



CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



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
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Building / Grounds:

Amy Waugh; 682-4836
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Building Inspections:

Butch Visser; 949-3765
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Clerk:

Ron Goodyke; 949-1508
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Fire:

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Planning:

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Treasurer:

Ken Peirce; 949-6944
kpeirce@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff / Non-Emergency:

632-6100

East Precinct Office:

632-6394

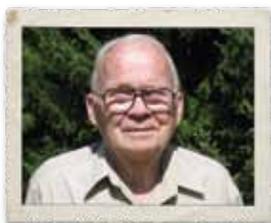


July 4th Celebration:

Grand Marshals

This year the 2011 4th of July Celebration will have three Grand Marshals for the festivities. Dan Wallace and Marion and Claude Robinson are being honored as the Grand Marshals for their many contributions to the Cascade area.

Dan Wallace



was born and raised in Cascade; in fact, other than the time spent away at MAC (Michigan Agricultural College, now

Michigan State University) Dan has lived within a quarter mile radius of his Grandfather's original farm. Dan and his brother worked with their father in advertising and continued for many years with their own firm, Wallace Advertising. They also built and ran a longtime restaurant in Cascade on 28th St near Kraft called Savory Street that featured the first salad bar in the area and live Dixieland music. Many people may also remember the float plane Dan kept on the Thornapple River near the Camelback bridge. Dan also helped develop the grass airstrip between Buttrick and Thornapple River Drive. In addition to his business pursuits in Cascade, Dan has willingly given of his time and expertise for years by serving on numerous boards and committees for the Township and has a wonderful lifelong connection with Cascade.

Claude and Marion Robinson



have called Cascade 'home' since 1975. Claude, trained as a civil engineer, has worked for many years in the transit industry and also

served as CEO and President of a number of subsidiaries of American Seating. In 1990, Claude was awarded the Outstanding Contribution Award given to an individual employed by an Associate Member of American Public Transit Association (APTA) for outstanding contributions to the transit industry. Claude has been on the Cascade Planning Commission and Zoning Board and is currently the Chairman of the Cascade Community Foundation which he helped found in late 2001. Marion was active in the educational sector serving as the Principal of Thornhills Elementary, Ada Elementary and as Director of Elementary Instruction for Early Childhood for the Forest Hills Public Schools. Marion also has been active with the Friends of the Library, and as President of the Cascade Historical Society. Claude and Marion have been married almost 64 years.

Cascade Celebration!

It's time for the annual Cascade Township July 4th celebration. This year the parade, celebration and fireworks will be held on Monday July 4th. The day will start with a bike parade. Once it is completed the parade of vehicles, floats, fire trucks and much more will travel from Cascade Road and Burton to 28th Street and end at 28th and Thornhills. Following the parade join us for rides, games, food and more at the property by the Township Library.

Roads will be closed for these events from 9:30 to approximately 12:30 p.m. The roads affected will be Cascade Road from Burton Street to Thornapple River Drive, 28th Street from Cascade to Thornhills and all of old 28th Street.

*** Reminder if you or your child will be in the bike parade and is 14 years old or younger, they must wear a bike helmet, as per Cascade Township Ordinance.***

Fireworks will be held Monday night July 4th at dusk. Location of the fireworks will be at 7590 East Fulton and Ada Drive.

July 4TH Parade Float Contest

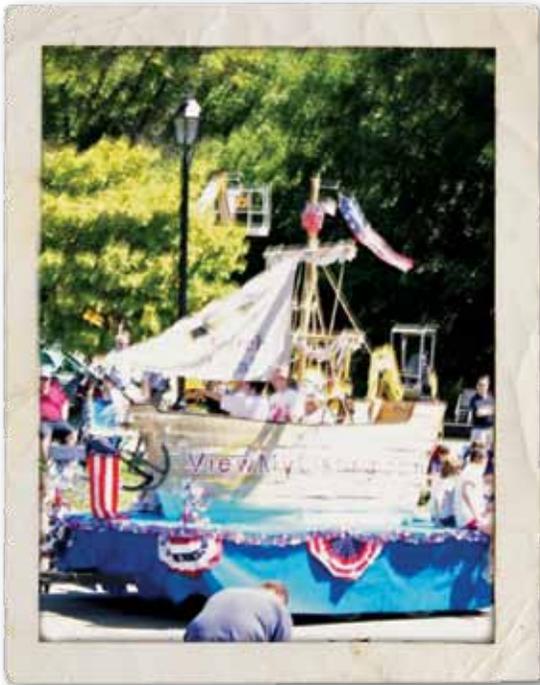
It's time for the families, businesses and neighborhoods of Cascade to be creative as you get closer to July 4TH. Come up with a unique and fun float to entertain our Cascade Township residents and visitors who watch our parade.

