



# Cascade Connections

Spring 2009

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

## YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM

SPRING 2009

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 6 through May 4th**

- 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 April 24th, 25th and 26th.**

**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 9th 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 hazardous waste products 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](mailto:sotey@cascadetwp.com).

# Help Us Shred Cancer!



**Saturday, April 18**  
**8:00 - 11:00am**  
**5510 - 28th Street**

Bring your papers to be shredded on site!  
\$5.00 per box donation recommended.  
All donations benefit The American Cancer Society

Event Sponsored by:







## MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

The Veterans of Cascade Township are planning a Memorial Day program on Monday, May 25<sup>TH</sup> at the Cascade Library, 2870 Jacksmith drive. Join them at 10:00 a.m. to honor veterans of all wars and conflicts.

# Cascade

## 2009 GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING PROGRAM

By late May or early June, the Gypsy Moth Spraying Program will be underway in targeted areas throughout the township (see accompanying map). The Township will have 555 acres of property sprayed this year. This is a slight increase in the number of acres being sprayed when compared to last year.

Our consultant spent extra time checking woodlots and areas where concerns had been voiced last summer. In some cases they found continuing gypsy moth population but in other areas of concern there was no visible sign of a carryover population.

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.



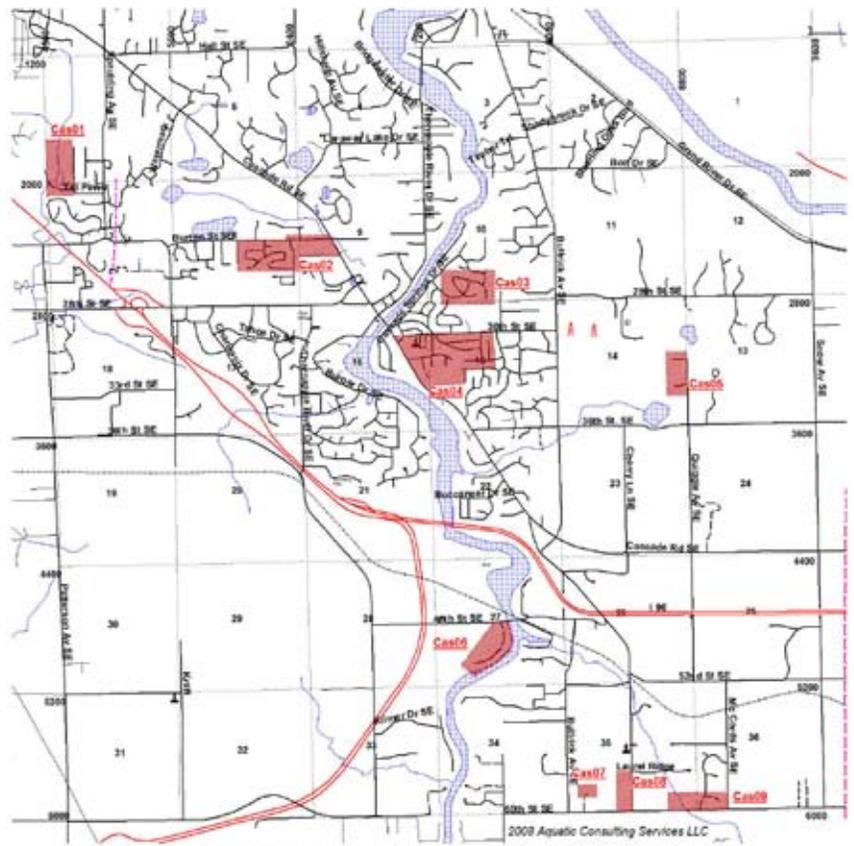
### What does a gypsy moth caterpillar look like?

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](http://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 2009



Shaded areas are scheduled for B.T. aerial spray in May 2009

1 inch = 0.8 miles

\*[www.purdue.edu/UNS/html3month/2004/040301.Ellis.gypsy.html](http://www.purdue.edu/UNS/html3month/2004/040301.Ellis.gypsy.html)

# Connections

## PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE REMINDER

The deadline for qualifying for the Principal Residence Exemption is coming up. If you own and occupy a residential property as your primary residence, it qualifies for the Principal Residence Exemption (PRE).

