

# CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Winter  
2015

**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  
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**Trustees:**

Jim Koessel  
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Jack Lewis

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Tom McDonald

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**Department Phone Numbers:**

**Manager:**

Ben Swayze; 949-1500  
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**Assessing:**

Roger McCarty; 949-6176  
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**Building Inspections:**

Brian Wilson; 949-3765  
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**Community Development**

Steve Peterson; 949-0224  
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**Fire:**

John Sigg; 949-1320  
jsigg@cascadetwp.com

**Sheriff/Non-Emergency:**

632-6100

# Happy Holidays!

from your  
Township Board, Commissions & Staff

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Cascade Township office will be closed Thursday, December 24, Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1.

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Bring your used Christmas tree to the parking lot behind the Buttrick Fire Station (Buttrick & 30th Street) from December 26 – January 10. Please remember to remove all ornaments, lights, tinsel and tree stands. Happy Holidays!

## 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 30 through December 14.



## THE U.S. MAIL IS SLOWING DOWN

In January 2015, the Postal Service eliminated overnight delivery for local first-class letters that used to arrive the next day. As a consequence, 20 to 50 percent of the first-class mail sent every day now takes an extra business day to be delivered.

We want to remind you that Cascade Township does not accept postmarks as proof of timeliness. All payments, assessment forms, and property tax

statements must be submitted to our office by 5 p.m. on the date they are due.

Businesses need to be aware that Personal Property Exemptions and Industrial Personal Property Exemptions have firm deadlines that must be met. Late submissions will have significant consequences in terms of additional taxes over what would otherwise be owed.

We understand that life's circumstances keep most of us very busy. You can make your last minute tax payments online: <http://www.cascadetwp.com/Services/Treasurer/Taxes.asp>. We will honor them if they are made by 11:59 p.m. on due date.

For your convenience, we also have a Drop Box at the township office entrance. All items are considered posted as of the previous day if they are in the box before opening time.



**FROM THE SUPERVISOR**  
**ROB BEAHAN**

## FROM THE SUPERVISOR...

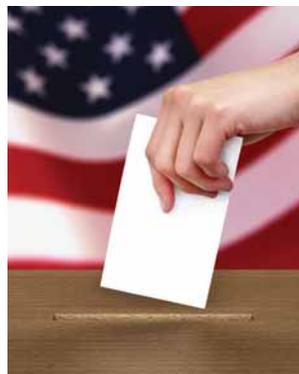
By the time you read this the construction projects in the village area should be completed and the area decorated with holiday lights. It was a long endeavor with its fair share of delays that probably tried everyone's patience. During the construction we were able to upgrade some of the sewer lines and improve the storm water drainage. The intersections on Cascade Road at 28th Street and at Thornapple River Drive were greatly improved with stamped concrete pedestrian crossings, a dedicated right turn lane on Thornapple River Drive, and traffic signals mounted on mast arms to

help reduce the number of overhead wires. Old 28th at Cascade Road was realigned to make turning safe along with a mid-block crossing for pedestrians. The museum gardens have also been revamped and spring time should reveal a new refreshing look to them.

Cascade Township was recently recognized as one of eighteen 5-star communities across the state for economic development by the eCities study conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. The annual research project began in 2007 and uses data supplied by the participants, as well as other public records to assemble a six-factor, 32-item index of entrepreneurial activity, looking at such factors as clustering, incentives, growth, policies, community and education. The study focuses on entrepreneurship because of its importance to expansion and diversification of Michigan's regional economies and the impact small businesses have on job creation. For the last two years Cascade had achieved a 4-star rating but reached 5-star status this year because of our new incentive programs and organizational dedication to economic development.

## ELECTION NEWS

March 8, 2016 is the date set by the legislature to hold the 2016 Presidential Primary. The 2016 Presidential Primary is designated a "closed primary", just as it was in 2012. Michigan Election law requires the voter to choose which political party ballot (Republican or Democrat) when voting. This applies to those voting at the polling place or absentee. While a voter must select a specific party ballot, there is no political party registration in Michigan's voter registration system. There are no proposals to be decided at this election, so there are only two ballot styles available. The ballot selection made by the voter will be public information after the election and subject to FOIA (Freedom of Information Act).



