

Cascade Connections



Winter 2006

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

Holiday Closings

The Cascade Township Office will be closed Monday, December 25th, Tuesday December 26th, and Monday, January 1st.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Bring your used Christmas tree to the parking lot above the tennis courts at the Cascade Township Park from December 26th to January 10th for recycling. Please remember . . . trees can only be dropped off during park hours. Happy Holidays!!

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Cascade Township Fire Department is accepting toys for the Toys for Tots Program. You may drop off new, unwrapped toys at the Fire Station, located at 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE from November 27 through December 18.



Happy Holidays



from your Township Board,
Commissions and Office Staff

ANGEL TREE

Cascade Township is proud to participate in the Angel Tree Program. The Angel Tree program allows a person to select a tag from the tree that represents a child in need. After the gift is purchased, place the tag on the unwrapped gift and return it to Cascade Township or any Angel Tree site. All toys collected will be delivered in time for the children to have a happy holiday.

If you would like to participate in the Angel Tree program, please stop at the Cascade Township office, located at 2865 Thornhills Ave. to select a tag. Gifts must be returned by December 15.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

For the past 48 years, the churches, schools, benevolent groups and businesses have cooperated together in a program known as Operation Santa. Interfaith, the Operation is governed by nine directors and incorporated, allowing IRS deductions for the hundreds of donors. Since its founding in 1958, Operation Santa Claus has cared for 6,150 families at the Yuletide, including 12,479 children. With its home base at Cascade Christian Church, 2829 Thornapple River Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, donations of new clothing, toys, dolls, canned goods and money are greatly appreciated. The co-directors of this years Christmas charity are: Jane Wood, Kim Grimwade and Marcia Mattson. Robert Gaskell is the treasurer.



Cascade

ELECTION UPDATE NOVEMBER 07, 2006

The mid-term general election brought 77% of eligible voters to our polling places this year. There were 9,378 ballots counted, with 1,965 of them being Absentee Ballots.

I want to express sincere thanks for the hard work of our poll workers. They put in a long day and still submitted the necessary, accurate results to submit to the County Clerk. Special recognition should go to our Deputy Clerk, Denise Biegalle, and Evelyn Kwekel who worked diligently to assure that all details were in order so we could complete our count of the ballots with no problems.

I want to also recognize the valuable contribution made by the Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, the Thornapple Evangelical Church, the Cascade Christian Church, the Thornapple Community Reformed Church and Forest Hills Public Schools for allowing us to use their facilities at no cost to the township.

Finally, I want give a special thank you to Papa John's Pizza (located in the D&W Shopping Center) for donating enough pizza and bread sticks to fill the appetites of the 47 election workers at dinner time. Next time you get one of their pizzas, tell them thanks, it's your tax dollars that were saved.

Ron Goodyke, Cascade Township Clerk

2006 WINTER TAX BILLS

Winter tax bills will be mailed to all property owners the first week of December. This tax bill is due without penalty by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 14, 2007.

PAYMENT METHODS

Mail Early: Please use the return envelope provided with your tax statement. Payments are receipted on the business day they are physically received in the Treasurer's office. We recommend that you allow seven (7) days for mail handling. The Treasurer's Department is NOT responsible for delays in the postal system. Postmarks are not accepted.

Return Receipt: If you would like a paid receipt returned to you, please mail your entire bill. We will stamp the top portion of the statement "paid" and return it to you. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment.

In Person: at Cascade Township office located at 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE. Office hours are 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, M-F. The office is closed December 22 & 25, 2006 & January 1st, 2007.

E-Z PAY: The tax payment is taken right out of your checking or savings account. E-Z Pay guarantees your tax payment will be made on time. Just fill out the form enclosed with your tax bill. Applications



must be submitted three weeks prior to the tax payment date selected.

Credit Card Payments: will be accepted through the Official Payments program until 5:00 pm February 14, 2007. Call 1-800-272-9829, or visit the website at www.officialpayments.com. Our Jurisdiction Code is 3230. The provider for this service charges a fee. Payment by credit card may not be made at the Township office.

Make checks payable to: Cascade Charter Township, C/O Mary J. Carpenter, Treasurer.

