



CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Fall 2013

Office Hours:

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

Township Board:

Supervisor:

Rob Beahan; 949-1500
rbeahan@cascadetwp.com

Clerk:

Ron Goodyke; 949-1508
rgoodyke@cascadetwp.com

Treasurer:

Ken Peirce; 949-6944
kpeirce@cascadetwp.com

Trustees:

Jim Koessel
jkoessel@cascadetwp.com

Cynthia Porter Janes
cjanes@cascadetwp.com

Jack Lewis
jlewis@cascadetwp.com

Fred Goldberg
fgoldberg@cascadetwp.com

Department Phone Numbers:

Manager:

Ben Swayze; 949-1500
bswayze@cascadetwp.com

Assessing:

Roger McCarty; 949-6176
roger@cascadetwp.com

Building & Grounds:

Amy Waugh; 682-4836
awaugh@cascadetwp.com

Building Inspections:

Brian Wilson; 949-3765
bwilson@cascadetwp.com

Fire:

John Sigg; 949-1320
jsigg@cascadetwp.com

Planning:

Steve Peterson; 949-0224
speterson@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff/Non-Emergency:

632-6100

YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM FALL 2013

Purchase Yard Waste Tags at the reception desk of the Township Offices from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Tags are \$1.00 each
Pick up will be every Monday
From October 14 through November 18

- Please have your yard waste near the curb by 6:00 a.m. to assure pick up.
- Place a tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches. (No grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand or rocks please).
- Please use 30 gal. plastic bags or paper yard waste bags.
- Sticks should be no longer than 4 feet in length and branches, logs and stumps are not to exceed 1 inch in diameter.
- Residents 62 years of age and older will receive 20 tags FREE per calendar year, per household.
- This service is only available in the restricted burn area.
- The yard waste dumpsters will be available behind the **Thornhills Fire Station on October 25-27 and November 16-24.**

For more information, please call 949-1500.

Note: If you have tags left over from last spring or fall and you intend to use them, please contact the Township Office so your address can be added to the pickup list.

FALL CLEAN UP DAY

Cascade Township is offering a fall clean up day in conjunction with Ada Township. The fall clean up day will be held on Saturday, October 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Kent County Road Commission building at the end of Fase Street in Ada Township.

Any resident of Cascade Township (you must show your driver's license) is welcome to bring trash, household items or yard waste. Appliances are welcome, however, the Freon must be removed prior to dropping the appliance off or you may be charged. No household hazard waste products will be accepted. For household hazardous waste disposal, please contact the Kent County Department of Public Works at 336-2570. *See Page 3 for more information.

In The Image will have a truck available at Leonard Field for the collection of household goods and Shred Docs will have a truck available for document shredding.

If you have any questions regarding fall clean up, feel free to contact Sandra Korhorn at 949-1500 or by email at sandra@cascadetwp.com.



FROM THE
SUPERVISOR

ROB BEAHAN

FROM THE SUPERVISOR...

Last month Cascade voters overwhelmingly approved millage renewals on the ballot for library, police services and fire services by an average of almost 82 percent. The passage of these will help the Township to continue providing the levels of service currently enjoyed.

Proposal I was for a renewal and also a reduction of the current millage for library maintenance and capital improvements of the library building for the next ten years. Cascade Township owns and maintains the building housing the Cascade branch of the Kent County District Library along with the meeting rooms in the Wisner Center.

Proposal II provides emergency and fire services for the next twenty years. The Cascade Fire Department operates two stations in the township that are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the year. The Department currently has 17 full time firefighters and 17 paid-on-call firefighters who respond to emergencies in the community. This and two other fire millages aid in funding the operation of the Fire Department while the Township Board has also pledged \$400,000 from the General Fund each year to help with the operating expenditures and capital improvements for the Fire Department.

Proposal III renewed 24/7 police protection provided through the Kent County Sheriff's Department. This was also for the next twenty years and enables Cascade to partner with Ada and Grand Rapids townships in the East Precinct. The boundaries of the East Precinct are the geographical areas of all three townships and are patrolled by 12 patrol vehicles and also a community police officer.

Cascade Township provides services to the residents that were unheard of years ago. It wasn't until the early 1940's that we even had a volunteer fire department. The last member of that original Fire Department, Jack Buys, died August 10, 2013. After serving in the Korean War with the United States Marine Corps, Jack came back to Cascade and for many years helped operate Dykehouse & Buys, a local Marathon towing and service station on Cascade Rd next to the Thornapple River bridge. He also served the Fire Department for 30 years where he eventually became Assistant Chief. He was a friend to many and helped countless people through the years and will be missed by us all.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Summer 2013 property taxes are due by 5:00 p.m. Monday, September 16th, 2013.