Cascade residents who have moved in the past year should update their Principal Residence Exemption status. When you occupy a new home that is your primary residence, you should file a **HOMEOWNER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION AFFIDAVIT** form to obtain the exemption for the property. May 1st is the deadline to own and occupy the home to be eligible to claim the exemption for the current year. Property owners who move in after May 1st will have their exemption request activated in their name the following year. If the property already has an exemption, the prior owners exemption will stay active for the rest of the year. You do not need to reapply each year. Once you have a PRE, it continues until there is a change in ownership or the status of the property.

When a property is no longer your principal residence, you must file a **REQUEST TO RESCIND HOMEOWNER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION** form with the City or Township you had the exemption in. The exemption will be rescinded for the year following the change. For example, if a property stopped being your principal residence in 2008, the exemption will be removed for 2009.

A change in the law last year allows some homeowners to have two homesteads for a period of time. If you have moved to a new residence for which you have received a PRE, you may be able to continue the principal residence exemption on the old home for up to three years while you sell it. For details, check the Michigan Department of Treasury website or stop down to the Assessor Office. We have details on eligibility requirements and the form to fill out.

The Principal Residence Exemption Program is a State program administered by the Michigan Department of Treasury. Cascade Township sends the PRE forms it receives to the Treasury Department PRE section. They update their database and monitor for duplicate exemptions. The Department of Treasury has the ultimate decision as to the validity of an exemption.

The Principal Residence Exemption reduces your taxes. It does not change your assessment or taxable value. Properties with an exemption do not pay the School Operating Millage tax. This reduces the millage rate by 9 mills on the summer and 9 mills on the winter tax bills.

There are several ways to confirm whether you have the exemption. The last tax bill will indicate the PRE percentage and show if school-operating millage is being charged. The **CHANGE OF ASSESSMENT NOTICE** you received in February listed whether you had an exemption. You may also check on our website or stop down to the Assessor Office.

Property owners who discover their exemption status is wrong may request the July or December Board of Review correct it. The Board may add or remove an exemption for the current year and three prior years. If you do not have a Principal Residence Exemption and believe you qualify, contact the Assessors Office at 949-6176.

## Pathway News...



*Dear Cascade pathway volunteers,*

We are now entering our third full year of volunteerism with regards to keeping our wonderful Cascade pathways clean and free from trash. Your efforts in years past have proven to be, without exception, very successful. Generally I have suggested that we begin anew sometime in the first week of May and continue our pick up efforts until the first real bite of winter. However, as the snow has melted and revealed man and machines inhumanity to nature, I would suggest that we begin our clean up efforts in April. If any of you are feeling real adventuresome, I have 55 lb. gray trash bags available. I also have a few reflective vests that say "Keep Cascade Beautiful". I want to thank you in advance for your effort.

*Sincerely*

*Kris Taylor*  
Pathway Coordinator  
616-942-1152  
[tditaylor@aol.com](mailto:tditaylor@aol.com)

## 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.



# Cascade

## News from the Township Manager

### Where Cascade Fits in the Stimulus Plan

With almost a Trillion Dollars in stimulus money being doled out, you would expect to see something done in Cascade Township. We will get some direct benefit, but the “big bucks” are being spent elsewhere. Do not despair, as money spent in surrounding communities will provide a benefit for Cascade businesses and residents.

Cascade will see two stimulus projects in the township – The repaving of the entry road to the Gerald R. Ford airport and the repaving of Patterson Road from the Airport to 60th Street. Both will provide jobs for the work at hand and traffic will have a smoother ride in the vicinity of the airport.

What will provide more benefit for us will be the projects planned elsewhere. The first that comes to mind is the widening of I-196 through the downtown area. Cascade is in a perfect position as we live in a quiet, serene residential community. But, if you want to go downtown for work, a business meeting, the symphony or a hockey game, the trip takes 15 minutes! However, if there is traffic, the trip could take a lot longer. With the addition of a third lane on I-196, traffic woes should be severely reduced, making the trip to and from downtown Grand Rapids a joyful one.

