



CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

SUMMER 2016

Office Hours:

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

Township Board:

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Sheriff/Non-Emergency:

632-6100



FROM THE SUPERVISOR
ROB BEAHAN

FROM THE SUPERVISOR...

Over the last year and a half the Township has undertaken a feasibility study for building a new Township Hall or extensively renovating the existing facility. The study was prompted due to the fact that the existing Township Hall needs significant work, including a new roof and complete overhaul of the HVAC system, with these repairs estimated in excess of \$500,000.

The Township Hall feasibility exercise was undertaken to make sure that making these repairs would be a good investment of Township dollars. The study showed that based on current growth projections, the current Township Hall will not support the organization or the community needs over the next 20 years. There is no room for additional staff, and almost all of the meeting room and common spaces has been co-opted for other purposes.

Given that our current facility is over 50 years old and not able to adequately support our organization in the future, the Township Board feels that constructing a new facility is a better use of funds than placing a "band-aid" on a facility that will not meet our long-term needs. The study also looked at expanding the current building, but due to zoning regulations and fire department traffic flow (inability to build out) and structural issues (inability to build up), renovation was determined not to be a viable option.



The proposed Township Hall will be built on property the Township owns adjacent to the Cascade Library / Wisner Center property. The initial estimate to construct the facility is \$7.5 million and that would be a conservative, worst-case, turn-key scenario. The price includes all furniture, fixtures, technology, soft costs and about \$800,000 in design and construction contingencies due to the constantly changing construction market. We hope that bids will come in lower than this estimate, but wanted to present a worst-case scenario for planning purposes.

The project will be paid for with cash reserves of \$4.4 million from the General Fund and the Building Fund. The Township Board has strived to have an adequate surplus of reserves to save the residents of Cascade money on capital projects. The remaining \$3.1 million will be bonded over a 10-year period, and paid for from current tax and building permit revenues. The annual debt service will be approximately \$380,000 and the total interest paid on the project will be approximately \$650,000. Many local governments continually bond for capital improvement projects, which can drive up the cost of the projects due to financing costs. If the Township were to consider bonding for the entire Township Hall project, financing costs would add \$3.1 million to the cost of the project.

For more information, including the complete feasibility study, project cost estimates, schematic design plans and project updates, please visit the Cascade Township website, www.cascadetwp.com. Also, as the Township moves through the design preparation for the proposed project, there will be several public meetings where residents can review the progress of the design and provide feedback. Watch the website for notification of the dates of these meetings.

SUMMER 2016 TAX INFORMATION

Summer 2016 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed July 1st. Summer taxes are due on or before September 14th, 2016. 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. We want to remind you that Cascade Charter Township does not accept postmarks as proof of timeliness. All payments must be received in our office by 5:00 p.m. on the date the payments are due.

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
- ▷ Property/Parcel Lookup
- ▷ 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

CHANGES IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE...

After 26 years, Ron Goodyke retired from an active role serving the residents of Cascade. Ron was first appointed to the Planning Commission in 1990 and served on that board for six years, the last two as Chairman. Ron then went on to serve as Trustee for 8 years before being elected Cascade Township Clerk, a position he held until March 31, 2016.

For 30 years Ron taught French at Forest Hills Central and for many of those years served as a summer camp director, for 13 years at Camp Henry and then at Camp Blodgett from 1989-1998. Ron has seen many changes to Cascade in his multi-faceted career and has played a key role in so many ways helping make Cascade the wonderful place it is.

Clem Bell was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Clerk's office after Ron's retirement. Clem served in the U.S. Navy as a SeaBee and Military Security Specialist in Operation Desert Shield and also Operation Desert Storm. Clem and his wife, along with their two daughters have lived in Cascade for 14 years. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and also a Master's in Human Resource Management. Clem is a retired owner and president of Watermark Home LLC, producing new custom homes and working in construction and accounts management.

Clem is also a paid-on-call firefighter for the Cascade Fire Department, joining in 2010. He is rated as FireFighter I and II, a medical first responder, and a Hazardous Material Technician.

Welcome aboard Clem.

DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?

Building permits are required when "...any owner intends to construct, enlarge, alter or repair a building or structure"

Permits are issued to ensure compliance with the 2015 Michigan Residential Code. The code describes minimum requirements to safeguard the health and welfare of occupants and is applicable throughout the State of Michigan. Further, inspections for compliance benefit the owner by verifying compliance with the code.

Common projects include...

