

CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from Cascade Charter Township • Spring 2022



- + Strategic Planning Focus Group Sessions
- + Garlic Mustard Dumpster and Volunteer Pulls
- + Cleanup Day and Yard Waste Pickup Program

NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR

GRACE LESPERANCE



To my fellow Cascadians,

As we welcome spring, our Township is looking forward to building a bright future through two major projects.

First, we have completed a communitywide survey as part of our 2022 Strategic Plan. I want to thank all residents who took the time to respond. We heard from nearly 1,900 of you, which our consultants said was an incredible response for a township.

To me, it epitomizes what I know and

love about our community: We are active, engaged and passionate about making Cascade Township a fabulous place to live, work and raise a family.

Your responses helped us identify our top assets: natural scenery, safety, proximity to most areas in the greater Grand Rapids area, the Thornapple River and our pathways. You also highlighted the things that concern you most: speeding traffic, lack of a central village area, lack of lake and river preservation areas and traffic congestion.

Based on your input, we have established four areas of primary focus and scheduled opportunities to seek additional public input. We are working around spring break to ensure everyone who wants to participate in person is able to do so. All meetings will be held at the Wisner Center, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE.

Remaining Strategic Plan focus groups:

- Parks and trails: 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 29
- Growth management and preservation: 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14
- Road safety and streetscapes: 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21

You can read the full results of our survey and stay updated on focus groups and next steps by visiting connectingcascade.com.

Second, our Board has approved the next step in the process to replace Fire Station 1 by selecting a preliminary design and giving the project team the green light to move ahead with more detailed plans.

We began this process in 2018 with a facilities study that identified replacing Fire Station 1 as our community's top priority. That study pointed to a number of health and safety issues with our current facility, which is a former insulation factory that was never intended to be used as a fire station.

The building has been remodeled three times, and our architect and construction manager have determined we just can't make the necessary fixes to meet state and federal health and safety standards at the current facility. You can read more about the process that led us to this point, including the input and direction we received from Cascade residents, on our website: cascadetwp.com/community/fire-station-1.

We will host an open house **5-7 p.m. Monday, March 28**. This will allow you to tour Fire Station 1, see the problems and pinch points firsthand and talk with Chief Adam Magers and his firefighters, along with the project team. We will continue to provide updates on our website and social media, in addition to a postcard that was mailed to all Cascade residents. We also shared a video that provides a walkthrough of the station and an overview of the challenges our firefighters face in trying to use this facility.

The postcard also invites you to a second community meeting **6-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 11** in advance of our regularly scheduled Board meeting. You will have the chance to review more detailed architectural plans for Fire Station 1, connect with Chief Magers and the construction team and share your thoughts in advance of a public hearing and then Board vote on the project.

We recognize that family, work and other commitments may prevent you from attending any of the meetings mentioned above. That doesn't mean you can't ask questions and share your input! You can do this in a variety of ways:

- For the 2022 Strategic Plan, email questions or comments to bswayze@cascadetwp.com or send us a note by mail at 5920 Tahoe Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49546. Watch for updates on the website and on social media.
- For Fire Station 1, email questions or comments to amagers@cascadetwp.com. You can also stay updated by watching the website or connecting on social media.
- For both projects and all other issues before the Township Board, email questions or comments to bswayze@cascadetwp.com. You can also tune in virtually to our Board meetings, which are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, and share your thoughts during public comment. The details are on our website.

Finally, feel free to share your thoughts with me or any of our trustees when you see us in the community. Remember we are your voice and would love your input as we make decisions to shape a great future for Cascade.

Township Contacts

Township Hall Office Hours

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

Supervisor

Grace Lesperance; 949.1500
glesperance@cascadetwp.com

Clerk

Sue Slater; 949.1508
sslater@cascadetwp.com

Treasurer

Ken Peirce; 949.6944
kpeirce@cascadetwp.com

Trustees

Jim Koessel
jkoessel@cascadetwp.com
Timmy Noordhoek
tnoordhoek@cascadetwp.com
Tom McDonald
tmcdonald@cascadetwp.com
John Shipley
jshipley@cascadetwp.com

Manager

Ben Swayze; 949.1500
bswayze@cascadetwp.com

Assessing

Jennifer Genter; 949.6176
jgenter@cascadetwp.com

Building Inspections

Brian Wilson; 949.3765
bwilson@cascadetwp.com
Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Community Development

Brian Hilbrands; 949.0224
bhilbrands@cascadetwp.com

Fire

Adam Magers; 949.1320
amagers@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff/Non-Emergency Dispatch

336.3113

Community Policing Officer

Omar Dieppa; 632.6435
omar.dieppa@kentcountymi.gov



From the CLERK

Sue Slater

Election dates for 2022 are August 2 (Primary) and November 8 (General).

