 10. The cost of packets of 10 small is regularly \$13.50 **Sale \$12.00** and Large \$ 22.50 **Sale \$20.00**. Limited Supply.

Items are available at the Township Offices, 2865 Thornhills Ave SE, during business hours.

### Membership

The Cascade Historical Society is having their annual membership drive. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Cascade's history. The Society meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 10 am at the Cascade Historical Museum located on Thornapple River Drive and Cascade Road. Membership forms are available at the Township Office, Cascade History Room at the Cascade Library or from members of the Cascade Historical Society. Download a membership application from the Township website ([www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com)).

### 1st Annual Cascade Santa Stroll

Join Us! Bring your family and pet and stroll with Santa!  
Saturday, December 6th.

The walk begins at Cascade's Family Fare Plaza at 4:30 p.m. Proceed East on the sidewalk to Thornapple River Drive's NE corner (Cascade Historical Museum).

**\*NOTE: The Best Dressed Pet wins a prize!!**

There will be singing and tree lighting at 5:00 p.m.  
Girls Choral Academy.  
See the Fire trucks!

**Take pictures with the guest of honor!**

Enjoy hot apple cider and donuts afterwards.

**Sponsored by the Cascade Business Association**  
[www.cascadebiz.com](http://www.cascadebiz.com)



## A Fond Farewell...



The Township would like to say a fond farewell to Michael Julien, Township Supervisor. Mike served as supervisor for the past 16 years. While he spent time on the Planning Commission and Township Board as a trustee, Mike will be remembered as a dedicated Township Supervisor. Despite the time he spent at his "every day" job, Mike would attend two regular Board meetings a month and always made time to attend special meetings and subcommittee (before, during and after work hours) meetings.

During his time as Supervisor, in all efforts, actions and deliberations, Mike always judged matters by the "good government" action. He kept the health, safety and welfare of Cascade Township and its residents as the first priority in his decisions. He was an honest, selfless, positive and influential leader in the many important and often difficult decisions that helped mold Cascade Township into the great place it is today to live, work and play.

Thank you, Mike, for your dedication to Cascade Township. We would like to extend our best wishes for success with all future endeavors.

### Cascade Historical Society

The Holiday Event on November 30 at the Cascade Historical Museum welcomed the season to Cascade. Santa Claus, refreshments and the lighting of the tree in the gardens at the Historical Museum opened the Cascade Holiday Season.

This event was sponsored by the Cascade Historical Society and funded by the Cascade Community Foundation. Special thanks to the Cascade Buildings and Grounds Department for their help.

# Cascade

## Draft Master Plan for to be Presented for Comment

The first draft of the Cascade Charter Township Master Plan will be presented at a Public Open House on Thursday, December 11, 2008. The meeting will begin at 7pm at the Wisner Center. There will be a brief overview of the Master Plan and residents will be able to view different elements of the plan document. After 10 months of work, including monthly advisory committee meetings, a community-wide survey, focus groups and public visioning sessions, the Master Plan addresses long term planning issues such as water quality and infrastructure, farmland preservation and housing needs. Please consider attending the open house and lending your voice to the plan. Since it is a draft plan, your comments can be incorporated into the final plan document presented to the Planning Commission and Township Board of Trustees for adoption in early 2009. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, December 11th at the Wisner Center. Don't forget to visit the Township website for copies of planning reports and materials, [www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com) or contact Steve Peterson, Planning Director, at 949-0224.

## Please Join Us...

The Township Board would like to invite you to a reception for Mike Julien honoring him for his service as the Supervisor of the Township. Please stop in and say hi or bid him farewell.



When: Tuesday, December 16, 2008  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Where: Cascade Library Wisner Center  
2870 Jacksmith Drive

Light refreshments will be served.

## Circle of Friends Sculpture Given to Cascade Township



The front yard of the Cascade Library now is made even more beautiful with the addition of this gift by the Tom and Joyce Wisner and David and Michelle Bottrall families. This is the same sculpture as the one given by the Woodrick family in 2001 at Leslie E Tassell Park. Leslie Tassell loved the sculpture at the park named in his honor and purchased the same sculpture for his Florida home. The popularity of that piece and the very prominent location in front of the Library/Wisner Center prompted the Wisner and Bottrall families to move this sculpture from its former place at Leslie E Tassell's Florida residence to its new Cascade home where our community can enjoy it. The new location is to honor him and all he did for our community. It is the wish of the Wisner and Bottrall families that you stop and have your picture taken holding hands with the joyful children forming the complete "circle of friends".

