



CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Winter 2014

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 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

Jack Lewis

jlewis@cascadetwp.com

Fred Goldberg

fgoldberg@cascadetwp.com

Tom McDonald

tmcdonald@cascadetwp.com

Department Phone Numbers:

Manager:

Ben Swayze; 949-1500
bswayze@cascadetwp.com

Assessing:

Roger McCarty; 949-6176
roger@cascadetwp.com

Building Inspections:

Brian Wilson; 949-3765
bwilson@cascadetwp.com

Community Development

Steve Peterson; 949-0224
speterson@cascadetwp.com

Fire:

John Sigg; 949-1320
jsigg@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff/Non-Emergency:

632-6100

Happy Holidays

from your
Township Board, Commissions & Staff!

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Bring your used Christmas tree to the parking lot behind the Buttrick Fire Station (Buttrick & 30th Street) from December 26 - January 4. Please remember to remove all ornaments, lights, tinsel, & tree stands. Happy Holidays!

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Cascade Township Office will be closed Wednesday, December 24th, Thursday, December 25th and Thursday, January 1st.

ANGEL TREE

Cascade Township is proud to participate in the Angel Tree Program. The Angel Tree program allows a person to select a tag from the tree that represents a child in need. The tag is placed on an unwrapped toy and returned to the selection site and then collected for that child to have at Christmas time.

If you would like to participate in the Angel Tree program, please stop at the Cascade Township Office, located at 2865 Thornhills Ave. to select a tag from November 25 through December 17.

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 14, 2015

For more information: www.grandrapidstri.com.



GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON

Huntington Amway

TO ALL CASCADE RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS
SAVE THE DATE – JOIN US!

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 21ST 2015**

**CASCADE SPRING
GALA DINNER DANCE**

WHERE:

**NOTO'S OLD WORLD
ITALIAN DINING**
*IN THEIR NEWLY REDECORATED
BEAUTIFUL BANQUET ROOMS*

FEATURING:

A SILENT AUCTION
CASH BAR
COCKTAILS 6 TO 7 P.M.
DINNER 7 P.M.
DANCING FOLLOWS

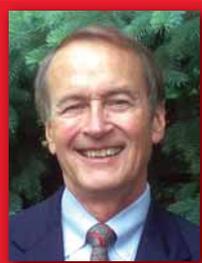
COST:

\$65 PER PERSON

SPONSORED BY:

**NOTO'S OLD WORLD
ITALIAN DINING**
*FRIENDS OF THE CASCADE LIBRARY
CASCADE FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION*

For more information, please contact
the Cascade Fire Department
at (616) 949-1320.



FROM THE SUPERVISOR
ROB BEAHAN

FROM THE SUPERVISOR...

I would like to take this opportunity and thank all the voters of Cascade who took the time to cast their vote in the recent midterm election. Voter turnout nationwide was the lowest since 1942 at only 36.3% while turnout in Cascade was a respectable 55.8%. Coordinating an election is an immense job and a sincere thanks should be extended to

Clerk Ron Goodyke, Deputy Clerk Denise Biegalle, staff members Evelyn Kwekel, Deb Amos and the almost 50 others who manned the polling facilities. It was an extremely long day that was preceded by weeks and months of prior planning and training to make sure things went smoothly and correctly.

New changes have also taken place with the Cascade Township staff. Firefighters Phil Monterusso and Steve Bennett recently retired after serving the community since 1995 as full time Firefighters. Our best goes out to Phil and Steve and also to Firefighter Todd Stevenson who was recently promoted to fill the vacant Lieutenant position. We also expect to fill the three existing Firefighter vacancies within the next few weeks.

Other long time staff members have increased roles. Planning Director Steve Peterson has become the new Community Development Director and will be responsible for overseeing the planning, administration, and day-to-day operations of the Community Development Department including planning and zoning, community facilities, open space and parks and the enforcement of community standards. Steve will be heavily involved in all aspects of economic development activities.

Sandra Korhorn has stepped up to fill the new position of DDA/ Economic Development Director. Sandra will be responsible for all facets of economic development in the Township and will serve as Director of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

Recently, Jim McDonald was appointed as Supervisor of the Building & Grounds department. Jim has been part of that department for a number of years and will continue to serve with his expertise and dedication.

