

CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Spring 2017

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Township Board:

Supervisor:

Rob Beahan; 949-1500
rbeahan@cascadetwp.com

Clerk:

Sue Slater; 949-1508
sslater@cascadetwp.com

Treasurer:

Ken Peirce; 949-6944
kpeirce@cascadetwp.com

Trustees:

Jim Koessel
jkoessel@cascadetwp.com

Jack Lewis

jlewis@cascadetwp.com

Tom McDonald

tmcdonald@cascadetwp.com

John Shipley

jshipley@cascadetwp.com

Department Phone Numbers:

Manager:

Ben Swayze; 949-1500
bswayze@cascadetwp.com

Assessing:

Roger McCarty; 949-6176
roger@cascadetwp.com

Building Inspections:

Brian Wilson; 949-3765
bwilson@cascadetwp.com

Community Development

Steve Peterson; 949-0224
speterson@cascadetwp.com

Fire:

949-1320

Sheriff/Non-Emergency:

632-6100

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Ada and Cascade Historical Societies are planning a commemorative program in regards to the 100th anniversary of the United States entry into World War One.

There will be a program on April 6, 2017 - 7:00pm at the Cascade branch of the Kent District Library in the Wisner Center. The date of our entry into that conflict was April 6, 1917.

The featured speaker will be the noted historian Dr. John Pinheiro, who is a History professor at Aquinas College. His presentation will be "The United States and the Great War, 1914-1918.

Additionally, there will be WW1 artifacts displayed at the Cascade Museum and at the Wisner Center. Admission is free, refreshments will be served and all are welcome.

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

The Veteran's of Cascade Township are planning a Memorial Day program on Monday, May 29th at the Cascade Library, 2870 Jacksmith drive. Join them at 10:00 a.m. to honor veterans of all wars and conflicts.



SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Funding Cancer & Parkinson's Research with Every Stride!

The 3rd annual Purple Community 5K powered by Consumers Credit Union offers runners, children, and families a fun and fast course along Burton Street, starting and finishing at the Mary Free Bed YMCA.

100% of every dollar raised goes directly to cancer and Parkinson's disease research at Van Andel Institute.

What: Purple Community 5K and Fun Run
Powered by Consumers Credit Union

When: Saturday, April 29, 2017
8:00 a.m. - Fun Run | 8:05 a.m. - 5K Run/Walk

Where: Mary Free Bed YMCA
5500 Burton St SE | Grand Rapids, MI 49546

More details of traffic flow can be found at

purplecommunity.org



Powered by
consumers credit union

April 29th at 8am Van Andel Institute (VAI) and Mary Fred Bed YMCA (MFBYMCA) are combining forces to bring the Purple Community 5K to the MFBYMCA. **There will be road closures on April 29 from 8am to 9:30am.** All roads will be closed to through traffic but all residents will be able to enter and exit their homes during the event. We please ask that you minimize your vehicle travel during the hours of 8am and 9:30am. We will have many volunteers and officers from Kent County Sheriffs Office to help control traffic. We would encourage you to come out and support the runners during the event!



Please send any inquires to **Doug** at dbostian@live.com or 616-890-5978

FROM THE CLERK...



FROM THE CLERK

SUE SLATER

Now that the frenzy of the 2016 election season has slowed, I thought it time to introduce myself as your new Clerk!

We have been busy with planning for the upcoming election on May 2, 2017. This will be for a KISD Millage vote of .9 mills for a regional enhancement millage of ten years. For this school election, we are able to consolidate precincts to minimize costs associated with the election.

The following precincts will be consolidated into one for the May Election ONLY:

- Precincts 1, 7, 8... Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church (these precincts already vote at Cascade CRC)

ALL OTHER PRECINCTS WILL VOTE AT THEIR REGULAR LOCATIONS!! (please check our website cascadetwp.com for these locations)

The last day to register to vote for the May 2 election is April 3, 2017.

