

CASCADE CONNECTIONS

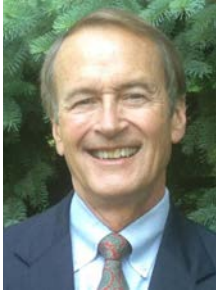
A newsletter from Cascade Charter Township • Fall 2018



CLEANING UP
OUR **COMMUNITY**

- + November Election
- + Summer Taxes
- + Master Plan Design Day
- + Farewell to Deputy Roe

NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR



Another Fourth of July has come and gone, and planning has already started for next year's celebration. An event like the Fourth isn't possible without a coordinated effort of numerous people and departments, so I'd like

to extend a big thanks to everyone involved, from the Township staff to the residents who volunteered their time on that hot summer day.

In other news, we have been extremely fortunate to have Deputy Ryan Roe as our community policing officer from the Kent County Sheriff's Department for the last six years. He quickly became a valuable member of our staff and community and assisted our residents in countless ways. Recently, an opportunity opened up for Deputy Roe to work with the Sparta Public Schools as its new liaison officer, which he has officially moved into – congratulations, Deputy Roe!

Taking his place is Kent County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Toonstra, who comes to us with great experience and ready to assist Cascade. It's been a valuable program for everyone and will continue to be so under Deputy Toonstra's guidance. When you see him around, make sure to give him a grand welcome!

Finally, make sure to pay special attention to the upcoming events on page five, featuring a Community Design Day focused on the Township's master plan. Every 10 years, the Township reevaluates its vision based on public input and feedback. On Oct. 16, residents are invited to share their ideas for making Cascade an even better place to live, work and play. We hope you'll join us to share what you'd like to see happen in Cascade Township as we look to the next decade.

Township Contacts

Office Hours

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

Supervisor

Rob Beahan; 949-1500
rbeahan@cascadetwp.com

Clerk

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Fire

Adam Magers; 949-1320
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Sheriff/Non-Emergency

632-6100





Sue Slater, Clerk

November Election Update

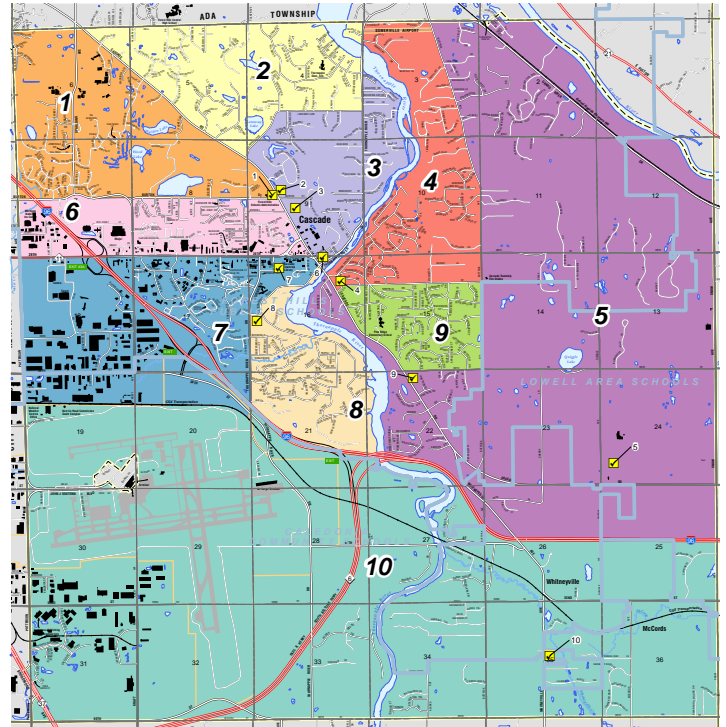
The next election takes place on Nov. 6. **Please make sure you check your voter card for your precinct and polling location, as ALL voters in Cascade Township have been affected by one or more changes this year.**

To review your appropriate precinct and polling location, please visit cascadetwp.com and follow these steps:

1. Under the "What's Happening" menu on the bottom right of the homepage, click on "Interactive Voting Precinct Map."
2. This will open a new page, allowing you to click through to the map.
3. Once the map appears, click on "Search by street address" on the right side.
4. Enter your home address and click "Search."
5. The map will then provide the precinct and polling location appropriate for you. (This should match your voter card.)

Over the last nine months, the Township has been proactive in promoting the updates to precincts and polling locations to make residents aware of these changes. We have used several channels to relay this information, including newsletters, news and broadcast articles, website updates, social media, board meetings, posters of the new precinct map and mailings.