This is another expression of these families' commitment to helping make our community one the most livable communities anywhere. Cascade Township expresses its deep appreciation to the Wisner/Bottrall families for their gift. We also commemorate Leslie E Tassell, in this the 100th year since his birth.

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# Happy HOLIDAYS

A decorative flourish consisting of a red, swirling line that loops around the word "HOLIDAYS". A small holly leaf with two red berries is positioned at the base of the flourish.

# Connections

## Election News

### Election Dates for 2009

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires that four dates each year be set aside for election issues to be decided. If there are no issues brought forth, there is no election on that date.

#### The 2009 dates are:

- February 24** This is an open date with no known election issues at this time in Cascade Township
- May 5** There will be school related issues to be decided for Cascade Residents
- August 4** This is an open date with no known election issues at this time in Cascade Township
- November 3** This is an open date with no known election issues at this time in Cascade Township

The voting precincts are the same and are held in the same location for all elections. There is a Precinct Map on the Cascade Township Web Site or call the Clerk's Office (949-1508) if you are unsure of your voting location.

Please be sure you are a registered voter in Cascade Township and can participate on May 5th.



## Pathways News...

I am not one to gush when it comes to saying thanks for a job well done, but in the case of all of you that have taken the time as you use our wonderful pathways system to pick up trash on and around the paths I say many thanks. It is through your selfless efforts that keep this community what it is, one of the best in Kent County. I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season. We will be at it again in the spring.

*Kris Taylor*  
Pathway Coordinator



## 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

## 2009 ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

### UNDERSTANDING PROPOSAL A IN A DECLINING MARKET

Authored by Dean Babb, City of Farmington Hills Assessor.

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For further information, either refer to the Cascade Twp. website:  
[www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com) or contact us in the Cascade Twp Assessor

Office 2865 Thornhills Ave SE

Cascade Twp Assessor: Patricia Armstrong-Bolle

Deputy Assessor: Roger Mc Carty

#### Proposal A

On March 15, 1994, Michigan voters approved the constitutional amendment known as Proposal A. Proposal A was designed to limit the growth in property taxes by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) until ownership in the property was transferred.

#### How It Works

Prior to Proposal A, property taxes were based upon State Equalized Value (SEV). With the implementation of Proposal A, property taxes are now based upon Taxable Value. Each year, the Assessing Office must calculate the SEV for every property based upon the period as outlined by the State Tax Commission. A property's taxable status is determined as of December 31, which is called Tax Day.

Additionally, each property has a Capped Value. Capped Value is calculated by multiplying the prior year's Taxable Value, with adjustments for additions and losses, by the CPI as calculated by the State of Michigan and cannot increase by more than 5%. For 2009, the CPI has been calculated at 4.4%. Taxable Value (TV), which property taxes are based on, is defined as the lower of State Equalized Value or Capped Value. Generally speaking, this means that unless the current year's SEV is less than the previous year's Taxable Value multiplied by the CPI, the current year's Taxable Value will increase by the CPI.

**SEV** = 50% of True Cash Value

**Capped Value** = (Prior TV-Losses) x (1+ CPI\*) + Additions

\* **CPI** = Percent of change in the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less, expressed as a multiplier

**Taxable Value** = The lesser of State Equalized Value or Capped Value unless there is a transfer of ownership.

#### The Equalization Timetable

With significant evidence of declining market values, the County Equalization Department has allowed local assessors to consider a 12-month sales study to determine values for the 2009 assessment cycle.

**For 2009 assessments, the 12-month sales study begins October 1, 2007 and ends September 30, 2008.**

Use of a 12-month study allows 2009 assessments to more accurately reflect current market conditions; however, some areas may have a limited number of current sales.

#### Actual Sale Price is not True Cash Value

The law defines True Cash Value as the usual selling price of a property. The Legislature and the Courts have very clearly stated that the actual selling price of a property is not a controlling factor in the True Cash Value or State Equalized Value as calculated by the Assessor. For this reason, when analyzing sales for determining assessment changes, the Assessing Office will review all sales but exclude non-representative sales from the assessment analysis.

#### Foreclosure Sales

Inherent in the definition of usual selling price is the assumption that the sale does not involve any element of distress from either party.

