

CASCADE CONNECTIONS

Cascade Charter Township Newsletter • Spring 2024

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From the **SUPERVISOR**

Grace Lesperance



Let's Get Down To Business

Dear Cascadians,

Our overall goal remains **preserving Cascade's unique character and enhancing the quality of residents' lives.**

To accomplish this goal, we have and will continue to **prioritize public safety, preserving natural spaces and parks, improvements to the village area, and administrative efficiency.** Thank you to residents, volunteers and staff who are making these collaborative efforts a reality.

Enhancing Public Safety: PFAS & High Crime Areas

Targeting High Crime Areas:

The Township is in the process of adopting a **hotel licensing ordinance**. This ordinance is a tool to crack down on the disproportionate amount of **crime and illicit activities** in and around those facilities – adjacent businesses and neighborhoods deserve no less.

PFAS Remediation: Safe water is also a matter of public safety.

The City of Grand Rapids' extension of municipal water to the remainder of the 400+ properties impacted by **PFAS** contamination from Gerald R. Ford International Airport is slated to resume. An official start date will be determined by the city.

To date, both phases of this project have been fully funded with federal and state grants. Should additional funding be needed to complete the project – including proper restoration of affected properties and roads – the Township is committed to ensuring the responsible party pays those



Preserving the unique character of Cascade is a key tenet of the updated Master Plan.

costs – not Cascade Township or its residents. This project may serve as a template for further remediation efforts.

Updating Master Plan

Another vital initiative underway – critical to preserving Cascade's unique character – is updating the Township's Master Plan.

A Master Plan is a required policy document that guides a community's future land use and infrastructure investments. It ensures short-term development decisions are consistent with the community's long-term vision and growth goals.

Cascade residents have been clear regarding development goals: preserving Cascade's unique character is a priority. However, Cascade's current Master Plan – created by previous leadership in 2019 – leaves some residential areas and open spaces extremely vulnerable to development pressure.

Left unchanged, the 2019 plan encourages growth that would drastically change those areas – particularly the neighborhoods and rural spaces east of the airport.

In fact, in its 2023 Airport Access Study, the Grand Valley Metro Council, in conjunction with the airport, actually cited Cascade's current Master Plan (which calls for industrial and commercial development south and east of the airport) as a basis for the need for multiple new M-6 expressway on/off ramps in Cascade Township.

Protecting and buffering this part of Cascade is a crucial component of updating the Master Plan.

As the Township proceeds with reviewing and approving the new Master Plan, there will be opportunities for your comments, suggestions, and observations. Your thoughts matter – I hope you actively participate.

New Farmland & Open Space Preservation Program

In response to significant public interest, the Township is establishing an exciting new voluntary program. This multi-faceted program allows property owners to retain all rights to their land, save for the development rights sold as a result of participating in the program. This preserves farms and open spaces for future generations while also compensating property owners for said rights. Township funds will be matched with existing county and federal funding to protect property from more intense development.

Administrative Efficiency

Under the direction of new Manager Jade Smith, the Board of Trustees – for the first time – hired an outside accounting firm to independently review all fund balances, expenditures, as well as internal processes and controls. This additional oversight and fresh perspective yielded an immediate – and significant – reduction in annual administrative costs. This was made possible by reducing or eliminating non-essential expenses. These adjustments allowed for an additional \$500,000 to be reallocated to tangible capital improvements in 2024. These improvements include: \$90,000 for installation and maintenance of trees along primary streets; \$100,000 for greenspace/farmland preservation; and \$100,000 for IT and cyber security.

Capital Improvement Projects

Pedestrian Improvements to Cascade Road/Thornapple River Bridge: Pedestrian access and safety improvements to the pathway portion of the Cascade Road bridge are priorities in 2024. Enhancements to east- and westbound walkways include: widening the path; installing a physical barrier between the pedestrian and traffic lane; installing a higher outer railing; and adding year-round lighting. This long-overdue project is funded entirely with state ARPA and Cascade Downtown Development Authority (DDA) funds.