All voters vote in the same locations as they have in previous elections.

## WINTER 2015 TAX INFORMATION

Winter 2015 tax bills and informational notices were mailed December 1, 2015. Winter taxes are due on or before Tuesday February 16, 2016 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](http://www.cascadetwp.com) or call the Treasurer's office at (616) 949-6944.

Payments are accepted 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](http://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, 2016, 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.

## ELECTION INSPECTORS WANTED

Cascade Township Clerk's office is now accepting applications for Election Inspectors. In 2016 we have a very busy year with three scheduled elections: March 8, August 2, and November 8.

We are looking for registered voters to work at the precincts. If you are interested in helping out your community by working at the polls, please contact the Clerk's office at (616) 949-1508. You will need to complete an application (which can be obtained on our web site at [www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com) or stop in at Township Hall) and attend training in order to be qualified to work. Some knowledge of computers is also beneficial; however the Clerk's office staff will teach you the specifics of the election program. Election Inspectors are paid \$150/per day with additional pay for training time. Lunch is also provided.

Even if you aren't interested in working... **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

## 2016 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 2016, the CPI has been calculated at .3% or (1.003).** 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. For the last couple years and again this year, the Commission has ordered assessors go back to a 24 month study.

**For 2016 assessments, the 24-month sales study begins October 1, 2013 and ends September 30, 2015.**

### 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 2016?

As stated in the Equalization Timetable, for 2016 the time period of the sales study for assessment review is October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2015. Sales occurring after September 30, 2015 will not be reviewed until the 2017 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 2016 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 legislator 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 2016 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](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/632fillable2015_471934_7.pdf)

Exemption Affidavit:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/5076\\_439273\\_7.pdf](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

## LOCAL RESPONDERS ATTEND HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING EXPANDED PREPAREDNESS FOR CASCADE TOWNSHIP

Cascade Township, Michigan, — Firefighters Clem Bell, Josh Dettwiler, Jeff Knowles, Bob Norris, John Porter, Jim Walker, and Lieutenant Todd Stevenson from the Cascade Township Fire Department, recently completed training offered by the Center of Domestic Preparedness (CDP), in Anniston, Alabama. The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The firefighters spent a week at the CDP where they received Emergency Responder Hazardous Materials Technician (ERHM) training for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) Incidents.

“In line with our goal of maintaining a well trained and highly responsive emergency and fire department, we were able to take advantage of the Homeland Security Department grant which allowed seven of our firefighters to become trained in the rigorous OSHA standards for handling hazardous materials,” said Cascade Township Supervisor Rob Beahan. “This training has increased Cascade Township’s preparedness for a variety of emergency situations, ensuring our continued commitment for rapid and safe response to the residents and businesses in our community.”

Cascade’s personnel received 40 hours of classroom and hands-on education in identifying hazardous materials (HAZMAT) using advanced surveying and monitoring equipment, selecting and using the appropriate level of personal protective equipment (PPE), and performing decontamination procedures.

Cascade Fire Department Fire Chief John Sigg said, “We routinely train all emergency responders to ensure they are prepared to respond to a variety of situations. Training such as the CDP course expands the department’s ability to respond to extreme incidents and brings additional preparedness to the community.”

This training will allow these members to become active participants with the TRI-COM HAZ-MAT response team, which is comprised of Cascade Township Fire Department, City of Kentwood Fire Department and Gaines Township. The Department of Homeland Security covered all costs for the training, including flights, transportation, room and board.

## GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON 2016

The Grand Rapids Triathlon will be making a return to Cascade & Ada Townships again in 2016. Thank you for continuing to welcome us to your community. The 2016 Grand Rapids Triathlon will once again be the host of this year’s USAT National Championship for Clydesdales & Athenas and will take place Sunday, June 12th.

**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](http://www.grandrapidstri.com)



## 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. 2016 memberships are available now! Call (616) 676-9774 for more information or visit: [www.fhba.org](http://www.fhba.org).

Upcoming events are highlighted below:

### December 10, 2015 –

Holiday Party!!

