



CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Spring 2012

Celebrate.

Remember.

Fight Back.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Relay For Life

May 18 - 19, 2 p.m.-2 p.m./24 hour
Cascade Township Library Lawn

Support the Cascade
Firefighters Association

TEAM HOSERS

GARAGE SALE

May 4 and 5
4250 Whitneyville Ave.

We will pick up your donations
and provide a receipt for the
value items sell for!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Cascade Applebee's
Saturday, April 21, 8 a.m.-10 a.m.
\$5 kids / \$8 adults

For more event information
contact the Fire Department
949-1320

Team Hosers



YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM

SPRING 2012

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 2 through April 30

- 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 will receive 20 tags FREE per calendar year, per household.
- This service is only available in the restricted burn area.

The yard waste dumpsters will be available behind the Thornhills Fire Station April 26th – 29th.

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 5th 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 hazard waste products will be accepted. For household hazardous waste disposal, please contact the Kent County Department of Public Works at 336-2570. (Please see separate article re: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day).

In The Image will have a truck available at Leonard Field for the collection of household goods and Shred Docs will have a truck available for document shredding.

If you have any questions regarding spring clean up, feel free to contact Sandra Korhorn at 949-1500 or by email at sandra@cascadetwp.com.

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

The Veteran's of Cascade Township are planning a Memorial Day program on Monday, May 28th at the Cascade Library, 2870 Jacksmith Drive. Join them at 10:00 a.m. to honor Veterans of all wars and conflicts.

THE CASCADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INVITES YOU...

Please join us Memorial Day, May 28, as the Cascade Historical Society will be sponsoring headstone dedications for three Cascade Civil War veterans buried in Cascade Cemetery. The ceremony will be conducted by the General John A. Logan Camp No. 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The service will begin at approximately 4:00 PM.

The veterans receiving recognition are Pvt. Thomas Henefrey, Co. B, 3rd Michigan Inf., Pvt. William Henry Marr, Co. B, 44th Illinois Inf., and Pvt. Charles M. Nobbs, Co. I, 14th Michigan Inf. These men were identified by the Cascade Historical Society as not having headstones at their grave sites. The US government provides headstones to recognize military service for all veterans not currently having headstones.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are providing formal services Memorial Day starting at Blain Cemetery in Gaines Twp., Olive Twp. in Ottawa County, two ceremonies in Oakhill Cemetery in Grand Rapids and then to Cascade Cemetery, 7200 30th Street SE.

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
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Clerk:

Ron Goodyke; 949-1508
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Fire:

John Sigg; 949-1320
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Steve Peterson; 949-0224
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Treasurer:

Ken Peirce; 949-6944
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Sheriff / Non-Emergency:

632-6100

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 2011, the exemption will be removed for 2012.

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 Assessors 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.





**FROM THE
SUPERVISOR**
ROB BEAHAN

There has been much talk about consolidation of government services as of late. Here in Cascade Township we have been involved in collaborative relationships with neighboring municipalities and various organizations.

The Township officials and staff continue to work closely with the neighboring municipalities to make sure the residents are receiving the services they expect in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner.

For a number of years we have partnered with Ada Township and Grand Rapids Township to form the East Precinct for Police protection from the Kent County Sherriff Department. By pooling our combined resources we have been able to increase and maintain 24/7 patrols throughout all three townships.

The Cascade Fire Department works closely with Ada and Grand Rapids Townships in developing training and operating procedures. The three townships are also looking at standardization of equipment and future joint purchasing programs. We also participate in agreements not only with Ada and Grand Rapids Townships but other neighboring communities to give or receive additional help for fire or emergency events.

Cascade's own Building Services Department does a variety of inspection services for the building trades for 5 neighboring municipalities. Developed over the last 22 years we have been able to offer professional trade inspections at a reasonable price in a timely manner.

We continue to partner with the Kent County Road Commission to maintain and improve our streets and roadways throughout the Township.

Cascade Township works closely with various organizations such as the Grand Valley Metro Council, Gerald R. Ford International Airport, The Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and The Right Place to maintain and bring new industrial and commercial opportunities to not only Cascade but the entire West Michigan area.