Pathway Resurfacing: Last summer, approximately five miles



ABOVE: One of Cascade's picturesque farms that has stood the test of time.

LEFT: From left, Township Manager Jade Smith, Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Trustee Timmy Noordhoek and Treasurer Windy Korstange during a Personnel and Finance Committee meeting.

of existing pathway (one third of our pathway system) were repaved using existing pathway funds. This summer, existing funds will again be allocated toward maintenance of existing pathways. An additional 1.3 miles of original pathway along Spaulding will be resurfaced. Again, thank you to Mr. Max Benedict for funding pathway amenities in memoriam to the late Allen Cox, a life-long Cascade resident, and to whom a portion of the pathway on Thornapple River will soon be dedicated.

Library Outdoor Space: Friendship Park will be completed in June. The project was funded by a state RAP grant, as well as the generous support of Friends of the Cascade Library, the DDA, and private donors. Improvements include outdoor gardens with native landscaping, walking paths with benches, a pavilion, and a fountain.

Wycliffe Trailhead Park: Wycliffe Park will be completed this spring. The Building & Grounds crew has been busy removing invasive species, creating natural trails, and building a split rail fence. Play equipment and a restroom will be installed shortly.

Tuffy Tear Down/Extension of Tassel Park: Plans are progressing to tear down the Tuffy building

and replace it with a public space emphasizing (1) its proximity to the Thornapple River and (2) making that busy intersection safer for bikers and pedestrians.

Additional Village Improvements: Now in the design phase, revamping of the area around Cascade Road and 28th Street, extending to the Thornapple River, into a more walkable area with a small-town ambiance has begun. This project involves a redesign/rebuild of the large asphalt parking lot at the end of 28th Street. It also includes establishing financial incentives for businesses to improve existing building facades. This project is being funded by the DDA.

Pedestrian Bridge over I-96: Based on the engineering/design work to date, the \$3.5 million appropriation of state funding will cover the entire project (meaning no cost to taxpayers). Construction times have not yet been scheduled.

It is an honor to serve as your Supervisor and fight on your behalf. Remember – in addition to regular business hours, I have evening office hours the first Thursday of each month from 6-7 p.m. in the History Room of the Cascade Library. You can also reach me at (616) 949-1500 or glesperance@cascadetwp.com.

Spring Cleaning with Cascade

Yard waste collection dates, dropoff locations, burn permits, and more

With spring upon us, residents are encouraged to take advantage of Cascade's spring cleaning programs:

Yard Waste Dumpsters

Dumpsters will be available for yard waste disposal **Monday, April 22-Monday, April 29**. The dumpsters will be behind the **Fire Station 2 building, 2990 Buttrick Ave. SE**. 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.

Bagged Yard Waste Pickup

Bagged yard waste pick up 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 April 15-May 6**.

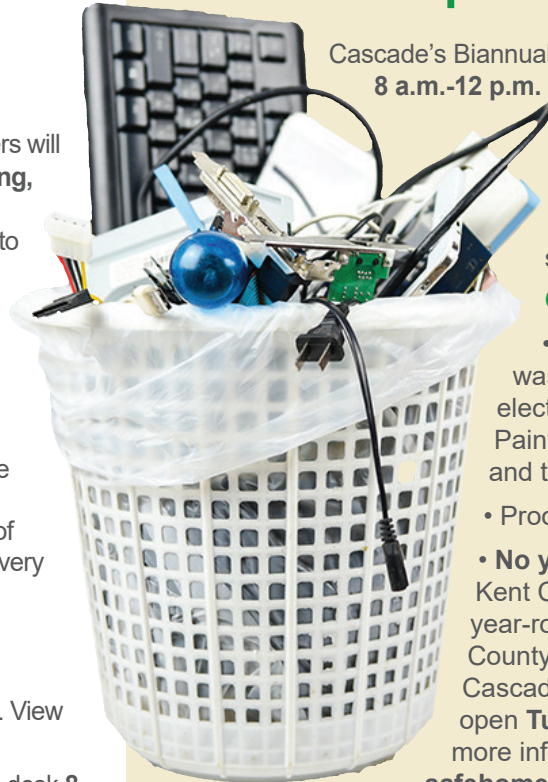
Some general requirements:

