



# CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

## Winter 2011

### Office Hours:

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

### Department Phone Numbers:

#### Manager:

Bill Cousins; 949-1500  
bcousins@cascadetwp.com

#### Assessing:

Roger McCarty; 949-6176  
roger@cascadetwp.com

#### Building / Grounds:

Amy Waugh; 682-4836  
awaugh@cascadetwp.com

#### Building Inspections:

Butch Visser; 949-3765  
bvisser@cascadetwp.com

#### Clerk:

Ron Goodyke; 949-1508  
rgoodyke@cascadetwp.com

#### Fire:

John Sigg; 949-1320  
jsigg@cascadetwp.com

#### Planning:

Steve Peterson; 949-0224  
speterson@cascadetwp.com

#### Treasurer:

Ken Peirce; 949-6944  
kpeirce@cascadetwp.com

#### Sheriff / Non-Emergency:

632-6100

#### East Precinct Office:

632-6394



*from your Township Board,  
Commissions & Staff!*

## 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.

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Bring your used Christmas tree to the parking lot behind the Buttrick Fire Station (Buttrick & 30th Street) from December 26 - January 8. Please remember to remove all ornaments, lights, tinsel, & tree stands. Happy Holidays!

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

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

## 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 20.



**FROM THE  
SUPERVISOR**  
**ROB BEAHAN**

Over the last several months your Township Board and staff have carefully worked out the budget for the fiscal year 2012. Guided by our commitment to long term sustainability, we once again are delivering on our goal of fiscal responsibility through a balanced budget. I am privileged to thank the Cascade Township Board and the Township management and staff for their vision, passion, and commitment to the financial strength and quality of life we all enjoy in Cascade.

On behalf of the Cascade Township Board and Staff, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

## JUST A REMINDER!

While walking on the pathways and also in the parks, dogs must be on a controlled 6 foot leash. Please be considerate of others using the paths, some people are leery of dogs and are concerned about their own safety and others around unfamiliar dogs, especially ones not on a leash.

## DOG LICENSING INFORMATION

Michigan law requires licensing for dogs four months of age or older. Dog licenses will be available at the Township Treasurer's office beginning December 1, 2011 through March 1, 2012. Proof of rabies vaccination and spay/neutering from your veterinarian plus your reminder postcard from Kent County are required to obtain a license.



### 2011 Dog License Fees

<b>Male or Female dogs:</b>	<b>For Senior Owners:</b>
<b>Altered - \$12.00</b>	<b>Altered - \$6.00</b>
<b>Un-Altered - \$26.00</b>	<b>Un-Altered - \$13.00</b>

The cost of a dog license doubles after March 1, 2012, and these licenses may only be purchased at the Kent County Animal Shelter (616-632-7300) by person or by mail: 740 Fuller Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Your dog must be licensed to avoid a substantial penalty and citation from the Kent County License Inspectors.

## WINTER 2011 TAX INFORMATION

Winter 2011 tax bills and informational notices were mailed December 1, 2011. Winter taxes are due on or before Tuesday, February 14, 2012. If you do not receive a tax statement during December, please check the township's website or call the Treasurer's office at 616-949-6944. Please use the return envelope provided with your tax statement. Payments are receipted on the same business day they are received. We recommend that you allow 7 days to ensure a timely delivery. An informational letter will also be enclosed with the bill for alternative payment instructions and E-Z pay application.

Our office will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26, 2011 for the Christmas Holiday. We will also be closed Monday, January 2, 2012 for the New Year Holiday.

On March 1, 2012, all unpaid property taxes will be forwarded to the Kent County Treasurer for collection. Postmarks are not accepted.

You may check property taxes 24/7 with a link from the Township's website [www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com).

### Instructions for the link on the website are:

- Assessing Information (from Quick Links)
- **IS Cascade Township (BS&A)**
- Current Tax Search (on the left side of the screen)
- Click in the box marked Parcel Number (you may also search by name or street). Click "Search" when the criteria is entered for your inquiry.
- Click on Parcel Number (This will give you the payment history of the parcel. Click on (+) sign for a detailed history.

We look forward to any inquiries and serving you this year!