Late payments which do not include penalty and interest will be applied as a partial payment.

DOG LICENSES for 2007

All dogs over the age of four months must have a Kent County Dog License. Licenses are available for purchase or renewal between December 1, 2006 and March 1, 2007.

The 2007 Fees are as follows:

Female / Male	\$20.00
Altered (Spayed or Neutered)	\$ 9.00



Citizens over 62 years of age are eligible for a discount

The following methods are available to obtain dog licenses:

- 1.) Online: Licenses can be renewed at [www.AccessKent.com/Online Services/](http://www.AccessKent.com/OnlineServices/) or www.kentcounty.org (have your pet's current rabies certificate).
- 2.) By Mail. All required documentation (rabies and spay/neuter certificate, a check or money order made out to Kent County and a self-addressed stamped envelope) must be included with a mail request. Mail to: Kent County Dog License; 711 Ball Avenue NE; Grand Rapids, MI 49503
- 3.) In Person ONLY from December 1st to March 1st at the Township Offices. Please bring the post card that you received in the mail from the Health Department along with ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION, current rabies certificate good for the next 30 days and proof of spayed or neutering of your pet from your veterinarian. After March 1st dog licenses can only be purchased at the Kent County facilities.

Please direct all dog licensing questions to the Kent County Animal Shelter 616-336-3210.

Industrial Facilities Tax Abatement

The Township Board recently gave approval to a new Industrial Facilities Tax Abatement request. L-3 Communications, who are long term residents of the Township and might be better known as Jet Electronics, was granted a 12 year abatement for new equipment. The equipment will update and expand existing operations at the plant and allow L-3 to remain competitive in its field. Although the project will not add any new employment, it will help the company maintain the existing jobs at the Cascade facility.

Connections

Dr. Paap's Mill

Nick Paap immigrated from the Netherlands in 1900. He boarded with the Frank Spaman family, who farmed 120 acres on the northeast corner of Burton and Cascade Road, for some time while he attended veterinary school in Grand Rapids. During this period of time, Nick had a grain mill moved to a lot on the Spaman property. He also built a small storage building. He not only ground grain, but pressed apples for cider too. The foundations of these buildings were buried under a lot of fill dirt that was pushed in when Cascade Road was widened.

In 1914, Nick Paap, now Dr. Paap, married Tillie Mulder, an Ada girl, and settled there to practice veterinary medicine. He was the only vet for miles around and kept busy for many years, answering the farmers' calls to doctor their animals. His two sons, Peter and Louis, live in Cascade. He also has two daughters, Gertrude, who is deceased and Katherine who lives in Grand Rapids.

Ada Christian Reformed Church honors him as one of its founders.

Holiday Sales sponsored by Cascade Historical Society

November 1st to December 31st

Give a piece of Cascade History to Family and Friends this Holiday Season. Share your love of the Cascade area with an Heirloom afghan, Cascade Chronicles, and/or Note Cards.

Heirloom Afghans are embroidered with Cascade's significant historical sites. Afghans are 100 percent loomed cotton and machine washable. Five color selections are available. Regular cost \$75.00 **Sale \$60.00**

Cascade Chronicles published in 1987. Our history book contains memories and collected history by Historical Member Marjorie Mallory Wykes and her Committee. Regular cost is \$10.00 **Sale \$8.00**

Note cards have pen and ink sketch of the Cascade Museum Building available individually or in packets of 10. Cost of single note card small \$1.50 **Sale \$1.25** and large \$2.50 **Sale \$2.00** (Packets of 10 small \$13.50 **Sale \$12.00** and Large \$ 22.50 **Sale \$20.00**).

Items are available at the Township Offices, 2865 Thornhills Ave SE, during business hours.

Membership

The Cascade Historical Society is having their annual membership drive. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Cascade's history. The Society meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Cascade Historical Museum located on Thornapple River Drive and Cascade Road. Membership forms are available at the Township Office, Cascade History Room at the Cascade Library or from members of the Cascade Historical Society. You may also download a membership application from the Township website at www.cascadetwp.com. Click on Reference Desk and Forms or call Mary J. Carpenter at 616-949-6944.

