



CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Celebrate.

Remember.

Fight Back.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY Relay For Life

July 7 & 8
2 p.m. - 2 p.m./24 hour
Ada Christian School

Support the Cascade Firefighters Association

Bowl-A-Thon

April 14
Eastbrook Lanes
Cost is
\$12 per person
Includes 2 Hours
of bowling
and shoes.
(Up to six on a lane)

Team Hosers

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Cascade Applebee's
Saturday, May 11, 8-10 a.m.
\$5 kids / \$8 adults

For more event information
contact the Fire Department
949-1320



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 (616) 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 (616) 949-1500 or by email at sandra@cascadetwp.com.

YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM SPRING 2013

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 1 through April 29

- 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 – 28th.

For more information, please call 949-1500.

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.

***Please Note: The curb side pickup and dumpsters are NOT for the disposal of Garlic Mustard. Please place Garlic Mustard in a separate, sealed bag and put it in your regular trash.**

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

The Veterans of Cascade Township are planning a Memorial Day program on Monday, May 27th at the Cascade Library, 2870 Jacksmith Drive. Join them at 10:00 a.m. to honor Veterans of all wars and conflicts.

Office Hours:

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

Township Board:

Supervisor:

Rob Beahan; 949-1500
rbeahan@cascadetwp.com

Clerk:

Ron Goodyke; 949-1508
rgoodyke@cascadetwp.com

Treasurer:

Ken Peirce; 949-6944
kpeirce@cascadetwp.com

Trustees:

Jim Koessel
jkoessel@cascadetwp.com

Cynthia Porter Janes
cjanes@cascadetwp.com

Jack Lewis
jlewis@cascadetwp.com

Fred Goldberg
fgoldberg@cascadetwp.com

Department Phone Numbers:

Manager:

Ben Swayze; 949-1500
bswayze@cascadetwp.com

Assessing:

Roger McCarty; 949-6176
roger@cascadetwp.com

Building and Grounds:

Amy Waugh; 682-4836
awaugh@cascadetwp.com

Building Inspections:

Brian Wilson; 949-3765
bwilson@cascadetwp.com

Fire:

John Sigg; 949-1320
jsigg@cascadetwp.com

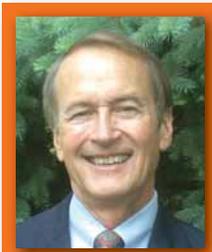
Planning:

Steve Peterson; 949-0224
speterson@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff/

Non-Emergency:

632-6100



FROM THE
SUPERVISOR
ROB BEAHAN

SPRING CLEAN UP

Whether your version of spring clean up is closer to humorist Erma Bombeck's "My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance" or architect William Morris's "Have nothing in your home that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful", Cascade Township is once again providing opportunities for residents to dispose of unwanted non-hazardous household items and yard waste.

Cascade Township has partnered with Ada Township to sponsor our annual Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 4th, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cascade and Ada residents may take this opportunity to dispose of non-hazardous household items, yard waste, and any electronics such as outdated computers, televisions, etc. The collection point will be at the Kent County Road Commission Garage at the end of Fase Street in Ada. There will also be on-site document shredding for personal documents up to 100 pounds, and a place to donate gently used items to representatives from In the Image located at the Covered Bridge (Leonard Field).

We will also have yard waste dumpsters available behind the Thornhills Fire Station April 26th-28th, 2013. These are for disposal only of yard waste and small brush. In addition we will have our yard waste pick up program on Monday's from April 1st to April 29th, 2013. Please go to the Township website www.cascadetwp.com for complete details.

And, one more clean up opportunity. Please consider joining us for the 5th Annual Garlic Mustard Pull at one of our township treasures, the beautiful Peace Park on May 11. After five years we have dramatically reduced the invasive spread of garlic mustard, but not quite eradicated, yet. Invite a couple neighbors, friends, or family members, and consider volunteering an hour or two, because, as we all know, many hands make light the work. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. We will meet at the parking lot at the Grand River Drive entrance. Be sure to bring your own gloves, we'll supply the bags and the garlic mustard! It's a great opportunity to see the park up close and give something back to the community.



