

Cascade Connections



2026 | EDITION 4

Cascade Charter Township Newsletter



from the Supervisor

Dear Cascadians,

This summer in Cascade, there is no lack of things to do and see!

We kicked off the season with a special ceremony where we dedicated the Cascade Bridge with a plaque presented to the

American Legion. It was a beautiful day with a lovely barbecue at the historic Stone House afterward. Thank you to the residents who joined us for this event!

We've also had a wonderful Concerts in Cascade series at Friendship Park. It has been wonderful to see so many residents come out to enjoy free music with their families.

And there is so much more to look forward to!

Our Parks and Facilities team has put together a summer and fall programming lineup that has something for just about everyone! This includes Walking Club, Mahjong, Drop-In Fitness classes at Friendship Park, Euchre, Cornhole, Movies in the Park, and so much more! It's all included in the following pages. **I'd like to personally thank our Parks & Facilities Director, Dan Zwick and Coordinator Sydney Aubert for all the planning and execution of these fun and incredible events!** They do all of this while also maintaining our parks, pathways and facilities!

And, if you've noticed, Cascade's parks are bursting with color **thanks to the dedicated work of Jeanine Heibel.** Every week, she coordinates groups of fellow volunteers to add plants and flowers as well as clean up weeds and treat invasive plants. She does this year-round and her work is so important and appreciated!

Lastly, after much public discourse, residents approved the Zoning Ordinance previously adopted by the Board in February. The new zoning is an essential tool to ensure future development compliments - rather than erodes - Cascade's unique character and resident's quality of life.

Summer and fall are such special times in Cascade with all the beauty from the parks, rivers and pathways.



Congratulationjs and THANK YOU to the Kent Garden Club for their beautiful transformation of Westdale Memorial Park. The Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association recently awarded the Club & Cascade Township the 'Community Landscape Beautification Award' for their efforts!

It is wonderful to see so many residents enjoying all this community has to offer. It is such a privilege to serve you as your supervisor.

As always, feel free to send me your thoughts, comments or suggestions. I would love to hear from you!

Grace Lesperance

Cascade Charter Township Supervisor
glesperance@cascadetwp.com



from the **Clerk** Sue Slater

GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

The General election is **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**. Residents will have the opportunity to choose candidates for Governor, Senate, Congress and more.

Early voting for all precincts will take place October 24 - November 1 from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm at the Wisner Center. See below for a list of precinct

locations. **For questions regarding this election, call the Clerk's office at 616-949-1508.** You may also visit cascadetwp.com/elections or Michigan.gov/vote for additional info.



PRECINCT LOCATIONS

Precinct 1	Cascade Library - Wisner Center 2870 Jacksmith Avenue SE
Precinct 2	Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church 6655 Cascade Road SE
Precinct 3	Cascade Christian Church 2829 Thornapple River Drive
Precinct 4	Ada Bible Church 8899 Cascade Road SE
Precinct 5	Thornapple Community Reformed Church 3260 Thornapple River



CEMETERY CARE & MAINTENANCE

Cascade Township owns and maintains three cemeteries:

- Cascade Cemetery, 7200 30th St
- Snow Cemetery, 3131 Snow Ave
- Whitneyville Cemetery, 5601 Whitneyville Rd.

As part of this maintenance, **staff will remove and dispose of all gravesite decorations after the first week of October.** Please remove any items you wish to keep before this date.

To see the Township's Cemetery Ordinance, visit cascadetwp.com/cemeteries.



from the **Treasurer** Windy Korstange

SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 14

The deadline to pay 2026 summer property taxes without penalty is Monday, September 14 at 5 pm.

DIDN'T RECEIVE A BILL?

Visit cascadetwp.com or call the Treasurer's Office at 616-949-6944.