I want to remind you also that all winter/seasonal décor must be removed from the cemeteries by **April 1, 2017**. The township has recently purchased and installed two new columbariums at the 30th Street Cemetery. This new option for cremation burial is available for Township residents at the time of need. Each columbarium has 32 niches with space for two cremations.

I have lived half of my life here in Cascade! Yet it seems I have much to learn about our township. I want to thank you for placing your confidence in me by allowing me to represent you! You may email any concerns or comments to sslater@cascadetwp.com.

JOIN THE CITIZEN COMMITTEE...

The millage for the pathway system in Cascade Township was approved in August of 1998. That millage will expire in 2018. Due to the amount of support and interest that the township has received regarding the current pathway system, The Township Board would like to know what, if any, interest there is in constructing more pathways. Therefore, the Township Board is looking for volunteers to sit on a pathways committee to study the issue. Issues such as location, cost, timing, etc. will need to be considered if more pathways are to be built. If you are interested in serving on such a committee, please plan to attend an informational meeting on Monday, April 24 at the Cascade Library - Wisner Center (2870 Jacksmith Ave) at 7 pm.



If you have any questions, please call or email **Steve Peterson** at 949-0224 or speterson@cascadetwp.com.

FROM THE SUPERVISOR



FROM THE SUPERVISOR

ROB BEAHAN

For the last five years, we have been working on eradicating invasive, non-native shrubs in areas of both Peace Park and Burton Park. Both Autumn Olive (*elaagnus umbellata*) and Multiflora Rose (*rosa multiflora*) are one of the greatest threats to Michigan's native biodiversity and their impacts are wide ranging. These shrubs are aggressive competitors that spread rapidly, often dominating an ecosystem and reducing native diversity dramatically. Left unchecked they will displace native species and alter ecosystem processes which in turn threatens habitat for many wildlife species. We typically work on the

shrub removal in the winter months so you may notice certain areas of the park recently cleared of them.

Another invasive that's more noticeable in springtime is garlic mustard. If left to maturity it can drop thousands of seeds, poison the soil, and drive out many native plants and tree seedlings. Since spring of 2009 we have held an annual garlic mustard pull at Peace Park and we've set the date for this year. The event is from 9:00 am – Noon on Saturday, May 20th, with everyone meeting at the Peace Park parking lot located at 8300 Grand River.



Garlic mustard is a problem throughout the whole township and once again we will offer a disposal site at the Township Office, 2865 Thornhills Avenue SE. Dumpsters will be there from May 5th through May 29th and are for bagged garlic mustard only, which will be incinerated. The garlic mustard incinerator drop site is sponsored by the West Michigan Conservation Network in a continuing effort to help eradicate the invasive plant.

GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON 2017

Huntington NUTRILITE

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 11, 2017

We hope you'll plan to join us for the 2017 Grand Rapids Triathlon, which will once again be the host of the USAT Clydesdale/Athena National Championships. Whether you plan to spectate, volunteer, or participate, we hope to see you out on the course.

Please be aware of road closures in the area of the Thornapple River on both **June 10 & June 11**. If you have any questions please contact Andy Vidro 616.805.3059

WWW.GRANDRAPIDSTRI.COM

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT???



FROM THE
COMMUNITY
STANDARDS
OFFICER

STEPHANIE FAST

The warm weather will soon be upon us, which means it is time to get outside and enjoy all the natural beauty that Cascade Charter Township has to offer. Our wonderful parks are hopefully on your destination list for this summer. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind fellow dog owners of the ordinances that pertain to your canine companion.

Cascade Charter Township, and Kent County, require you to leash your dog when on public property. You should also be aware that if your dog defecates on public or private property our ordinance requires that you pick it up. These are simple ways to keep your pet safe and our community clean.

I have been receiving an increasing number of complaints from residents about people walking their dogs off leash. As a result, we will be working with Kent County Animal Control to step up enforcement in our parks. We will also have a Community Standards Intern who will devote most of their time to patrolling the parks this summer.



