

Office Hours:

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

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Clerk:

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Tom McDonald

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Building & Grounds:

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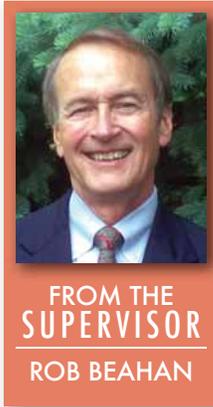
Fire:

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jsigg@cascadetwp.com

Planning:

Steve Peterson; 949-0224
speterson@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff/Non-Emergency:
632-6100



FROM THE SUPERVISOR...

One of the comments we hear again and again is how much people enjoy the 4th of July festivities in Cascade. This year should prove no exception with another great day planned for everyone. For many families it has become a tradition to meet with neighbors and friends and enjoy the parade and activities for young and old alike around the library. A highlight for many is the annual book sale conducted by the Friends of the Library, held in the library parking lot. In the evening we are partnering once again with Ada Township and having the fireworks display at dusk in downtown Ada.

We have a number of business sponsors we're grateful for that help underwrite the events. If you would like to volunteer for a few hours of your time assisting in the July 4th festivities, please e-mail Fire Chief John Sigg and the 4th of July Committee at jsigg@cascadetwp.com or call (616) 949-1320. It's a great way to be actively involved in the Cascade 4th tradition.

CASCADE TOWNSHIP PARKS

Our new Parks and Recreation plan has recently been approved by the State of Michigan. Part of the plan includes discussion on our dog policies and dog park idea for Cascade. The Parks committee would like to ask for your input relative to these issues.



Cascade Township has a couple different rules regarding dogs in our parks and on the pedestrian pathway system. Currently Cascade Township requires dogs on a leash on the pedestrian pathways but allows you to use a 20 foot retractable leash. This is the same for all of our parks with the exception of Burton Park and Cascade Peace Park, which limits dogs to a 6 foot leash.

While Cascade Township does not have a public dog park, we are home to the Shaggy Pines dog park which is a private business. We have submitted for a state grant for a dog park at the Cascade Rec Park but have also heard from others that a dog park at Burton Park would be an asset.

Our ideas for a dog park are much different than what Shaggy Pines offers. Our idea is to simply fence off an area and have a large dog/small dog area within the fenced area, with minimal improvements (seating, shelter, etc.). The dog park would probably look something like the dog park at the Ottawa County fairgrounds.

We have put together a short survey that we would like you to respond to in order to make improvements to our dog policies and possible dog park. The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DRC2VZQ>. There will be a link to the survey on the Cascade Township website homepage at www.cascadetwp.com. The survey will be available until Friday, August 13, 2014.

If you need other information relative to our parks, including a map of the parks, you can find it at <http://www.cascadetwp.com/Community/Parks/ParksPlan140312.pdf>.

SUMMER 2014 TAX INFORMATION

Summer 2014 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed July 1st. Summer taxes are due on or before September 15th, 2014. This date is used because September 14th falls on Sunday. If you do not receive a tax statement during July, check the township's website or call the Treasurer's office at (616) 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.

Online Tax Payment Option is 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

CHANGE IN EXEMPTIONS TO UNCAPPING OF TAXABLE VALUE

Taxable Value is the base off which your property tax amount is calculated. While it is limited in the way and amount it can increase over the prior year, there is an exception when the property is transferred. In the year following a transfer of a parcel, the taxable value is uncapped up to the assessed value. In some cases this is a significant increase.

There are some exceptions to that requirement. This year the Legislature has added an additional exemption.

Those transfers between first degree relatives are now exempt from uncapping. Examples of these transfers are sales from parents to children and brothers to sisters.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STORAGE

Please remember that the storage of recreational vehicles (RV), including boats, travel trailers, motor homes, sea doos, snowmobiles and other vehicles of similar nature must be located a minimum of five (5) feet from the property line. Any RV stored on the property must be owned by the property owner. RV storage is prohibited in all front yard areas from December 1st to May 15th, however, they may be stored within any enclosed building or in the side or rear yard. If you have questions, please contact the Township Office at (616) 949-1500.



