



CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



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

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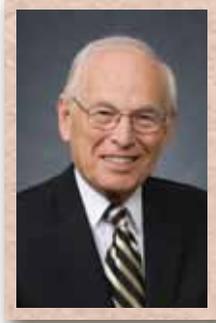
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Sheriff/Non-Emergency:

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July 4th Celebration: Grand Marshal

Presiding over this year's celebration will be Rev. Charles Fry. Rev Charles Fry has spent his entire life in West Michigan, serving 40 years as a pastor in the United Methodist Church. Born on a farm near White Cloud, MI on July 13, 1929, he attended Albion College (honorary doctorate in 1982), Michigan State University and Western Michigan University. In 1955 he graduated from Garrett-Evangelical School of Theology in Evanston, Illinois and was ordained that same year. He was married to Betty Jean Phillips Fry in 1949. They have several children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Over the forty years of his ministry Rev. Fry pastored several United Methodist churches in West Michigan including Scotts/Climax, Decatur, Benton Harbor Peace Temple (Associate), Aldersgate UMC, Parchment and First UMC in Battle Creek. From 1968 to 1973 he headed the program staff of the UMC of West Michigan from the Fuller-Fulton headquarters. Later, Bishop Edsel A. Ammons appointed him Superintendent of the Central District where he supervised the work of fifty-five pastors. These varied appointments gave Rev. Fry the opportunity to serve as a part of nearly every board and agency of his denomination in West Michigan. He retired in 1989 as senior pastor of Trinity UMC on Lake Drive, Grand Rapids and moved to Cascade Township.

With the Rev. Wayne Barrett, Rev. Fry founded Clergy Financial Services, a publishing concern that helped pastors around the country with their personal finances. During retirement Fry prepared tax returns for clergy thus enjoying new friends in 25 states.

Over the years Rev. Fry belonged to Rotary clubs, Kiwanis and Lion clubs serving each as chaplain. He was also a member of the University and Economic clubs of Grand Rapids.

Since retirement Rev. Fry has been an active member of First UMC of Grand Rapids on Fulton St. He spent eight years in their tutoring program at M. L. King Academy. Rev. Fry also served 10 years on the Advisory Board of the Cascade Library and 6 years as a Trustee of the Kent District Library.

Thank you to Rev. Fry for his service to the community.

Gerald Ford International Airport – Storm Water / Deicing Management Project

The Gerald Ford International Airport is progressing in its storm water / deicing management project. As part of the approval of its NPDES storm water permit, the airport must meet a state mandated October 1, 2015 deadline to eliminate the contribution of glycol, an organic compound used to deice airplanes, to a small tributary known locally as Trout Creek.

The airport has designed a storm water project to meet the DEQ mandates, and is progressing though the permit process. As part of that process, the airport has published their Environmental Assessment and will hold a public hearing on the document at the Calvin College Prince Center (1800 East Beltline Ave SE) on June 17th from 6-9 p.m. You can review the Environmental Assessment as well as other items relating to the project on the GFIA website at <http://www.grr.org/SWStudy.php>.

A second public hearing will be held by the Michigan Department of Education related to the permit, but a date and time is not currently available. Please check the airport website for further updates.

Cascade Township Millage Renewals/Reduction on August Ballot

Recently, the Cascade Township Board of Trustees approved a resolution to put three millage questions on the August 2013 ballot. The good news is that two of the millage questions will be renewals of millages that are already in place, and one will actually be a reduction of a current millage. What follows is a brief synopsis of the millages that are being considered for renewal or reduction. Additionally, we encourage you to visit our website (www.cascadetwp.com) as the August election date nears for more detailed information on the millage ballot questions.

Fire Millage

The Cascade Fire Department provides 24-hours a day, 7-days a week fire and emergency rescue coverage in Cascade Township. The fire department is comprised of 17 full-time firefighters and 17 paid-on-call firefighters that respond to emergencies on an as-needed, as-available basis. The fire department operates out of two stations; the main station located on Thornhills Drive south of 28th Street (Township Hall) and Station #2 located on Buttrick at 30th Street. Both stations are staffed with full-time firefighters on a 24/7 basis.