As a former animal control officer, I can tell you first hand that there are many dangerous and scary situations that can be avoided if you keep your dog on a leash. While your dog is tethered to you they are less likely to eat something harmful, step on something sharp, or get into a confrontation with another animal. It is also important to realize that some people using the park may be intimidated by off leash dogs, and with good reason. An off-leash dog could jump up on someone and cause them to fall or could attack (or be attacked) their leashed dog. By having your dog secure on a leash, you are providing other park users with visual confirmation that you do indeed have your pet under control.

For those of you who do enjoy allowing your dog to exercise off-leash, the township has provided a wonderful dog park in the Cascade Recreation Park. Please note that dogs are only permitted to be off leash inside the gated area, and should be taken to and from the car on a leash.

Let's all work together to have a safe and fun warm weather season in Cascade.



PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION TIME LINE

The **PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION** is a significant tax break that is available to many homeowners. If you qualify for this exemption, it is important that you file a **HOMEOWNER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION AFFIDAVIT (PRE)** with the Cascade Township Assessor's Office.

For purposes of this exemption, the principal residence is defined as the residential property you own and occupy as your primary residence. You spend the majority of your time at this location, it is where you are registered to vote, the address on your driver's license and on your tax return as examples of what you can show to demonstrate it is your principal residence.

The Principal Residence Exemption reduces your taxes. It does **NOT** change your assessment or taxable value. Properties with an exemption do not pay the School Operating Millage tax. This reduces the millage rate by 9 mills on the summer and 9 mills on the winter tax bills.

When a home becomes your primary residence, you should file a **HOMEOWNER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION AFFIDAVIT** to obtain the exemption for the property. June 1st is the deadline to own and occupy the home to be eligible to claim the exemption for the entire current year. Property owners who move in after June 1st and before November 1st will have their exemption start on the Winter tax bill. Property owners who occupy the home after November 1st will have their request activated in their name the following year. If the prior owner already has an exemption, it will stay active for the rest of the year. You do not need to reapply each year.

When a property is no longer your principal residence, you must file a **REQUEST TO RESCIND HOMEOWNER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION** form with the City or Township you had the exemption in. The exemption will be rescinded for the year following the change. For example, if a property stopped being your principal residence in 2015, the exemption will be removed for 2016.



If you have moved to a new principal residence, you may be able to request a **CONDITIONAL RESCISSION of PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION** to continue the PRE on the old home for up to three years while you sell it.

The Principal Residence Exemption Program is a State program administered by the Michigan Department of Treasury. The Department of Treasury audits the validity of the exemptions and may deny an exemption.

The tax bill will indicate the PRE percentage and show if school-operating millage is being charged. The **CHANGE OF ASSESSMENT NOTICE** you received in February shows the exemption status. You may also check on our website or stop down to the Assessor Office.

Property owners who discover their exemption status is wrong may request the July or December Board of Review correct it. The Board may add an exemption for the current year and three prior years. If you do not have a Principal Residence Exemption and believe you qualify, contact the Assessors Office at 949-6176.

YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM SPRING 2017

Purchase Yard Waste Tags at the reception desk of the Township Offices from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Tags are \$1.00 each
Pick up will be every Monday
From April 3 through May 1

- Please have your yard waste near the curb by 6:00 a.m. to assure pick up. •
- Place a tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches. (No grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand or rocks please)
- Please use 30 gal. plastic bags or paper yard waste bags.
- Sticks should be no longer than 4 feet in length and branches, logs and stumps are not to exceed 1 inch in diameter.
- Residents 62 years of age and older will receive 20 tags FREE per calendar year, per household.
- This service is only available in the restricted burn area.

The yard waste dumpsters will be available behind the Thornhills Fire Station April 21st – 23rd. There will also be a 15 cubic yard container of finished compost. This material is free and offered on a first come first serve basis.

For more information, please call 949-1500.

If you have tags left over from last spring or fall and you intend to use them, please contact the Township Office so your address can be added to the pickup list.

