



Cascade Connections

Fall 2009

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM

FALL 2009

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

Tags are \$1.00 each

Pick up will be every Monday

From October 20TH through November 23RD

- Please have your yard waste near the curb by 6:00 a.m. to assure pick up.
- Place a tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches. (No grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand or rocks please).
- Please use 30 gal. plastic bags or paper yard waste bags.
- Sticks should be no longer than 4 feet in length and branches, logs and stumps are not to exceed 1 inch in diameter.
- Residents 62 years of age and older and residents with disabilities will receive 20 tags FREE per calendar year!
- This service is only available in the restricted burn area.
- The yard waste dumpsters will be available behind the Thornhills Fire Station on November 13-15 and November 21-29.

For more information, please call 949-1500.

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

FALL CLEAN UP DAY

Cascade Township is offering a fall clean up day this year in conjunction with Ada Township. The fall clean up day will be held on Saturday, October 17TH from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Kent County Road Commission building at the end of Fase Street in Ada Township. You must be in line no later than 2:30 to drop items off.

Any resident of Cascade Township (you must show your driver's license) is welcome to bring trash, household items or yard waste. Appliances are welcome, however, the Freon must be removed prior to dropping the appliance off or you may be charged. No household hazardous waste products or tires will be accepted. For household hazardous waste and tire disposal, please contact the Kent County Department of Public Works at 336-2570.

In The Image will have a truck available at Leonard Field for the collection of household goods and Shred It will have a truck available for document shredding.

If you have any questions regarding fall clean up, feel free to contact Sandra Otey at 949-1500 or by email at sotey@cascadetwp.com.

You Are Invited to Cascade's Holiday Event



The Outdoor Tree Lighting at the Historical Museum and Garden Sunday, November 29, 2009, 5:00 p.m. at the Museum located at Thornapple River Drive and Cascade Road.

Santa Claus has put this on his calendar and will be with us on the 29TH. Refreshments will be served at the Museum.

This event is sponsored by the Cascade Historical Society and funded by the Cascade Community Foundation. Special thanks to the Buildings and Grounds Department for their help.

Donations of vintage Christmas ornaments for display on the tree inside the museum will gladly be accepted at the Cascade Township Office starting October 1ST.

Cascade Fire Department Halloween Party



Bring your ghosts! Bring your Goblins! Cascade Township Fire Department invites you to the annual Halloween party on Saturday, October 31TH at Cascade Township Fire Station #1 located at 2865 Thornhills Avenue SE. The Halloween party at the Fire Department will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. Activities will include clowns, a costume contest with prizes awarded to all participants and a sack of treats and surprises for all the children. Complimentary cider, hot chocolate, coffee and doughnuts will be served. Come early or come late, but if you choose to have your costume judged, please be here at 7:30 p.m. for the group judging.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact the Cascade Township Fire Department at 949-1320.

Join us for a safe night of Halloween fun at the Fire Station!

CASCADE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION will kick off its fall monthly meetings on Wednesday, September 16TH with Guest Speaker David Van Anel, Chairman and CEO of Van Anel Institute for Education and Medical Research in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The 11:30 luncheon meeting is open to the public and will be held at Centennial Country Club, 3361 Charlevoix Drive SE. CBA memberships will be available at that time. Admission for non-CBA members is \$25 payable the day of the luncheon. To RSVP for the luncheon or to learn more about the CBA, visit the website at www.cascadebiz.com.

Cascade

New Signs at Rec Park

Cascade Township resident John McCarthy, in pursuit of obtaining Eagle Scout rank, volunteered to design new message boards to replace the old ones at the Rec Park pavilion and gazebo. He obtained the necessary materials and led a team of Boy Scouts in the rebuilding effort. John also updated the "You Are Here" sign located near the east parking lot, making it easier to read with all points of interest clearly labeled. The time and effort John put into these projects is greatly appreciated, as the old message boards and sign were in rough shape. The next time you're at the Rec Park, please take notice of the great job John and his team did on these improvements to the park.

Wisner Center Garden

This summer Dave Dvorak, a resident of Cascade Township, volunteered his time and master gardening knowledge to expand the existing rose garden at the Wisner Center into a perennial garden. This area is located to your right as you walk in to the Wisner Center. Alongside the beautiful roses already there, Dave added Coreopsis, Salvia, Poppies, Spurge, and Sunburst in this first of three planned phases. Please stop by and see the beautiful result of Dave's hard work.