Lastly, Stephanie Fast has joined us as Community Standards Officer. This part time position will be responsible for enforcement of all Township Ordinances.

These new positions and appointments will help ensure that Cascade Township continues to grow in a viable and sustainable manner in the future.

WINTER 2014 TAX INFORMATION

Winter 2014 tax bills and informational notices were mailed December 1, 2014. Winter taxes are due on or before Tuesday February 17, 2015 because the due date falls on the weekend this year. If you do not receive a tax statement during December, please check the township's website: www.cascadetwp.com or call the Treasurer's office at (616) 949-6944.

Payments are receipted on the same business day they are received. We recommend that you allow 7 days to ensure a timely delivery. An informational letter is enclosed with the bill for alternative payment instructions and E-Z pay application.

Your tax bill information is available 24 hours a day at www.cascadetwp.com; Quick links; Assessing/Bldg/Tax Info; Search using address, name, or parcel number; Click the tax information tab to view the property tax history along with the current taxes.

March 1, 2015, all unpaid real property taxes will be forwarded to the Kent County Treasurer for collection. Postmarks are not accepted.

DOG LICENSES

Kent County dog licenses are available in our office year-round. A current rabies certificate and proof of neuter/spay should be provided at the time you apply for the license. You may also have a renewal form from the Kent County Animal Shelter.

FOREST HILLS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Membership to the FHBA is open to all entities interested in the Forest Hills area businesses and community. Membership runs from January through December and is priced at \$150. 2014 memberships are available now! Call (616) 977-0729 for more information or visit: www.fhba.org.

Upcoming events are highlighted below:

December 11, 2014 –
Holiday Party
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Noto's
Old World Italian Dining
Sponsor: FHBA

January 8, 2015 –
Sietsema Orchards:
The Survival of a Family Business
Featuring: Andy Sietsema
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Location: To be determined
Sponsor: To be determined

February 12, 2015 –
Releasing Your Greatness
Featuring: Michelle Steffes
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Location: To be determined
Sponsor: To be determined

March 12, 2015 –
To be determined

March 21, 2015 –
Forest Hills Expo!
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Location: Ada Christian School
Sponsor: ABA & FHBA



2015 ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Prior to Proposal A, property taxes were based upon State Equalized Value (SEV). Property taxes are now based upon Taxable Value. Each year, the Assessing Office must calculate the SEV for every property based upon the study period mandated by the State Tax Commission. A property's taxable status is determined as of December 31, which is called Tax Day.

Additionally, each property has a Capped Value. Capped Value is calculated by multiplying the prior year's Taxable Value, with adjustments for additions and losses, by the CPI as calculated by the State of Michigan and cannot increase by more than 5%. **For 2015, the CPI has been calculated at 1.6%.** Taxable Value (TV), which property taxes are based on, is defined as the **lower** of State Equalized Value or Capped Value. Generally speaking, this means that unless the current year's SEV is less than the previous year's Taxable Value multiplied by the CPI, the current year's Taxable Value will increase by the CPI.

SEV = 50% of True Cash Value

Capped Value = (Prior TV-Losses) x (1+ CPI*) + Additions

* CPI = Percent of change in the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less, expressed as a multiplier

Taxable Value = The lesser of State Equalized Value or Capped Value unless there is a transfer of ownership.

The Equalization Timetable

During the downturn in the economy the State Tax Commission mandated local assessors use a 12-month sales study to determine values. Last year and again this year, the Commission has ordered assessors go back to a 24 month study.

For 2015 assessments, the 24-month sales study begins October 1, 2012 and ends September 30, 2014.

Actual Sale Price is not True Cash Value

The law defines True Cash Value as the **usual** selling price of a property. The Legislature and the Courts have very clearly stated that **the actual selling price of a property is not a controlling factor in the True Cash Value**

or State Equalized Value as calculated by the Assessor. For this reason, when analyzing sales for determining assessment changes, the Assessing Office will review all sales but exclude non-representative sales from the assessment analysis.

Foreclosure Sales

Inherent in the definition of usual selling price is the assumption that the sale does not involve any element of distress from either party.

Distressed sales, such as sales involving mortgage foreclosure or sales involving transfers to or from relocation companies, are usually not considered as typical sales in the valuation of property for assessment purposes nor are they necessarily reliable indicators of value when making market comparisons for current assessed values or appeals.