***Please Note: The curb side pickup and dumpsters are NOT for the disposal of Garlic Mustard. Please place Garlic Mustard in a separate, sealed bag and put it in your regular trash.**

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY – SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2017

In conjunction with Kent County's Household Hazardous Waste Program, Cascade & Ada Townships are sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, July 15. Township residents wishing to dispose of their unused or unwanted household chemical waste are encouraged to bring them to this one day event. Chemicals such as weed killers, bug sprays, antifreeze, gasoline, oil-based paint, wood preservatives, paint thinner, pool chemicals, deck cleaners, fluorescent light bulbs, and mercury thermometers & thermostats can all be brought in for disposal.

The collection will run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will be held at the Cascade Buttrick Station, 2990 Buttrick Ave. SE.



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE FOREST HILLS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION!

We are excited to announce that we have an amazing calendar filled with great speakers.

The Forest Hills Business Association meets the second Thursday of the month and we invite you to come and visit us to see what we and the businesses in the area are excited about when it comes to networking and meeting other business owners. It's easy to become a member and register your business to attend our meetings!



Your New Officers for 2017 are:

- Carmen Villahermosa de Cox, ChoiceOne Bank, President
- Kimberly Loomis, Source IT, Vice President
- Janelle Good, Macatawa Bank, Treasurer
- John Knoppers, Secretary, United Bank of West Michigan

Board of Directors:

- Richard Kirvan, The Kirvan Agency
- Dr. Nick Schuster, Life Chiropractic
- Russ Clark, WCSG
- Andrew Porzynski, Farmers Insurance, The Porzynski Agency
- Valerie Cook, Grand Rapids Home Health Care
- Brad Zielaskowski, Athletico Physical Therapy
- If you need information, please call Carmen at 616-430-1924

We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings!

Latex paint, medical waste, pharmaceuticals, ammunition and fireworks are not accepted through this program.

This Household Hazardous Waste Collection is for Ada and Cascade residents only. No materials from business, schools, institutions or commercial farmers can be accepted. Please be prepared to show your driver's license for proof of residency.

Additional questions on what's accepted for disposal may be directed to Kent County at (616) 336-2570 or 1-888-217-2850 or go to the County's website at www.recyclekent.org and click on hazardous waste.





ADA / CASCADE CLEAN-UP DAY

● NEW LOCATION ●

For Ada and Cascade residents: Spring Clean-Up Day is Saturday, May 20th.

WHEN: Saturday, May 20th, 2017 from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Note: Event will close promptly at 2:30 – no items can be accepted after that.

WHERE: Forest Hills Central High School – West parking lot.

WHAT IS ACCEPTED: Non-hazardous household waste, electronics recycling (computers, TV's, etc.), appliances, metal, used household items for recycling will be accepted.

NOT ACCEPTED: Shingles, tires, batteries, liquid waste such as paint, chemicals, oil, etc., ashes, propane tanks, medical waste, or any other hazardous material.

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING and Donations: The Salvation Army will be in the parking lot at Leonard Field Park by the Covered Bridge to accept used items. Please drop off all household items there instead of Fase Street.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING. “Shred-It” will be “on-site” shredding (up to 100 lbs.) of your personal sensitive documents.

Identification is required to verify your residency within the townships of Ada or Cascade. If you live in Grand Rapids Township but your mailing address is Ada, you do not qualify.

For questions, call Ada Township Hall (616) 676-9191 x. 29 M-F, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Or Cascade Township (616) 949-1500.

DUE to the new location, a few things that you need to be aware of.

1. You will not be able to bring yard waste. If you have yard waste that you need to get rid of use the following options:
 - A. Use your waste hauler
 - B. The Township will have dumpsters at Township Hall on April 21-23
 - C. Yard waste tag program will again be offered from April 3 to May 1
2. No dumping anything on the ground. You must put your waste in the appropriate dumpster at the event. Volunteers will direct you.
3. All traffic will enter from Ada Dr and exit to Hall St. Please use Spaulding to Ada Dr to enter. See map.