CHECK YOUR PROPERTY STATUS OR MAKE A PAYMENT 24/7 AT CASCADETWP.COM

- Click on the green Tax & Property Lookup icon at the bottom of the home page
- Click the 'Search' button under 'Detailed Record Search'
- Under 'Select Record Type', click on 'Tax'
- Choose to search by name, address, or parcel number by clicking the tabs, type in your query, and click the magnifying glass icon

Tassell Park

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

Plans for improving Tassell Park are well under way! Currently, renovations are slated to begin late this fall which would include the demolition of remaining pavement, building foundations as well as new road curb lines, road resurfacing and utility relocation. The majority of the work will begin spring 2027 with the entire project slated to be done by the end of spring 2028.



RENDERING OF TASSELL PARK GATEWAY ENTRANCE



RIVERSIDE DECK RENDERING



BOARDWALK LAWN BRIDGE RENDERING

For more information regarding the reimagining of Tassell Park, visit cascadetwp.com/projects.



Parks & Facilities HIGHLIGHTS



The Parks & Facilities team has been busy organizing a summer & fall lineup that includes fun for everyone to enjoy!

Independence Day Celebration

The Township's Independence Day Celebration was another fun event that included a parade, festival and was capped off by fireworks in Ada. See photos from the day below. *****Stay tuned for info about next year's parade that will include prizes for best floats!***



GRAND MARSHAL CHUCK DYKHUIZEN AND FAMILY



Summer Concert Series

The second annual Summer Concert Series brought residents and families together to enjoy music including folk singer Mark Dvorak; yacht rock band, the Windbreakers; singer/song writers Rin Tarsy & Mandarin; and the 12-person Bluewater Kings Band. The crowds were enthusiastic and the music was fantastic! Look forward to this series returning next summer!



MARK DVORAK



RIN TARSY AND MANDARIN



THE WINDBREAKERS

Check out the events below that are happening around Cascade sponsored by the Township's Parks & Facilities' team. For more information & details, visit cascadetwp.com.



CORNHOLE

EVERY WEDNESDAY 1-3 PM
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30

NO
REGISTRATION
REQUIRED -
DROP IN!

FREE!



HALLOWEEN HUSTLE

ONE MILE
LOOP!

OCTOBER 29 | 5:30 PM
CASCADE RECREATION PARK
3810 THORNAPPLE RIVER DR SE

WEAR A
COSTUME!!



THREAD & NEEDLE TREASURES

Quilting Bee

If you know how to quilt or sew and want to gather, share ideas, and create alongside fellow sewers, this group is for you!

4th Saturday of every month, beginning August 22
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
The Wisner Center | 2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

Spaces are limited! RSVP directly to Patty at pmoyer22@yahoo.com to secure your spot!



Mahjong Tuesdays

1:00-3:00 pm & 6-7:30 pm
Every Tuesday

The Wisner Center
2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

Games provided but if you have your own,
feel free to bring it!



CASCADE TOWNSHIP PRESENTS

EUCHRE

THURSDAYS 1-3 PM
BEGINNING OCTOBER 1!

Kent District Library -
The Wisner Center

Drop in! No cost to
play!

6 CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Cascade Recreation Park (Meet at the bathrooms)

September: 9, 16, 23, 30 & October 7, 14

10 am

6



FALL CLEANUP



FALL YARD WASTE DISPOSAL

Bagged yard waste pickup will once again be offered in the restricted burn area (generally the area west of Buttrick Avenue and north of I-96) every Monday from October 12 through November 30.

