



CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Winter 2017

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Township Board:

Supervisor:

Rob Beahan; 949-1500
rbeahan@cascadetwp.com

Clerk:

Sue Slater; 949-1508
sslater@cascadetwp.com

Treasurer:

Ken Peirce; 949-6944
kpeirce@cascadetwp.com

Trustees:

Jim Koessel
jkoessel@cascadetwp.com

Jack Lewis
jlewis@cascadetwp.com

Tom McDonald
tmcdonald@cascadetwp.com

John Shipley
jshipley@cascadetwp.com

Department Phone Numbers:

Manager:

Ben Swayze; 949-1500
bswayze@cascadetwp.com

Assessing:

Roger McCarty; 949-6176
roger@cascadetwp.com

Building Inspections:

Brian Wilson; 949-3765
bwilson@cascadetwp.com

Community Development

Steve Peterson; 949-0224
speterson@cascadetwp.com

Fire:

John Sigg; 949-1320
jsigg@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff/Non-Emergency:

632-6100



Powered by consumers credit union

All roads will be closed to through traffic, but all residents will be able to enter and exit their homes during event.

Funding Cancer & Parkinson's Research with Every Stride!

The 3rd annual Purple Community 5K powered by Consumers Credit Union offers runners, children, and families a fun and fast course along Burton Street, starting and finishing at the Mary Free Bed YMCA.

100% of every dollar raised goes directly to cancer and Parkinson's disease research at Van Andel Institute.

What: Purple Community 5K and Fun Run
Powered by Consumers Credit Union

When: Saturday, April 29, 2017
8:00 a.m. - Fun Run | 8:05 a.m. - 5K Run/Walk

Where: Mary Free Bed YMCA
5500 Burton St SE | Grand Rapids, MI 49546

More details of traffic flow can be found at purplecommunity.org



FROM THE SUPERVISOR...



FROM THE SUPERVISOR
ROB BEAHAN

How often do all of us drive by something repeatedly and never realize that something has changed or disappeared until long after the fact. If you have lived here a year or a lifetime you probably can think of something like that.

Recently, the Cascade Historical Society discovered original copies of the Suburban Life, a weekly newspaper that started in

1955. The Suburban Life was published covering local news for what was called the A.C.E. area, Ada, Cascade, and Eastmont. These editions, from 1955-1968, are now available for viewing online through the Kent District Library website and give an interesting perspective with articles and photographs on how things were in the area. To see a bit of the past, just go to the kdl.org website and click on the Learn and Research tab to drop down to locate Suburban Life.

For the last few years you may have noticed a tall slim man garbed in an orange safety vest, walking twice a day through the village area gathering discarded deposit bottles and cans. This walker was Paul Neubecker, a lifelong resident of Cascade who lived near Thornapple River Drive and Burger. As he made his appointed rounds, many people waved and honked as they drove by. He knew and remembered a lot of Cascade history, probably more than the average resident. Paul seemed to know a lot of people, who lived where, who did what, and who was in the news. Paul started walking more frequently a few years ago after retiring from his job of 44 years in food service at Lincoln school. To me, and I'm guessing others, it was a reassuring sight to see Paul on his walks and sometimes get a wave or have a conversation with him. Sadly, after a brief illness, Paul died this past December at the age of 68. Change is inevitable, but some changes are just harder to accept than others.

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR ASSESSOR...

Assessment Change Notices will be mailed on or before February 20, 2017. If you are a new homeowner and do not receive your notice by March 1st, please call our office. Registration of deeds and taxpayer name changes at the county level can take up to eight weeks.

In addition to change of assessment, the notice will indicate:

- if there was a transfer of ownership in 2016;
- if there is a Principal Residence Exemption on your property for 2017. **If you purchased the property in 2016, please check the PRE status carefully. Contact the Assessor office if the PRE status is wrong.**



Board of Review will hear assessment appeals on March 13 and 14, 2017.

