

# CASCADE CONNECTIONS

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A newsletter from Cascade Charter Township • Summer 2022



## July 4th Celebration

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- + Township Strategic Plan Survey
- + Kent District Library – Cascade Township Branch Updates
- + How You Can Help Pollinators Survive

# NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR

GRACE LESPERANCE

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It says a lot about our Cascade community that so many residents have attended meetings, volunteered for committees, completed surveys, commented on social media and reached out via

phone and email to share ideas about important projects and issues. Your suggestions are shaping important initiatives in our community, including:

**Building a New Fire Station 1:** After a spring open house and public review meetings, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved moving forward with the new Fire Station 1 design and budget. The Board will meet in August to review and approve bids so construction can begin in September. Special thanks to Fire Chief Adam Magers and his crew for their hard work keeping this project moving ahead. Additional thanks to Trustee Timmy Noordhoek, who introduced measures to maximize financial transparency and minimize the risk of unwanted surprises during the design and construction phases. Visit [cascadetwp.com](http://cascadetwp.com) for more information on this project.

**Enhancing Public Safety:** In response to residents' concerns about speeding drivers and the safety of our homes and businesses, we have contracted with the Kent County Sheriff's Office to increase patrols, specifically in our neighborhoods and main streets. By the time this newsletter is in your hands, you should already have seen an enhanced law enforcement presence in Cascade. We will closely monitor the impact and effectiveness of this increase in patrols; we encourage you to share comments and observations.

**Remediating PFAS:** Ensuring residents have safe drinking water is the Township's highest priority. The

project to extend municipal water to impacted residents is in full swing. Simultaneously, the Township is taking steps to ensure that the Gerald R. Ford International Airport accepts responsibility for the costs of this project that are not covered by grants.

**Creating Cascade's Strategic Plan:**

Thank you to the 1,800+ residents who completed the community survey and attended public focus groups. Your input is the crucial foundation needed for a successful and cohesive master plan. The results showed residents overwhelmingly want to enhance Cascade's unique character by preserving and improving upon what makes Cascade a great place to live. Specific priorities include conserving green space and natural areas throughout the entire Township, protecting the Thornapple River, proactively managing inevitable growth pressures through zoning and land-use tools and creating a more walkable "village" area around the intersection of 28th Street and Cascade Road and toward the Thornapple River.

As we develop a more focused plan, your feedback is important. Look to page 3 for more information and to complete the survey.

**Celebrating July 4th:** Last but not at all least, we will once again gather as a community to celebrate our country's independence on July 4. This year's celebration looks to be bigger and better than ever. Find all the details on pages 6-7. I hope to see you there!

Please don't hesitate to contact me with your thoughts and suggestions as we work together to better our community. It's an honor to serve you.

See you on the Fourth!

# Township Contacts

## Township Hall Office Hours

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

## Supervisor

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glesperance@cascadetwp.com

## Clerk

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Brian Wilson; 949.3765  
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Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
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## Community Development

Brian Hilbrands; 949.0224  
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## Fire

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## Sheriff/Non-Emergency Dispatch

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## Community Policing Officer

Omar Dieppa; 632.6435  
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## From the **CLERK**

*Sue Slater*

Our Election staff is busy preparing for the August 2 Primary!

Voters will be receiving their new ID cards in the mail as soon as they are available indicating new district renumbering. Polling locations and precinct boundaries remain identical to 2020 except for Precinct 9, which will vote at Thornapple Covenant Church, 6595 Cascade Road.

If you are on our Permanent Absentee Voter List watch for your APPLICATION to arrive in your mailbox in June. Once this is returned to our office (either by mail or hand-delivered) we will process your application.

Please keep in mind paper supply chain issues are affecting everyone so "Thanks in advance" for your patience!

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## Share Your Feedback on Draft Priorities For **TOWNSHIP'S STRATEGIC PLAN**

A big thanks to all the community members who have participated in the Township's strategic planning process so far – we've heard from more than 1,800 of you and we're grateful for your invaluable feedback.

Now that we've collected input through a community survey and series of public focus groups, we're working to ensure the Township's new strategic plan reflects what residents, business owners and other stakeholders have told us. To that end, we're inviting you to share your thoughts on the priorities we've drafted based on what you've told us.

We hope you'll take time to tell us how important priorities in the following areas are to you:

- Parks and trails
- Land use and economic development
- Village character and development
- Preservation of the Thornapple River
- Transportation and safety
- Township processes and organization

The online survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and is available at [connectingcascade.com](https://www.connectingcascade.com). Don't delay – **the survey ends July 5.**

For more information about the strategic planning process, including results of the first community survey, visit [connectingcascade.com](https://www.connectingcascade.com).





## Library Celebrates 25 Years in Current Location with Eye Toward Updates Both Inside and Outside

Did you know the KDL – Cascade Township Branch and the Township have partnered to provide library and recreational services in the current location for more than 25 years?