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR 2026

Yard waste tags will be a different color this year. Tags from last year will NOT be accepted. New tags can be picked up at the Township Office. Only yard waste with new tags will be picked up.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- This service is only available to residents in the restricted burn area, generally west of Buttrick Ave and north of I-96. **View map at bit.ly/CT-burn-area to see if you qualify.**
- Tags are available 7 am to 4 pm Mondays through Thursdays and 8 am to 12 pm Fridays at the Cascade Township Office, 5920 Tahoe Dr. SE. Residents are limited to 20 tags. If you have tags from last year, you must exchange them for a new color this year.
- Place yard waste near the curb by midnight on Sunday.
- Bags of yard waste and bundles of branches MUST be tagged for collection. Bags and bundles must weigh less than 30 pounds each to be picked up. Please do NOT include grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand, rocks, or pet waste.
- Branches and stumps cannot exceed one inch in diameter and four feet in length.
- **For more information, call (616) 949-1500.**



YARD WASTE DUMPSTERS

Dumpsters will be available for yard waste disposal from October 12 through November 30. The dumpsters will be located behind Fire Station 2, 2990 Buttrick Ave. SE.

PLEASE NOTE

The dumpsters are top load, and yard waste needs to be carried up a small set of stairs to be dumped. Employees are not available to help dump yard waste.

All services subject to availability. For questions, please call Cascade Township at (616) 949-1500.

FALL CLEANUP DAY

Cascade's Biannual Cleanup Day returns Saturday, October 17 (8 am - 12 pm) at Cascade Recreation Park, 3810 Thornapple River Dr SE. Gates close at noon, so arrive early. Follow the signage on site. Proof of Cascade Township residency is required (ID or bill).

PLEASE NOTE

- This event is for **nonhazardous household waste only**, such as appliances, electronics, paint (open and dried), scrap metal, and paper for shredding.
- No batteries, tires, yard waste, or hazardous waste will be accepted.



ON-SITE SERVICES

- Arrowaste Services will be on-site for general trash and junk, large and small appliances and scrap metal.
- Schupan Recycling will be on-site for computers, televisions, small appliances, cell phones, and other electronics.
- Shred-It will be on hand to securely destroy and recycle paper documents.

All services are subject to availability, **visit cascadetwp.com or call 616-949-1500 - as the date nears for up-to-date information.** For more information on hazardous waste disposal, please visit reimaginetrash.org.

LIBRARY UPDATES

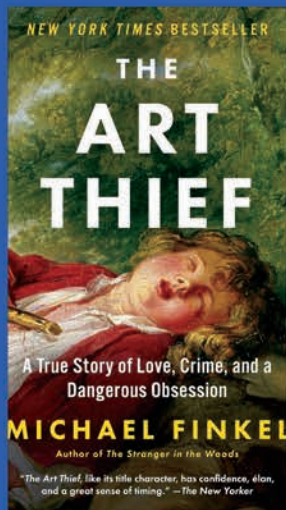


The fall season brings a new rhythm - or perhaps, a return to the familiar one of school, work, and sports. **On September 8**, the library will return to our regular schedule with fall programming and Sunday hours. We will have all our storytimes back, Monday through Friday, at 10am and after school programming at 4:30pm. With nearly 100 programs this fall, there's something for everyone! **All events can be found online at kdl.org/events.**



Kids Reading Challenge: Legendary Readers is back this September with a brand new creature, the Griffin! Kids in grades K-5 can stop by to pick up a reading log that will earn a cool prize upon completion!

Adult Challenge: We're excited to bring back Stampworthy this fall! Each time you visit the library and check out 5 or more materials in a single visit, you get a stamp. Five stamps earn you an entry into a drawing for a gift card from a local business! **Challenge begins September 1!**



Program Highlight: On October 8, we welcome Michael Finkel, author of *The Art Thief* and *The Stranger in the Woods*. Finkel will discuss his latest book, *The Art Thief*, the gripping true story of the world's most prolific art thief and his downfall. Copies of his books will be available for purchase on-site, with a signing to follow his talk. **Registration opens September 8.**

**FRIENDS OF
CASCADE
LIBRARY BOOK
SALE!**

Friends of The Cascade Township Library will be hosting a book sale Saturday, September 19 9am-4pm and Sunday, September 20 from 1-3pm

Parks Volunteers



Cascade Township Parks Volunteers have put in more than 400 hours of work improving our parks so far this year! This includes pulling invasive species, like garlic mustard, planting flowers and general cleanup - even in the winter! Thank you to the various clubs and others who have been involved such as GE aeronautics, scouts, Ada Rotary and of course, the award-winning Kent Garden Club!