FROM THE
TOWNSHIP
MANAGER
BEN SWAYZE

As you read in the last edition of the Cascade Connections, former Township Manager Bill Cousins retired in late January after serving the residents of Cascade for five and a half years. After spending a week with Bill, I took over as the Township Manager on January 28th. My first two months on the job have been amazing. It is very evident that the residents of Cascade are very proud of their community, and willing to make the investments needed to make it a wonderful community. The amazing parks, pathways and library are just a few of the things that made the choice to come to Cascade very easy for me and my family.

I graduated from the University of Michigan in 2001, and shortly after moved to Colorado to work in the recreation industry. Though my wife and I loved Colorado, we knew that Michigan was the place we wanted to raise our family, and we moved back to the Ann Arbor area in 2005. Shortly after moving back to Michigan, I was hired as the Parks and Recreation Director in Milan, a rural City of 5800 about 15 minutes south of Ann Arbor. In 2007 I assumed the Public Works

Director duties as well and, in October 2008, I was appointed as the City Administrator. During my time as City Administrator, I returned to school and earned my Masters of Public Administration in 2011.

Though I was initially drawn to Cascade Township by the job opportunity, my decision to apply for the job was made because Cascade Township is the type of place I want to raise my family. My wife and I have four young children, and the school districts and general quality of life in Cascade is exactly what we were looking for.

If you are unfamiliar with the position of Township Manager, my job is essentially to run the day-to-day operations of the Township, and to carry out policies and directives of the Township board. And part of that job is to be available to you, the residents. Whether you have an issue, suggestion, complaint or just want to introduce yourself, I hope you will reach out to me. I'm available by email bswayze@cascadetwp.com, telephone (616) 949.1500, or you can stop by Township Hall and see me in person. I look forward to serving you!

CONSTRUCTION NOTES:

Depending on where you live in the Township, you may be affected by the following construction projects this spring/summer:

The Kent County Road Commission will be reconstructing Kraft Ave. between 52nd and 60th Street. This project will include the installation of water and sewer mains. This project begins March 18 and is expected to be complete July 1.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be reconstructing 28th Street from I-96 to Patterson Avenue with resurfacing continuing to Breton Avenue. One lane will be open in each direction including left turn lanes at intersections. This project begins March 18 and is expected to be complete in November.

For more information on these projects, please visit our website at www.cascadetwp.com.

What Is Being Done?

Resurfacing M-11 from Breton Avenue east to Patterson Avenue, and reconstructing M-11 from Patterson Avenue east to I-96. Work also includes the addition of a right-turn lane, new sidewalk with ramp upgrades compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, municipal lighting and traffic signal upgrades.

When Will This Be Done?

Work begins in March and is expected to be completed by the end of November.

