

CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from Cascade Charter Township Summer 2018

4th of July!

[Are you ready for the election?](#)

[Where do my tax dollars go?](#)

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News from the Supervisor



I'm sure everyone knows the saying that there are two things you can always count on — I'd like to add another: the Fourth of July in Cascade.

As far back as I can remember, there have been festivities of some type in Cascade celebrating our country's independence, and this year will prove no different. The early celebrations in the 1950s and 60s were relatively low-key affairs, with a parade, music, food booths and a book sale. All of this was followed by fireworks shot from the gravel pit that was at the end of 28th Street at Cascade Road.

People frequently comment on what a great event the July 4th Celebration is and how it continues to be something families and friends look forward to. While we've moved the fireworks to a different location, the parade and festivities will still take center stage in Cascade.

Thanks to the efforts of our fire chief, Adam Magers, at approximately 10:15 a.m., an L-39 Albatros will be flying over the parade route, weather permitting. The plane will be piloted by Tim Brutsche, who belongs to the flying group The Hoppers. They are participating in an airshow that day in Battle Creek and Tim will divert to Cascade for the flyover.

At the head of the parade, you should recognize a familiar face from the library as our Grand Marshal, Diane Cutler.

We are looking forward to celebrating and sharing all of these events with you.



Township Contacts

Office Hours

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

Supervisor

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Clerk

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Sheriff/Non-Emergency

632.6100



Are You Prepared

For the Upcoming Election?

NEW EQUIPMENT, PRECINCTS AND POLLING LOCATIONS



Sue Slater, Clerk

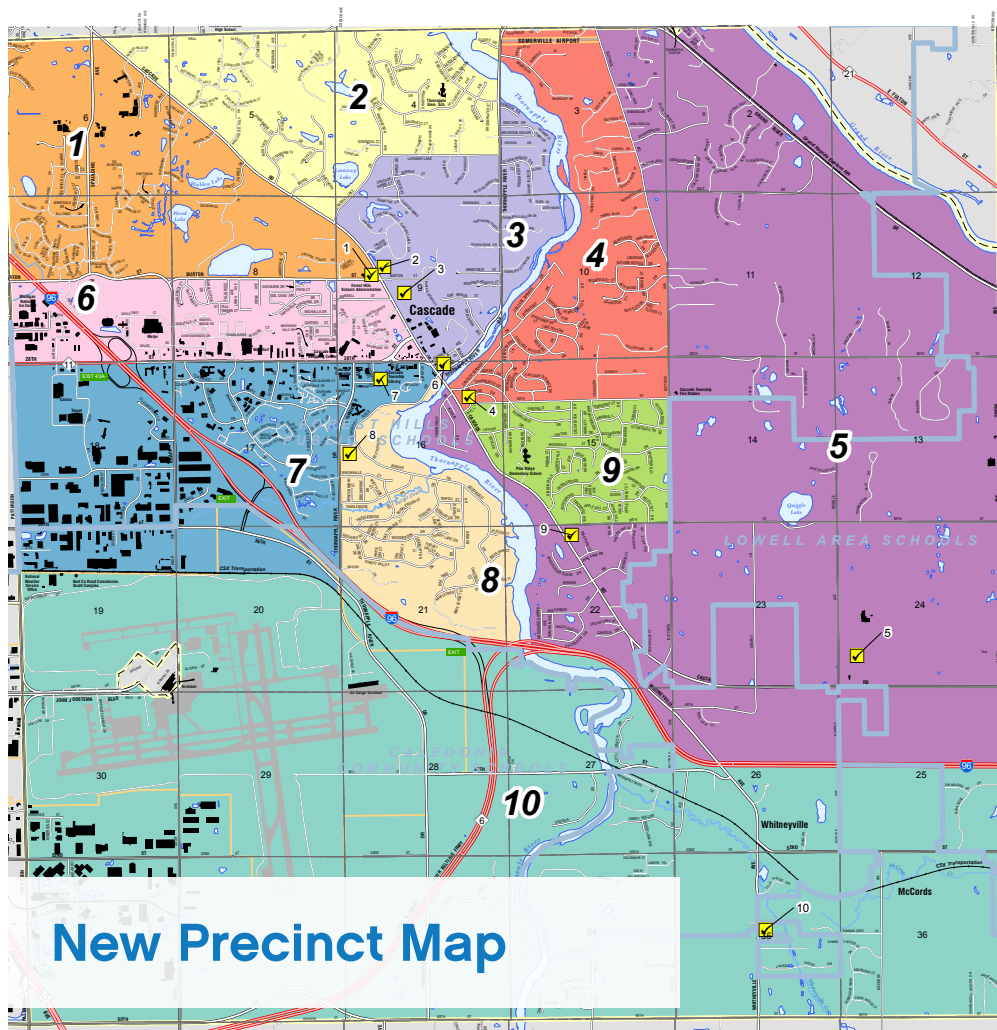
Throughout the last several months, we have been sending updates and notifications regarding the changes to the precincts and polling locations in Cascade Township.