So what does it all mean?

How can I expect my assessment to change in 2015?

As stated in the Equalization Timetable, for 2015 the time period of the sales study for assessment review is October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014. Sales occurring after September 30, 2014 will not be reviewed until the 2016 assessment cycle.

The residential market has been improving over the past few years and the sales studies will reflect that. The larger study period and greater market activity will provide a larger sample to base the new assessments on. Areas with limited sales data may still require assessment adjustments be based on market activity in the surrounding neighborhoods and general market trends. With the larger sales study period, you may find that your 2015 assessment may not go up as much as you think it should.

What does it mean if my Assessment goes up more than my Taxable Value?

Taxable Value is used to calculate your tax bill. If the taxable value increase is less than the assessment increase, your tax increase will be limited and will not reflect the total increase in value of your property.

Remember that in the year following a transfer of ownership, the property uncaps and the Taxable Value becomes whatever the Assessed Value is for that year.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS REGARDING PERSONAL PROPERTY

The legislature made changes to the Personal Property tax law which first impacted small businesses in 2014. **Starting in 2014, personal property owned, leased or controlled by an owner or related entity in a jurisdiction with a true cash value of less than \$80,000 is exempt from property taxes.**

For 2015 and beyond, there are several important points the property owner must be aware of:

1. *The property owner must file an affidavit **EACH YEAR** with the Assessor office by February 10th.* Failure to file the affidavit on time means you will not receive the exemption – even if you would otherwise be eligible. **THE FORM MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 10.**
2. *Personal property owners who file the affidavit are not required to file a personal property statement.* They are required to maintain records documenting their property value and make those records available to the Assessor upon request in order to confirm qualification for exemption. The Assessor may deny the exemption and go back up to 3 years if he or she believes the equipment is not eligible.
3. *There is no provision for the exemption to be addressed by the March, July or December Boards of Review.* This means **we cannot add an exemption submitted after the deadline.**
4. *The law does not allow a property owner to divide up his property among separate entities to avoid taxes.* Additionally, leased equipment is included in the calculation of total value.

We will not send out personal property statements this year. The statement and affidavit will be available at our office and on the Township or State of Michigan websites.

<http://www.cascadetwp.com/ReferenceDesk/Forms.asp>

Personal Property Stmt:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/632fillable2015_471934_7.pdf

Exemption Affidavit:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/5076_439273_7.pdf

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL US. Don't miss an exemption you might be eligible for!

4 CASCADE CONNECTIONS

2015 CASCADE TOWNSHIP CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The Cascade Township DDA Board is working on some infrastructure projects. Recently, a Complete Streets plan was developed for the Village area (Thornhills Ave. to just east of Cascade Rd. on 28th St. and from the Thornapple River to just South of Burton St. on Cascade Rd). Complete Streets legislation was adopted a few years ago allowing local communities, including townships, input into the design of the roads. This legislation applies to road projects where road agencies, engineers, etc. design and operate the entire roadway with all users in mind - including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

The Complete Streets plan, along with goals of the DDA, were developed by comments received from residents, business owners, Township representatives, representatives from other agencies, etc. to provide direction to consultants and staff. The village development area goals include enhancing the Village to make it welcoming and a destination for shoppers, make it pedestrian friendly, provide activities/destinations for people of all ages, including children and seniors, create public gathering areas and improve traffic flow and traffic safety.

The following projects will take place in 2015:

