

CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from Cascade Charter Township • Spring 2020



- + Ada/Cascade Clean-Up Day
- + Yard Waste Pick-Up Program
- + Greetings to Deputy Dieppa

NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR



Sara Homeyer

Cascade recently lost a wonderful, long-time resident, Sara Homeyer, who passed away last December after a brief illness.

One of Sara's many legacies was Peace Park, located off Grand River Avenue and Bolt Drive. Sara and her

husband, Charlie, who survives her, were passionate advocates of preserving nature and open space, so much so that they quietly donated a very substantial amount of money toward that purpose in Cascade Township. They encouraged the Township to form an open space group, which they spearheaded, to actively look and acquire open space for a park. After much work and searching, along with funding from the Township and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund, 198 acres of pristine hilly and wooded property was acquired.

The Township's first thought was to name the property "Homeyer Park," but the Homeyers did not want the land to be about them. True to their low-key nature, they instead suggested the park be named "Peace Park," after the poem, "The Peace of Wild Things," by Wendell Berry, describing the beauty of nature.

With the prospect of warmer weather and longer daylight hours, I encourage you to take the opportunity to explore Peace Park's natural habitat that the Homeyers were the catalyst for. You might even come across the small monument with the Wendell Berry poem – it's definitely worth the hike.

Township Contacts

Township Hall Office Hours

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

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

Manager

Ben Swayze; 949-1500
bswayze@cascadetwp.com

Assistant Manager

Stephanie Fast; 285-2327
sfast@cascadetwp.com

Assessing

Roger McCarty; 949-6176
rmccarty@cascadetwp.com

Building Inspections

Brian Wilson; 949-3765
bwilson@cascadetwp.com
Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Community Development

Steve Peterson; 949-0224
speterson@cascadetwp.com

Fire

Adam Magers; 949-1320
amagers@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff/Non-Emergency Dispatch

336-3113

Community Policing Officer

Omar Dieppa; 632-6435
omar.dieppa@kentcountymi.gov





From the **CLERK**

Sue Slater

Last year, the Cascade Township Board approved a project to expand the 30th Street Cemetery to meet the future needs of the community. The project was divided into three smaller projects: a new maintenance garage, the expansion of the columbarium area and the expansion of the cemetery itself.

Completed in late 2019, the new garage is larger and provides more room for the equipment used for cemetery maintenance.

During the Feb. 12 Township Board meeting, the next phase of the project was approved – the expansion of the cemetery itself. This will involve some tree removal that must be completed by April 1 due to laws protecting the bat habitat. After April 1, you will see dirt being graded to make it usable for gravesites. A new drive with additional parking will be built around the area.

In addition, the columbarium area will be expanded, and existing drives will be resurfaced.

DAM DRAW-DOWN DATES

Spring 2020 • April 9 to 12
Fall 2020 • Oct. 8 to 11

Please note: the spring drawdown is always the second weekend of April. The fall drawdown is always the second weekend of October.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Monday, May 25 • 10 a.m.
Cascade Branch of the Kent District Library
2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE

Join us for a tribute to our veterans.

sign up for our **E-NEWSLETTER**

Sign up for our e-newsletter to stay up to date on what makes Cascade a great place to live, work, eat and play. Please visit cascadetwp.com/Reference-Desk/eNews.aspx and follow the steps to receive monthly updates.

ADA/CASCADE CLEAN-UP DAY

Ada and Cascade Township residents are invited to drop off non-hazardous household waste at Forest Hills Central Middle School on Saturday, May 16 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Gates close sharply at 2:30 p.m.

Please note:

- The Forest Hills Central Middle School parking lot is a one-way entry from Ada Drive and exit to Hall Street – enter via Ada Drive near Alta Dale by Central Middle School.
- Non-hazardous household waste only, such as appliances, scrap metal, electronics for recycling (computers, TVs, etc.), household items for re-use and office paper for shredding.
- No yard waste: You will need to use leaf pick-up day, your curbside service or other source for yard waste, such as leaves, branches and brush.
- No hazardous material, such as cleaners and batteries, will be accepted. Paint cans that are open and dried are allowed.
- Identification is required to verify your residency within Ada or Cascade townships. If you live in Grand Rapids Township but your mailing address is Ada, you do not qualify.

Services on site:

- Scrapping: Republic Service will be available for general trash and junk, large and small appliances, scrap metal. No yard waste.
- Household Recycling: The Salvation Army will be available for used or new household items, such as furniture, kitchen items and clothes.
- Shredding: Shred-It will be available for shredding of up to 100 pounds of office paper and personal documents.
- Recycling: Comprenew will be available for computers, televisions, small appliances, cell phones, household batteries and other electronics.

Donation receipts will be available.