THE FRIENDS OF THE CASCADE LIBRARY INVITE YOU TO STOP BY THE CHAPTER TWO BOOKSTORE

Come visit the Friends' Chapter Two Bookstore, where you can do some special shopping for the upcoming holiday season while supporting the library!

Take advantage of the opportunity to browse through our assortment of high-quality used hardcover and paperback books, CDs, videos, and DVDs. This is a perfect spot to pick up gifts for the holidays or stock up on some excellent choices for your own personal wintertime reading. Our volunteer workers take great pride in offering a wide variety of books for all ages and tastes at very affordable prices. Nearly everything is \$3.00 or less. How can you beat that?

Making your purchase is simple--just take your selections to the check-out desk near the front door of the library and a staff member will be happy to help you. Best of all, you'll be supporting the Cascade Library with every penny you spend, because all revenue from the Friends' bookstore goes right back into helping underwrite the cost of library programs and buying new books and other materials.

So stop by the Chapter Two Bookstore soon! The Friends of the Cascade Library look forward to your visit.



Cascade

WHY A CASCADE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

Having worked for the past few years on developing both the capacity and the vision of The Cascade Community Foundation, we are happy to report that both are growing as we had hoped. Because of your donations, the endowment has grown to more than \$79,000. Thank you for your generous support!

Through grants, we have already helped sponsor cultural and recreational programs, including the successful summer Riverbeat Concert series at the Leslie E. Tassell Park and the inspirational "Let Freedom Ring, 9/11 Tribute" held at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center.

In 2007 we would like to continue our programs and expand the vision to include other cultural events. In the future we are

hoping to expand the vision further to include educational and environmental programs as well. The bottom line is to support programs in Cascade which bring us together as a community to recreate, enjoy entertainment together, learn



Cascade Library Advisory Board

Cascade Township would like to thank Charles Fry for his service to the Cascade Library Advisory Board. Charles was appointed to the Library Advisory Board in January, 1996. He began his tenure on the board with his involvement in the construction of the Cascade library in 1996. When the time came to consider an addition to the Cascade Library, Charles was right back in the heart of it. He sat on the committee for 2+ years to discuss plans for a possible addition. Charles saw the plans through and was very involved in the construction of the Wisner Center in 2006. Charles is currently seeking an appointment to the Kent District Library Board. We thank Charles for his hard work and dedication to the Cascade Library and wish him well.

Cascade Township would like to welcome Susan Roeder to the Cascade Library Advisory Board. Susan is filling the position of retired member Charles Fry. Susan is not new to volunteering to Boards and Commissions, as she was a founding member of the Cascade Community Foundation. Welcome Susan, to the Cascade Library Advisory Board.

to help one another, help our environment, celebrate life in Cascade and make it an even better place to live.

There are ways you can help. Watch for volunteer opportunities. Contact us with suggestions. Consider a year end donation to the Foundation. Because we are part of The Grand Rapids Community Foundation your donation qualifies you for big savings through the Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit. Married donors, filing jointly, can receive a 50% tax credit of up to \$200 on a gift of \$400 to a permanent endowment fund.

A single person can receive a \$100 tax credit on a gift of \$200.

Michigan businesses have the potential to receive up to a \$5,000 tax credit (not to exceed 5% of total Single Business Tax) on a gift of \$10,000. Our address is Cascade Community Foundation, Suite 192, 6475 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Your support is truly appreciated.

Kent County Board of Commissioners

Cascade Township would like to congratulate Sandra Frost Parrish on her election to the Kent County Board of Commissioners. Prior to her election to the Kent County Board of Commissioners, Sandi served on the Cascade Township Planning Commission beginning in January, 1992 through 1998. Sandi was then elected to the Township Board in 1998 to finish the term of a retired member. She was then re-elected in 2000 and 2004 to serve as a trustee on the Township Board. Sandi will vacate her seat on the Board, effective January 1, after serving six years on the Planning Commission and eight years on the Township Board. A new trustee will be appointed in 2007 to finish her term.

Congratulations Sandi, on your election to the Kent County Board of Commissioners and thank you for your hard work and dedication to Cascade Township.



