

CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from Cascade Charter Township • Spring 2021



- + Lock It or Lose It: Tips from Deputy Dieppa
- + Yard Waste Pickup Program
- + New Cascade Township Hall Address

NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR



“Serene Vistas ... Plentiful Trees ... Two Rivers ... One Community.” This statement found on the Township’s website is a wonderful reminder of how fortunate we are to live in such a unique and wonderful area. Few communities offer the quaint character and natural beauty of Cascade, while being so

close to a vibrant city with first-class amenities.

As one of the most desirable places to live and do business in West Michigan, Cascade is facing increasing pressures for growth and development. This intense pressure for rapid growth is not unique to Cascade but, unlike other suburban Grand Rapids communities, the die is not yet cast in Cascade. We are on the cusp of either losing or laying claim to what we cherish about where we live.

Cascade is a community of gifted and thoughtful people, and your ideas and involvement will ultimately decide how we encourage smart growth that complements, not destroys, our unique character and natural beauty.

Addressing PFAS contamination must also be a priority. Despite their patience and cooperation, many Cascade residents continue to lack safe drinking water. I was pleased to see that extending municipal water to the impacted neighborhoods was added to the Township’s Capital Improvement Plan. I would like to thank Planning Commissioner Chris Noordyke for making that happen. I also appreciate staff’s efforts in assembling the PFAS remediation state grant application (C2R2) and scheduling the upcoming PFAS Community Forum I requested. These initiatives, however positive, can only be the beginning of addressing this challenge.

As supervisor, I will work hard to assure that Cascade Township listens to and works directly with all our residents. I look forward to hearing from and meeting with you.

Township Contacts

Township Hall Office Hours

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

Supervisor

Grace Lesperance; 949.1500
glesperance@cascadetwp.com

Clerk

Sue Slater; 949.1508
sslater@cascadetwp.com

Treasurer

Ken Peirce; 949.6944
kpeirce@cascadetwp.com

Trustees

Jim Koessel
jkoessel@cascadetwp.com
Timmy Noordhoek
tnoordhoek@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

Jennifer Genter; 949.6176
jgenter@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



Tune in to LiveWire to Watch Township Meetings

Can't always join us for Township Board and Planning Commission meetings? We've got you covered.

You can now watch recordings of these meetings on GRTV's LiveWire, which is Comcast Channel 24. The most recent Township Board or Planning Commission meeting will air at 6 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Monday weekly on an alternating schedule.

For the schedule of Township meetings, visit cascadetwp.com and click Agendas/Meeting Packets.

Need to Get Rid of Sensitive Documents?

The Township's annual Shred It event is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 27 at the former Township Hall, 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE.

This is a great – and free – opportunity for Township residents to safely dispose of sensitive documents. This includes mail and paperwork that has personal information such as your name, address, phone number, email address, account number, birthdate, password or PIN, signature or Social Security number.

For more information about the Shred It event, visit cascadetwp.com and click Community Programs. You can also contact Assistant Township Manager Stephanie Fast at 285.2327 or sfast@cascadetwp.com.

Grand Rapids Triathlon 2021

Saturday, June 19 - Road closures, 4–11:30 a.m.

- Thornapple River Drive from River Street south to Laraway Lake Road
- Buttrick Avenue from Thornapple River Drive to Grand River Drive

Grand Rapids Triathlon 2021 - Sunday

Sunday, June 20 - Road closures, 4 a.m.– 5 p.m.

- Thornapple River Drive from River Street south to Cascade Road
- Buttrick Avenue from Thornapple River Drive to Grand River Drive

No overnight closures of Buttrick as in previous years.

CASCADE TOWNSHIP HALL IS MOVING

Starting Thursday, March 18, Cascade Township Hall will be at its new location: 5920 Tahoe Drive SE. The Township's phone number will remain the same.

The Building Department already has moved into the new space and is open for in-person visits 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Building Department staff are available by phone or email 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday.