- This service is only available to residents in the restricted burn area. View map: bit.ly/CT-burn-area.
- Tags are available at the reception desk **8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays** at the Cascade Township Office, 5920 Tahoe Drive SE. Residents are limited to **20 tags**. To use tags from last year, please call the Township so your address is added to the 2024 list.
- Place yard waste near the curb by **SUNDAY AT MIDNIGHT**.
- 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 or rocks.
- Branches and stumps cannot exceed one inch in diameter and four feet in length.
- For more information, call 616.949.1500.

Burn Permits Available Online

All open burns require a permit. Did you know you can apply for a burn permit online? With virtual permitting, residents can quickly obtain a permit even when the Fire Department on an emergency call.

Cleanup Day is April 20



Cascade's Biannual Cleanup Day returns **Saturday, April 20, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.** at **Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Road SE**.

Gates close at noon, so arrive early. Residents should enter the Ada Bible Church parking lot off Cascade Road and exit on Quiggle Road. Follow signage on site.

Cleanup Day Facts

- This event is for nonhazardous household waste only, such as appliances, scrap metal, electronics for recycling and paper for shredding. Paint cans may be disposed of if they are opened and the paint is dried.

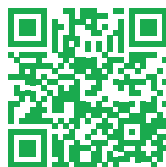
- Proof of Cascade Township residency is required.

- **No yard or hazardous waste will be accepted.** Kent County residents can now dispose of waste year-round at five disposal sites throughout the County. The SafeChem drop-off site nearest to Cascade is at 5068 Breton SE, Kentwood, and is open **Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** For more information, visit www.reimaginetrash.org/safehomes.safechem.

On-Site Services

- Arrowwaste Services will be on site to collect general trash and junk, large and small appliances and scrap metal. No yard waste or hazardous waste will be accepted.
- Valley City Electronic Recycling will be on-site for computers, televisions, small appliances, cell phones, household batteries and other electronics.
- Shred-It will be on hand to securely destroy and recycle paper documents.

All services are subject to availability, so check the Township's website – cascadetwp.com – or call **616.949.1500** – as the event nears for up-to-date information.



Scan to apply for permit or visit bit.ly/cascadetwp_burnpermit

Simply visit the Township website or scan the QR code above to apply for a permit and view Cascade's burn ordinance.

Here are some general facts:

- Open burning is generally allowed year-round in the area east of Buttrick Avenue

and south of I-96. Burning is allowed in the restricted area on the **second and fourth Saturdays of the month Dec. 1-Aug. 31**. See map at bit.ly/CT-burn-area for specifics.

- If a burn ban is in effect, the online application will not accept requests.
- Burn requests may be made up to three days in advance

Burn permit requests may still be made via phone by calling 616.949.1320.

Honoring Service and Sacrifice

Join Township, American Legion for Memorial Day Ceremony on May 27

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was first observed by communities all over the United States after the Civil War, when the nation suffered more than 620,000 military deaths (approximately 2 percent of the entire U.S. population at the time). Memorial Day remains an annual day of remembrance to honor all American veterans who gave their lives in service to this country.

Cascade Township invites the community to its annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 27.