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Applause Event Center, 2728 Birchcrest Drive SE (behind Pietro’s)

Sponsor: Forest Hills Business Association

### January 14, 2016 –

Topic: Effective Negotiating

Speaker: Penny Rosema

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Location: Sandler Training, 2610 Horizon Drive SE

Sponsor: All Things Medical

### February 11, 2016 –

Topic: Where we are, where we are going, and how we will get there!

Speaker: Grand Rapids Police Chief David Rahinsky

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Location: Mary Free Bed YMCA

Sponsor: Crossroads Eldercare

### March 11, 2016 –

Topic: Networking Event!! (to be confirmed)

Location: TBD - Sponsor: TBD

### March 19, 2016 –

Forest Hills Expo!

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Ada Christian School

A great way to showcase your business!



**FOREST HILLS**  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR TWO BIG SALES

**Thursday, January 14, 2016**

**Hard-cover and Paperback Books Clearance Sale**

**Sponsored by Friends of the Cascade Library – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The sale will be held in the Wisner Center of the library. Cash, checks, or credit are acceptable payment forms.

**Saturday, March 5, and Sunday, March 6, 2016**

**A Booklover's Bonanza: Our Spring Used Book Sale**

**Sponsored by Friends of the Cascade Library**

More than 8,000 books sorted by subject. Prices: Hardcover \$1.00; paperback \$.50, or fill a bag for only \$10.00. Further price reductions on Sunday. Cash, checks, or credit are acceptable payment forms.

**Cascade Friends Members – Only Preview Sale**

Saturday, March 5, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Join The Friends at the door for only \$10.00, \$5.00 for seniors

**Public Sale Days**

Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, March 6, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Large selection of children's books, adult fiction and non-fiction books sorted into many categories. Music: LP's, CD's, sheet music, and books.

**Collectibles Corner**

More than 700 signed, first editions, and rare books priced from \$2.00 and up.

**Cascade Library**

2870 Jacksmith Avenue SE • Cascade, MI 49546 • (616) 784- 2007

*\*\*Next sale date: April 21, 2016*

## PUBLIC TRANSIT IN CASCADE TOWNSHIP

Beginning in January, 2016, The Rapid will provide bus service into Cascade Township. The Township receives regular inquiries from businesses, residents and non-residents regarding the availability of bus service in the community. At this time, the closest bus stop is at Acquest Dr. in Kentwood. According to The Rapid, this 28th St. extension route is the most requested route from callers.

The Township Board recently approved this service as a three (3) year pilot program. During the 3 year trial period, the service will be reviewed as to the ridership, whether the service is fulfilling the needs of businesses, etc. This service will also provide GO!Bus service within ¾ mile of the bus line.

Please see the map below for the bus route:



The bus will run every half hour, Monday through Saturday, and every hour on Sunday. The route/stops/times will be published on the Township website, as well as in the February newsletter and on The Rapid website ([www.ridetherapid.org](http://www.ridetherapid.org)).

## CASCADE LIBRARY NEWS

This winter, the Friends of the Cascade Library are sponsoring programs that will make you want to come in out of the cold. In December the library celebrates Star Wars with two family friendly events.

**Star Wars: KDL Awakens the FORCE:** Families can experience crafts and games related to Star Wars, practice Jedi training and see if they have the FORCE within.

**Saturday, December 12, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Star Wars Movie Marathon:** Enjoy one or more of the original trilogy on our big screens. Enjoy free popcorn, candy and a MIO Bar for intergalactic beverage needs. Kids craft stations will be available. Dress up! Staff will award prizes for their favorite costumes. Screening of *A New Hope* begins at 9:45 a.m. *The Empire Strikes Back* starts at 12:15 p.m. *Return of the Jedi* starts at 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cascade Library.

**Saturday, December 12, 9:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

In January the library steps back in time to your favorite video arcade. You can even become a video game star!

**Retro Arcade + Pac-Man in the Stacks:** We're turning the Wisner Center into a 1980's Video Game Arcade! Beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, play Galaga, Ms. Pac-Man and other retro favorites on actual arcade machines, along with foosball and ping pong. At 5:00 p.m., we'll have pizza and prep for live-action Pac-Man in the Stacks. Players will design their own Pac-Man helmet to wear while collecting those yellow cubes and strawberries hiding in the book shelves, but look out for the Ghosts! Sponsored by the Friends of the Cascade Township Library.