- Appointments will be made beginning on March 1. An appeal application and instructions will be mailed to you when you make an appointment.
- Sales data and comparative information will be available in the Assessor's Office and in the Cascade Township Library beginning February 27.
- Letter appeals are acceptable if you are unable to attend a Board of Review hearing. Four copies of your letter and supporting documents must be received no later than March 13, 2017. Please send them to:

Cascade Township Board of Review
2865 Thornhills Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

- An appeal to the Board of Review, either in person or by letter, is a prerequisite for an appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal for residential properties. Commercial / Industrial properties do not have to appeal to the Board of Review to appeal to the State.

PROPOSAL A REMINDERS.....

Property Transfer Affidavits must be filed with the assessor for any transfer of ownership that occurred in 2016.

Principal Residence (Homestead) Exemptions...

Filing deadline for new exemptions is June 1, 2017. Filing deadline for Winter only exemption is November 1, 2017. Exemptions in effect January 1, 2017, stay in effect for the calendar year.

You must **rescind** your exemption within 90 days of the date you no longer either own or occupy the property as your principal residence. Exemptions expire on December 31st of the year you move out.

Taxable Value Cap ...

- It is the **taxable** value that is capped by Proposal A – not the assessed value. The taxable value is used to calculate your taxes and is capped at 5%, or rate of inflation, **unless there was a transfer of ownership in 2016, any new construction, field work, reappraisal changes or any other omitted real property.** If there was a transfer of ownership on your property in 2016, your assessed value and taxable value will be the same in 2017 because the taxable value was uncapped.
- **1.009 % is the inflation rate multiplier established by the State for 2017.**

A special note to those who have purchased property in Cascade Township during the last year...

Proposal A does not authorize the assessor to automatically set the assessed value of a property which has sold at one half of the sale price. An individual sale price may or may not be a good indicator of the true cash value of the property for a variety of reasons. Section 27(5) of the General Property Tax Act states that "the purchase price paid in a transfer of property is not the presumptive true cash value of the property transferred."

Poverty Exemption Applications are available for those low income property owners who are unable to pay their property taxes. Applications are available at the Assessor Office and are approved or denied by the Board of Review. Form is available from the Assessors Office.

Veterans Exemptions Applications- Veterans who the Veterans Administration has determined are 100% disabled are eligible for a property tax exemption. Surviving spouses are potentially eligible also. Form is available from the Assessors Office.

Did you know?

- Annual changes of assessment are based on sales in the neighborhood. We have at least 75 sales neighborhoods in Cascade. Your neighborhood rarely consists of just the homes on your street.
- Your taxable value can never exceed your assessed value.
- The June 1st filing deadline for Principal Residence Exemptions applies to new applications only. You do not need to reapply each year.
- It is your responsibility as a taxpayer to review your property record card periodically to be sure you agree with all the information that is currently of record.
- The assessing staff is available Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Feel free to come in or call 949-6176 if you have any questions on your property. The assessing system is quite complex, and we are always willing to help our taxpayers understand how the system works.
- The assessor is not permitted by State Law to automatically set your new assessment at one half of your purchase price.

BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBERS

Barbara Manus – Averill John Meyer Sara Fazio

PASSPORT NEWS



NEW PASSPORT PHOTO REQUIREMENT EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2016

- Beginning November 1, 2016, customers must remove their eye glasses when taking a photo for a U.S. Passport.
- This change in the photo requirement allows the U.S. Department of State to more readily identify customers

- Photos of customers wearing eye glasses often have a glare on the lens. Glasses also create shadows on customers' faces or block a portion of their eyes.
- By removing eye glasses, passport customers are less likely to experience delays in the application process.

SUBMISSION OF PHOTOCOPIES OF CITIZENSHIP EVIDENCE...

Effective January 9, 2017, all customers applying for a passport using form DS-11 must submit a clear copy of their citizenship evidence in addition to their original or certified copy of citizenship. Customers who submit an expired U.S. passport book or passport card as citizenship evidence do not need to submit a photocopy.