As mentioned, each resident has been affected by one or more changes, so it is imperative you are aware and prepared to ensure the upcoming election days go smoothly.

The next election in Cascade takes place on August 7. The last day to register to vote is July 9.

Please check your voter card (sent via U.S. mail) to identify your updated precinct and polling location. You can also visit cascadetwp.com and follow these steps:

1. Under the “What’s Happening” menu on the bottom right of the homepage, click on “Interactive Voting Precinct Map.”
2. This will open a new page, allowing you to click through to the map.
3. Once the map appears, click on “Search by street address” on the right side.
4. Enter your home address and click “search.”
5. The map will then provide the precinct and polling location appropriate for you (this should match your voter card).



New Voting Equipment

TABULATOR

Kent County has made the decision to upgrade the voting equipment used by each municipality within its limits. We will now be using Dominion Voting Equipment, which is designed to better recognize voter intent and limit auditing risks.

ADA EQUIPMENT

Ballot marking devices are available to all voters with special accommodations for hearing, visual, physical and other disabilities. Our new equipment is secure and state-of-the-art. While the equipment has been updated, the election process is exactly the same for voters.

For more information, contact the Clerk’s Office at 616.949.1508.

WHERE DO MY TAX DOLLARS GO?



Library Photo Contest

The Cascade Township Library is seeking new local photography to display around its building!

We are looking for photos of the beautiful sights found within the Cascade Township area. The contest is open to all ages and ability levels. Numerous winners will be selected, and pieces will be placed on display indefinitely throughout the library building.

The public will be encouraged to vote for entries on the Cascade Township Library Facebook page. Winners will be chosen the week of July 9.

For contest rules and to enter, visit: <http://1.shortstack.com/TbC5PF>.

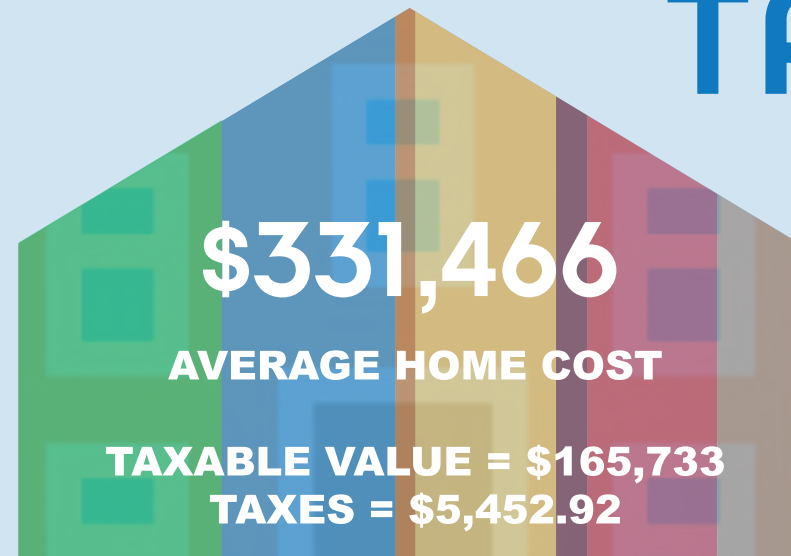
Summer Reading

Summer Reading is in full swing at the Cascade Branch. Log your summer reading activities and earn prizes! Visit the library for details or check out kdl.org/summer-reading and kdl.org/events.