The redistricting based on 2020 census data has been approved and there will be NO precinct boundary changes in Cascade Township. What has changed is the numbering of some districts.

In all precincts, the Michigan State House of Representatives has changed to District 80.

In all precincts, the Michigan State Senate has changed to District 30. United States Representative to Congress remains District 3.

County Commissioner: Precincts 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, & 10 have changed to District 21. Precincts 4, 5, & 9 remain District 5.

Reminder to Precinct 9 voters ONLY: Your polling location has moved to Thornapple Covenant Church, 6595 Cascade Road.

ALL VOTERS will receive an updated voter ID card reflecting these changes in the mail in a few months.

Join Us for Fire Station 1 Updates



* This is an initial rendering and does not represent the final design.

Fire Station 1 Open House: 5-7 p.m. Monday, March 28 at Fire Station 1, 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE

Fire Station 1 Listening Session: 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 11 at the Wisner Center, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE.

cascadetwp.com/community/fire-station-1



Help Shape the Future of
Cascade Township

Remaining Strategic Plan focus group sessions:

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- Growth management and preservation: 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14
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ConnectingCascade.com

Meet Your Township Electrical Inspectors

If you have a home addition or remodeling project underway, you'll likely see one of our electrical inspectors periodically during construction. We inspect these home projects to ensure they follow the Michigan Residential Code, which provides minimum standards for construction.



Dan Huyser



Paul Westhouse

Cascade Township's electrical inspectors are Dan Huyser and Paul Westhouse, and they bring years of experience in the electrical industry. They inspect electrical installations for code compliance and safety, including air conditioning units, generators, electric vehicle, solar installations and all other types of electrical wiring throughout the home.

The Township has a total of 10 full-time inspectors who are dedicated to ensuring our community stays safe and healthy.

All of our inspectors are available for code-related questions at 616.949.3765. Please check the phone directory on the Township's website for individual extensions: cascadetwp.com/Services-Departments/Building-Inspections.aspx.

Cascade Community Foundation Invests in Local Needs Identified By Residents

The Cascade Community Foundation has announced plans to invest in areas of urgent need identified by community members.

This investment effort is built around a renewed focus on community philanthropy. It prioritizes feedback from Cascade residents and businesses through an ongoing survey to identify often ignored or overlooked areas that are underserved, such as mental illness, addiction, finances and more.

“Over the past two years, local residents have made us aware of some urgent needs, some critically necessary to investigate and amplify through awareness building,” Cascade Community Foundation CEO Justin Swan said. “Today, we’re ready to go further and direct our grantmaking toward local nonprofits capable of delivering solutions.”

The Impact Fund at Cascade Community Foundation is a unique pool of locally raised dollars used to fund the identify and amplify stages of a three-part program. The life cycle of each fund begins with an online survey – available at surveyccf.com – that enables the community to identify needs.

Once an area of need is identified, an impact fund is established to amplify awareness through the popular Q&A Livestream – an online video series that investigates the topic and shines a spotlight on personal testimonies and

available support services. The CCF then directs proceeds from the Joyce and Thomas Wisner Fund to begin investing in services and solutions for residents.



“The beauty of this process is the financial investment that comes at the end,” CCF board member Marty Marino said. “The community’s willingness to support identifying and amplifying urgent needs is made even more special by the foundation’s ability to invest grant dollars into needed solutions and services.”

CCF will announce the focus of this year's Impact Fund and fifth season of the Q&A Livestream at its annual LaunchPad event this spring.

Individuals and businesses who want to learn more about contributing to the Impact Fund or sponsoring CCF's events and programs are asked to call 616.499.2060 or email Justin Swan at justin.swan@cascadecommunityfoundation.com.

Want to discover more about the Q&A Livestream? Visit qalivestream.org.



CASCADE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Mark Your Calendar for Memorial Day Ceremony

You're invited to the Cascade Township Memorial Day Ceremony on **May 30**. The annual event will begin at 10 a.m. at Kent District Library – Cascade Township Branch, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE.

Please watch the Township's website – cascadetwp.com – and social media for more information as Memorial Day draws near.