## THANK YOU, BRAD!

Brad Hecht, a Cascade Township resident, constructed tee markers for the disc golf course at the Rec Park, as an Eagle Scout project. The tee markers serve the purpose of identifying the number, par, and length for each hole on the 18-hole course. They're very helpful to the disc golf players and they make the course look more complete.

## CASCADE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

November 18, 2011

Dear Neighbor,

We didn't do it. You did! Because of your generosity, now kids in Cascade will have a beautiful field to play on year after year.

"What was once nothing but a mowed field is now a level, flat playing field that will be able to handle the hundreds of kids playing football, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey," Planning director for the township, Steve Peterson, said.

Abraham Shearer, Executive Director for Alliance soccer club was so wound up about improvements to the fields that he went and donated two new soccer goals to go on them.

"We were so excited to see the important improvements to the field last summer," Shearer said. "...And we got plenty of use out of the field in June and July last year."

But helping redo the soccer fields is just one thing the Cascade Community Foundation did last year. We also gave our last installment for the wind turbine at the Cascade Library. This wind turbine helps kids and adults study alternative energy. You can go to our website and see just what the turbine is up to.

[http://cascadecommunityfoundation.com/wind\\_turbine](http://cascadecommunityfoundation.com/wind_turbine)

Gifts to the Historical Society and others all help make our community a wonderful place to live. So thank you for all your help! Your gifts are continuing to work for good, forever!

We do want to take just a moment and inform you of an extraordinary opportunity. When you, your family, or business make a gift to an existing community foundation endowed fund, like the Cascade Community Foundation, *your dollars go farther through a 50 percent Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit available only for donations through December 31*. Current law permits taxpayers to reduce their Michigan Income Tax or Michigan Business Tax liability by a credit of 50 percent of the amount contributed to a community foundation endowment fund.

What that means for you is that:

- If you contribute \$200 or more, your tax credit will be \$100 (maximum credit) for an individual filing singly.
- If you and your spouse contribute \$400 or more, your tax credit will be \$200 (maximum credit) for a married couple filing jointly.
- If your business contributes \$10,000 or more, your tax credit will be \$5,000 (maximum credit) or five percent of tax liability before claiming any credits, whichever is less, for taxpayers filing Michigan Business Tax returns. For additional information on how the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit impacts you, please consult with your tax advisor.

Thank you for anything you decide to do this year. We wish you and yours a holiday filled with the love and laughter of family and friends.



Sincerely,  
Michelle Bottrall  
President

## FOREST HILLS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Membership to the FHBA is open to all business entities doing business in the Forest Hills area. Membership runs from January through December and is priced at \$150. 2012 memberships are now available! Call for more information on memberships; 616-481-5274 or visit our website: [www.foresthillsbusinessassociation.com](http://www.foresthillsbusinessassociation.com)

Upcoming meetings are highlighted below:

**December 15, 5:00pm –  
@ Noto's - Holiday Networking**

**January 12, 7:30am –  
Maximizing Social Media  
for your Business**

**February 9, 5:30pm –  
Networking 101;  
Make the Most of the Meeting!**

**March 8, 7:30am –  
Generation Gaps in the Workplace**

**March 17, 10:00-3pm –  
Forest Hills Expo**

**April 12, 7:30am –  
Sustainability in Your Business  
and Your Community**

**April 21, 9-12pm –  
Recycle Electronics, On Site Shredding  
and Highway Clean-up**

Stay informed with Forest Hills information on the Forest Hills Business Association Facebook page & LinkedIn!

Upcoming meetings are open to the public at a \$25 fee:



## THE HOLT FAMILY OF CASCADE

Driving down 28th Street or Cascade Road today, it is difficult to imagine what this area was like 163 years ago. Think no electricity, no phones, no planes, no cars, no stores. Michigan became a state in 1837. Ada, Cascade and Caledonia were governed as one unit in 1838. In 1843 Caledonia joined Bowne and Ada and Cascade split in 1848.

This area is rich in history. Many pioneers helped develop Cascade and to them, we owe much. These were the folks who put it all on the line to make our community what it is today.

The Cascade Historical Society has many records, files, photos, ledgers and diaries which reveal what life was like back then. We pause now to take a brief look back.