Cascade Begins 2010 Budget Process

The township budget year follows the calendar year (January 1- December 31). We started the budget planning process for the 2010 budget last month (August). The process will be concluded with the formal adoption of the 2010 Budget, which is expected to take place at the December 9TH meeting. The Township operates within the framework of 16 separate budgets (such as Fire, Police, Pathways, General, Library, Building, etc...). The largest fund is the General Fund, from which most of the basic activities of the township are funded. This fund disburses monies for wages and benefits for employees and operation of the various departments of the Township that provide daily service to the public (Assessing, Treasurer, Buildings & Grounds, etc...). We also fund the costs of operation for the Go! Bus and scheduled bus in the Township, as well as paying for repairs and maintenance of our roads, storm drains and outlays to other funds (for example, we transfer \$400,000 to the Fire Fund each year to supplement its revenue).

The 2010 Budget will provide some interesting challenges for the Township! Property values will pretty much eliminate any increases due to cost of living adjustments that the State added to our property taxes. Revenue Sharing (the money the State provides to local government from Sales Tax revenues) continues to decline. The result is that we will need to continue our vigilance as to how much we spend on items such as road repairs, new equipment and wages while making sure we meet the demands of our utility costs, office supplies, building repairs and computer costs, among others.

The first draft of the 2010 budget is expected to be available about September 21ST. The Finance Committee will then go through it and make refinements in preparation for two work sessions of the Township Board where they will discuss our goals for next year and adjust the budget to meet those goals. The Board will meet on October 21ST and November 11TH to do this. The public is always welcome to comment on our budgets; the formal public hearing for the 2010 budget will be either at the November 18TH or December 9TH meetings.

The final review of the budget (and its adoption) is expected to take place on December 9TH. Please contact Bill Cousins, Township Manager, at the office (949-1500) if you have any questions regarding any of the 16 separate budgets that the Township uses to keep the functions of the township operating smoothly.



Connections

Chance to Save Lives is as Close as KDL's Cascade Branch

How far must people in this area go to help save someone's life? Only as far as the Wisner Center in Kent District Library's (KDL) Cascade Branch, 2870 Jack Smith Avenue SE, where from Noon to 7 p.m. on Monday, September 28, staff from Michigan Community Blood Centers will welcome blood donors for a community blood drive.

No appointment is necessary, and each pint of donated blood can help as many as three individuals. To give blood, donors must be at least 17 years old, must weigh at least 110 pounds, and must be in good health.

The September 28TH event is the latest in a continuing series of community blood drives at the library, which serves as the Cascade Community Donor Center on the fourth Monday of odd-numbered months. Since its launch in September, 2007, the blood drive partnership between KDL's Cascade Branch and the nonprofit blood bank has collected 611 pints of blood, directly supporting the blood supply for area hospitals, which rely on Michigan Community Blood Centers for all the blood they need.

Hospitals in this area that have chosen Michigan Community Blood Centers as their blood provider include Spectrum Health-Blodgett Hospital, Spectrum Health-Butterworth Hospital, DeVos Children's Hospital, Saint Mary's HealthCare, Metro Health Hospital, all in Grand Rapids; and Pennock Hospital in Hastings.

Across the state, Michigan Community Blood Centers provides blood for hospitals in four major regions with a combined population of 1.5 million. After meeting Michigan hospitals' needs, Michigan Community Blood Centers also regularly responds to blood needs beyond the local community, including military and disaster-related calls for blood. More information about Michigan Community Blood Centers can be found at www.miblood.org.

Is Your Home Hazardous?



Many of the products we use in our homes every day are hazardous. If they are disposed of improperly, these products can end up in nearby streams and lakes and harm fish and wildlife.

A product is considered hazardous if it is toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive. Always check the label to see if a product is hazardous. The label may have a picture of a skull and cross bones or contain the words WARNING, CAUTION, DANGER, or POISON.

To protect our environment, follow these tips:

- Use products in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.
- Follow the proper disposal measures.
- Do not dump products into the storm drain, which may flow to a nearby stream or lake.
- Take any unused portions to your county's hazardous waste collection site.
- Use nontoxic alternatives when possible.



www.lowergrandriver.org



Why We Put Dog Poo in Plastic Baggies!

Did you know that pet waste has bacteria that can make our streams and lakes unsafe for swimming? Pet waste left on sidewalks, streets, or yards can be washed into storm drains, which flow directly to our streams and lakes. Water with high concentrations of bacteria can cause human illness.