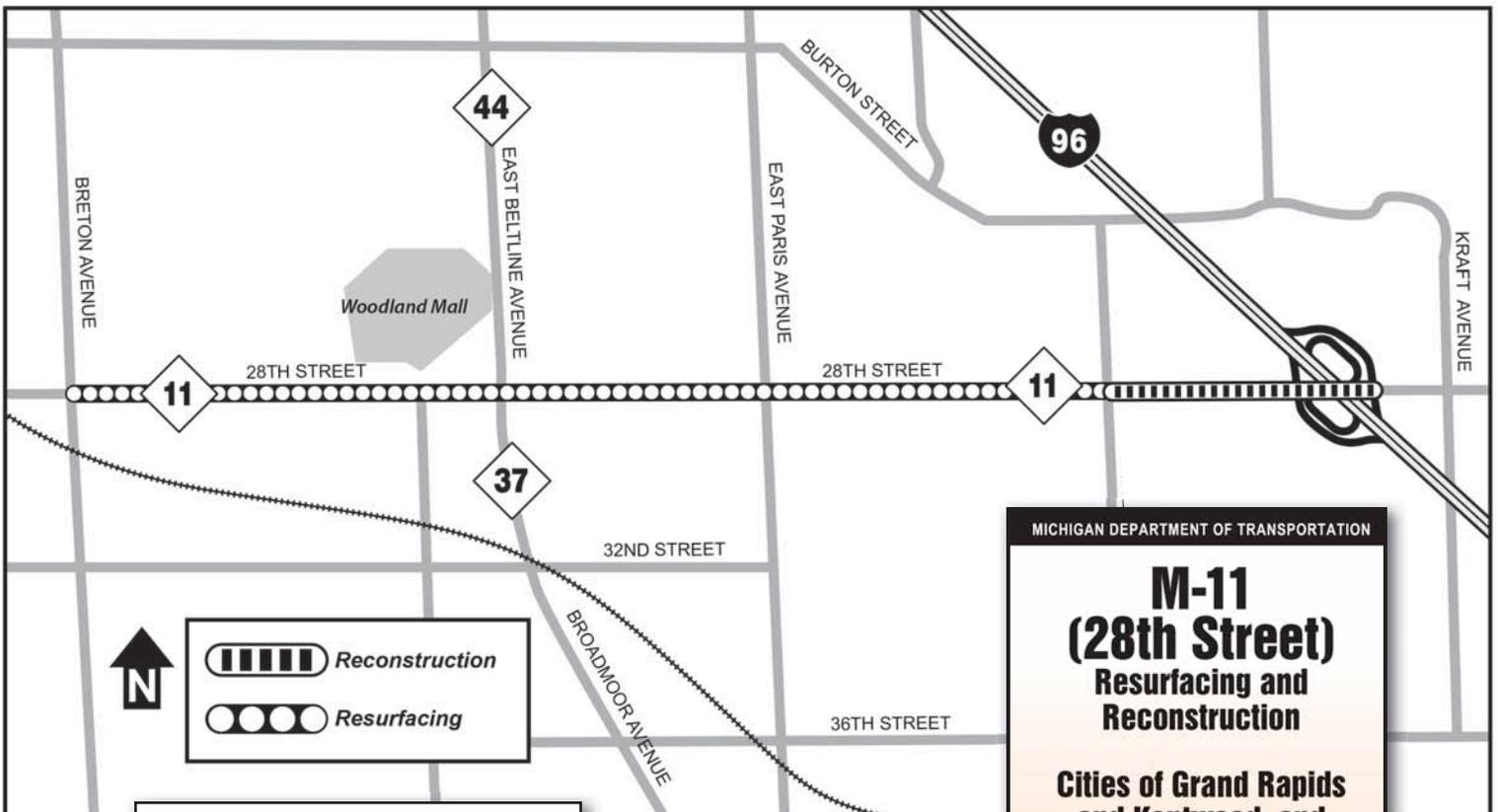
How Will Traffic Be Affected?

A minimum of one lane of traffic will remain open in each direction at all times, and left-turn lanes will remain open at Patterson Avenue, Northern Industrial Drive and Hotel Avenue. Access to businesses and ramp traffic will be maintained at all times.

Long-term Benefits

The resurfacing and reconstruction of M-11 will increase the service life of the roadway and improve safety and ride quality.

MDOT's 2013 road and bridge program supports the creation of jobs, growth of the economy, preservation of the environment and the safety and security of the transportation system.



How Will We Keep Motorists Informed?



For up-to-date information on this project, go to the list of statewide lane closures at: www.michigan.gov/drive. Scan this code with your smartphone for a direct link to Mi Drive.

Follow MDOT's Grand Region on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/MDOT_West.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

M-11 (28th Street) Resurfacing and Reconstruction

Cities of Grand Rapids and Kentwood, and Cascade Township
Kent County

Construction and Motorist Information

March - November 2013

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE 5TH SEASON OF THE ADA FARMERS' MARKET

For those residents who visit our neighboring township to the north, June 18 will be the opening day of the Ada Farmers' Market followed by markets every Tuesday afternoon through the end of September – noon until 6 p.m., as usual.

The Market expects many of your favorite vendors to return along with some that will be new to the Market. The Market also will be continuing its "Kids in the Market" program during the summer weeks and the "Music in the Market" program for the entire season. Vendors offering unique food offerings are encouraged to apply for space in the Market, along with performers for the "Music in the Market" series.

Finally, the Market hopes to repeat the honor of being the 2012 recipient of the Silver Townie Award for Best Farmers Market from the readers of On-the-Town Magazine – don't forget to grab a copy of the magazine after it becomes available on April 1 or check in at MLive.com to vote for the Ada Farmers' Market as the 2013 "Best Farmers Market". Nothing would make us happier!! If interested in any of the above, check out the Market at www.adafarmersmarket.com, "like" the Market on Facebook or contact Bob Kullgren at (616) 897-4550.