- The photocopy is required of primary U.S. citizenship evidence such as a certified birth certificate, naturalization certificate, consular report of birth abroad, and certificate of citizenship. Customers who submit an expired U.S. passport book or passport card as citizenship evidence do not need to submit a photocopy.
- The copy will be retained by the U.S. Department of State with your passport record. This assists the Department's effort to preserve the integrity of the passport issuance process, and reduces the risk of another person attempting to use evidence in your name to get a passport.
- If you elect not to submit a photocopy, you can submit a second certified copy of your birth certificate.
- Customers who do not submit a photocopy or second certified copy of their citizenship evidence may experience a delay in the processing of their passport application.



DOG LICENSES FOR 2017

The Treasurer's office is selling dog licenses to Kent County residents on a regular basis for the entire year. This is a new collaborative effort on the part of the County and the Township to offer another easy access service to the residents. We will sell both 1 year and 3 year licenses to coincide with the rabies vaccination expiration. Please bring your dog's rabies certification, and proof of spay/neuter, if any.

WINTER TAXES

The Winter property taxes are due on or before Tuesday, February 14, 2017. We want to remind you that Cascade Township does not accept postmarks as proof of timeliness. All payments must be submitted to our office by 5 PM on the date they are due. If you did not receive a tax statement, please check the township's website or call the Treasurer's office at 616-949-6944. The last day that Cascade Township will accept 2016 property tax payments is Tuesday, February 28, 2017. After this day all outstanding taxes are considered delinquent, and should be paid to Kent County.

TAX PAYMENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

With the IRS income tax filing deadline approaching, Cascade Township property taxpayers may need to verify the amount of property tax paid in 2016. For your convenience, this information is available thru a link on the Township's website.

Instructions for the link on the website are:

- Property / Parcel Lookup (from Quick Links)
- Search Municipal Records (BS&A)
- Search by Parcel Number, Address or Name
- Click on the parcel number on the next screen
- Click on the Tax Information tab and scroll down for the tax payment history.

ELECTION NEWS

May 2, 2017 is the next scheduled election to be held in Cascade. This election will be for a millage vote for the Kent Intermediate School District (KISD). This millage is for 0.9 mills for a regional enhancement millage for 10 years.

With a school election, we are able to consolidate precincts to minimize costs associated with the election.

The following precincts will be consolidated into one for the May Election ONLY:

Precinct 1, 7, & 8 Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church (these precincts already function within the confines of the Fellowship Church)

ALL OTHER PRECINCTS WILL VOTE AT THEIR REGULAR LOCATIONS (please check our website cascadetwp.com for these locations)



GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON 2017

Huntington NUTRILITE

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 11, 2017

We hope you'll plan to join us for the 2017 Grand Rapids Triathlon, which will once again be the host of the USAT Clydesdale/Athena National Championships. Whether you plan to spectate, volunteer, or participate, we hope to see you out on the course.

Please be aware of road closures in the area of the Thornapple River on both June 10 & June 11. If you have any questions please contact Andy Vidro 616.805.3059

WWW.GRANDRAPIDSTRI.COM

A LOOK BACK TO WHITNEYVILLE, CIRCA 1840



When driving down busy 28th Street today, it is difficult to imagine what that small two-lane unpaved road was like in the mid 1800's. A look back in our history is very interesting.

Around 1840 Zerah Whitney and his family moved to Michigan and settled in the area of what is now Whitneyville. This soon became an important crossroads in MI. What is now Whitneyville Ave. was the main route from Battle Creek and Kalamazoo to Grand Rapids. A stage coach line called the Good Intent Line made Whitneyville one of its stops as well as a relay station where it changed horses. One of the main roads from Detroit to GR was what is now 52nd St. These two routes met at Whitneyville and then ran north as one road to Ada where it crossed the Thornapple River and went on into GR.