As the library celebrates this quarter-century milestone, it recognizes updates are needed to ensure it can continue to serve the community's needs today and well into the future. A 2018 needs inventory showed the following:

- Inadequate and outdated lighting
- Damage to external doors
- Worn carpeting, paint and wall coverings
- Roof damage
- Outdated and worn furnishings

KDL connected with patrons through an idea board to offer suggestions on needed updates. Ideas included everything from a taco bar to expanded indoor and outdoor spaces, as well as additional seating, expanded new release displays, a fireplace, more natural light and keeping the cozy feel.

These needs were provided to local firm Progressive AE to create an initial updated design proposal, including:

- Upgrading the lighting system and doors.
- Relocating the children's area to the opposite side of the library so it's closer to the fish tank.
- Removing two interior walls to create more space for toddler, preschool and school-age activities.
- Modifying the current shelving height to allow for more natural light and improved access.
- Slightly increasing the size of the staff workroom and breakroom to accommodate increased staff numbers.
- Slightly increasing the book sale area.
- Relocating the service desk for improved sightlines.
- Upgrading bathrooms and increasing accessibility.

Funding for this project would come from the Township's current millage funding. If the Township Board approves the plan, the next step is to secure an architectural firm.

### Outdoor gardens and activity space

The library team works to use its beautiful grounds to expand offerings, including story walks, scavenger hunts, teen zones and outdoor concerts, in partnership with the Cascade Downtown Development Authority. Community members also use the nearby green spaces for picnics.

However, the outdoor space presents challenges. Near the library building, the grass is frequently wet from rain and watering, resulting in water pools and puddles. The broader grassy space frequently dries out and provides the perfect habitat for ant colonies, making it less than ideal for sitting.

For a number of years, Friends of the Cascade Library has collected money from its regular book sales, Chapter Two Bookstore and eBay shop for an outdoor gathering space. The group paid for an initial outdoor space master plan and, following bids from several companies, selected local firm Native Edge to design a space where:

- People could gather safely, surrounded by nature.
- Larger events could be held.
- Special events such as concerts could be hosted.
- People, particularly children, could learn and explore.
- Community members could picnic.
- Environmental stewardship would be considered.

The master plan is divided into three main phases of work:

- Phase One includes the area nearest the library and calls for accessible sidewalks for easy traveling to a story time meeting space and a picnic area, featuring

# Friends of Cascade Library Selects Three Scholarship Winners

Friends of the Cascade Library recently awarded \$1,500 scholarships each to three outstanding seniors in the Forest Hills Public School District. In addition to academic achievement, criteria focused on community service and a commitment to volunteering, especially within KDL.

The community involvement of the winners and other applicants was particularly commendable considering barriers introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Debbie Straub, scholarship program administrator and past president of Friends of the Cascade Library.

"These young leaders were out volunteering their time and talents to help others," Straub said. "It's a form of generous courage that needs to be acknowledged and appreciated."



**Anika Deshpande**

**School:** Forest Hills Eastern

**GPA:** 4.357

**College:** University of Michigan, biopsychology, cognition and neuroscience

**Volunteer/Activities:** Kids' Food Basket, KDL – Plainfield Township Branch, Kumon Math and Reading Center, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park

One of Anika's teachers described her as "a truly insightful, curious and perceptive individual ... who carries an air of steadiness of character and firmness of purpose."



**Claire van Zelst**

**School:** Forest Hills Northern High School

**GPA:** 4.000 GPA

**College:** Calvin University, elementary or special education

**Volunteer/Activities:** Friends of the Cascade Library, yearbook editor-in-chief, National Honor Society member, church youth group leader, Girl Scouts, part-time job

Claire was a joy to have working with us," said Laurel Ingram, Claire's volunteer supervisor. "She was willing to take on new tasks and worked seamlessly alongside our seasoned volunteers."



**Benjamin Zorn**

**School:** Forest Hills Central

**GPA:** 4.169

**College:** Ferris State University, secondary education

**Volunteer/Activities:** KDL – Cascade Township Branch, Family Promise, wheelchair sports camp disc golf coach, swim team, student council and marching/concert bands

KDL's teen volunteer coordinator says: "Benji has been an incredible volunteer. Every librarian who has worked with him has commented on his enthusiasm, professionalism and how it is an absolute joy to have him as a volunteer."

*The scholarship program launched in 2008 as a tribute to Marilyn Meyer, a founding member of Friends of the Cascade Library, in partnership with an anonymous donor. The group began awarding two scholarships and, this year, increased to three thanks to a generous donor.*

native plants and water gardens. It also includes exploratory pathways into the existing wooded area.

- Phase Two expands the sidewalk beyond the woods and adds more green space for gathering or lawn games and a pavilion or amphitheater.
- Phase Three extends the sidewalk entirely around the building and creates additional native plant areas and smaller tabled spaces for eating, studying and socializing.

The Friends of the Cascade Library board recently voted to fund the entire first phase of the project if approved by the Township Board. Once public feedback is received via a survey, the Board will consider authorizing the use of the land for the project. It's anticipated the remaining two phases will be funded from private sources and donations.