TWO GREAT WAYS TO SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF THE CASCADE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Cascade Library have once again teamed up with Pietro's Italian Restaurant to offer you an opportunity to support our organization and the library while enjoying a night out at one of our area's favorite dining establishments!

It's so easy and rewarding to go "Dining for Dough." Just stop by the Cascade Library and pick up a copy of your special Dining for Dough certificate. Then visit Pietro's on **Wednesday, April 19**, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and present your server with your certificate. Enjoy a wonderful dinner, and the Friends will earn ten percent of all sales that evening. What could possibly be simpler (or more delicious)?

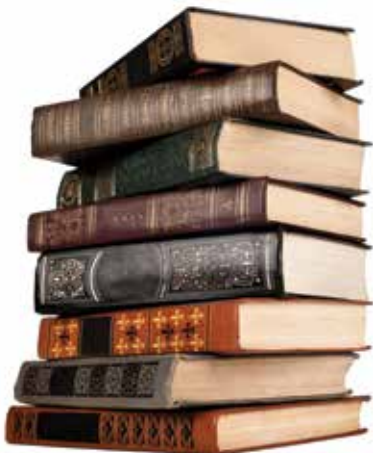


If dining out isn't your thing but reading a good book always is, have you ever visited the Chapter Two Bookstore inside the Cascade Library? Just head in the front door, go past the main desk, and look off to your right where you will see a cozy nook filled with gently used books and other materials donated by members of the community—fiction, nonfiction, children's books (arranged according to age level), CDs, DVDs, and other audiovisual items—all for sale at bargain prices.

Operated by the Friends of the Cascade Library, the bookstore is always well-stocked with clean, crisp hardcovers generally priced at \$3.00 each and paperbacks priced at only \$1.50-\$2.00 each. Special displays rotate monthly and feature an assortment of books on a particular subject such as wedding planning, gardening, photography, U.S history, seasonal crafts, and much more. The money you pay to the cheerful staff member at the front desk goes toward purchasing needed items for the library and for numerous special programs for patrons of all ages.



We are a little bookstore that we guarantee you'll enjoy visiting again and again! Stop by and see for yourself why the Chapter Two Bookstore inside the Cascade Library is the best-kept secret in town.



CAN YOU HEAR ME? YES. CLICK DIAL TONE....

This is the latest, but not the most common of several scams going around the community. I want to warn residents that phone / email scams are still a concern. Weekly I receive phone calls from community members telling me that they have been scammed.

Phone scams are very popular because they are profitable. Identity theft has scammed more than 15 Million people and has cost more than 50 billion dollars. Identity theft is probably the most common scam we investigate.



It used to be bad guys would dig through garbage and steal information with your name on it. Now they can do all of that from a computer or swipe your credit card without you ever knowing. Don't get me wrong, the bad guy is still getting checks out of your mailbox and, at times, searching through dumpsters. This is why identity theft is so popular; there are several ways to obtain your personal information.

Since there are several ways to obtain your information, here are some tips on what you do to help prevent it.

- Don't mail checks from your mail box. Drop them at a post box.
- Shred your mail before putting it in the trash.
- Review your credit reports: this should be done every 6 months or at least once a year.
- Don't give personal information to anyone that calls you. If they claim to be (insert company name), get information and research the number yourself and call them later.
- Buy locally, buying through the internet is safe most of the time however, ebay and craigslist have bad guys that lurk among the inter webs, so use caution.
- Monitor all your bank and retirement statements.
- Don't leave your social security card in your purse/wallet. Don't leave purse /wallet in unattended vehicles.

Will this information prevent you from being a victim of Identity theft? No, but it will certainly help. We trust our personal information to so many companies, and those companies have their computers hacked or information stolen. These steps will help reduce the risk of being a victim and monitoring this information will allow you to recognize suspicious activity on your accounts.