One of the stagecoach drivers left his name in the community. Ed Campau, nephew of GR founder, Louis Campau, was a driver for the line. As he drove through the area he was impressed by the land just south of Whitneyville. When he discontinued driving stage, he bought land which abutted a lake which became Campau Lake. Travelers coming through and settlers soon made Whitneyville into a fair size town for its day. At one time there were two stores, a hotel, gristmill, blacksmith shop, sawmill, post office, tavern and bank. Around 1855 the stage line switched its route to Plank Rd. (now Division Ave.)

Whitneyville's death knell was sounded in the 1880's when the Pere Marquette Railroad went through and Mr. McCord gave land for a depot and railroad siding just east of there. McCords became the area shopping and transportation hub and Whitneyville pretty much disappeared. McCords became quite a town in its own right having, at one time, a depot, two stores, post office, bank, coal yard, church, gristmill, garage and blacksmith shop. McCords soon died with the coming of the auto.

A tavern on the northeast corner of Whitneyville and 60th is the oldest building remaining in Cascade Township. It is reputed that young Abraham Lincoln spent a night at the tavern as he was traveling. This building is now a private home. Land was set aside for a cemetery between 52nd and 60th Streets. At that time the cemetery was only half as large as it is now. Later the south half was added and it is now overseen by Cascade Township.

The first Whitneyville School, made of logs, was built on the northeast corner of the cemetery. That building burned down and a new frame school was built a little north. That also burned and another was built which is now a private residence.

A hotel was built and became a stop for the stage line. A dance hall on the second floor was suspended by cables from the roof rafters. When the dancers moved, the floor would sway. The building is now a residence. An earthen dam was constructed to raise and store the water of Whitneyville Creek to power a gristmill. Later the spillway was remade of concrete and the falls from this old spillway made a picturesque sight especially with the old hotel across the street.



This house on the northeast corner of Whitneyville Ave. and 60th Street is the oldest house in Cascade Township. It was originally built as a tavern.



The old Whitneyville School, now a residence.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTE

The Cascade Historical Society is planning a commemoration of World War One and the role played by Michigan and Cascade citizens. It will be the 100th anniversary of that conflict during April, 2017.

We hope to assemble a meaningful exhibit and schedule a speaker for a public event. We are asking Cascade residents to share their memories and/or loan us any artifacts they may have that would enrich the experience. Those interested can contact us through the Township website (<http://www.cascadetwp.com/Community/Historical-Society.aspx>).

The Cascade Historical Society meets the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the old Township Hall, 2839 Thornapple River Drive just north of Cascade Road. Do join us. We also have copies of the Cascade Chronicles which outlines the township's history and can be purchased at the township office. If you have questions, please email your request to cascadehistory@cascadetwp.com

ANOTHER LOOK AT WHITNEYVILLE, CIRCA 1840

Looking back at the history of Cascade is extremely interesting. When driving down busy 28th Street today, it is difficult to imagine what that small two-lane unpaved road was like in the mid 1800's. Cascade does have a rich history which reveals how difficult life was during those times and how the early settlers worked to make this such a wonderful community.

The first of Whitneyville's stores was located near where Whitneyville Avenue and 52nd Street going west meet. The house located there today, having been enlarged and remodeled through the years, is thought to stand just south of where the old store stood. The second store was located across Whitneyville Avenue farther to the north.

Across the road from the Gristmill at Whitneyville Creek was the blacksmith shop. One blacksmith of record was Talcott "Talkie" E. Croniger. At one time there was a wooden sluiceway built above the road from the millpond to the shop for supplying power to run the forge's bellows. A slight rise of the ground near the north side of the creek is the only evidence of the shop's past presence. The saw mill was located on the north side of the present 52nd Street. Originally, 52nd Street was farther north and passed just to the north of the saw mill where the road forded the creek.

The dam for the saw mill's power was some 200 yards upstream from the saw mill and a water wheel 15 feet in diameter was used. The stream was not large enough to float the logs to the mill so they had to be carted on wagons or dragged down the steep road grades. Little except a few rocks can be seen of the old saw mill but some of the earthen works of the old dam and sluiceway can still be clearly seen. The old road grading can also be identified.