We look forward to serving you at our new location!



Lock It or Lose It: Tips From Deputy Dieppa

Greetings from your community police officer.

The old saying "Out of sight, out of mind" bears true with criminals. That's why it's important to always lock your vehicle and remove valuables before you park it and leave it unattended – even in your driveway or garage. Make sure you lock your garage, too.

Most vehicle larcenies are from unlocked cars and trucks. Locking your vehicle is the easiest way to prevent theft. Make sure you remove the following valuables before you leave your vehicle unattended:

- Cell phones, laptops and tablets
- Purses and wallets
- Money, including checkbooks and loose change
- Jewelry
- Clothing
- Shopping bags
- Briefcases
- Luggage
- Sports equipment, including golf and baseball bags
- CDs/DVDs
- GPS navigation



If you must leave valuables in your unattended vehicle, make sure they're not in plain view. Put them in the trunk or cargo area – just make sure they're out of sight.

Here are some other tips to prevent vehicle theft:

- Take your keys out of your vehicle.
- Park in well-lit areas, attended lots and your garage, if possible.
- Leave only your ignition/door key with the lot attendant.
- Close all windows when parking.
- Engrave expensive accessories.
- Use tire/wheel locks.
- Install an audible alarm.
- Avoid parking between large vehicles and big bushes – they provide cover for thieves.
- Do not approach your vehicle if a stranger is near it. Call 911 or security for an escort.

Police need your help to be the "eyes and ears" in our community. When you observe someone or something suspicious, call 911 immediately. The assistance of our residents is how we are able to catch most criminals who break into vehicles.

Remember: Lock it or lose it, and don't hesitate – report it.

Deputy Omar Dieppa
omar.dieppa@kentcountymtmi.gov
632.6435

YARD WASTE PICKUP PROGRAM

SPRING 2021

Yard waste tags are available for free to Cascade residents in the vestibule at Township Hall, 5920 Tahoe Drive SE.

Township Hall is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Yard waste will be picked up Mondays, starting in the morning through 4 p.m. Reminder: Please have your yard waste at the curb by midnight the night before pickup.

Yard Waste pickup will be every Monday From April 5-26.

Place an orange tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches. Orange tags from last year can be used if you call 949.1500 to add your address to the spring 2021 list.

Only paper bags can be used, and paper bags or stick bundles cannot exceed 30 pounds. Grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand and rocks are not accepted.

Sticks should be no longer than 4 feet in length, and branches, logs and stumps cannot exceed 1 inch in diameter.

