

CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from Cascade Charter Township • Spring 2023



- + Cleanup Day and Yard Waste Pickup Program
- + Online Parks Reservation System
- + Air Sealing and Insulation Tips



NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Dear Cascadians,

With spring around the corner, we can begin to look forward to spending more time outside. In previous newsletters, I highlighted public safety initiatives – a continuing priority. In this newsletter, I want to update you on planning priorities and important projects.

Growth Management – Growth is inevitable, but through proactive planning, we can ensure *the right kind happens in the right places* – growth that enhances our residents’ quality of life in Cascade. Township-elected leadership and staff will soon be reviewing our zoning ordinance to ensure it meets our residents’ desires and reflects best practices.

Specific priorities include conserving green spaces and natural areas throughout the entire Township, protecting the Thornapple River, addressing growth and development issues and creating a more “walkable” village area between 28th Street and Cascade Road and the Thornapple River.

Pathway and Parks Projects (Paid for With Existing Pathways Mileage Funds):

The pedestrian portion of the bridge over the Thornapple River on Cascade Road will be leveled and widened in the coming weeks to make it much safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Guardrails will also be installed to physically separate pedestrians and bicyclists from cars.

Maintenance and resurfacing of approximately 5 miles of existing pathway along Cascade Road and Buttrick Avenue will occur this spring as well. Some stretches of pathway in these areas are over 25 years old.

The pathway extension between Kenrob Drive and 36th Street will also be built this spring/summer so residents and pathway users do not have to cross Cascade Road.

Parks Improvements (Paid for With Existing General Funds):

The newly acquired Wycliffe Trailhead Park – The wooded area at the entrance to the Cascade Woods neighborhood, commonly known as the Church on the Hill property, will remain largely undisturbed to retain its natural character. Public access via the existing church parking lot adjacent to the wooded area will continue to provide a safe place for residents to park and enter the pathways. Although drainage improvements, eradication of invasive species and the addition of nature trails are planned, this unique property will remain undeveloped and continue to provide a calming buffer for the surrounding neighborhood from busy Cascade Road.

We are in the process of **hiring a parks and recreation director**. This step forward will allow us to maximize and build upon our existing recreational resources. This newly created position is part of a realignment of internal staffing to better meet the needs and priorities of residents and follows the elimination of the positions of assistant manager and community development director, whose responsibilities were reassigned to existing staff.

Cascade Library Outdoor Gardens and Activity Space (Paid for by Friends of the Cascade Library):

Thanks to the generosity of Friends of the Cascade Library, the outdoor area around the Cascade Branch of the Kent District Library will be upgraded to an outdoor gardens and activity space.

The space will have features for all ages, including a pavilion, seating areas, trails, perennial garden spaces, woodland play areas and much more.

We are grateful for Friends of the Cascade Library’s partnership to fund the first phase of the project as we work to provide residents with a new outdoor space to gather, play and enjoy some reading.

To stay up to date on this project, visit the “Community Projects” page on our website.

PFAS Remediation – The project to extend municipal water to over 400 impacted properties will hopefully resume later this month. **Thank you** to the impacted residents for your patience – and your commitment and advocacy – throughout this complicated and disruptive project.

Each of these priorities encompasses the broader goal of preserving and enhancing the unique character and natural beauty we cherish.

It is an honor and a pleasure to work for you, and we love hearing from you. Please allow this note to serve as a personal invitation to attend our Board of Trustees meetings, which are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The details are on our website: cascadetwp.com.

Remember: I have scheduled evening office hours 6-7 p.m. every Thursday in the History Room at the Cascade Branch of the Kent District Library, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE, in addition to regular office hours. As always, feel free to contact me at glesperance@cascadetwp.com or 616.949.1500.