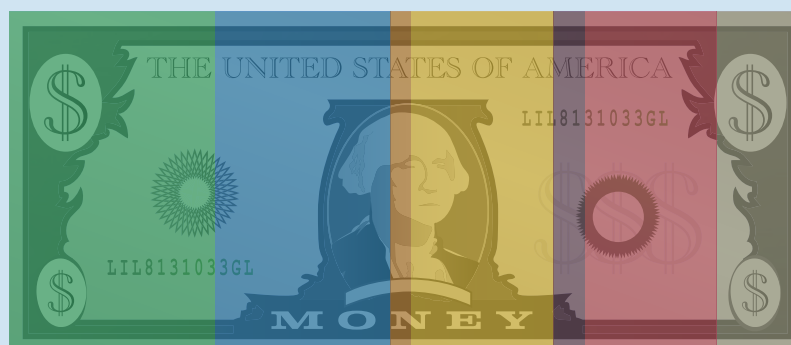
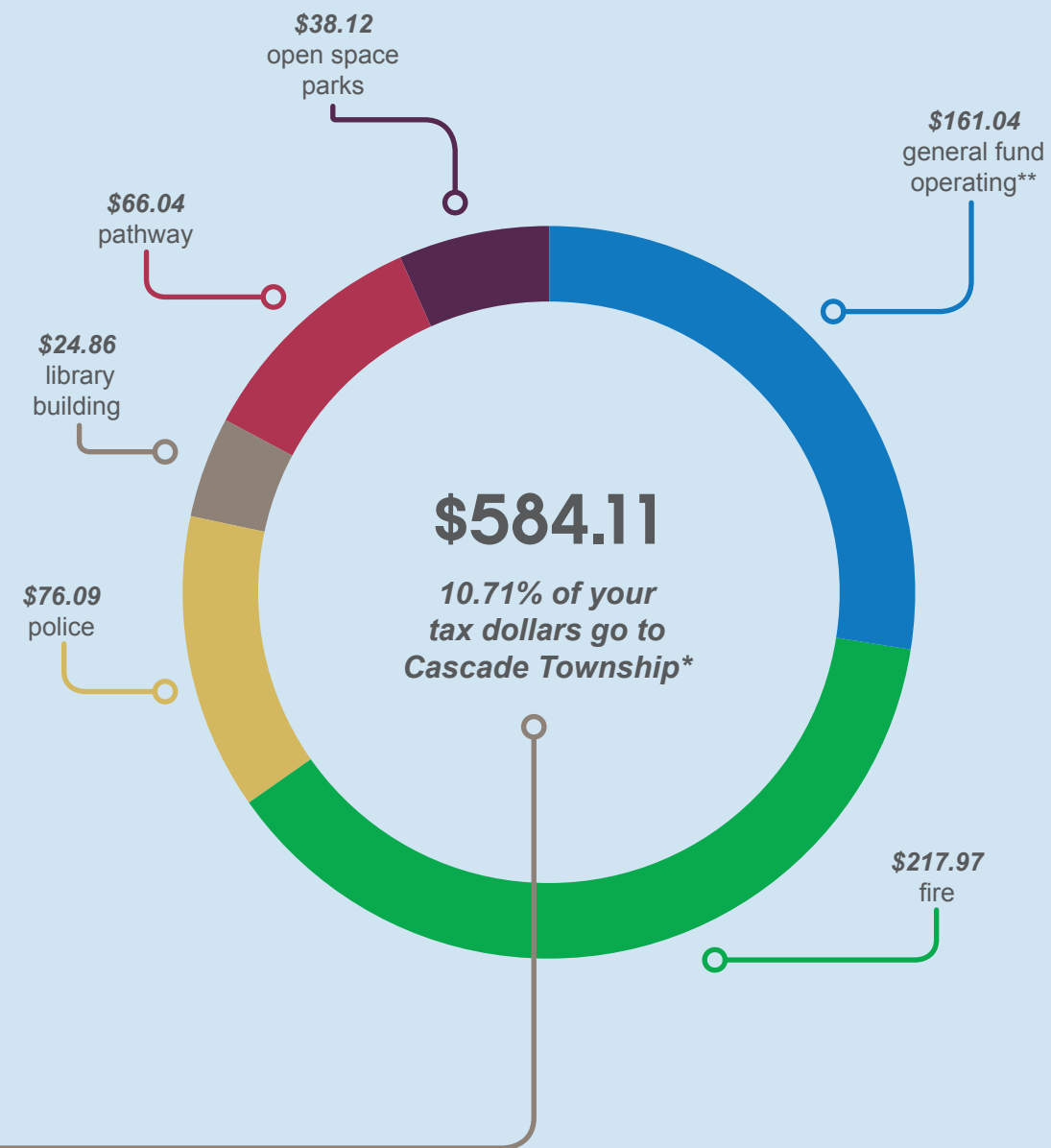
