



CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Winter 2012

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



The Cascade Township Board and Staff have created a shared vision of the Township's future. The Strategic Plan for Cascade Charter Township is the result of a significant investment in planning and visioning meetings, which have taken place over the past several months. By working with

this plan we will be able to strengthen our community's infrastructure for sustainability and meaningful growth.

The Board and Staff will continue their work with the surrounding communities, agencies, and organizations to enhance the local and regional opportunities for economic, cultural, and recreational development for our residents.

I would like to invite you to take a few minutes and visit the official Cascade Charter Township website (www.cascadetwp.com) where, in addition to helpful information about your Township, you will be able to view the recently posted Cascade Charter Township Strategic Plan.



PLEASE JOIN US...

The Cascade Historical Museum (2839 Thornapple River Drive) will be open on Sunday, February 19 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Dave Wallace will speak on Cascade history. Coffee will be furnished.

FRIENDS OF THE CASCADE LIBRARY NEWS

The Friends of the Cascade Library are sponsoring a variety of events over the next three months. In March, the Friends will hold their annual Spring Used Book Sale on Saturday, March 17 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and on Sunday, March 18 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the Wisner Center of the Cascade Public Library. In addition to thousands of books of all kinds priced from \$0.25 to \$2.00, there will be a "Think Green" corner focusing on gardening and everything Irish. There will also be a variety of specially-priced collectible books.

The Friends also plan two upcoming book discussions. On Monday, March 19, beginning at 10:00 am in the Skutt Room at the Cascade Public Library, those gathered will discuss the book *Cutting for Stone*, Abraham Verghese's first novel. Then in April, the Friends will sponsor another discussion around the book *Little Bee*, by British author Chris Cleave. That session will also begin at 10:00 am in the Skutt Room. These discussions are open to the public.

While it is still early, you may want to note in your calendar that on Thursday, May 10 beginning at 12:30 in the Wisner Center of the Cascade Public Library, the Friends will sponsor its very popular Booked-for-Lunch program featuring a catered lunch and a presentation by award-winning mystery/thriller author Barbara D'Amato.

Please remember that the Friends always welcome your used books, CDs, DVDs, etc., for resale in our bookstore (located inside the Cascade Library) and at our book sales. You don't even need to come inside--just stop by our convenient drop-off box or donation chute toward the back of the building, between the staff entrance and the Wisner Center doors.

MANAGER'S DESK

VISIT THE MANAGER'S BLOG! – FREE COUPONS TOO!

Bill Cousins, Township Manager

I recently created a blog that you can connect to from the Township's web site (www.cascadetwp.com). You can connect to the blog via a box on the left side of the main page. I will put an entry on the blog twice each week in an effort to keep you up to date on the Township's activities. If you have a question or a subject that you would like information about, just write me at bcousins@cascadetwp.com and I will write about it on the blog.

You also may notice that the newsletter has our "square code" shown. This is provided to assist you to have access to the Township's website through your mobile phone. If you have a smartphone, but don't have an app for scanning square codes, one may be downloaded (for free!) by going to GETSCANLIFE.COM and receiving the app. A side benefit of this is that the scanlife app can also be used to scan barcodes on store products. That's a benefit? Well, here's the deal – when you scan most barcodes, your smartphone receives a ton of useful data. For example, you can read the nutritional information regarding the product. You will learn what the online price is for the product. You can read or enter reviews about the item. And, you can get coupons for this and other items (10 coupons with each scan)!!! Try it, see if you get excited as I did (went home and scanned everything in the fridge!).



BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed, but they can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid when using them are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock or electrocution, and fire.

Cascade Inspection Services would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to prevent the loss of life and property resulting from improper use of portable generators.

To Avoid Carbon Monoxide Hazards:

- Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents.
- NEVER use generators in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Install battery-operated or plug-in (with battery backup) carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home, following manufacturer's instructions.
- Test CO alarms often and replace batteries when needed.

To Avoid Electrical Hazards:

- Keep the generator dry. Operate on a dry surface under an open, canopy- like structure.
- Dry your hands before touching the generator.
- Plug appliances directly into generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor- rated extension cord. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all 3 prongs, especially a grounding pin.

- NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet. This practice, known as backfeeding, can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- If necessary to connect generator to house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install appropriate equipment. Or, your utility company may be able to install an appropriate transfer switch.