The float contest has two (2) categories—**Family and Neighborhood** floats are in one category while **Churches, businesses and other Organizations** are in another. The parade contest has inspired many new neighborhoods to join together to build a float. It has also encouraged Churches to use their floats as an outreach tool and it has inspired just plain fun for all friends and neighbors to attend our parade.

You are probably wondering what do I win if I come in first? The winners in each category win a trophy to keep plus you get to put the "Winner" banner on your float during the parade.

Once again Pat Vredevoogd Combs of Coldwell Banker AJS Schmidt Realty is sponsoring the Float Contest. No sign ups are necessary, just show up at the parade staging area (parking lot of the Forest Hills Schools Administration Building on the corner of Cascade Road and Burton Street) at 8:30 a.m. on the morning of July 4TH.

This is your Township—Your parade—Let's make it a great parade with lots of new and exciting floats



Volunteers Needed for July 4TH

Cascade Township is planning our annual July 4TH parade and celebration. This year the event will be held on Monday July 4TH.

There is a lot that happens the day of the event so things run smoothly. This cannot be done without the help of township staff, Kent County Sheriff Department and volunteers from our community.

Cascade Township would like to invite individuals, groups, businesses and other organizations to volunteer your time to help during the celebration. There are numerous areas where you could help at various times during the day. Listed below are areas you can volunteer:

Parking Detail: 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Direct traffic in various parking areas prior to the library book sale

Parade Marshals 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Work alongside the parade route to keep the parade moving and alleviate large gaps, maintaining safety of all participating in the parade.

Parade Route Clean up 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Clean up trash along parade route

Street Fair roamers 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Work in zones on the grounds to keep area clean

Event break down 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Help break down tables, chairs and clean up at end of event

If you are able and willing to help your community a few hours on this day, please call John Sigg at 949-1320 or e-mail at jsigg@cascadetwp.com. Please indicate where you can help with the event and reply by June 17.

Thank you for your consideration.

Earth Day 2011

Earth day was April 22 and two young local residents decided to help out and do their part in helping clean up the environment. Jacob and Connor Couch took an afternoon during Spring Break and picked up trash at a vacant lot on Kraft Avenue near 28th Street. They asked O'Neil's Body Shop, next door to the lot for permission to use their dumpsters for the trash they collected. Both Jacob and his brother Connor attend Ada Vista Elementary. As part of the Earth Day events planned by their school they also made artwork out of recycled material. Thanks boys for your efforts in cleaning up our environment!



Swimming Pool Safety

The term “Swimming Pool” means any structure, basin, chamber or tank which is intended for swimming, diving, recreational bathing or wading and which contains, is designed to contain, or is capable of containing water more than 24 inches (610 mm) deep at any point. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground pools; indoor pools; hot tubs; spas; and fixed-in-place wading pools.

🔒 Barriers

Barriers are not childproof, but they provide layers of protection for a child who strays from supervision. Barriers give parents additional time to locate a child before the unexpected becomes a reality.

Barriers include a fence or wall, door alarms for the house, and a power safety cover over the pool. Barriers also may be used to protect children from accessing hot tubs and spas. Use the following recommendations as a guide:

🔒 Fences & Gates

Install a fence or other barrier, such as a wall, completely around the pool. If the house is part of the barrier, the doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with an alarm or the pool should have a power safety cover. Alarm and cover details are below.

The fence or other barrier should be at least 4 feet high. It should have no foot or handholds that could help a young child to climb it.

Vertical fence slats should be less than 4 inches apart to prevent a child from squeezing through.

If the fence is chain link, then no part of the diamond-shaped opening should be larger than 1-3/4 inches.

Fence gates should be self-closing and self-latching. The gate should be well maintained to close and latch easily. The latch should be out of a child's reach.

🔒 Door Alarms

If the house forms one side of the barrier, then doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with alarms that produce an audible sound when a door is unexpectedly opened.

Install an alarm that can be temporarily turned off by an adult for a single opening of the door by using a keypad or switch that is out of a child's reach.

