



CASCADE CONNECTIONS

Cascade Charter Township Newsletter

Winter 2023

Inside this edition

- Township takes Possession of 6896 Cascade Road SE
- 2024 Budget: Providing Financial Accountability
- Parks are Proliferating in Cascade
- Historical Society: A Lake With Two Names

From the SUPERVISOR

Grace Lesperance



Looking back ... and looking ahead

Dear Cascadians,

As 2023 comes to its end I want to first thank you – the residents – for your participation and interest in our Cascade community. Your engagement and support over the past year laid the foundation for our 2024 initiatives:

Enhancing public safety

Exactly one year to the day after we broke ground, Cascade officially opened the new Fire Station No. 1, and welcomed the public to tour it. **The new \$10.9 million, state-of-the-art station** – Cascade’s largest capital improvement project to date – was completed on time and within budget and did not require any additional millage or tax burden to residents. It was funded with general tax revenue set aside; bonds paid for with recent increases in state revenue sharing; and federal ARPA (Covid relief) dollars.

In addition to the new fire station, and in response to an uptick in crime throughout Kent County, **an additional full-time Kent County Sheriff Patrol Officer**, paid for with existing police mileage funding, began serving Cascade earlier this year. Results have been positive. We will continue to monitor to ensure coverage is sufficient.



Project partners, builders, and leadership pose outside the Cascade library on Nov. 17, 2023. Front row, from left: Susie Grubba; Cascade Parks & Recreation Director Melanie Manion; and Joann King. Second row: Ellen Gray, Marge Ohlman, Kathy Sullivan; KDL Regional Manager Lulu Brown; Joe David; Supervisor Grace Lesperance; KDL Regional Manager II Ashley Smolinski; and KDL Executive Director Lance Werner. Back: Harder and Warner Senior Designer Ben Leonard and Wes Landon, Principal/Landscape architect for Native Edge.



Supervisor Grace Lesperance poses with Susie Grubba, the daughter of Jack and Helen Lewis. The family donated \$30,000 for a fountain to be installed at the park.

New volunteer program

Since coming aboard this past spring, Melanie Manion, Cascade’s newly hired Parks & Recreation director, hit the ground running with the Building & Grounds team to improve our parks and public spaces

and combat invasive species. With help from new volunteer coordinator and Cascade resident Jeanine Heibel, Cascade Parks & Recreation has hosted nearly a dozen workdays.

New parks

Thanks to a Revitalization and Placemaking Program (RAP) grant from the state and the support of Friends of the Cascade Library, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and the family of Jack Lewis (a longtime Cascade resident and former trustee), **construction is underway on Friendship Park – the outdoor area surrounding the library.**

With completion scheduled for next June, this park will be a community gathering place for all ages.

Improvements include outdoor gardens with native landscaping, walking paths with benches, a pavilion, and a fountain.

Additionally, Wycliffe Trailhead Park (the wooded area at Wycliffe and 30th Street) improvements are well underway. The property will remain wooded, with the addition of an unpaved walking path and natural area.

Farewell to Tuffy

The heart of Cascade will soon look a bit different. Using a state grant, the Township recently took possession of the Tuffy Tire & Auto Service site.

We would like to thank Tuffy owner Jay Farlin, Store Manager Bobby Ihm, and their employees for their excellent service to countless residents over the past 27 years at that location. As Ihm said, “It was never about the money. It was about the customers.” They will be missed.

Given its proximity to the Thornapple River and the village area, the **Tuffy site will be restored to the natural space that highlights its beauty and unique character.** Additionally, converting this corner lot to parkland will make traversing this busy intersection a bit safer for bikers and pedestrians.

Burton Street pedestrian bridge

To encourage a safer connection to regional path systems, Cascade Township was awarded **\$3.5 million from the state for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Interstate 96 on Burton Street.** Based on the engineering work to date, the state funding is more than enough to fund the entire project – with no cost to the Township.

