



CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

5920 Tahoe Drive SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546-7123

Dear Cascade Resident,

As Phase Two of the Burger/Goodwood Water Extension project begins, Phase One draws to a close. Almost all houses in Phase One have connected to municipal water but there are quite a few residences who have not had their wells capped. We realize that some residents do not want to cap their wells so they can continue using them for irrigation. At the beginning of the project, we told residents we would send out a letter to make them aware when it was the 'last chance' to have their well capped and/or connect to municipal water; that day will be June 30, 2024. Any residences that were part of Phase One have until June 30, 2024 to schedule a connection to municipal water and/or a well capping and report it to Cascade Township if they wish to receive reimbursement.

If a resident has already connected to municipal water and their well was not capped at that time, but now they wish to cap their well, the contractor will be reimbursed for the cost associated with the capping but the resident will have to pay any portion of the bill related to modification necessary to disconnect their irrigation system from the well that normally would have been removed when connecting to city water. If a resident chose to keep their well for irrigation and connected the rest of their property to city water, they are responsible for all costs for any modification necessary to continue using the well for irrigation and these costs will not be reimbursed if the well needs to be abandoned in the future.

The reason June 30, 2024 is the 'last chance' is due to the expiration of grants and funding that was allocated to Phase One of the project. Phase Two has been funded through different grants and funding sources, so Phase One residences that do not schedule their connection by June 30, 2024 will not be able to tag onto Phase Two due to the specificity of the funding requirements.

Groundwater Restrictions

At the beginning of the Burger/Goodwood PFAS investigation, there was discussion that the township may adopt a Groundwater Use Ordinance, like the one adopted in Plainfield Township. Cascade Township does not currently intend to pass any type of Groundwater Use Ordinance because, unlike Plainfield, Cascade was able to secure enough grant funding from the state and federal government to cover the project without requiring the same magnitude of funding from the party at fault which the township identifies as the Gerald R Ford International Airport. Plainfield Township passed a Groundwater Use Ordinance as part of their agreement with Wolverine World Wide that provided for PFAS cleanup costs.

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Building
949-3765

Building & Grounds
318-8785

Clerk
949-1508

Fire
949-1320

Manager
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Treasurer
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This means that Cascade Township will not be requiring residents to cap their wells or hook up to city water at this time. If the state or federal government were to require this type of ordinance in the future, the situation would become more complicated. Depending on the circumstances, the township may be able to ask the GR Ford Airport to pay for well capping as part of remediation, but there is not guarantee that financial assistance would be available at that time; the financial burden would likely fall on the property owner.

There is already a portion of Cascade Township's ordinance that addresses required city water connections at residences where it is available:

§ 313-83. Public water connection required. [Amended 12-22-1993 by Ord. No. 18-1993; 6-13-2018 by Ord. No. 5-2018]

C. All existing single-family residential structures and multifamily residential structures, including such structures which are covered by an existing Special Assessment District for public water, shall be required to connect to available public water:

(1) When there is a major repair required of the private well, as determined by the Kent County Health Department.

Failure of a well would constitute a 'major repair', as determined by the health department, and would require connection to 'available public water', as defined earlier in the ordinance.

§ 313-82. Definitions. As used in this Part 6, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:
AVAILABLE PUBLIC WATER — Public water pipes located in a right-of-way, easement, highway, street, or public way which crosses, joins, or abuts upon the property and passing not more than 300 feet at the nearest point from a structure.

This means that if your property is closer than 300 ft from public water utilities, whether they were available prior to this project or were installed as a result of this project, and your well fails, you won't be allowed to drill a new well. In this circumstance you would have to move onto city water and the financial burden of connection to city water on the property would fall to the property owner.

The Township is not currently planning to impose water testing requirements at residences that do not connect during the project.



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Phase One Whole Home Water Filtration System Removal

Residences that had a whole home water filtration system installed due to PFAS contamination have the opportunity to keep the filtration system and take on full responsibility for system maintenance and disposal. Since there is generally a high cost to remove and dispose of the filtration systems, we are requiring all residences who want to keep their whole home filtration system to sign a filter agreement, transferring the title of the filtration system to the homeowner. There will not be an additional cost to the resident from the township to keep the whole home filtration system. If this is something you are interested in, please email goodwoodwater@gmail.com for a copy of the form and further information.

Remediation

If you have questions regarding remediation on your property, please contact goodwoodwater@gmail.com. An informational meeting was recently held for Phase One residents who had trees removed as part of the project to answer questions and discuss tree options. The Township is currently collecting bids for tree replacement and intends to plant trees for Phase One fall 2024 with trees for Phase Two planted in fall 2025 and spring 2026. Once Phase Two is complete, area roads that were damaged by either phase of the water main installation will be repaired. Half of these roads will likely be resurfaced in 2025 with the other half completed in 2026.

Phase Two

The construction contract for Phase Two of the water main extension project has been awarded. Unfortunately, due to a delay in securing project funding, the City of Grand Rapids was unable to award the contract in sufficient time to guarantee completion in the 2024 calendar year as originally publicized. Cascade Township is working closely with the City and its consultant engineer, Prein & Newhof, to encourage and coordinate with the contractor to begin construction as soon as possible. This could be as early as fall 2024, but with most of the construction completed in 2025. The contractual completion date for Phase Two water main extension is November 1, 2025. The Bi-weekly PFAS Update emails will resume when Phase Two construction begins but will likely solely focus on Phase Two.

Please reach out to the township or our project contractors at goodwoodwater@gmail.com if you have further questions related to the Burger/Goodwood Water Extension project. We look forward to completion of Phase One so we can turn our focus to Phase Two residences.

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Sincerely,

Jade Smith