🔒 Above-Ground Pools

Steps and ladders leading from the ground to the pool should be secured and locked, or removed when the pool is not in use.

If you have any questions regarding swimming pool safety and code requirements, feel free to give our office a call at 949-3765.

Cascade Inspection Services

Attention Neighborhood Associations!

The Township would appreciate your most up to date contact list of your association officers. We use these lists to relay information that may be of specific interest to your neighborhood officers. We also share these lists with our sheriff deputies at the East Precinct. Please include association officer's names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. You may send updated information to Sandra Korhorn via email at sandra@cascadetwp.com or mail it to 2865 Thornhills Ave., SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Tips from the East Precinct...

As the weather warms up I have been asked by multiple residents to address a few things that seem to be happening repeatedly in the area.

Here are some major bike safety tips that are repeatedly violated throughout the East Precinct.

- Ride **with traffic**—Always be aware of the traffic around you and be prepared to stop.
- Ride **single file** in a straight line when riding on the road.
- Always **obey traffic signals**—Learn the rules of the road and obey traffic laws.

Here are some Pedestrian Safety tips. Please abide by them to make your walk safer and your neighbors happier. ***Follow these Pedestrian Safety Tips When Walking Near Traffic.***

Now that the weather is nice you see a lot of people walking in the roadway. The problem is that when they walk with other people they walk three and four abreast and this cuts into the traveled portion of the roadway for motor vehicles. This can be very dangerous, especially when two vehicles pass each other, all in the same spot.

Vehicles have the right of way and that is a dangerous practice forcing vehicles in to the opposing lane. Citizens walking have to give way to motor vehicles.

- **Use sidewalks** whenever available.
- **Obey traffic signals.**
- Cross streets at a corner. Most pedestrians are struck when crossing somewhere other than an intersection.
- **Look left-right-left before crossing a street** and continue looking while crossing.
- **Make eye contact with drivers prior to crossing in front of them.** Don't assume that because you can see the driver, the driver can see you.
- If you must walk along the roadway, **walk facing traffic** as far to the left as possible.
- If you must walk at night or in the early morning, **wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight.** Most pedestrian deaths occur between 6 p.m. and midnight.
- **Older adults need to allow for enough time** to safely cross the street.
- **Never allow children under 10 to cross streets alone.** Young children do not have the skills to accurately judge traffic risks.

*Walk and Bike wisely!!!
Deputy Julie Vogelzang*

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 2010, the exemption will be removed for 2011.

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.

Summer 2011 Tax Information

Summer 2011 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed July 1st. Summer taxes are due on or before September 14th, 2011. If you do not receive a tax statement during July, please check the township's website or call the Treasurer's office at 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 timely delivery.

The Summer Tax Deferment allows qualifying taxpayers to pay summer taxes after they receive a property tax credit refund from the State of Michigan. To qualify for this deferment, your household income must not exceed \$40,000, and you must be either 62 years or older; a paraplegic, quadriplegic, totally disabled; blind; a serviceperson, veteran or widow or widower of a veteran. Deferment application forms are available in the Treasurer's Office through September 14th. **The deferment period covers only one year, so you must reapply each year.**

Attention Travelers! If you will be away this summer, please call our office with your email, fax, or temporary address. We will forward the tax statement to you if it is returned to our office by the U.S.P.S. The treasurer's office is not responsible for postal deliveries and taxes are due whether a statement is received by the taxpayer, or not.

Check your property tax status 24/7 with a link from the Township's website: www.cascadetwp.com.

- > Quick Links
- > Assessing Information
- > Current Tax Search

You may search using a parcel number, street address, or your name.

- > Click "**Search**" when the criteria is entered for your inquiry.
- > Click on Parcel Number. This will give you the information page of the parcel. Click on (+) sign for detail of tax history.

Have a safe summer
Kenneth B. Peirce
Cascade Charter Township Treasurer



CASCADE AUDIT REVIEW GETS GOOD MARKS

Bill Cousins, Township Manager

The audit of the 2010 Cascade Township Books is almost completed. The firm of Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter was hired to conduct the audit of the Township books for the 2010 fiscal year. They recently completed the examination of our funds and made a preliminary report to the Township's Finance Committee (Trustee Jim Koessel, Treasurer Ken Peirce and Trustee Fred Goldberg). Hungerford determined that we had a very clean audit. Our financial condition is good and Township staff have done a very good job to insure that the record-keeping is clear, up-to-date and transparent.