The State Tax Commission has issued guidelines concerning foreclosure sales and, generally speaking, these guidelines preclude the Assessor from considering foreclosure sales when calculating values for assessment purposes. If the assessor has verified additional market information, then these sales may be considered.

For this reason, all distressed sales, such as sales involving **mortgage foreclosure** or sales involving transfers to or from relocation companies, are usually not considered as typical sales in the valuation of property for assessment purposes nor are they necessarily reliable indicators of value when making market comparisons for current assessed values or appeals.

#### Transfers of Ownerships and Uncapping of Assessments

According to Proposal A, when a property (or interest in a property) is transferred, the following year's SEV becomes that year's Taxable Value. In other words, if you purchased a property in 2008, the Taxable Value for 2009 will be the same as the 2009 SEV. The Taxable Value will then be "capped" again in the second year following the transfer of ownership. It is the responsibility of the buyer in a transfer to file a Property Transfer Affidavit with the Assessors Office within 45 days of the transfer. Failure to file a Property Transfer Affidavit will result in a penalty of \$5 per day for each day after the 45 day period with a maximum penalty of \$200. Property Transfer Affidavit forms

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are available from the local assessor or online.

**Again, it is important to note that a property does not uncapped to the selling price, but to the SEV in the year following the transfer of ownership.**

## Principal Residence Exemption

If you **own and occupy** your home as your principal residence, it may be exempt from a portion of local school operating taxes. You may check your percentage of principal residence exemption on your "Notice of Assessment". If the percentage exempt as "Principal Residence" is 0% on your assessment notice and you wish to claim an exemption for the current year, a Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit must be completed and filed with the Assessors Office prior to May 1. Furthermore, if you currently have a Principal Residence Exemption on your property and you no longer own and occupy the property as your primary residence, you must rescind the Principal Residence Exemption with the Assessors Office.

Forms to claim a new exemption or to rescind a current exemption are available from the local assessor.

## So what does it all mean?

How can I expect my assessment to change in 2009?

As stated in the Equalization Timetable, for 2009 the time period of the sales study for assessment review is October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. Sales occurring after October 1, 2008 will not be reviewed until the 2010 assessment cycle.

Using more current sales data means that **many SEV's in the area will be reduced again in 2009**. Areas with limited sales data in the current 12 month study may have little or no sales for the Assessor to use for the 2009 assessment roll. Therefore, some assessment adjustments will be based on market activity in the surrounding neighborhoods, general market trends or be frozen until market levels can be determined. Without sufficient sales to make proper calculations, you may find that your 2009 assessment may not go down as much as you think it should.

## How can my Taxable Value go up when my SEV goes down?

Remember that the definition of Taxable Value is the lesser of SEV or last year's Taxable Value (adjusted for physical changes) times the CPI. (4.4% for 2009). Since the beginning of Proposal A in 1994, overall increases in SEV have generally been greater than the increase in Taxable Value capped at the CPI. The longer a property has been owned and capped, the greater the gap between SEV and Taxable Value. Even with a decrease in SEV for 2009, **if there is still a gap between SEV and Taxable Value and the 2009 SEV is greater**

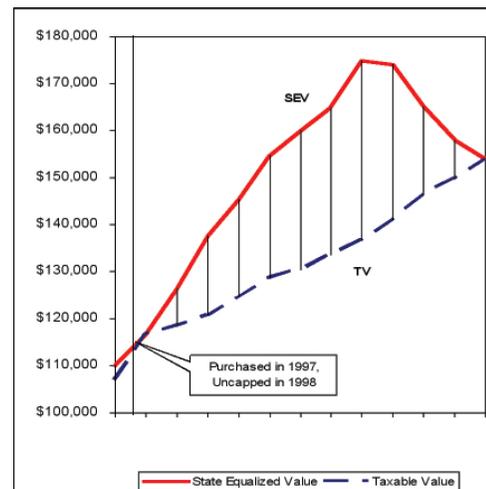
**than the Taxable Value in the previous year, the Taxable Value will increase to the limit of the CPI cap.**

If, however, the 2009 SEV is **lower** than the calculation of last year's Taxable Value multiplied by the CPI, then the 2009 Taxable Value will be the same as the 2009 SEV.