Grace Lesperance
Cascade Township Supervisor

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

Currently unfilled
Deputy Treasurer; oxana@cascadetwp.com

Trustees

Jim Koessel
jkoessel@cascadetwp.com
Tom McDonald
tmcdonald@cascadetwp.com
Timmy Noordhoek
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Manager

Ben Swayze; 949.1500
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Assessing

Jennifer Genter; 949.6176
jgenter@cascadetwp.com

Building Inspections

Brian Wilson; 949.3765
bwilson@cascadetwp.com
Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Community Development

Brian Hilbrands; 949.0224
bhilbrands@cascadetwp.com

Fire

Adam Magers; 949.1320
amagers@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff/Non-Emergency Dispatch

336.3113

Community Policing Officers

Omar Dieppa; 632.6435
omar.dieppa@kentcountymi.gov
Kate Chase; 430.7811
katherine.chase@kentcountymi.gov



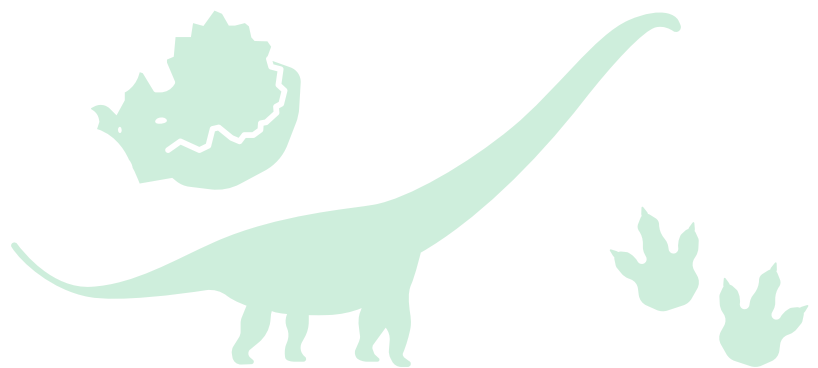
From the **CLERK**

Sue Slater

This year, Cascade has only one small school election on May 2. A portion of Precinct 10 is in Caledonia School District, so we will be combining our Caledonia Community Schools voters who live in Precinct 10 with Caledonia Charter Township Precinct 3 **for this election only**. The polling location for this combined precinct will be Lakeside Community Church, 6201 Whitneyville Ave. SE, in Alto. All affected voters will receive notice by mail.

There are several updates regarding our cemeteries. Last year, a new stone sign was completed for the main entrance at 30th Street Cemetery. At the Dec. 14 Township Board meeting, a new fee schedule policy was approved for several departments, including fees for cemetery use. Fees have been static for over 15 years, so this change makes Cascade Charter Township comparable with neighboring jurisdictions.

At the Jan. 25 Township Board meeting, approval was granted to purchase three more columbaria to be placed at the south end of 30th Street Cemetery. Many folks are choosing this alternative to interment burials. It was prudent to order the columbaria at this time since it will take nearly a year to get them built and installed. More information is available on our website: cascadetwp.com/services-departments/clerk-s-office/cemeteries.



Check Out Kent District Library's Dino Dig Lab Experience April 5

Have you ever wanted to be a paleontologist? Now's your chance!

At **10 a.m. April 5**, the Cascade Branch of the Kent District Library will host a Dino Dig KDL Lab experience for school-age children. There will be many stations for attendees to create and craft, make a fossil and go on a scavenger hunt to locate and identify a dinosaur for a prize. This is a STEAM-based program that supports learning and literacy.

For more information about upcoming KDL events, visit kdl.org/locations/cas.





YARD WASTE PICKUP PROGRAM

We again this year will offer bagged yard waste pickup in the restricted burn area – generally the area west of Buttrick and north of I-96. Pickup will be every Monday from **April 10-May 1**.

Please place your yard waste near the curb by midnight each Sunday. Place an orange tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches. No grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand or rocks. Bags can weigh no more than 30 pounds. Sticks should be no longer than 4 feet in length, and branches, logs and stumps are not to exceed 1 inch in diameter.

If you have orange tags from last year you plan to use, please call 616.949.1500 to add your address to the spring 2023 list.

Yard waste tags are available at the reception desk at Township Hall 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Each household is limited to 20 for the season. For more information about our yard waste pickup service, visit cascadetwp.com/community/community-programs or call 616.949.1500.

