



Cascade Connections

Spring 2008

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

Supervisor's Message "Taxes and Thanks for the Support"



Taxes, never liked, often controversial, necessary.

As I prepare to retire in November from serving our community for the last 20 years (16 as your township supervisor), it naturally causes me to reflect on those 20 years. There are many fond memories (creating Leslie E. Tassell Park is my personal favorite) but

I also reflect on a controversial subject, taxes, and their importance to our community.

In 1988, you voted a small dedicated millage for fire protection and additional police protection. From your support our community went from sharing one sheriff's deputy with Ada Township part of each day to having a dedicated sheriff's deputy in our community 24/7.

In 1994, you voted a small dedicated millage for a new library and we went from a 4,000 square foot cramped and old library to the beautiful 20,000 sq foot library our community enjoys today.

In 1998, you voted a small dedicated millage for pedestrian pathways and we built a 17-mile award-winning network of paths that transformed our community from 100%-car oriented to a walkable community with healthy recreational opportunities within.

In 2004, you voted a small dedicated millage for additional fire protection. As a result we added some equipment (most notably a tanker truck) and more importantly added staffing of both the Thornhills and Buttrick fire stations 24/7/365 so that our response times to your emergency are shorter and available to you always, any time, any day.

Under state law, the millage rate for township government is severely limited. I believe this limit is appropriate, because the citizens of a township are allowed to vote for specific millages

like the ones we have in Cascade. Because you voted for these millages we have a better community today and with your continued support we can have a better community tomorrow as well.

I wish to thank my many colleagues over the years. While many left the township board years ago, they still deserve our community's thanks. So thank you Wendell Champion, Mary Ellen Boonenburg, Jim Hansen, Mary Carpenter, Ken Parrish, Brenda Henning, Julie Johnson, Bob Timmons, Bob Van Strien, Dick Jones, Mickie Kleinheksel, Sandi Frost Parrish and Brian Currier. And thank you to my current colleagues Rob Beahan, Jim Koessel, Cindy Fox, Fred Goldberg and Marjorie Dood who joined the board in this my last term and will serve on the new board beginning November 20 (none are opposed on November 4). Each of you challenged me in my final term in different ways, and I became a better township supervisor and we became a better township board for our community because of it.

I wish to specially thank my friend, Clerk Ron Goodyke, for his many years of working with me to help make good things happen for our Cascade community. Ron and I served together for 13 of my 20 years, and had much fun doing so.

Finally, to my fellow Cascade citizens/neighbors, thank you for supporting our community so many times. It was necessary. Keep it up.

Michael R. Julien



Michael Julien, 1992



Leslie Tassell & Michael Julien



Cascade Fire Department Halloween Party

Bring your ghosts! Bring your Goblins! Cascade Township Fire Department invites you to the annual Halloween party on Friday, October 31st 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

Millage Request is Based on Feedback from Residents

Cascade residents have expressed that a township priority should be to “preserve natural areas and open space.” Therefore, a millage request is on the November ballot to address this priority. If voters approve this millage, the township would plan to optimize the use of these funds by connecting natural areas and parks for public use. These would also be accessible via the pedestrian path system.

How did the township draw this conclusion?

During the 10-year master planning process in 2008, the township conducted the most extensive survey to residents in over a decade. (This survey can be found at www.cascadetwp.com.) Survey results included:

- 88% responded that the Township’s Number 1 priority should be “Preserving natural areas.”
- The Number 1 issue of concern was “Loss of open space/natural areas,” 74% responded that they are concerned about this issue.
- 85% felt that “The Township should establish programs to preserve natural areas.”

In addition to the survey, at various master planning meetings and visioning sessions (conducted this year) residents often expressed that the township was “losing its rural character” and that sprawl was overtaking the community.

Will this benefit township residents?

Voters will decide. Based on input from residents and an examination of how these funds would be used, creating a connected network of natural areas and parks would:

- respond to feedback from residents
- maintain property values
- keep the township’s “open space” character
- provide educational and recreational opportunities
- meet the goals of the township’s Master Plan

Cascade Township is taking action to further improve the community now and in the future by responding to input from residents. With a combination of funds from the existing Open Space Fund (started by a generous donation from the Homeyer Family), a potential state grant and the millage, the township will be able to create a network of connected natural areas and parks. Moreover, with the millage and a state grant, the township could be in a position to create additional “pocket parks” in the township, like next to the township museum. The cost of this millage is \$23 a year for a house with a market value of \$200,000. This is half the cost of the pedestrian pathway millage, which was approved in 1998.

Why were two specific properties selected for initial acquisition?