Pedestrian bridge over the Thornapple River

Reconstruction of the pedestrian portions of the bridge on Cascade Road over the Thornapple River remains on track for this spring. **This long-overdue project is an important step toward creating**



Supervisor Grace Lesperance reviews engineering plans with Township Engineer Aric Thorne during a recent site visit to Tuffy Tire & Auto Center.



Cascade Road bridge over the Thornapple River, looking northwest. Enhancements will include a physical barrier to separate the pedestrian lane from traffic, a higher outer railing, and year-round lighting.

a safer and more walkable “village” area. Construction will be funded entirely with state ARPA and Township DDA funds.

PFAS remediation

Extension of municipal water to the 400-plus homes impacted by PFAS contamination from Gerald R. Ford International Airport continues. **Roughly half of the homes were connected to municipal water this year,** with the remaining homes on schedule to connect in 2024.

Thank you to impacted residents for your patience and participation as we continue to resolve this challenging and disruptive issue.

The project has been funded with federal, state, and county grants. Should additional funding be

needed to complete the project, including proper restoration of affected properties, the Township is committed to ensuring that the responsible party pays those costs – not Cascade Township or its residents.

It is an honor to serve as your Township Supervisor. I look forward to working with you as the Cascade community addresses its unique challenges and exciting opportunities in 2024. Remember, in addition to regular business hours, I have “after hours” hours **on the first Thursday of every month from 6 p.m.-7 p.m.** at the library. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a truly Happy New Year!

— **Grace Lesperance, Supervisor**

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget: Financial accountability

At its Nov. 15 meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously adopted the Cascade Charter Township FY 2024 Budget. The budget details all the expenses and revenues that the Township needs to provide quality services for its residents for the full 2024 calendar year.

Cascade's FY 2024 budget is \$21.2 million, which includes \$5.1 million for capital improvements.

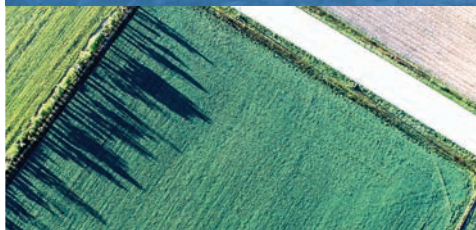
Formal approval of the FY 2024 Budget was the final step of a months-long process led by new Township Manager Jade Smith, the Personnel & Finance Committee (Supervisor Lesperance, Treasurer Windy Korstange, and Trustee Timmy Noordhoek) and – for the first time – an independent accounting firm. **The process included an independent review of all Township fund balances, expenses, and internal process controls.**

As state law requires, Cascade's FY 2024 budget is balanced – **meaning our 2024 expenses do not exceed our 2024 revenues (and do not deplete current fund balances).**



**More than
\$1 million**

**invested for public space
maintenance/improvements**



\$100,000

**allocated for greenspace/
farmland preservation**

What is notable about this year's budget is its reduced administrative costs – made possible by reducing or eliminating non-essential expenses. This increase in internal efficiency allowed for an additional \$500,000 to

be reallocated to tangible capital improvements.

The result is a comprehensive document that emphasizes: administrative efficiency; public safety; village improvements; and preservation of natural spaces and parks.

Unique this year are:

- \$1,000,000+ for improvements to and maintenance of public spaces
- \$100,000 for farmland/greenspace preservation
- \$90,000 for installation and maintenance of trees along primary streets
- \$130,000+ for village improvements, including conceptual design
- \$100,000 for improvements to IT programs and cyber security

The Board of Trustees wishes to thank Manager Smith for his attention to detail, hard work, and fresh perspective on preparing the FY 2024 budget. We are delighted with and grateful for his administrative leadership.

Winter property taxes due Feb. 14

Winter 2023 taxes are due and payable now. Payments may be made without penalty or interest charged as late as Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024.

If you did not recently receive a statement, please visit www.cascadetwp.com or call the Treasurer's Office at 616-949-6944.

If writing a check, please include your telephone number should we have any questions.

Payments are receipted on the business day they are received.

From the
TREASURER

Windy Korstange



Postmarks are not accepted. To avoid late fees, we recommend sending your payment by Feb. 7 to ensure timely delivery. Beginning March 1, 2024, all unpaid property taxes will be forwarded to the Kent County Treasurer for collection.