Yard Waste Dumpsters

We will provide dumpsters for yard waste disposal behind Fire Station 2, 2990 Buttrick Ave. SE, from **April 21-23**. Please note the dumpsters are top load and yard waste needs to be carried up a small set of stairs to be dumped. Employees are not available to help dump yard waste. There also will be a 15-cubic-yard container of finished compost. This material will be free and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information about the yard waste dumpsters, visit cascadetwp.com/community/community-programs or call 616.949.1500.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Due to the expansion of hours of operation at its SafeChem drop-off locations, the Kent County Department of Public Works is no longer hosting on-site community hazardous waste disposal programs. To learn more about Kent County DPW's hazardous waste disposal program, including hours of operation at its five drop-off sites, visit reimaginetrash.org/safehomes/safechem.

CASCADE CLEANUP DAY

The annual Cascade Cleanup Day returns **Saturday, May 20**.

From 8 a.m. to noon, Cascade Township residents are invited to drop off nonhazardous household waste at Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Road SE. Gates will close at noon, so get there early.

Residents may drop off nonhazardous household materials such as general trash and junk, large and small appliances, scrap metal, electronics for recycling and up to 100 pounds of office paper or personal documents for shredding. Computers, TVs, small appliances, cell phones, household batteries and other electronics will be accepted. No hazardous materials or yard waste will be accepted.

For yard waste, you will need to use the dumpsters at Fire Station 2 (see above), yard waste pickup program (see above) or other services. Paint cans that are opened and dried are allowed (latex paint only).

Proof of Cascade Township residency is required. Residents should enter the Ada Bible Church parking lot off Cascade Road and exit onto Quiggle Road. Please follow the signage on-site.

Services are subject to availability, so please check our website as the date gets closer. For more information about Cascade Cleanup Day, visit cascadetwp.com or call 616.949.1500.

Mark Your Calendar for Our Memorial Day Ceremony

You're invited to the Cascade Township Memorial Day Ceremony on **Monday, May 29**. The annual event will begin at 10 a.m. at the Cascade Branch of the Kent District Library, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE.

Please watch our website – cascadetwp.com – and Facebook page – facebook.com/CascadeTownship – for more information as Memorial Day draws near.

Honoring Service and Sacrifice McDonald-Osmer Post #451 of the American Legion

Phil Barnes
Mel Bauman
John Baxter
Michael Blundell
Don Brown
Tom DeMaagd
Lyle Dykhuizen
John Friedli
Bryan Gettler
Richard Green
Harry Jones
David Kennedy

Darl Large
Doug Lunde
Robert Modderman
Ellsworth Neeley
Larry Postema
Wayne R. Quint
Thomas Reimersma
Angela Reterstorf
Lawrence Rose
Bill Sanders
Gilbert Schroeter
Robert Smith

Daniel Shackelton
Jarvis Spreng
Thomas Talbot
Mark Tellier
Clarence Van Strein
Robert Vos
Clay West

In Memoriam

David Clark
Robert Shields



From the Parks Committee: **Take Care of Your Local Waters**



Do you know your watershed address?

Parts of Cascade Township shed their stormwater to Plaster Creek, while the rest flows into the Thornapple River. The problem: Plaster Creek is the most contaminated waterway in West Michigan and poses a public health risk to the neighborhoods through which it flows.

What can Cascade residents and the Township do to learn about and take care of their local waters?

Plaster Creek Stewards seeks to create opportunities for all watershed members to join in the emerging story of a healthy, beautiful, renewed Plaster Creek. As an initiative of Calvin University, the strategy includes research, education,

engagement, partnerships and regenerative practices.

As part of its initiatives, PCS helps watershed residents landscape their properties in creek-friendly ways. It does this by helping residents identify steps they can take to create creek-friendly yards with native plants for filtering stormwater. PCS staff and summer research students provide consulting, site designs, installation and maintenance for creek-friendly projects at a reasonable rate and as capacity allows. PCS is a part of the Native Plant Guild, a network of native landscape experts who also provide wonderful services.

Consider what steps you can take to begin caring for your local waterway. When we all do our part, everyone can thrive together.

Be sure to visit the PCS website – calvin.edu/go/plastercreekstewards – and follow it on Facebook and Instagram. For more information, email plastercreekstewards@calvin.edu.