For questions, please call Ada Township at 616.676.9191 ext. 29 or Cascade Township at 616.949.1500.



YARD WASTE PICK-UP PROGRAM Spring 2020

Purchase yard waste tags for \$1 at the reception desk of the Township Offices from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Pick-up will be every Monday from April 6 to 27.

- **New this year: only paper bags will be picked up.** Bags should weigh no more than 30 pounds.
- Sticks should be no longer than four feet in length. Branches, logs and stumps are not to exceed one inch in diameter.
- Please have your yard waste near the curb by midnight on Sunday.
- Place a tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches. No grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand or rocks, please.
- Residents 62 years of age and older will receive 20 free tags per calendar year, per household.
- This service is only available in the restricted burn area. Properties located west of Buttrick and north of I-96.

The yard-waste dumpsters will be available behind the Thornhills Fire Station from April 24 to 27. There will also be a 15-cubic-yard container of finished compost. This material is free and offered on a first-come-first-serve basis.

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 pick-up list.

Please note: the curbside pickup and dumpsters are not for the disposal of garlic mustard. Please place garlic mustard in a separate, sealed bag and put it in your regular trash.

For more information, please call 616.949.1500.

leashing your **DOG**

We have received an increasing number of complaints regarding dog owners walking dogs off leash in our parks, particularly Peace Park. We want to remind everyone there are state, county and local laws requiring dogs to be kept on a leash on public property. This law keeps your dog safe and provides peace of mind for others who may not be comfortable in the presence of dogs. It also prevents dogs from chasing wildlife that other people may wish to enjoy. A dog is also less likely to be injured or eat something harmful if they are on the path on a leash. The Township provides plastic bags for your dog's waste.

If your dog enjoys time off leash, please consider visiting the Cascade Hospital for Animals Dog Park, located in the Cascade Recreation Park. Thank you for helping us keep our parks a place that everyone can enjoy.

A quick reminder for residents who do enjoy watching deer: please remember the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has banned any baiting or feeding in the lower peninsula. This ban was made to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis in our deer population.

Learn more at michigan.gov/dnr.



Community Foundation to Celebrate 20 Years

Nearing two decades of service, Cascade Community Foundation is gearing up for a celebration, along with new services in 2020. At the forefront is a highly anticipated business platform called 'Enterprise.' The platform features a speaker series that will examine unique problems and solutions facing local businesses and will serve as a hub for establishing charitable funds for area causes. The foundation's CEO Justin Swan says the program will be a new resource that allows for more intentional and strategic giving.

"We're bursting with excitement over Enterprise and the opportunity to provide donors with new resources, such as establishing a charitable fund," said Swan. "Enterprise is perfect for any business that is passionate about giving back here in town or is already engrained in supporting the community."

Sponsor opportunities are available to businesses that want to support Enterprise.

Meanwhile, CCF has released a

new public survey to guide future grantmaking and has aligned with local financial advisors to offer philanthropic resources to individuals, including donor-advised funds. According to Swan, helping residents to establish long-term and short-term funds represents the heartbeat of a community foundation's services – and their efforts have been met with tremendous optimism by the foundation's supporters.

"Establishing a donor fund is simple and efficient by design, which is why it's so popular across America," said Swan. "There are so many causes to support, and the ways of doing so are virtually unlimited, which is where we can help. Opening a fund at CCF is a great way to expand your giving, start anew or make your current philanthropy easier, whether you're doing so through work or home."

CCF will also continue its annual grantmaking and recently commissioned a public survey to help residents and businesses offer their input on where to focus those

dollars beginning 2021. The survey is available at surveyCCF.com. Swan is hopeful the feedback will mimic previous efforts, which led to investments in area placemaking with projects such as the Airport Viewing Park, as well as deeper grantmaking made possible through the Tom and Joyce Wisner Fund – accomplishments that will be celebrated with the organization's first-ever gala this fall.

"Community foundations can wear a lot of different hats, but the most important role is to be a steward of those we serve and help put their charity to work in a reliable, constructive way," said Swan. "That's why we felt it was time to commission a new survey, which will help us outline our goals and focus over the next twenty years."

Sponsorships for the gala, Enterprise and CCF's operations are available by calling 616.499.2060 or by emailing justin.swan@cascadecommunityfoundation.com. Gala tickets will go on sale later this year.



Hello from your new community policing officer! As an introduction, I grew up in Walker, completed my bachelor's degree at Grand Valley State University and graduated from the GVSU Police Academy. I have been happily married for the past nine years to my wife, Erin, and have three amazing children, Reese, 5, Rory, 3, and Mack, 1.