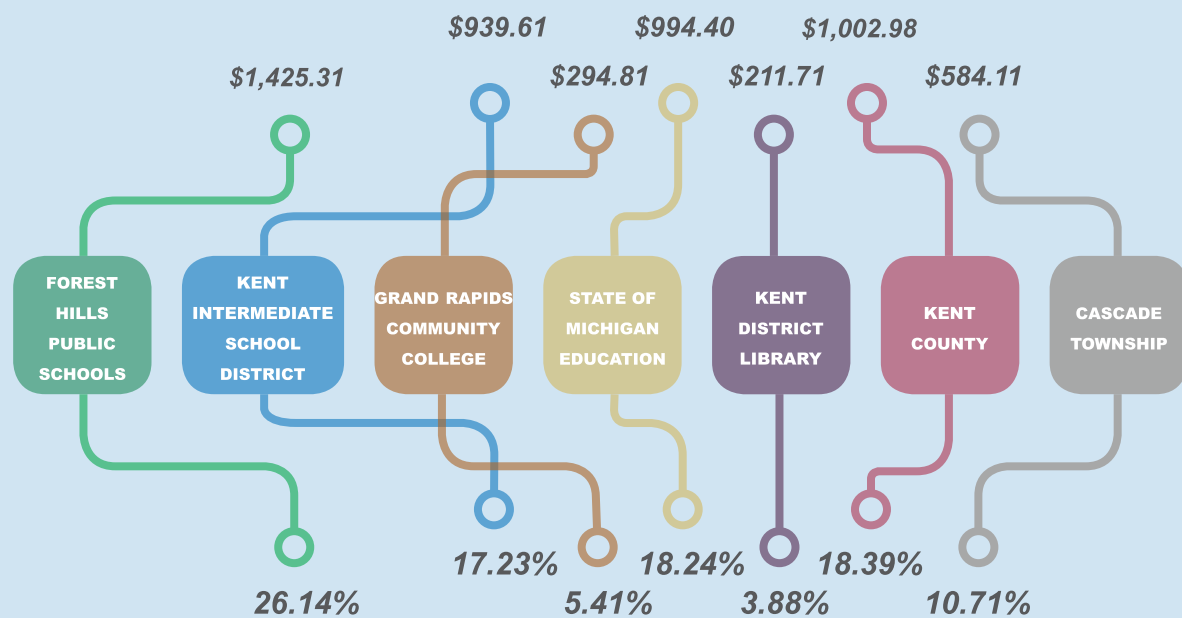
Cascade Township Senior Luncheon