1. **Old 28th St. Realignment** - The focus of the Old 28th St. realignment (Old 28th/Cascade Rd. intersection) is to reduce the speeds at which east bound drivers approach and enter Cascade Rd. We heard during the Complete Streets process that a number of drivers use this intersection as a rolling stop. It is also a difficult angle to see oncoming traffic on Cascade Rd. This intersection will continue to be a right turn only. The plans show an adjustment to the approach angle to be closer to a 90 degree turn. Some new sidewalk will also be included in the project.
2. **28th St./Cascade Rd. Intersection Improvements** - The enhanced intersections included new concrete pavement intersections with colored and stamped concrete to highlight the crosswalks, wider crosswalks, upgraded ADA ramps and traffic signal mast arms.
3. **Thornapple River Dr./Cascade Rd. Intersection Improvements** - The enhanced intersections included new concrete pavement intersections with colored and stamped concrete to highlight the crosswalks, wider crosswalks, upgraded ADA ramps and traffic signal mast arms.
4. **Mid-Block Crossing (near the Citgo gas station)** - The focus of the mid-block crossing is to allow for a safe crossing in an unsignalized area.
5. **Redevelopment of the Museum Gardens** - The garden area will be redesigned with three large trees in the center area, updated plantings, a sculpture pad, musical interaction pieces, soft lighting and new seating.
6. **Dedicated Right Turn lane on Thornapple River Dr. at Cascade Rd.** - This will be a Kent County Road Commission project. The focus is to modify and improve the right turn movement onto Cascade Rd. from Thornapple River Dr.
7. **Sewer Project near Old 28th St.** - This will be a City of Grand Rapids project. Upgrade the sewer lines in the Old 28th St. area.

Please note that with the intersection improvements, there will be traffic shifts that will occur. While it will be a very busy spring, summer and fall in the Cascade Village, the outcome of these improvements will greatly enhance this area and accomplish many of the above goals. More information will be provided on these projects (timing, construction schedules, etc.) throughout the winter as details emerge.

ICICLE SAFETY TIPS

Icicles are dangerous and can even be fatal. You should not stand under areas with icicles above. The weight of icicles can cause gutters, awnings, and ornamental features to collapse and fall from the building. It is recommended to have large icicles removed by a contractor who will have the proper equipment to deal with the conditions. Never climb onto a snow or ice covered roof and never place a ladder directly against a gutter covered with ice or icicles. The pressure of the ladder against the gutter may cause the ice or icicles to dislodge, falling on the person or property below.

If icicles are to be removed by the property owner, the following steps should be taken:

- Always be sure to be standing on a stable and suitable surface.
- Be sure to check the area under the icicles to be certain that people, pets and personal property will not be hurt or damaged by the falling ice.
- Use a wooden pole which is long enough so that icicles may be knocked down without causing personal injury from standing beneath the icicles, or over extending your reach.
- Tap the icicles. Do not hit them with extensive force. Hitting the icicle too hard may cause building damage to the area where the icicle has formed.
- If the icicle does not break loose, contact a professional contractor to perform the removal work.
- Never work around electrical or utility lines.
- Once the icicles have been safely removed, shovel the ice away from any walking surfaces.

To prevent future formation of ice, the following steps may be taken:

- Safely remove as much snow from the roof surface as possible. Once again, this should be performed while standing securely on the ground away from the gutter line of the structure.
- Properly install attic insulation to prevent heat from escaping through the roof allowing the snow to melt during below freezing temperatures.
- Have heating cables professionally installed along the gutter and eave portion of the roof to prevent the formation of ice, ice dams and icicles.

Have a happy and safe holiday season!

[Cascade Inspection Services](#)



Cascade
Community
Foundation

November 11, 2014

Dear Neighbors;

The Cascade Community Foundation was able to expand its breadth of giving in Cascade and the surrounding townships this year because of our partnership with you.

Michelle Stoel, a social worker at the West Michigan Aviation Academy, implemented the *Be Nice* curriculum this year - a program funded by the Cascade Community Foundation. This curriculum opened doors of opportunities for students and even helped save lives. Staff at the academy was trained regarding mental health issues and how to notice signs of suicide. Students developed leadership skills, making a commitment to 'Be Nice' to those in their school, communities, and beyond. This type of attitude from both faculty and students is what makes for more successful and healthy individuals who in turn impact our communities.

Coordinator of the Metro Cruise Warm Up, Laura McDowell, says that funding from the Cascade Community Foundation has brought over 1,000 people to the community over each of the last five years for this event. While this event helps promote friendships and connections between neighbors, the Metro Cruise also boosts local business.

The Cascade Community Foundation was able to partner with American Red Cross of West Michigan again this year. Because of the funds provided by CCF, the Red Cross was able to create five certified safety shelters and is now able to help train preschool children at local daycare facilities how to respond in cases of emergency. Both programs promote and ensure public safety and security for community members of all ages.