## Example of Declining State Equalized Value and Increasing Taxable Value

This example illustrates a property, purchased in 1997 and uncapped in 1998. In 1998 the SEV becomes the new Taxable Value and then the property is subsequently recapped at the CPI. The SEV will increase or decrease based on market conditions. The Capped Value is adjusted by the CPI in the following year. Taxable Value is determined by using the SEV or Capped Value, whichever is less. In this example, the property experiences a loss in the SEV from 2005 to 2009. Although the loss was due to market conditions, the Taxable Value continues to increase by the CPI during 2005-2009. The Taxable Value will continue to increase at the CPI until the SEV falls below Capped Value.

Year	State Equalized Value	Capped Value	Taxable Value	CPI
1997	\$110,000	\$106,910	\$106,910	2.80%
1998	\$116,650	\$109,797	\$116,650	2.70%
1999	\$126,500	\$118,516	\$118,516	1.60%
2000	\$137,500	\$120,768	\$120,768	1.90%
2001	\$145,250	\$124,633	\$124,633	3.20%
2002	\$154,750	\$128,621	\$128,621	3.20%
2003	\$160,000	\$130,550	\$130,550	1.50%
2004	\$165,000	\$133,553	\$133,553	2.30%
2005	\$175,000	\$136,625	\$136,625	2.30%
2006	\$174,000	\$141,133	\$141,133	3.30%
2007	\$165,110	\$146,355	\$146,355	3.70%
2008	\$158,000	\$149,721	\$149,721	2.30%
2009	\$154,000	\$156,309	\$154,000	4.40%



# Cascade

## 2008 Winter Tax Bills

Winter 2008 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed December 1, 2008. Winter taxes can be paid without penalty until Monday, February 16th, 2009 (first business day following February 14). If you do not receive a tax statement during December, please check the township's website or call the Treasurer's office at 949-6944.

### Payment of real estate taxes can be made in five ways:

1. Use **E-Z Pay** to have your taxes taken directly from your checking or savings account. The enrollment form for E-Z Pay will be included with your tax bill. The enrollment form must be received by the Township at least three weeks prior to the tax payment date you select. You **DO NOT** need to submit another form if you already use E-Z Pay. The date of your next scheduled payment will appear above the Cascade Charter Township return address for those taxpayers currently enrolled in E-Z Pay.
2. Real estate taxes can be paid using your **credit card** through the Official Payments Program until 5 PM February 16, 2008. The provider for this service will charge you a fee. Call 1-800-272-9829 or go to [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) and use Jurisdiction Code 3230 to initiate your payment. Credit card payments cannot be accepted at the Cascade Charter Township Office.
3. Real estate taxes can be **mailed** to the Cascade Charter Township office. Mail your entire tax bill and a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like to have a receipt returned to you. Please mail your tax bill early to avoid a late fee. The township **DOES NOT** accept the postmark date as the date received.
4. Real estate taxes can be **paid in person** at our Cascade Charter Township office. Please note that our offices will be closed on December 24, 25 and January 1.
5. Your real estate taxes may be **paid by your mortgage company**. The enclosed bill is for your information if you escrow taxes to your mortgage company. Your mortgage company's name will show above our return address. Please use this bill for paying your taxes if your mortgage company is no longer responsible for payment.

In lieu of requesting a receipt, you can view your real estate tax payment history at our Township's website, [www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com). From the homepage, select 1) Departments, 2) Treasurer's Office, 3) Tax & Assessing and Building Information, 4) "Please click here" link under BS&A, and 5) Current Tax Search. You may search by parcel number, taxpayer name or street name. Click on the (+) sign for a detailed real estate tax history for your parcel.

## Licensing Information

Michigan law requires that all dogs four months of age or older be licensed. Dog licenses will be available at the Township office beginning December 1, 2008 through March 1, 2009. Proof of rabies vaccination and neutering from your veterinarian and your reminder postcard from Kent County are required to obtain a license.

### 2009 Dog License Fees

After March 1, 2009, all fees double.

<u>Male or Female dogs:</u>	<u>For Senior Owners:</u>
Neutered - \$9.00	Neutered - \$5.00
Unneutered - \$20.00	Unneutered - \$8.00

The cost of a dog license doubles after March 1, 2009, and these licenses may only be purchased at the Kent County Animal Shelter (616-336-3210) by person or by mail: 711 Ball N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Your pet must be licensed to avoid a substantial penalty and citation from the Kent County License Inspectors.