To learn more about the project and complete a feedback survey, visit [cascadetwp.com](http://cascadetwp.com).





# Join the July 4th Parade!

**Enter a float, rev up your car, decorate your bike, dress up your pet, promote your business**

## Time to Celebrate

A bike parade will kick off the Cascade Township July 4th Celebration at 10 a.m. Monday, July 4. Decorate anything that moves – bikes, wagons, strollers, scooters and more – and meet us at 8:30 a.m. at Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, 6655 Cascade Road SE.

Bike parade participants 14 and younger must wear a bike helmet per Cascade Township ordinance.

The famous community parade starts at 10:30 a.m. and includes vehicles, floats, fire trucks and a community march. The parade route will start at Cascade Road and Burton Street and end at 28th Street and Thornhills Avenue. Participants are asked to meet at the parade and march staging area at 8:30 a.m. at Thornapple Covenant Church, 6595 Cascade Road SE.

Portions of the roads along the parade route and all of Old 28th Street will be closed 9:30 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m. These sections are Cascade Road from Burton Street to Thornapple River Drive and 28th Street from Cascade to Thornhills.

Games, carnival rides and music by Signal Point Band will begin at 11:30 a.m. Be sure to check out the giant book sale hosted by Friends of the Cascade Library 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be over 20,000 sorted books offered in all categories and at amazing prices worth celebrating, including bag sales and further price reductions beginning at 1 p.m. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Cascade library and additional literacy programs across the KDL system.

Join us at dusk as we celebrate Independence Day with a bang. Watch the fireworks in Ada from any location in downtown Ada or at Legacy Park, 7430 River St. SE.

## July 4th Parade Float Contest

Cascade Township will again hold a July 4th parade float contest, challenging residents, neighborhoods, faith groups and businesses to come up with unique and fun floats. Get creative and grab streamers, balloons, flags, crepe paper, ribbons and anything else festive.

This year's float contest will offer two categories:

- Families and neighborhoods
- Faith groups, businesses and other organizations

Meet us at 8:30 a.m. Monday, July 4 at Thornapple Covenant Church, 6595 Cascade Road SE, for judging based on spirit and creativity. No sign-ups are necessary.

Winners in each category will **receive a trophy** and get to put the **“winner” banner on their float during the parade**. Winners will also receive **recognition on the Township’s Facebook page and in its fall newsletter**.

One float or vehicle per family, organization or neighborhood. Please note candy throwing from floats and vehicles is not allowed. Anything handed out must be done by walkers.

## Fireworks Reminder

If you plan to set off fireworks for the Fourth of July holiday, please inform your neighbors. Military veterans, young children and pets may be negatively impacted by fireworks. Please be conscious of creating fire hazards for your neighbors and of the Township noise ordinance. Remember: It's illegal to ignite fireworks on public property.

# Cascade Township

# July 4th Celebration

## Giant Book Sale 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cascade Township Library parking lot, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE

## Parades 10-11 a.m.

Bike parade starts at 10 a.m. from Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church. Community parade begins immediately following bike parade from Thornapple Covenant Church. Route starts at Cascade & Burton and ends at 28th & Thornhills.



## Games, Rides & Music 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Cascade Township Library parking lot, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE

- ★ Music by Signal Point
- ★ Bumper Cars
- ★ Giant Inflatables
- ★ Petting Zoo
- ★ Face Painting
- ★ Trackless Train
- ★ Rock Walls
- ★ Quad Bungee
- ★ Bounce House
- ★ Soccer Darts
- ★ Rings of Pony Rides
- ★ Dixie Twister
- ★ Dual Zipline
- ★ Inflatable Mini Golf
- ★ Turbo Tubs
- ★ Much More!



## Fireworks Dusk

Viewing available from any location in downtown Ada or at Legacy Park, 7430 River St. SE.



### Fire Cracker Sponsors



### Sparkler Sponsors

Sunrise of Cascade  
Kingsland Ace Hardware  
Meijer (gift card)  
Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church  
Fowling Warehouse Grand Rapids  
First Wok Cascade

R-Athletics  
Noah's Pet Cemetery  
Cascade Hospital for Animals  
Snow Avenue Greenhouse  
Recycling Concepts of West MI

Thornapple River Nursery  
esmile  
Quality Air  
Culver's Restaurant  
Thornwood Veterinary Clinic & Kennel  
Betten Imports

### Other Sponsors

Costco Wholesale

### Special Thanks

D&W  
Maynard's Water Conditioning  
Thornapple Covenant Church

Noto's  
Country Fresh  
Pepsi



## Meet the 2022 Grand Marshal

# Sandy Kingsland

Born and raised in Cascade, Sandy Kingsland started helping in his parents' hardware store at just 10 years old. He happily broke down boxes, stocked shelves and helped customers as needed. From a young age, he was always ready to step in and do what he could to serve the Cascade community.

Throughout his life, Kingsland continued to work at the family store, which was founded in 1950 and quickly became a staple of Cascade Township. He eventually attended business school and took over the business his parents had started.