One highlight of the financial activities of the Township in 2010 was that, in poor economic times and increasing costs for utilities and fuel, the township was able to end the year with a balanced budget. This was due to careful purchasing and good oversight by the Township Board.

The Township also kept a close eye on the loans for various projects. Some were paid off early (such as the loan for a fire tanker that saved \$14,000 in interest payments) while others were refinanced at a lower interest rate (such as Pathways and DDA bonds that were refinanced with a 2% drop in rates).

Hungerford gave the Committee a sample policy for the Township to use to comply with a new accounting standard regarding the designation of fund balances. The Township plans to implement it in the next few months.

The Township Board is expected to receive the formal audit presentation at their June 22nd meeting (7 p.m. in the Wisner Center). Stop in that night to hear directly from the auditor about the good job the Township is doing to operate the various functions of our government while also being the 'transfer point' for all the other taxes (state, county, school and others) that you pay in February and September.



FROM THE SUPERVISOR

In the last few months there has been a lot of talk about governmental collaboration and consolidation on not only the state level but also the local level. While this may seem to be a new concept to some municipalities, it is something that Cascade Township has been doing for a number of years.

Since 1990 Cascade Township has provided building construction inspection services to five neighboring municipalities in addition to Cascade. By doing this we are able to provide the communities with full time skilled inspectors in a timely and cost effective manner.

In 2000 Cascade Township joined with Ada and Grand Rapids Townships to form the East Precinct of the Kent County Sheriff Department to provide additional police support for the three townships. This is funded by a separate millage for police protection and gives us deputies on patrol 24/7, a Precinct office on Forest Hill Avenue and a community policing officer concentrating on our three communities.

Cascade, Ada, and Grand Rapids Townships have met over the last few years to discuss ways for our individual fire departments to work together more effectively. This has resulted in joint training opportunities, similar operating procedures, and mutual and automatic aid response agreements for help on fire incidents. Also, in the late 1990's Cascade Township joined with Gaines Township and the City of Kentwood to form a Hazmat Response Team to handle incidents with hazardous materials.

In 2007 Cascade Township contracted with Grand Rapids Township for fire inspection services on a half time basis. This arrangement allows both communities to have an inspector perform the required safety checks of all our commercial and industrial buildings.

In the Spring and the Fall we partner with Ada Township and offer a Clean-Up Day for the residents of the two Townships allowing them to bring and dispose of accumulated junk and debris at no charge.

We also join forces with Ada Township and contribute to provide one large 4TH of July Fireworks, rather than two small displays.

Both Cascade and Ada Townships work on projects with Forest Hills Public Schools. Recently, both Townships, the school district, and the Kent County Road Commission created a plan that in 2012 will widen Hall Street from Cascade Road to the high school and add sidewalks to the school complex allowing safer pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

The Administration of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport, located in the Township, meet on a quarterly basis with Cascade Township to review projects and operations.

Cascade Township works closely with Grand Valley Metro Council, The Right Place, The West Michigan Strategic Alliance, and other groups and organizations to promote the economic growth and viability of all West Michigan.

These are some of the examples that Bill Cousins, our Township Manager, related to Governor Snyder regarding our efforts for efficient, local government. Cascade Township Administration and Staff will continue to work with surrounding communities and agencies to make sure our residents receive the services they have come to expect in a professional and economical manner.

Annual Cascade Township Lunch For Seniors

Tuesday, August 09, 2011

We hope you will be able to attend our annual luncheon, hosted by Cascade Township, in cooperation with Jean Kubiszewski of the Forest Hills Senior Center.

This event is intended to provide an opportunity for our senior citizens to mingle, relax and reminisce. Lunch is provided by Cascade Township at no charge, but space is limited so we need your reservations as soon as possible (we can only accept the first 100 registrations).

To register, either call 493-8950 or stop in at the Forest Hills Senior Center. Call Ron Goodyke, Cascade Township Clerk, at 949-1508 if you have questions.

Here are all the details you need:

Who: Cascade Township Seniors

What: Annual luncheon (Carol's Catering will again serve a nice lunch)

When: August 09, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.

Where: Wisner Center at the Cascade Library, located at 2870 Jacksmith just one block south off 28th Street

We look forward to a fun time with entertainment again provided by Tom and Sherry Hagen.

Please make your reservations soon!