This year's ceremony will once again



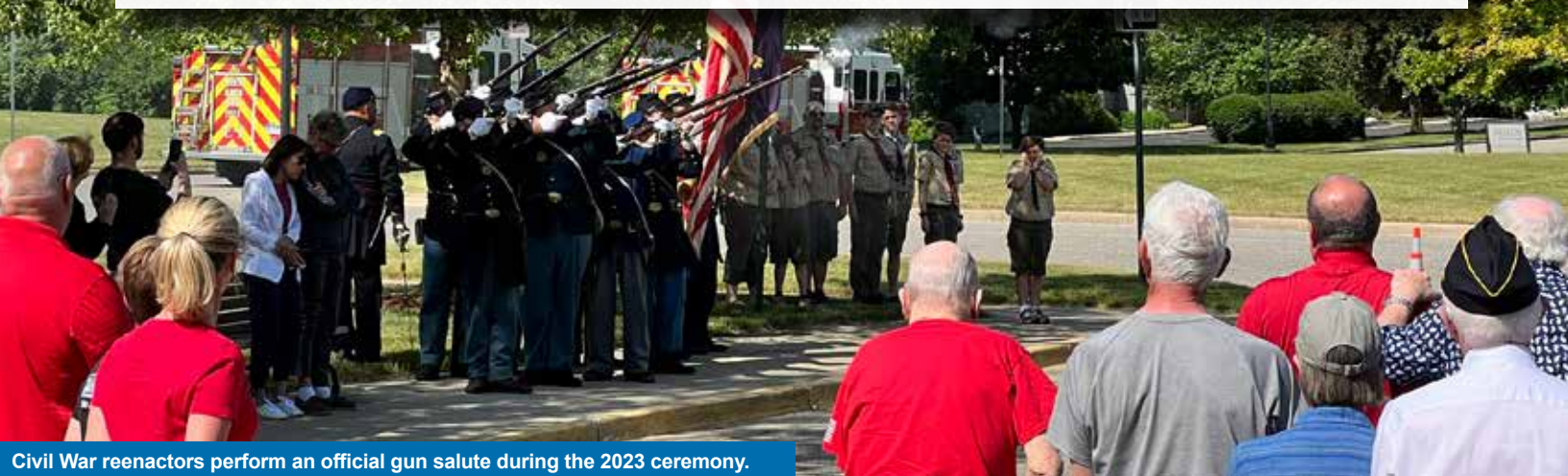
take place at 10 a.m. outside the **Cascade Library, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE.**

Guest speaker will be **Thom W. Burke, Captain, U.S. Navy, Retired.** While serving in the Navy, Burke led teams of up to 5,000, retiring in 2016 as Chief of Naval Operations Director of the

Fleet Readiness Division. Today, Burke serves as Walker City Commissioner.

Officiating the ceremony will be **Township Supervisor Grace Lesperance**, with **Tim Dieffenbach of Thornapple Community Church** providing the invocation.

The event will also recognize members of **McDonald-Osmer Post #451** of the American Legion, and include a color guard of **3rd Michigan Infantry Co. F Civil War reenactors**, a flag raising by **Boy Scout Troop 345**, and music by the **Forest Hills Central High School Jazz Band.**



Civil War reenactors perform an official gun salute during the 2023 ceremony.

DDA, Community Foundation Partner to Offer Free Workshops to Businesses

The Cascade Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has teamed up with Cascade Community Foundation (CCF) to sponsor complimentary workshops for local businesses through its Enterprise Workshop Series.

“When we spoke to local businesses and nonprofits, we learned there is a need for innovative programming to help them thrive,” said Justin Swan, Director of CCF. “Cascade’s DDA was quick to fund these workshops designed to be quick, easy, and relevant for local business leaders.”



At a pilot workshop last year, participants learned how to make short advertising videos for social media platforms like YouTube, TikTok and Instagram.

CCF Wants Your Feedback

CCF is currently soliciting feedback from local business owners for future



2024 Business Owner's Survey

Scan to share ideas on future workshop topics

workshop topics. If you're a business owner and have a topic of interest for the Enterprise Workshop Series, please visit www.CCF.Events or use the QR code and complete a survey.

Want to give back? Contact CCF at Justin@CCF.Events.