The Cascade Fire Department currently operates on a \$2.1 million dollar budget, which accounts for both operating expenditures and capital improvements. The funding for the fire department comes from two primary sources. The first source is three separate millages that are dedicated to the fire department; a 0.5080 millage passed in 1994, a 0.5800 millage passed in 2004 and a .2272 millage passed in 2008. Additionally, a second source of revenues for the department is a \$400,000 annual contribution from the Cascade Township general fund. This contribution was pledged by the Township Board by resolution in 2004 as a condition of the millage passing. The resolution states that the Township Board will continue to pledge the \$400,000 of general fund support to the fire fund unless severe economic conditions exist which would cause a budget deficit if the contribution was not suspended. The Board has provided this contribution each year since the resolution was passed.

In August, the residents of Cascade will be asked to renew the 0.5080 Fire and Emergency Services millage for a period of 20 years. The renewal of this millage will allow us to continue to provide the high quality fire protection and emergency services the residents of Cascade Township have come to expect. The ballot language will read as follows:

Shall the previously voted increase in the constitutional tax rate limitation of general ad valorem taxes within Township of Cascade of 0.51 mills, reduced to 0.5080 mills (50.80 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) by required millage rollbacks, be renewed at 0.5080 mills for a period of twenty (20) years, 2014 through 2034, inclusive, for the purpose of continuation of funding 24/7 fire and emergency service coverage at both fire stations and the scheduled replacement of fire and emergency service equipment and apparatus.

This millage renewal would raise an estimated \$685,298 in the first year of the levy. To the extent required by law, a small portion of the tax levy revenues (approximately \$19,745 in the first year) will be captured and disbursed to the Township's Downtown Development Authority for its use.

If passed, the millage will be levied from 2014 until 2033. For a home worth \$250,000, the millage would equate to \$63.50 in taxes for 2014.

Police Millage

Police services in Cascade Township are provided through an intergovernmental partnership known as the East Precinct of the Kent County Sheriff's Department. The partners in the East Precinct are Cascade, Ada and Grand Rapids Townships as well as the Kent County Sheriff's Department. The East Precinct was officially formed in 2002 to pool the police services resources between the 3 townships. This intergovernmental partnership was deemed the best way to provide the residents of the three townships with effective and efficient police services. Currently, the East Precinct is comprised of 12 patrol vehicles, as well as a community policing officer, that are specifically assigned to the East Precinct boundaries. The East Precinct serves as a supplement to the regular district patrols that are assigned to the area, which is essentially two patrol cars per shift. However, the service area for the district patrol cars is much larger than the service area for the East Precinct, covering Vergennes and Lowell Townships as well.

For 2013, the Cascade Township contribution to the East Precinct was \$598,000 which is spent on the contracted service through the Kent County Sheriff's Department. The funding for this service comes from two voted millages; a 0.2100 millage that was passed in 2008 and a .2491 millage that was passed in 1994.

In August, the residents of Cascade Township will be asked to renew the 0.2491 millage for a period of 20 years. The renewal of this millage will allow us to continue to provide police services in Cascade Township as part of the East Precinct. The ballot question will read as follows:

Shall the previously voted increase in the constitutional tax rate limitation of general ad valorem taxes within Township of Cascade of 0.25 mills, reduced to 0.2491 mills (24.91 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at 0.2491 mills for a period of twenty (20) years, 2014 through 2034, inclusive, for the purpose of funding the operation of the East Precinct of the Kent County Sheriff Department and continue 24-hour police protection coverage within the Township?

This millage renewal would raise an estimated \$336,039 in the first year of the levy. To the extent required by law, a small portion of the tax levy revenues (approximately \$9,682 in the first year) will be captured and disbursed to the Township's Downtown Development Authority for its use.

If passed, the renewed millage would be levied from 2014 until 2033. For a home that is worth \$250,000, this millage would equate to \$31.14 in taxes for 2014.