Forest Hills Business Association

As many of you have already heard or read, the Cascade Business Association and the East Paris Business Association have merged together and formed the Forest Hills Business Association. The new board members consist of members from both of the previous boards: Laura McDowell, President; Mary Mapes, Vice President; John Knoppers, Treasurer; Rachel Laug, Secretary. Board Members at large include Eric Lambert and Lisa Waalkes.



The Association is planning for a Metro Cruise Warm up event on Thursday evening, August 25th. Oldies band, Aardvark Stew will entertain the public. Classic cars are encouraged to get the annual 28th Street cruise started! Stay tuned for more details on the Forest Hills Business Association Facebook page!

Future meetings, which are open to the public at a nominal fee, include the following:

September 22, 7:30am	J.K. Symancyk, Exec. VP, Meijer
October 20, 7:30am	Political Forum
November 17, 7:30am	Membership Symposium
December 15, 5:30pm	Holiday Networking

Membership to the FHBA is open to all business entities doing business in the Forest Hills Business area. Membership runs from January through December and is priced at \$150 for a 3-person-office. Prorated memberships are still available in 2011 at \$15 per month. Call for more information on memberships; 616-481-5274.

Visit us at www.foresthillsbusinessassociation.com



Cascade
Community
Foundation

Cascade Community Foundation

The Concerts in the Park may be canceled for 2011 but they don't have to stay that way! We are looking for someone that is willing to take over organizing regular activities in the park throughout the summer of 2012. The Cascade Community Foundation is very interested in helping fund an effort that includes free music and shows for residents. Please contact us at CascadeCF@aol.com for more information. Or go to our website at Cascadecommunityfoundation.com to fill out a grant request.

Construction News...

Starting August 1st, MDOT will make repairs to the bridge over the freeway on Whitneyville Avenue. The project is expected to be completed by October 15th. Whitneyville Avenue will be CLOSED at the freeway for no more than four (4) weeks during the project. The planned detour will take vehicles from Whitneyville to 48th Street to Thornapple River Drive (see map attached).



Cascade Historical Society

As we look forward to our annual celebration of the 4th of July in Cascade, we also commemorate the 150th anniversary of the War between the States...The Civil War tore our nation apart for a time, with horrific loss of 600,000 lives out of a total population of only 30,000,000, or 1 out of every 50 persons, testing whether a nation conceived in liberty and self government could long survive. What role did the pioneer residents of Cascade play in the "War of the Rebellion?" How many soldiers were from Cascade and how many are buried in our Cascade cemeteries? Chapman's "History of Kent County, 1881" estimates as many as 100 volunteers from this small community answered Lincoln's call to service of the nation, but, surprisingly, our own research indicates it may be a higher number. Members of the Cascade Historical Society have set out to explore the lives and contributions made by these settlers, and share short vignettes in future newsletters. Many names will ring a bell. Familiar roads, places and lakes in the township bear their names. Beard, Buttrick, Cook, Laraway, and Patterson are but a few. What accounted for their eager willingness to join in the fight to preserve the union? Some explanations are simple. The constitution uniting our states promised protection from foreign invasion from outside our borders, and, within the country's borders, a nation made up of individual states cooperating for the purpose of interstate commerce, with common laws, private property, stability, and freedom from government interference in ones daily life provided a simple successful formula for the rugged individualists who settled the frontiers, the "Cascades" of the young nation. But it was not all so simple. Deeply conflicting views of states' rights, taxes and tariffs, and the practice of slavery, primarily in the south, tore at the fabric of the union. We are fortunate to be able to read the actual words written by soldiers in letters sent home to families waiting in Cascade, written from the battlefields, sharing their personal thoughts on the conflict.

Cascade Township had only been officially established 13 years before the war, in 1848. Michigan was admitted to the union as the 26th state in 1837. Hardy pioneer families had blazed trails through the wilderness beginning in the 1820's to find this place where the river "cascaded" as it dropped 20 feet over the course of its run through the township. With enough falling water to power a mill, Cascade was considered by some speculators and entrepreneurs to have as good a potential for growth as the settlement to the northwest, Grand Rapids, where the first white settler built a cabin in 1821. According to the book "Cascade Chronicles," one investor, Jefferson Morrison, proposed a plat of "Cascade" of over 700 lots in 1836, on the west bank of the Thornapple River, that never got far beyond the drawing stage. He did take his new bride by canoe to show her the site of his vision, capsizing on the way, spilling their trunk into the river. We surmise she was not impressed.