Prompt and Proper Disposal

Dispose of your pet's waste by double wrapping it in a plastic bag and throwing it in the garbage.

Avoid Feeding Waterfowl

Watch and enjoy the ducks and geese but avoid feeding them. Feeding these waterfowl is bad for them and can cause unnaturally high populations, which creates more animal waste. Like pet waste, waterfowl waste contributes pollutants to our streams and lakes

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Internet Safety

Here are a few helpful tips about getting involved in your child's online activities.

- 1) Keep the computer in a common area where you can watch and monitor your child, not in individual bedrooms.
- 2) Share an email account with your child so you can monitor messages.
- 3) Spend time online together to teach your child appropriate online behavior.
- 4) Forbid your child from entering private chat rooms; block them with safety features provided by your internet service provider or with special filtering software. Be aware that posting messages to chat rooms reveals your child's email address to others.
- 5) Take your child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.

I hope everyone is having a great summer. Remember to report suspicious activity. If it is in progress or life threatening call 911. If it is a non-emergency incident call 632-6100.

Take Care,

*Deputy Jason VanDyke
Kent County Sheriff East Precinct
Community Services*



Cemetery Reminders

Burial sites at the three Cascade Township Cemeteries are available at no cost to current residents of Cascade Township. Two sites will be given at the time of need. The charge for opening and closing of the gravesite is \$500.00. Additionally, a foundation is required before a headstone can be placed at the site. These charges are paid directly to the monument company chosen by the family. The fee for an unused site, which is reserved for a previous resident who now lives outside Cascade Township, is \$10.00 annually.

Appropriate decorations are acceptable:

- Annual or perennial flowers planted within one foot of the headstone
- Urns or metal baskets placed at the ends of the headstone (not in front or behind)
- Artificial flowers placed within one foot of the headstone or in urns or baskets

Inappropriate decorations would include:

- Benches
- Trees, shrubbery or roses
- Evergreens
- Fences, railings, edging or walls
- Gravel, brick, stone, marble or wood chips around the headstone
- Anything in the walkway

The seasonal decorations must be removed if you wish to save them. Summer decorations will be taken out if not removed on October 1. Winter decorations will be removed on April 1 each year.

Please contact the Clerk's Office if you have questions or concerns.

Vandalism In Your Parks

Tassell Park has seen an increase in vandalism this summer. The predominant target has been the picnic tables in the pavilion. Kids have been seen (unfortunately, not caught) using permanent markers to write offensive remarks and drawings on the wood tables. Other targets for graffiti in the park include the sidewalks, light poles, and brickwork. This not only results in tarnishing the beauty of the park, but costs the Township time and money to have the Buildings & Grounds Department personnel clean it up. Young people (younger than driving age) are also in the parks at closing time (11 pm). They say they "have nowhere else to go." The Township is asking for your help in watching the parks more closely and reporting any acts of vandalism or graffiti you see by calling 911. The parks are available for all of us to enjoy. Let's not let a few people ruin it for everyone.

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Cascade Historical Society

The Cascade Historical Society was founded in 1974 for the purpose of preserving knowledge about Cascade Township. The Society is interested in gathering artifacts and records of all kinds, including family histories, maps, photographs, letters, heirlooms and keepsakes. The Society extends a cordial invitation to anyone interested in helping to preserve the past and recording the present to join our membership.

The Cascade Historical Society meets the first Thursday of each month at the Cascade Museum located at Cascade Road and Thornapple River Drive from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The meetings are open to the public and new members and visitors are welcome.

Highlights from 2008 activities include:

The Cascade History room is located at the Cascade Library and is open every Thursday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 p.m. It is a valuable source for anyone seeking information on Cascade's past.

In the spring of 2008 the Society joined the Tri River Historical Society which comprises twenty surrounding small historical societies, including Ada, Lowell and Caledonia.

The largest project was hosting the First Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and open house with Santa at the museum on November 30TH. The Society applied for and received a grant from the Cascade Community Foundation to fund this event which was a great success.

Exciting plans for 2009 are:

Installing a computerized system designed for small museums for the collection of information that can organize, sort and search. It will tell what the Society has, where it came from, its history and location. It will build a better history of Cascade.

The Society will continue the tradition of decorating the museum and grounds during the holiday season for the Second Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and open house.