### Cemetery Landscaping

Spring is here and if you have a plot at one of the Township cemeteries its time to ready them for summer. All winter decorations should be removed from the plot as of April 1st. Flowers in pots may be placed on the grave from May 15th to October 1st each year. Remember that glass containers are not allowed in the cemetery as they pose a danger if broken. Also be advised that the planting of flowerbeds, shrubs or trees are not allowed in any of the three township cemeteries. Contact the Clerk’s Office (949-1508) with any questions regarding care of your plot.

### Pathway Repairs

The warmer weather and later sunsets provides us with more opportunities to enjoy the pathways in Cascade. We encourage residents using our pathways to let us know if a section of pathway needs some repair. While we check the pathways each spring and make a repair plan, there may be a section you see that we don’t. So, do not hesitate to call. We hope to develop a multi-year plan this year so we can budget repair funds better for the future. Also, if you find an area where shrubs, trees or other growth are impeding you, please let us know. We will do our best to fix the problem.

### Safety Committee

Cascade Township recently created a safety committee made up of employees to insure that our employees are able to do the work of the township without fear of injury and that our work doesn’t cause injury to the public. The committee has been charged with preparing the township for a mock MIOSHA inspection and making corrections/improvements to our operations and equipment as necessary.

The committee will be setting up training classes for all employees so everyone is “safety conscious” everyday. The ultimate result of this program is to reduce injuries to our employees, reduce damage to our vehicles and equipment, and to save the Township money, both on repairs and premiums.

## East Precinct News...

### Spring is on its way...!

With that said, this is the time of year when the ice starts melting on the lakes and ponds making the ice very dangerous. Please keep this in mind while working or playing near a body of water.

The Kent County Sheriff’s Department (East Precinct) will be hosting safety days on April 8th and 9th. The times are from 9:00-11:30 am and 1:00-4:00 pm. This event will include child finger printing, safety education, Q&A with Deputy’s and many other fun activities.

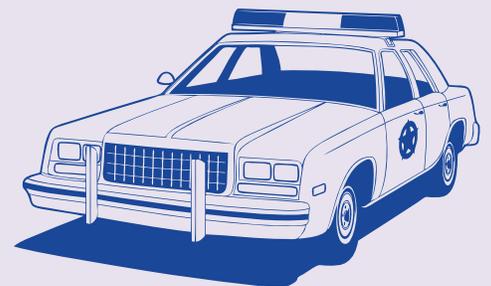
There will be a bike rodeo held at Ada Park on Saturday June 13th from 10am-2pm. This event is for children 12 and under. The event includes a bike course, giveaways, information on bicycle safety and Deputy’s will be there to answer any questions you may have regarding bike safety.

Recently myself and Deputy Taylor attended a child safety seat school. This school taught us how to properly install child safety seats. We are able to assist residents in properly installing their child’s car seat safely in their vehicle.

If you have questions about this please contact Deputy Jason VanDyke at 632-6435 or via email at [Jason.Vandyke@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Jason.Vandyke@kentcountymi.gov).