These inspirational stories are just a few small examples of how the Cascade Community Foundation is working to create an exceptional community by nurturing neighbors, enhancing places, and connecting community. For more information about the Cascade Community Foundation please go to our website at CascadeCommunityFoundation.com.

Our appreciation for you is abundant as we know these crucial projects were made possible only because of your generosity over these last years.

We ask now that you please consider making a year-end gift so life changing programs like these can continue. We are appreciative for all you do to help make our community the best place to live, work, and play.

With appreciation,

Michelle Bottrall
Board of Directors, President

SHOP WITH A SHERIFF

Christmas is fast approaching and this year is our 11th year hosting the Shop With a Sheriff program. The Shop With a Sheriff program was created to help families that are struggling get much needed items for their kids at Christmas. The families that participate in this program get a one-on-one experience with a Sheriff's deputy. The child or children are paired with a Deputy and that Deputy walks through the store and helps the child select from items on a list provided by mom or dad. The list contains some needed items such as hats, coats and seasonal clothing. We also make some wiggle room so the child can pick out something they choose, such as a toy.

The Deputies that have participated in the program return year after year. It is such a positive and exciting time for all individuals involved. The children really enjoy having personal contact with law enforcement, and we can see their confidence build from having new clothes and toys that they picked out.

This program exists only by donations from the community. Many businesses and individuals have helped this program succeed for many years. I would ask you consider supporting the Shop With a Sheriff program this year. The average cost per child is \$125. We normally have over 100 children that participate. The donation is tax deductible. If you are interested in donating please send a check to Community Services Office at 701 Ball Ave NE Grand Rapids MI 49503. Make the check out to the Community Action Fund.

Have a wonderful holiday season,

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



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS...

Fire Hydrants

With the change in seasons and snow on its way, if you have a fire hydrant in front of or by your house, please clear a 3 by 3 foot area around the hydrant.

Smoke Alarms

In the past couple of weeks there have been several house fires in and around Kent and Ottawa Counties which involved homes that had no *working* smoke alarms or any smoke alarms at all; two of which included fatalities.

Maybe it is because we work in the fire service and we do so many fire education classes, but it surprises us how many homes *still* do not have any smoke detectors, sufficient smoke detectors, or *working* smoke detectors.

Modern home furnishings are made largely of plastics and other synthetics. Today's milk carton will be recycled into next week's carpet, drapes, or couch cushions. These synthetics greatly increase the rapid build-up of toxic smoke, as well as greatly accelerate the growth of the fire. Plastics and other synthetics are petroleum products and greatly contribute to the faster growth and higher BTU's (Generation of heat rate) in a fire.

Twenty or more years ago, when fabrics were all natural, such as cotton fabrics cushion material and solid wood furniture; you had on average 4-6 minutes to escape a fire in residence once the smoke alarms sounded. Compare that to today with modern furnishings made of synthetics, you now may have as little as 2-4 minutes once a smoke alarm has sounded. Even the most equipped, well-staffed fire department cannot react fast enough to change the tragic outcome.

Add these facts up to modern lightweight construction which is high in strength under "Normal" conditions, but fail rapidly under extreme heat conditions such as a fire. Smaller dimension lumber with less mass takes less time to burn through. Trusses and laminated components are glued together which again fail rapidly under extreme heat conditions.

Our fire prevention message is even more important now than ever. You need early warning which only quality, *working* smoke alarms provide. If you haven't done so in the last 6 months, replace your batteries; or back-up batteries for hard wired detectors. Check the manufacturing date on the back; if they are older than 10 years, replace them. Even though they still work with the test button, they may still lose their sensitivity. Purchase good quality replacements with the 10 year lithium batteries. Smoke detectors are not an item to skimp on when buying.

Finally *plan* to act. You must have an emergency escape plan for your home and practice it with your family. As humans we are creatures of habit, and the only way to insure an appropriate response during times of crisis, is to practice. If your smoke alarms sound, get out, the closest and quickest way possible; then stay out. Do not try and fight the fire yourself, then call 911. We would much rather respond and find a minor issue or no issue at all than get a delayed response and deal with a larger tragedy.

Cascade Fire Department has joined in the Michigan S.A.F.E. (Smoke Alarms For Everyone) program in promoting proper working smoke alarms in homes. Contact the Cascade Fire Department Prevention Bureau with any questions you may have at (616) 259-7033

Fire is Everyone's Fight & Smoke Detectors save lives!