Near the saw mill also was found a strong magnetic spring, once called one of the finest in the state. There were some thoughts of developing a spa on the site but they never materialized. The spring still flows and its waters are still very tasty and refreshing. There is not much evidence left of old Whitneyville but what remains is a simple reminder of its proud past and important position in the history and settlement of West Michigan. As you drive around the area, try to think of what it must have been like in 1875.

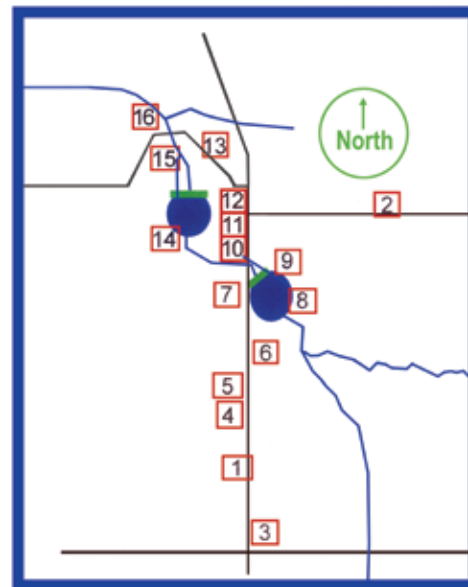
Imagine the following—You're a farmer's daughter or son and you are sitting in the wagon on some bags of corn that your dad is taking to the gristmill to have ground into corn meal. After he leaves the corn at the mill, you drive over to the blacksmith's shop where one of your horses has to be shod. On the way you leave your mom at the store.

After the shodding of the horse, you drive back to the store to pickup your mom and the months' supply of groceries and some cloth which she has purchased for a new dress and shirt. While there, your dad buys some pieces of penny candy for you to suck on on the way home.

You leave the store and go back to the gristmill to pick up the cornmeal. As your dad loads of bags of cornmeal unto the wagon, your mouth waters as you think about your supper of fresh cornmeal mush with maple syrup on it.

Before you go home, your dad has to stop down at the saw mill to buy some boards to fix the barn door that was blown off by the wind. While at the saw mill, you run over and get a big drink of cold water from the mineral spring.

You then get back on the wagon, lay back on some bags of corn meal, put a stick of penny candy in your mouth and discover the pictures that the clouds paint for you on the long ride back home.



KEY

1. Whitneyville Avenue
2. 52nd Street
3. Whitneyville Tavern
4. Cemetery
5. School
6. Stage Relay Station
7. Whitneyville Hotel
8. Millpond for Gristmill
9. Gristmill
10. Blacksmith shop
11. House Next to Store
12. Store
13. Old 52nd Street
14. Millpond for Sawmill
15. Sawmill
16. Mineral Spring

2017 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

There are a few major road and utility projects occurring in 2017 to be on the lookout for. They are as follows:



1. Thornapple River Dr. (Cascade Rd. west to Mahesh Dr.) – This project will consist of the construction of water and sewer lines as

well as reconstruction of the road. This project will completely close this area to thru traffic and will take approximately 10-12 weeks. Start date unknown at this time. Please watch future newsletters for dates.

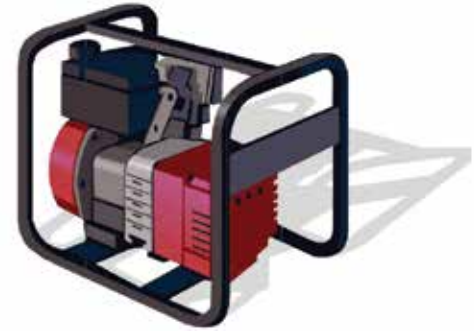
2. Intersection of Kraft/28th St. – This intersection will be widened to accommodate dual lefts for east-bound traffic and signal upgrade to improve capacity. Project start date will be in April/May timeframe (no work before April 15) with a projected completion date of July 15, 2017.