Our office hours are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The office will be closed Monday, September 2nd, Labor Day. Information is available on the Cascade Charter Township web site to help you verify the amount of summer property tax paid or the balance due.

Please visit the web site for tax information at: www.cascadetwp.com

- Quick Links (left side of screen)
- Assessing/Bldg/Tax Info
- Enter Parcel No., Address, or Name in search bar
- Click on the parcel number and the tax information tab.

If you have not received your 2013 summer property taxes, call the Treasurer's office at (616) 949-6944. We look forward to assisting you.

CASCADE FIRE DEPARTMENT HALLOWEEN PARTY

Bring your ghosts! Bring your goblins! Cascade Township Fire Department invites you to the annual Halloween party on Thursday, October 31st at Cascade Township Fire Station #1 located at 2865 Thornhills Avenue S.E.

The Halloween party at the Fire Department will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. Activities will include clowns, a costume contest with prizes, and a bag of goodies for all the children. Complimentary cider, hot chocolate, coffee and doughnuts will be served. Come early or late, but if you choose to have your costume judged, please be here at 7:30 p.m. for the group judging.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact the Cascade Township Fire Department at 949-1320. Join us for a safe night of Halloween fun at the Fire Station!



HOW YOU CAN HELP REDUCE POLLUTION ENTERING THE GRAND RIVER

Cascade Charter Township is working to better manage storm water runoff. As a resident of Cascade Township, you have the ability to help reduce the amount of pollution entering the storm sewer system and ultimately reaching the Grand River and Lake Michigan.



What is Storm Water Pollution?

When it rains, storm water flows over lawns, streets, and parking lots carrying with it road dirt, fertilizers, oil, and grease into storm drains, which are often located alongside streets and parking lots.

Where do Storm Drains Lead?

Storm drains lead directly to nearby streams and lakes without any type of treatment. Storm water entering storm drains or catch basins in Cascade Township ultimately reaches the Grand River and Lake Michigan.

How Can I Help Reduce Storm Water Pollution?

- Never dump grass clippings, vehicle fluids, or anything else down a storm drain/catch basin.
- Avoid fertilizing your lawn before it rains. Use non-phosphorus fertilizers.
- Dispose of pet waste in a trash can.
- Take used motor oil to a quick lube or auto shop.
- Dispose of unwanted paints, solvents, and cleaners at your county collection center.
- Report storm drain dumping to the township storm water coordinator at 616-949-0224 or speterson@cascaadetwp.com.

MAINTAINING YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM



Does your septic tank need to be inspected or pumped out? If so, give a reputable septic tank pumping firm a call. To prolong the life of your system, follow these tips from MSU Extension.

Pump your septic tank regularly, usually once every 3 to 5 years to avoid a costly septic system failure. Signs of failure include: odors, plumbing or

septic tank backups, and gurgling sounds in the pumping system.

Stay away from additives. Their benefits have not been demonstrated, and some may actually harm your system and contaminate groundwater.

GUIDE TO HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

The average U.S. household can have as much as 100 pounds of hazardous waste stored throughout their house and garage. Improper disposal of these materials can contaminate drinking water, harm the environment, and create health hazards for you and your family. Simple alternatives can replace many hazardous substances. However, if you choose to use commercial products, make sure to dispose of them properly.

What Household Hazardous Waste Can I Dispose?

The Kent County Household Hazardous Waste Program accepts the following waste materials from residents:

- Oil-based paints, stains and thinner
- Pool chemicals
- Weed killers
- Insecticides & pesticides
- Cleaners
- Household batteries
- Gasoline & kerosene
- Mercury & acids
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Automobile liquids
- Solvents

Not accepted: latex paint, ammunition, fireworks, medication, needles, propane tanks, and business wastes.

Where Can I Take My Household Hazardous Waste?

To dispose of your household hazardous waste, schedule an appointment at one of the four collection centers operated by the Kent County Department of Public Works (DPW).

To schedule an appointment, call the Kent County DPW at (888) 217-2850 or (616) 336-2570, or visit www.accesskent.com/YourGovernment/PublicWorks/recycle_household.htm.

Appointments can be made year-round at the centers in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To schedule at the Wyoming center, call 261-3564. You can also stop by one of the 2013 Saturday collections where no appointment is necessary:

Rockford Center, 2908 Ten Mile Road

October 12, 2013 8:30 a.m. – noon

Grand Rapids Center, 1500 Scribner NW

October 26, 2013 8:30 a.m. – noon

Kentwood Center, 5068 Breton SE

September 7, 2013 8:30 a.m. – noon

Wyoming Center, 2350 Ivanrest SW

September 21, 2013 8:30 a.m. – noon



Where Can I Take Recyclables?