*Take care. Have a great spring!*

*Deputy Jason VanDyke*



# Connections

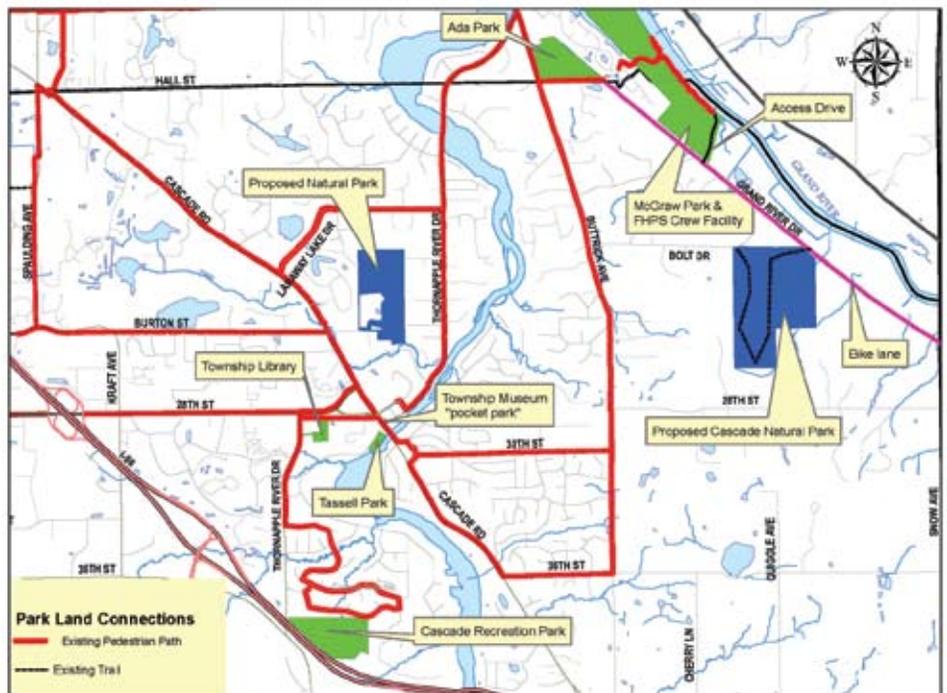
## New Parks and Open Space Millage

What has happened since the passage of the Open Space millage on Nov 4? Since then, the Township has acquired the Burton St property and hired Progressive AE as a Landscape Architect to lead the design effort for Burton St. They have already begun their work and we expect it to be completed May 18. Some of the key challenges will be the use of the existing buildings, separating the public property from the private property and access to the site. Stay tuned to the Township website and newspaper for the public input portion of the process.

We have also been preparing to sell bonds for the open space properties. It is expected that the bonds, totaling 4.375 million dollars, will be ready for sale in mid-April. The sale will be preceded by a public meeting to explain the sale so all residents will be up to speed on the advantages of purchasing the tax-free municipal bonds. The Township is also working to improve on our Aa3 (Moody's) and AA (S&P) ratings in an effort to lower our costs for the bonds. The Township met with representatives from both rating agencies near the end of March to review the state of our township and our financial position. We should hear from them by the middle of April.

We are very pleased to report that we were successful in obtaining a grant from the State of Michigan for 1.2 million dollars to assist in the acquisition of the Bolt properties. Not much will happen with the Bolt properties until the State Legislators appropriate the funds. We have contacted both State Representative Amash as well as State Senator Hardiman and let them know that we would appreciate the money being appropriated as soon as possible so we may acquire that property as well. Until the property is acquired the property is not "officially" open to the public.

The LEGACY: Connecting Cascade's Natural Areas and Parklands



## Storm Water Management

The Township Board has recently approved an implementation plan for the Storm Water Management Plan. One of the objectives of the implementation strategy is to put in place a way for residents/property owners to get assistance with storm water related issues. This program is not intended for the small property disputes about storm water trespass but rather the larger issues involving flooding and erosion. It is the intent of this plan that property owners will be active participants in this process. If you believe you need assistance with a Storm Water related issue, please feel free to review our storm water information on the website at [www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com) or at the Township office. If you have any questions you can call the Township Manager or Planner (949-1500) for assistance.

# Cascade

## I.C.E. ON YOUR CELL PHONE

### ICE: 'In Case of Emergency'

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory, but nobody other than ourselves knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending to us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored, but which one is the contact person "in case of an emergency"? Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell (mobile) phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as 'ICE'.

For more than one contact name simply enter **ICE1**, **ICE2**, **ICE3**, etc. It's a great idea that will make a difference!

Let's spread the concept of **ICE** by storing an **ICE** number in our mobile phones today! It really could save your life or put a loved one's mind at rest. **ICE** will speak for you when you are not able to.