ELECTION NEWS

Vote August 5

The next date for an election is August 5. The August Primary selects candidates for State and Local Offices from opposing parties to be placed on the General Election ballot in November. If there are no opponents from other political parties, the only opposition in November would come from candidates running as Independent or Write-in candidates. At stake at the local level will be the position for Trustee to fill the position vacated when Cindy Fox-Janes moved out of Cascade Township. There are two candidates for that position. They are Tom Mc Donald, who was appointed by the Board of Trustees to fill that position, and Jayne Currier.

Voter Registration

The last day to register to vote in the August Primary election is July 7; 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 5th.

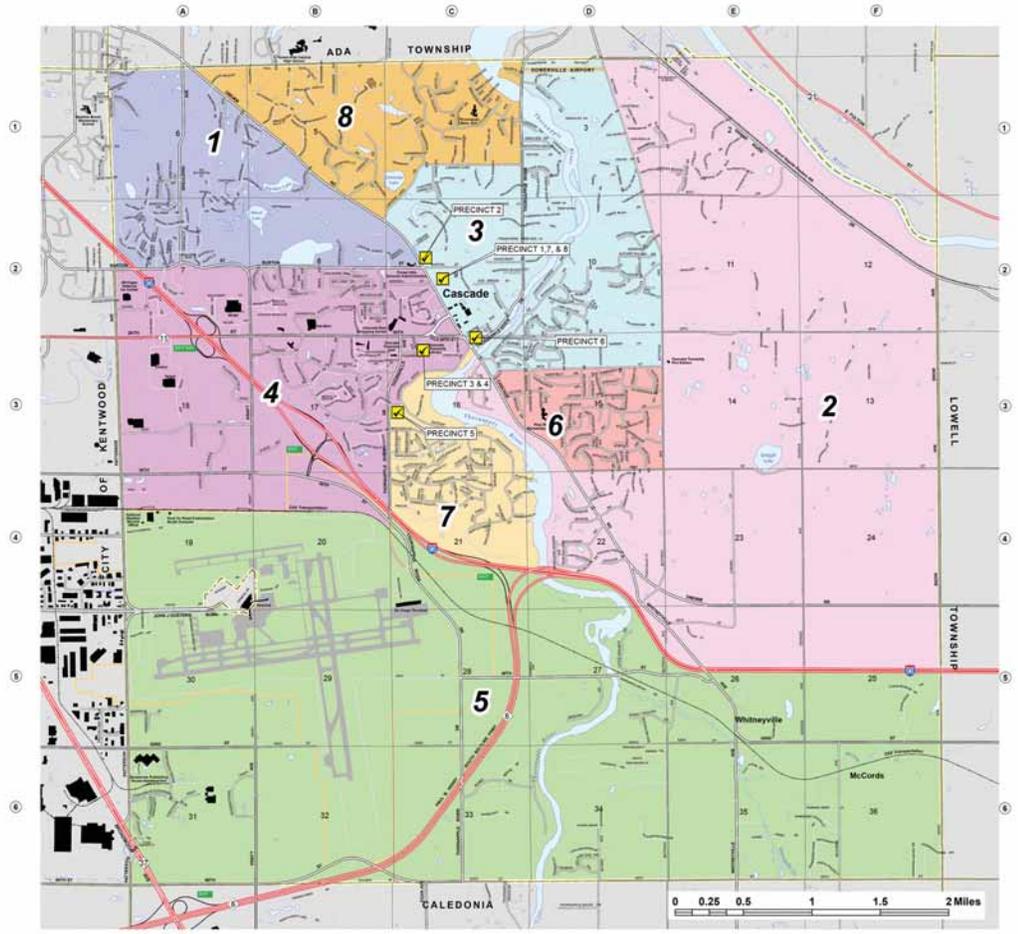
First-time voters: if you register by mail, you must vote in person. Absent Voter Ballots can only be issued to first-time voters whose identity can be verified by appearing in person at the Cascade Township office or a Secretary of State office.

New Precinct #8

Former Precinct #1 voters who live north of Cascade Road are now in the new Precinct #8. Precinct #8 voters will still vote at the Cascade Fellowship CRC Church, at 6655 Cascade Road along with current voters in Precinct #7 and Precinct #1. All other precincts (#2, #3, #4, #5, #6) continue to vote in the same location.

While the Cascade Fellowship Church is being significantly renovated and enlarged, they are still willing to have us come to their facility and can accommodate the three precincts. We ask you to watch for directional signs on the drive into the facility, in the parking lot and inside the church. We will also have staff there who will assist in directing you to the correct polling place.