Kent County DPW also provides three drop-off stations for residential recycling of plastic bottles, paper, glass bottles, metal cans, and cardboard. Stations are located in Rockford, Grand Rapids and Kentwood. Visit www.recycleKent.org for hours, directions, and a list of accepted materials.

CASCADE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Cascade Historical Society has been inputting historical data into its computer database for the past two years and is pleased to announce we can provide assistance in finding information about Cascade's history. Our data includes birth, death and voting records from the late 1800's through the early 1900's and Cascade Civil War veteran information.

If you would like us to search our records for relevant family history, please email the following link with your inquiry. The Cascade Historical Society meets monthly on the first Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at the old township hall next to Cascade Christian Church on Thornapple River Dr. Please feel free to join us. Our email address is cascadehistory@cascaadetwp.com.

We have collected many photos, letters, diaries, journals, newspaper clippings, family histories and other historical artifacts. If you have similar items which you believe should be added to our collection, we'd love to hear from you.

CASCADE HISTORICAL MUSEUM – OPEN HOUSE

The Cascade Township Historical Society will host an Open House on Sunday, September 22, 2013 from noon until 4:00 p.m. The open house will be held at the Cascade Historical Museum at 2839 Thornapple River Drive.

There will be a presentation regarding the recent attempt to identify and inventory the older homes and buildings in Cascade Township. Cascade resident Scott Hadley undertook and coordinated this effort as an Eagle Scout project. Scott will speak to the effort and results. There will also be a proclamation naming the "Whitney Tavern Stand" a Cascade Township Heritage Site.

Refreshments will be served.



FOREST HILLS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

The Forest Hills Business Association (www.fhba.org) meetings are open to all. Non-members attend at \$25 fee per meeting.

September 12, 2013	11:30 a.m.	Watermark Country Club 5500 Cascade Road	Eric Hansen, Director; Consumables Innovation BISSELL Homecare
October 10, 2013	7:30 a.m.	Gerald R. Ford International Airport 5500-44 TH Street	Brian Ryks, Executive Director Kent County Dept of Aeronautics
November 14, 2013	7:30 a.m.	Rehmann Group, 2330 East Paris Avenue	Ronald Robb, CEO myTEAM TRIUMPH
December 12, 2013	5:30 p.m.	Bekins, 6275 – 28 TH Street	Holiday Networking
January 9, 2014	7:30 a.m.	Location TBD	Cynthia Afendoulis, Owner/President Cynthia Kay and Company
February 13, 2014	7:30 a.m.	Location TBD	Kim Downey, Complete Investigations

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND YOU

Priority Health and Kent District Library present an informational seminar for those under age 65 who are responsible for purchasing health benefits for their family. Topics include why you should get health insurance, how you can get covered and when and how to enroll for coverage in the Healthcare Marketplace opening for enrollment beginning Oct. 1.

Tuesday, September 17, 6:30 p.m. –
Cascade Township branch

Tuesday, September 24, 6:30 p.m. –
Caledonia Township branch

Wednesday, September 25, 6:30 p.m. –
Plainfield Township branch

Monday, September 30, 6:30 p.m. –
Grandville branch

Saturday, October 5, 10:30 a.m. –
East Grand Rapids branch

Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 p.m. –
Spencer Township branch

Thursday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. –
Comstock Park branch



Laurie Finney Beard –
2013 Robinson Community Award Winner



The Cascade Community Foundation is proud to honor Laurie Finney Beard with the 2013 Claude and Marion Robinson Community Leadership Award.

Laurie Beard learned about community-oriented business growing up in her hometown of Virginia, Illinois. Her

father owned the town drug store and when she was old enough, Laurie worked there as a soda jerk, a clerk and an assistant.

Half a lifetime later, she has transferred those small town values she grew up with to Founders Bank & Trust where she serves as President and CEO. She believes that just like her dad's drug store, a bank should seek to enhance life for the community and those who live in it.

Founders Bank & Trust is a privately held bank with its headquarters situated just on the border of Ada and Cascade. Under Beard's leadership, their assets have tripled, now at \$450 million, with four branches and 100 employees. They are currently the only West Michigan headquartered bank with a Five Star (Superior) rating from Bauer Financial, an independent bank rating service.

But for Laurie, it's about more than just banking. She is deeply committed to her community, and serves as a trustee of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation and is a member of the Grand Valley University Foundation Board, GVSU's Women's Center Advisory Board and the Seidman School of Business Dean's Advisory Board. She is also a member of the local Rotary Club,

Economic Club and is serving on the capitol campaign for the YWCA.