## Tornado Season Approaches

Over the past two years, Cascade Township has greatly improved its severe weather warning capability. For years, Cascade Township was served by a single Tornado Warning Siren that was located behind the Township Offices. This siren could not be heard by most residents in the township and had limited usefulness. With a concern for the safety of our residents, the Township Board set out to improve warning for our residents.

The locations of the new warning sirens are: 2865 Thornhills (behind Township Offices), 2990 Buttrick (behind Fire Station 2), Spaulding at Abbeydale, Laraway Lake at Tammarron, 5615 Whitneyville and 3820 Thornapple River Dr. (Township Recreation Park).

These sirens are connected to Kent County Dispatch and are activated by a radio tone in the event of an emergency. Additionally, all sirens are tested at noon on the first Friday of each month. This verifies that the sirens are working. This test also provides a test of the radio tone to ensure that the system is ready to be activated at any time. All sirens can be individually activated from Fire Station 1 in the event of an emergency. In the event of a widespread emergency or power outage affecting Kent County Dispatch, other communities in our area have the capability of activating the warning network, if needed.

Although other warning devices have been developed over the years, Cascade Township chose the updated warning sirens after significant research. After reviewing many articles dealing with effectiveness of various tornado warning devices, the Township Board then reviewed the warning system put in place in Oklahoma—the state recognized as having the most effective tornado warning system in America. It was based on this research that the decision was made to expand our warning siren network in an effort to provide improved warning capability to all Township residents.

# Connections



## House Numbers Critical in Emergency Response

Is your house number prominently displayed? The answer to this question provides an indication of the response time you can expect in the event of an emergency. Prominent house numbers can mean the difference between life and death.

Fire Department and ambulance response is generated based on an address. Your Fire Department personnel are the first on the scene. In addition to providing medical care in an emergency, we mark the property to make it easier for ambulance personnel to find the address. When we can't determine your house number, we can't provide emergency care and we can't guide the ambulance to you.

For residential buildings, numbers should be at least 4" tall and should be reflective or illuminated. Commercial buildings should use numbers at least 6" tall. It is crucial that the numbers contrast with the background to provide maximum visibility.

The Cascade Firefighters Association makes reflective, contrasting address markers that provide excellent visibility. They are designed to be used near the end of your driveway or mailbox and are available for \$15 with free installation.



## Did You Check Your Smoke Detector Batteries?

Smoke detectors have been proven to save lives and property in the event of a fire. Make sure your family is protected by checking the batteries with the semi-annual time changes. Even if your detector is equipped with the newer 10-year lithium batteries, they should be checked with each time change. Remember, it's never too late to start testing your batteries—even if you missed the March 8 time change.

Regular maintenance of your smoke detector is the best way to ensure that it works when you need it. Make sure to keep the area around the smoke detector free of dust, spider webs or bugs by vacuuming around each detector every month. Opening the cover and cleaning the inside of your detector will make sure you get the earliest warning possible. Cleaning the inside of your detector also provides a convenient opportunity to test your detector after you put it together.

When you are adding detectors to your home, we recommend that you place one in each bedroom and at least one on each floor of the house in a "common area". Hallways with adjoining bedrooms should also have smoke detectors. To work properly, air must not be stagnant around the detector—avoid locations that position the detector in dead airspace. When mounting a smoke detector on the wall, please position it 4"-12" from the ceiling. When mounted on the ceiling, the smoke detector should be at least 4" away from any wall.

Following these guidelines will increase the effectiveness of your smoke detectors and could save your life in the event of a fire.

# Cascade

## Garlic Mustard: A growing problem

Have you noticed the beautiful spring wildflowers like trilliums and wild geraniums are slowly disappearing from our natural areas? Replacing these native gems is a plant that is sweeping across the Midwest, destroying the natural landscape as it goes. This terrible weed is called garlic mustard. From its unexciting appearance one would not guess its insidious nature. But, for those who have battled on the front lines of this invasion, the destructive powers of this plant are irrefutable.