Friendship, Wycliffe Parks

Near the Finish Line



ABOVE: This rendering of Friendship Park highlights the many accessible gardens, gathering areas, paths and engagement spaces that will weave through the park. Rendering by Wes Landon | Native Edge, LLC



RIGHT: A birds-eye view of Friendship Park construction progress as of March 4. The steel framework of the custom pavilion dominates the left side of the image. Designed and engineered by Belmont-based architectural firm The Design Forum, the multi-purpose shelter and stage will feature a sustainable green roof.

Friendship Park to Provide Backdrop for Independence Day Celebration

Construction crews took advantage of this year's mild winter weather and have been hard at work for the past several months grading and excavating the open space next to the library, soon to be Cascade's newest outdoor gathering space, Friendship Park.

With a grand opening scheduled for **Saturday, June 29 at 11 a.m.**, the new park will serve as the anchor for the Township's annual Independence Day celebration.

"Our Independence Day celebration will be a great opportunity for the community to enjoy the new park. In addition to the usual festivities, we will have outdoor educational programs that showcase the park's uniqueness

and educate visitors about the many benefits of landscaping with plants native to our area," said Cascade Parks Director Melanie Manion.

Designed for all ages to gather and spend time outside, Friendship Park will feature seating areas and paths surrounded by native gardens, as well as a custom pavilion featuring a live green roof adorned with native plants.

Wycliffe Trailhead Park dedication set for May 18

Wycliffe Trailhead Park – the wooded area next to the Church on the Hill – is nearing the finish line. The Township will host an official dedication at the park **Saturday, May 18 at 11 a.m.**

Designed to maintain a natural buffer

between busy Cascade Road and surrounding neighborhoods, the park will provide safe access to the Township's pathways, as well as a natural play area.

Highlights:

- Crews and volunteers worked diligently over the past year to successfully eradicate invasive species that had overtaken the woods (Tree of Heaven and Black Locust).
- A split rail fence was installed to keep children away from Cascade Road.
- Weather permitting, playground equipment and woodchips will be installed in April.
- A year-round restroom will be constructed this spring.

2024 a Big Year for Public Works, Maintenance

Cascade Road Pedestrian Bridge over the Thornapple

The Township and Kent County Road Commission are finalizing plans to reconstruct the pedestrian paths on both sides of Cascade Road over the Thornapple River, with work expected to begin this summer. This project is being funded entirely with state ARPA grants and contributions from Cascade’s Downtown Development Authority.



According to Trustee Timmy Noordhoek, “this much-anticipated 2024 project is critical to making crossing the river safer for pedestrians without restricting traffic flow.”

Burton St. Pedestrian Bridge

Work continues as the Kent County Road Commission and MDOT finalize plans for the Burton Street pedestrian bridge over Interstate 96.



TOP: The Township is working closely with the County Road Commission to increase pedestrian safety when crossing the Cascade Road bridge.

LEFT: Look for a prefabricated pedestrian truss bridge similar to this design to span Interstate I-96 at Burton Street in the near future.

This major infrastructure project is possible due to Cascade’s request for and receipt of \$3.5 million in one-time state funding made available last year for infrastructure projects. “Based on current engineering, the state funding is more than enough to fund the entire project,” said Trustee Timmy Noordhoek. “We have no plans or desire to put any taxpayer dollars toward this project.” Construction is expected in early 2025.

Pathway Maintenance and Improvements

Following last summer’s long-overdue repaving of approximately five miles of original pathways along Cascade Road and Buttrick Avenue, the Township is moving forward with the repaving of another 1.14 miles of original (and eroded) pathways this summer.

This next phase includes pathways along Burton Street west – from Highridge Lane to Spaulding – and north along Spaulding Avenue.

Funding for these pathway maintenance projects comes from the existing pathways mileage.

Upkeep of Public Spaces

Be on the lookout for new signage throughout Cascade’s trails and parks. “This year there will be a strong focus on improving signage at our parks,” said Trustee John Shipley, “This includes converting to low-maintenance entry signs, improving way-finding signs and replacing worn-out and illegible miscellaneous signs.”