Additional property tax information is available at www.cascadetwp.com. Select "Property/Parcel Lookup",

which links to BSAonline.com.

At the top of the page:

- > Select All Records By
- > Drop-down arrow to select search type (address, name parcel number)
- > Double-click on selected parcel
- > Click Tax information tab

Dog licenses

Kent County dog licenses are available from the Cascade Township Office year-round. A current rabies certificate is required.

Questions? Please call the Treasurer's Office at 616.949.6944.

About the Permanent Absentee Ballot mailing list

In preparation for the 2024 Presidential Primary election, the Clerk's Office plans to send Absentee Voter applications to residents on the Permanent Absentee Voter Application mailing list. These applications will include an option to sign up for a new Permanent Absentee Ballot mailing list. These applications will be sent out at the end of December.

This list is part of a handful of election-related changes set in motion with the passing of Proposal 22-2.

Beginning in 2024, Proposal 22-2 granted voters the ability to have

From the CLERK

Sue Slater



an absentee ballot mailed to them automatically for all future elections. To sign up for this service, all a voter needs to do is check a box indicating they would like to receive a ballot in the mail.

It's important to note however that ballots cannot be forwarded through the mail. This means the Permanent Absentee Ballot mailing list is not a good choice for voters

who travel frequently, have multiple residences or who live a "snowbird" lifestyle. If a ballot goes to an incorrect address, significant delays will occur.

The bottom line: if you have your mail forwarded, do not choose to be added to the Permanent Absentee Ballot mailing list. Instead, remain on or sign up for the Permanent Application mailing list so election workers will have an accurate address to mail your ballot.

Please contact the Clerk's Office with any questions by calling 616-949-1508.

Assessing News

Property tax exemption for disabled veterans

Public Act 161 provides a property tax exemption for disabled veterans, their unremarried surviving spouse or another legal designee.

Those eligible must file a completed Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption – and supporting documentation – annually with the local municipality in which their property is located.

When possible, this submission should be made in the first two months of the year (January or February).

To learn more about the program, visit www.michigan.gov/treasury/local/stc under "Disabled Veterans Exemption Information".

Assessment change notices

Assessment change notices will be mailed on or before Feb. 22, 2024. If you are a new homeowner and do not receive your notice by March 1, please contact our assessor's office.

Online tools & resources

Assessing information is available 24/7 at www.cascadetwp.com

Find information on:

- Property/Parcel information
- Assessing Forms
- Sales and Land Studies by Neighborhood
- Annual residential review data

More information is available 24/7 at www.accesskent.com:

- Property mapping services
- Parcel Viewer (iMap)
- Register of Deeds Self Service Web

Notices will also include:

- Recent ownership changes
- Principal residence exemption (PRE) status. If you purchased the property in 2023, please check the PRE status carefully. Contact the assessor's office if the PRE status is incorrect.

Assessment Appeals set for March 11 & 12

The March Board of Review will hear assessment Appeals on March 11 and 12, 2024.

- Appointments may be made beginning March 1, 2024.

- Sales data and comparative information will be available on our Township's website, at the Township Office and in the Cascade library beginning Feb. 26, 2024.

- An appeal to the Board of Review, either in person or by letter, is a prerequisite for an appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Assessing staff is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays-Fridays to assist residents and answer questions. Stop in or call 616-949-6176.

Cascade parks proliferating

At the beginning of 2023, Cascade Township had six parks. By summer 2024, that number will have grown to eight. Wycliffe Trailhead Park and Friendship Park are "on the map" and scheduled for completion this spring.

"We were poised for growth before I even arrived," said Parks & Recreation Director Melanie Manion. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan prioritizes adding more parks and preserving natural spaces.

Friendship Park takes root on library grounds

"A place to meet friends." That's what Kent District Library's Lulu Brown envisioned for the vacant and under-utilized space around the library.

"Since the project is a place to meet friends, make friends, and is being supported by the Friends of the Cascade Library, it seemed natural to call this budding property 'Friendship Park,'" said Brown.