Decks • Basement finish • Pools (including inflatable pools) • Roofing and Siding
Kitchen and Bath remodels

There are a few exceptions...

Sheds under 200 square feet • Fences under 7' high • Sidewalks and driveways
Painting, flooring, trim and cabinetry • Swings and playground equipment

How to apply?

Permit applications are available at – www.cascadetwp.com

Completed applications, site plan and construction drawings (2 sets) can be submitted to the building department. Most applications are processed in a few days. Once your permit is obtained, work may begin. Inspection requests should be called in as work progresses (prior to concealing / covering) to verify code compliance. When the job is complete a final inspection is done completing the process.

The dedicated staff in the building department are committed to making the process simple. We take pride in delivering quality inspection services to the community. Please contact us with any questions at 949-3765.

– Building Department Staff

ELECTION NEWS

Elimination of Straight Party Voting

In the past, voters at the November General Election were able to mark an oval for their party preference and this would give a vote to every candidate on the ballot representing that party. This was helpful for those who had strong party affiliations because it saved a lot of time at the polls.

Last year, legislation was approved to remove this option from the ballot. Instead, you are being asked to consider each candidate for each position. We are expecting that this change will result in longer lines at the polls since the voter will take longer in the voting booth.

One solution to help eliminate the long lines is providing more voting booths in November to give voters more places to vote (space permitting).

Another solution, you can choose to vote by absentee ballot if you qualify. One qualification for receiving an absentee ballot is to be 60 years of age or older...others include expecting to be absent from the community, physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another, cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion, have been appointed as an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside and finally I cannot attend the polls because I am confined in jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Permanent Absent Voter List

With the State Legislature eliminating the option of straight party voting and this year proving to be a very popular election cycle, we are anticipating longer than normal lines and wait times at our polling locations for 2016 August and November Elections.

Cascade Township maintains a list of voters who have asked to be placed on a permanent Absent Voter (AV) list. A reason for requesting an absentee ballot is you are 60 years of age or older. If you meet this requirement, you are eligible to request to be put on the permanent AV list. Those individuals that request to be on the permanent AV list will automatically receive an absent voter application for every election. If you choose to return that application, we will send you a ballot as soon as they are available. No more waiting in lines at the precinct. If this appeals to you, please contact the Clerk's office at (616) 949-1508.

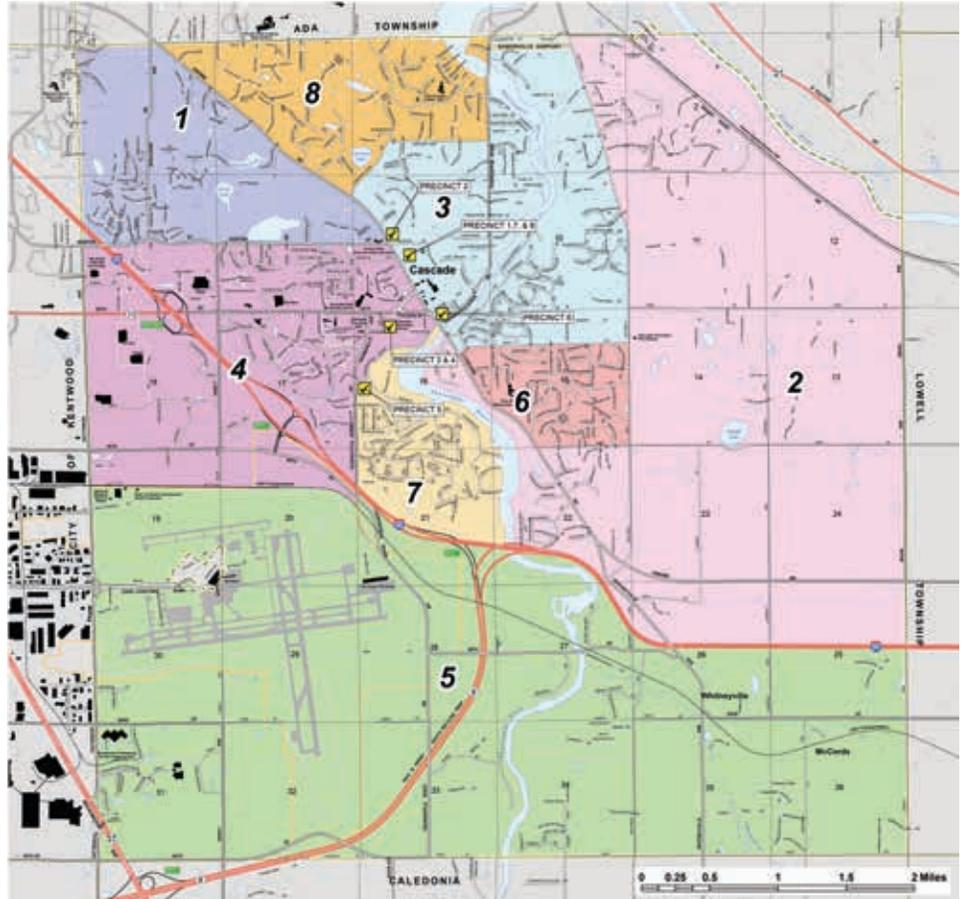
Must Vote in Person (MVIP)

