



CASCADE

Cascade Connections

Autumn 2005

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

Cascade Fire Department Halloween Party

Bring your ghosts! Bring your Goblins! - Cascade Township Fire Department invites you to the annual Halloween party on Monday, 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!



Trick
or
Treat?

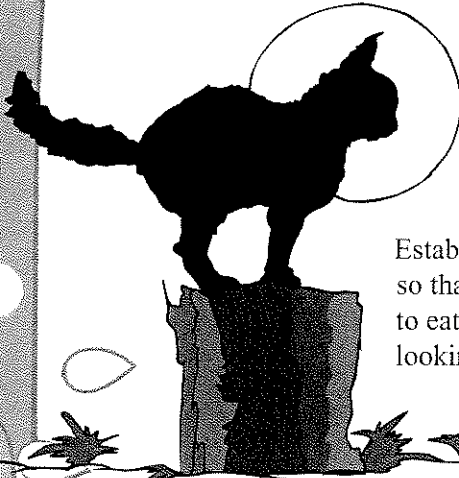
Halloween Safety

School has begun and the fall season is upon us. We would like to give you some tips for Halloween to help keep you and your children safe.

First and foremost, motorists need to be especially alert on Halloween. Make sure you watch for children walking on the roadway, in the medians and on the curbs. Pay extra attention at dusk and after dark for children in dark clothes.

Make sure your kids are with an adult or an older responsible teenager and that they are traveling in an area that is familiar to them. Teach them to stay on the sidewalks if they are available and if not, to stay as near the edge of the road as possible. If you have a flashlight, it may not be a bad idea to give it to your child to make them more visible to vehicles. Tell your children to only go to houses that are well lit and tell them to never go inside, unless they know the homeowner. Take extra precautions to make sure that your child's costume is not so long as to cause a tripping hazard.

Establish a time when your children should return home. Know where they are going to be, so that if they are not home on time, you know where to look for them. Tell the children not to eat any of their treats until they get home. When your child returns home, inspect all candy looking for anything suspicious. If in doubt, throw it out!



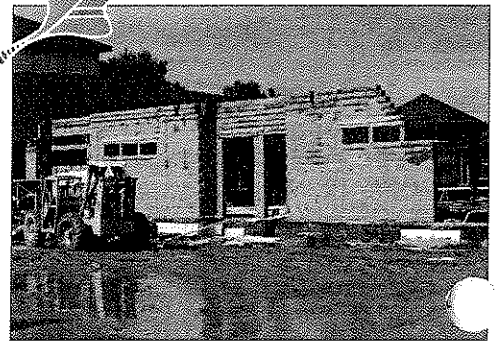
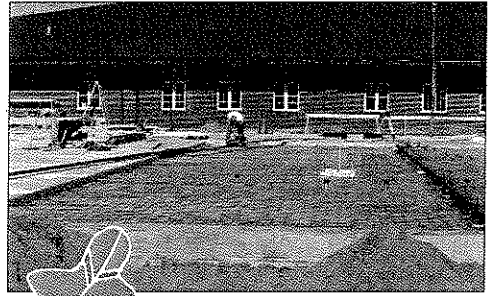
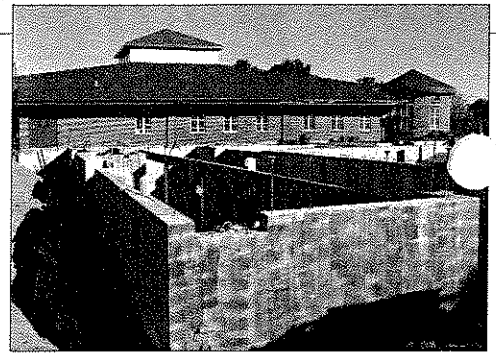
Cascade

Library Addition Up-Date

The Tom and Joyce Wisner Center is on its way up. The excavation, footings, basement walls and building walls are nearing completion at this point. Dan Vos Construction Company says the progress is on schedule and so far we've had no disappointing surprises.

Our goal is to get outside work on the building finished before winter sets in allowing the inside work to be done after the weather changes. The building committee and capital campaign steering committee are continuing to meet to keep up on the progress and make decisions about items that seem to come up constantly. This part of their task is proving to be rewarding as the fruit of several years of planning and working is now becoming reality.