To Avoid Fire Hazards:

- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Always store fuel outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass containers.
- Store fuel away from any fuel-burning appliance.

— Cascade Inspection Services



RELAY FOR LIFE OF FOREST HILLS

Cancer continues to remain the #1 health concern for Americans. The good news is that nearly half of all cancer deaths are preventable and events like Relay For Life not only educate people on what they can do to reduce their cancer risk, but also raise funds that lead to better treatment and more lives saved.

The 2012 Relay For Life of Forest Hills is set for May 18-19, 2012 and will be held at the Cascade Township Library. Local families, friends, co-workers and other supporters in the community will come together starting at 2pm on Friday to celebrate, remember, and fight back for a full 24 hours to support the American Cancer Society in the fight against cancer.

While the event is still several months away, event planners are currently recruiting more teams to participate at the Relay in May. Teams are often made up of co-workers, friends and family members. Many businesses, schools, organizations and religious groups also build teams. Prior to the Relay event, team members raise dollars by fundraising and securing sponsorships. During Relay For Life, teams camp out overnight and take turns walking a track in an effort to raise awareness and funds in the fight against cancer.

At the event, the Luminaria and Survivor Ceremonies offer us time to remember those who we've lost and celebrate those who have won the battle, while the Fight Back Ceremony gives everyone a chance to make a personal commitment to take action against cancer throughout the year.

If you are interested in starting or joining a team, or learning more about the event and how you can be involved, visit www.RelayForLife.org/foresthillsmi. For more information, call American Cancer Society Staff Partner, Alex Willey at 616.551.4038 or Alexandra.willey@cancer.org. Together we can create a world with less cancer and more birthdays!



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

Upcoming meetings are highlighted below:

**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
@ Ada Christian School**

**April 12, 7:30am –
Sustainability in the Workplace;
It is Easy Being Green!**

**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:





NEWS FROM THE EAST PRECINCT...

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Deputy Ryan Roe. I have taken over as Community Policing Officer assigned to the East Precinct.

I started my career in law enforcement in 1998. I worked at the Kent County Sheriff Department as a cadet, while attending college. I worked part-time for the Rockford Police Department as a patrol officer. In the spring of 2000, I was hired by the Kent County Sheriff Department as a patrol deputy. I have worked several township assignments as the primary road patrol officer; including the East Precinct. As I transition into the Community Policing Unit, I have a good understanding of the area and its needs.

On a personal note, I enjoy horseback riding and camping. I also find joy in helping family and friends.

I look forward to working with the community in a more-detailed capacity in the neighborhood and business watch programs. The East Precinct is a great community and I will strive to provide a quality service to the best of my abilities.

Yours in service,

Deputy Ryan Roe
(616) 632-6435

HOME INVASIONS

Despite the recent arrest of the home invaders, there are still people breaking into homes. I have some tips to help deter these burglars and maybe help you get to know your neighbors.

1. Please lock all your doors. Some, not all, burglars are looking for an easy target and can be deterred by a locked door. This includes the service door to your garage.
2. It also is helpful to have a light on in the evening not only in your home but on the exterior. Although the majority of home invasions occur during the day time hours.
3. I would also recommend reinforcing your door locks. If you do not have a dead bolt, get one. Get a reinforced strike plate. Many of the home invaders enter through doors either by walking in an unlocked one or prying and kicking it open. With a reinforced lock the suspect may not be able to easily gain entry and a neighbor might hear something.
4. This may be the most important tip. Neighbors are the reason several home invaders get caught. A neighbor may see a car in the driveway that isn't yours. They may hear something over at your home and know you are away. Get to know your neighbors, if you have a good relationship already with them ask them to keep an eye out.
5. If a stranger comes knocking, get a vehicle description if you can. Try to remember what they looked like and call the police. Many home invaders use tactics such as knocking on your door. If you answer they may say "I was here about the car you have for sale on craigslist" or something along those lines. You assume he is lost and needs directions or went to the wrong house. Call the police and we can help with directions.
6. If you don't have a security system in place, you may want to consider looking into getting one. Security systems deter several burglars do to the fact it makes a lot of noise and neighbors might be alerted. They also know the police are on the way.
7. Consider trimming the hedges or trees so your home might be better visible to neighbors and traffic passing by.
8. The hidden key. Please don't place it under the door mat. Reconsider if you even need a hidden key. While on this note, burglars sometimes park in your garage to put things into the vehicle. If you have a vehicle in the garage, don't leave keys in an obvious location because sometimes the burglar will take your car.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Be safe and aware,

Deputy Ryan Roe
Kent County Sheriff Department
ryan.roe@kentcounty.org

From the Clerk's Office...