Michigan law requires a person who has registered by mail to vote in person the first time he/she votes unless that person is over 60. This often affects our college students. If you registered by mail, please stop by the office sometime before the election if you wish to receive an AV Ballot. Come in and show us your ID so we can remove that restriction from your status.

Election Dates 2016

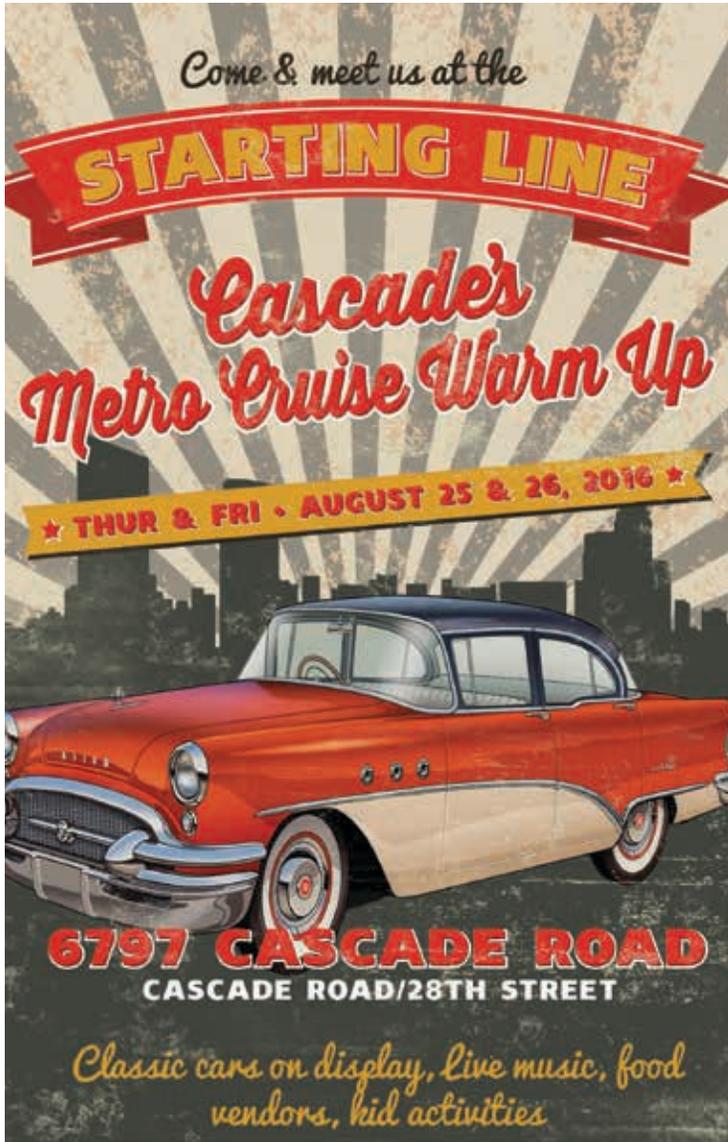
July 5, 2016	Last day to register to vote for the August Primary
August 2, 2016	Primary Election
October 11, 2016	Last day to register to vote for the General Election
November 8, 2016	General Election

Please use the precinct map to verify your precinct location before heading out to the polls.



CASCADE TOWNSHIP PRECINCT LOCATIONS

Precinct #1	Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church (Family Life Center) 6655 Cascade Road
Precinct #2	Thornapple Evangelical Covenant Church 6595 Cascade Road (at Burton)
Precinct #3	Cascade Library Wanser Center (Friends Room) 2870 Jacksmith, S.E.
Precinct #4	Cascade Library Wanser Center (Good/Scott Rooms) 2870 Jacksmith, S.E.
Precinct #5	Thornapple Community Reformed Church 3260 Thornapple River Drive (at Thornhills)
Precinct #6	Cascade Christian Church - Centennial Hall 2829 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



GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON 2016

Reminder the Grand Rapids Triathlon will be taking place in portions of Cascade Township on Sunday, June 12th. We welcome you to join us in the course this year. Registration is still open! We are also looking for Volunteers in a variety of areas. Check out our website for details. Please consider being part of our event this year. We'd like to thank Cascade Township and it's residents for welcoming us back again this year! See you in June!