Working collaboratively not only helps Cascade Township stay strong, it further ensures that Cascade residents can continue to rely on the quality services we have all come to enjoy far into the future.

DOG ETIQUETTE

Rob Beahan, Supervisor

With the warm weather upon us it will be wonderful to see even more people out enjoying the pathways and parks. A majority of dog walkers come prepared with the dogs on leashes and poop bags in hand and your cooperation is appreciated. Unfortunately there are some who either don't know or don't follow the etiquette of dog walking on the trails and in the parks. The two main rules to follow are:

1. Please keep your dog leashed at all times
2. Please clean up after your dog



Unleashed dogs can pose a potential threat to wildlife living in the parks in a number of ways:

- Disturb the nests of ground nesting birds and mammals
- Trample rare wildflowers
- Spread undesirable seeds throughout the park
- Potentially injure and/or kill wildlife

Remember, this area has been set aside to preserve and protect the plants and animals found there. A visual of a dog will frighten most wildlife and the smell of a dog off the trail will prevent many species from visiting that area for some time. Unleashed dogs can greatly reduce our ability to see the wildlife in the parks.

Unleashed dogs can also be a potential threat to other visitors and their canine companions they encounter on the trails. Keep in mind that not everyone, especially children, are dog lovers. For some children, encountering an unleashed dog could be a nightmare. It doesn't matter if your dog is friendly - it could still frighten the other person and ruin their experience in the park and that's not fair to them.

Nothing puts a damper on a hike faster then stepping in dog poop. Not only is dog waste an inconvenience, it can also spread diseases to other dogs and wildlife so please clean up after your pets. Keeping your dog leashed makes cleanup much easier.

By working together to be responsible pet owners we can all keep the trails and parks in Cascade a safe and fun place to walk your pets.

NEIGHBORS ARE A WONDERFUL THING... UNTIL...

Bill Cousins, Township Manager

“We are lucky! We have a perfectly harmonious relationship with our neighbors!” Unless you can state this without equivocation, you may find that you experience some awkward neighborhood issues that require a lot of patience or forethought by you.

What are the issues that most bother neighbors? Fences and trees usually top the list. Often time’s fences cause concerns for neighbors. We often forget that a fence, installed along a property line can cause issues with regard to their location and height and, most importantly, how they will be maintained. If you put up a fence on the property line, who will maintain the other side of it (your neighbor didn’t ask for it – why should he have to paint or stain it!)? Will you be trespassing to do it? A lot of “pain” can be avoided if you take time to meet with the neighbor to discuss the need for a fence (he may welcome a fence that keeps your dog from making deposits on his lawn), what kind and color, the location (just where is our property line?) and how it will be maintained. This may seem a simple matter, but it is best to put something in writing so the next owner knows what was agreed to when the fence was built. Oh – and don’t forget to check on the zoning ordinance for the Township along with neighborhood restrictions before you install a fence to avoid additional headaches down the road.



The four-foot tall sapling planted years ago near a property line can also cause neighbor issues when it becomes the 40-foot mature tree. If tree branches spread over the line and pruning is necessary, it is generally acceptable for you to cut them. However, you must do so in a manner that does not damage the health of the tree. This is another time that a meeting of the minds with your neighbor can reduce the issue to one of cooperation rather than consternation. You may find that the tree that’s “bugging” you is also bugging the neighbor and together you trim it (or remove it). Again, you may need to confer with the Township and the condo or neighborhood association to be sure that the tree in question is able to be trimmed or removed.

Decks, sheds and garages also can cause issues with neighbors (even when clearly in line with local zoning). It’s best to chat with your neighbor when taking on these projects so a good relationship is maintained.

When you think about it, a lot of issues can challenge a comfortable, neighborly relationship. However, even the most troublesome issues, if handled skillfully and positively, can keep that good relationship strong. Think of how easily the following actions can get out of hand:

- Noise – Music, tools, language, parties, etc.
- Children – Trespassing, littering, noise, etc.
- Odors – Cooking, garbage, burning, etc.
- Pets – Digging, waste, barking, etc.
- Neglect – Trash, inoperable vehicles, lack of exterior maintenance, etc.