Cascade Township is grateful to Cascade Fellowship Church for its willingness to host voters along with Cascade Christian Church(#6), Thornapple Evangelical Covenant Church (#2) and Thornapple Community Church (#5) all who generously share their facilities to allow voters to exercise their important role in the election of officials



LEGEND

- ✓ Polling Places
- Precincts 1-8
- Roads & Streets: Freeway, Freeway Ramp, Highway, Primary, Secondary, Proposed/Under Construction, Private
- Railroads
- Major Buildings
- Municipal Boundaries
- Airport Runways
- Section Lines
- Lakes & Ponds
- Rivers & Streams
- Airports

CASCADE TOWNSHIP PRECINCT LOCATIONS

- Precinct #1 Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church (Family Life Center) 6655 Cascade Road
- Precinct #2 Thornapple Evangelical Covenant Church 6995 Cascade Road (at Barkin)
- Precinct #3 Cascade Library Water Center (Friends Room) 2870 Jackson, S.E.
- Precinct #4 Cascade Library Water Center (Good/Blut Rooms) 2870 Jackson, S.E.
- Precinct #5 Thornapple Community Reformed Church 3260 Thornapple River Drive (at Thornapple)
- Precinct #6 Cascade Christian Church - Centennial Hall 3529 Thornapple River Dr.
- Precinct #7 Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church (Welcome Fellowship Room) 6655 Cascade Road
- Precinct #8 Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church (Welcome Fellowship Room) 6655 Cascade Road

CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PRECINCT MAP

REGIS

at all levels of government and in making important decisions about how we, as citizens, want our officials to conduct the business of government. Precincts #3 and #4 vote at the Wisner Center in the Cascade Library.

I.D. Requirement

Please remember that since 2008 the requirement for picture identification must be enforced by precinct workers. If you do not present a piece of current picture I.D., you will be required to fill out an affidavit, which we will provide at the precinct, attesting to your identity before you can vote.

November 4th General Election

We expect a large turnout and an extensive ballot. The last day to register to vote is October 6.

CASCADE TOWNSHIP BRANCH OF KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY

KDL residents love KDL and this is certainly prevalent in Cascade!

Did you know Cascade area residents checked out 589,629 print items in 2013, in addition to downloading 52,127 free eBooks and eAudiobooks from KDL? That's more than 37 items each for every man, woman and child in our area in just one year. Additionally, the Cascade Township branch offered 176 early literacy programs, attended by 6,373 little ones. That's more than 6,000 children who will start Kindergarten with their love of reading already blossoming, fed by all the fun they had at library storytimes. Our branch also had 2,656 people participate in Summer Reading @ KDL in 2013. Leisure reading is one of the biggest ways to prevent learning loss over the long summer break and Cascade area teens kept pace, reading over 4,000 books as part of their summer fun.

These are just some of the reasons 93% of Kent County voters agree that KDL is an important part of our community. In 2014, KDL's operating millage will expire. This summer, we hope you will stop in to the Cascade branch to learn more about how the next millage election will impact our ability to continue to offer these valuable services for you.

HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY?

Enough to want to give them something out of your pocket? In 2002 The Cascade Community Foundation was formed just for that reason. People were walking into the township and saying, "I want to give back." The township is set up to receive your tax dollars, but donations? That was something new and people who did give to the township were being flagged by the IRS for an audit. It seems that the generosity of residents was an unusual thing for the IRS. So the Township board at the time voted to start the Cascade Community Foundation to make your giving easier, both for you and the IRS.



Today, we are never surprised by your generosity. We know what a compassionate community you are and you have proven it over and over again. There is over \$400,000 in our endowment fund and every year 5% of that goes right back into the Greater Cascade Community which includes Caledonia, Ada and Grand Rapids Townships. By taking 5% of the endowment you can rest assured that every dollar you give will continue to give back to your hometown forever.

It's our job as your Community Foundation to find where the needs in the community are, assess those needs and give to the most pressing of them. We have three broad based community funds you can give to. We like to call this giving back to your NEC of the woods. Nurturing Our Neighbors by giving them the opportunity to make safe and healthy choices, Enhancing Our Community by creating or revitalizing our current spaces like parks or the libraries and Connecting Our Community by sponsoring events and parties where neighbors can meet and form friendships. When you donate to the Cascade Community Foundation you can designate your giving to one of our funds or leave it up to the board to decide where your funds are most needed every year.