ELECTION NEWS

February 28, 2012 is the date set by the legislature to hold the 2012 Presidential Primary. This is a "closed" primary, which means that electors must indicate "in writing" which political party he or she wishes to vote. A form will be available for all who vote to indicate their party ballot choice. Only Republican and Democratic parties are eligible to vote in this primary. There are no proposals to be decided at this election, so there are only these two ballot styles available. The ballot you choose will be recorded in the State Qualified Voter File and held for 22 months after which the information is destroyed. During that time it is subject to FOIA (Freedom of Information Act).

All voters vote in the same locations as they have in previous elections. If you have any questions regarding the primary or upcoming elections, please contact the Clerk's Office at (616) 949-1508.

WIND AND SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE

Last January we installed a tower to hold a hybrid system, which generates clean energy with a Swift Wind Turbine and two solar panels. This system was purchased from and installed by Cascade Engineering as an educational tool to study the effects of renewable energy produced by wind and solar. The project was made possible by donations from Cascade Engineering, the Cascade Community Foundation and the Friends of the Cascade Library. A kiosk was included so that patrons coming into the library could see the results whenever they visit the library.

Since then, with help of the technical support staff at the Kent District Library and Cascade Engineering, we have been able to route the information to our Cascade Township website (www.cascadetwp.com) so anyone can see it anytime. The link is on the home page under News and Events (Solar Wind Turbine Information).

In the first year of operation the system produced over 163,000 watt hours with the Swift Wind Turbine, and the solar panels produced over 2,118,000 watt hours.

The wind turbine avoided more than 235 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and the solar avoided more than 3,000 pounds.

Cascade Township residents are encouraged to follow this experiment in alternative energy study to see how effective wind and solar are as resources for energy production right here in this neighborhood. The information on the monitor in the Cascade Library and on the Cascade Township web site records the energy production by the hour, the day and the month. It is an excellent tool for students of all ages to study the value of these alternative energy resources as this topic becomes more relevant to all of us.

CEMETERY NEWS

Burial sites at the three Cascade Township Cemeteries are available at no cost to current residents of Cascade Township. Two sites will be given at the time of need. The charge for opening and closing of the gravesite is \$500.00 for full interments and \$75.00 for burial of cremains. Additionally, a foundation is required before a headstone can be placed at the site. The foundation charges are coordinated through the monument company chosen by the family. The fee for an unused site, which is reserved for a previous resident who now lives outside Cascade Township, is \$10.00 annually. A niche in the columbarium costs \$400.00. A brass plaque must be purchased through Lowell Granite Company.

Appropriate decorations are acceptable:

Annual or perennial flowers planted within one foot of the headstone

Urns or metal baskets placed at the ends of the headstone (not in front or behind)

Artificial flowers placed within one foot of the headstone or in urns or baskets.

Inappropriate decorations would include:

Benches

Trees, shrubbery or roses

Evergreens

Fences, railings, edging or walls

Gravel, brick, stone, marble or wood chips around the headstone

Anything in the walkway

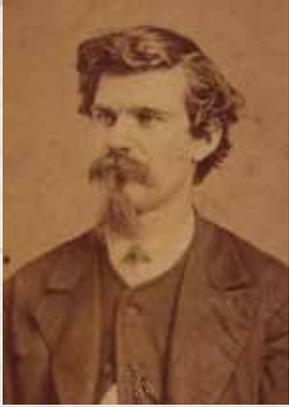
The seasonal decorations must be removed if you wish to save them. Summer decorations will be taken out if not removed on October 1. Winter decorations will be removed on April 1 each year.

Dogs running off leash are absolutely forbidden. Loved ones visiting the cemetery are understandably upset by their droppings and the disturbance they cause. If you bring your dog to the cemetery, the pet must be on a leash and kept only on the paved drives.

Please contact the Clerk's Office at (616) 949-1508 if you have questions or concerns.