Two large properties, totaling 278 acres, have been selected for acquisition as natural parks. This parkland was recommended by the township’s Open Space Advisory Committee, which also got extensive input from a local biologist, the Nature Conservancy, and the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. The properties were selected based on specific criteria established by the township in 2007. This criteria includes various characteristics, such as “community open space, scenic benefits, significant forested areas greater than 10 acres, land in a natural state and/or part of a greenway system, land containing ecosystems of educational or scientific value,” and similar features. These properties meet the criteria. These properties are identified in dark blue (on the map in this issue) and their addresses are identified in the ballot language. The specific ballot language is also printed in this issue.

How does this all fit with the township’s current Master Plan?

One of the goals in the township’s current master plan states, “The Citizens of Cascade Township will continue to enjoy the natural features of the community as manifested in the rolling woodlands, meadows, wetlands, and farmlands and the clean water and its tributaries. A central purpose of this Comprehensive Plan is the preservation of these valuable assets both as natural areas and for recreational purposes to serve current and future residents.” This millage is a method to meet the requests of the recent survey, to preserve some of these valuable assets, and to help meet the goals of the township’s Master Plan.

What is the actual ballot language?

The ballot language is as follows:

PROPOSED MILLAGE TO PURCHASE NATURAL AREAS AND PARKLAND

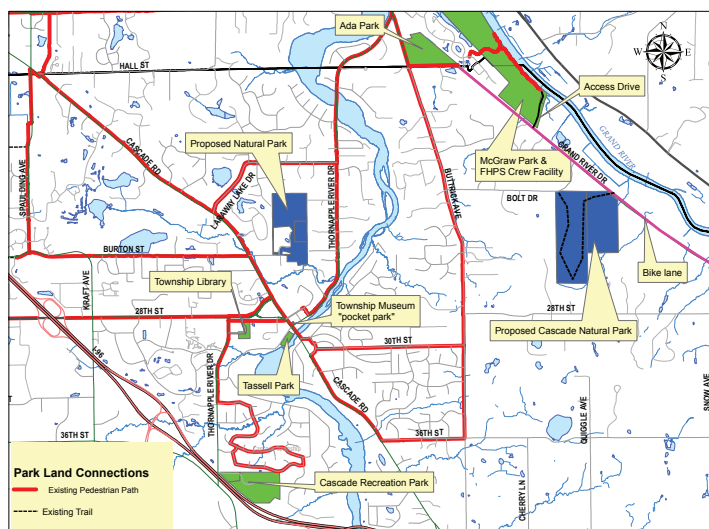
Shall the limitation on general ad valorem property taxes within Cascade Charter Township be increased by up to 0.23 of one mill annually (which is equal to 23 cents for each \$1,000 of taxable value of all real and personal property subject to taxation) for a period of 20 years from 2008 through 2027 inclusive? The purpose of authorizing the Township to levy such millage is for the purchase, acquisition, improvement, financing and operation of both large and small open space lands, minimally improved public parklands, environmentally sensitive properties, and/or nature preserves for use by all citizens, which lands include, but are not limited to, the approximately 80-acre property located at 6803 and 6805 Burton Street (parcel #41-19-09-201-005 and #41-19-09-201-006) and the approximately 198-acre property located at 8630 Bolt and 8900

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Grand River (parcel #41-19-11-200-004 and #41-19-12-100-001). The amount raised by such levy in the first year is estimated at \$342,983 (an estimated \$17,700 of such amount would be captured within the district of, and distributed to, the Cascade Charter Township Downtown Development Authority).



Election News

Precinct Location Change

Clerk Ron Goodyke reminds voters in Precinct 1 of a change in precinct location. Voters who have been voting at the Forest Hills Public School Administration Building will vote in the Family Life Center at the Cascade Fellowship CRC Church, located at 6655 Cascade Road SE. This change began with the May 2008 School Election. The church is located around the corner from the FHPS Administration Building. Turn right (heading Southeast) off Burton 2/10ths of a mile. The Fellowship Church is on the left side of the Cascade Road. There will be signs posted on the church drive to direct voters to the correct location in the facility (Precinct 7 currently votes in the upper level). You were mailed new registration cards prior to the May 6 School Election. This is a permanent change for Precinct 1 voters only; all others continue to vote in the same location.

Vote November 4TH

The next date for an election is November 4. The ballot contains selections in the races for offices of the President, United States and Michigan Congress, State Board of Education, U of M, MSU

and Wayne State Boards, various Kent County positions, Cascade Township Board positions, Judicial positions including State Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Court, Probate Court, and District Court. Also on the ballot will be two proposals by the State and one Cascade Township proposal for a millage to purchase natural areas and parkland.