You are invited to visit the library and view the progress from the "viewing window" and try to answer the question of the week. While you're there, check out the display of the Patron Bookshelf Tile Campaign in the library entrance. It's a unique way for you to add your personal touch to the Center. The bookshelf will have hand-printed tiles, which will be prominently displayed in the entrance, and you can choose your own title to put on the book tile. There are four choices for tiles ranging from \$50.00 for a paper back to \$500.00 for an entire stack. There are more brochures at the library if you have misplaced the one that was mailed to your home. Don't miss this opportunity to join your neighbors in helping us Realize the Possibilities.



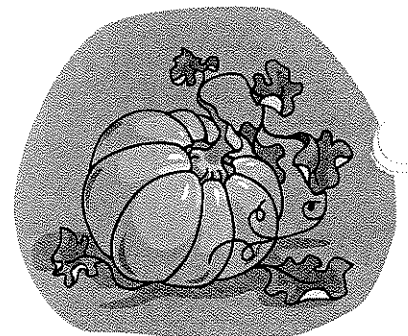
Library Events

In addition to the story time programs for children, the following are upcoming events at the Library.

- Community Appreciation Day sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Sunday October 2 from 1.30 – 4.00 pm
- Building Blocks of Learning: Early Literacy Make & Take Craft Time sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Sunday, October 9 at 1.30 pm
- Fall Floral Design: create a fall centerpiece, Wednesday, October 12 at 7 pm
- Teen Photography Contest, October 16-22
- Fall Booked for Lunch: The Edmund Fitzgerald, Thursday, October 27, 12.30 pm
- Blustery Day in Hundred Acre Woods, Thursday, October 27, at 7 pm
- Stamping and Embossing Holiday Cards and Tags, Wednesday, November 2 at 7 pm
- Building Block of Learning: Music and Movement sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Thursday, November 3 at 7 pm

- Used Paperback Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Saturday November 5 from 10 am to 3 pm.
- Schuler Book Days: Mention KDL and 20% of the sale will go to the Alliance of Friends, November 6-12
- How to Attract Birds to your Backyard, Tuesday, November 15 at 7 pm
- Holiday Tree Decorating Party: compete with refreshments and the Dan Redner Trio, Sunday, November 20, from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

For more information and registration, call the Library at 647-3850 x 5 or visit our website at www.kdl.org.



Connections

Cascade Historical Society

On October 6th, Dean Korhorn, Fire Inspector, spoke on the history of the Cascade Fire Department. Dean, who is a history buff, shared artifacts and photos with those who attended.

Cascade Township's oral history was shared with over 60 people who attended the Historical Society's September 1st meeting that featured Rev. Ray Gaylord, the former pastor of Cascade Christian Church.

With the Cascade Library addition underway, the Cascade Historical Society is busy gathering artifacts, photographs, written history and taped oral history (including Rev. Gaylord's presentation) of Cascade Township. The information will be shared with the community during library hours.



Cascade Township Firefighters assisting with a fire in Lowell in 1958. Pictured are Firefighters Grover Buttrick, Jack Buys, Ben Zoodsma and Lawton Cole.

The Historical Society meets the first Thursday of the month and welcomes all who are interested in Cascade Township history. If you are interested in attending a meeting or would like to join the Historical Society, please call 949-6944. For more information regarding upcoming programs, please visit our website at www.cascadetwp.com.

Hunter Safety Course

The Kent County Sheriff Department East Precinct Community Police will be offering a Hunters Safety Course October 31st, November 2nd and November 3rd from 6-9pm. The class will be held at the Grand Rapids Township Office located at 1836 East Beltline.

There is no cost for the class. All participants must be 12 years of age or have their 12th birthday by January 1st. You must attend all 3 sessions in order to receive your hunter safety certificate. Space is limited to 50 people. Please call and register at 632-6237.

Construction Notes...

Depending on where you live in the Township, you may have seen the following construction projects underway.

- The installation of streetlights and street trees along 28th Street from Old 28th to Thornhills Ave. (This project is financed by the Downtown Development Authority).
- The installation of a water line down Tammarron Ave., Birkdale and Hillsboro Ave. to Thornapple Elementary School.