FOREST HILLS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION - SAVE THE DATES!

Upcoming FREE community events are highlighted below:

April 20 – Electronics Recycle & Document Shredding

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
at Integrated Architecture,
4090 Lake Drive SE

August 22 & 23 – Cascade's Metro Cruise Warm-up

Park at Noto's, 6600 – 28th Street.
Walk to Cascade's D&W Plaza
by Pal's Diner 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Membership to the FHBA is open to all entities doing business in the Forest Hills area. Membership runs from January through December and is priced at \$150. 2013 memberships are still available! Call for more information on memberships; (616) 676-9774 or visit our website: www.foresthillsbusinessassociation.com

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

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



THE CASCADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO "SPRING INTO THE PAST"

Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5, 2013
from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. with the Tri
River Historical Museum Network.

The Museums of the Tri River area will
hold their annual open house weekend
in May.

Visit as many of the participating museums
as you can and discover the history of your
family, neighborhood or take a walk into
the past to see what life was like before all
of today's modern technology.

Each museum will be open May 4th and 5th with special displays or fun events during these two days. For a list of museums, please visit <http://www.ioniahistory.org/tri-river-group.html>. For more information, please contact Sally Johnson at srjohnson4@charter.net.



3RD ANNUAL GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON

Mark your calendar June 9th,
2013 for the 3rd Annual GR
Triathlon, an event that benefits
the Kids Food Basket. This
triathlon brings 1500+ triathletes
and thousands of spectators to
the Ada/Cascade area.

NOTE: There will be road closures
in this area from June 8th 6pm –
June 9th 6 p.m. Review the link at
www.grandrapidstriathlon.com – info – road closures for more details.

Want to get involved? This event takes hundreds of volunteers, please consider giving a few hours of your time. You can register to volunteer at: www.grandrapidstriathlon.com.

Questions? Email Andy Vidro, Co-Director at andy@tris4health.com or call (616) 805-3059.



GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON 2013

SURVIVING SOLICITORS

Cascade Township has an ordinance that requires 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 Kent County Sheriff Department (616) 336-311 or the Township (616) 949-1500. As always, report any suspicious person in your neighborhood to the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

Please note that while persons soliciting for nonprofit 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.

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

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).

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.

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** to obtain the exemption for the property. *June 1st* is the deadline to own and occupy the home to be eligible to claim the exemption for the entire current year. Property owners who move in after *June 1st* and before *November 1st* will have their exemption start on the Winter tax bill. Property owners who occupy the home after *November 1st* will have their request activated in their name the following year. If the prior owner already has an exemption, it 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 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 2012, the exemption will be removed for 2013.

Some homeowners may 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 request a **CONDITIONAL RESCISSION of PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION** to continue the PRE 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.

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 which monitors for duplicate exemptions. The Department of Treasury has the ultimate decision as to the validity of an exemption.

There are several ways to confirm whether you have the exemption. The 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 (616) 949-6176.

GARLIC MUSTARD

Among the many invasive plants, garlic mustard stands out with its ability to destroy our natural lands. It's 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.

Impacts:

- Out competes or displaces native plants and trees.
- One plant can produce up to 3,000 seeds that can remain viable in soil for ten years or more.
- Releases chemicals that hinder the growth of most other plants and trees.

Prevent Further Spread:

- Monitor your property carefully and frequently for new infestations. Removing one or two plants before they go to seed is much easier than removing hundreds later.
- Clean shoes, pant cuffs, pockets and equipment thoroughly after walking or working in an infested area.

Suggested Control:

- Hand removal is best achieved before plants go to seed. When the soil is moist, grasp low and firmly on the plant and tug gently until the main root loosens from the soil and the entire plant pulls out. **Pulled plants should be bagged and placed in trash.**
– **DO NOT COMPOST.**

To learn more visit www.misin.msu.edu.



EAST PRECINCT NEWS

Recently we have had several break-ins. I post this type of information out to neighborhood watch groups. I would encourage you to get involved with your neighborhood watch. It is a good way to share current neighborhood concerns and learn to work together as a community.