This project is moving forward thanks to a \$450,000 Revitalization and Placemaking Program (RAP) grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. RAP funds are intended to support community revitalization needs through development of permanent place-based infrastructure. The efforts of regional economic growth organization The Right Place ensured Cascade's grant application was competitive.

Total project cost is estimated at \$1.3 million. Additional project funds were generously donated by Friends of the Cascade Library, the Cascade Township DDA and the family of Jack and Helen Lewis.



Site plan detail courtesy of Native Edge



Construction began last month on the newly named Friendship Park – on the grounds of the Cascade library.



From left: Ken Van Der Kolk; Cascade Building & Grounds staff member Josh Higgins; John Giddens; Township Clerk Sue Slater, Township Supervisor Grace Lesperance; Opal Flannery; Volunteer Coordinator Jeanine Heibel; Diane Mahon; Parks & Recreation Director Melanie Manion, and her daughter Elisabeth Manion pose following a "Weekend Parks Warrior Workday" at Wycliffe Trailhead Park.

Wycliffe takes shape

In September, Cascade Township Trustees supported the final design and funding development of Wycliffe Trailhead Park.

To reduce costs, volunteers and Building & Grounds staff are doing most of the improvements to the park including a fully accessible trail and rail fencing.

Designed to tie directly into the existing pathway system, Wycliffe will provide an easy and safe way to utilize Cascade's stellar pathways.

Additional improvements will include signage, a picnic bench, a natural playground and a public restroom.

Volunteer program gains momentum

In the fall edition of Cascade Connections, the Township touted its new parks volunteer programs for groups and individuals. Only a few months in, Cascadians have answered the call to service. Nearly 90 people have stepped up at various events to assist the Township in removing invasive species, restoring habitats, and improving the overall maintenance of our parks and open spaces.

"Cascade's Parks provide beautiful locations for friends and families to



Jeanine Heibel prepares to treat invasive rosa while Environmental Educator Jessica Gregory snips during a workday at Burton Park.

gather and enjoy nature," said Cascade Parks & Recreation Volunteer Coordinator Jeanine Heibel. "Our volunteer program already has a dedicated crew of regulars who truly enjoy working together toward a common goal. I am impressed with how much they have accomplished in these few months."

Visible progress has already been made at several Township parks:

PEACE: Volunteers assisted in removing Japanese barberry plants from near the bathrooms and cut and treated Asian bittersweet, rosa, honeysuckle and autumn olive with herbicide throughout the park.

LESLIE E. TASSELL: Volunteers helped in clearing out and replanting landscaping areas, and cleared and removed aggressive invasive species such as bittersweet, autumn olive, Siberian elm, rosa and honeysuckle from around structures, native trees and the riverbank.

WYCLIFFE: Volunteers assisted in the creation of new trails through the park, removed dead and downed plants and debris from the new paths, and laid wood chips ground from collected debris.

BURTON: Volunteers removed invasive species and treated cut stumps with herbicide.

FRIENDSHIP PARK: Volunteers removed invasive honeysuckle and bittersweet from the perimeter of the wooded grove.

About Volunteering

Parks offers two different opportunities based on availability. "Tuesdays @ 10" is intended for folks available during weekday mornings, and "Weekend Parks Warrior Workdays" are for those whose availability tends to be weekends. Registration is required. For more information, or to sign up, email volunteer@cascadetwp.com or call 616-481-3578.

LGROW: A little ice melt goes a long way

Salt overuse is hurting local watersheds

Salt is an important tool in any municipality's toolbox for fighting winter weather, but overuse is having a detrimental effect on the environment. A textbook example of salt overuse can be found in our own backyard: Grand Rapids' Church Lake.

According to a recent study by Grand Valley State University, this 20-acre private lake at the corner of Fulton Street and Beltline Avenue has chloride levels (a major component of road salt) more than double the threshold state officials say is dangerous to aquatic life. Because salt is more dense than water, it settles on lake bottoms, slowly making the habitat toxic.