As the Cascade community continued to grow, so did Kingsland Ace Hardware and Rental. The store began to offer new products and services to meet changing needs and best serve the community, just as it always had. Kingsland's wife, his partner in life and in business, Diana, joined him full time and helped him grow their business into the community resource it is today.

***"I've had a good life in Cascade – it has been good to me and to my family."***

Community-oriented as an individual and a business owner, Kingsland always found opportunities to give back to the community in the way he knew best: lending a hand.



From donating supplies to help build Leslie E. Tassell Park to supporting the Cascade Township Fire Department's participation in community events to holding ongoing can drives for veterans, Kingsland is always ready to serve the Cascade community.

This generosity and neighborliness are traits Kingsland says he developed simply from living in Cascade. Even as the township has grown from a small town where everyone knew everyone to a larger community filled with new faces, the sense of camaraderie and desire to help others has remained an integral part of the township.

Kingsland Ace Hardware and Rental recently moved in to the third generation of ownership, with Kingsland's son, Scott, and daughter-in-law, Emily, taking a larger role in the family business. In his newfound retirement, Kingsland enjoys spending as much time as possible outside, whether fishing, caring for his yard or tackling a new home project.

Be sure to wave hello to this year's grand marshal during the July 4th Celebration!



**Enter a float, rev up your car, decorate your bike, dress up your pet, promote your business!**

#### Categories:

- \* Families and neighborhoods
- \* Faith groups, businesses and other organizations

Meet us at 8:30 a.m. at Thornapple Covenant Church, 6595 Cascade Road SE, for judging based on spirit and creativity. No sign-ups are necessary.

Winners in each category will receive a **trophy** and get to put the **"winner" banner** on their float during the parade. Winners will also receive recognition on the **Township's Facebook page** and in its **fall newsletter**.

Learn more at [cascadetwp.com](http://cascadetwp.com)

# Update on Parks Master Plan

We appreciate all the residents, business owners and community members who have participated in our parks master planning process, which included surveys, public meetings and focus group meetings. We received 970 responses to the survey completed last fall – a significant increase over the 170 responses received in 2014.

The 2021 survey revealed the following as the top three priorities for the updated parks master plan:

- Maintenance of existing parks and facilities
- Additional trails and pathways
- New parks and facilities

The survey also showed the following as priorities:

- Acquisition of new park property
- Restroom facilities
- New amenities in existing parks, if additional funding is available. These include spaces for nature-based play, pickleball, pools/splash pads, children's play equipment, an amphitheater or even an ice rink.

- Small neighborhood parks, natural areas, trails and waterfront parks
- Programming, especially nature-based, educational and children's

Every five years, townships and cities update their parks master plan. In Cascade Township, with assistance from the Troyer Group, the updated plan will provide guidance for the next five years and beyond.

The plan will include goals and strategies for existing parks, acquisition, improvement projects, programming, funding, operations and maintenance. An implementation plan will be created to help achieve goals and strategies. The master plan will also enable the Township to be eligible for Michigan Department of Natural Resources grants.

For questions about the parks master planning process, email [cascadeparks@cascadetwp.com](mailto:cascadeparks@cascadetwp.com).

Mike Reese + Ginny Wanty  
Parks Committee

## Get Out and Enjoy Peace Park – a Natural Gem

One of the best parks in West Michigan opened to the public 12 years ago: Peace Park, 198 acres of undeveloped land located at 8900 Grand River Ave.

Peace Park is an incredible place to get out and observe nature at its best. The park features open meadows, mature woodlands, wetlands, floodplains and streams with a marked trail system. The varied and steep topography provides scenic views and contact with a vast array of wildlife, including rare species like the eastern box turtle, Kentucky warbler, yellow-billed cuckoo and hooded warbler.

More than 20 years ago, residents formed the Cascade Open Space Committee to explore the idea of preserving Township land. Around the same time, Charlie and the late Sarah Homeyer pledged an annual gift matched by the Township to ensure a funding source for open space.

Various properties were considered, with the land that was to become Peace Park rising to the top. The acquisition was a joint effort of many, including the Cascade Open Space Committee, Cascade Charter Township, Land Conservancy of West Michigan, Nature Conservancy and Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Rob Beahan  
Former Township Supervisor

Peace Park took its name from the poem  
"The Peace of Wild Things,"  
by the renowned author Wendell Berry:

When despair for the world grows in me  
And I wake in the night at every sound  
In fear for what my life and children's  
lives may be.

I go lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water,  
And the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things  
Who do not task their lives with  
forethought of grief.

Ah, I come into the presence of still  
water.

And I feel above me the day bright  
stars waiting with their light.

For a time I rest in the midst of the  
world and am free.



# How You Can Help Pollinators Survive

The importance of pollinators in all aspects of nature began to surface nearly 100 years ago. In 1936, entomologist Dr. Edith Patch predicted “insect gardens” would be necessary around the country. She also believed research efforts would be more focused on the conservation of beneficial insects than on the destruction of pests, such as mosquitoes. Eighty-six years later, these predictions have become reality.