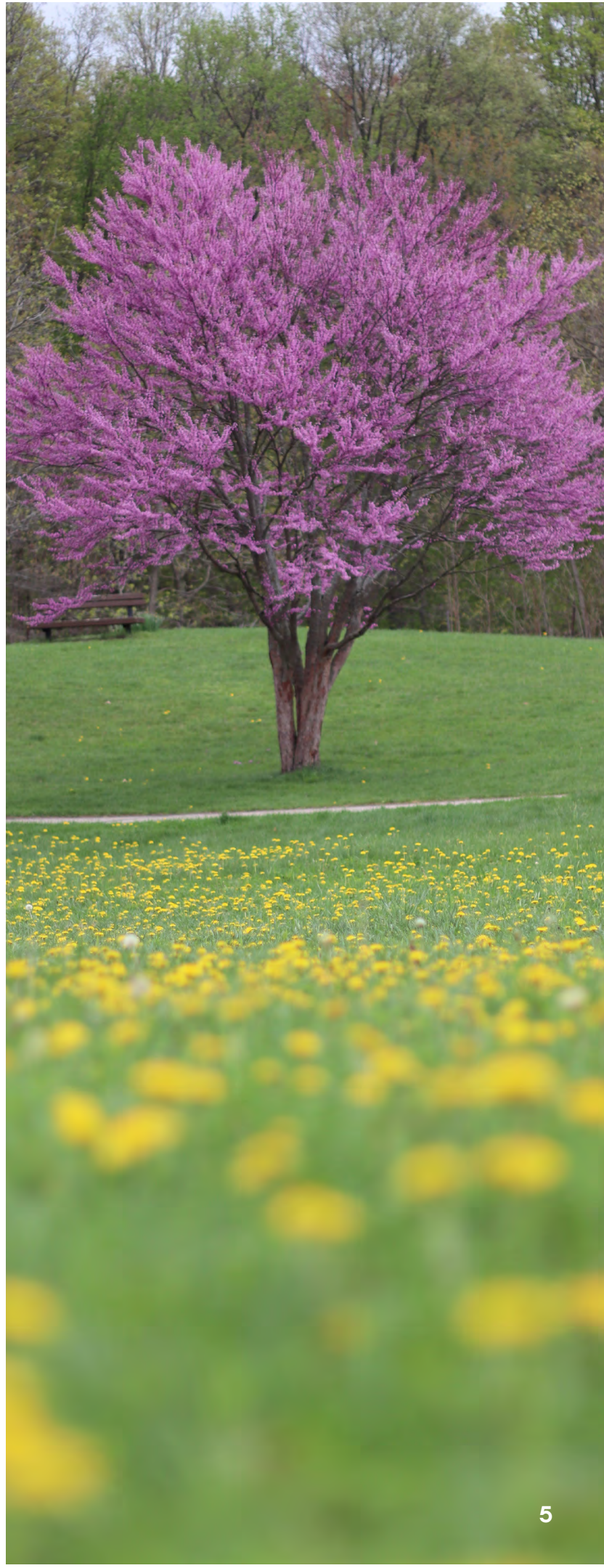
This service is available only in the restricted burn area. To view the restricted burn area map, visit cascadetwp.com and click Maps under Reference Desk.

Yard waste dumpsters will be available behind the Thornhills Fire Station, 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE, April 23-26. There will also be a 15-cubic-yard container of finished compost. This material will be free and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

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. A collection dumpster for garlic mustard will be available May 7-31. For more information, visit cascadetwp.com and watch the Township's social media.

Residents are invited to a garlic mustard pull 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 15 at the Grand River entrance of Peace Park. Grab some gloves and join in this community event. For more information, email Ginny Wanty at virginiawanty@gmail.com

For more information about the Township's yard waste program, visit cascadetwp.com or call 949.1500.

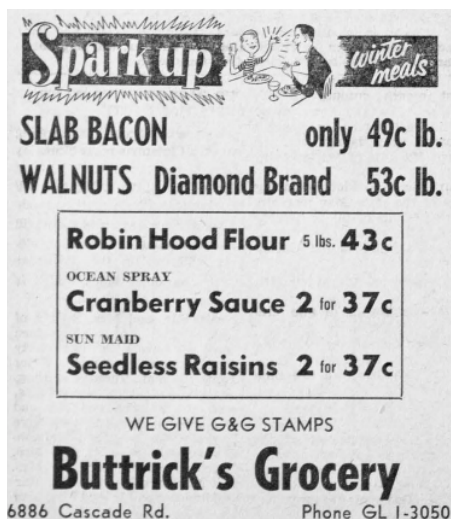




Early Grocery Shopping in Cascade

Creaky Floorboards and Big Cheeses

Cascade's first general store was in a log cabin on the east/south side of the Thornapple River, according to an 1881 history of Kent County. Established by Rev. Erie Prince in 1849, the store offered groceries and "a small stock of Yankee notions" to sell to travelers and residents of Cascade, which was formally designated a township the previous year.



Spark up winter meals

SLAB BACON only 49c lb.
WALNUTS Diamond Brand 53c lb.