The only feasible way to remove salt and chloride from contaminated water is through reverse osmosis filtration, which is not practical on a large scale.

The Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) reports that most over-application of road salt comes from private industries, plow companies, and residential areas. According to the University of Minnesota, it takes only one teaspoon of road salt to pollute five gallons of water. The best way to reduce road salt in the environment is through education.

Do your part to protect local watersheds this winter

Here are a few simple steps residents can take to reduce salt pollution in Cascade:

Clear snow and ice first: The more you remove, the less salt will be needed.

Use less salt: A little salt goes a long way. Only a 12-ounce mug of salt-based de-icer is needed for a 20-foot driveway! Try to apply ice melt sparingly and remove slush once the snow melts to prevent refreezing. Once melted, sweep up any excess salt.

Don't apply below 15 degrees: Most salt products do not work when the temperature is below 15 degrees.

Adopt a Drain: If you have a drain near your property, take note and try to keep the drain clear of snow, leaves and debris. This allows drains to function properly, preventing trash from entering local waterways and reduces chances of flooding. Mark the drain with a stake to easily find it in the snow.

Store safely: Store salt and other de-icers under a roof or inside an entryway to minimize excess runoff.

For more information on road salt and formally adopting a drain through LGROW, visit www.lgrow.org/adopt-a-drain.

To be proactive, Cascade Township Building & Grounds staff recently attended an LGROW training on proper stormwater and runoff management, which includes managing road salt.

This training featured recommendations on reducing and managing road salt use.

Staff is also looking into the use of brine (a saltwater mix) to treat pathways and Township parking areas.

Information sourced from LGROW, Michigan State University, and the University of Minnesota

Memorial/Commemorative Bench policy changes

Dedicating a commemorative bench in a public space is a special way to honor a loved one or family. For many years the Township has offered the purchase and installation of commemorative benches for just \$500.

Unfortunately, this monetary amount did not cover the cost of materials and installation of the bench. "Besides recognizing a community member or organization, commemorative gifts are usually offered in the spirit of philanthropy," said Parks and Recreation Director Melanie Manion. "The current benches cost \$600. But with shipping, installation, and maintenance, we estimate the real cost of a bench is at least \$2,000. It was not reasonable to ask the Township to



Cascade Township's new commemorative bench style.

recognize a person or group at a cost to the taxpayer."

That's why the Township Board of Trustees adopted a new commemorative bench donation policy requiring a \$5,000 minimum donation, or \$2,500 when recognizing a veteran.

Manion is the first to admit the price hike is steep. "Coming back with \$5,000, I'll admit I was a little surprised," she said during the meeting. "Having said that ... comparing (us) to other locations ... and using (the donated funds) as a way to capture additional revenue for the parks department made sense to me."

Manion also plans a change in bench design. "We're going to a different design that I believe is more attractive, and also (is fixed) into the ground." These new benches cost around \$1,200-\$1,500 because they are made of recycled plastic, which also increases durability.

To view the new donation policy, visit www.cascadetwp.com/parks.

Cascade library offers a winter of wonder

Snuggle up with a good book this cold season and earn goodies by participating in KDL's Let It Snow 2024 Winter Reading Club! Adults and teens (age 11+) who read or listen to six books from our Let It Snow reading categories between Dec. 1, 2023 and Feb. 29, 2024 earn a Let It Snow mug. Log four more titles – a total of 10 books – by Feb. 29 and participants will be automatically entered into our Power Reader drawing to win an Amazon Kindle Scribe with stylus pen or other prizes.

Track reading progress online at www.kdl.beanstack.org or complete and turn in a paper form, available at any KDL branch.



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Please be aware that all KDL locations will be closed on the following dates:

- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24
- Christmas Day, Dec. 25
- Dec. 26
- New Year's Day, Jan. 1
- Jan. 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Besides their annual reading club, the Cascade branch is offering a slew of events for kids and families all winter long.

Dec. 5

Kids and Teen Craft Show

5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Don't miss the Kids and Teen Craft Show! Young artisans from the community will showcase their homemade crafts, providing a unique opportunity for holiday shopping. Warm up with hot cocoa and keep an eye out for a special appearance by Santa Claus.