Our pollinators are facing many challenges – and they need our help. Many important pollinators, such as the Karner blue butterfly, rusty patched bumble bee and monarch butterfly, are facing extinction due to habitat destruction, climate change, pollution and pesticide use. Building and maintaining habitats can help keep these important species from going extinct.

Pollinators – moths, wasps, bees and butterflies, to name a few – are incredibly important to our ecosystem. Many are keystone species and, without them, the ecosystem or food web would be drastically different or cease to exist, with bees as the greatest of these pollinators.

Michigan has 450 different species of native bees that depend on a variety of flowers. As a result, there is a huge potential for creating all kinds of pollinator gardens. Would you consider focusing on fostering a habitat for the 20 different bumble bees in your yard or garden? You could

select and plant flowers that native bees prefer, such as purple coneflower. Many of us know monarch caterpillars eat milkweed – what food and larva sources do native moths and butterflies need?

Join Carolyn Miller, a botanical technologist at Michigan State University’s W.J. Beal Botanical Garden, to learn more about the relationship between pollinators, their food and larva plant preferences at a free workshop, The Plant and Pollinator Connection, on Friday, Aug. 12.

Learn more about the complex relationship between caterpillars and their food sources that has developed over thousands of years – it’s all about location, location, location. Increase your understanding of what you can do to create a greater diversity of pollinators in your garden space while making your garden a place where pollinators can successfully build and maintain their habitat.

The workshop, sponsored by the West Michigan Conservation Network, will take place 3-5 p.m. at Roselle Park, 1010 Grand River Drive NE, in Ada. Register at [eventbrite.com/e/plant-and-pollinator-connection-tickets-335396448807](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/plant-and-pollinator-connection-tickets-335396448807).

Ginny Wanty  
Parks Committee

## Feeding Deer Increases Their Risk of Deadly Disease

Feeding deer is oh so tempting – but did you know it’s a misdemeanor in Michigan, punishable by a fine or even jail? More importantly, it’s not good for the deer.

That’s because feeding deer increases their risk of chronic wasting disease, encouraging them to gather around a common spot where they exchange saliva and, if even one is infected, spread this horrible disease.

Commonly referred to as CWD, this fatal neurological disease is similar to mad cow disease. Death is caused by a progressively spongy deterioration of the deer’s brain, with symptoms including drastic weight loss, abnormal behavior such as trembling, drooling, excessive thirst and the inability to hold up their head. These symptoms can persist for months before the deer dies.

CWD is transmitted to other deer through the infected animal’s saliva and excrement. It is transmissible

well before the deer begins showing symptoms and, unfortunately, there is no way of detecting infection before then. The only known way to control its spread is to keep deer from congregating, whether infected or not. This is difficult even in large, rural areas. It is especially challenging in more densely populated settings such as many parts of Cascade Township.

A good example is the Burton Park area near Cascade Road and Thornapple River Drive. Experts describe an area like this – many houses interspersed among the woods – as a “perfect deer habitat.” There are also no hunters or other predators to limit the herd’s size. Additionally, milder winters have resulted in greater longevity among adult deer and better survival of offspring.

Preventing CWD in areas such as Cascade Township is a challenge in even the best of circumstances. For the health of our community’s deer, please do not feed them.

# From the Cascade Historical Society Archives:

## A Photograph of George Gorham Walking Home in 1909

**G**eorge Gorham came to Cascade in 1847 at the age of 16, an orphan of unknown parents. He was adopted by the Rev. Erie Prince, who had purchased considerable acreage on the east side of the Thornapple River. In 1859, Price bequeathed all his property, "both landed and personal," to Gorham, explicitly disowning his wife, Caroline, and their son, Lucas, who were by that time living in Indiana.

Prince lived with Gorham and his wife, Lucy Johnson Gorham, until his death at age 65 in summer 1862. He is buried, against his wishes, in Cascade Cemetery, which occupies land that was formerly part of his farm.

A successful farmer, Gorham became active in local government, serving as Cascade Township treasurer in the 1870s. He was the Township clerk when his house burned down in 1900, resulting in the loss of many Township records. He died in the home of his daughter, Nettie Gorham Patterson, in 1919, at the age of 88. He and Lucy are buried in Cascade Cemetery.



The photo shows Gorham walking up the hill east of the village. Behind him is the old iron bridge, which would be swept into the river by a massive ice jam in the early 1920s and be replaced by a concrete structure. On the other side of the bridge, several buildings in the village are still standing today and include (left to right): G.P. Stark's general store (now the Gathering Place), Cascade Township Hall (now home to the Cascade Historical Society) and the chapel of Cascade Christian Church.

For additional photos and stories about early Cascade, go to [yourhistoryonline.com](http://yourhistoryonline.com) and type in a name, place or event in the search bar at the bottom of the page. Photos and artifacts also can be viewed at the original Cascade Township Hall near the northwest corner of Cascade Road and Thornapple River Drive, open for Cascade Historical Society meetings at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

# Summer Tax Bills and Notices Arriving in July

Summer 2022 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed July 1.