One of the outstanding founding families of our area was the **Holt family**. **Henry Holt** was born April 6, 1803, at Hampton, CN. His father, **Nehemiah Holt**, was a soldier of the Revolution. His mother was **Sally Dunlop Bolt**. Mr. Holt moved from Connecticut to Oneida Co., NY, and thence to Herkimer Co., NY. We have **Henry's** journals which he maintained over many years which give us glimpses of what life was like for them.



*The Holt family (from left) Henry Holt, Henry G. Holt, Helen Holt Clark, Gertrude Holt Densmore, Gaylord Holt, Marion Holt Johnson, Charles Holt, Mary DeWitt Holt.*

and was conductor of a music school. **Marion** was born in 1841 and married **Edgar Johnson**, a teacher and township supervisor for many years. **Charles** was born in 1844, married **Nell Nichols** and became a cattle and sheep trader. **Sarah** was born in 1847 and died in 1850. **Edward** was born in 1849 and died in 1850. **Helen** was born in 1854 and married **Jay Clark**, a Baptist minister.

The Holts then moved from New York to Michigan. In his journal **Henry** says "Nov 10, 1852- began keeping house." Their farmhouse which he had built was at 2600 Thornapple River Drive and included 450 acres. He was a terrific farmer and tried raising sugar cane and even silkworms. He had two orchards and charted where each variety of apples, peaches, pears and plums were planted. He was interested in making scientific agricultural experiments. Later he completed Junior College, founded the Grand Valley Horticultural Society and became active in various church, political and business organizations.

A reference to the Holts is found in the book *The Yesterdays of Grand Rapids* by Charles E. Belknap written in 1922. In the chapter titled "Shooting Under a Light on the Thornapple," Belknap tells the story of one autumn day in 1858 when he walked with Robert Robinson to the Rix Robinson home near Ada to shine the Thornapple for deer.

"The country was being rapidly settled and while the deer were numerous they were wild. There were no game laws and the deer were hunted with

dogs at any season of the year. There were some sportsmen who roamed the forest not so much for the game they could kill as for the freedom and joy of the great out-of-doors."

"At one place two men in a skiff with a jack light were spearing bass and pike. When we passed Charlie Holt's clearing, his watchdog awakened the woods."

"In 1858 game was still abundant about the Grand River valley but people were wasteful of the forest life. Venison was served on hotel tables and dried venison was a specialty at Bentham's Restaurant." Some things do not change since there are still many deer in Cascade. One can find Bentham's Restaurant now in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids.

**Charles** enlisted in the Union Army in the 1st Michigan Light Artillery unit in August 1864 when he was 20 years old. In the Cascade Historical Society files there is an interesting letter written to **Charles** from his brother-in-law **Edgar Johnson** April 21, 1865. "Give my respects to **Everett Beckley** and all the rest of the Cascade boys. Tell them I hope soon to see them at home safe and sound."

**Charles** was a husky 6' 2" healthy man but became ill and was discharged in Nashville, TN the following May. Many soldiers came home either wounded or diseased. **Charlie** had a lung infection and doctors were not optimistic about his recovery. However, he did recover and old accounts relate that he believed he was healed by drinking spring water.



*The Holt farm on Thornapple River Drive.*

He was married in 1830 to **Larancy Potter**. Henry became a farmer and maintained an orchard and made cheese for which Herkimer County was noted. The couple had three children. **Henry** was born in 1831, became a lawyer and later served as Michigan's Lieutenant Governor in 1872 for two terms. **George** was born in 1833 and was killed by a runaway farm team in 1859. **Gertrude** was born in 1835 and married **Luther Densmore** of Ada. **Mr. Densmore** was among Cascade's residents serving in the Civil War. **Mrs. Holt** died in 1835 soon after Gertrude was born.

Mr. Holt then married **Mary DeWitt** in 1836 and they had seven children. **Francis** was born in 1837, married **William Denison** and died in 1863.

**Horace Gaylord**, born in 1839, had five daughters

According to a story in the *Cascade Chronicles* book, Charlie and his dad were drifting down the Thornapple River when he found a bubbling spring by the bank. Healing springs were being found all over the Midwest at this time. He kept drinking the water and later was sure that this water had cured him.