Free credit report go to www.annualcreditreport.com
Or call (877)322 8228



Stay safe and aware,

Ryan Roe
Kent County Sheriff Department
ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov



This year's theme is Code Officials — Partners in Community Safety and Economic Growth.

WEEK ONE // May 1-7, 2017

Mentoring the Next Generation of Building Professionals

WEEK TWO // May 8-14, 2017

Building Design Solutions for All Ages

WEEK THREE // May 15-21, 2017

Manage the Damage – Preparing for Natural Disasters

WEEK FOUR // May 22-28, 2017

Investing in Technology for Safety, Energy & Water Efficiency

Who Needs Building Codes?



All communities need building codes to protect their citizens from disasters like fires, weather-related events and structural collapse. Model building codes are society's best way of protecting homes, offices, schools, manufacturing facilities, stores and entertainment venues. Code officials work day in and day out to keep the public safe. Building Safety Month is

a month-long celebration of all aspects of building safety that helps families, employers and leaders understand and appreciate the best practices that keep the places where we live, work and play, safe.

For more information, visit www.iccsafe.org

KENT COUNTY HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM



Kent County's Housing Rehabilitation Program is administered by the Kent County Department of Community Development in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance for needed home repairs to low and moderate income households.

Eligible Repairs

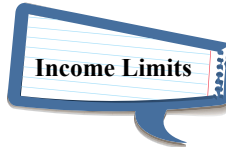
- Repair or replacement of major structural and mechanical systems
- Disability access and ADA repairs
- Pest & hazard abatement
- Energy saving improvements
- Connection to water and sewer lines

Are You Eligible?

- Do I own and occupy my home?
- Do I meet the income eligibility criteria presented in this brochure?
- Do I live within Kent County, outside of Grand Rapids or Wyoming? (Grand Rapids & Wyoming administer their own Housing Rehabilitation Programs)
- Is the home improvement I'm interested in necessary?

Financing Types

- Deferred Payment Loans a non-interest bearing loan, with no payback required unless the borrower sells or transfers title or discontinues residence in the dwelling. Payments may be made voluntarily on a Deferred Payment Loan.
- Grants, homeowners who are income eligible and are also 62 years or older may be eligible for a grant to be used for accessibility improvements, hazard abatement and emergency repairs with partner agencies.



Number of Persons in Household	Maximum Allowable Income
1	\$37,450
2	\$42,800
3	\$48,150
4	\$53,450
5	\$57,750
6	\$62,050
7	\$66,300
8	\$70,600

For more information please call the Kent County Community Development Department at (616) 632-7410

Or visit: www.accesskent.com/YourGovernment/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/Housing_Rehabilitation.htm





Cascade Charter Township

2865 Thornhills Ave SE.
Grand Rapids MI 49546
phone: 616.949.1500
fax: 616.949.3918
www.cascadetwp.com

PRST STD
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GRAND RAPIDS MI
PERMIT No. 1

PATHWAY NEWS...

As Kathy and I sit on the veranda of our condominium here in sunny Scottsdale Arizona looking at an incredible mountain range called the McDowell mountains, I am reminded of the weather back in Grand Rapids. In the days that we will be here, the temperature will continue to climb until it reaches about 85 or 90 degrees by the time we leave to return to Grand Rapids. There is nothing like the desert in the spring. By the time we get back we can watch Michigan's progression into spring. Living the dream.

I suppose I have to talk about something substantive, well here goes. As you travel along our wonderful trail system, be cognitive of vegetation and tree roots protruding from cracks on the trail. Aside from looking unattractive, they may cause a hazard to walkers and riders that use our trails. If you see this or any other damage to the trail system, please contact Steve Peterson at 949-0224 or speterson@cascadetwp.com and let him know the location (using the nearest address is usually best) and nature of the problem. This information will be used to prioritize pathway maintenance.

That's about enough for now, I have some serious relaxing to do **KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL!**

Kris Taylor
Pathway Coordinator