To read the full article, visit cascadetwp.com/reference-desk/stormwater.



Thank You, Treasurer Peirce

During the Feb. 8 Board of Trustees meeting, Cascade Township Treasurer Kenneth Peirce announced his resignation after 13 years of service to our community.

Peirce was appointed treasurer in November 2009 to fill a vacancy. He went on to win the four following elections.

Before joining the Cascade Township Board as treasurer, Peirce had a long and successful professional career. After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame, a law degree from St. Louis University and a certificate of completion from the University of Michigan, Peirce worked his way up at Gerber Products Co., eventually becoming its executive vice president. He took that experience to Gill Industries, where he again rose through the ranks, becoming its chief financial officer and finally its executive vice president before retiring in 2005.

While retired, Peirce served as a board member for Kurdziel Industries from 2005-08 and began private consulting before his appointment as Cascade Township treasurer.

During his time as treasurer, Peirce made a difference as both a leader and a mentor.

We served on many committees together and made some tough decisions. His counsel was always very valuable, and I think the things we did do turned out to be good decisions for the Township," Cascade Township Trustee Jim Koessel said during the Feb. 8 Board meeting. "He has become a very good friend and someone I respect a lot."

If you can recall, whenever it's come up to a financial issue, I've always looked to Ken and said, 'Mr. Treasurer, what do you think of this decision?'" Cascade Township Trustee John Shipley reminisced during the meeting. "Between him and Jim, I've made some comfortable decisions on the Board. So, thanks for all your guidance, Ken. I appreciate it."

During the March 1 meeting, the Board presented Peirce with a recognition of appreciation for his dedication to our community.

Thank you, Ken, for your invaluable contributions to Cascade. You will be missed immensely.

From Friends of the Cascade Library:

Don't Miss These Flix and Book Discussions

Friends of the Cascade Library are again providing popular programs that offer library patrons a perfect blend of literary and social entertainment. Here are a few of the programs on tap this year:

Book Discussions

If you've got the doldrums and are looking for a mentally and socially stimulating way to brighten those overcast Michigan days, you may want to try out the book discussion group at the Cascade Branch of the Kent District Library.

With two discussion sessions remaining until the summer break, now's the time to give it a try. Registration isn't required – just show up. All sessions begin at **10 a.m. at the Wisner Center, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE.**

Here's what we're reading:

- **April 17: "The Lincoln Highway," by Amor Towles.** The fast-paced and reflective adventure story centers on three young men from disparate backgrounds whose incarceration together in a juvenile detention center brings them together on the outside, where conflicting motives and moralities set them on a course for collision across the United States.
- **May 15: "Apples Never Fall," by Liane Moriarty.** The story follows the Delaney family – the parents, Stan and Joy, and their four children. After 50 years of marriage and all of their children have left the nest, Stan and Joy decide to sell their tennis academy and start the golden years.

Flix @ the Library

If it's simply escapist entertainment that sets you free, drop in for one of the free Flix @ the Library movies. The following dates have been set for both the Family Flix and Adult Flix sessions, which start at **2 p.m.** Movies aren't selected until closer to the showing date, so check our website – cascadefriends.org/events.

- **Flix For Families** – April 16: Movie to be determined.
- **Flix For Adults** – April 22: Movie to be determined.

Reserve Park Spaces and Burn Permits Online

We've made exciting new changes to the Cascade parks reservation system!

You can now make reservations for Cascade Recreation Park's pavilion, gazebo and courts/fields, Tassell Park's Wisner Pavilion, Wisner Center rooms and passport appointments using a new online system.

The new online RecPro system makes it easier to reserve space, access information and pay without having to do so in person. The system also allows eligible organizations to check Wisner Center availability. Previously, groups needed to call Township staff to find out what time slots were available before planning a meeting. Now, they'll be able to view open time slots and request rental using our website.

Reminder, per Township ordinance, the Wisner Center can only be used for (in descending order of priority):

- Election activities
- Cascade Township-sponsored events
- Kent District Library-sponsored programs
- Homeowner or condo associations
- Nonprofit service groups and clubs
- Businesses based in Cascade Township for internal meetings only – not business development, sales, public education or commercial activities – a maximum of once per month.