He built a three-story 50-room Cascade Memorial Springs Hotel and Bathhouse on the east banks of the Thornapple in 1891 at a cost of \$8,000. It was located near what is now 2551 Cascade Springs Drive and he built a bridge to the hotel. It became a popular spa and equal to any luxury hotel in Michigan with well-kept lawns, croquet areas, clay tennis courts and strolling peacocks. It was "the place to be" for the affluent of the day. Besides the beautiful setting, there was excellent bass fishing. However, the hotel closed around 1912 when other mineral resorts drew away the customers.

Cascade was laid out in 1836 and 1869 and the scenic village of Cascade Springs was platted in 1890 by **Charles** and **Nellie Holt**. In April 1925 Holt Road was put through on the east side of the river starting at the bridge. It continued up the hill following the river and was later abandoned when Cascade Terrace was platted in favor of what is now Cascade Springs Drive. Many current residents of that neighborhood can tell tales of the accomplishments of the Holts.

**Henry's** journal shows that he was instrumental in building the community. He became Justice of the Peace and officiated at marriages, executed deeds and wills, heard lawsuits, presided over jury trials and appraised estates. Later he became president of the Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company. He died in 1895 at age 92. **Mary, Henry's** wife died in 1891, at the age of 75.

**Charlie** raised trout and was a pioneer in the propagation of both bass and trout. From his ponds, the Michigan fish Commission obtained its breeder fish for the first fish hatchery. Modern fish hatcheries use procedures based on his methods. He lived to be 80 years old and died in 1924 after seeing so many changes to his hometown. Today there is little to show for **Charlie's** life since he had no children and his house was torn down. However, there is a small stone in the Cascade Cemetery where you'll find a flag on it at Memorial Day. His is a superb legacy.

If you have stories, photos, clippings or other items to share about Cascade's history, do contact the Cascade Historical Society through the Township offices or me. We'd love to hear from you.

— *Sharon Yentsch*  
949-9291

## HALLOWEEN PARTY

On Monday October 31st the Cascade Fire Department Station #1 became a gathering place of ghosts, goblins and many other costumed creatures! Over 700 bags of candy were shared with visitors as well as doughnuts, apple cider, and coffee.

Later in the evening the costume contest took place with many great prizes being awarded to the winners. Age groups for the contest start with newborns and are broken into various groups up to and including the adults. We greatly appreciate the involvement of the community, sponsors, and volunteers! We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

### *Thank you to the Halloween Party Sponsors!*

On behalf of Cascade Township and the Cascade Township Fire Department, we would like to send a special thank you to the following businesses and sponsors for their donations and contributions to the 2011 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

**Batson & Associates**

**Blackie's**

**Cascade Automotive**

**Cascade Barber Shop**

**Cascade Car Wash**

**Cascade Firefighter's Association**

**Cascade Hospital for Animals**

**Chemical Bank West**

**Costco**

**Culvers**

**D&W Food Center**

**Family Fare**

**Frontline Services**

**Funny Business**

**Gordon Food Service**

**Independent Bank**

**Kingsland Hardware**

**Koenes Auto Body**

**Lake Michigan Credit Union**

**Lynne Deering**

**Meijer**

**Napa Auto Parts**

**ONeill's Body Shop**

**ONeill's Transmission**

**Ranir Corporation**

**S. Abraham & Sons**

**Sam's Club**

**Sentinel Pointe**

**Spartan Stores**

**Thomas & Joyce Wisner**

**United Bank**

**Walgreen's**

**Wal Mart**

## 2012 ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

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 2012, the CPI has been calculated at 2.7%.** 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 the significant changes in market values over the past few years, the State Tax Commission has mandated local assessors use a 12-month sales study to determine values for the 2012 assessment cycle.

**For 2012 assessments, the 12-month sales study begins October 1, 2010 and ends September 30, 2011.**

### 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.

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.

### So what does it all mean?

### How can I expect my assessment to change in 2012?

As stated in the Equalization Timetable, for 2012 the time period of the sales study for assessment review is October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011. Sales occurring after September 30, 2011 will not be reviewed until the 2013 assessment cycle.