Three miles to the north, Rix Robinson had established a trading post in the 1820's where the Thornapple met the Grand River. By 1836, Ada Township was established, providing governance to both Cascade and Caledonia areas until they petitioned for their own. The settlers in Cascade established farms along the shores of the Thornapple River and maintained a peaceable existence with the Native Americans who encamped in the area. Along both sides of the river north and south of the present Cascade bridge, the land was cleared and farmed. In 1845, the Ferry House hotel was built at the Northwest corner of Cascade Rd and River Avenue, now Thornapple River Drive, on the

site next to the Old Town Hall. That same year, the first ferry service was established to cross the river. The first dam, for milling purposes, was built in 1853 at the site of the present one. To the northwest, where Cascade Road and 28th Street meet, now a shopping plaza, more farmland stretched up away from the river on the gently rolling hills that only much later were discovered to have valuable gravel and sand deposits to be mined, gradually eliminating the pastoral hillside scene. It was a simple but challenging life for the early Cascade settlers, seemingly far removed from the conflicts brewing in the eastern and southern states, over slavery, tariffs and states' rights.

The festering conflict came to a head with the election of Abraham Lincoln. After his election with only 40% of the popular vote, but before his inauguration, six states had seceded from the union fearing his policies. Lincoln had made his anti-slavery position clear in his debates with Stephen Douglas, but in his inaugural address, he stated that he had no intention of changing the practices of the Southern states, in that regard, and that his priority was maintaining the Union. It was just that priority that Lincoln felt left him no choice but to put out a call for 75,000 troops from the militias of the Northern states. Even so, additional Southern states left the union. The wars first shots were fired at Fort Sumter when the North attempted to supply and reinforce the fort, located in Charleston Harbor. This was viewed by both sides as a provocation by the other. But the underlying and unresolved causes had been in place since well before the Declaration of Independence. See an interesting timeline from 1619 to 1861 at civil-war.net showing how the British Empire and the United States attempted to wrestle with ending slavery.

For some Cascade volunteers, as young as 17, the war promised adventure. The first call for volunteers only required a 90 day enlistment. The overwhelming sentiment among Northern enlistees was that a huge show of force from the North would humble the South into giving up their rebellion, and the war would be over quickly without much fighting and with few losses on either side. Then reality and the tragedy of a prolonged and bloody war gradually set in. Would Lincoln have chosen another path had he foreseen the folly of these early, rosy, but wholly unrealistic predictions of quick victory, or did he entrap himself in the same responses to perceived provocations that future Presidents continue to make to our present day? Many of us can name the specific provocations that lit the fuse to each of the wars in our country's history. Those are the staple of any history course. But these were rarely the true causes of our numerous wars, nor did the provocations themselves create a necessity for war, but, rather, served as reasons that our Presidents chose as pretext for war. Presidents make choices. Citizens endure consequences. What have we learned in 150 years? Perhaps the lives and letters of Cascade's soldiers can teach us some lessons as we explore them in the next four years.

Our focus in these articles will be primarily on the families of civil war soldiers who are buried in four cemeteries in Cascade. But the Cascade Historical Society is very interested in any historical artifacts, letters, and information on the history of our township that you may be aware of. The society meets the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 in our 1898 Town Hall museum building on Thornapple River Drive just north of Cascade Rd. All are welcome. You may also be interested in purchasing a history of Cascade, *The Cascade Chronicles*, published in 1987, available at the township office.



Cascade Charter Township

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Township Board

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Trustee Fred Goldberg
fgoldberg@cascadetwp.com

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Pathway News...

By the time you read this newsletter, I am sure many of you will have had an opportunity to get out and traverse our wonderful pedestrian and bike paths. I for one, upon getting back from Scottsdale Arizona, thought that there was going to be a great deal of winter trash to pick up. My wife Kathy, who helps me pick up mans discarded treasures, commented to me that it seemed Cascade road appeared to be cleaner than usual. I could not address the trash situation on the rest of the pathway system but Cascade did look very clean. It made our May pick up of Cascade road very easy indeed. Thank you all for helping with the Cascade portion of the path. It's a long stretch between Hall and Burton and can take hours to pick up. Enjoy the spring and summer in Michigan; they don't last all that long. In my next newsletter I want to talk about some of the unusual stuff people manage to lose on the pathways and surrounding areas. Until then remember, Keep Cascade Beautiful.

Kris Taylor
Pathways Coordinator