**Saturday, January 2, 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, January 3, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

*(Retro Arcade Only on Sunday)*

Adults will enjoy our free concert series all winter long with some of the most talented groups West Michigan has to offer.

**SUNDAY  
AFTERNOON  
LIVE**

KDL - Cascade Township Branch

**Sunday**

**Afternoon LIVE!**

The Cascade Township Branch brings concerts inside for Sunday Afternoon LIVE.

**Sundays at 2:00 p.m.**

**December 27 – An Dro**

**January 24 – Max Lockwood & the Michigan Basement**

**February 28 – Brad Fritcher**

# 6 CASCADE CONNECTIONS

## CASCADE HISTORY

The Cascade Historical Society members ask for your help in gathering items for our museum. Search your files, bookshelves, attics, photo albums, garages, basements, etc. for old photos, documents, diaries, journals, family histories, clothing or artifacts from “days of yore.”

We want to ensure that present and future generations will not only know the significance of the rich history of Cascade but also learn from the past and recognize the need to preserve the historical heritage that has been bestowed upon them.

We are now remodeling our space and have obtained new display cases and shelving and need not only your items but your help. If you have some ideas for us or would like to join our ranks, we would love to hear from you. We meet the first Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the old Cascade Township Hall, on Thornapple River Drive at 28th Street. You may also email us at [cascadehistory@cascadetwp.com](mailto:cascadehistory@cascadetwp.com).



## THORNAPPLE SLOPES

Although some might argue the point, winter can be fun. Skiing is often thought of as one of the joys of the season, but a family ski trip can involve a long drive and extra expenses. If you lived in Cascade in the mid 1960’s, you could ski in your own backyard, so to speak. There was a family-friendly ski area on the south side of Grand River Drive just east of Buttrick Avenue, across from what is today Ada Park.

The Thornapple Slopes Ski Area was an idea conceived by Mr. William Seidman who developed it with the help of a few investors. The project was never intended to make money and it never did, but was considered to have been a great success by those families making use of the slopes.

About 100 families paid a seasonal fee of about \$25 to ski. Each family was issued a key and arm patches for identification. The key was to an electrical box that turned on the electric motors that started the rope tows. One member said the rope tows were “wicked and required a deft touch”. She couldn’t tell how many mittens and gloves the tows managed to “eat”.

There were two ski trails. One was a shorter, easier “bunny slope”. The main trail had a vertical drop of 200 feet, but what it lacked in height, it made up for in length, extending nearly to Grand River Drive. The first year, only the long run had a rope tow. The following year, a bunny hill rope tow and lights were added for night skiing. The last person to leave turned off the lights. A skating pond was also added near the bottom where the horse barn is today. In time, a paddle tennis court, which was popular with the older children, was added near the ice skating pond. Any snow on the courts had to be removed by the users. There were plenty of activities for everyone at Thornapple Slopes.

One of the most popular features of Thornapple Slopes was the warming shack at the top of the slope. The shack could hold about 15 people and was heated by a wood-burning stove. There were always hot dogs and hot chocolate waiting to fill you and warm you up and the refreshments were free on Sundays. One participant said that when the warming shack door opened the tantalizing smell of hot dogs carried a long way.

Amazingly, there was only one known injury during the years of operation. Mr. Seidman’s son suffered a broken leg.

Forest Hills Schools approached Mr. Seidman about letting the Boy’s Ski Team use the hills for training. He agreed with one caveat: There should also be a Girl’s Ski Team. After all, Mr. Seidman had five daughters! The school agreed and a girl’s team was formed.

If you drive to the top of what is now Old Oak Hill Dr., you can see about how far and steep the runs were. One club member said you could see the Amway plant from the top of the hill.

After a few years, the State of Michigan mandated that there be an employee on site whenever the hills were open. Sadly, the expense and liability concerns were more than the members were willing or able to take on, so Thornapple Slopes was closed and Cascade lost a wonderful recreation area.