Robin Hood Flour 5 lbs. 43c
OCEAN SPRAY Cranberry Sauce 2 for 37c
SUN MAID Seedless Raisins 2 for 37c

WE GIVE G&G STAMPS

Buttrick's Grocery
6886 Cascade Rd. Phone GL 1-3050

Following the Civil War, George P. Stark and his wife, Mary, settled in Cascade, along with family members and friends from Hudson and Stow, Ohio. George was a farmer and entrepreneur with considerable energy. In 1871, he opened Stark Groceries at the corner of Cascade Road and Thornapple River Drive in the building that now houses The Gathering Place. Stark Groceries likely carried local produce, such as potatoes, apples and cabbage, as well as foods Cascade residents could not grow or process themselves, such as sugar, salt, flour and molasses, and an assortment of general merchandise. It was also

the location for the Cascade post office, making it a place where people gathered to see their neighbors and exchange local news.

The Starks lived next door to the store in a house built for them by Mary's father, George Seward Richardson, who also built an identical house for another daughter, Flora. Flora was married to Lewis Stark, George's brother, a major fruit grower in Cascade. Flora's house burned down long ago, but Mary's still stands and is now connected to the former store by a modern extension where a variety of businesses are located.

In addition to serving as postmaster, George Stark served as Township supervisor and was elected to Michigan's 33rd and 34th state legislatures (1885-88). He was also a successful farmer, with 50 acres in Cascade. With his brother, Lewis, he invested in acreage on Campau Lake, which eventually became a resort. He and Mary returned to Ohio in their later years after selling their store to C.G. Watterson, another Cascade pioneer, at an unknown date. Watterson's store eventually became C.T. McDonalds, part of the RFD & White store chain.

In the 1920s, the grocery store in Cascade had a new proprietor: Charles V. Buttrick. He was the grandson of Charles B. Buttrick, who settled here in 1843. Like the men who operated the store before him and like his father and grandfather, Charles V. was involved in school boards, church work and local government. His son, Grover Buttrick, was the store's butcher. Grover and

his wife, Kathryn, operated the store from 1951-61, living in the house next door that had been built for Charles and Mary Stark in the 1870s.

Grover continued the family tradition of military service and community involvement, serving in World War II and organizing the volunteer fire department. He was the Township's fire chief for a decade and was active in Kent County Civil Defense and the American Red Cross.

Buttrick's was known for the huge wheel of cheese that was behind the meat counter. June Buttrick VanderMolen, Grover and Kathryn's daughter, was allowed to eat the cheese rinds, and she says it was the best cheese in the world. The floorboards in The Gathering Place are original, and they creak just as they did in Grover Buttrick's day – and long before.

Selling groceries is a competitive business, and Buttrick's closed not long after the Cascade IGA Foodliner opened in the early 1960s. The village business district was moving west "up the hill," and the big new grocery store on the south side of what is now Old 28th Street was part of that trend. D&W purchased the IGA store and, in the late 1960s, relocated it further up the hill to its current location.

Like Stark's or Buttrick's, D&W is a place where you're likely to see your neighbors or run into your kids' teachers. The walls display large vintage photos of early Cascade, connecting shoppers to the past. But the floorboards, alas, do not creak.

KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY NOW OFFERING IN-PERSON AND CURBSIDE SERVICE

Kent District Library hours have returned to normal, with both in-branch and curbside service now available.

For those who miss browsing bookshelves but aren't ready to enter a public building, the library offers Book Bundles for all ages. These are preselected batches of five to 10 books ready to be checked out and returned at your leisure. Bundles can be requested at curbside or preordered from the KDL website: kdl.org.

KDL's winter reading program for adults, Let It Snow, is in full swing. Readers can pick up a form at the library or register online to read six books and collect this year's prize mug. The program goes through March 31. For more information, visit kdl.org/snow.

KDL continues to offer livestreamed programming for all ages: storytimes, book discussions, crafts and various adult enrichment topics. The latest information can be found under Events at kdl.org.