We hope you will join us at the Wisner Center inside the Cascade Library for a catered lunch, compliments of Cascade Township. The luncheon, hosted by Cascade Township in cooperation with Forest Hills Community Services, will provide an opportunity for our senior citizens to enjoy some good food and music, mingle, relax and reminisce. It will be held Tuesday, Aug. 14, from 12 – 2 p.m.

To make your reservation, required by July 27, stop by the Forest Hills Community Services or call 616.493.8950. Space at the luncheon is limited to the first 135 guests who register. Please contact Cascade Township Clerk Sue Slater at sslater@cascaDETWP.com if you have any questions.



On average, a home in Cascade Charter Township has a market value of \$331,466, with an assessed and taxable value of \$165,733. Based on the yearly millage rate of 32.9018, residents would pay \$5,452.92 in taxes on average per year.*



**The operating category includes Township administration, buildings and grounds, community development, etc.

*For 2017 taxes. Based on Forest Hills District tax rates. Lowell and Caledonia Districts vary slightly.

4th OF July

celebrating our nation's
independence

July 4 Parade Float Contest

It's time for families, neighborhoods, churches and businesses to get creative!

Cascade will once again hold its float contest, challenging community members to come up with a unique and fun float to entertain attendees at the July 4th Celebration. The contest will be sponsored by Pat Vredevoogd Combs of Coldwell Banker AJS Schmidt Realty.

This year, the float contest will have two categories:

1. Family and neighborhood floats
2. Churches, businesses and other organizations

Winners in each category will win a trophy and get to put the "Winner" banner on their float during the parade.

No sign ups are necessary. Those who wish to participate should arrive at the parade staging area (Thornapple Covenant Church, 6595 Cascade Road SE) at 8:30 a.m. on July 4.

Please note participants may only have **one** vehicle/float per entity, organization or neighborhood. Additionally, candy throwing from vehicles/floats will not be allowed. Anything handed out must be done by walkers.

Fireworks Reminder

If you plan to set off fireworks, please be aware of any veterans living near you who may be sensitive to the noise.

We encourage you to reach out to neighbors if you plan to light fireworks so they can be aware of your plans. Many pets also react negatively to firework displays. Finally, please be conscious of creating fire hazards for your neighbors and of the Township noise ordinance.

Cascade's July 4th Celebration Offers Fun for all Ages

The bike parade will kick off the celebration beginning at 10 a.m. Remember to keep your eyes on the sky, though, because at 10:15 a.m., attendees will experience the flyby of an L-39 Albatros Jet, flown by The Hopper Flight Group along 28th Street from east to west.

Following this unique and exciting event, the famous parade – including vehicles, floats, fire trucks and the march – will begin at 10:30 a.m. The parade route will start at Cascade Road and Burton and end at 28th and Thornhills.

Family fun will then kick off at 11:30 a.m. with games, carnival rides and music. Be sure to check out the ginormous book sale hosted by the Friends of the Cascade Library, happening all day long.

Finally, join us at dusk for the grand finale of fireworks, which will be shot off from Ada Christian School.

Please note roads will be closed for these events from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m. Roads affected include Cascade Road (from Burton Street to Thornapple River Drive), 28th Street (from Cascade to Thornhills) and all of Old 28th Street.

Participants:

- Bike parade staging location: Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church (6655 Cascade Road)
- Vehicles, floats, parade march staging location: Thornapple Covenant Church (6595 Cascade Road)

If you are participating in the bike parade and are 14 years old or younger, you must wear a bike helmet, per Cascade Township Ordinance.

Cascade Township July 4th Celebration!

BOOK SALE 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Presented by the Cascade Friends of the Library. Located in the Township Library parking lot.

PARADE 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Bike parade starts at 10:00am from the Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church (6655 Cascade Rd). Parade begins immediately following the bike parade from the Thornapple Covenant Church (6595 Cascade Rd). Route starts at Cascade & Burton and ends at 28th & Thornhills.