Voter Registration

The last day to register to vote in the November 4 General Election is **October 6; you may do this at our Cascade Township Office which is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.** The National Voter Registration Act also allows voter registration at any of the following locations:



- 1 Secretary of State Branch Office
- 2 Secretary of State "Renewal by Mail" when you renew your driver license
- 3 **Cascade Township Office** or the Kent County Office
- 4 State or federal mail-in registration form
- 5 Michigan Department of Social Services, which administer benefits for ADFC, Medicaid, and Food Stamp programs. Also county health department offices, which administer benefits for the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC)
- 6 Armed Forces Recruitment offices
- 7 Federal Post Card Application procedure. (FPCA)
- 8 Direct delivery of registration applications by persons associated with voter registration drives. Usually they use the state and federal registration forms developed to implement the Mail Registration Program

Please feel free to call the Clerk's office to be sure you are a registered voter and can participate on November 4.

I.D. Requirement

Please remember that beginning in 2008 the requirement for picture identification must be enforced by precinct workers. If you do not present a piece of current I.D. with your picture, you will be required to fill out an affidavit, which we will provide at the precinct, attesting to your identity before you can vote.

August Primary Election

Thank you Poll Workers, Voters and Facility Providers.

The Primary Election held on August 5TH brought a good turnout from Cascade Residents.

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To the faithful poll workers, we again send our hearty thanks for a job well done. The poll workers performed exceptionally well. Thank you all for keeping your good humor during a long 15-hour day!

To the Cascade churches and our Cascade Library who donate their space to the community for the two-day period from set-up on Monday through closing late on Tuesday, we also say thank you. The polling places who generously host voters are: **Thornapple Evangelical Covenant Church**, Precinct 2; **Cascade Christian Church**, Precinct 6; **Thornapple Community Reformed Church**, Precinct 5; **Cascade Fellowship CRC Church** (which hosts two precincts!) Precincts 1 and 7; and the **Wisner Center at the Cascade Library** (which also host two precincts) Precincts 3 and 4. We know it is an imposition with the traffic and disruption we create and we really appreciate the friendly manner you welcome us.

As usual with every election there are a lot of township employees who put in extra effort, so thanks also to Denise Biegalle, Deputy Clerk, Evelyn Kwekel, Election Specialist and the Building and Grounds crew for setting up the precincts.

You Are Invited to Cascade's Holiday Event

The Outdoor Tree Lighting at the Historical Museum and Garden

Sunday, November 30, 2008 5:00 p.m. at the Museum located at Thornapple River Drive and Cascade Road.

Santa Claus will be at the Museum after the Lighting Ceremony. Refreshments will be served in the Museum.

This event is Sponsored by the Cascade Historical Society and Funded by the Cascade Community Foundation. Special Thanks to the Cascade Buildings and Grounds Department for their help.

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



Cascade Community Foundation

October 1, 2008

Dear Neighbor,

What an exciting year for the Cascade Community Foundation! Our vision is to create permanent ways of caring for our community. This year we accomplished that in a big way.

We want our citizens safe, so we collaborated with the American Red Cross and gave away over 400 smoke detectors.

We want to strengthen families and reconnect friendships. So we hosted almost 1000 people at the River Beat concerts and the new Movie Nights. We roasted and gave away 300 ears of corn, watermelon, ice cream and coupons and samples from Fresh Market. And we trained our first college intern so that someday she too can give back to the community that we love.

We hosted a luncheon for almost 100 people and shared our mission of connection and strong community.

Our goal all along has been to build an endowment fund from which to make grants to cultural, recreational, and social programs and initiatives that benefit the folks of Cascade. With your financial help, we are building a strong community for our children and our grandchildren.

We want to maintain the momentum. *Would you please consider a year-end contribution to the Foundation?* Your dollars do make a difference. As an all volunteer board driven only by a passion for our community, you have our commitment to the highest level of stewardship and accountability. And, because of a partnership agreement with The Grand Rapids Community Foundation which allows for very low administrative costs, all of your financial contribution goes directly into the endowment fund.

Thank you for helping keep Cascade a truly spectacular place to live!

Cascade Community Foundation Board Members:

Claude Robinson • Robert Beahan • Jack Lewis • Tammy Kerr
Cynthia Kay Afendoulis • Michelle Bottrall • Mary Carpenter • Cindy Fox
Jeff Hundley • Mike Miller • Eric Richards • Jim Williams
Sandi Frost Parrish • Michael Julien • Tom & Joyce Wisner



Connections

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 18th 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.

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.



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.



YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM FALL 2008

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 13th through November 17th

- 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 7-9 and November 22-30.**

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.



www.lowergrandriver.org

Cascade

July 4TH, 2008

With blue skies and the forecast calling for pleasant temperatures, it appeared that this July 4TH was going to be a beautiful one. The Friends of the Library Book Sale was preparing for the long line of people waiting to buy books. With such a wonderful morning coming alive, the always-popular book sale was about to begin 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 10:30 a.m. parade watchers were given a fantastic flyover by the Battle Creek Air National Guard's A-10 Warthog's. What a privilege to watch these fighter jet's make a pass over the parade route to a thunderous applause. With the flyover completed, the parade began.

We were honored this year to have World War II Veterans as the Grand Marshals. Also this year we were privileged to have the Northern Lights Home School Marching Band participate in our parade. This band commits to five to six parades every year and Cascade Township was fortunate to be selected for one of the 2008 dates.

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 Dave and 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. Rob and Judy Beahan, Bill Cousins and Bev Albright made this Float Contest a fun event.

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.

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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 2008 July 4TH Celebration a wonderful success.



*Sincerely,
Stephen W. Korhorn*

Looking Ahead to 2009

For those of us in attendance at the July 4TH Parade and Street Fair, we were truly blessed with a wonderful day. The sun shone bright and the temperature was perfect. The record numbers of participants in the parade were greeted by the record number of parade watchers to this event.

The parade and street fair celebration continues to grow and has become an anticipated community event. With an event of this magnitude we must continually look at ways to improve this holiday tradition.

Looking ahead to 2009, we would like to address four concerns for the parade. They are as follows:

1. Commercial businesses will be limited to one (1) vehicle in the parade. We would like this vehicle to be decorated in the spirit of the holiday.
2. Political Parties and those running for a political office will be limited to one (1) vehicle. Those persons involved are invited to walk with the vehicle and there is no limit to the number of walkers.
3. Candy throwing from vehicles must stop. We do encourage walkers to pass out candy on the parade route along the side of the street. Cascade Township works hard at providing a fun and safe family parade and in the past we have had some close calls with children running out in front of moving vehicles to retrieve candy.
4. If a person would like to enter a vehicle in the parade and the vehicle is not considered an antique or a specialty vehicle, Cascade Township asks that you decorate your vehicle in the spirit of the July 4TH Holiday. We would like to encourage a fun and festive atmosphere in the parade.

Also requested are names of nominees for Grand Marshal for the July 4TH Parade. If you know of anyone, please submit their name and a brief reason why they should be the Grand Marshal.

With the four proposed changes for 2009, we believe that we can provide a high quality parade and a safe environment to the parade watchers. Please call Stephen Korhorn at 616-949-1320 or email me at skorhorn@cascadetwp.com with your comments or concerns and nominees for Grand Marshal for the parade.

Thank You to the 4th of July Celebration sponsors who made the FREE rides and games possible:

*Anonymous
Bartlett Tree Expert
Betten Imports
Brann's Steakhouse & Grill
Buiten & Associates
Cascade Firefighters Association
Cascade Hospital for Animals
Chemical Bank
Costco
Country Fresh
Cynthia Fox
Falcon Printing
First Horizon Home Loans
Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber
Funny Business Agency
Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter
Impact Vehicle Damage Erasure
Independent Bank
Kawasaki Motors Corp.
Kingsland Hardware
Koenes Auto Body
Lake Michigan Credit Union*

*Leslie E. Tassell, Inc.
Macatawa Bank
Meekhof Lumber Co.
Meijer
Michael R. Julien
MVP Fieldhouse
National City Bank
Noto's Old World Italian Dining
Nye Uniform Company
Pepsi
Performance Systematix, Inc.
Quality Air
Remax
Richard Wendt
Spartan Stores
Subway
Superior Asphalt
Sysco
Thornapple River Nursery
Tom & Joyce Wisner
United Bank
Watermark Country Club
Western Southern Life
Verburg's Automotive*





Cascade Connections

Pathways News...

Back in June of this year my wife and I approached Cascade Township with an idea. The plan was to have the township provide us with reflective vests much like the police and fire department have. On those vests were going to be the words "KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL". To that end and with a great deal of persistence and the help of Sandra Otey and the Cascade fire department we now have several reflective vests. I would like to thank the township and especially Sandra Otey for all their help.

Now on to other business... Cascade Road, Burton and Spaulding Roads are very heavily traveled. Consequently they acquire a great deal of trash. We need a little more coverage on those roads

from our volunteers. As always, I appreciate the efforts of those individuals that take the time to pick up the Cascade trails. My wife and I travel them daily and I want to tell you they look great. I have only a few vests available. If you would like to wear one as you pick up the trail give me a call, Kris Taylor, at 942-1152.

Kris Taylor
Pathway Coordinator

Cascade Charter Township

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www.cascadetwp.com

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