If you have any suggestions for additional methods of making our residents aware of important changes and updates, please let us know by emailing sslater@cascadetwp.com or calling (616) 949-1508.



New Precinct Map

SUMMER TAXES DUE

Summer taxes were due and payable on July 1. The last day to pay your summer 2018 property taxes without penalty is Friday, Sept. 14. Please note that postmarks are not accepted.

The Township Office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office will be closed Monday, Sept. 3 for Labor Day.

If you mail your check, please include your telephone number in case there are any issues with the payment. Additional information is available on the Township website to help you verify the amount of summer property tax paid or the balance due.

Please visit the website for tax information at cascadetwp.com, then:

1. Click on 'Quick Links' (left side of screen)
2. Click on 'Assessing/Bldg/Tax Info'
3. Enter the parcel number, address or name in the search bar
4. Click on the parcel number and the tax information tab

If you have not yet received your 2018 summer property taxes, call the Treasurer's office at (616) 949-6944. We look forward to assisting you.



CLEANING UP OUR COMMUNITY



HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

In conjunction with Kent County's Household Hazardous Waste Program, Cascade and Ada townships are sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on **Saturday, Oct. 27 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** at the Cascade Fire Department, Station 2, 2990 Buttrick Ave. SE.

Township residents wishing to dispose of their unused or unwanted household chemical waste are encouraged to bring them to this one-day event.

Accepted Chemical Waste:

- Weed killers
- Fertilizers
- Bug sprays
- Antifreeze
- Gasoline
- Oil-based paint
- Wood preservatives
- Paint thinners
- Pool chemicals
- Deck cleaners
- Cleaning products
- Fluorescent tubes and CFL bulbs
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats
- Fire extinguishers
- Motor oil
- Aerosol cans

Please note that we will be unable to accept anything larger than a 5-gallon bucket.

Materials not accepted:

- Latex paint
- Alkaline batteries
- Medical waste
- Pharmaceuticals
- Ammunition
- Propane
- Tires
- Fireworks

This Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program is for Ada and Cascade residents only. No materials from businesses, schools, institutions or commercial farmers can be accepted. Please be prepared to show your driver's license for proof of residency.

We recommended keeping "like" containers together. Do not mix waste with other materials. Maintain labeling so it can be clearly seen. Any leaking or potentially dangerous chemicals should be placed in a bucket for secondary containment.

We recommend placing all items upright in a lined box and/or a plastic tote. You may transport vehicle

fluids (oil, gas, antifreeze) in original/ approved containers as fluids can be bulked and containers returned to residents.

Additional questions on what's accepted for disposal may be directed to Kent County at (616) 336-2570 or 1 (888) 217-2850. Residents can also visit the County's website at recyclekent.org and click on hazardous waste.

Further, please contact Kent County Department of Public Works for directions on large loads (greater than six boxes) and for items larger than a five-gallon bucket at (616) 632-7941 or safehomes@kentcountymt.gov.



Upcoming Events

ADA/CASCADE CLEAN-UP DAY

Cascade residents are welcome to drop off non-hazardous household waste, appliances, scrap metal, electronics for recycling, household items for reuse and office paper for shredding at the parking lot of Forest Hills Central Middle School on **Saturday, Oct. 27** from **8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Please note:

- Household recycling: Salvation Army will be in the parking lot at Leonard Field Park by the covered bridge to accept used items.
- Document shredding: The company Shred-it will do on-site shredding of up to 100 pounds of your personal documents.
- Identification is required to verify your residency within the townships of Ada or Cascade. If you live in Grand Rapids Township, but your mailing address is Ada, you do not qualify.
- No yard waste, hazardous material and liquid waste (paint, cleaners, batteries, etc.), shingles or tires will be accepted. Please refer to the hazardous waste collection day event.

YARD WASTE PICK-UP PROGRAM

Tags can be purchased for \$1 each at Township Hall during office hours. Pick-up will be **each Monday between Oct. 22 and Nov. 26** and is only available in the restricted burn area. Residents should have yard waste near the curb by 6 a.m. on pick-up days with tags on each bag.

Please use 30-gallon plastic bags or paper yard waste bags, and do not dispose of grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand or rocks. Sticks should be no longer than four-feet in length, and branches, logs and stumps should not exceed one-inch in diameter.

Yard waste dumpsters will also be available behind the Thornhills Fire Station on Oct. 21-23 and Nov. 4-26.