FLYBY 10:15 am

L-39 Albatros Jet
Coming along 28th St., East to West.



GAMES, RIDES & MUSIC

11:30 am – 3:30 pm

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dual Zipline | Ultimate Challenge | Barnyard Petting Zoo |
| Dixie Twister | 100' Extreme Obstacle Course | School Bus Combo |
| Turbo Tubs | Rocket Turbo Slide | Soccer Darts |
| Pirates Revenge | All Sports Arena | 9 Hole Inflatable Mini Golf |
| Bumper Cars | Ahoy Matey | Rings of Pony Rides |
| Quad Bungee | Dragon Hide-n-Slide | Face Painters |
| Trackless Train | Bounce House | Airbrush Artists |
| Rockwalls | Rescue Squad | ...and much more! |
| The Edge Slide | | |

FIREWORKS! at dusk Wednesday, July 4th

Located at 6206 Ada Dr at Ada Christian School.

SPONSORS

Fire Cracker Sponsors:



Sparkler Sponsors:

- Noah's Pet Cemetery
- Kingsland Ace Hardware
- Medawar Fine Jewelers
- Cascade Animal Hospital for Animals
- Quality Air
- Meijer
- Culver's Restaurant
- Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church
- X-Golf Grand Rapids
- Family Friends Veterinary Hospital & Pet Care
- Hope Network
- Forge Industrial Staffing
- Costco Wholesale
- Ada Bible Church
- O'Neil's Body Shop
- Betten Imports
- Recycling Concepts of West MI, Inc.
- Snow Avenue Greenhouse
- Chambers Dental
- Thornapple River Nursery
- Cascade Christian Church
- Fowling Warehouse Grand Rapids
- Thornwood Veterinary Clinic & Kennel
- Osaka Sushi & Steakhouse
- ESMILES
- APPLIED IMAGING
- William Bos Greenhouses & Farms

Other Sponsors:

- Rob Beahan - Cascade Township Supervisor
- Econo Lodge
- CU* Answers

July 4th @ Township Library



Dual Zipline!



fun train!



face painting



rock wall



bumper cars



Meet the 2018 Grand Marshal

Diane Cutler

With sights set on several dreams, Cutler changed her major seven times. From a journalist to a pastor, it wasn't until she earned a promotion at the library and the top score on a literature project her senior year that she discovered what she wanted to be: A librarian.

She graduated with her bachelor's degree in English in 1982 and earned her master's degree in library science from the University of Michigan in 1984. After a quick six years and stints at libraries in a Chicago suburb and Detroit, she found herself back at home as the Cascade branch manager.

In 28 years, Cutler and her team have been responsible for much of the library's growth. From becoming a community destination, open seven days per week and offering quality programming to becoming a prime location for several community events and celebrations, Cutler has been there for it all.

Today, Cutler adores her time with her four-legged fur-kids and her large family. She is a big fan of gardening, podcasts and audio books, live music and all things Scottish. She's easily recognized by her passion for Cascade and her contagious smile. Be sure to say hello to her – our grand marshal – during the Fourth of July Celebration!

In November 1967, Diane Cutler's family moved to a home they built in southern Cascade Township, where she enjoyed a view of the river and remembers hearing the mooing of cows every day.

After five years of living in Cascade, and using the Cascade Bookmobile, Cutler – still a child – began volunteering at what was the Cascade Library, an effort that was simply made to fulfill a requirement for her Girl Scout Silver Award.

Years later, Cutler began working at the Caledonia library branch while attending Caledonia High School until her graduation in 1978. She then moved to the Cascade Library, where she worked during her undergraduate years at Calvin College.

Volunteers Needed For July 4th Celebration

To successfully host the July 4th Celebration, the help of staff from the Township and the Kent County Sheriff Department, as well as from community volunteers, is critical. Cascade Township would like to invite individuals, groups, businesses and other organizations to volunteer to help during the celebration.