### What is the problem?

Among the many invasive plants, garlic mustard stands out with its ability to destroy our natural lands. Its competitive nature quickly transforms a diverse Michigan forest ecosystem into a sea of garlic mustard. One of the main ways garlic mustard competes is by changing the soil in which our native plants grow. By eliminating an important fungus that lives in our Michigan soils, it creates an environment that our native plants cannot grow. Even the tall trees that tower above the garlic mustard, are affected by its invasion. Scientists have recently shown that garlic mustard invasions significantly impact the growth of a tree, thereby decreasing timber harvest.

But for most of us, it is the disappearance of the beautiful spring wildflowers that affect us the most. Within a few years a forest floor of trilliums, trout lilies and other spring wildflowers can disappear, along with the animals that use them.

### What to do?

Take action! If you find a small patch of garlic mustard in your yard or favorite natural area... PULL IT! First, you should make sure you are identifying it correctly. There are a few plants that do look similar. Once you have correctly identified the plant and received permission from the land owner, remove the plant as quickly as possible and

continue removing the plants in subsequent years until it is gone from that location. It only takes a few years for a small patch of garlic mustard take over an area.

If you find a small patch of plants that has never gone to seed (less than two years old), you may be able to get rid of the patch in one year by pulling the plants before any of them go to seed. If there is evidence that some of the plants produced seed the previous year, it may take five or more years of pulling at that location to eliminate the garlic mustard due to the seeds in the seed bank.

If you have a patch too large for hand pulling, herbicides might be the only answer. Since garlic mustard is often found in wet areas, make sure you are following label directions and use wetland approved herbicide if necessary.

The most important thing to remember is to remove all flowering plants every year before they go to seed. If you miss just one year or just a few plants, you will be back to square one. Garlic mustard is a biennial. Therefore, within a few years of working on an outbreak, progress can be made. It is also critical you bag any plants that you pull because even out of the ground, the plant will continue to produce seeds. It takes at least five years of pulling and monitoring to ensure a population is actually gone.

There are a few means of disposing of garlic mustard. Recently, a state-wide organization, the Stewardship Network, received permission to have people throw bagged garlic mustard in with their normal trash as long as they explain that it is an invasive species. You can contact the Stewardship Network at [www.stewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org) to find out more (plus find out more about the state-wide competition to eradicate garlic mustard). But do not compost the plants! Most compost piles do not reach a temperature that will kill the garlic mustard seeds.

## Help keep our natural lands beautiful by stopping the spread of this destructive invasive plant.

### Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department Garlic Mustard Pulls

Friday, April 24	8:30-11	Leonard Field
Sunday April 26	10-1	Ada Park
Monday, April 27	10-12	Ada Park
Tuesday, May 12	10:30-12	Roselle Park
Friday, May 15	9-12	Ada Park

Contact 616-676-0520 or [adaparks@ada.mi.us](mailto:adaparks@ada.mi.us) for more information.



Photo by Chris Evans

# Connections



## Caring For Your Car and the Environment

Car care and maintenance are important when trying to protect the environment. Many vehicle fluids can be hazardous, including engine oil, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, brake fluid, hydraulic fluids, and radiator fluid. Even small quantities can contaminate water supplies and harm fish and wildlife.

### Motor Oil Disposal

Since more than 25% of all car owners change their own oil, knowing how to dispose of it properly is important. Any motor oil dumped into a storm drain will eventually end up in a nearby stream or lake. If you change your oil, put the used oil in a sturdy container, label it, and take it to a local oil recycling location.

### Clean-Up of Spills

Use kitty litter or sawdust to absorb spills of any of these types of materials. Sweep up the absorbent after a few hours. For small spills, place the used absorbent in a strong plastic bag and place it in the trash. For large spills, (over 1 gallon of absorbent), take the material to a household hazardous waste disposal center.



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

## Healthy Lawns and Gardens

Healthy lawn and garden practices can save homeowners time and money and promote a beautiful landscape. You can help prevent pollution of nearby streams and lakes by following these healthy lawn and garden tips.