Connections

Fire Fighters Train For Your Safety

The Cascade Township Fire Department has been busy conducting numerous trainings designed to make them better at their job. This training ultimately protects the citizens of the community and their property. These trainings would not have been possible without the donation of different buildings located within the Township. Lack's Industries allowed the use of an abandoned building on Kraft Avenue, Dr. Hoozeboom donated a house on Burton St., Sentinel Pointe allowed the use of their facility, Crowne Plaza allowed the use of their building, and Powell Trucking donated the use of their warehouse on Starr Ave. Many of the trainings were also conducted with the assistance of the Kentwood Fire Department and the Gerald R. Ford Airport Rescue Crews. The

trainings focused on specific tasks such as search and rescue, fire suppression, ventilation, fire fighter safety and survival, thermal imaging camera use, vehicle extrication, finding fires within large buildings, rescuing and evacuating large numbers of elderly people, advancing hose lines into large buildings, and using the standpipe systems in multi-story buildings. This training is necessary to keep up on newer technology and modern tactics of fire fighting.



Using camera to locate victims in a smoke filled room



Using an axe to ventilate a roof



Practicing the operations of Jaws of Life

28th Street Sidewalk Project

As you may have noticed or even utilized, a 7 foot wide sidewalk has been constructed on the north side of 28th St from the Chemical Bank (6265 28th St) property to 2674 Kraft Ave. (just north of O'Neills) on the east side of Kraft Ave. This project is being funded by the Township Board, the DDA and private property owners. Currently the only "gaps" in the sidewalk are at Wal-Mart and the new Strip Mall on Kraft Ave. Both of these walks will be built by the property owner. We have

already heard many wonderful comments from the businesses along this stretch who appreciate the sidewalk. Thanks again to the many businesses along this route for their assistance, participation and cooperation.

In the years to come additional walk will also be built on the south side of 28th St. The ultimate goal is for a continuous sidewalk on both sides of 28th Street all the way to Patterson Ave.

Neighborhood Watch Member Helps Solve Car Larcenies in Hidden Hills

When Mrs. Hoekzema woke up to take care of her daughter in the early morning hours of October 13th, she looked out the bedroom window and noticed a person standing next to their vehicle in their driveway with the car door open. After waking up her husband and obtaining a physical description of the person, they called the Sheriff Department.

The deputies that were dispatched to the area discovered a vehicle that was sitting on the side of the road in the neighborhood and it was unoccupied. The vehicle was not registered to the area. The deputies made contact with the owner of the vehicle who said that his son had the vehicle for the evening.

After a short investigation, two young men were arrested after admitting to breaking into three vehicles that evening. All of the vehicles that were broken into were unlocked. Please take this as a friendly reminder to lock your vehicles and your residence.

This is another great example of teamwork between the observant citizens of Cascade Township and the Kent County Sheriff Department.

Deputy Ryan Coil
Kent County Sheriff Department
East Precinct Community Services Unit
(616)632-6435
Ryan.Coil@kentcounty.org

Cascade

A Citizen's Guide to Cold Weather Practices

Winter means mounds of snow to shovel and layers of ice to remove from our sidewalks and driveways. We often make the job easier by applying deicers like salt, but besides sodium chloride, many deicers also contain chemicals like cyanide. When ice melts, the salts and chemicals dissolve and flow into street drains that lead directly to nearby streams and lakes, endangering aquatic life. By following a few tips, you can reduce your salt use and prevent water pollution.

1. Try an alternative.

Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) was developed as a deicing alternative because it has fewer adverse environmental impacts than salt and doesn't cause corrosion. Although CMA is more expensive than rock salt, it is recommended for environmentally sensitive areas.

2. Reduce your salt use.

By limiting the amount of salt you use on sidewalks and driveways, you can reduce the amount of polluted snow melt washing into waterways.

3. Use that shovel!

The most important step in deicing is to physically remove as much ice as possible before applying salt. Use a shovel to break up the ice before you add another layer of salt to your sidewalk. Adding more salt without removing what has melted can result in over-application, meaning more salt and chemicals end up in nearby streams and lakes. You can also reduce salt use by limiting access to your home to one entrance. For every doorway that is not used, there will be less salt running into the catch basin in your street, and ultimately the Grand River.