I bring seven years of law enforcement experience to this position – two years with the Grand Valley State University Police Department and five with the Kent County Sheriff's Office. For the past three years, I have patrolled the East Precinct on the night shift. Although I thoroughly enjoyed working on road patrol, I decided it was time for me to try something new. An opportunity arose to apply for the East Precinct community officer position and I was extremely fortunate to get selected.

Within the Sheriff's Office, I instruct standardized field sobriety tests. In addition, I completed the drug evaluation and classification program to become a certified drug recognition expert. I have been a field training officer for the past three years and currently teach the intro to traffic course at the Grand Rapids Community College Police Academy as an adjunct professor. It's with this knowledge, experience and passion for education that I will be able to better help the businesses and residents of the East Precinct.

Serving as the East Precinct community officer this past month has been great, and I appreciate the welcome I've received. Please feel free to contact me at omar.dieppa@kentcountymi.gov or 616.632.6435.



Furnace and water heater **PERMITS**

Permits are required for the installation of replacement furnaces and water heaters. Vince Milito, Dan Heyer and Jeff Biegalle from the inspections department are trained to inspect your new or replacement furnace and water heater. They ensure the new equipment is safe and in compliance with the 2015 Michigan Residential Code.

Before signing a contract to have these items replaced, make sure the contractor will obtain the necessary permits and

coordinate inspection upon completion of the work.

Inspections generally only take 10 minutes and cover important safety items, including gas piping, venting and combustion air requirements.

For more information, please contact Cascade inspection services at 616.949.3765



a historic look at THE OLD TOWNSHIP HALL

One of the oldest and best-preserved buildings in our community is near the intersection of Thornapple River Drive and Cascade Road. With tall windows, a welcoming front porch and bright white paint, this iconic structure is the Old Cascade Township Hall, constructed in 1898.

After Cascade Township was established in 1848, town meetings were held for 50 years in various locations, from private homes to Zerah Whitney's public house on Whitneyville Road. In 1898, the Old Township Hall became the center of community activity. For generations, it was where residents went to attend Township meetings, vote and socialize. The interior was furnished with simple benches and heated by two stoves for year-round use.

Although the exterior of the Old Township Hall has changed very little, there have been many changes inside. In order to serve the growing population and expansion of the business sector, the Township Offices were moved in the 1960s to the back of the fire station on Orange Avenue, which now houses Bridal Elegance. The Old Township Hall was used for movie nights and other gatherings – and sometimes even served as a Sunday School classroom. For a brief time, the Old Township Hall became The Electric Sandbox, a teenage hangout with music and reportedly groovy lighting. In 1972, the library, formerly a bookmobile, moved into the building, serving Cascade residents for more than a decade of cold winters and unairconditioned summers.

After the library relocated in 1985 to the new Township Offices on Thornhills Avenue – before moving again, in 1996, to its present location – the Old Township Hall became a museum and meeting place for the Cascade Historical Society. The museum features artifact displays and historical photos of Cascade Township.

Cascade Historical Society meetings are held in the Old

Township Hall on the first Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m. The Cascade Historical Society also opens the museum for several open houses each year. All are welcome.



Residents gather at the Old Cascade Township Hall for an ice cream social, circa 1900. Photo from the collection of Hugh Slater, provided by Carol Slater Tiemeyer.

The Cascade Historical Society invites you to an afternoon of conversation about Cascade history on Sunday, April 19 at 2 p.m. at the Old Township Hall. This event is intended for sharing memories and asking questions about Cascade in the distant and not-too-distant past. Longtime residents and newcomers with an interest in local history are invited to attend.

Do you have a memory of the Old Township Hall you'd like to share? You can tell your story by visiting [cascadetwp.com/Community/Historical-Society-\(1\).aspx](http://cascadetwp.com/Community/Historical-Society-(1).aspx) or the Cascade Now and Then Facebook page. You can also request the Cascade Historical Society to get in touch with you to record a story or submit a research request by calling the Township Offices at 616.949.1500.



PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO. 657

Cascade Charter Township

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

events from **KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY**



SUNDAY AFTERNOON LIVE

- Sunday, April 19 • 2 p.m. – Selkie: Celtic

TEEN ZONE: ESCAPE ROOM

Teens: are you going a little stir crazy during your spring break staycation? Bring a friend and test your skills in the library's escape room.

- Thursday, April 9 • 2 to 4 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK CLUB

Are you an adult who enjoys trying new recipes and meeting new friends? Check out the library's brand-new Cascade International Cookbook Club! Stop by the branch to pick up more information.

- Monday, March 30 • 6 to 7 p.m. – Simply Nigella
- Monday, May 4 • 6 to 7 p.m. – Lucky Peach Presents 101 Asian Recipes

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALES

Don't miss KDL's next Book Sale, offering great prices on thousands of books for every age and interest.

- March 20 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- March 21 • 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- March 22 • Noon to 3 p.m.