In addition to the neighborhood watch you may also friend the East Precinct Facebook page. It is a great way to get important information quickly. I post information concerning the East Precinct such as crime, current events and activities in the community.

Community Alerts is another avenue to get information quickly. We will shortly be switching neighborhood watch into community alerts. It allows citizens to get important information directly via text or email. It eliminates the delay from the neighborhood watch captain to the group.

I do continue to encourage neighborhood watch groups. That is a great way to be involved in community. Historically, involved communities have fewer complaints. If you just get the information via Facebook and have no relationship with your neighbors, you may be less likely to notice a suspicious vehicle or person at a neighbor's home.

How to sign up for community alerts:

Go to www.accesskent.com

Click courts and law enforcement

Click sheriff's department

Click community alerts

Sign up

Be Safe and Aware,

Deputy Ryan Roe
Kent County Sheriff Department
ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov

BUSINESS UPDATES

- **LDO** – Ladies Designer Outlet has moved in to 6431 28th Street in the D&W shopping plaza, next door to Di's Hallmark Store. LDO has been in business over 25 years and sells women's designer clothing. LDO moved from the Centerpointe Mall.
- **Land & Sea Packaging** is a new business at 5025 28th Street which is located at the end of Northern Dr. in the former Verizon / All-Tel building. Land & Sea supplies plastic containers to various manufacturers for their products.
- **Live Space Audio** is now located at 4995 Starr St. Live Space sells and installs commercial sound and audio equipment for various venues like churches and auditoriums.
- **Kentwood Office Furniture** has purchased the former Sackner/Janesville Acoustics building at 2700 Patterson. This building is solely being used for additional warehousing to support their Breton Road operations. There are no plans for retail space at this time.
- **West Michigan Caterer** has taken the space of Centennial Country Club on Charlevoix Dr. They will have the building, parking lot, and the fairway/open space directly behind. They do a variety of catering as well as banquet facilities.
- **Associated Rack** has moved into 4910 Kraft Ave. They are manufactures of metal part racks for the purpose of dipping parts for coating.
- **Carlin, Obrien & Batson** have moved into 4855 Corporate Exchange Blvd. They are a food brokerage company formerly located in Kentwood.

HOME FIRE SAFETY

Over 80% of all fire deaths occur in the home. It is there that we are the most vulnerable, mostly because it is there we are the most comfortable, where we let down our guard. Mostly, it's where we sleep, the most vulnerable time of all.

Most all of us have heard hundreds of times the fire service bringing the message of fire safety, whether it's teaching your children at school, reaching out to the community at block parties or community events, or station tours. We talk about smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, and practicing escape plans to exit your home and meet outside. Yet tragically across the U.S. we still have thousands of people severely injured or killed in their own homes every year.

Over my 25 years in the fire service, I have seen a lot of change. The biggest is the way we construct our buildings and how we furnish them. Building materials are more lightweight to lower the impact of our resources on the environment, as well as lower the cost of construction. These engineered materials also provide very strong building systems that can give us bigger spans and larger open areas; all good things! The problem is not the materials or how we construct them, it's what happens to these materials when subjected to extreme heat from a fire.

The other issue is how we furnish our homes. In this time of environmental concerns we have strived for years to recycle as many materials as possible. Furniture and other materials are made of more plastics and synthetic recycled materials than the furnishings of 15-20 years ago. Again, all good things! It's not the methods of recycling or manufacturing of these synthetic materials that is the issue; it's how we need to learn to live with them. When these materials burn in a fire, they generate much higher temperatures, burn at a faster rate, and produce smoke that is more toxic than ever before. This allows for less time for the occupants to be alerted and get out!

The fire service has had to learn to adapt to these changes as well. The condition of a fire often is much more advanced by the time we arrive. The conditions of the fire at that point are less survivable and the structure is much less safe to enter, making our jobs much more dangerous and making it more important for you to prepare. We need everyone to practice all the things we have been teaching as well as be diligent about fire safety and raise the level of awareness! But what else can be done?