The Cascade Historical Society would like your support. You can help by being a member (individual, contributing, patron, sustaining or honorary), joining a committee and attending programs. Applications for membership are available at the Cascade Library and the Cascade Township offices.

Any residents who are interested in collecting and/or conducting oral history interviews or who have knowledge of anyone who might have Cascade history information are asked to leave their name and telephone number at the Township office (949-1500). They will be contacted by the oral history committee of the Cascade Historical Society.

A Novel Experience

KDL Presents
An Evening with
John Grogan



The Kent District Library invites you to the first annual "A Novel Experience" event featuring *Marley & Me* author John Grogan!

Join us on **Thursday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center for this special evening. Tickets are \$10, and proceeds will support KDL's literacy programs for young children. Tickets can be purchased beginning September 14 at www.kdl.org, any KDL branch location, or any Grand Rapids Schuler Books & Music location.

Cascade

July 4TH, 2009



With cloudy skies, many people were unsure of what was going to happen with the weather on Saturday, July 4TH. While the day remained mostly overcast, the temperature was quite comfortable and perfect for a parade and street fair activities. The Friends of the Library Book Sale was preparing for the long line of people waiting to buy books. The morning was coming alive and the always-popular book sale began at 9:00 a.m. Again, this popular book sale was a huge success.

At 10:00 a.m. on the Cascade Fellowship Christian Reform Church grounds, a record number of youngsters and parents on decorated red, white, and blue bikes, wagons, and strollers, along with people on roller blades were led to the parade route by the Kent County Sheriff Department Motorcycle Patrol. This was the youngster's time to show off their "stuff" to parade watchers. A HUGE thank you to the volunteers from the church that coordinated this event and kept the kids in line.

At 10:45 a.m. parade watchers were given a flyover by the Selfridge Air National Guard's A-10 Warthog's. The fighter jets are always popular with the crowd. With the flyover completed, the parade began.

We were honored this year to have Jane Wood as our Grand Marshal. After the completion of the parade, the street fair began. The street fair offered many opportunities for young and old to have fun. Live music provided a festive atmosphere and the sounds of laughter and joyful screams from the children and adults alike filled the air.

The July 4TH Celebration Event could not exist or run smoothly without the help of all the volunteers. A very big THANK YOU goes to the parking attendants and parade line up personnel. Those

responsible for the parking include-but not limited to members of the Cascade Fire Department, Cascade Building and Grounds Department, Justin Howe, and Kent Co Sheriff Department Reserves.

The people responsible for the parade line up include Township Trustee Jim Koessel and his wife, Carlee, Lynn Deering, Joe and Beverly Albright, Bud Korhorn and Jerry Van Baren who is able to coordinate the masses in such a small area.

Also a thank you goes out to the Float Contest volunteers who took time to judge the floats and declare the winners. Township Supervisor Rob Beahan and his wife, Judy, Bill Cousins and Bev Albright made this Float Contest a fun event. Thank you also to the Township residents who volunteered their time to help that day.

The financial sponsors of this event include Cascade Township as well as those listed. We are very grateful to have individuals and companies willing to help make this event happen. A thank you also goes to Noto's Old World Italian Dining for the use of their property for the street fair event.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me at 949-1320 at the Cascade Fire Department or via email at skorhorn@cascadetwp.com. Thank you again to all participants, attendees, and volunteers who made the 2009 July 4TH Celebration a wonderful success.

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Korhorn



Please Note: The 2010 July 4th Celebration will be held on Saturday, July 3rd.

Connections

Special Thanks to the 2009 July 4TH Sponsors:

Anonymous

The KMW Group, Inc.

Joyce & Tom Wisner

L.E.T., Inc.

Dick & Diane Wendt

Verburg's Automotive Service

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when people get United.

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Cascade Charter Township

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Trustee Cindy Fox
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Trustee Jack Lewis
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Trustee Fred Goldberg
fgoldberg@cascadetwp.com

Pathways News...

I have noticed that more and more Cascade residents are using our wonderful pathway system. It makes me feel especially good to see all the trash receptacles along the path generally full of trash. Recently I was asked if a Boy Scout troop could pick up part of the trail so that they might earn a merit badge for their efforts. I thought it was a great idea. I encourage any and all of you that are scout leaders and are looking for a worthy project for your troops, to pick the portion of the trail you wish to clean and simply have at it. Keep up the good work.

Kris Taylor
Pathway Coordinator



**Cascade
Connections**