How do you reach resolution on a neighborhood issue? Here are some helpful suggestions:

1. Be aware. Gather all the information you can about the subject – understand the facts. Analyze alternatives and seek a fair compromise.
2. Never argue. Invite your neighbors to explain their point of view and repeat it back to them. Ask them to describe their concerns. This will help clarify the issue so you can get to the real root of the problem.
3. Be patient, sensitive and flexible! Ask if you can work together to resolve the conflict.
4. Avoid power struggles – it’s not Survivor! Share notes of your meetings so everyone stays on the same page.
5. Work within the law (but try not to exploit it). If you reach a stalemate, there are other ways to proceed such as a local dispute resolution service (often free), or as a last resort, legal intervention.

Cooperation will always be the best way to maintain a good relationship with your neighbors and achieve workable solutions to neighborhood problems. Get to know your neighbors, even if they are not like you. Who knows? When a more important issue arises that could affect your neighborhood, they could become your most valuable allies.

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 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.

Cascade Township will be holding a garlic mustard pull on Saturday, May 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please meet at the 8900 Grand River Avenue entrance at Cascade Peace Park.



2012 GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING PROGRAM

In the month of May the Gypsy Moth Spraying Program will be underway in targeted areas throughout the township (see accompanying map). The Township will have 393 acres of property sprayed this year.

The program area will be sprayed with a non-toxic biological agent called *Bacillus thuringiensis* or "Bt". Residents in spray areas need not remain indoors while spraying is underway and can safely go about their regular daily activities. As "B.t." is released into the air, it will descend upon trees and grounds in a light mist which will be barely discernible. Residents can expect to find dead caterpillar larvae in and around their yards upon completion of the insecticide application. Below 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.

CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP GYPSY MOTH TREATMENT AREAS 2012



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) 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.

THE CASCADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Cascade Historical Society continues a series exploring the lives of Civil War veterans who lived in Cascade and are buried in our local cemeteries. Not only do we hope to keep their names and memories alive, but to follow those family names through generations after them who lived in Cascade. Join the Historical Society at a monthly meeting, any first Thursday at 9:30 AM at the Old Town Hall.

Charles Richardson Buttrick, Adventurer



Former Buttrick Grocery Store.

Buttrick is a familiar name to longtime residents of Cascade, who recall the Buttrick grocery store, at Cascade Road and Thornapple River Dr, now The Gathering Place. Buttrick Avenue runs from its northern beginning at Thornapple River Drive near Ada south all the way to 68th Street. The name most likely stuck as a shorthand way for folks to find their way to the Buttrick farm and nursery at 3024 Buttrick SE in the late 1800's. The home is still in the family.

But the Buttrick family has historic connections going way back. William Buttrick came in 1635 to the Massachusetts Bay Colony under John Winthrop, John Buttrick, surveyor, helped lay out Boston, and Oliver Buttrick, Charles Great Grandfather, served under George Washington and escorted British General Burgoyne upon the British surrender at Saratoga, the turning point in the Revolutionary War.

Charles Richardson Buttrick arrived in Ada from New York in 1843, at the age of four, in a covered wagon with his father, Charles B. The first family home was at 9564 Fulton Street, then called Danville Road, east of Ada. Charles R. was one in a family of ten children, and went by Charles Jr.

Charles Jr. had natural talent and an adventurous spirit. At nineteen years old, in 1858, he set out on a sailing ship bound for California, going by way of the Gulf of Mexico and crossing the isthmus at Panama. He was four weeks on the water; in one storm all four masts were blown down. But he arrived safely and went to work in the busy gold fields of California. He also joined the National Guard, earning the rank of Lieutenant. Returning home to Cascade in the midst of the Civil War, he enlisted in the 16th Michigan Infantry, and served through 1865. Returning once again to Cascade, it was not long before "silver fever" drew him to the silver fields of Idaho and Montana in 1870. Next he went to Colorado, working his own claims for four years.