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## Is Your Home Hazardous?



Many of the products we use in our homes every day are hazardous. If they are disposed of improperly, these products can end up in nearby streams and lakes and harm fish and wildlife.

A product is considered hazardous if it is toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive. Always check the label to see if a product is hazardous. The label may have a picture of a skull and cross bones or contain the words WARNING, CAUTION, DANGER, or POISON.

To protect our environment, follow these tips:

- ◆ Use products in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.
- ◆ Follow the proper disposal measures.
- ◆ Do not dump products into the storm drain, which may flow to a nearby stream or lake.
- ◆ Take any unused portions to your county's hazardous waste collection site.
- ◆ Use nontoxic alternatives when possible.



[www.lowergrandriver.org](http://www.lowergrandriver.org)

## East Precinct News...

On December 19th, the Community Services Unit of the Kent County Sheriff Department will be taking 50 kids Christmas Shopping at Wal-Mart. This is our 6th year organizing the "Shop with a Sheriff" program. The children are identified through our networks at area schools, churches, and community organizations. Each child comes with a unique story and is in need of basic necessities such as a winter coat, boots, gloves, pants, etc.

Each child is given a \$100 gift card to purchase these items. Organization and fundraising began in early September for this event. If you know of a child in need or would like to contribute to the program, please contact me at 632-6435 or e-mail at

[Ryan.Coil@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Ryan.Coil@kentcountymi.gov)

I would like to take an opportunity to announce that I will be returning to the road patrol in January. I am going to be replaced by Deputy Jason VanDyke. I have truly enjoyed my time in Cascade, learning much about the heritage of the township, meeting residents and local business people, and getting involved issues that made the Township a better place to live and work.

Deputy VanDyke brings with him 15 years of law enforcement experience. Since joining the Sheriff Department in 1996, he has worked as a patrol officer, TAC Team member, and as a Detective.

Outside of work Jason enjoys spending time with his family, coaching his kid's sports teams, hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling. Please welcome Deputy VanDyke to Cascade Township!

*Deputy Ryan Coil*  
*East Precinct Community Services Unit*  
632-6435  
[Ryan.Coil@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Ryan.Coil@kentcountymi.gov)



## FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

### Fire Hydrants

If there is a fire hydrant by your house, please keep it clear of debris (snow, flowers, shrubs, etc.) throughout the year. We ask that there be a 3 foot clearance around the hydrant.

### Natural Cut Christmas Trees

Remember to keep your natural trees watered at all times to keep it moist. When using decorations we suggest using power strips instead of extension cords.

### Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Make sure you install carbon monoxide detectors in your house. If they are battery operated, please check the batteries to make sure the detector is working properly.

### Furnaces / Chimneys

Have your furnace inspected to ensure it is in proper working condition. Do not use portable heaters. If you have a chimney, have it cleaned on a regular basis.

### Emergency Calls

Dial 911. Please dial 911 for any type of emergency call. We may not be in the station and this could cause a delay in response. You may call the non-emergency fire department phone number (949-1320) for all non-emergency calls.

### Remember

When you are driving and see an emergency vehicle approaching, please pull to the right and stop. This is for your safety as well as ours. If you see us at an emergency on the side of the road, move over one lane, if possible, and slow down when passing by the emergency.

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## Winter Driving Safety Tips

Once again, the snow, ice, and sleet are on the way. When driving during the winter months please remember 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 take your vehicle on the road, have a tune-up done.
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, a shovel, an ice scraper, jumper cables, blankets, a 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 roads, and a small amount of condensation in your fuel lines could freeze and keep your vehicle from starting.

### Safe Winter driving tips:

1. Warming up your vehicle: Always pull the car out of the garage so carbon monoxide does not build up.
2. Frost: Prior to driving scrape the frost off of all windows.
3. Snow: Brush snow off windows, headlights, taillights, mirrors, and your license plate.
4. 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.
5. 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*



## A Citizen's Guide to Cold Weather Practices

Winter means mounds of snow to shovel and layers of ice to remove from our sidewalks and driveways. We often make the job easier by applying deicers like salt, but besides sodium chloride, many deicers also contain chemicals like cyanide. When ice melts, the salts and chemicals dissolve and flow into street drains that lead directly to nearby streams and lakes, endangering aquatic life. By following a few tips, you can reduce your salt use and prevent water pollution.