Please be aware of road closures in the area of the Thornapple River on both June 11 and June 12. If you have any questions, please contact Andy Vidro (616) 805-3059. www.grandrapidstri.com

COMMUNITY GATHERING/ACTIVITY CENTER PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

The Cascade Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is interested in creating a community gathering/activity center at the Cascade Library. The location is on the property that borders 28th St. and Jacksmith Ave., north of the library and lands immediately east of Noto's on the west side of Jacksmith.

The Township, along with Viridis Design Group, will be holding a public input session to gain a better understanding of the needs, concerns, and to explore ideas for this property.

Where: Cascade Library Wisner Center

When: Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you are still able to participate by completing the survey located on our website or at the following web address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gatheringplace>. The survey will be available until June 20, 2016.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ID

Can you identify this aquatic invasive? Have you seen it in a waterway near you?

Come learn how you can identify and prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. Your help is needed to prevent these foreign invaders from becoming established in West Michigan.

To learn more, please join us for the following informative and free presentation:

Aquatic Invasive Species ID

Date: Thursday, June 9

Time: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Location: Wisner Center, Cascade Library

Presenter: Kevin Walters,

Aquatic Invasive Species with the DEQ

The Aquatic Invasive Species ID Training is sponsored by Cascade Township, Ada Township Parks and Recreation and the West Michigan Cluster.

Questions? Contact Ginny Wanty at (616) 481-4220.





GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT VIEWING PARK EXPANSION

GREAT NEWS FROM YOUR CASCADE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION!!!

As you may know, your Cascade Community Foundation has undertaken a capital campaign project that includes great improvements to the existing Airport Viewing Park at the Gerald R. Ford Airport, as well as signage and other improvements to other parks in the greater Cascade area.

The Airport Viewing Park graphic included here shows the new configuration of the park, which includes increased vehicle parking (increasing to 16 handicap parking spots), adds bus parking, provides new picnic tables and trash receptacles, as well as the addition of a permanent restroom and pavilion facility. For those of you who use the viewing park regularly, you know how wonderful these improvements will be to the park.

We are pleased to report that the funds for the viewing park are very close to reaching the goal, and your support can put us over the top! Will you consider donating to help us complete the project? The enclosed envelope can be used, or you can go directly to the Cascade Community Foundation website <http://cascadecommunityfoundation.com> and make your secure donation there.

Questions on the project or the foundation? Call Annie Weller at (616) 499-2060, or email her at aweller@cascadecommunityfoundation.com.



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 fire crackers.

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, therefore there is no restrictions on dates and times that fireworks can be displayed within Cascade Township.

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. 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.

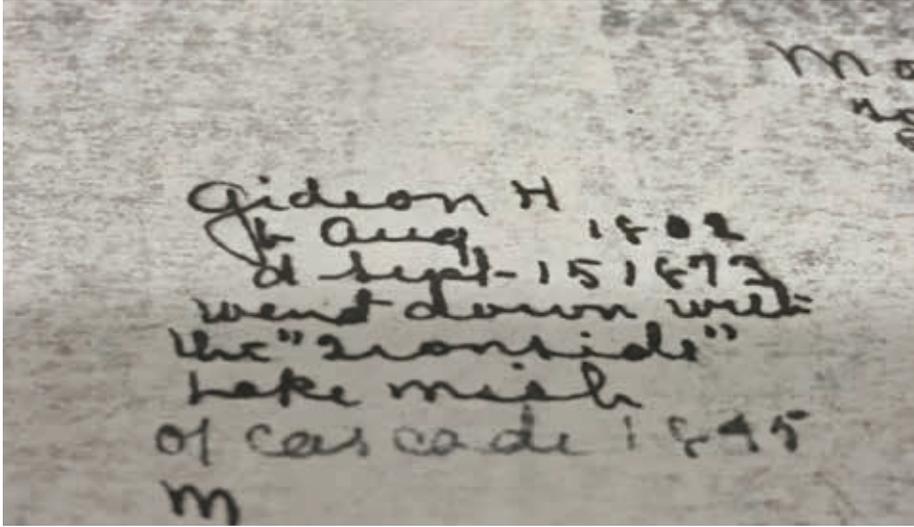
A Helmet How-To

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. Bike helmets today are lightweight and come in many colors. If you don’t love yours as it is, personalize it with some of your favorite stickers.