LIQUOR LICENSE

Due to the new census numbers, Cascade Township has recently acquired a Class C, On Premise liquor license. If you are interested in this license, please contact Clerk Ron Goodyke at (616) 949-1508 or via email at ron@cascadetwp.com.

THE DR. MORTIMER WILLIAM DANFORTH FAMILY OF CASCADE*Mortimer William Danforth (1842).*

Before Mortimer William Danforth became a prominent Cascade doctor and citizen he served the Union cause in the Civil War. Danforth joined Company G, 115th Ohio Infantry on August 4, 1862 and was promoted to Sergeant in 1864.

In December 1864 Sgt. Danforth's regiment was stationed in blockhouse #3 on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad. Their mission was to prevent Confederates from destroying the rails.

Outnumbered Danforth and his

men were captured and sent to the infamous Andersonville, Georgia prison where nearly 13,000 Union soldiers died.

According to family records, "He marched barefoot to Meridian, Mississippi and suffered terribly from exposure." In his diary entry for December 23, 1864 Danforth writes, "Misery, Misery, Misery all a round me. (sic) O God will you let this go unpunished the Sights of last night made me forget all of my Afflictions although my feet are Swelled almost unto bursting and no Shoes to ware." (sic)

Danforth survived Andersonville prison. He was transferred out April 30, 1865 just weeks after the war's end. Other less fortunate members of his regiment were placed on the Steamer Sultana which exploded on the Mississippi River killing more than 1,800 returning Union former prisoners of war.

Danforth mustered out of the army on June 13, 1865 returning home to his childhood home in Hudson, Ohio. Danforth followed his father's profession by graduating from medical school. Dr. Mortimer Danforth "settled in Cascade, March 15, 1870, and has established his reputation as a competent, reliable, conscientious physician" according to Chapman's History of Kent County. Dr. Danforth became a member of the Western Michigan Medical Society in May 1878. The Danforth family lived at Orange Street and Cascade Road where the International Beverage store is currently located.

Dr. Danforth was married to Adaline A. Danforth until her death

*Mortimer William Danforth (1895).*

Dr. M.W. Danforth home in Cascade, MI. (L to R) M.W.'s daughter Ethel, M.W. Danforth holding daughter Sadie Danforth, daughter Bea Danforth Kinginger, M.W.'s wife Frances Campau Danforth and Frances' daughter from her first marriage, Lula Barbin Brown. Others unknown.

December 4, 1875 and then to Frances E. Danforth on August 14, 1878. Frances was raised by Louis & Sophie de Marsac Campau. Frances donated paintings of the Campaus that can be seen at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Louis Campau was the founding father of Grand Rapids.

Dr. Danforth died April 17, 1895 from consequences of the Civil War. He was 52 years old. His widow Frances applied for his military pension. The pension documents provide insight into their lives. "I am informed that Dr. Danforth provided well for his wife and children when living but at present they seem to be in steaightened (sic) circumstances and have the sympathy of their old neighbors in Cascade" according to the Special Examiners report.

Charles F. Holt and James Lewis who were both Cascade Civil War veterans submitted letters supporting the basis for Frances Danforth's pension application. Mrs. Danforth's pension was approved May 4, 1895 at \$14 per month and increased to \$40 per month on June 4, 1928. Note: The Holt family was documented in the Winter 2011 Cascade Connections.

The Danforth's had four children, Mortimer E., Beatrice, Ethel, and Sadie. Mortimer E. Danforth also became a medical doctor practicing in Grandville. Dr. Mortimer William Danforth and his family are buried in Cascade Cemetery.

This article is a continuing series presented by the Cascade Historical Society to commemorate the Civil War sesquicentennial. Articles will feature familiar Cascade family names such as Beard, Buttrick, Danforth, Holt, Patterson, Spaulding, etc. If you have additional information or have an interest in Cascade history, please email ronredman@sbcglobal.net. We meet at 9:30 AM on the first Thursday each month at the Cascade Township Museum located at 2839 Thornapple River Dr. near Cascade Road.

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR ASSESSOR

Assessment Change Notices will be mailed on or before February 25, 2012.

If you are a new homeowner and do not receive your notice by March 1st, please call our office. Registration of deeds and taxpayer name changes at the county level can take up to eight weeks.