This last month our board voted to give a grant to the American Red Cross of West Michigan for their Community Resiliency: Preparing Our Children program. This program is designed to address the needs of one of the most vulnerable populations in our community during a disaster – Children. Specifically in the Cascade Community, during the initial year of this program, the Red Cross expects to be able to work with 3 – 5 child care facilities in the Forest Hills area to guide them through the process of comprehensive preparedness planning that meets the recommendations of the 2010 National Commission on Children and Disasters.

We also voted to give a grant to Cascade Township Fire Department for the annual Fourth of July festivities, a grant to the Forest Hills Business Association so they can bring you the Metro Cruise Warm Up again this year and a grant to the Ada Historical Society so they can update their historical book, A Snug Little Place.

If you would like to make a donation to the Cascade Community Foundation please see our contact information below. We are always looking for volunteers to help with events, help raise money and serve on our board. Voting for new board members will take place mid-summer of 2014. If you are interested in any of these opportunities please contact us.

Cascade Community Foundation

6757 Cascade Rd SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

(616) 499-2060

www.CascadeCommunityFoundation.com

RELAY FOR LIFE OF FOREST HILLS

Dear Friends of the American Cancer Society,

We are excited to announce that Relay For Life of Forest Hills (originally scheduled to take place on June 6-7, 2014) will now be happening August 22-23, 2014. Our date change will allow us more time for fundraising, for new teams to join us, and new sponsors to come onboard. The event is going to be amazing; we would love for you to join us!!!



Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature event, where teams of people camp out for 24 hours to raise awareness and money in their fight against cancer. Relay is truly unique in that it mobilizes communities throughout the country to take on this fight together.

Please reach out to American Cancer Society Staff Partner Elizabeth Balder (elizabeth.balder@cancer.org or (616) 551-4031) for more information or with any questions.

We look forward to have you join us as we continue to Finish The Fight Against Cancer!

FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION – BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Forest Hills Public Schools is at the top its game right now. It is one of the best school systems in Michigan. That is precisely why it is time for the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation, in partnership with the district, to look thoughtfully at what must be done to retain that leadership position.

The vision of Forest Hills Public Schools is to create a new model of education which equips every student with the 21st century skills essential for success. If Forest Hills truly wants to create a new system of learning and maintain its leadership position in the decades to come, then it must attract research and development funding from people who want to invest in the future success of our students and schools.

Our goal is to attract investment funds to create opportunities for innovation. The Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation will provide the capital needed to fund the research and development of innovations that can lead to new levels of excellence. Once those innovations have been tested and proven, the Foundation can then provide the funds to scale them to the entire district.

Our mission is to provide funding for all areas of academic excellence in Forest Hills Public Schools.

To learn more about the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation, please visit www.fhpsf.org or contact Jana Siminski, Director of Philanthropy, at (616) 493-8954 or jsiminski@fhps.net.

Save the dates – Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation Events

June 8, 2014

Charlie Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament

Thornapple Pointe Golf Club.

Sponsorships available.

Chairperson: Brian Sandberg

November 12, 2014

2014 Gala

Frederik Meijer Gardens.

Sponsorships and tickets available.

Co-Chairpersons: Linda Anderson and Lori Skoog



FOREST HILLS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

MICHIGAN BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2014

May 1, 2014 – Governor Rick Snyder today issued a proclamation declaring May as Building Safety Month. This year’s theme is “*Building Safety: Maximizing Resilience, Minimizing Risks*” and marks the first week by emphasizing “*Keeping Fire in its Place.*” The month-long observance aims to increase public awareness of the importance of

building safety and the resources available for protecting lives and property.

“Whether building a dream home or remodeling that kitchen or bath, it is so important for homeowners, especially, do-it-yourselfers, to work with building officials to make sure their residence fully complies with Michigan’s construction and fire codes,” said Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Deputy Director Shelly Edgerton. “Our building code and fire prevention officials work year-round to ensure that the homes and buildings constructed throughout our state are safe, sound and sustainable.”