Interested in volunteering? **Contact Jeanine Heibel, volunteer@cascadetwp.com.**



INVASIVE BITTERSWEET VINE

Throughout Cascade Township, invasive bittersweet vine is wrapping around tree trunks. It girdles trees and shrubs, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients. Weakened trees burdened with this weight are particularly vulnerable to damage from ice and windstorms.

If you have invasive bittersweet on your property and want to learn how to remove it; email volunteer@cascadetwp.com. Kent Conservation District's invasive species Strike Team is also available for hire and can be contacted at kentstriketeam@gmail.com



INVASIVE BITTERSWEET VINE

THE STORY OF CASCADE ROAD

From Ancient Path to Modern Highway

The story below was provided by Cascade Township's Historical Society

THE BEGINNING

There is significant scientific and archeologic evidence that many trails and pathways across Michigan predate human involvement.

Many of those trails are believed to have originated during the thaw following the last Ice Age, which carved valleys and plains across the state, leaving behind waterways, grasslands, and natural corridors for movement. Migrating animals took advantage of these open pathways.

Depending on the source, those animals have been identified as Deer, Caribou, and even Buffalo. The St. Louis Trail—now the I-94 corridor—was once referred to as a Buffalo run.

When humans later arrived, it was only natural that they began using those same routes as pathways for travel and trade.

ANCIENT PATHWAYS

Indigenous people used these trails for centuries before Europeans arrived in the region. The routes connected villages, trading posts, and seasonal camps forming part of a larger network of indigenous trails throughout the Great Lakes region.

Over time many of these well-placed trails evolved into roads and highways, including M-16.

Thus began the Grand River Trail.



ANCIENT NATIVE TRAILS THROUGHOUT MICHIGAN



US-16 INCLUDED A RAILROAD CAR FERRY CROSSING LAKE MICHIGAN BETWEEN MUSKEGON AND MILWAUKEE, MAKING IT ONE OF A FEW HIGHWAYS WITH A WATER LINK.



BY THE MID-1800S, SETTLERS WIDENED AND STRAIGHTENED THE TRAIL, SOMETIMES INTO TOLL PLANK ROADS. TRAVELERS COULD JOURNEY FROM DETROIT TO LANSING ON WOODEN PLANKS THOUGH THEY DETERIORATED QUICKLY. EVENTUALLY, THE ROADS BECAME PUBLIC AND WERE IMPROVED WITH GRAVEL AND LATER PAVEMENT.

FROM TRAIL TO PLANK ROAD

European settlers entering the region often adopted existing indigenous trails because they already represented efficient travel corridors. These routes were gradually widened and modified into wagon roads and early transportation lines.

The alignment of this road continued to follow the same glacially influenced terrain, reinforcing the continuity between earlier and later movement patterns.

STATE HIGHWAY ERA

In the 20th century, large road systems such as I-96 were constructed. While modern engineering introduced new constraints, such as urban planning, property boundaries, and high-speed design, the highways often parallel the approximate earlier routes. This continuity does not reflect one-to-one inheritance, but the persistent influence of underlying geography first shaped during the glacial era.

M-16 is more than a road—it is a geographic and cultural corridor, shaped first by natural forces and later by generations of human movement.

Today, Cascade Rd. preserves that layered history, reminding travelers that the paths of the past often become the roads of the future.



DDA CORNER

The Cascade Downtown Development Authority was established in 1993 and expanded in 2003 to include the Interchange area and again in 2004 to include Centennial Business Park. Its purpose is to halt property value deterioration, increase property tax valuation, eliminate the causes of deterioration, promote economic growth and create and provide operation of the DDA.