Library Millage

The Cascade Library is another fine example of intergovernmental cooperation in our Township. In 1994 the voters of Cascade Township passed a 0.6700 millage to “construct and operate” a public library facility. However, when the Kent County voters passed the district library property tax millage in 1995, the Cascade Township millage was voluntarily rolled back as the millage was then used only for the construction and maintenance of the library facility, while the Kent District Library millage is used to cover the operating expenditures. The Cascade Library continues to operate within this partnership model, where the Kent District Library serves as the operating entity of the library while Cascade Township owns the library building itself and essentially “leases” the facility to the KDL. To learn more about the Kent District Library and the array of services they offer, please visit their website at www.kdl.org.

In 2013, the millage rate for the Cascade library was .3882 mills, which generated around \$491,000 in funds. Besides the millage, the other source of revenue for the library comes from a \$22,000 a year lease payment from the Kent District Library. The largest portion of these revenues, approximately \$235,000 in 2013, is used to pay the outstanding debt on the construction of the library building. Fortunately for the residents of Cascade Township, this debt will be fully paid off in 2013. The rest of the library budget goes toward general maintenance of the building, capital replacement expenses, utility costs and other administrative costs such as insurance.

Because the debt on the library building has been paid off, the residents of Cascade will be asked to approve a **REDUCED** millage of 0.1500 mills for a period of 10 years. This millage will be used to continue the maintenance of the library building. The ballot question will read as follows:

Shall the previously voted increase in the constitutional tax rate limitation of general ad valorem taxes within Township of Cascade of 0.67 mills, reduced to 0.3882 mills (38.82 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) by both voluntary and required millage rollbacks, be renewed at 0.15 mills for a period of ten (10) years, 2014 through 2024, inclusive, for the purpose of continuation of funding of the maintenance of the Cascade Library and the Wisner Center.

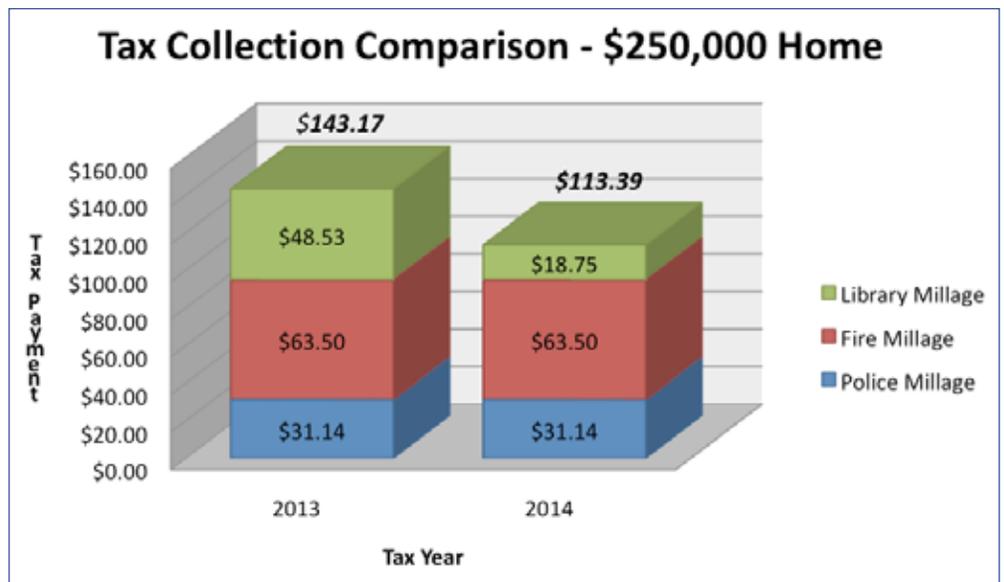
This millage renewal would raise an estimated \$202,352 in the first year of the levy. To the extent required by law, a small portion of the tax levy revenues (approximately \$5,830 in the first year) will be captured and disbursed to the Township’s Downtown Development Authority for its use.