Ready for Reindeer

6 p.m.

Save the date for a magical evening as KDL hosts "Ready for Reindeer." This delightful event invites children to meet and feed real reindeer.

Dec. 27

Winter Wonderland with John Ball Zoo

1 p.m.

Renting the Wisner Center

The Wisner Center is a large program and community meeting space that is physically connected to the library but operated by Cascade Township.

The multipurpose facility is available for rent by organizations when not being used by Cascade Township or Kent District Library.

Rental Facts

- It is not available for private events, such as family parties or commercial activities.

- Several rooms with different capacities are available for rent.

- Reservations must be made at least two weeks before the event and no more than six months in advance and only once per month per group.

- All room setup and amenities shall be stated at time of application.

For more information, including a full list of rules and pricing, visit www.cascadetwp.com/wisner.

Jan. 26

Retro Arcade and Mini Golf in the Library

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Join KDL for an evening of mini golf and retro arcade games. Traverse the library stacks and enjoy a playful mix of arcade classics and interactive games.

Jan. 27

Arcade Gaming

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Can't get enough arcade games? KDL Cascade has got you covered with a second day of arcade gaming.

— *This is just a taste of what KDL Cascade Branch has to offer. To see a comprehensive list of events for both children and adults, or for more information, visit www.kdl.org/locations/CAS.*

The holiday spirit continues as John Ball Zoo joins forces with KDL. The zoo will bring in a collection of fascinating winter animals. It's an educational and entertaining experience for school-aged children and families.

Dec. 29

Happy Noon Year

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

As we bid farewell to the current year, KDL has a special treat for the little ones. Children can ring in the New Year with the "Happy Noon Year" program. It's a joyous celebration with activities and festivities tailored for young revelers.

Jan. 12

Snow Fest

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join us for a frosty adventure at our Snow Fest. This large craft program centered around a winter theme is intended for ages 2-6.

A Lake With Two Names



The Goves and the Quiggles: A tale of early settlers, a serpent, map discrepancies, and a schoolhouse restoration

Edmund “E. D.” Gove arrived in Cascade in 1841. Born in Concord, Mass., in 1815. Gove was a brick mason and farmer. In 1841, Gove purchased land west of a small lake close to what is now the intersection of Buttrick Avenue and 36th Street. He brought his wife, Sabrina, and their three young children there in the summer of 1842.

The growing population of Cascade called the nearby lake – the largest in the Township – Gove Lake, because it was close to the Gove farm. Almost perfectly round and a quarter of a mile in diameter, the lake has a kettle-shaped basin, and is about 100 feet deep. For the Native Americans, the lake’s great depth meant it was a place to fear. Seemingly bottomless, they believed it to be the home of an evil spirit, or “Great Snake.” They did not eat fish from the lake, or launch their canoes there.

The settlers and their descendants had no such qualms. In warmer months, Gove Lake was a place to swim and fish for bass and bluegill. In the winter, it was a popular spot for ice skating. According to the Cascade Chronicles book, in the days before refrigeration, the lake was also a source for ice.

Cut into blocks and stored underground until it was needed, Gove Lake ice was said to be so clear a newspaper could be read through it.

In the late 1850s, Silas Perry Quiggle began clearing land on the east side of the lake and built a log cabin. He and his wife, Margaret, raised their four sons and a daughter on their farm. The family would be first of several generations of Quiggles to live lakeside.

The legend of the lake monster persisted. Silas Quiggle’s son, Fred, remembered watching his father shoot at a long white shape floating on the water, thinking it was a gigantic snake. When the body of the “beast” was dragged to shore, it turned out to be nothing more than a huge water lily root.

Generations of children attended Gove Schoolhouse, one of the oldest buildings in Cascade Township. Closed in 1956, it has recently been meticulously restored as a residence.