Residents 62 and older will receive 20 free tags per household, per calendar year. If you'd like to use tags from last year's pick up program, please call the Township to add your address to the pick-up list.

CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK

Sept. 12 • 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Cascade Fire Department, Station 2
2990 Buttrick Ave. SE

Hosted by the Cascade Fire Department and staffed by the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Injury Prevention program and other community volunteers, the safety check allows drivers to have car seats inspected to ensure proper installation. All car seat inspections are free, and a limited number of low-cost replacement seats will be available for those who qualify. Children who need a replacement seat must be present with a parent or legal guardian. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by calling the Injury Prevention Program at (616) 391-7233.

SHRINERS PARADE

Sept. 22 • 10 a.m.
Fourth of July parade route

Gather the kids and lawn chairs for a fall parade right here in Cascade. The Great Lakes Shrine Association, consisting of 21 Shrine Centers, is gathering for its annual meeting and is putting on a parade for everyone to enjoy. Marching bands, motorcycles, clowns, little cars and other units from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Canada will be here. We hope you'll join us!

FIRE DEPT. HALLOWEEN PARTY

Oct. 31 • 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Cascade Fire Department, Station 1
2865 Thornhills Drive SE

Please join the Cascade Township Fire Department for its annual Halloween party. There will be a Halloween costume contest, with judging at 7:30 p.m., as well as doughnuts, hot chocolate and cider. Attendees will also be able to enjoy clowns, prizes and a bag of goodies to take home. Hope to see you there for a spooky night!

MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY DESIGN DAY

Oct. 16 • **Drop in:** 8:30 - 10 a.m. & 4 - 6 p.m.
Special Presentation: 7 p.m.
Cascade Christian Church, 2829 Thornapple River Drive SE

Residents of all ages are invited to share their ideas for making Cascade Township an even better place to live, work and play! Designed as drop-in open format sessions, this day will include a series of workshop discussions and presentations that permits residents to stop by when their schedule allows. For more information, visit cascadetwpvision.com.



a note from
DEPUTY RYAN ROE

Good day Cascade residents,

It's with sadness I am writing my last newsletter piece. I have been selected to take on a different role in another community as a school resource officer. I am both sad to leave this community and excited to begin this new journey in my life.

Serving this community for the past six years has been an honor and a privilege. While I will miss all of the events, I will especially miss you, the residents. As I think back to some of the best times I have had working in this community, I think of the people I have met. The relationships I have made will never be forgotten.

I want to thank you for being such a wonderful community to work for. It really felt less like work and more about helping people, which is what I enjoy doing.

Deputy Eric Toonstra will be the new community policing officer for Cascade Township. The phone number to contact him will remain the same, (616) 632-6435, but the email will change to eric.toonstra@kentcountymt.gov. I have forwarded Deputy Toonstra many of your recent emails so that he will reach out to you.

Be safe and aware,
Deputy Ryan Roe

Cascade Community Foundation Hosting **Iron Chef Event**

If you love food and fun, you won't want to miss the Annual Cascade Community Foundation Iron Chef signature event at the Blue Moose Sports Pub on Wednesday, Oct. 10. Chefs from area restaurants create fabulous food incorporating cider crafted by Vander Mill Grand Rapids.

Stroll various food stations, enjoy creative entrees and cast a vote for your favorite. A panel of celebrity judges will bestow additional culinary awards.

The fun continues throughout the evening with both silent and live auctions and a raffle. All funds raised will support students of Kitchen Sage and the Cascade Community Foundation's mission to sustain the Cascade community and the non-profit organizations serving it by fulfilling future grant requests.

The 2018 Claude and Marion Robinson Community Leadership Award will also be presented. This year's award recipient is Forest Hills Foods. The award is given to an organization or individual who demonstrates a commitment to improving the Cascade community through the CCF lens of "nurturing neighbors, enhancing places and connecting communities."

Forest Hills Foods was a clear choice for several reasons. Specifically, its unwavering dedication to the community demonstrated by countless silent auction contributions for various community events, along with the assistance offered to a multitude of organizations to raise money and awareness by providing a space at the store entrance. Forest Hills Foods truly is a gift to the greater Cascade area.

We hope you'll plan to join us! For additional details, tickets and to see sponsorship opportunities available, visit cascadecommunityfoundation.com.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY TO HOST BOOK SALE

More than 10,000 used books will be for sale at the annual Fall Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Cascade Library.