All requests will be reviewed by Township staff and payable upon approval.

You can still make a reservation by visiting Township Hall, 5920 Tahoe Drive SE, or calling 616.949.1500. Credit and debit card payments will be available when reserving through the online system. Reservations are still payable by cash or check via mail or in person at Township Hall 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To access the online reservation system, visit cascadetwp.com/community/parks/park-reservations. Tutorials on how to use the new reservation system will be available on our website soon, so be on the lookout for more information. If you have questions on how to use the software, visit the page or call 616.949.1500.

Burn Permits

The Cascade Township Fire Department is pleased to introduce a new way for you to obtain a burn permit – online.

You can access the new burn permit application by visiting cascadetwp.com and selecting "Open Burn Application" under "Services/Departments." Once resident information is filled out, the desired date and time are requested and you have read the burn ordinance, you will receive an email that will act as your burn permit.

If a burn ban is in effect, the application will not allow you to submit a request for the duration of the ban. You can submit a burn request up to three days in advance. Burning is only allowed in the restricted area on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month between Dec. 1 and Aug. 31.

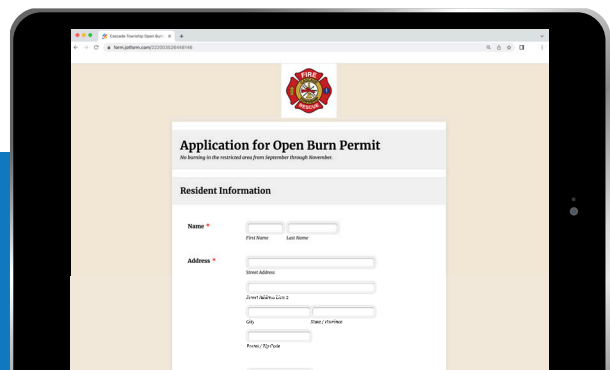
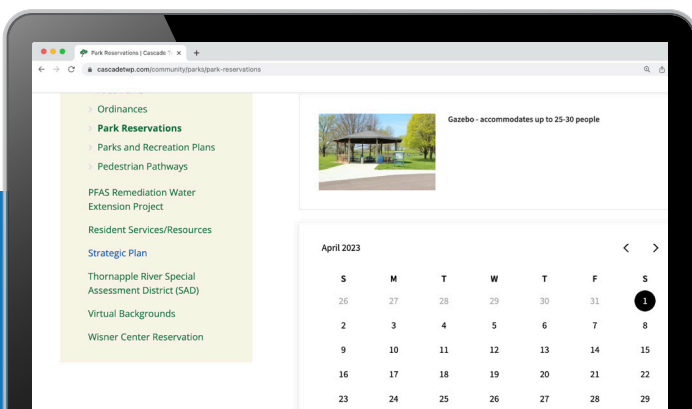
Why Introduce Online Permitting?

In 2022, the Cascade Township Fire Department responded to a record number of emergency calls: 2,453 – a 10% increase from the previous year. Our crews are busy. Before online permitting, residents were required to call into the station, give their information, identify what and when they were planning to burn and then a verbal permit would be given. Inevitably, the Fire Department would be called to an emergency situation and permit calls would be missed, but the burns would still happen.

With the introduction of online burn permit applications, residents have the opportunity to obtain a permit even when the Fire Department is out on an emergency call.

You may still request a burn permit by calling **616.949.1320**. If you reach out by phone to request a burn permit, the Fire Department may be out on an emergency call and unable to answer.

Remember: You must be in attendance during your burn at all times and have a water source nearby.



Help Stop the Spread of Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard season will be here soon, and we need your help to prevent its spread.

Garlic mustard is rapidly becoming one of Michigan's worst invasive plants. Its thrifty, biennial habitat allows the plant to optimize growth and sow thousands of seeds before native vegetation greens up. Garlic mustard stays green all year long and has the odor of garlic when crushed. The young rosette – cluster of leaves – grows close to the ground. The adult plants grow upright with a white, four-petal flower at the end of the stalk.