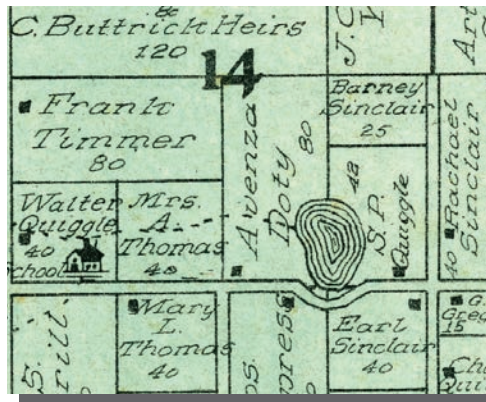


A Lake with Two Names

The Quiggles became an important Cascade family. They were active in many aspects of community life, and by 1918, the lake they lived on was identified as Quiggle Lake on U.S. Department of the Interior maps. Many residents however continued to call it Gove Lake out of habit, and also – more importantly – because that’s the name that appeared on Kent County maps.

Noticing the name discrepancies, in 1978 the U.S. Geological Survey corrected it, much to the satisfaction of Guy Quiggle, Silas Quiggle’s grandson. Guy and his wife, Emma, had been trying to change the lake’s name for years on county maps as well as on a sign along 36th Street. When they learned the lake had officially shared their surname for at least six decades, the Quiggles asked the Cascade Township Board of Trustees to change the lake’s name from Gove to Quiggle. Their request was forwarded, with board approval, to the Kent County Buildings, Parks and Transportation Committee, which concurred. A few county staff members were opposed, noting the fact that residents were used to the name Gove Lake. But the federal government had ultimate authority, and the name was corrected.

To this day there are longtime residents – especially those who swam and fished in



Detail of a 1907 plat map of Cascade Township, showing Quiggle (or Gove) Lake and Silas Quiggle’s property.

the lake before the late 1970s – who still refer to it as Gove Lake. By any name, it’s still a pretty place, where it’s easy to imagine strange creatures lurking in the deep waters.

Gove Schoolhouse

The Quiggle name may live on at the lake, but farther west along 36th Street the Gove name is commemorated on a charming schoolhouse. Built on Gove family property in 1854, the one-room schoolhouse is one of Cascade’s oldest structures, predating the old town hall (1898) and the iconic chapel of Cascade Christian Church (1880).

Gove School served Cascade’s school District 3, which stretched from the Thornapple River east to what is now

Quiggle Avenue, and from 28th Street south almost to Whitneyville. For more than a century, the children of some of Cascade’s notable families, including the Buttricks, Timmers and Quiggles, walked to Gove School for their education from first through eighth grade. The school closed in 1956 with the formation of the Forest Hills Public School system. Since then, Gove School has been used as a residence.

Today, the historic structure is being renovated by Claire and Lance Korhorn. The Korhorns’ thoughtful restoration is creating a comfortable and distinctive living space while highlighting the building’s original purpose.

About the Cascade Historical Society

The Cascade Historical Society meets the first Thursday of each month, except July, at 10 a.m. at the Cascade Historical Museum, 2839 Thornapple River Drive SE. If you have questions, comments, information or photos to share, email cascadehistory@yahoo.com.

Over 5,600 local history records can be searched at accessionary.com. Select Cascade Historical Society and enter your search criteria. This site also offers access to Ada, Cascade and Eastmont Suburban Life newspapers from 1955-68. For quick access, visit bit.ly/CCTHistorySearch.

'A station we can all be proud of'

Hundreds gather to celebrate grand opening of brand-new fire station

It was a full house at Cascade's brand-new Fire Station 1 open house celebration on Nov. 2. The event began with an invocation by Fire Chaplain Tim Dieffenbach, followed by brief remarks from Fire Chief Adam Magers, Supervisor Grace Lesperance and project partners. The Board of Trustees then joined the entire fire department in an official 'hose uncoupling' to mark the occasion.

Several hundred community members then received to get an up-close look at amenities such as the four-bay, "pull through" apparatus garage, 48-foot-high hose tower and high-rise training area, carcinogen exhaust capture system and decontamination areas, emergency operations center, conference rooms and more.

Throughout the design and construction process, Township leadership strove to carefully balance current and future public safety needs with keeping expenses down. The \$10.9 million station was completed on time and on budget.