3. Kraft St. (28th to Burton St.) – Potential resurfacing on Kraft Avenue from north of 28th Street to Burton

4. Burton St. (Burton from Cascade Road to approx.. 900 feet west of Cascade Road) - Resurfacing. There may also be some spot repairs on Burton Street between the west limit of the resurface work and Kraft Avenue.

PORTABLE GENERATOR HAZARDS...

Portable generators are useful when temporary electrical power is needed but they can be hazardous. Carbon monoxide poisoning, electrical shock and fire are the primary hazards. The United States Fire Administration recommends the following to reduce the risks associated with portable generators.



To avoid Carbon Monoxide Hazards:

- Always use generators outdoors and away from doors, windows and vents.
- Never use in garages or other enclosed areas.
- Make sure your home has CO detectors that are working.
- Pay attention to flu-like symptoms such as headache, dizziness, confusion, fatigue and nausea...especially if experienced by more than one person.
- Immediately move to fresh air and call 911 if you suspect CO poisoning.

To avoid Generator Electrical Hazards:

- Keep the generator dry in an open canopy-like structure.
- Dry your hands before touching.
- Use heavy duty extension cords that are properly grounded and free of cuts or defects.
- Never plug the generator into a wall outlet to “back-feed”.
- Have a qualified electrician install a transfer switch if the generator is connected to the house wiring.

To avoid Fire Hazards:

- Turn off and let the generator cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Store fuel in proper containers away from fuel-burning appliances.

Please contact Cascade Inspection Services with any questions. 949-3765

ANNUAL SPRING USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Cascade Library annual spring used book sale will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017, from 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Sunday, March 5, from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Wisner Center of the Cascade Township Branch of the Kent District Library.

Members Only Preview Sale hours are 9:30 – 10:30 am on Saturday, March 4. Anyone may join at the door for only \$10 (seniors \$5, family \$15).

Hardcover books \$1, paperbacks \$.50, or buy a bag for only \$10. Further reductions will be taken on Sunday.

You will find more than 8,000 adult and children’s books sorted into many categories of fiction and non-fiction. Also featured are some specially priced collectible books and other surprises.

Cash, checks & credit cards are accepted. All proceeds support the Cascade Branch. Please visit Chapter Two, our ongoing sale, while visiting the library.

Location:

Cascade Township Branch of the Kent District Library

**2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Telephone 616-784-2007**

www.CascadeFriends.org

Dates to Remember...

- The annual Fourth of July book sale
- A small used book sale on Sat., Sept. 16, 2017
- The annual fall used book sale, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 4 and 5, 2017

We will have more specific information for upcoming newsletters. But mentioning these dates now allows people to pencil them in early.





HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE FOREST HILLS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION!

We are excited to announce that we have an amazing calendar filled with great speakers. The Forest Hills Business Association meets the second Thursday of the

month and we invite you to come and visit us to see what we and the businesses in the area are excited about when it comes to networking and meeting other business owners. It's easy to become a member and register your business to attend our meetings!

Your New Officers for 2017 are:

Carmen Villahermosa de Cox, ChoiceOne Bank, President
Kimberly Loomis, Source IT, Vice President
Janelle Good, Macatawa Bank, Treasurer
John Knoppers, Secretary, United Bank of West Michigan

Board of Directors::

Richard Kirvan, The Kirvan Agency
Dr. Nick Schuster, Life Chiropractic
Russ Clark, WCSG
Andrew Porzynski, Farmers Insurance, The Porzynski Agency
Valerie Cook, Grand Rapids Home Health Care
Brad Zielaskowski, Athletico Physical Therapy
If you need information, please call Carmen at 616-430-1924
We look forward to seeing you in February

HELLO CASCADE RESIDENTS

In this newsletter I'd like to educate everyone on our social media sites. For the last year, the Kent County Sheriff's Department has been increasing our social media presence. You may recall a "Kent County East Precinct" Facebook page a few years ago, but it no longer exists. The new (and very much improved!) Facebook page is "Kent County Sheriff Department." When visiting, make sure you are visiting the verified page, which is indicated by the check mark next to its name.