Garlic mustard is an invasive plant that has no natural enemies to check its growth and prevent its spread, resulting in it steadily choking out natural areas of plants such as native spring wildflowers. Eventually, the invasive garlic mustard spreads and creates uniform forest floors and flood plains as well as destroys the native seed bank in the soil.

Impact of garlic mustard:

- Outcompetes or prevents native plants and trees from growing.
- One plant can produce more than 3,000 seeds.
- Seeds can remain viable in the soil for 10 or more years.

What you can do:

- Monitor your property carefully and frequently for new infestations. Removing one or two plants before they go to seed is much easier than removing hundreds of plants later.

- Clean shoes, pant cuffs and equipment thoroughly after walking or working in an infested area.
- Remove garlic mustard plants by hand before the plant has gone to seed – usually by the beginning of June. When soil is moist, grasp low and firmly on the plant and then tug gently until the main root loosens and the entire plant pulls out.
- Place pulled plants in bags and dispose of them in regular trash. Do not compost.

A collection dumpster for garlic mustard will be available **May 5-30** behind Cascade Township Fire Station 2, 2990 Buttrick Ave. SE. Please remember to place garlic mustard in plastic bags.

Community Mustard Pulls

Residents are needed to volunteer for a garlic mustard pull at two Cascade Township locations on the following dates:

- **10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 6** at Burton Park, 6805 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Meet at the maintenance building. Parking is available behind the building.
- **6-8 p.m. Thursday, May 11** at Cascade Township Cemetery, 7200 30th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508. Meet and park near the maintenance garage but don't block traffic.

Grab some gloves and join in these community volunteer events. For more information or questions, email cascadeparks@cascadetwp.com.

Air Sealing and Insulation: Reduce Energy Costs and Increase Comfort

New homes are required to be constructed with a continuous air barrier that prevents the loss of conditioned air from inside the home. In fact, homes are now built so "tight" that mechanical ventilation is required to provide fresh air inside the home.

Existing homes, however, may have significant air leaks that can add up to much higher energy bills. If you were to add up all the leaks in a typical home, it would be the equivalent of having a window open every day of the year!

A few tubes of caulk can often have a dramatic effect on air leakage and provide a more comfortable home with lower energy costs.

For more information on how to reduce energy costs, visit energystar.gov or contact the Cascade Building Department at **616.949.3765**.

Common areas for air leakage include:

- Knee walls
- Porch roofs
- Attic access panels
- Recessed lighting
- Attic fans
- Rim joists
- Windows and doors
- Fireplace walls

Additional benefits to air sealing and insulation include:

- Reduced noise from the outside
- Less pollen, dust and insects entering your home
- Better humidity control
- Lower chance for ice dams

From the Parks Committee:

The Latest News on Oak Wilt at Burton Park and Snow Avenue Cemetery

The Cascade Township Parks Committee is pleased to report the oak wilt treatment at Burton Park and Snow Avenue Cemetery is now complete. All sites have been trenched, the infected red oak trees removed and the stumps treated with an herbicide. Effective teamwork by the Cascade Building and Grounds staff, Parks Committee members and the contractors allowed the Township to achieve its goal of removing as few trees as possible in the infected zones.

As a bonus at the Burton Park site, wood chips from the timbered trees have found a new home as a base for parts of the trail.

It is important to note the Cascade Township oak wilt consultant as well other

trained staff will continue to monitor the three sites for any potential spread of the oak wilt beyond the infected areas.

Additionally, we want to take the opportunity to share our appreciation to Cascade residents Dave and Kimberly Patterson, Dave Vandeberg and Jim Westerhuis for their cooperation in the process of completing effective oak wilt treatment at these three sites. We appreciate their support and willingness to have contractors working on their property. Thank you!

For more information on how to help prevent the spread of oak wilt, visit michiganoakwilt.org.



From the Parks Committee: Join Us in Congratulating Volunteer Jeanine Heibel

A special round of applause for Jeanine Heibel for volunteering over 300 hours removing various invasive plants last year at Burton Park. The Cascade Township Board of Trustees, Parks Committee and building and grounds supervisor were thrilled to present Jeanine with a volunteer certificate during the Jan. 25 Board meeting.