Treasurer Information

Tax Payment and Assessing Information Available on the Web.

Information is available on the Township website to help you verify the amount of property tax paid in 2005. The instructions to access this information is as follows:

Go to www.cascadetwp.com

Click on Departments

Click on Treasurers Department

Click on Tax & Assessing information

Click on the link to B S & A

On the left side of the screen are search selections.

Please click on Current Tax Search, enter your information and click search to receive the results.

If you have not paid your 2005 summer property taxes yet, please check the web site or call our office at (616) 949-6944 for the correct amount due.

Cascade



Does Your House Hold Hazardous Waste?

The Kent County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program was developed to provide county residents with a safe and effective means to dispose of their unwanted hazardous materials. How do you tell if something could be hazardous? Read the product labels. Words such as "Danger", "Poison", "Warning", or "Caution" will identify products that contain hazardous ingredients. When these products are discarded, they become household hazardous wastes. These products generally fall into five categories:

Cleaning Products: Drain openers, oven cleaners, polishes, spot removers.

Automotive Products: Gasoline and solvents, brake or transmission fluids, car batteries, polishes and waxes.

Paint and Paint Products: Thinners, mineral spirits, oil base paints, stains and varnishes, aerosol cans, epoxies and adhesives.

What is Storm Water Runoff?

One of the most significant, yet unrecognized groups of water contaminants is storm water pollutants. When it rains, storm water runs over yards, streets, roads, highways, parking lots, parks, and playgrounds, carrying with it everything in its path, including debris and pollutants. Eventually, the water will travel to a stream, either over land or via a storm drain. Storm drains are frequently located alongside streets and parking lots. Unlike sanitary sewers that divert water to a treatment plant directly from your home, storm drains lead directly to surrounding lakes and rivers without any type of treatment. All the debris and pollutants that were picked up by storm water runoff end up in your lakes and streams!

Where Does the Pollution Come From?



Most contaminants are made up of common items used by residents, businesses and visitors, such as fertilizers, car oils and greases, yard clippings, soil, and pet wastes. Below are some tips you can follow to help keep pollution from entering lakes and streams via storm water runoff.

Tips to Keep Your Rivers, Lakes and Streams Clean

Never dump anything down a storm drain!

Use an oil pan when changing oil to keep fluids off the pave-

Pesticides: Weed killers, insecticides, fertilizers, wood preservatives, rat or insect poisons.

Miscellaneous: Pool chemicals, driveway sealer, roofing tar, hobby or photo chemicals, mercury, batteries (Ni-Cad, lithium, alkaline, etc.).

Call (616) 336-2501 or 1-888-217-2850 for more information on Kent County's Solid Waste Recycling and HHW programs. The program is free to residents of Kent County (households only please). Kent County cannot accept materials from farms, businesses, offices, or institutions. Please call the above phone numbers to find resources available for these groups. To keep the service free and prevent illegal dumping of materials, residents must call for an appointment. Some other basic guidelines for this program can be obtained by calling the above phone numbers. Kent County also publishes a guide on waste options and alternatives in Kent County available to residents.



ment. Check local body shops and quick lubes to find a place to appropriately dispose of used oil.

Dispose of pet wastes in a trash can.

Leave grass clippings on your lawn as an alternate nutrient to fertilizer. If a fertilizer is necessary, choose a slow-release product and test your soil to find out how much fertilizer your lawn actually needs.

Wash your car on your lawn so excess water, chemicals, and dirt is filtered through the lawn.

Keep household hazardous wastes, such as harsh cleaners, paint, car fluids, and batteries from entering lakes and streams by disposing at a household hazardous waste center. Try using environmentally-safe alternatives or recipes with non-hazardous ingredients.

Use a broom rather than a hose to clean up grass clippings and dirt.

Keep a trash bag in your car... and use it!



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Passport News

Cascade Township is a passport application acceptance agency. We are open daily Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. for the execution of passport applications. We have all the necessary forms to accommodate your application.