The Township is also purchasing several vehicles to replace costly and aging trucks. This includes replacing the Township’s 22-year-old dump truck.

According to Shipley, “These purchases were all bought with existing funds, at no additional cost to tax payers. They will reduce repair costs, while improving fuel efficiency and work performance.”

The Township is also purchasing

several pieces of equipment that were historically rented or done through outside contractors, including a covered trailer and wood chipper.

The wood chipper will be used extensively in the construction of Wycliffe Trailhead Park and with storm debris. The covered trailer will be used to build efficiency into the mowing crew, while also helping with the transportation of plants and supplies.

Other improvements on the docket include:

- Watermain construction in the Phase 2 area and continued remediation in the Phase 1 area of the Burger-Goodwood neighborhood.
- Sidewalk repair within the village area to remedy defects and improve safety.
- Township Office and Cascade Library parking lot resurfacing.

Thornapple TALES

Quirky Stories From Cascade's Famous Waterway

The Thornapple River is the subject of a new exhibit in the Cascade Historical Museum. Photos, illustrations, maps, and artifacts tell the story of the river's history, and the ways its waters, bridges and dams continue to shape life in this community. The public is invited to explore the museum exhibit at 2 p.m. March 24. With so many stories to tell, a few had to be left out of the exhibit. Two of those anecdotes are shared here.

Charles Belknap's Boyhood Adventure on the Thornapple

Charles Belknap's family settled in Grand Rapids in 1853, when he was 8 years old. He grew up to be a Civil War hero, firefighter, businessman, U.S. Congressman, the mayor of Grand Rapids, and a talented writer. In 1922 he published ***The Yesterdays of Grand Rapids***, a collection of his memoirs, many of which were about his boyhood in the small settlement that was quickly growing into a busy city. "Shooting Under a Light on the Thornapple," a chapter in his book, is an account of deer hunting with pioneer and fur trader Rix Robinson.



Photos courtesy of Grand Rapids Public Museum | Above: Charles Belknap in his later years. Top: A stretch of the Thornapple River in 1957.

It was the promise of a night when one's blood would tingle at the weird sounds and hair respond to every breath from the dark shadows, that called us to the Thornapple. That night was my first under a light. Rix went with us. I was only a passenger. There was not a word spoken – no splash of paddle. Bits of fog lifted from the water and floated away, rabbits raced about on the banks, flocks of ducks went up with a whir almost from under the boat.

At one place two men in a skiff with a jack light were spearing bass and pike. When we passed Charlie Holt's clearing his watchdog awakened the woods. Then we landed and waited for the moon to get out of the sky before approaching the big deer lick. It was near midnight when we saw two shining balls of fire and then the outlines of a doe not fifty feet away, then shortly two fawns standing knee-deep in a bunch of cattails. Rix never would shoot a doe and how glad I was. But soon two balls of fire so startled me that I did not see anything else and the crash of Rix's gun nearly sent the canoe over.

Step into the PAST

at Cascade Christian Church and Historical Society Open Houses

Join the Cascade and Ada Historical Societies on Sunday, March 24 for two events looking back into the history of Cascade:

110 Years in Cascade: One Family's Memories

1 - 2 p.m. March 24

**Cascade Christian Church Chapel
• Orange Avenue**

Bill Bos, a longtime resident and owner of Bos Greenhouse & Farms, a centennial farm still operating in the same location on Spaulding Avenue today, will share family stories and photographs of life in Cascade over the last century as Cascade changed from forests and farms to the suburban community it is today.

Following the presentation Cascade Christian Church chapel, built in 1880, will open its doors to the public, with volunteers available to share details of its history and restoration – including the stained-glass windows commemorating local families.



Bill Bos' presentation includes vintage photos, including this one of his father, William Bos, Sr., at the family farm on Spaulding Avenue.