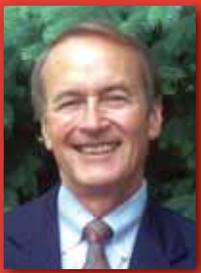
If passed, the renewed millage would be levied from 2014 until 2033. For a home that is worth \$250,000, this millage would equate to \$18.75 in taxes for 2014.

A common question among residents is why a portion of these millages are collected by the Cascade Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The Cascade Township DDA was created in the early 1990’s as a means to encourage development and make public improvements in the DDA area. Today, the Cascade DDA is composed of the commercial areas along 28th Street including the Cascade Village area, Centennial Office Park and Cascade Office Park. The DDA has made significant improvements in these areas, including the installation of lighting, sidewalks and streetscapes. To finance these improvements, the DDA is allowed to “capture” any revenues related to the growth of taxable values in the DDA from the year it was established going forward. The DDA captures revenues from other millages as well, including Township, County, Community College and District Library millages.

To the right is a chart showing how the millage reduction will affect the tax bill of a home worth \$250,000. In 2013, the three millages resulted in \$143.17 in taxes on the home. However, if the millages pass as proposed, the same three millages will result in \$113.39 in taxes on the home. This is a \$29.78 reduction in taxes with no reduction in services.

As I mentioned, please continue to check the township website (www.cascadetwp.com) for periodic updates on the millage questions and material related to the millage renewals. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by email at bswayze@cascadetwp.com or by phone at (616) 949-1500.





FROM THE
SUPERVISOR

ROB BEAHAN

Over a dozen residents and members of Cub Scout Pack 3364 helped pull almost two dozen large bags of garlic mustard at Peace Park on Saturday, May 11th. This is the fifth year we have had a volunteer garlic mustard pull at the park and it has helped immensely to control the spread of the invasive plant. Thanks to everyone that participated not only at the park but on their own properties. It reflects your commitment to the continued protection of the natural values of the area.

Since 1957 Meekhof Lumber has been a mainstay of Cascade. Through the years they have supplied much of the lumber and material used to build and remodel many of the homes and businesses in the area. After 56 years the Meekhof family has decided to close the business that the brothers and sisters worked in those many years. That personal touch will be missed by their customers and I would like to extend thanks to the entire Meekhof family for their years of service and support to the community.



A tradition that continues is the annual 4th of July celebration in Cascade. This great event draws people from all over to reconnect with friends and family. Please plan on enjoying a wonderful Independence Day Celebration right here in Cascade and if you would like to volunteer your help for a few hours please email Fire Chief John Sigg at jsigg@cascadetwp.com or call 949-1320. Either way it's a great way to be actively involved with your community.

Vote August 6 - Voter Registration

The last day to register to vote in the August Primary election is July 8; you may do this at our Cascade Township Office which is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily or the Kent County office or any Secretary of State office.

Please be sure you are a registered voter and can participate on August 6th. First-time voters: if you register by mail, you must vote in person.

First-time voters can be issued an Absent Voter Ballot if their identity can be verified by appearing in person at the Cascade Township office or a Secretary of State office.

Absent Voter Ballots will be available at the Cascade Township office beginning on June 22.

Annual Cascade Township Lunch for Seniors August 13, 2013

We hope you will join us and your Cascade Township friends for a catered lunch compliments of Cascade Township. We will enjoy this day at the Wisner Center at the Cascade Library.

This annual event is hosted by Cascade Township, in cooperation with Jean Kubiszewski of the Forest Hills Senior Center, to provide an opportunity for our senior citizens to enjoy some good food and music, mingle, relax and reminisce.

The luncheon will be held **August 13**, beginning at noon and ending at 2:30. Please contact Cascade Township Clerk Ron Goodyke (949-1508) if you have questions.

To make your reservation, stop in at the Forest Hills Senior Center or call 493-8950. This lunch is offered to our senior Cascade residents by the township at no charge. Space is limited to the first 100 guests who register.