There are some important items needed:

- Proof of citizenship
- Current photo I.D.
- 2 passport photos
- Appropriate fees



Please note, children under 14 must be accompanied by both parents. Fees must be paid by check. Cash or credit cards cannot be used (the mandated fees are the same no matter where you apply for your passport). A drivers license is best for D. Your “official” birth certificate must be submitted with the application as proof of citizenship. It will be returned with your new passport. Expired passports must also be submitted with the application.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE UPDATE

In April 2005, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a proposed plan to be implemented in three phases beginning December 31, 2005 for the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. After further review and considering the delay in publishing the public notice in the Federal Register, DOS and DHS recognized that implementing the December 31, 2005 phase would be problematic for travelers. This new timeline will simplify the implementation and provide a longer lead-time for travelers to come into compliance with the requirements:

December 31, 2006 – Requirement

applied to all air and sea travel to or from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda.

December 31, 2007 – Requirement extended to all land border crossings as well as air and sea travel.

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative does not affect travel between the U.S. and its territories (Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa)

ONLINE APPLICATION STATUS CHECKS

Effective August 12, 2005, customers who have recently applied for a U.S. passport can check the status of their application on line by going to the U.S. Government website: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/status_2567.html. You can securely enter your last name, date of birth, and last four digits of your social security number to get information on your application. Your personal information remains in the system only long enough to complete the inquiry, which protects that data as authorized by law. This is the best way to check the status of your application. However, you may also call 1-877-487-2778 toll free to get this information. It is strongly recommended that you check to make certain your application is proceeding without problems that can cause delays.

Remember to apply early. Passports take 6-8 weeks to process. The process can be expedited for an additional fee of \$60.00. Expedited passports take 2 weeks.

Feel free to call the Cascade Township Office (949-1500) if you have further questions or concerns.

Publication Notes.....
2865 Thornhills Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 949-1500
www.cascadetwp.com

Township Board

Michael R. Julien, Supervisor
Ron Goodyke, Clerk
Mary J. Carpenter, Treasurer
Robert Beahan, Trustee
Brian Currier, Trustee
Sandra Frost Parrish, Trustee
Jim Koessel, Trustee

Planning Commission

Fred Goldberg
Jim Koessel
Diane Richards
Jack Lewis
Lorissa MacAllister
Brian Logue
Tom McDonald
Claude Robinson
Gary Postma

Zoning Board of Appeals

Rob Beahan
Jack Lewis
Mel Casey
Gary Crawley
Jack Neal
Richard Vaughn
Eric Richards

Board of Review

Bruce Poppen
Barbara Averill
Phyllis Gillie

Library Advisory Board

Charles Fry
Holly Sturges
Maureen Sullivan
Barbara Kalinka
Edward Dupke
Lynne Marie Quinlan
vacant

Cascade

Cemetery News

Please note that flower decorations at gravesides will be removed by our staff on October 15. If you would like to keep decorations you have placed at the graveside of a loved one, we ask that you remove them prior to October 15.

Each household in Cascade Township is eligible for two burial sites at one of the three township owned cemeteries. These sites are for Cascade residents only and are assigned at time of need. Although there is no charge for the sites, there is a \$500 fee for opening and closing the gravesite. The cemeteries are located at 7200 30th Street, 3131 Snow Avenue and 5601 Whitneyville Road.

A note of thanks goes to Darrin McSorley and his crew for the great care they take in maintaining the cemeteries.

Please stop at the Clerk's office if you have questions or call Clerk Ron Goodyke or Deputy Clerk Denise Biegalle at 949-1500.