The DDA is funded by the increase in property tax revenue that comes from rising property values and new development within its district. By law, those funds can only be used for eligible projects that benefit properties within the DDA boundaries.

The DDA is involved in numerous community events and investments and is always looking for opportunities to partner with local businesses within the district. If you are a local business within the DDA district, we encourage you to fill out the survey below to stay up to date on all the latest news and opportunities in Cascade.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

The Cascade Downtown Development Authority recently launched a dedicated Facebook page. To stay up-to-date on activities in the district, scan the QR code and give us a follow!



Watch DDA meeting recordings on YouTube at youtube.com/@cascadechartertownship.

DDA BUSINESS SURVEY



SCAN THE QR CODE TO:

- ✓ Update your business contact information
- ✓ Join the DDA email list to:
 - Receive project updates
 - Learn about grant and business resources
 - Receive updates on upcoming community events and vendor opportunities
- ✓ Share feedback with the DDA

IF YOU ARE A BUSINESS OWNER INTERESTED IN SETTING UP A MEETING TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT RYAN SENNETT, DDA MANAGER, AT 616-949-1500 OR [RSENNETT@CASCADETWP.COM](mailto:rsennett@cascadetwp.com)

PATHWAY ETIQUETTE



FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL RESIDENTS, MOTORIZED VEHICLES ARE PROHIBITED ON CASCADE PATHWAYS (GATORS, GOLF CARTS, DIRT BIKES). BICYCLES AND CERTAIN EBIKES ARE PERMITTED.

PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF THESE RESTRICTIONS AND COURTEOUS TO OTHERS WHEN ON OUR PATHWAYS.

Cascade Peace Park Deer Hunting Permits

Deer hunting in Peace Park will once again be allowed for permit holders during the following periods:

October 30 - November 19
November 20 - December 10
December 10 - December 31

Applications can be found at cascadetwp.com under Parks Programs & Events.

Rules include hunting of doe only, no bucks, no firearms, only bow and crossbows and no hunting shall occur without a Township Hunting permit. See cascadetwp.com/hunting for full list of rules.

Contact Us

Township Manager

Jade Smith
616-949-1500
jsmith@cascadetwp.com

Township Assessor

Paula Jastifer
616-949-6176
pjastifer@cascadetwp.com

Building Inspections

Brian Wilson
616-949-3765
bwilson@cascadetwp.com

Community Planning & Development

616-949-0224

Township Engineer

Aric Thorne
616-949-1500
athorne@cascadetwp.com

Finance & Budget Director

Lorna Nenciarini
616-949-1500
lnenciarini@cascadetwp.com

Human Resources Director

Katie Murawski
616-949-1500
kmurawski@cascadetwp.com

Parks & Facilities Director

Dan Zwick
616-949-1500
dzwick@cascadetwp.com

Cascade Township Fire Department

Fire Chief / Non-Emergency
Adam Magers
616-949-1320
amagers@cascadetwp.com

Kent County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff / Non-Emergency Dispatch
616-336-3113

Community Policing Officer

Omar Dieppa
616-632-6435
omar.dieppa@kentcountymi.gov



GET READY! CASCADE TOWNSHIP
FIREFIGHTERS ALONG WITH EMBER WILL
VISIT YOU WITH GOODY BAGS, SAFETY
MATERIALS & CANDY!

OCTOBER 31

**6 PM | CARAVELLE VILLAGE: INTERSECTION
OF BECHALLA & PATAGONIA**

**6:30 PM | THORNAPPLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
3260 THORNAPPLE RIVER DRIVE**

**7 PM | HIDDEN HILLS: VINEWOOD,
BETWEEN ASPENWOOD AND CANDLEWOOD**





PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 718

Cascade Charter Township

5920 Tahoe Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-949-1500
cascadetwp.com

Township Office Hours

Monday through Thursday: 7 am – 4 pm
Friday: 8 am – 12 pm



Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram! We share news, events and community highlights to help you stay involved and informed.