Honoring Service and Sacrifice

McDonald-Osmer Post #451 of the American Legion

Melvin Bauman	James Heuker	Robert Shields
John Baxter	Harry Jones	Corey Smith
Joseph Belote	David Kennedy	Jarvis Spreng
Michael Blundell	Darl Large	Mark Tellier
Tristan Bryant	Robert Modderman	Clarence Van Strein
Nadine Bullinger	Ellsworth Neeley	Robert Vos
Jeff Burghgraef	Wayne Quint	Clay West
Albert Bytwork	Thomas Reimersma	Robert Williams
David Clark	Angela Reterstorf	
Lyle Dykhuizen	Lawrence Rose	2022:
John Friedli	Bill Sanders	In Memoriam –
Bryan Gettler	Gilbert Shroeter	Richard Doezeema
Richard Green	Daniel Shackelton	



Kent District Library Offering New and Familiar Programs for All Ages

KDL is resuming programming with a variety of new and returning programs for all ages. This includes:

- **Trees are Amazing:** 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, April 5 – For ages 5-10, this fun program offers activities and information about trees and other vegetation in your neighborhood. Each child will leave with a tree to plant.
- **Spring Play Date:** 10 a.m.-noon Wednesday, May 11 – Celebrate spring with crafts and activities for the youngest in the family. This station-based program is designed with toddlers and babies in mind as we get ready for warmer weather together.
- **Book Explorers:** 4 p.m. Tuesdays in April – Youngsters ages 5-10 can explore the style and variety of illustrations in children's picture books. After a reading and discussion, participants create an art project inspired by the book.

- **Yoga Storytime:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays in April – This popular program for ages 0-5 returns at a new evening time. Enjoy stories and songs while practicing simple yoga poses and movements.
- **Bright Beginnings:** 10-11 a.m. Friday, April 15 and May 13 – Join the Kent Intermediate School District early childhood playgroup for crafts, rhymes, songs and more.

YMCA Book Club: 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month – For adults, this offers an informal discussion of great books. Each month's title is available at the library's main desk.

Check out KDL's website – kdl.org – Facebook page and digital sign for any changes to this programming.

Get to Know Your Parks Committee Members

The natural beauty of Cascade Township drew Grace Lesperance and her family here 14 years ago. Now township supervisor, Grace strongly believes in working proactively to preserve Cascade's natural beauty and green spaces, especially in light of pressures for more development.

Cascade Township residents are fortunate to have a dedicated and talented group of volunteers serving on the

Parks Committee. Although Grace does not share their professional backgrounds and expertise, she does share their enthusiasm for maintaining and enhancing Cascade's natural beauty for residents to enjoy for generations.

Parks Committee members are appointed by the township supervisor and serve staggered three-year terms. You can email them at cascadeparks@cascadetwp.com.

Here are your Parks Committee members:



Ginny Wanty, Chair

Ginny is a retired Michigan State University Extension master naturalist coordinator, former science teacher and school administrator and an award-winning conservationist. She earned a degree in forestry and natural resources, has served on the Ada Township Parks Committee and volunteers for several conservation organizations. She moved into Cascade Township in 2018 and began serving on the Parks Committee in 2020. Ginny hopes to inspire our community to be actively engaged in environmental stewardship as well as protect and gain more knowledge about the natural world around us.



Joe Engel, Vice Chair

Joe has been a Township resident for more than 40 years. After practicing law for 36 years, he most recently served as executive director of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. Joe was appointed to the Parks Committee in 2020. He is passionate about protecting open spaces for Cascade residents and ensuring they have permanent access to healthy nature-based recreation.



Mike Reese, Member

Mike is a professional landscape architect who moved to Cascade Township in 2018 to be closer to family and start a Grand Rapids branch office of his consulting firm. He has served on the Parks Committee since 2020. Mike has a degree in landscape architecture from Michigan State University and a passion for nature, parks, sports and outdoor recreation.



Matthew Douglas, Member

Matt teaches botany, zoology, anatomy and physiology at Grand Rapids Community College. With a doctorate in zoology and ecology, he has taught at many private and public universities. Matt has lived in Cascade Township for 20 years and is continually impressed with the area's natural beauty. He joined the Parks Committee in 2021.



Windy Korstange, Member

Windy is an active conservationist who enjoys spending time outdoors. She has been a resident of Cascade Township since 2006 and a member of the Parks Committee since January 2022. She also serves on the Cascade Township Planning Commission. Windy has a degree in nursing from Grand Canyon University.