But Cascade lured him back one more time where he wooed the young widow, Ella Washburn, whose charms led him to marry and settle at her farm, located at 3024 Buttrick Ave., in the 1870's. They added another 40 acres to make 80, and for twenty years he operated a thriving nursery, while raising five children. Charles Buttrick died at his residence in Cascade April 16, 1903, aged sixty-three years, after a fulfilling life. One of their five children was Charles V. Buttrick, who eventually came to operate the Buttrick General Store in Cascade, now the Gathering Place. Charles V's son, Grover, worked with his father and served as a butcher at the store. Grover and his wife Kathryn took over the store and operated it from 1950 to 1960. Grover was on the fire department from 1930 to 1974, the last nine years as Fire Chief. Charles V.'s son Harold and his wife Fran lived at the Buttrick Ave. farm while Harold worked in real estate. Grover and Harold have passed on, but both Kathryn and Fran Buttrick still live in the area.



3024 Buttrick Avenue.

SAFE DISPOSAL OF HOME CHEMICALS

The average home can accumulate and store as much as 100 pounds of hazardous substances in the basement, garage, storage closets, and under the kitchen sink.

- Each day Kent County residents dispose of thousands of pounds of unregulated household hazardous waste.
- The average household generates 15 pounds of hazardous waste per year.
- Household hazardous substances are often dangerous to humans when ingested, touched or breathed either separately or in combination with other substances.

Wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, landfills and (the waste-to-energy facility) were not built to handle hazardous chemicals.

Normal disposal routes – home drains, storm drains and landfills - can transport these wastes onto surface water or into groundwater and lead to contamination of the drinking water.

These products also have the potential to catch on fire, corrode, explode or if used inappropriately, can cause harm to another person, pet or the environment.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

In conjunction with Kent County's Household Hazardous Waste Program, Cascade & Ada Townships are sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on **Saturday July 14th**. Township residents wishing to dispose of their unused or unwanted household chemical waste are encouraged to bring them to this one day event. Chemicals such as weed killers, bug sprays, antifreeze, gasoline, oil-based paint, wood preservatives, paint thinner, pool chemicals, deck cleaners, fluorescent light bulbs, and mercury thermometers & thermostats can all be brought in for disposal.

The collection will run from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and will be held at Cascade Buttrick Station, 2990 Buttrick Ave. SE.

Latex Paint, medical waste, pharmaceuticals, ammunition and fireworks are not accepted through this program.

This Household Hazardous Waste Collection is for Ada and Cascade Township residents only. No materials from business, schools, institutions or commercial farmers can be accepted. Please be prepared to show your driver's license for proof of residency.

Additional questions on what's accepted for disposal may be directed to Kent County at 616-336-2570 or 1-888-217-2850 or go to the County's website at www.recyclekent.org and click on hazardous waste.

SURVIVING SOLICITORS

Cascade Township has an ordinance requiring solicitors have permits. Any person who travels from house to house attempting to take orders for the sale of goods must obtain a permit from Cascade Township. This permit consists of a picture identification badge, signed by Township staff, that the solicitor must wear on his or her person in full view, at all times.

If you encounter a solicitor who is not wearing a permit, please call the Township (949-1500) or the Kent County Sheriff Department (336-3113) immediately. As always, report any suspicious person in your neighborhood to the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

Please note that while persons soliciting for charitable and religious institutions must register with the Township, they are not required to obtain a permit. Persons canvassing or petitioning for a public office are not required to register or receive a permit from the Township.

Cascade, Ada and Grand Rapids Townships recently adopted an identical ordinance. However, solicitors must obtain permits from each Township separately in order to solicit in these areas.

A copy of the ordinance is available on our website at www.cascadetwp.com. Click on Reference Desk, then Ordinances.

COMMUNITY ALERTS

In an effort to communicate with our residents about crimes and events that can impact their lives, the Kent County Sheriff's Office is offering a new service. Community Alerts is a free service that allows citizens to register for e-mail and text messages from the sheriff's office. Through this free service, participants can receive information about crimes, scams, and other situations so that they can be more vigilant and prepared. Messages can range from wanted persons, to crime patterns, to traffic situations to avoid.

You can register for Kent County Community Alerts by going to <https://www.accesskent.com/CommAlerts/>.

Once there, register your name, address, e-mail, text provider and the township(s) that you would like to receive information about.

The Kent County Sheriff's Office believes in partnering with its citizens to prevent and solve crime. Community Alerts, along with our crime mapping at crimereports.com, is a dual approach in keeping citizens informed, aware and prepared.