Summer taxes are due Sept. 14. If you do not receive a tax statement during July, check the Township's website – [cascadetwp.com](http://cascadetwp.com) – and click on "Property/Parcel Lookup" on the left or call the Township 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 you allow seven days to ensure timely delivery, especially for bank bill pay. Reminder: The Township does not accept a postmark as proof of timeliness. All payments must be received in the Treasurer's Office by 5 p.m. on the date they are due.

To pay your summer taxes online, visit: [bit.ly/2RNtje1](https://bit.ly/2RNtje1).

Check your property tax status 24/7 at [cascadetwp.com](http://cascadetwp.com) by following these steps:

- Click on "Property/Parcel Lookup" on the left.
- Search "Municipal Records By" at the top.
- Click on the drop-down arrow to select "Data Search" (Address, Name, Parcel Number).
- Double click on selected parcel.
- Click Tax Information tab.

Attention, travelers: If you will be away this summer, please call the Treasurer's Office to provide your email and temporary address so we can get your tax bill to you in a timely manner. Call 616.949.6944.

## Tax deferment

The summer tax deferment program allows qualifying residents to pay summer taxes after they receive a property tax credit refund from the state. To qualify for this deferment, the household income must not exceed \$40,000 and the taxpayer must be 62 or older or a paraplegic, quadriplegic, totally disabled, blind, an eligible military service member, veteran or widow or widower of a veteran.

Deferment application forms are available in the Treasurer's Office at Township Hall, 5920 Tahoe Drive SE, through Sept. 14. The deferment period covers only one year, so residents must reapply each year.

Have a safe summer.

Kenneth B. Peirce  
Cascade Charter Township Treasurer



## Learn How to Prevent Catalytic Converter Thefts

Greetings from your community police officer.

I hope everyone had a great winter. I, for one, cannot be happier to finally get some warm weather coming through. As the temperature rises, so does the number of calls for service at the Sheriff's Office.

One particular crime that has been on the rise is catalytic converter thefts. If you are unfamiliar, a catalytic converter is found underneath your car attached to the exhaust pipe with bolts. It's a vital element of your car's exhaust system because it reduces the emission of harmful compounds found in car exhaust.

Catalytic converters contain metals that fetch a high price at scrap yards. They are being removed in minutes using a Sawzall or other power tools. Some thieves have been bold enough to remove catalytic converters in busy parking lots. If stolen, a catalytic converter can cost between \$1,500 to \$3,000 to replace.

Here are a few ways to prevent your catalytic converter from being removed:

- Purchase an anti-theft device. There are a variety of manufacturers that sell anti-theft devices for catalytic converters.
- Park in secure areas. If you can, park overnight in a locked garage or in a well-lit enclosed lot. If you're parking in a driveway, consider installing motion sensor lights. If you're parking on the street, try to pick a well-lit spot with plenty of traffic.

You will know if your catalytic converter has been taken by the loud roaring and sputtering sounds coming from your vehicle. If your catalytic converter gets taken, please report it. The Kent County Sheriff's Office is working with local scrap yards in an attempt to track down the thieves.

If you see or hear anything suspicious, take notes, try to get a license plate and report it to local law enforcement.

Have a great summer and, most importantly, stay safe!

Deputy Omar Dieppa  
Omar.Dieppa@kentcountymi.gov  
616.632.6435

## Kent District Library Offering Fun for All Ages Throughout the Summer

Summer Wonder season has started at Kent District Library and goes through Aug. 13. Open to all ages, the program invites participants to log their reading and other activities for 30 days and then visit the library to pick up prizes.

KDL also is offering a lineup of new and returning events for all ages. In addition to the events below, times and dates are published on the library's website – [kdl.org](http://kdl.org) – and in its printed summer brochure.

Community members can look forward to magic shows, music and dance programs and cultural learning events throughout the summer. Featured performers will include Native American dancers Marca and Reg Pettibone at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 30, Tom Plunkard's Amazing Adventures magic show at 10 a.m. Friday, July 29 and Motherland House concert at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 4. The season concludes with a Summer Wonder Bash at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 11.

Infants and children up to age 5 can continue their familiar routines with Babytime on Mondays and Storytime on Tuesdays in June and July. Special programming for this age group includes the long-awaited return of Touch a Truck on June 16 and Music Moves Us: Being Bilingual Rocks on July 22.

Children ages 5-10 can enjoy a lineup of events on select Wednesdays. Special activities include Drawing Sea Creatures on June 8, Out of this World Astronomy on July 13 and Exotic Zoo on July 20.

All crafters ages 5-17 are encouraged to sell their wares at the Kids and Teens Craft Show on July 21. Applications are available at the library.

Teens can look forward to The Wonderful World of Henna on June 7, Make a Sock Gnome on June 14, Dragon Ball Food on June 21, Swordsmanship on July 12 and Building Brick Mania on July 26.

Adults are welcome to join local French-trained pastry chef Susan VandenBerg on July 26 for a treat baking demonstration featuring Michigan fruits.