The Legacy of Nick Kik Jr.

You may have seen his name on the street sign at the entrance to Cascade Recreation Park.

Nick Kik Jr., the man with the distinctive moniker, devoted his life to designing landscapes of purpose and beauty in West Michigan. He was an essential figure in the creation of Cascade's parks system.

Born in Grand Rapids, Kik graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in landscape architecture. Starting in 1938, he began working part time for the City of Kalamazoo, commuting from his small farm on Thornapple River Drive. He worked his way up and, by 1950, he was Kalamazoo's parks and recreation director.

During this time, he was instrumental in developing the Kalamazoo Mall – the first outdoor pedestrian mall in the country. Intent on leaving a “green legacy for our children,” Kik was the driving force behind the creation of new city parks, public swimming pools and recreational facilities in Kalamazoo. When he retired in 1971, the city pool at Upjohn Park was named in his honor.

Kik remained closely connected to his family and the farm on Thornapple River Drive during the 33 years he worked for the City of Kalamazoo, commuting to Cascade on weekends while also maintaining a house on Gull Road in Kalamazoo. He and his wife, Ann, who was also a landscape architect, owned 10 acres where the

Mooring Heights neighborhood is now.

Nick and Ann Kik raised nursery stock as well as chickens and Angus beef cattle. Ann Kik had her own nursery business, employing a generation of local teens who she drove to homes in East Grand Rapids to plant flowers and weed gardens. Many boys who worked for her remember her strong work ethic, which they admired and learned from as they grew older.

When the Kiks bought their farm, Cascade was still very rural and small. However, by the 1960s, its population increased to around 3,300. By the early 1970s, the population was estimated at around 8,000.

The Township Board soon identified a need for a recreational park for its residents. In 1973, the Township purchased a 50-acre parcel at 3810 Thornapple River Drive, just north of the I-96 overpass. The timing couldn't have been better for Nick Kik. Now living full time in Cascade, no one was more active in promoting the park's future than Kik. In 1973, he became the first Park Board chairman for Cascade Township.

Kik and his fellow members got right to work by hiring landscape architect Ray Sheler. The layout of the park was designed to meet the needs of all residents, from tots and teens to adults and seniors. With limited funding, the Township was forced to develop the park in phases. The first

phase included two ball diamonds, two tennis courts, four horseshoe courts, shuffleboard courts, benches, a playground and a restroom.

In May and June 1975, the Ada Congregational Church Boy Scouts and Cascade Boy Scouts planted 1000 pine seedlings in the newly opened park with the help and encouragement of Kik and other volunteers. Cascade Park was a success, with residents and families of all ages enjoying its amenities. In the early 1980s, the Softball Association had 65 boys and girls teams playing at Cascade Park.

In May 1981, Kik became an honorary life member of the Township's Parks and Recreation Commission. He continued to serve, inspire and share his knowledge until his death in 1988 at age 85.

In the years since, Cascade Park has expanded by adding a running/walking trail, sand volleyball area, large playground, soccer field, basketball courts, pickleball courts, 18-hole disc golf course, dog park, pavilion, shelters, picnic tables and sledding hill.

We welcome everyone to explore this park and the five other parks throughout Cascade Township. We are grateful to Kik for his passion, vision and forward thinking. He was “green” before “green” was a thing.

— by Karen Parent

Parks Master Plan Update

Cascade Township and its Parks Committee are completing a five-year parks master plan that will provide guidance for parks management, facilities, improvements, maintenance and programs over the next five years and beyond.

The plan also will make the Township eligible for certain grants from the Michigan

Department of Natural Resources.

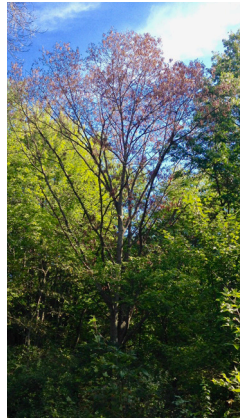
A community survey last fall collected nearly 1,000 responses. Thank you to all residents who took the time to share your valuable feedback. The Parks Committee is working with a consultant to analyze the input and prepare a draft plan. The draft plan will be shared with the community this spring for review and feedback.



Two Oak Wilt Sites Confirmed at Burton Park

Cascade Burton Park has two confirmed sites of oak wilt, a lethal disease that kills red oaks within six to eight weeks of infection. There's no cure for oak wilt once a red oak is infected.