Details: The library is located at 2870 Jacksmith SE, just one block south off 28th Street. Lunch and entertainment begin at noon. Make reservations by August 9 (493-8950).

Ada Farmers Market Celebrates Fifth Year of Fresh and Fabulous Local Products

Ada, MI - May 14, 2013

The Ada Farmers Market (AFM) is pleased to announce the opening date of its fifth year of operation under the Ada Downtown Development Authority. The Market officially opens this year on Tuesday, June 18th and will be open for business weekly until September 24th. Hours of operation each Tuesday will be from noon until 6 p.m.

Market activities this year will include the popular, "Music in the Market" and "Kids in the Market" programs. "Music in the Market" brings a wide variety of local musical talent as entertainment for shoppers. "Kids in the Market" provides educational and curiosity-building activities for young ones who tag along with adults. Both offer extra special reasons to visit the Market.

George Haga, Ada's Township Supervisor notes, "Our market provides a variety of edible items and is very accessible to the community in its present location. And, it's great to see so many exciting things happening around the Farmers Market, especially with our kids involved in the Ada Village Kids Garden. We're looking forward to another great year for the Farmers Market with participation of our community".

The Ada Farmers Market operates under the umbrella of the Ada Township Downtown Development Authority and is seasonally located in the parking lot of The Community Church, 7239 Thornapple River Drive, Ada, Michigan. The Ada Farmers Market offers a broad selection of West Michigan's locally-grown farm produce, including vegetables, fruits, meats, cheeses, breads and flowers. The Market vendors accept cash, Visa, MasterCard, Discover and EBT/Bridge cards. It also participates in the Fair Food Network's *Double-Up Food Bucks* program. For more information on this program, visit <http://www.doubleupfoodbucks.org/>.

For more information about the Ada Farmers Market, please visit www.adafarmersmarket.com.

Important Change In The Principal Residence Exemption Rules

The legislature for 2012 changed the deadlines and procedures for the Principal Residence Exemption. This year there is a cleanup of the original 2012 change:

The 2012 change established **two** deadlines by which a Principal Residence Exemption may be filed.

It created a new conditional rescission for “foreclosure entities.”

Affidavit Deadline. The deadline for a property owner to file a “Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavit” (Form 2368) for taxes levied after December 31, 2011, changed from May 1 to June 1, and a second deadline of November 1 was added. As a result, property owners that occupy a property as a principal residence and submit Form 2368 to the local tax collecting unit on or before June 1, 2012, may qualify for a PRE beginning with the 2012 summer tax levy. If a property owner occupies a property as a principal residence at any time from June 2, 2012 to November 1, 2012 and submits Form 2368 to the local tax collecting unit on or before November 1, 2012, that property owner may qualify for a PRE beginning with the 2012 winter tax levy. This dual deadline will continue throughout future tax years, but is not retroactive to previous tax years. **Public Act 524 of 2012 corrects an error in the original law and now allows the July and December Boards of Review to grant exemptions for the current and three prior years for all late filers.**

Foreclosure Entity Conditional Rescission. The second change is to allow a land contract vendor, bank, credit union, or other lending institution (foreclosure entity) to retain a PRE on foreclosed property by filing a foreclosure entity conditional rescission with the local tax collecting unit on or before June 1 or November 1 provided the property meets other statutory requirements. The entity must annually verify to the assessor on or before December 31 that the property continues to qualify for the foreclosure entity conditional rescission.

This new “foreclosure entity conditional rescission” has separate and distinct requirements and should not be confused with the current “owner’s conditional rescission.”

The opportunity for a foreclosure entity to apply begins with the 2012 tax year and is not retroactive to previous tax years. **Boards of Review have no authority with regard to a conditional rescission.** The payment required of the foreclosure entity is equal to the school operating tax and is collected by the local tax collecting unit at the same time and in the same manner as taxes that would have been collected were the property not subject to a PRE.

If you need immediate assistance related to Public Act 114, please call the PRE Unit at (517) 373-1950 or e-mail at PTE-Section@michigan.gov.