In addition to change of assessment, the notice will indicate:

- if there was a transfer of ownership in 2011;
- if there is a Principal Residence Exemption on your property for 2012. **If you purchased the property in 2011, please check the PRE status carefully. Contact the Assessor office if the PRE status is wrong.**

Board of Review will hear assessment appeals on March 12 and 13, 2012.

- Appointments will be made beginning on March 1. An appeal application and instructions will be mailed to you when you make an appointment.
- Sales data and comparative information will be available in the Assessor's Office and in the Cascade Township Library beginning February 27.
- Letter appeals are acceptable if you are unable to attend a Board of Review hearing. Four copies of your letter and supporting documents must be received no later than March 12, 2012. Please send them to:

Cascade Township Board of Review
2865 Thornhills Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

- An appeal to the Board of Review, either in person or by letter, is a prerequisite for an appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal for residential properties. Commercial / Industrial properties do not have to appeal to the Board of Review to appeal to the State.

PROPOSALA Reminders...

Property Transfer Affidavits must be filed with the assessor for any transfer of ownership that occurred in 2011.

Principal Residence (Homestead) Exemptions ...

Filing deadline for new exemptions is May 1, 2012.

Exemptions in effect January 1, 2012, stay in effect for the calendar year.

You must **rescind** your exemption within 90 days of the date you no longer either own or occupy the property as your principal residence. Exemptions expire on December 31st of the year you move out.

Taxable Value Cap ...

It is the *taxable* value that is capped by Proposal A – not the assessed value. The taxable value is used to calculate your taxes and is capped at 5%, or rate of inflation, unless there was a transfer of ownership in 2011, any new construction, field work, reappraisal changes or any other omitted real property. If there was a transfer of ownership on your property in 2011, your assessed value and taxable value will be the same in 2012 because the taxable value was uncapped.

1.027 % is the inflation rate established by the State for 2012.

A special note to those who have purchased property in Cascade Township during the last year... Proposal A does not authorize the assessor to automatically set the assessed value of a property which has sold at one half of the sale price. An individual sale price may or may not be a good indicator of the true cash value of the property for a variety of reasons. Section 27(5) of the General Property Tax Act states that *“the purchase price paid in a transfer of property is not the presumptive true cash value of the property transferred.”*

Did you know?

- Annual changes of assessment are based on sales in the neighborhood. We have at least 75 sales neighborhoods in Cascade. Your neighborhood rarely consists of just the homes on your street.
- Your taxable value can never exceed your assessed value.
- The May 1st filing deadline for Principal Residence Exemptions applies to new applications only. You do not need to reapply each year.
- It is your responsibility as a taxpayer to review your property record card periodically to be sure you agree with all the information that is currently of record.
- The assessing staff is available Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Feel free to come in or call 949-6176 if you have any questions on your property. The assessing system is quite complex, and we are always willing to help our taxpayers understand how the system works.
- **The assessor is not permitted by State Law to automatically set your new assessment at one half of your purchase price.**

BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBERS

Barbara Manus-Averill
John Meyer
Sara Fazio



Cascade Charter Township

2865 Thornhills Ave SE.
Grand Rapids MI 49546
phone: 616.949.1500
fax: 616.949.3918
www.cascadetwp.com

Township Board

Supervisor Rob Beahan
rbeahan@cascadetwp.com
Clerk Ron Goodyke
rgoodyke@cascadetwp.com
Treasurer Ken Peirce
kpeirce@cascadetwp.com
Trustee Jim Koessel
jkoessel@cascadetwp.com
Trustee Cynthia Porter Janes
cjanes@cascadetwp.com
Trustee Jack Lewis
jlewis@cascadetwp.com
Trustee Fred Goldberg
fgoldberg@cascadetwp.com

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

Pathway News

I am trying a little 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. What I am looking for are volunteers to pick up specific areas that have been neglected.

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.

These are just a couple of areas that I feel require attention. Over the year I will try to identify other problem areas that would need additional attention.

Two other items also need to be dealt with... One is the Meijer at 28th and Kraft. That 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 they managed to do a decent job of picking up the area all around the store. It's time to do it again.

Second, and I know it's out of our trail jurisdiction, Forest Hill Central High School. Although the school grounds look relatively good, the street, Hall Street, could use a face lift. That would be from the intersection of Cascade and Hall north along the entire length of Hall Street until it turns into Fox Hollow.

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

Kris Taylor
Pathways Coordinator