Check out KDL's website – [kdl.org](http://kdl.org) – Facebook page and digital sign for any changes to this programming.



## Pool Safety: Know Before You Install

Thinking about adding a swimming pool on your property? The Cascade Township Inspections team has some tips for you to ensure installation is done correctly and required safety measures are in place so you can enjoy your pool for many years to come.

First, make sure the pool installer is licensed and obtains a permit from the Township's Building Inspections Department so the team can verify all safety items are in place. Also, ask about barrier and alarm requirements before entering into a contract.

Swimming pools – inground, above ground and portable – are regulated under the 2015 Michigan Residential Code, which is designed to provide protection to children through the use of barriers. Requirements for barriers – most commonly fences – include height, type, gates and latches. It's best to work directly with a pool installer who is familiar with all of the code requirements. The code also requires

alarms on doors and windows of the home that are part of that enclosure.

A newer option for inground pools features an automatic safety cover. This approved device eliminates the need for a fence and alarms. Many new pool installations in Cascade Township and surrounding communities include an automatic safety cover, so it's common to see a pool without a fence.

For above-ground pools, it's common for the sidewall height to be taller than 48 inches. This serves as a barrier when used with an approved ladder that can be secured when not in use. Before adding a deck around an above-ground pool, make sure the installer is familiar with all barrier requirements and designs the structure to comply.

For more information, contact the Cascade Township Inspections team at 616.949.3765.

## Cascade Community Foundation Focuses on Addiction and Seeks Personal Stories

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The Cascade Community Foundation recently announced it would support addiction intervention and support services for residents in Cascade Township and neighboring communities through the Joyce and Thomas Wisner Fund.

The Foundation also is seeking individuals willing to share their addiction story for the Q&A Livestream series, which begins filming this fall. The upcoming season of the series will help amplify the urgency of addiction, Cascade Community Foundation CEO told attendees at the organization's LaunchPad lunch event this spring.

“Based on survey feedback, it's clear addiction, in a multitude of forms, is wreaking havoc in our community,” Swan said. “Over the past couple of years, our board of directors and donors have supported a renewed effort for this organization to lead in identifying, amplifying and investing in urgent and beneficial areas of need. We intend to do just that this fall through both our grantmaking and online video series.”

Plans include awarding a sizable portion of the organization's grantmaking funds toward available and new resources for residents early next year. This summer, the Foundation will request local nonprofits submit proposals on how they will best impact the community through the lens of addiction.

“This illness takes on many forms, from substance use to devices and beyond,” Swan said. “It's not only drugs and alcohol, and that's why Q&A Livestream is so beneficial. It helps raise awareness about addiction in all of its forms.”

Residents interested in providing their personal story for Q&A Livestream are encouraged to email [addiction@cascadecommunityfoundation.com](mailto:addiction@cascadecommunityfoundation.com) for more information.

# Marina & Boating Safety

Boats can be a great source of summer fun and leisure. But, boaters, swimmers, and marina staff must be aware of dangers in and around the water. Electrical hazards and carbon monoxide (CO) bring unique risks to the boating world. Learn to protect people and pets from these dangers.

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- » Never allow swimming near the boat, marina, or launching ramp. Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina's wiring. This can put anyone at risk of electrical shock drownings (ESD).
- » Be sure your boat is well maintained. Have it inspected each year. Ask a qualified marine electrician to do this job.
- » Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and equipment leakage circuit interrupters (ELCIs) should be installed and tested monthly. Run tests to find out if electrical current is leaking from the boat.
- » Only use cords intended for marine use. Never use household cords near water.
- » Know where your main breakers are on both the boat and the shore power source. This will help you respond quickly in an emergency.

## CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

- » Poorly tuned engines produce more CO. Keep your engine properly maintained. Follow manufacturer's instructions for service.
- » Proper ventilation for engine and generator exhaust vents must be clear and pipes should be inspected for leaks.
- » Get into fresh air right away and get help if you feel symptoms of CO poisoning. These include headache, fatigue, confusion, dizziness, nausea, or seizures. The symptoms can be similar to seasickness. Assume it is CO exposure until you are sure the boat is safe.
- » Do not swim near the boat's exhaust vents. CO accumulates there.
- » Install CO alarms inside your boat. Test CO alarms before each trip.
- » Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- » If the CO alarm sounds, move to a fresh air location right away.



## KNOW THE RISKS!

Electrical shock drownings can occur when marina electrical systems leak electrical current into the water. Boats can also serve as the source of an electrical leakage. Leakage can cause a shock that can injure, disable, or kill a person.

Carbon Monoxide is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is often called the "invisible killer." CO is created when fuels such as gasoline, diesel, or propane do not burn fully. CO is also produced when wood or charcoal is burned.

Sources of CO on your boat may include engines, gas generators, and cooking ranges. Space and water heaters can also be sources of CO. CO can collect anywhere in or around a boat. The gas is harmful to both people and to pets.