Using more current sales data means that some SEV's in the area will be reduced again in 2012. Some areas will have small increases. Areas with limited sales data in the current 12 month study may have little or no sales for the Assessor to use for the 2012 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 2012 assessment may not go up or 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. (2.7% for 2012). 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 2012, **if there is still a gap between SEV and Taxable Value and the 2012 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 2012 SEV is **lower** than the calculation of last year's Taxable Value multiplied by the CPI, then the 2012 Taxable Value will be the same as the 2012 SEV.

## ELECTRICAL FIRE SAFETY

### A Factsheet on Home Electrical Fire Prevention

Electrical fires in our homes claim the lives of 310 Americans each year and injure 1,100 more. Some of these fires are caused by electrical system failures, but many more are caused by incorrectly installed wiring and overloaded circuits and extension cords.

Cascade Inspections would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to prevent the loss of life and property resulting from electrical fires.

#### The Problem

During a typical year, home electrical problems account for 28,600 fires and \$1.1 billion in property losses. 53% of residential electrical fires involve electrical wiring.

December and January are the most dangerous months for electrical fires. Fire deaths are highest in winter months which call for more indoor activities and increases in lighting, heating, and appliance use. The bedroom is the leading area of fire origin for residential building electrical fires. However, electrical fires that begin in the living room/family room/den areas result in the most deaths.

#### Safety Precautions

- Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring.
- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately.
- Replace any electrical tool if it causes even small electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out, or gives off smoke or sparks.
- Keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters; pay special care to electrical appliances in the bathroom and kitchen.
- Buy electrical products evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Keep clothes, curtains, and other potentially combustible items at least three feet from all heaters.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Don't allow children to play with or around electrical appliances like space heaters, irons, and hair dryers.
- Use safety closures to "child-proof" electrical outlets.
- Use electrical extension cords wisely; never overload extension cords or wall sockets.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.

Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.

*Have a safe holiday season,*

*Cascade Inspection Services*



## FROM YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT...

### Park Hours

With the change in season's and time change we want to inform you that all Township properties will be closed at dusk. This will be for all parks and cemeteries in the Township. Please be aware of this change so if you see us locking parks and cemeteries and you are asked to leave you know why this is happening.

### Fire Hydrants

Remember if there is a fire hydrant located by your house to keep it clear of snow and vegetation. This makes it easier for the Fire Department to locate them in case they are needed. We request a 3 foot clearance around the hydrant.

### Smoke Detectors

Remember to change your smoke detector batteries twice a year. If you did not change it with the time change pick other dates that you will remember to change your batteries.



### July 4th 2012

Plan ahead and think of warm weather. Next year's July 4th celebration will be on Wednesday July 4, 2012. Cascade will have its annual parade and celebration. Fireworks will be held on the evening on July 4th at Ada Drive and Fulton. More information will follow as the date gets closer.



## 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)

## Township Board

Supervisor Rob Beahan  
[rbeahan@cascadetwp.com](mailto:rbeahan@cascadetwp.com)  
Clerk Ron Goodyke  
[rgoodyke@cascadetwp.com](mailto:rgoodyke@cascadetwp.com)  
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Trustee Fred Goldberg  
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PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS MI  
PERMIT No. 1

## Pathway News

We have now completed, I believe, our fifth season of picking up trash along our wonderful bike and walking paths. It is sometimes hard to continually try to come up with superlatives to accurately convey how much I appreciate those of you that take time to pick up trash as you walk or ride on our more than 17 miles of trails but I do truly appreciate all your efforts.

If I have not mentioned this in previous newsletters let me mention it now, if you see a dead animal, especially deer, alone or near our pathways, please report it to Sandra at Cascade Township. I can't tell you how many dead deer I have reported to Sandra in the years my wife and I have been picking up Cascade road, but enough to probably fill a small tractor trailer and some.

It never ends and it never will. As long as we have the use of this wonderful trail system it will "attract trash". It is incumbent upon all of use to keep it clean. We can't rely on the other guy to do it. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season. Remember, Keep Cascade Beautiful.

*Kris Taylor*  
*Pathways Coordinator*