Cascade Township Website

Cascade Township is in the process of creating a List Serv subscription service for the website. This service is used as an electronic mailing list which will allow the Township to send messages to the subscribers of the list. Residents will have to sign up or subscribe once the service is set up. Please check our website (www.cascadetwp.com) for subscription information.

Summer 2013 Tax Information

Summer 2013 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed July 1st. Summer taxes are due on or before September 16th, 2013. This date is used because September 14th falls on Saturday. If you do not receive a tax statement during July, check the township’s website or call the Treasurer’s office at 949-6944. Please use the return envelope provided with your tax statement. Payments are receipted on the same business day they are received. We recommend that you allow 7 days to ensure timely delivery, especially for Internet check payments.

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

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

New Tax Payment Option now available for the residents. Customers may pay their bill right out of their checking or savings account. Unlike credit card payments, which charge a convenience fee, this option is free to the taxpayers. Please follow the link on our website to make a payment.

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

- Quick Links
- Assessing, Building & Tax Information (first choice)
- Search Municipal Records By (top of page)
- Drop-down arrow to select data search (Address, Name, Parcel Number)
- Double Click on Selected Parcel
- **Click Tax Information Tab**

Have a safe summer.

*Kenneth B. Peirce
Cascade Charter Township Treasurer*



Cascade
Community
Foundation

The Cascade Community Foundation is now accepting applications for Fall of 2013. Grants from this fund address the needs throughout Cascade and the Greater Forest Hills Area typically focusing on Community Building, Community Enhancement and Community Events. A typical grant award is between \$100 and \$5,000.

Nurturing Neighbors: <i>Community Benefit Fund</i>	Enhancing Places: <i>Community Enhancement Fund</i>	Connecting Community: <i>Activities Fund</i>
<p>The Community Benefit Fund provides support to the essential physical and emotional needs of our neighbors to help ensure all community members feel safe and have opportunities to make healthy choices.</p>	<p>In the greater Cascade area, open spaces and wooded environments are more than just scenery. The Community Enhancement Fund helps make these places hubs of activity where neighbors can live and play.</p>	<p>When neighbors connect, communities take root. Grants from the Community Activities Fund, help neighbors come together to share stories and enjoy the treasures that make our community great.</p>

Applications are due by 5 p.m., Friday August 14, 2013. Applications will then be reviewed by the CCF Grants Committee and final decisions will be made by the Board of Directors during their September meeting.

Applicants must be organizations with 501(c) IRS status. To be considered an organization should use the application available online at cascadecommunityfoundation.com.

Funding for the biannual grants awarded by CCF is made available through earnings on the Foundation's General Endowment and the Joyce and Tom Wisner Fund. Donations to the CCF endowment fund from individuals and corporations are always welcome and provide a way to make a permanent investment in the community for ever-changing needs. For more information, go to the website at www.cascadecommunityfoundation.com or contact Jim Williams, at (616) 456-1613.



Cascade
Community
Foundation

The Cascade Community Foundation has provided funding this summer for the following programs:

The American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids will certify three new disaster centers in the Greater Forest Hills Area bringing our total number of disaster centers to five. Don't worry; the community is ready no matter what might come.

The Cascade Fire Department received a grant to hand out brochures promoting fire safety.

The Gerontology Network of West Michigan along with Gratitude Growing will be handing out gift bags for seniors attending the Forest Hills Senior Center thanks to a grant provided by the Cascade Community Foundation. If you receive a gift bag, make sure and take a picture and send it to us at CCF.

Cascade Community Foundation will help bring you a summer full of things to do. A grant to the New Day Church on the Hill will help them hold eight different summer nights and days of fun that will be open to the whole community; The Forest Hills Business Association is bringing back Metro Cruise Warm Up in the Pals parking lot again this August and the annual Cascade Township fourth of July Celebration will be that much more exciting with the funds provided by the Cascade Community Foundation.

For more information on all these activities, please go to our website at www.CascadeCommunityFoundation.com

Thank you to our 2013 sponsors. Our community is a better place because of you.