HALLOWEEN PARTY

On Friday October 31st the Cascade Fire Department Station #1 became a gathering place of ghosts, goblins and many other costumed creatures. Over 800 bags of candy were shared with visitors as well as doughnuts, cookies, apple cider, and coffee.

Later in the evening the costume contest took place with many great prizes being awarded to the winners. Age groups for the contest start with newborns and are broken into various groups up to and including the adults. We greatly appreciate the involvement of the community, sponsors, and volunteers! We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Thank you to the Halloween Party Sponsors!

On behalf of Cascade Township and the Cascade Township Fire Department, we would like to send a special thank you to the following businesses and sponsors for their donations and contributions to the 2014 Halloween party. Without the help of these businesses, we would not be able to host this event. Please take notice of these businesses and express your appreciation of their help with the Halloween Party.

Blackie's

**Branns Steakhouse
& Grill**

Carlin, O'Brien & Batson

Cascade Automotive

Cascade Car Wash

**Cascade Firefighter's
Association**

**Cascade Hospital
for Animals**

Costco

D&W Food Center

**Family Friends
Veterinary Hospital**

Forest Hills Foods

Frontline Services

Funny Business

Gordon Food Service

Independent Bank

Kingsland Hardware

Koenes Auto Body

Little Caesars

Lynne Deering

Meijer

NAPA Auto Parts

O'Neill's Body Shop

Ranir Corporation

S. Abraham & Sons

Sam's Club

Sentinel Pointe

Spartan Stores

**Tassel-Wisner-
Bottrall Foundation**

Walgreen's

Wal-Mart



CASCADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Cascade Historical Society is dedicated to ensuring that present and future generations will not only know the significance of traditions of the area but also will learn from the past and recognize the need to preserve the historical heritage that has been bestowed upon them. We have photos, newspaper clippings, journals, diaries and other memorabilia. We also have been compiling a database of items in our files. If you have items which you would like to donate, we would appreciate hearing from you.

We meet the first Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m. at the old Cascade Township Hall located at 2839 Thornapple River Drive near Cascade Road. Come and experience Cascade history with us. If you would like us to search our records for your family's history, please e-mail your request to cascadehistory@cascaadetwp.com or call us at (616) 949-1500.

Gift Items available

We have several Cascade gift items for sale at the township offices including afghans, notecards, postcards and Cascade Chronicles, a Cascade history.

Eagle Scout compiles information for Cemetery Walking Tour

Peter Cullen, 15, a sophomore at Forest Hills Eastern High School, has just completed research and information on a Cascade Cemetery Walking Tour which includes interesting stories of people buried in the Cascade Cemetery. Peter completed the project as part of his requirements to attain the rank of Eagle Scout as a member of Boy Scout Troop 334 at Cascade Christian Church.

Members of the Cascade Historic Society applaud Peter for completing this project which recognizes the dedication of the founders of our area to whom we owe so much. Peter's research on over twenty Cascade residents buried in the cemetery is included in a brochure and in a booklet which he has written. One of the entries about a Civil War soldier from our area is as follows:

Charles M Nobbs, 1837-1865, Location: Section A

Private Charles M. Nobbs was born in New York and later came to Michigan with his family. Matthew and Virtue Nobbs who were born in England. Charles is listed on the 1860 census as living with his parents while working as a laborer on his father's farm. On August 12, 1860 he married Martha L. Morrill in Kent County. Martha died on March 9, 1863, aged nineteen, prior to Charles' enlistment.

Pvt. Nobbs enlisted in Company B, 21st Michigan Infantry on January 21, 1864 at Grand Rapids for three years. He was 26 years old. He joined his regiment in Chattanooga, Tennessee on March 11, 1864. Charles transferred to Company I, 14th Michigan Infantry June 9, 1865 and mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky on July 18, 1865. During Charles' enlistment, the 14th Michigan Infantry fought at Kennesaw Mountain, Chattahoochee River, Peach Tree Creek, the Siege of Atlanta, the March to the Sea, the Siege of Savannah and the surrender of General Joseph Johnston and his army.