## FACT

**CO can remain in or around your boat at unsafe levels even if the engine has been turned off.**



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



CASCADE TOWNSHIP  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

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616.949.1320

# Fireworks Safety

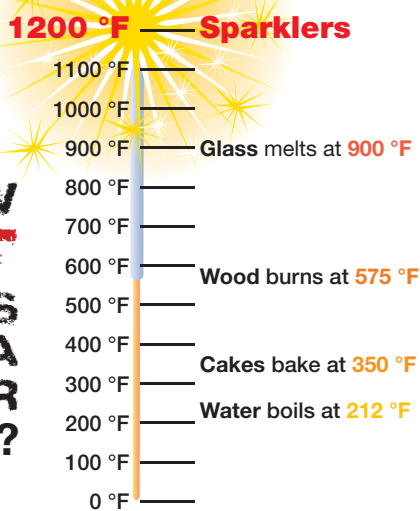


**FIREWORKS** are often used to mark special events and holidays. The only safe way to view fireworks is to attend a professional show. With many professional firework shows being canceled this year, it is important to know that **fireworks are not safe in the hands of consumers**. Fireworks cause thousands of injuries each year.

### A few ideas to get into the patriotic spirit, without fireworks:

1. Use glow sticks, they glow in the dark and are a safe alternative to a sparkler. Fun for all ages.
2. Loud and proud. Noise makers are sure to make a statement. They can be found at local party supply stores or make your own.
3. Outdoor movie night. Set up a screen and projector. Don't forget the bugspray!
4. Red, white and blue silly string...fun for all ages.
5. Make a patriotic craft with the family.
6. Throw a birthday party for the USA, and don't forget the cake.

**HOW HOT DOES A SPARKLER BURN?**



## FACTS

- ❗ More than 19,500 reported fires are started by fireworks annually.
- ❗ Burns account for 44% of the 9,100 injuries treated in emergency rooms seen in the month around July 4.
- ❗ Half of the fireworks injuries seen at emergency rooms were extremities: hand, finger, or leg. One-third were to the eye or other parts of the head.
- ❗ Children ages 10–14 had the highest rate of fireworks injury, with more than one-third (36%) of the victims of fireworks injuries under age 15.
- ❗ Sparklers account for roughly one-quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) 2018 Fireworks Annual Report



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



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# Dead Trees Keep Our Forests Healthy

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Our amazing Michigan forests are some of the most diverse in the country, covering more than 54 percent of our state – both public and private ownership – and including over 100 species of trees. Many of us think of our forests as always staying the same, filled with green, living trees. In reality, our forests are comprised of much more, including dead trees that play an important role in the balance of nature and the health of an ecosystem.

We are very fortunate our Cascade parks are endowed with so many dead trees – both standing and fallen – scattered throughout our parks system. To some, our forests look a bit unkept. While dead trees may not be the most attractive part of a forest, they are essential to its health. Logs (dead trees on the ground) and snags (standing dead trees) provide food, protection and a habitat for many parts of the food web. The decomposition process of snags and logs plays a vital role in the ecosystem and aids new plant growth by returning important nutrients to the ecosystem, helping to create biodiversity for everyone to enjoy.

Many different forces of nature knock down trees: straight-line winds, thunderstorms and even snowstorms. When this happens, forested areas may look devastated and lifeless. However, looking closely at these forest areas, you will find many vital ecological processes are happening. The woody debris on the forest floor can reduce soil erosion and provide food for many organisms, including fungi, trees and all kinds of plants. It also helps the forest retain moisture and trap fallen leaves, which in turn decompose into rich, organic matter. Decaying woody debris on the forest floor becomes a place where the ecosystem can recycle nutrients and is the link that keeps the food web in motion.

It is also important to understand dead wood – branches

and full trees – is a vital ingredient required to re-establish the next forest. Dead and decaying wood is critical to the survival of virtually every living creature that calls the forest its home, providing essential habitat in the form of food and shelter. This is not only important to our local forests but also globally since dead wood releases its carbon slowly rather than as an eruption of carbon, such as during a forest fire. In this way, slowly decaying dead wood delays global warming. If we remove it or burn it, the rapid oxidation of the wood increases the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Maintaining dead wood in the forest also improves soil fertility, especially in areas of nutrient-poor soil. Nitrogen and biological nutrients in the soil are important to healthy trees, speeding their growth. The woody debris, trapping leaves and other material, acts like a mulch, serving the same purposes in the forest soil as it does in our gardens.

The next time you see fallen trees in a woodland, inspect them and look for evidence of decomposers, such as algal or lichen, at work. These decomposers form the basis of the entire forest food web. Fallen wood covered with plant growth is actually quite beautiful any time of the year. Just remember large numbers of dead and decaying trees do not mean a forest is “out of balance.” Instead, they play a vital role in forest ecosystems by providing wildlife habitats, cycling and recycling nutrients, aiding plant regeneration, decreasing erosion and influencing drainage, soil moisture and carbon storage.

Maybe you should hug a tree today – a dead tree.

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Dr. Matthew Douglas  
Parks Committee