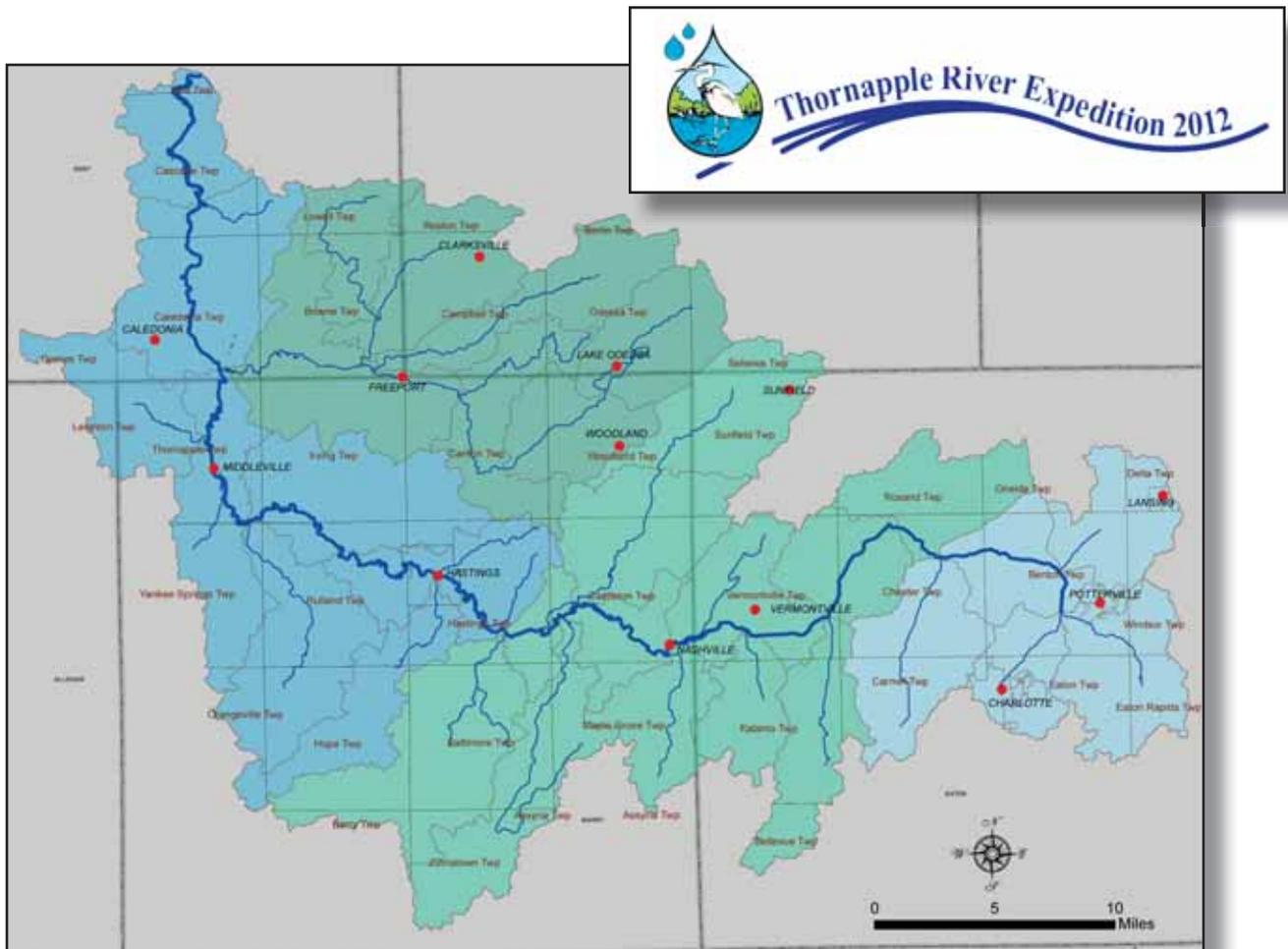
THORNAPPLE RIVER EXPEDITION

The Thornapple River Expedition 2012 will be coming through Cascade on Saturday, August 11, 2012. The Expedition is a 6-day public journey of discovery to experience conditions and opportunities of Michigan's Thornapple River and its watershed in order to foster awareness and responsibility for the River.