If you are able to help your community for a few hours on this day, please contact Fire Chief Adam Magers at 949.1320 or amagers@cascadetwp.com by June 22. Please be sure to indicate which volunteer opportunity you can assist with.

PARKING DETAIL

7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Direct traffic in various parking areas prior to the library book sale

STREET FAIR ROAMERS

11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Work in zones on the grounds to keep areas clean

PARADE MARSHALS

9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Walk alongside the parade route to keep the parade moving and alleviate large gaps; ensure safety of all participating in the parade

EVENT BREAK DOWN

3:30 - 5 p.m.

Help take down tables, chairs and clean up at end of event

PARADE CLEAN UP:

12 - 1:30 p.m.

Clean up trash along parade route

“You wouldn’t want to be anywhere else”

A historical look at the Fourth of July in Cascade



The Cascade community has been coming together for an Independence Day celebration since 1953, when Lyle Dykhuizen set off fireworks in the family driveway. These fireworks, however, were in celebration of his 13-year-old son Chuck’s release from Sunshine Hospital, where he’d been a tuberculosis patient for more than a year.

Lyle, a truck driver who bought the fireworks out-of-state, was a member of Cascade’s volunteer fire department. He invited a few firefighter friends over to celebrate his son’s recovery with a fireworks show.

From this humble beginning, the observance of the holiday rapidly escalated. The following year, Lyle and his friend and fellow firefighter Sybrant Dykhouse – working with the firemen and the American Legion – created a community celebration, with a brief parade featuring Cascade fire trucks.

By 1955, the fireworks had moved from the Dykhuizen driveway to the gravel pit behind the complex of businesses now on the north side of Cascade Road.

In 1960, Orange Street was closed off to create “an attractive well-planned eating and entertainment area.” Booths featured food, games and raffles. That same year, there was a water battle between the Cascade and Ada fire departments at the Lions Club Park in the afternoon, and a street dance at Slater’s Mobil Gas Station after the fireworks. The ever-growing parade was routed down Cascade Road and ended at Thornapple River Drive for many years.

Many long-time residents will remember the holiday also included canoe races and a boat parade on the Thornapple River that started at the bridge in Cascade and ended at the backwater upstream from the Ada dam.

Starting in 1973, the parade began exactly as it does now: Sybrant Dykhouse, dressed as Uncle Sam, leads the way, carrying our country’s flag. Sy is the son of the fireman Sybrant Dykhouse, who along with Lyle Dykhuizen, was instrumental in creating Cascade’s first July 4th celebrations. He has led the parade for 45 years.

Today, the parade route turns west at 28th Street and culminates at the library’s used book sale, assorted food booths and many attractions for children. Candy is thrown by walkers, and sugar highs ensue. While some floats are now but fond memories—especially the bright yellow Shriners bandwagon, and Ruthie, the gigantic Country Fresh cow—the parade always seems bigger and better than ever.

“You wouldn’t want to be anywhere else,” says Roger Buys, remembering his youth here in the 1970s. “On the Fourth of July, this was the place to be.”

And it still is.



Come One, Come All

Friends of the Cascade Library's
GINORMOUS Used Book Sale

Celebrate Independence Day with the Friends of the Cascade Library at its used book sale in the Cascade Library parking lot! Rain or shine, the sale will take place on July 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The sale will feature tens of thousands of paperbacks and hardcovers on every topic for readers of all ages. Prices range from just 25 cents to \$2, and cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted.

NEW THIS YEAR: At 3:30 p.m., those who provide a \$20 donation can fill their car, truck or van with any books still on the tables — no limit! Please note, however, all books you may set aside prior to 3:30 p.m. are excluded from this extra special deal.

All proceeds from the sale support programs and services at the Cascade Library.

The Friends of the Library will also host a Fall Book Sale Series:

- Sept. 15: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Sept. 16: 12-3 p.m.
- Nov. 2: 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Nov. 3: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Nov. 4: 1-3 p.m.

Dates in September will offer a clearance sale of adult and children's fiction. Dates in November will have more than 10,000 books for all ages and interests.