Museum Open House: History of the Thornapple

2 - 4 p.m. March 24

**Cascade Historical Museum
2839 Thornapple River Drive**

The Cascade Historical Museum (the old township hall) will also be open to the public – featuring a

collection of original photographs, artifacts and exhibits about the community's past, including a new exhibit focusing on the Thornapple River.

Refreshments will be provided by the Ada Historical Society. We hope to see you there.

Thornapple Tales: Moses in the Mud

In September 1968, the backwaters of the Ada Dam were lowered for a dam inspection, prior to Consumers Power handing over ownership of the structure to Kent County.

For a short while the river's secrets were exposed. Immediately behind the dam, a logging wagon with a wooden axle was found, a remnant, possibly, of the days when logs were transported over the frozen river to the sawmill in Cascade. It was stuck so deeply in the mud that it couldn't be dug out.

Further upriver, near the Camelhump Bridge, two teenagers successfully extricated a very different type of object – a statue, apparently of Moses



Photos courtesy of Lowell Ledger

smashing the tablets of the Ten Commandments, that was about five feet tall.

A photo of the statue and the boys who found it ran in the Suburban Life

newspaper, and the sculpture was displayed in the window of Weston's Pharmacy (now International Beverage), but no one ever came forward to reveal the statue's origins, or how and when it wound up in the river. The statue was purchased by Dave Wallace, a reporter and columnist for the Grand Rapids Press, who cemented it at the edge of the family swimming pool, where it became known as Weird Harold.

About the Historical Society

The Cascade Historical Society meets the first Thursday of each month, except July, at 10 a.m. at the Cascade Historical Museum, 2839 Thornapple River Drive SE.

If you have questions, comments, information or photos to share, email cascadehistory@yahoo.com.

Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

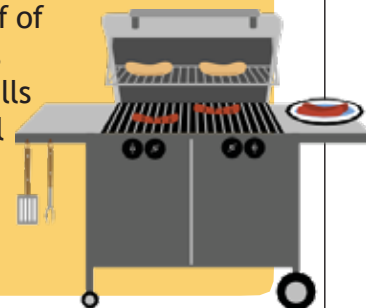
PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **5 minutes** before re-lighting it.

FACTS

- July is the peak month for grill fires.
- Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
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CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to Serving You

Station 1 616.949.1320 Station 2 616.259.7020

Electrical Safety

around swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas

For many of us, water activities equal fun. But it's important to be aware of electrical hazards while enjoying the water. Know how to be safe around swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas.

- If you are putting in a new pool, hot tub, or spa, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations.
- Outdoor receptacles must have covers that keep them dry even when appliances are plugged into them.
- Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are special devices designed to protect against electric shock and electrocution. They are required for most pool, spa, or hot tub equipment. They may be in the form of an outlet or a circuit breaker. Test the GFCIs monthly according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Electrical appliances, equipment, and cords should be kept at least 6 feet away from the water. When possible, use battery operated appliances and equipment, such as televisions, radios, and stereos.
- Avoid handling electrical devices when you are wet.
- Make sure that any overhead lines maintain the proper distance over a pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If unsure, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.
- Do not swim during a thunderstorm.
- Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and—where necessary—replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool, spa, or hot tub electrically safe.
- Have a qualified electrician show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency.

KNOW THE RISKS!

Electrocution is death by an electrical shock. Be aware when skin is wet or when surrounding surfaces, such as the grass or pool deck, are wet. Wet skin or wet surfaces can greatly increase the chance of electrocution when electricity is present.

There are several signs of electrical shock. Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation. They may experience muscle cramps. They may not be able to move. They may feel as if something is holding them in place.

If you think someone in the water is being shocked, turn off all power, but do not attempt to go in the water. Use a fiberglass or other kind of rescue hook that doesn't conduct electricity to help the swimmer. Have someone call **9-1-1**.

If you think you are being shocked while in the water move away from the source of the shock. Get out of the water.

FACT

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has reports of 14 deaths related to electrocutions in swimming pools from 2003 to 2014. Hot tubs and spas may present the same hazard as swimming pools.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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