An ardent advocate for organ donation, she supports Gift of Life initiatives, in memory of her son, Paul. Laurie is also a board member for the Transplant Games of America, a national bi-annual event which promotes Organ & Tissue donation. Her community focus has earned her recognition as one of Grand Rapids Business Journal's 50 Most Influential Women, as GVSU's 2013 Distinguished Alumni of the Year, and as one of the Top Women in Finance in West Michigan.

A baseball enthusiast, Laurie is a lifelong, optimistic Chicago Cubs fan and an ardent follower of our local Whitecaps. She resides in Cascade Township. Her son, Jeremy, daughter-in-law Beth, and granddaughter Stella live in Chicago.

Laurie will receive her award at the 2013 Cascade Iron Chef Event on September 24, 2013. You can purchase reservations for the 2013 Cascade Iron Chef by visiting our website at www.CascadeCommunityFoundation.com.

Michelle Bottrall | President

p. 616.540.4496 | [Cascade Community Foundation](http://CascadeCommunityFoundation.com)

Don't just be - Belong.

2013 CASCADE IRON CHEF – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

Featuring Gourmet Cuisine from competing Student Chefs from the Grand Rapids Community College, Secchia Institute for Culinary Education honoring the 2013 Community Leadership Award Winner Laurie Finney Beard, President and CEO of Founders Bank.

Featuring Celebrity Judges:

Tommy Brann of Brann Restaurants

Lew Chamberlain of West Michigan Whitecaps

Joe Borello of Taster Guild

Jaye Beeler, food and travel author

Chris Freeman of EatGR on Facebook

Chuck Cox of Northern Jet Management

Emcee: Val Lego – WZZM

www.CascadeCommunityFoundation.com to buy tickets.



FALL FIRE SAFETY TIPS



Even though the summer heat is still here and the kids have just started another school year, it is never too soon to take some preliminary action to prepare for cooler weather. Not only will it save you money on your utility bills it will help ensure your safety and comfort during cold weather.

HOME HEATING SYSTEMS

Should be professionally inspected, cleaned, and serviced at least every year. Many companies offer discounted rates for a maintenance call versus an emergency repair.

SPACE HEATERS

Can be dangerous if not used following general safety guidelines. Check your owner's manuals for general maintenance and cleaning instructions. Each season before using space heaters inspect them for proper operation and damage, including the power cord. It is more economical to replace older units than to have them repaired. Newer units are safer and more economical to operate. Discard old, faulty space heaters in a way that they cannot be used by someone else.

GASOLINE POWERED EQUIPMENT

Flammable liquids should not be stored inside the home or in an attached garage or shed. This includes any unused fuel still in the motor's fuel tanks. Store this equipment away from your home or drain excess fuel out of the tank before storing. This simple safety precaution will help prevent accidental fires due to escaping fuel vapors.

GENERAL HOME FIRE SAFETY

Most fires in the U.S. occur in the kitchen. Don't allow yourself to be distracted when you are cooking. If you must leave the kitchen, carry something with you as a reminder.

BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FROM THE EAST PRECINCT...

Summer is coming to a close and fall will be upon us. Kids are headed back to school and buses are back in the morning commute. Last year we had some problems with school buses being driven past while they had the flashers going. I thought this year I could add some clarification.

- THE BUS WILL SLOW AND TURN ON THE YELLOW FLASHERS

Use caution as the bus is going to stop shortly.

- THE BUS TURNS ON RED FLASHERS AND STOPS, AN ARM PERTRUDES FROM THE DRIVERS SIDE

Stop your vehicle completely, even if you are on the opposite side of the road. The exception is if the roadway is divided by a median. Cascade Road is not divided. Bus drivers are great at directing kids, however; because they are kids, they sometimes run across the road.

I would encourage you to leave a few minutes earlier once school starts this fall. Give yourself that time to look for buses and children at bus stops.

SMOKE DETECTORS

Don't assume these life saving appliances work just by looking at it. They require some basic maintenance to make sure they will work properly. Nuisance or false alarms are the number one cause for battery removal and are usually caused by installing units too close to the kitchen and or heating vents. Relocate units closer to, or inside sleeping areas to prevent false alarms.

- Replace the battery when necessary or twice a year.
- Clean dust and cob webs from around the cover to let air flow inside.
- Replace units that are ten years old or if its reliability is in question.
- Push the test button once a month to make sure it works properly.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANS

Involve everyone in the home, especially children, in the design and practice of your plan. Physically practicing the plan helps to identify any unforeseen difficulties anyone may have when trying to escape.