Building safety and fire prevention codes in Michigan address all aspects of construction, such as structural soundness of buildings, reliability of fire prevention and suppression systems, electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems, and energy efficiency and sustainability. To ensure buildings are safe requires the active participation of building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, builders, engineers, and others in the construction industry, as well as property owners.

The top five fire-safety tips for “keeping fire in its place” and preventing home fire deaths focus on smoke alarms, escape plans, child fire safety, older adult fire safety (cooking and heating) and careless smoking, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

Smoke alarms are required by the Michigan Residential Code to be in every Michigan home. Install at least one smoke alarm in every bedroom, or outside of sleeping areas and on each level of multi-level homes. Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries once a year. Consider replacing the entire smoke alarm every 10 years or as the manufacturer guidelines recommend.

Have an escape plan and practice it; the best plans have two ways out of every room in case of fire and designate a meeting place outside of the home. Once out, stay out.

Cook safely by never leaving cooking unattended. Don’t wear loose clothing while cooking and keep towels and pot holders away from the range. Double-check the kitchen before you go to bed or leave home. Cooking fires are the third leading cause of death for older adults.

Space heaters and fireplaces require extra caution. Space heaters should be at least three feet away from other objects. Look for heaters with an auto-off safety feature which would cut power to the unit should the heater tip over. A fireplace screen should be large enough to catch flying sparks and rolling logs. Maintain a three-foot “kid-free zone” around space heaters and open fires.

Smoking is the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths. If you smoke, never leave a burning cigarette, cigar or pipe unattended; put smoking materials out immediately if you feel drowsy. Never smoke in bed.

According to the Michigan Bureau of Fire Services, Michigan Fire Incident Reporting System, the top six areas where residential fires started in Michigan (2012) were:

- Kitchen = 1,783 fires, 6 deaths, 121 injuries
- Living Room = 775 fires, 11 deaths, 20 injuries
- Bedroom = 639 fires, 9 deaths, 56 injuries
- Garage = 558 fires, 3 deaths, 16 injuries
- Laundry Area = 335 fires 14 injuries
- Basement = 99 fires, 3 injuries

“Building safety and fire prevention experts inspect buildings during and after construction to help ensure that the places where we live, learn, work, worship and play are safe,” said Bureau of Construction Codes Director Irvin J. Poke.

LARA’s Bureau of Construction Codes and Bureau of Fire Services work as a team to ensure that the built environment and the systems within are sound, safe, and sanitary; the public’s health, safety, and welfare is protected; and that, through a coordinated program of code compliance, investigation and training, there is consistent application of standards.

Building Safety Month celebrated worldwide, is sponsored by the International Code Council, a membership association dedicated to building safety, fire prevention, and energy efficiency. The International Code Council develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Michigan uses the International Codes, with Michigan amendments, for code enforcement throughout the state.

For more information, go to the Bureau of Construction Codes website at www.michigan.gov/bcc or the Bureau of Fire Services at www.michigan.gov/bfs.

For more information about LARA, please visit www.michigan.gov/lara. Follow us on Twitter [www.twitter.com/michiganLARA](https://twitter.com/michiganLARA). “Like” us on Facebook or find us on YouTube www.youtube.com/michiganLARA

Cascade Inspection Services

THE SAFETY AND USE OF FIREWORKS



With the approach of summer and summer holidays this is a good time to review the safety and use of fireworks.

In 2012 Michigan adopted the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act which allows and regulates the use and sale of

“Consumer” grade fireworks. Consumer grade fireworks are those that leave the ground such as Roman candles, bottle/sky rockets, aerials, reloadable shells up to 2 ½”, and firecrackers. The use of these fireworks must be on your own private property or private property that you have permission to use. The discharge of these fireworks must remain within your own property. You may not discharge fireworks on any public property, (including Cascade Township parks), school or church properties.

Low impact fireworks are those that are ground based, such as sparklers, cones, showers, smokes, and spinning devices are still legal as previous to the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act. Also “Novelties”, such as Snaps or Pops, snakes, party poppers and smoke balls, are legal as they have always been. Low impact and novelties are not regulated by this act. Commercial grade are those designed for large displays, such as the Ada/Cascade fireworks display, and are not regulated by the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act. These large mortar shells are tightly regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF).

The Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, and it’s amendment in 2013, does allow for local municipalities to pass an ordinance to regulate some of the dates and times that people can display consumer fireworks. At this time, Cascade Township has not passed any such ordinance.