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



Side-Note in the Denison Genealogy

1873, went down with the 'Ironsides', Lake Mich., of Cascade 1845." This was the most curious side note in the family genealogy that led to many articles and creative google searches.

There is a bounty of information concerning the Ironsides, which sank in Lake Michigan. Michiganshipwrecks.org states that at 9:45 p.m. on September 14, 1873, the Ironsides left Milwaukee to cross Lake Michigan with 19 passengers and 30 crew members. It was only carrying general merchandise, but on that day there was a full gale across the lake and the Ironsides began to take on water. The crew tried desperately to get to the Grand Haven port but missed several times because of the massive waves. The propellers of the ship sustained damage and the boiler finally blew. By 9 a.m. the next morning, the Ironsides started to sink. Lifeboats were sent out at 11am with all of the passengers and crew safely aboard. Unfortunately, they still had the waves to contend with in order to get safely ashore. Out of the five lifeboats that left the Ironsides, only two reached the shore and approximately twenty lives were lost. Mr. Gideon Denison was among those who went down with the Ironsides.

The Ironsides is now protected by legislation so that shipwrecks in Lake Michigan can rest in peace and remain undisturbed. In the article "West Michigan Underwater Preserve Officially Recognized by State to Promote, Protect Shipwrecks," by Eric Gaernter, Gaernter discusses the new legislation that protects shipwrecks and prevents artifacts from being removed from the wrecks. The Ironsides is one of the most well-preserved shipwrecks in Lake Michigan.

Gideon Denison was laid to rest next to his wife Christina Dibble Denison and William Wheeler Denison, a Civil War Veteran, in the Cascade Cemetery. What first prompted Gideon Denison to board the Ironsides is unknown, but his family made sure that his story was noted.

This story captured my attention as I was sorting through the archives at the Cascade Township Branch of the Kent District Library. It started as a curious side-note in a genealogy that led to fascinating searches to find out what happened to Gideon Denison and the Ironsides. I am the intern for the Cascade Historical Society and I have had the pleasure of exploring the history of Cascade. It was quite the adventure following the story of Gideon Denison.

This article is a continuing series presented by the Cascade Historical Society. Articles will feature familiar Cascade family names such as Beard, Buttrick, Danforth, Holt, Patterson, Spaulding, etc. If you would like us to search our records for your family's history, please email your request to cascadehistory@cascadetwp.com. We meet monthly at 9:30 a.m. on the first Thursday at the old Cascade Township white building located at 2839 Thornapple River Dr. near Cascade Road. You are invited to experience Cascade history with us.

"WENT DOWN WITH IRONSIDES" – SYDNE JOHNSON

The Denison Family was one of the first families to settle in Cascade. According to the *Cascade Chronicles*, Gideon Denison and his brother Asa Denison traveled through New York to settle in Cascade in 1845. Gideon's son, Henry Clay Denison, kept a journal and ledger that now gives the reader a view into the life of one of the pioneers of Cascade. Although much is known about Henry Clay Denison, little is known about his father, Gideon. *Cascade Chronicles* tells us that Gideon Denison married Christina Dibble and that they had seven children. A note in a handwritten genealogy also gives the reader an insight into Gideon Denison's life.

The note in the family genealogy, as seen above, merely states "Gideon H., b. Aug 1802, d. Sept. 15,



Gideon Denison's Gravestone



Cascade Charter Township

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PATHWAY NEWS...

Kathy and I are in a very reflective mood having spent March and April in Scottsdale, Arizona. We arrived back home renewed and excited about spring in Michigan, specifically Cascade. I hope by the time the wonderful residents of Cascade get this newsletter it has stopped raining.

Much of our reflections center around our neighborhood. We have lived in the same neighborhood for almost 29 years and most of our neighbors have been here longer than that. We look out for each other. That's what good neighbors do for each other. We are stewards of our neighborhood and guardians of our community.

Part of that stewardship is making sure that as a community we keep our neighborhoods clean and safe. That includes all common areas. I applaud those of you that participate in that effort. It is never too late to get involved. Be good to your neighbors and remember, **KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL!**

*Kris Taylor
Pathway Coordinator*