The sale will be held on Friday, Nov. 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the Members Only Preview Sale taking place from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The sale will continue on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 4 from 1 to 3 p.m.

There will be books for all ages and interests. Additionally, music CDs, DVDs and LPs will be available, as well as sheet music. Cash, credit cards and checks will all be accepted, with all proceeds supporting the Cascade Branch.

If you are unable to attend, please shop our ongoing sale of newer books at the Chapter Two Bookstore located near the check-out desk in the library.

The Cascade Township Branch of Kent District Library is located at 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE.

For more information, please visit kdl.org, CascadeFriends.org or call (616) 784-2007.

LOOKING FOR TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Attention teens (grades 6-12): The library has opportunities for you to volunteer in your community during the school year. If you are interested in helping, stop by the information desk at the Cascade Township Branch and ask for a school year teen volunteer application!

KDaLe BOOK CLUB

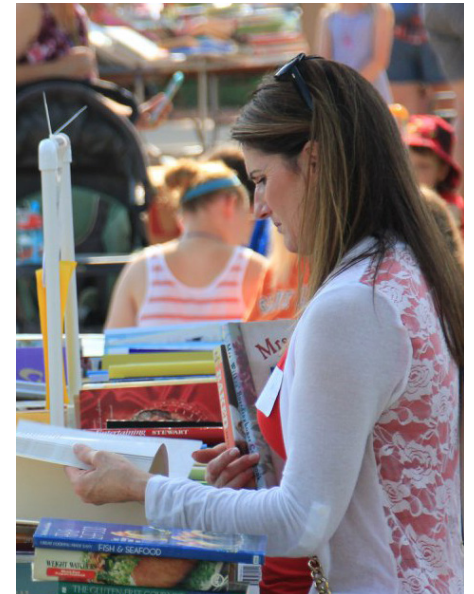
This isn't a traditional book club. Instead participants in the KDaLe Book Club are invited to come to Thornapple Brewing Company to talk about a book they've enjoyed or to just come and listen to get great recommendations and check out some of the librarian's favorites on the spot.

For more information on KDL's events, visit KDL.org or stop by the branch

SUNDAY AFTERNOON LIVE

The library will once again provide music and coffee this fall with a new season of Sunday Afternoon Live. Those interested are invited to visit the Wisner Center for this free concert series, featuring some of Michigan's finest local musicians. The upcoming shows are at 2 p.m. and include:

- Oct. 21 – Drew Hale
- Nov. 18 – Fauxgrass
- Dec. 9 – Organissimo



BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES REDUCTION IN TAX RATE

At a special meeting on June 19, the Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education approved a reduction of .70 mills in the tax rate to meet its required bond payments.

This is due to the strength in the taxable value of the FHPS community. The bonds are used for projects to improve safety, security and technology, as well as for life-cycle replacement projects of roofs, parking lots, boilers and buses.

FHPS continues to retire bonds as soon as possible, demonstrating good stewardship and fiscal responsibility. The district holds an Aa2 rating with Moody's Investors Service, with strong financial management being a contributing factor, and was awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Association of School Business Officials International.



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Cascade Charter Township

2865 Thornhills Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(p) 616.949.1500
(f) 616.949.3918
cascadetwp.com

SAFETY TIPS

from your building inspector

We never know when an emergency might occur. It's critical we take every precaution to ensure we are keeping ourselves and our families safe. To assist with this effort, we came up with a few tips:

Make a Safe Exit

During a home emergency, such as a fire, it's important that all occupants are able to get out – and emergency personnel are able to get in – as quickly as possible. This can be done by:

- Keeping hallways clear of obstructions
- Ensuring all emergency escape windows and doors are not blocked
- Making sure all family members know how to unlock and open windows
- Developing and practicing a fire escape plan

Electrical Cords

- Never overload electrical cords – they can become hot and start a fire
- Use only listed power cords with overload protection
- Never use appliances with damaged cords
- Cords are susceptible to physical damage from foot traffic, furniture, pets, doors and many other causes; check the condition of all cords and replace any that are damaged

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms can't help unless they are functional and you can hear them.

- Install alarms inside and outside of each bedroom (and at least one on every floor)
- Test each alarm regularly
- Keep batteries fresh
- Replace alarms that are more than 10 years old
- Consider interconnection of detectors; new products allow for this via radio frequency and are easy to install without adding new wiring

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed near all bedrooms in homes with fuel-fired appliances or attached garages.

For more information, visit iccsafe.org or contact Cascade Inspection Services at (616) 949-3765.