You can also follow us on Twitter by searching for "Kent County Sheriff" within the application, or with the @KentSheriff handle.

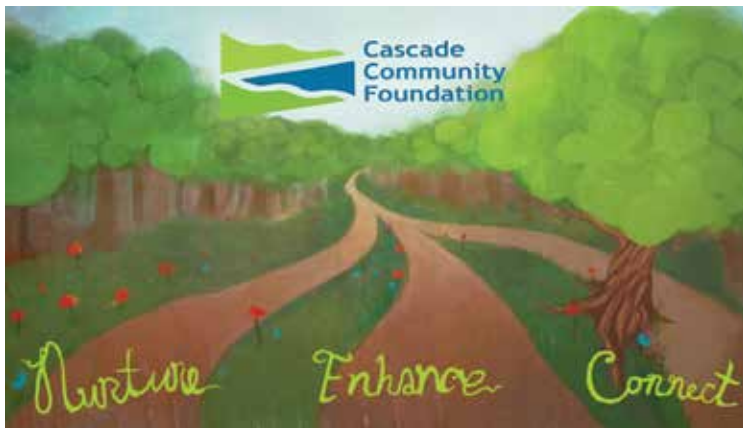
I would like to personally invite the residents of Cascade to these sites. We at the Sheriff's Office want to release relevant information to the community and social media is an excellent way to share news immediately and directly. Traditional media releases only provide a one-way stream of information, so this will help start a dialogue within our community.

The transition into these media sites is underway and going well. Please like and follow us on Facebook and Twitter and, of course, feel free to share the pages with friends!



Stay safe and aware,

Ryan Roe
Kent County Sheriff Department
ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov



As a result of local contributions, the CCF helped in the following ways through our 2016 Spring and Fall grant requests:

Nurturing Neighbors: We sponsored the Senior Sing Along efforts and the Grand Rapids Phoenix Youth Basketball program through our grant program

Enhancing Places: We completed the large capital campaign fundraising project this year to enhance the Airport Viewing Park. Groundbreaking was held in October, 2016. Stay tuned for the Grand Opening in the Spring, 2017! This park is regarded as one of the finest aviation viewing areas in the country!

Connected Communities: The Annual Cascade Township July 4th celebration, the Kent District Library Summer Series and the August Cascade Metro Cruise Warm up event were all recipients of the CCF grant monies.

The CCF grant requests occur in the spring and the fall of every year. Local non-profits can apply for a grant request through our website: www.cascadecommunityfoundation.com

Please help us spread the word of the work that the CCF does!

Laura McDowell
CCF President



Cascade Charter Township

2865 Thornhills Ave SE.
Grand Rapids MI 49546
phone: 616.949.1500
fax: 616.949.3918
www.cascadetwp.com

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PATHWAY NEWS...

I was reviewing some files the other day and I discovered that Kathy and I have been picking up and talking trash in Cascade Township for a full ten years. I am a high energy person, so picking up trash has been an outstanding way to burn some of it. As for writing about it, I sometimes bore myself to tears. If you regularly read the Cascade Connections, and especially my article, you need to get a life. But if you have trouble sleeping, my letter should put you in a coma.

Levity aside, I can honestly say that from 10 years ago until today, there has been a definite decrease in the amount of weird stuff that we have picked up on Cascade Rd. Some of the weird stuff has been discussed in previous newsletters. Perhaps the advent of cell phones has precluded people from tossing excess trash onto Cascade Road.

We walked a large portion of the trail on New Year's Day. It was a wonderful way to decompress from all the holiday events. I mentioned this in my last newsletter, but it bears repeating. If you come across a dead deer on or near the trails, call Jerry Byrne, Director of Maintenance KCRC at 616 242-6952 and let him know the locations of the carcass.

Hope you all enjoy a good new year and enjoy the trails and remember **KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL!**

Kris Taylor
Pathway Coordinator