Please note: **The Grand Rapids Press** no longer publishes a Community News Section in the Thursday edition. If you are interested in reading about community issues, you may visit The Grand Rapids Press website at www.mlive.com/grpress. You may also click on the What's Happening icon on the Cascade Township website at www.cascadetwp.com.

SNOWPLOWING

Snowplowing contractors and the residents they serve should be aware that State law prohibits the disposing of "snow, ice or slush onto or across a roadway in a manner which obstructs the safe vision of the driver of a motor vehicle". The law further states that no snow, ice or slush can be deposited on any roadway or highway (see MCLA 257-677a).

We recommend that residents who have a snowplow service make sure the snow from their driveway is deposited on their own property, not in the roadway, the road right-of-way, pathway or a neighboring property. The road right-of-way extends wider than the paved section of the roadway.

If you call the Township with problems or concerns regarding a snowplow contractor, it is helpful if you can identify the contractor.

Connections

Halloween Party

On Tuesday, October 31, Cascade Fire Station 1 was transformed into a haven for ghosts, goblins and scary creatures from across the Township. Over 800 costumed kids were treated to a large bag of goodies and treats. Apple cider, donuts, cookies and coffee were provided for the kids and their parents.

To wrap up the evening, a costume contest took place and prizes were given for different age groups. The age groups ranged from 1 day old – 4 years old, 5 years – 9 years, 10 years – 18 years and over 18 years old. The top vote getters in these groups received special prizes; however, due to the tough competition in these categories, all contestants received prizes for their involvement in the costume contest.

We appreciate your participation in this Halloween event and look forward to seeing you next year.

Lieutenant Stephen W. Korhorn
Cascade Township Fire Department



Thank you to the Halloween Party Sponsors

On behalf of Cascade Township and the Cascade Township Fire Department, we would like to send a special thank you to the following businesses and sponsors for their donations and contributions to the 2006 Halloween party. Without the help of these businesses, we would not be able to host this event. Please take notice of these businesses and express your appreciation of their help with the Halloween party.

Acosta	David & Lynne Deering	National City Bank
Anonymous	Family Fare	Noto's
Applebee's	Family Video	O'Neill's Body Shop
Arby's	Fifth Third Bank	O'Neill's Transmission
Batson & Associates	Funny Business	Panera Bread
Best Cleaners	Hampton Inn	Pepsi
Big Boy	Hershey Foods – Gwen Berry	Powell Relocation Group
Blackie's	Huntington Bank	Red Roof Inn
Brann's Steakhouse & Grill	Impact Collision	Rite Aid
Carlos O'Kelly	Independent Bank	S. Abraham & Sons
CarQuest	Joe & Beverly Albright	Sam's Club
Cascade Automotive	Kingsland Hardware	Sentinel Pointe
Cascade Barber Shop	Koenes Auto Body	Spartan Stores
Cascade Car Wash	Lake Michigan Credit Union	SpringHill Suites
Cascade Firefighter's Association	LaQuinta Inn	Target
Cascade Hospital for Animals	LaSalle Bank	Thomas & Joyce Wisner
Chemical Bank West	Legends	Tuffy Muffler
Citgo	Mama's	United Bank
Comerica Bank	McDonald's	Verburg's Automotive
Costco	Medawar's Jewelers	Walgreen's
Crowne Plaza	Meijer	WalMart
Culver's	My Personal Credit Union	Wolverine Vending
D&W Food Center	Napa Auto Parts	Wrigley Sales Co.



Cascade Connections



Pathway Clean Up Volunteers Needed

At the October 25, 2006 Township Board meeting, one of our residents approached the Board about the possibility of residents volunteering to help clean up our township pathways from trash and litter. Mr. Kris Taylor and his wife have been picking up trash and litter along the Cascade Road pathway near their home and thought there might be interest from other individuals to clean up pathways near their homes.

If you are interested in volunteering, there will be an organizational meeting on December 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Friends Room of the Wisner Center, located at the Cascade Public Library, 2850 Jacksmith Ave., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546. Individuals, service groups and business groups are welcome. Thank you Kris for coming up with this idea!

Cascade Charter Township

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