The TR Expedition is led by a diverse team of historians, educators, students, civic leaders, and scientists from natural resource and other professions. The Expedition team will travel by canoes, kayaks, and boats, conduct studies, and provide demonstrations, interactive displays, and exhibits in communities along the Thornapple River. This event is a follow up to the Grand River Expedition held in 2010.

The TR Expedition will start on Monday, August 6 in Charlotte, Michigan near the headwaters of the Thornapple River. Each day participating canoeist and kayakers will make their way along the Thornapple River, stopping for lunch breaks, portages, conducting water test and camping along the shores at night. The final segment of the TR Expedition will be on Saturday, August 11, where the participants will paddle from Alaska to Cascade and on into Ada. In Cascade they will portage the dam and have a quick lunch at Tassell Park. In Ada they will portage the Ada dam and then travel the final section of the river to where it flows into the Grand River just south of the M-21 Bridge.

The Expedition will come through Cascade between 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on August 11th. You will need to be near the river during that time to observe the boats. The expedition is open to the public to join in, whether you do the entire trip or just one day, you just need to pre-register ahead of time. To learn more about the Thornapple River Expedition, or to register to participate in it, visit the web site of www.thornappleriver.org or e-mail trwc@thornappleriver.org.



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; inflatable pools 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

Running Route



GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON – JUNE 10, 2012

The 2nd annual Grand Rapids Triathlon will take place on June 10, 2012. Please note that roads will be closed as follows:

Closed to All Traffic - Buttrick Ave. between Thornapple River Drive and Grand River Drive will be closed from 6:00 p.m. Saturday June 9 through 6:00 p.m. on Sunday June 10.

Closed to Thru Traffic/Open to Local Residents - Thornapple River Drive will be closed from Buttrick Ave. to Cascade Rd. from 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday June 10. You may have to go around some barricades and be prepared to show your ID. In case you are planning a graduation party, birthday, etc., please let Andy Vidro know ASAP (616.805.3059).

Churches will be open but you may need to take a detour. There will be delays and traffic will be re-routed.

Both Fire Trucks and Ambulances have been notified and have access thru the road closures.

You can view the course maps online at: www.grandrapidstriathlon.com

Feel free to contact Andy Vidro if you have further questions: 616.805.3059 or andy@grandrapidstriathlon.com.

CASCADE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Did you know?

- Suicide in Kent County is the second leading cause of death in children ages 15 to 24.
- 3-5 percent of teenage girls have a diagnosable eating disorder.
- 1 in 100 children is diagnosed with bipolar disorder or schizophrenia and 59 percent of adults diagnosed with bipolar disorder or schizophrenia reported suffering their first symptoms during childhood or adolescence.

The Cascade Community Foundation and the Tassell-Wisner-Bottrall Family Foundation is proud to announce a partnership with the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan, bringing their mental health awareness and suicide prevention program, "Live, Laugh, Love" to Forest Hills Public Schools.

Early childhood years are the most important time to prevent mental health disorders and promote healthy behavior. Some kids experience strong feelings of stress, confusion, self-doubt, and pressure to succeed at home and at school. Some kids feel left out and are targeted and bullied, or are the bullies themselves. They may develop depression and contemplate suicide or turn to harmful substances and engage in other types of risk-taking behaviors as the solution to their problems. While childhood suicide is very uncommon, death from suicide continues to increase and is the second leading cause of death among high school students in Kent County.

The Mental Health Foundation has created a ground-breaking secondary school curriculum that includes a variety of interactive lessons that help students, parents, and teachers recognize the symptoms of depression and the warning signs of suicide in themselves, a friend or family member. This educational program also encourages students to set aside stereotypes and give fellow classmates understanding, compassion and acceptance. The educational curriculum is also designed to help young people who may be personally affected by mental illness to get past the stigma and seek treatment.

Thank you Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan for helping our kids have the best life they possibly can and making Cascade and the Greater Forest Hills Area an exceptional community with neighbors who are connected and care!

For more information please visit our website at www.cascadecommunityfoundation.com.