Want to help us identify infected red oaks? Here's what to look for: Red oaks that suddenly drop their leaves in July through September, making it look like fall in the summer.



What can you do to prevent oak wilt?

- Don't prune or wound oak trees during the growing season, which is April through September.
- Immediately use clear shellac to seal any wounds created during this time.
- Don't move infected wood.

The main goal is to prevent oak wilt at Cascade Burton Park from killing additional red oak trees in the park and adjacent neighborhoods. In order to achieve this goal, an oak wilt management plan has been created by our state-qualified oak wilt consultant, Julie Stachecki.

The oak wilt management plan includes:

- Trenching to disconnect infected red oak roots from non-symptomatic red oak trees.
- Tree removal and appropriate disposal of infected wood.
- Stump treatment with herbicide.
- Monitoring.

This plan strives to remove as few trees as possible in the infected zone. There are non-symptomatic red oak trees in the infected zone, so infected trees will be removed to contain the disease. The infected red oaks will be cut down, chipped and removed from the site.

Treatment and trenching have taken place this winter, and removal of the red oak trees in the infected zone at the two sites will take place in November. Watch for updated signage at the two sites.

For more information about oak wilt, visit michiganoakwilt.org. For questions, leave a message for Cascade Parks Committee Chair Ginny Wanty at 616.949.1500.

— Ginny Wanty, Cascade Parks Committee

Help Stop the Spread of Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard season will be here soon, and we need your help to prevent its spread.

Garlic mustard is a highly invasive plant that stays green all year long. It has the odor of garlic when crushed. The young rosette – cluster of leaves – grows close to the ground. The adult plants grow upright with a white four-petal flower at the end of the stalk.

Impact of garlic mustard:

- Out competes or prevents native plants and trees from growing.
- One plant can produce more than 3,000 seeds.
- Seeds can remain viable in the soil for 10 or more years.

What you can do:

- Monitor your property carefully and frequently for new infestations.
- Remove garlic mustard plants by hand before they go to seed. When soil is moist, grasp low and firmly on the plant and then tug gently until the main root loosens and the entire plant pulls out.
- Pulled plants should be bagged and placed in regular trash. **Do not compost.**
- Clean shoes, pant cuffs and equipment thoroughly after walking or working in an infested area.

A collection dumpster for garlic mustard will be available **May 6-31** in the back of the Cascade Township Fire Department, 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE.

Community mustard pulls

Residents are needed to volunteer for a garlic mustard pull at two Cascade Township locations on the following dates:

- **10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 7** at Burton Park, 6805 Burton St. SE. Park and meet at the maintenance building.
- **6-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 11** at the Cascade Township Cemetery, 7200 30th St. SE. Park and meet near the maintenance garage but don't block traffic.

Grab some gloves and join in these community volunteer events. For more information or questions, email cascadeparks@cascadetwp.com.



YARD WASTE PICKUP PROGRAM

The Township again this year will offer bagged yard waste pickup in the restricted burn area – generally the area west of Buttrick and north of I-96. **Pickup will be every Monday from April 4-25.**

Please place your yard waste near the curb by midnight each Sunday. Place an orange tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches. No grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand or rocks. Bags can weigh no more than 30 pounds. Sticks should be no longer than 4 feet in length, and branches, logs and stumps are not to exceed 1 inch in diameter.

If you have orange tags from last year you plan to use, please call 616.949.1500 to add your address to the spring 2022 list.

Yard waste tags are available at the reception desk at Township Hall 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Each household is limited to 20 for the season. For more information about the Township's yard waste pickup service, visit cascadetwp.com/community/community-programs or call 616.949.1500.

YARD WASTE DUMPSTERS

The Township will provide dumpsters for yard waste disposal behind Fire Station 1, 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE, from April 22-24. Please note the 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. There also will be a 15-cubic-yard container of finished compost. This material will be free and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information about the Township's yard waste dumpsters, visit cascadetwp.com/community/community-programs or call 616.949.1500.

CASCADE CLEANUP DAY

The annual Cascade Cleanup Day returns **Saturday, May 21.**

From 8 a.m. to noon, Cascade Township residents are invited to drop off nonhazardous household waste at Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Road SE. Gates will close at noon, so get there early.