### Try an alternative.

Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) was developed as a deicing alternative because it has fewer adverse environmental impacts than salt and doesn't cause corrosion. Although CMA is more expensive than rock salt, it is recommended for environmentally sensitive areas.

### Reduce your salt use.

By limiting the amount of salt you use on sidewalks and driveways, you can reduce the amount of polluted snow melt washing into waterways.

### Use that shovel!

The most important step in deicing is to physically remove as much ice as possible before applying salt. Use a shovel to break up the ice before you add another layer of salt to your sidewalk. Adding more salt without removing what has melted can result in over-application, meaning more salt and chemicals end up in nearby streams and lakes. You can also reduce salt use by limiting access to your home to one entrance. For every doorway that is not used, there will be less salt running into the catch basin in your street, and ultimately the Grand and Thornapple rivers.

## 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, not 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. For those residents who live along the pedestrian pathways, please do not pile snow across the path as it creates an unnecessary and hazardous obstacle for pedestrians. Additionally, if you have a snow plowing service, please be sure that they too are not piling snow across the path. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

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

# 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 2008 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	Fifth Third Bank	Sam's Club
Anonymous	Funny Business	Sentinel Pointe
Arby's	Hampton Inn	Spartan Stores
Batson & Associates	Huntington Bank	SpringHill Suites
Best Cleaners	Impact Collision	Target
Best Western	Independent Bank	Thomas & Joyce Wisner
Big Boy	Joe & Beverly Albright	Tuffy Muffler
Blackie's	Kingsland Hardware	United Bank
BP - Cascade Rd.	Koenes Auto Body	Verburg's Automotive
Brann's Steakhouse & Grill	Lake Michigan Credit Union	Walgreen's
Carlos O'Kelly	Macatawa Bank	WalMart
CarQuest	Mama's	Wolverine Vending
Cascade Automotive	McDonald's	Wrigley Sales
Cascade Barber Shop	Medawar's Jewelers	
Cascade Car Wash	Meijer	
Cascade Firefighter's Association	My Personal Credit Union	
Cascade Hospital for Animals	Napa Auto Parts	
Chemical Bank West	National City Bank	
Citgo	Noto's	
Costco	O'Neill's Body Shop	
Crowne Plaza	O'Neill's Transmission	
Culver's	Panera Bread	
D&W Food Center	Perkins	
David & Lynne Deering	Powell Relocation Group	
Elan Nutrition	Red Roof Inn	
Family Fare	Rite Aid	
	S. Abraham & Sons	



## HALLOWEEN PARTY

On Friday, October 31, Cascade Fire Station 1 was transformed into a haven for ghosts, goblins and scary creatures from across the Township. Although the weather was beautiful, over 850 costumed kids showed up and 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.

*Cascade Township Fire Department*



# Cascade Connections

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

Cascade Charter Township Office . . . . .	949-1500	Kent County – Main Number . . . . .	632-7590
<a href="http://www.cascadetwp.com">www.cascadetwp.com</a>		<a href="http://www.accesskent.com">www.accesskent.com</a>	
Assessing Department . . . . .	949-6167	Kent County 63rd District Court. . . . .	336-3570
Building Department. . . . .	949-3765	Kent County Animal Shelter. . . . .	336-3210
Clerk’s Office . . . . .	949-1508	Kent County Road Commission – Main Number . . . . .	242-6900
Fire Department – Non-Emergency . . . . .	949-1320	Kent County Road Commission – Potholes. . . . .	336-2986
Manager’s Office . . . . .	949-1500	(South Complex)	
Planning Department . . . . .	949-0224	Kent County Road Commission – Snowplowing Issues. . .	336-2986
Treasurer’s Office . . . . .	949-6944	(South Complex)	
Consumers Energy – Report a power outage . . . . .	800-477-5050	Kent County Sheriff’s Department – East Precinct . . . . .	632-6394
<a href="http://www.consumersenergy.com/welcome.htm">http://www.consumersenergy.com/welcome.htm</a>		– Non-Emergency	
Consumers Energy – Report a Burnt Out Streetlight . . .	800-477-5050	Kent County Sheriff’s Department – Non-Emergency . . .	632-6100
<a href="http://www.consumersenergy.com/welcome.htm">http://www.consumersenergy.com/welcome.htm</a>		Kent District Library – Cascade Branch. . . . .	647-3850

### 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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