For more information, visit kdl.org or cascadefriends.org.



Vehicle Theft Prevention

A note from Community Policing Officer Deputy Ryan Roe

Recently, we have seen an increase of vehicles in Kent County broken into overnight. While this criminal activity happens everywhere and often, steps can be taken to ensure you do NOT become a victim of this crime.

1. Lock all doors to your car, home and garage.
2. Do not leave ANY valuables in your vehicle, even with the doors locked.

While this can sometimes be inconvenient, making a habit of locking our vehicles even in our garages, will save us headaches in dealing with the loss of our items. These thieves will enter unlocked garages looking for vehicles, and find laptops, purses, wallets and money left in them because we feel our vehicle and belongings are safe in our garage.

Many times the criminal will target a neighborhood and search for vehicles that are unlocked, making it fast and easy to search the car for items of value.

If we all practice locking our vehicles and removing anything of value, criminals will likely move on to an easier target.

Remember, be safe and aware.



Cascade Metro Cruise Warm Up

Join us on Aug. 23 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. for the Cascade Metro Cruise Warm Up.

This family-friendly event offers lots of show cars, kids' activities, food trucks, music and more! The event will take place at Cascade Road and 28th Street, between United Bank and the Fowling Warehouse, 6797 Cascade Road.

More information at cascadetwp.com and click on community programs.

Do I Need a Building Permit?

Building permits are required when “any owner intends to construct, enlarge, alter or repair a building or structure,” according to Cascade Township ordinance.

Permits are issued to ensure compliance with the 2015 Michigan Residential Code. Applicable throughout Michigan, the code describes minimum requirements to safeguard the health and welfare of occupants. Further, inspections for compliance benefit the owner by verifying compliance with the code.

Common projects include:

- Decks
- Basement finish
- Pools (including inflatable pools)
- Roofing and siding
- Kitchen and bath remodels

There are a few exceptions:

- Sheds under 200 square feet
- Fences under 7 feet high
- Sidewalks and driveways
- Painting, flooring, trim and cabinetry
- Swings and playground equipment



members of our building department team

How to apply?

Permit applications are available at cascadetwp.com.

Completed applications, site plan and two sets of construction drawings can be submitted to the building department. Most applications are processed in a few days. Once your permit is obtained, work may begin. Inspection requests should be called in as work progresses prior to concealing and covering to verify code compliance. When the job is complete, a final inspection is done to finish the process.

The dedicated staff in the building department are committed to making the process simple. We take pride in delivering quality inspection services to the community.

Please contact 949-3765 with any questions.



Cascade Charter Township

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Grand Rapids, MI 49546
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(f) 616.949.3918
cascadetwp.com



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Spring not only brings green grass, softball, daffodils and graduation parties, it brings the generosity of the Cascade Community Foundation. Yes, every spring the Foundation seeks and awards grants to various organizations that exemplify the mission of the Cascade Community Foundation – Nurturing Neighbors, Enhancing Places and Connecting Communities.

OUR SPRING RECIPIENTS ARE:

- **Forest Hills Central High School** to help send students to the National DECA Competition in Atlanta.
- **Safe Haven Ministries** for 80 sessions of education and instruction focused on domestic abuse and sexual violence prevention at Forest Hills Northern, Central and Eastern high schools.
- **KDL Cascade Branch** for the Sunday Afternoon Live! program.

- **Mary Free Bed YMCA** for their Summer Engagement Series including Sunset Movies, Ninjas on the Move and Epic Family Challenge.
- **Cascade Metro Cruise Warmup**, where families can view cars up-close, enjoy activities, food, music and the dunk tank!
- **Cascade Township** for the epic fourth of July parade and fireworks.
- **Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital** for the Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp sponsoring children from the greater Cascade area.

It's through the generosity of so many individuals and corporations these grants are made. If you would like to learn more about the Cascade Community Foundation, visit cascadecommunityfoundation.com or contact lashawver@cascadecommunityfoundation.com.