- Designate one meeting place for everyone to gather after evacuating.
- Children need to know how to save themselves when no one can help them.
- Practice the plan once a year or anytime living arrangements change in the home.
- Call 9-1-1 from a phone away from the home. Get everyone out first!

And don't forget to check your fire extinguisher!

Cascade Inspection Services

WHILE AT THE BUS STOP

- Wear bright colors
- Stay out of the roadway
- No horseplay
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching
- Don't walk behind the bus

HALLOWEEN REMINDERS

- Wear flame resistant costumes
- Add reflective tape to the costume
- Never go trick or treating alone
- Remind your kids to not eat any candy until you have inspected it
- Never go into someone's car or home
- Cross the road with a group and at intersections
- Carry a flash light or glow stick
- No mask that restricts vision
- Most importantly - have fun

Deputy Ryan Roe | Kent County Sheriff Department
ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov
 (616) 632-6435

FOURTH OF JULY

It was another beautiful day in Cascade for our parade and celebration. All those attending were able to enjoy the parade with many different participants and after that enjoy another great celebration.

As always, the day started with the Friends of the Library book sale at our township library. Participation was good at the book sale with those attending being able to find different types of books. The bike parade started the day with many boys and girls riding their bikes up Cascade Road to 28th Street. After they were done, the parade followed with the motorcycles from the Kent County Sheriff Department, then Uncle Sam and the boy scouts carrying the flag followed by our Grand Marshal. The Grand Marshal this year was Charles Fry. There were floats, cars, trucks, bands and other businesses that participated in the parade.



For the last several years, Pat Vredevoogd Combs supplies our event with trophies for the best two floats in our parade. Pat purchases the trophies with her own money and has always been a supporter of our parade. Thank you, Pat, for your many years of support to Cascade Township.

After the parade was finished the celebration started on the grounds by the library and Noto's restaurant. We were able to have many fun rides and inflatables for kids to enjoy throughout the day. This year we added a zip line to the entertainment which was a big hit with those at the event. There was food, music and a steady stream of water from Caledonia Fire Department's ladder truck to keep all attending cool on such a hot day.

This event takes many hours of planning to make it a success. It starts many months prior to the event. This cannot be completed without all of the help from so many people. Church groups help set up tables and chairs the night prior to the event. During the event there is staff from the Township Board, Fire Department and Building and Grounds working all day to make it enjoyable for those attending the celebration.

I would like to thank the Church group that was at the event. I would also like to thank businesses that donated money, businesses that were at the celebration and Funny Business for rides and time spent helping with the event. All township board members, Building and Grounds, Fire Department and township staff for all of the hours spent prior to and during the event. Your work and support was appreciated and made the celebration a huge success.

If anyone would like to help, has a suggestion or comments for next year's celebration please call me at 616-949-1320 or e-mail me at jsigg@cascadetwp.com.



SURVIVING SOLICITORS

Cascade Township has an ordinance that requires solicitors have permits. Any person who travels from house to house attempting to take orders for the sale of goods must obtain a permit from Cascade Township. This permit consists of a picture identification badge, signed by Township staff, that the solicitor must wear on his or her person in full view, at all times.

If you encounter a solicitor who is not wearing a badge, please call the Kent County Sheriff Department (336-3113) or the Township (949-1500). As always, report any suspicious person in your neighborhood to the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

Please note that while persons soliciting for nonprofit and religious institutions must register with the Township, they are not required to obtain a permit. Persons canvassing or petitioning for a public office are not required to register or receive a permit from the Township.

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



Cascade Charter Township

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

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS MI
PERMIT No. 1

Pathway News...

They say it takes a brave man to face cancer each day and by the last count of empty cigarette packages and empty crewing tobacco canisters I would say we have a great deal of brave individuals crisscrossing the lovely landscape of Cascade Township. Kathy and I picked up at least 50 empty packs of cigarettes and chewing tobacco canisters at our last clean up of Cascade Road.

We have been doing this for a very long time, but it still never ceases to amaze me the sheer volume of trash that accumulates on Cascade Road. I hope those of you that help in the clean up effort of the wonderful Cascade trail system don't run into the same situation. We managed to pick up everything, trash wise that is, that we could get our hands on. Two days after our efforts and three different trash company pick ups later, the road looked almost as bad as when we started our endeavor. Does anyone but me see the irony here?

On a serious note, however, I can't thank all of you that participate in keeping our wonderful trail system clean enough. Keep up the strong effort, and remember, **KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL.**

Kris Taylor
Pathways Coordinator