Thanks to a generous donor, visitors to the Cascade Township Branch can now enjoy a 400-gallon aquarium featuring colorful fish and a Michigan search and find mural.

For more information about the Cascade Township Branch, including hours, visit kdl.org/locations/CAS.



Do I Need a Building Permit?

Building permits are required when a property owner wants to build, enlarge, renovate or repair a building or structure.

Common projects that require a permit include:

- Decks
- Basement finish
- Pools, including inflatable pools
- Roofing and siding
- Kitchen and bath remodeling projects

Some projects that don't require a permit include:

- Sheds smaller than 200 square feet
- Fences under 7 feet high
- Sidewalks and driveways
- Painting, flooring, trim and cabinetry
- Swings and playground equipment

Permits are issued to ensure compliance with the 2015 Michigan Residential Code, which has minimum

requirements to safeguard the health and safety of building occupants. The permit process also includes inspections to ensure projects follow the code.

Permit applications are available on the Township's website at cascadetwp.com under Building Inspections. Most applications are processed in a few days.

The completed application, site plan and two sets of construction drawings must be submitted to the Building Department. Once the permit is issued, work may begin. Inspection requests should be called in as work progresses and before concealing and covering begin. A final inspection also is required.

The Building Department is committed to making the permit process simple and delivering quality inspection services.

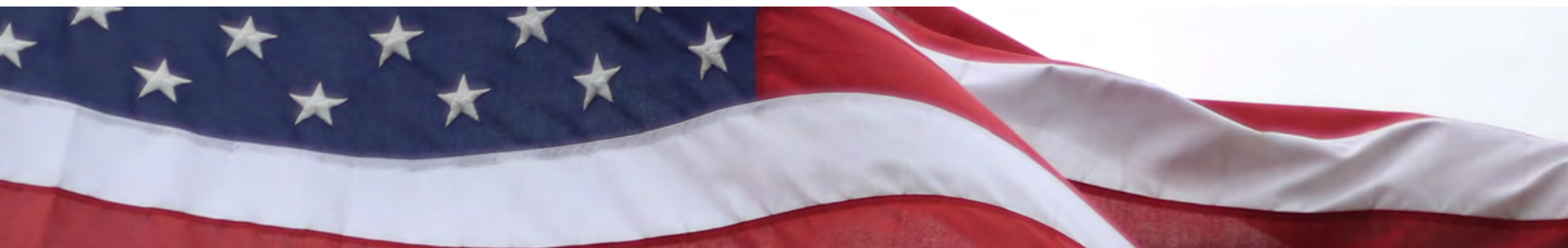
For more information about the permit and inspection processes, visit cascadetwp.com or call the Building Department at 949.3765.



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

Cascade Charter Township

5920 Tahoe Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(p) 616.949.1500
(f) 616.949.3918
cascadetwp.com



MEMORIAL DAY

Cascade Township has proudly hosted an annual Memorial Day ceremony to honor and remember military personnel who have died in service to our country.

Due to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, details for this year's ceremony are not yet finalized. Please watch the Township's website and social media for more information as Memorial Day – May 31 – draws near.

“As we set today aside to honor and thank our veterans, let us be mindful that we should do this every day of the year and not just one.”

Beth Pennington
2021

Current members list:

McDonald-Osmer Post #451 of the American Legion

Melvin Bauman
Joseph Belote
Michael Blundell
Nadine Bullinger
Jeff Burghgraef
David Clark
Richard Doezema
Lyle Dykhuizen
John Friedli
Richard Green
Harry Jones
David Kennedy
Darl Large
Robert Modderman
Ellsworth Neeley

Wayne R. Quint
Thomas Reimersma
Angela Reterstorf
Lawrence Rose
Bill Sanders
Gilbert Shroeter
Daniel Shackelton
Robert Sheilds
Corey Smith
Jarvis Spreng
Mark Tellier
Clarence Van Strein
Robert Vos
Clay West
Robert Williams