Residents may drop off nonhazardous household materials such as general trash and junk, large and small appliances, scrap metal, electronics for recycling and up to 100 pounds of office paper or personal documents for shredding. Computers, TVs, small appliances, cell phones, household batteries and other electronics will be accepted. No hazardous materials or yard waste will be accepted. For yard waste, you will need to use the dumpsters at Fire

Station No. 1 (see above), leaf bag pickup program (see above) or other services for yard waste such as leaves, branches and brush. The Township will host a household hazardous waste day later this year. Paint cans that are opened and dried are allowed (latex paint only).

Proof of Cascade Township residency is required. Residents should enter the Ada Bible Church parking lot off Cascade Road and exit onto Quiggle Road. Please follow the signage on-site.

Services are subject to availability, so please check our website as the date gets closer. For more information about Cascade Cleanup Day, visit cascadetwp.com or call 616.949.1500.

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.

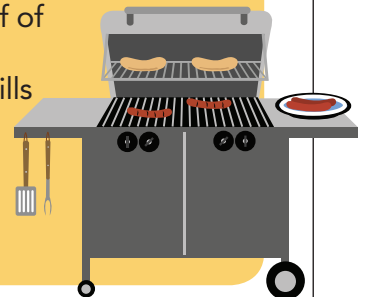
PROPANE Grills

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
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to Serving You
616.949.1320



Clothes Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

AND DON'T FORGET...

Dryers should be properly **grounded**.

Check the **outdoor vent** flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.

Keep the area around your dryer **clear** of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

Clothes that have come in contact with **flammable substances**, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

FACT

! The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.



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



CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to Serving You
616.949.1320



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GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO. 657

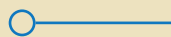
Cascade Charter Township

5920 Tahoe Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(p) 616.949.1500
(f) 616.949.3918
cascadetwp.com

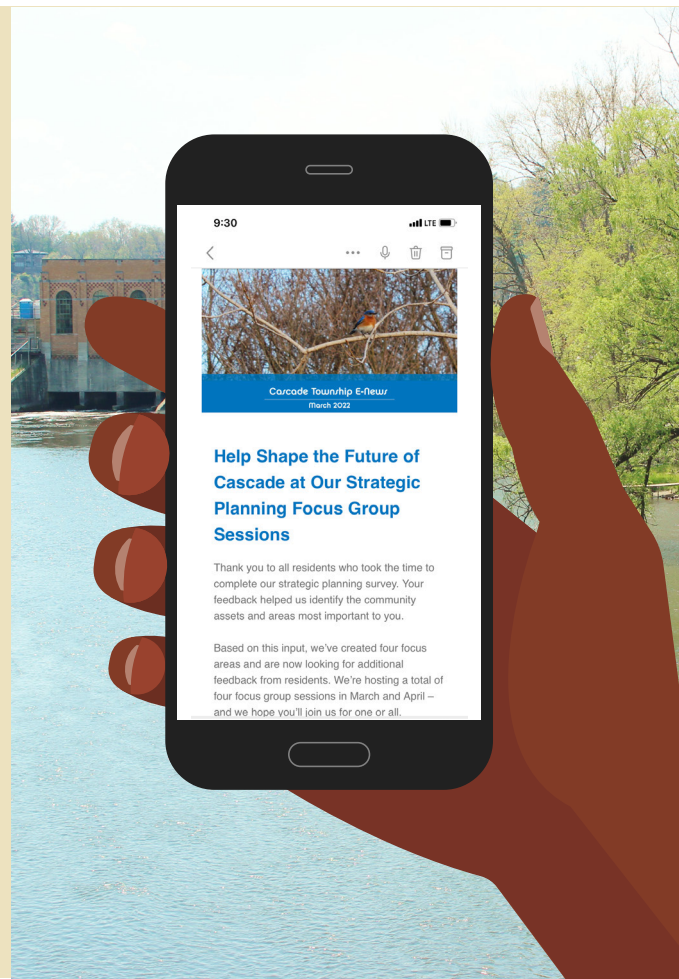
SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up for our e-newsletter to stay up to date on Township events, projects and other happenings in our community.

You can also sign up at cascadetwp.com.



**SCAN
QR CODE**



9:30

< ... 🔊 🗑️ 📄



Cascade Township E-News
March 2022

Help Shape the Future of Cascade at Our Strategic Planning Focus Group Sessions

Thank you to all residents who took the time to complete our strategic planning survey. Your feedback helped us identify the community assets and areas most important to you.

Based on this input, we've created four focus areas and are now looking for additional feedback from residents. We're hosting a total of four focus group sessions in March and April – and we hope you'll join us for one or all.