Community Builder Sponsor:

Tassell, Wisner, Bottrall Foundation

Good Neighbor Sponsor:

Betten Imports

Helping Hand Sponsors:

Dan Pfeiffer Automotive Group

Dunn 7 Laug Wealth Management
at Morgan Stanley

Founders Bank & Trust

Lacks Enterprises, Inc

Meijer

Mika Meyers Beckett and Jones

Watermark Insurance Services

Williams Kitchen & Bath

It's not too late. You can still sponsor the Cascade Community Foundation. Please go to our website for details.

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

History of Cascade

Do you know the names of some early settlers of Cascade? Who was the first township supervisor? Where was the location of the Cascade Hotel? Here is a bit of Cascade history, which was compiled by Mrs. Roger Wykes.

- 1836: Lewis Cook and Edward Lennon were some of the first to put down roots in Cascade. A trapper, William Annis bought one of the first parcels of land in the growing community. Hiram Laraway married Mary Teeple, sister of Peter and George Teeple.
- 1840: Hiram Laraway froze to death on his way home from Ada Village.
- 1841: Whitney family built and operated the Whitneyville Stagecoach stop.
- 1843: Peter Whitney built the Whitneyville Tavern to make up for loss in stagecoach traffic which was using Division Ave.
- 1845: The Cascade Hotel was built at the corner of Cascade Road/Thornapple River Drive.
- 1848: The area was legally established as Cascade Township and Peter Teeple was elected first township supervisor.
- 1854: The first general store and post office were built.
- 1856: Construction began on St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Cascade Flour Mill. The last of Chief Noonday's tribe of about 300 Indians vanished from the area.
- 1861-1865: Cascade Township sent approximately 100 men (10% of the population) to serve in the Civil War. Many are killed.
- 1876: George Seward Richardson planted 100 trees in honor of U.S. Centennial. The population of Cascade reached 1200.
- 1890: Charles Holt platted land. The Cascade Springs Hotel was built one-half mile north of Cascade, complete with mineral springs spa and tennis courts.
- 1910: Blacksmith, Henry Cogger, owned the first "horseless carriage" in Cascade.
- 1915: Cascade Road is chosen as the main highway from Detroit to Grand Rapids.
- 1920: Cascade entered the 20th century with the introduction of electricity to the area. The roads are paved.
- 1931: The White Barn Dance Hall was built on the Kilmer Farm.
- 1939: Cascade Township citizens were assigned to guard the Cascade Dam against possible invasion by German Nazis.
- 1947: Grand Rapids residents moved to Cascade Township in large numbers.
- 1950: Cascade and Ada school districts consolidated into the Forest Hills school district.
- 1963: Kent County Airport moves to Cascade Township.
- 1980: Cascade Township was chartered.

If you would like to learn more about the history of our community, come to the June 6th meeting of the **Cascade Historical Society at 7 p.m.** at the **Township Hall Museum** on the corner of Cascade Road and Thornapple River Drive.



Cascade Charter Township

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

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PERMIT No. 1

Pathway News...

My wife Kathy likes to ride a stationary bike in the winter. I, on the other hand, prefer to walk. So as I spent my winter days walking our wonderful trails I would of course pick up bits of trash strewn along the pathways in the hopes of having less to pick up in the spring. Well I am here to tell you that did not work out as planned. Kathy and I spent over four hours picking up Cascade Road and it was arduous but rewarding all at the same time. I also managed to shed two pounds in the process. So if keeping the pathways clear of trash is in and of itself not rewarding, than do it for the weight loss possibilities.

I see so many people out in the spring riding and walking and I can only hope that some of them take a moment to pick up just one piece of trash as they enjoy the trails and the out-of-doors. As I have said in the past, and will continue to say, to those of you that take the time to keep the trails clear of trash, I thank you. To the rest of you, please take a moment to help us and yourself keep our community clean and safe. Remember **KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL.**

Kris Taylor
Pathways Coordinator