1. Select native plants suited for the site and climate conditions.
2. Mow your grass at a high setting and leave the grass clippings on the lawn.
3. Mix grass clippings with leaves and soil to make a backyard compost pile.
4. Use mulch (shredded leaves, grass clippings, or compost) to control weeds, retain moisture, and build fertile soils.
5. Reduce the use of insecticides, herbicides, and other chemicals on your lawn or garden.
6. Select a no-phosphorus or low-phosphorus fertilizer.



# Cascade

## Be Red Cross Ready

### DOG FIRST AID and CAT FIRST AID Class



#### Dog First Aid and Cat First Aid

**Topics covered include:**

- Symptoms and care for common ailments and emergencies
- Creating a pet first aid kit
- How to prepare for disasters
- Tips on maintaining your pet's health and well-being

**Get Trained.** Just like with people, accidents and emergencies can happen to animals – so being prepared could make a lifesaving difference.

**Where:** Kent District Library  
Cascade Branch - Wisner Center  
2870 Jacksmith Ave

**When:** May 16, 2009

**Time:** 8:30am – 2:30pm



To register for the course, contact the American Red Cross at 616-456-8661

In Partnership Together



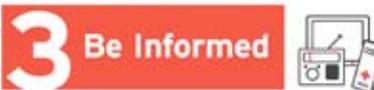
[www.Cascadecommunityfoundation.com](http://www.Cascadecommunityfoundation.com)



# Connections

## Be Red Cross Ready

### Family First Aid and Preparedness Class May 16, 2009 3:00pm-5:00pm



#### First Aid and Preparedness for Primary Schools and Families

*First Aid and Preparedness* supports Be Red Cross Ready, a nationwide initiative launched by the Red Cross to help prepare for emergencies and disasters before they happen. This initiative challenges each person to take three actions to help make their families, workplaces, schools and neighborhoods safer:

- Get a kit
- Make a plan.
- Be informed.

The American Red Cross *First Aid and Preparedness for Primary Schools and Families* presentation is intended for children 6-11 years of age and families with young children.

*First Aid and Preparedness* is for today's busy family. It's a short, 2-hour presentation designed to teach children the concept of preparedness. This interactive, fun class provides important safety messages and stresses the importance of recognizing an emergency and calling 9-1-1 or the local emergency number. The course also provides information on how to help an adult or child who is choking and an orientation to and practice of first aid skills.

*First Aid and Preparedness* includes age-appropriate activities so that it may be taught to children only or children with their parents or guardians. Each adult participant is given an *American Red Cross First Aid and Preparedness* booklet for easy reference. Information shared in this way – learning together – can promote a safety dialog between parents and kids that is essential to ensuring family safety.

**Class is offered at no cost to 50 families residing in the Cascade community. Please register today with the American Red Cross at 616-456-8661.**

**Location: Kent District Library Cascade Branch - Wisner Center  
2870 Jacksmith Ave**



[www.Cascadecommunityfoundation.com](http://www.Cascadecommunityfoundation.com)



# Cascade Connections

## Thank you...

Ms. Karen McCarthy, a Consumers Energy employee, was recognized at a recent Township Board meeting for her volunteer work in the community. The Consumers Energy Foundation sponsors a program which recognizes employees' volunteer work by providing a grant to the non-profit organization for which they volunteer.

Karen applied late last year for a grant for Cascade Township in light of her participation in the Master Plan Advisory Committee. Karen presented a check to the Township in the amount of \$225.00 at a recent Township Board meeting. She performed 45 hours of volunteer service over the last 12 months with the Township by serving on the comprehensive plan advisory committee.

Thank you Karen, for your time and service to the Township.



## 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)

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT No. 1  
GRAND RAPIDS MI

## Township Board

Supervisor Rob Beahan  
[rbeahan@cascadetwp.com](mailto:rbeahan@cascadetwp.com)  
Clerk Ron Goodyke  
[rgoodyke@cascadetwp.com](mailto:rgoodyke@cascadetwp.com)  
Treasurer Marjorie Dood  
[mdood@cascadetwp.com](mailto:mdood@cascadetwp.com)  
Trustee Jim Koessel  
[jkoessel@cascadetwp.com](mailto:jkoessel@cascadetwp.com)  
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