"It's rare a new municipal building is constructed without additional taxes or fees," said Supervisor Lesperance. "We worked carefully and deliberately to ensure the new station met both the needs of our firefighters and our residents in a fiscally responsible way."

Cascade's firefighters played an integral role in the planning, design and construction process. "Cascade has been an excellent partner to work with and Chief Magers, his lieutenants, firefighters and Township administration have been engaged and very responsive for all coordination needed from the owner side," said Triangle Associates Project Manager Nick Ballou. "It is a pleasure to work with such dedicated staff and be part of the excitement surrounding this new station."

Originally built as an insulation factory decades ago, the former station had



From left: Cascade Fire Department Firefighter Kreigh Deering; Lt. Andy Albright; Supervisor Grace Lesperance and Clerk Sue Slater 'uncouple' a fire hose to officially open Fire Station 1.



Guests take in the high ceilings and open space of the four-bay "pull through" apparatus garage of the new Fire Station 1.

Photos are courtesy of Matt Groesser, Kent County's Emergency Management Coordinator.



For more event photos, please scan this QR code.

outlived its practicality, according to Fire Chief Magers. The structure had been remodeled three times but still did not meet national and firefighting safety standards. "It was at the point where we just couldn't keep fixing it," Magers said of the building.

The 11 months of construction – including demolitions, foundations, structural walls, masonry facade, roofing, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, interior finishes and concrete paving – involved

approximately 20 skilled trade partners, Cascade Building & Grounds staff, and the firefighters themselves.

Built to last 75 years, the structure is also timeless, with classic details flourishes rarely seen in modern municipal construction such as cast stone, wood windows and English Bond bricklaying. The traditional bricklaying technique also provides additional strength and classic charm.

A special thanks to Township firefighters and Building & Grounds crew for ensuring this event went smoothly.

Said Chief Magers: "I am excited that we can now represent this Township with a fire station we can all be proud of."

Celebrating the season

Cascade Tree Lighting Ceremony

Families gathered in the snow outside Cascade's historic Town Hall on Nov. 26 for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Santa took time out of his busy holiday schedule to join in on the festivities. St. Nick arrived courtesy of the Cascade Township Fire Department (his sled was in the shop) and greeted families.

Following the ceremony, Grand Rapids' Original Dickens Carolers set the mood by singing a plethora of traditional holiday songs for the public to enjoy. Santa and Mrs. Claus set up shop inside the museum to hear Christmas gift requests from children of all ages. Pictured with Santa and Mrs. Claus are Conner (left) and Aaron Murray.



Meet Cascade Community Foundation's 2023 grantees

Since 2001, Cascade Community Foundation has directed over \$3 million dollars back in the community through grants for nonprofits that serve the greater Cascade area, and capital projects that make this area special. These are made possible by the Thomas & Joyce Wisner Fund.

JOYCE & TOM WISNER GRANT RECIPIENTS

2023



GRANTS AWARDED FROM PRIVATE FUNDS HELD AT CASCADE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | 616-499-8122 | JUSTIN@CCF.EVENTS

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! **Almost one third** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in every five** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division



CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to Serving You

Station 1 616.949.1320 | Station 2 616.259.7020

Candle Safety

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

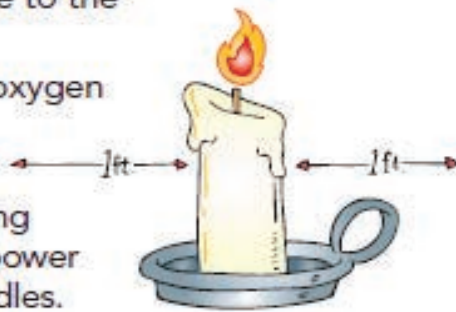
1 "CANDLE WITH CARE"

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 1 foot (30 centimetres) away from anything that can burn.

Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

2 IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure that you...

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.



Candles and Kids

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet.



FACTS

- ! **December** is the peak month for home candle fires.
- ! More than **one-third** of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ! **Three of every five** candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.



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



CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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