Residential sprinklers are making a huge impact on the survivability and damage control from residential fires. Residential sprinklers have been coming to the forefront because of the reasons listed above, but along with it has come a lot of debate. The debate centers around the cost of installing or maintaining them, the possible water damage that they may create by going off accidentally, worsen the damage in the event of a fire, and the increase cost of insurance due to that damage.

All of these are myths and simply not true. Indeed there is a cost of installing them, but not to the extent of what most think. Residential sprinkler systems cost as little as \$1.50/sq. ft. during new construction or remodeling; less than the cost of carpet or upgrading to ceramic tile or a Jacuzzi tub. Newer designed sprinkler systems combine with the cold water supply systems in the house, saving the costs of having to run extra pipes for separate systems, as well as a separate system to maintain. Insurance companies actually will give you a discount, on average of about 15%, which quickly offsets the cost of installing them. Contact your own agent to see what savings you could earn!

The myth of a sprinkler accidentally discharging is also false. Sprinkler systems have been around since the 1800's and are required in most commercial and industrial buildings. Unless they are damaged by severe direct impact, they are very durable and have lasted for decades. Hollywood has not done the fire service any favors by dramatizing that when a smoke detector or a single fire sprinkler goes off in a fire, all the sprinklers go off at one time; that is simply not true. Each sprinkler head has its own bulb to sense heat, and will only discharge when its individual bulb senses enough heat to open.

The myth of a sprinkler creating water damage and increasing the overall damage of a fire is also false. Residential sprinklers discharge at a rate of about 15 gallons/minute of water, compared to our fire hoses that discharge at a rate of 150- 250 gallons/minute; which would you rather have flowing into your house? A sprinkler system can do that because they respond quicker, while the fire is smaller, which actually saves damage to your home and belongings. Once the fire is out, the water supply can simply be shut off. The sprinklers also hold the fire in check or extinguish the fire, reducing the amount of heat and smoke generated by the fire. This allows for more time for your family to get out in an environment that is much less toxic. It also saves emergency responders from being subjected to those environments!

Most anyone would tell you that they would always have smoke detectors in their home and make sure they work. Home sprinklers are here, and they are coming. They will be more common, and soon they will be required in new or remodel construction just as smoke detectors are required by code right now. But more importantly they save lives, as much as smoke detectors do! Together they make the difference to save lives and property in the environment in which we live. There is nothing more important than that!

For more information about residential sprinklers, or what you can do to make your home safer, visit www.nafpa.org, or contact myself at the fire department at 949-1320, ext. 106.

Yours in service,

Doug Poolman
Cascade Township Fire Inspector / Investigator



Cascade Charter Township

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

PRST STD
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GRAND RAPIDS MI
PERMIT No. 1

PATHWAY NEWS

It will soon be springtime in beautiful Cascade Township. As the snow lifts, the sins of winter will soon be revealed along our pathways and roads. I urge all of you who use our wonderful pathway system to grab some of the discarded cans, bottles and other trash, and direct it into one of the many receptacles provided for this purpose.

For those of you who are newer to the area, we've come a long way since the pathway system began. In the early years, the first path on Cascade Road was, well, a landmine of dog poop for those engaged in athletic endeavors. This was despite the trash cans and doggie bags available. Over the years, respect has grown for this outstanding path system and the doo-doo's have found their way into the trash receptacles.

Not only has respect grown, but so has the system which now sports 17 miles of trails to offer a safe workout to the most avid athlete. As I use them daily I never take them for granted.

By the way, if you need to shed some winter pounds, the scenery far surpasses a stuffy health club.

Get out and enjoy, and remember to **KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL!**

Kris Taylor
Pathway Coordinator

SIGN NOTICE

The Cascade Township Sign Ordinance prohibits the placement of temporary signs in the Township. The most common of these types of signs include the portable trailer sign, pennants and banner signs. Any of these signs would be a violation of the Sign Ordinance and should be removed.

One of the most asked questions is what are the regulations in regards to Garage Sale signs and Real Estate Signs? The answer is, the Township Sign Ordinance regulates both of these type of signs by restricting them to the site in which the garage sale is located and to the property that is for sale. No off premise signs are allowed, this includes posting signs on telephone and utility poles.

The Township actively removes signs that are in violation of the Sign Ordinance. If you have any questions regarding the Sign Ordinance please call the Planning Department at (616) 949-0224.