*Special thanks to Arlene Burlingham, Alan Burlingham and Carrie Seidman.*



## **SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS**

Notification devices have been proven to save lives. Having a working smoke alarm reduces the chance of dying in a fire by nearly half. It has been estimated that 890 lives could be saved each year if all homes had working smoke detectors.

Building codes require the installation of Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors when you undertake a project that requires a building permit, such as an interior renovation. Smoke alarms should be located inside and outside of each bedroom and on every level of the home while Carbon Monoxide alarms are required in the area of all bedrooms. Smoke alarms are available in a “wireless style” that provides interconnection without the expense of installing new wiring. Having smoke alarms that are interconnected provides faster and louder notification to allow extra time to safely exit the home.

### **A few other items to consider...**

- Test your alarms monthly
  - Replace batteries as prescribed by the manufacturer
  - Never disable a smoke alarm
  - Smoke alarms wear out...replace them every 10 years
  - Plan regular fire drills – teach children what to do in the event of a fire.
  - Establish a meeting area outside your home in a safe location
  - Teach children to stay at the meeting spot, never return inside
- GET OUT - STAY OUT – STAY SAFE!**

### *Cascade Building Department*



## **SHOP WITH A SHERIFF**

Christmas is fast approaching and this year is our 13th year hosting the Shop with a Sheriff program. The Shop with a Sheriff program was created to help families that are struggling to get much needed items for their children at Christmas. The families that participate in this program get a one on one experience with a Sheriff’s deputy.

The children are paired with a Deputy and they walk through the store together. They pick out items on a list provided by mom and 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.

I have participated in this program for several years now and each year it excites me. A couple of years ago, I received a call after posting something about this program and the woman told me that her children participated. She thanked me for taking them and told me that it had meant so much to her children that they have talked about it years later. After hearing her tell me the impact that this program can have on families, I realized the experience provided is not just immediate, it is long lasting.

This program exists all based on 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 the Community Services Office at 701 Ball Ave NE Grand Rapids MI 49503. Make the check out to the Community Action Fund / Shop with a Sheriff.

Hope you have a wonderful holiday season,

**Ryan Roe**  
*Kent County Sheriff Department*  
[ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov)

## **HALLOWEEN PARTY**

On Saturday 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, 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 2015 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, Obrien & Batson**
- Cascade Automotive**
- Cascade Car Wash**
- Cascade Hospital for Animals**
- D&W Food Center**
- Family Friends Veterinary Hospital**
- Firehouse Subs**
- Forest Hills Foods**
- Frontline Services**
- Funny Business**
- Goldfish Swim School**
- Gordon Food Service**
- Independent Bank**
- Kingsland Hardware**
- Koenes Auto Body**
- Little Caesars**
- Lynne Deering**
- Meijer**
- NAPA Auto Parts**
- Ranir Corporation**
- S. Abraham & Sons**
- Spartan Stores**
- Tassell-Wisner-Bottrall Foundation**
- Wal-Mart**



**Cascade Charter Township**

2865 Thornhills Ave SE.  
Grand Rapids MI 49546  
phone: 616.949.1500  
fax: 616.949.3918  
[www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com)

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

**PATHWAY NEWS...**

I like to count my blessings all year, but during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season I pause for extra reflection. When I was young and pondering what my adult life would look like, I must admit I didn't envision living anywhere as beautiful as Cascade Township. But here I am, and not a day goes by that I don't feel grateful to be living in this wonderful area.

As the months and years go by, it seems as if every available piece of land has had a home constructed on it. At some point there won't be any available home sites left. That makes all of our homes with their park-like settings so close to goods and services a very precious commodity.

My wife Kathy and I know that it will be only a few more wintry degrees and our bicycles will be put away for the season. Buzz kill! However, our most recent shorter rides have left us in awe of the distances we can ride on the bike paths without ever having to be out in traffic. Now if only we could be smart enough to stay on the paths all year! Here's to another year of a wonderful life in Cascade Township. As always I am grateful for those of you that take the time to help keep our wonderful trail system clean and beautiful.

Remember **KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL!**

**Kris Taylor**  
*Pathway Coordinator*