Pvt. Charles Nobbs died August 16, 1865 at the age of 28, within one month of mustering out. He was originally buried next to his wife in Cook (Teepie) Cemetery, which was relocated to Cascade Cemetery in 1966. There are nine others from the 21st Michigan Infantry buried in Cascade Cemetery. Three of the nine were in Charles' Company B. They were Marshall Denison, Ezra Johnson and Henry Wood. One additional 21st Michigan Infantry veteran, William Clark, is buried in Whitneyville Cemetery.

Charles Nobbs was one of three Civil War veterans buried in Cascade Cemetery identified by the Cascade Historical Society as not having a headstone. The other two were Thomas Henefrey and William Henry Marr. The Historical Society worked for over a year on the Civil War grave restoration project. On Memorial Day 2012, the Cascade Historical Society held a public ceremony in Cascade Cemetery to dedicate the newly-installed headstones on the graves of these three veterans. The ceremony was led by members of General John A. Logan Camp No. 1 of Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War and Chaplain Corps No. 41 of the Women's Relief Corps.

TIME WARNER CABLE

This past February, Comcast announced its intention to acquire Time Warner Cable (TWC), the country's second largest cable provider. At the same time, Comcast also announced it was prepared to divest select cable systems serving approximately 3 million customers. In late April, Comcast announced that it had reached an agreement with Charter Communications for a series of transactions, including a transfer, sale, and spinoff of certain cable systems and customers, including those in Michigan.

Following the close of the proposed Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger, which is subject to regulatory review and approval, most of Comcast's Michigan customers, including those in Cascade Township, will be served by a new, independent, publicly traded spin-off company called GreatLand Connections. GreatLand, which at its birth will become the fifth largest cable provider in the country, will be led by Michael S. Willner, a 40-year cable industry veteran. Willner was a co-founder and CEO of Insight Communications from 1985 through 2012, when Insight was sold to Time Warner Cable. Under Willner's leadership, Insight Communications became one of the most highly regarded operating companies in the industry.

"Michael is an excellent leader and the perfect choice to be at the helm of this new company," said Brian L. Roberts, Chairman and CEO of Comcast. "His deep knowledge of the cable business, combined with his experience and focus on technology, will enable him to drive growth and product innovation for customers and position GreatLand as a competitor in the industry."

Benefitting from well-trained and experienced Comcast teams to ensure a smooth transition and uninterrupted subscriber service, GreatLand will continue to provide top-quality video, broadband and voice services to its more than 2.5 million subscribers and have substantial growth potential for the future. Comcast, GreatLand and Charter have pledged to work in tandem to ensure a smooth transition and provide the network investment and advanced products that Cascade Township residents have come to expect and enjoy.

To learn more and to stay abreast of the most recent developments, residents are encouraged to visit:

<http://corporate.comcast.com/twctransaction>.





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...

About a year ago I wrote a newsletter article that was critical of the way Meijer at 28th St. and Kraft policed their parking lot and surrounding grounds regarding the accumulation of trash over the weeks and months of retail operations. My letter was not printed and rightfully so. The Meijer Corporation over the years has given so much to this community that it would have been insulting to criticize them in light of the facts just mentioned. My wife Kathy and I shop at Meijer at least two times a week. We thoroughly enjoy our shopping experience every time we go there. Several weeks ago I noticed that they cleared out some very over grown shrubs along Kraft, and in doing so cleaned out all the debris that had accumulated over the years. It looks great. Kudos to Meijer. They have proven to be good stewards of our community and I, for one, thank them for the effort.

Now, on to other things. By the time this newsletter hits the homes in Cascade, winter will be upon us. For future references, if you ride the bike trails in the fall of the year, be aware when you ride under the oak and maple lined portions of the trail system. I have noticed that a great many acorns fall onto these tree lined areas and could be hazardous to your riding experience. Also beware of tree branches. In November I removed a tree branch from the trail between the two entrances to Manchester Hills that was about 12" in diameter. Be careful, but have fun. As always, please **KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL**.

Kris Taylor – Pathway Coordinator

PLEASE NOTE:

Cascade Township will be removing approximately 18 dead trees on Charlevoix Drive between 28th Street and Orchard Vista Drive. Township staff will work with a landscape designer this winter to develop a plan to determine the number and type of trees that should be replaced in this area. The goal is to plant in the spring.

8 CASCADE CONNECTIONS