FOREST HILLS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



April 12, 7:30-9:00am –
Sustainability in the
Workplace;
It's Easy Being Green!
Matt VanSweeden
Location: Integrated
Architecture

Sponsor: BDO & Integrated Architecture

April 21, 9:00-12:00pm –
Electronic Recycling, Document
Shredding & Highway Cleanup
Location: Integrated Architecture
Sponsor: Integrated Architecture,
CompRenu & FHBA

May 9, 5:00pm –
Ken Fortier, President & CEO of
Quantum Leap Communications
Location: Watermark Country Club
Sponsor: Watermark Country Club

June 14, 7:30-9:00am –
Kathy Crosby, Pres & CEO Goodwill
Industries of Greater Grand Rapids
Location: Cascade Hills Country Club

July 11,
First Annual FHBA Golf Outing
Networking in the Sun on the Golf Course
Location: Watermark Country Club
Sponsor: Watermark Country Club

August 23, 5:30-8:30pm –
Metro Cruise Warm-up

September 13
Education Through Aviation
Pat Cwayna, CEO
Location: Aviation Academy of W. Michigan

October 11, 7:30-9:00am –
Political Forum
Location: The Wisner Center

November 8, 7:30-9:00am –
Rick DeVos
Location: Cascade Hills Country Club

December 13, 5:00-7:30pm –
Holiday Networking
Location: TBD
Sponsor: Watermark Country Club

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!



Mark your calendars for the Relay For Life of Forest Hills, coming up on May 18-19, 2012 at the Cascade Township Library. The event

will start at 2pm on Friday and will go until 2pm on Saturday and is open to everyone in the community! There will be non-stop entertainment and activities and the event is family friendly, so make sure to come and join your community and support the American Cancer Society in the fight against cancer!

A very special part of Relay For Life is the cancer Survivor Lap and Reception which will take place on Saturday, May 19 at 11:30am. This is a chance for us to celebrate the Survivors who join us at the event. Anyone who is a cancer Survivor is welcome to attend and someone is considered a cancer Survivor from the minute they are diagnosed. If you know of any cancer Survivors who we can celebrate at the Relay For Life of Forest Hills, please invite them to come join us. We hope to see you there!

The Relay For Life of Forest Hills would also like to send out a special thank you to the faculty and students at Central Woodlands 5/6 School for their incredible support and hard work to raise \$6,528 to help support this year's event. Their Relay Recess which was held in February was a great success-raising almost twice as much as they did last year! Your support means so very much to us, thank you for helping us create a world with less cancer and more birthdays in your community!

While the event is coming up quickly, it is not too late to still get involved. The event is still welcoming sponsors, teams, and volunteers to participate. If you are interested in learning more about the event and how you can be involved, visit www.RelayForLife.org/foresthillsmi. For more information, contact American Cancer Society Staff Partner, Alex Willey at 616.551.4038 or Alexandra.willey@cancer.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the Relay For Life of Forest Hills and having you join your community in the fight against cancer!



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Pathway News

As I mentioned in the February Pathway Newsletter, I am trying a different approach in my attempt to encourage our residents to begin picking up trash along our bike and walking trails. There are many of you that, like my wife and me, regularly take the time to pick up the trail we live closest to. I am looking for volunteers to pick up specific areas that have been neglected over years of use

Here are some of the areas I think need "special" attention:

- Burton Street between Patterson and Spaulding (Both sides including the bridge over the I-96 expressway).
- Kraft south at the intersection where Burton dumps into Kraft.
- Burton west, between the same intersection and Spaulding.

One other item needs to be dealt with. The Meijer Store at 28th and Kraft. The store looks like it is in the middle of a land fill. A few years ago I talked to the store manager and used the land fill

analogy and he got a crew of employees on it and the managed to do a decent job of picking up the area all around the store. It's time to do it again. I also included a comment about Hall Street between Cascade Road and Fox Hollow needing attention. I was chastised quite severely for my comments. I want to apologize to anyone I offended, it was not meant as criticism but merely a suggestion.

I still have a half dozen reflective vests that say Keep Cascade Beautiful for anyone that would like one. I also have many 55 gallon plastic trash bags. Call me at 942-1152 at your convenience to arrange to pick up the vest and the bags. As always, I appreciate the efforts of those that take the time to **Keep Cascade Beautiful.**

Kris Taylor
Pathways Coordinator