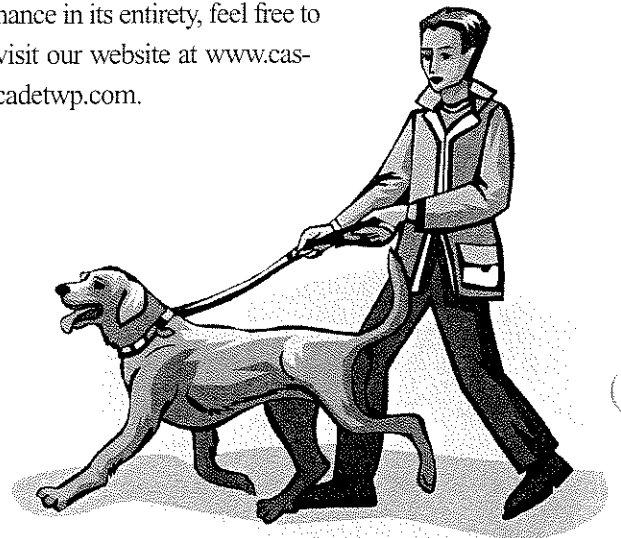


Sign Notice

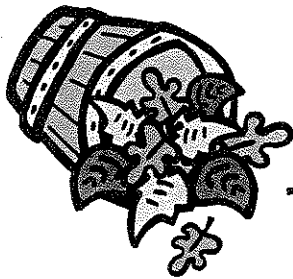
The current Sign Ordinance, adopted in 1997, completely prohibits the placement of temporary signs in the Township. The most common of these signs include the portable trailer signs, pennants and banners. All of these signs are a violation of the Sign Ordinance and should be removed. One of the most asked questions is: What are the regulations in regard to Garage Sale signs and Real Estate signs? The answer is: the Township Sign Ordinance regulates both of these types of signs by restricting them to the site on which the garage sale is located and to the property that is for sale. No off-premise signs are allowed. This includes posting signs on telephone and utility poles. The Township actively removed signs that are in violation of the Sign Ordinance. If you have questions regarding the Sign Ordinance, please call the Planning Department at 949-0224.

Attention: Dog Owners

Please remember there is an ordinance regarding leashes and cleaning up after your dog. The ordinance states that all dogs on public or private property other than their own shall be controlled and on a leash not exceeding twenty (20) feet in length at all times. It goes on to state that any person shall not permit a dog to commit a nuisance within the Township by defecating upon any public or private property without the consent of the owner or person in lawful occupation of such property. Remember to clean up after your dog. These ordinance violations are a misdemeanor and could result in a fine. If you would like to read this ordinance in its entirety, feel free to visit our website at www.cascadetwp.com.



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Yard Waste Pick Up Program - Fall 2005

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 17 through November 21

• 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 October 28-30, November 11-13 and November 24-27.

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.

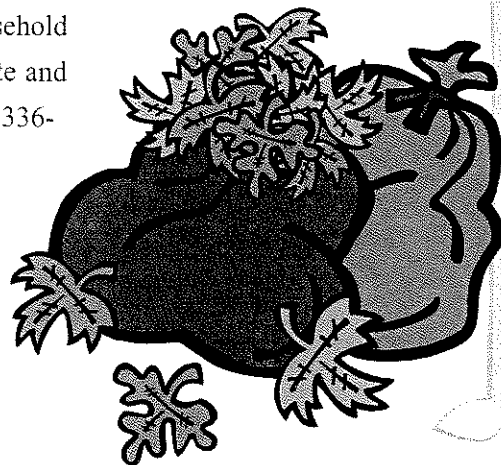
Fall Clean Up Day

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 29th 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 336-2501.

The Salvation Army will also have a truck available at the site to collect furniture, clothing and other household items.

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.



Cascade Connections

Get Involved!

Cascade Charter Township offers citizens a variety of opportunities to participate in local government. The following is a list of the different boards and commissions with Township citizens serving on them.

Planning Commission

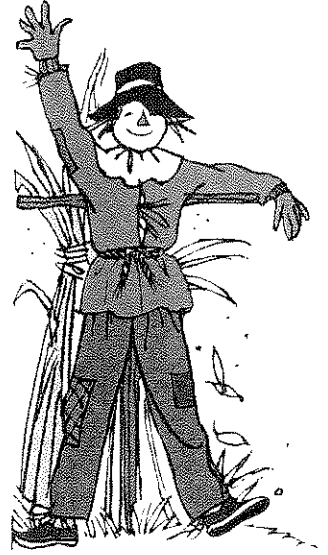
Zoning Board of Appeals

Parks Committee

Downtown Development Authority

Historical Committee

Assessment Board of Review



If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please send a letter explaining your interest in that board(s) along with your resume. Send this information to the attention of the Township Supervisor at 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 or email the Township Manager's office at: manager@cascadetwp.com. For more information, contact the Township office at 949-1500.

Cascade Charter Township

2865 Thornhills Ave SE
Grand Rapids MI 49546
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fax: 616.949.3918
www.cascadetwp.com

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