The Michigan Fireworks Safety Act is known as MCL 28.457 which is law. Cascade Township and Cascade Township Fire Department are not law enforcement agencies and therefore cannot enforce this law. If you have concerns regarding someone using consumer fireworks properly, please contact the Kent County Sheriff’s Department at (616) 336-3113.

Cascade Township Fire Department

WHY IS BICYCLE SAFETY SO IMPORTANT?

Bike riding is a lot of fun, but accidents happen. The safest way to use your bike is for transportation, not play. Every year, about 300,000 kids go to the emergency department because of bike injuries, and at least 10,000 kids have injuries that require a few days in the hospital. Some of these injuries are so serious that children die, usually from head injuries.

A head injury can mean brain injury. That's why it's so important to **wear your bike helmet**. Wearing one doesn't mean you can be reckless, but a helmet will provide some protection for your face, head, and brain in case you fall down.

A Helmet How-To

Bike helmets are so important that the U.S. government has created safety standards for them. Your helmet should have a sticker that says it meets standards set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). If your helmet doesn't have a CPSC sticker, ask your mom or dad to get you one that does. Wear a bike helmet **EVERY TIME YOU RIDE**, even if you are going for a short ride.

Your bike helmet should fit you properly. You don't want it too small or too big. Never wear a hat under your bike helmet. If you're unsure if your helmet fits you well, ask someone at a bike store.

Once you have the right helmet, you need to wear it the right way so it will protect you. It should be worn level and cover your forehead. Don't tip it back so your forehead is showing. **The straps should always be fastened.** If the straps are flying, it's likely to fall off your head when you need it most. Make sure the straps are adjusted so they're snug enough that you can't pull or twist the helmet around on your head.

Take care of your bike helmet and don't throw it around. That could damage the helmet and it won't protect you as well when you really need it. If you do fall down and put your helmet to the test, be sure to get a new one. They don't work as well after a major crash.

Many bike helmets today are lightweight and come in cool colors. If you don't love yours as it is, personalize it with some of your favorite stickers. Reflective stickers are a great choice because they look cool and make you more visible to people.

Be Seen, Be Safe!

Wearing bright clothes and putting reflectors on your bike also can help you stay safe. It helps other people on the road see you. And if they see you, that means they're less likely to run into you. Daytime riding is the safest, so try to avoid riding your bike at dusk and later.

You'll also want to make sure that nothing will get caught in your bike chain, such as loose pant legs, backpack straps, or shoelaces. Wear the right shoes — sneakers — when you bike. Sandals, flip-flops, shoes with heels, and cleats won't help you grip the pedals. And never go riding barefoot! Riding gloves may help you grip the handlebars — and make you look like a professional!

But avoid wearing headphones because the music can distract you from noises around you, such as a car blowing its horn so you can get out of the way.

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



Cascade Charter Township

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PATHWAY NEWS...

After reluctantly coming back from Scottsdale, Arizona on May 1st, Kathy and I decided it was time to hit the Cascade bike path for the first cleanup of the year. I want to express to all of you that our seven-month long winter was not kind to us. Left behind in the mounds of melted snow was a variety of trash that was mind-boggling. How some of this stuff gets out of cars and on to the streets is simply unexplainable. So we donned our reflective vests, stuck ten or so fifty-five gallon trash bags on our persons and off we went for the next five hours up and down Cascade Road from Hall Street to Burton Street. We picked up anything that wasn't nailed down or buried.

I want to digress for a moment to tell you of a few humorous moments. We had just gotten our reflective vests, courtesy of the Cascade fire department, and were crossing the street at Hall and Cascade when I saw the wife of a dear friend of mine stopped at a light. She took one look at the two of us, and I could tell by the expression on her face that she must have thought we were on work release from the Kent County Jail. Later I explained to her that we were in fact doing community service. Had she just turned her head a little as we crossed the street she would have seen on the back of our vests the words **KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL**. In a similar moment, a stranger walking her dog down the trail stopped, looked strangely at my wife and told her that she didn't look like a prisoner. She then walked on.

I've said this repeatedly, but it can't be said enough, Kathy and I love the Cascade area and we will do whatever we can to help it stay presentable and desirable. To that end, I say over and over again, lets always **KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL**.

Kris Taylor – Pathway Coordinator



CASCADE CONNECTIONS