In 2022, Cascade Township had a total of 137 volunteers who completed nearly 900 combined hours of volunteering at various parks and natural spaces in our community. Thanks to all our volunteers!

Cascade Township Parks Committee Chair Ginny Wanty also received a certificate for her time and expertise spent as an advocate for environmental stewardship in our community.

If you are interested in volunteering, email Cascade Township Planning Director Brian Hilbrands at bhilbrands@cascadetwp.com or the Parks Committee at cascadeparks@cascadetwp.com.

Save the Date:

Free Oak Wilt Training on May 3

The Cascade Township Parks Committee and Kent Conservation District are co-sponsoring a free oak wilt training 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 3 at Burton Park. Attendees will learn the signs and symptoms of oak wilt as well as when to call an oak wilt-certified arborist.

There will be an inside and outside portion, so please dress for the weather. A light snack will be provided.

Presenter:

James Retzlaff, Michigan oak wilt-qualified and urban forest arborist

Meet at the maintenance building at Burton Park, 6805 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Parking is available behind the building, so drive past the sign that reads: "No Motorized Vehicles."

No registration is required.

For questions, call the KCD strike team at 616.222.5801 or email cascadeparks@cascadetwp.com.

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

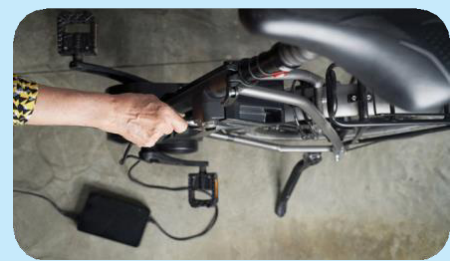
Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call 9-1-1.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to Serving You
616.949.1320



Pets give us comfort, friendship, and unconditional love. Our connection to them can be among the strongest relationships in our lives. But pets can cause fires. We need to be careful with pets in the home.

SAFETY TIPS

- Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops.
- Keep pets away from candles, lamps, and space heaters.
- Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place.
- Keep pets away from a chimney's outside vents. Have a "pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can stay dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.
- Consider battery-operated, flameless candles. They can look and smell like real candles.
- Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don't chew through electrical cords. Have any problems checked by a professional.

SMOKE ALARMS

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of the home. Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- Never go back inside for pets in a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.

Pets and Wildfires

Make sure pets are included in your family's wildfire evacuation plan. Build an evacuation kit for each pet in your household. Ensure each kit is a size and weight that can be quickly and easily loaded into a vehicle when packing to evacuate.



FACT

Pets or wild animals have a part in starting about 750 home fires per year. These involve cooking equipment, fireplaces and chimneys, space heaters, lamps, bulbs, wiring, and candles.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to Serving You
616.949.1320



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

Cascade Community Foundation Applying for State Grant to Boost Capacity Around Addiction and Mental Health

In April, Cascade Community Foundation will seek a cooperative capacity-building grant from the state of Michigan's Health Endowment Fund, which aids nonprofits in empowering people and communities across the state to improve their health.

Often constrained by tight budgets, restricted funds and a small scale, Michigan's Health Endowment Fund seeks to equip nonprofits with funding, tools and training to level up their work and focus on their mission. In this case, CCF's concerted focus is on addiction and mental health.

Though currently tight-lipped on the specifics, CCF Director Justin Swan shared a broad scope of why funding is needed.

"Our annual survey revealed that education and services pertaining to addiction and mental health remain highly necessary among Cascade families and businesses," Swan said. "Here in the suburbs, there really is no central mechanism beyond identifying specific issues, if even that. That's a void that could use some fill."

What CCF aims to provide is a conduit for better identifying trending concerns – like nicotine addiction due to vaping among teens or increased anxiety due to heightened screen

time among children – while quickly offering resources such as tips and tools for parents and professional services specific to the person's needs.

"Vaping and screen time are high on the list of concerns for educators but, the truth is, kids and teens are able to hide the problem from their parents," Kent District Library Executive Director Lance Werner said. "The old way of getting your nicotine fix produced an unmistakable odor, where vaping does not. Moreover, kids aren't sitting in front of the TV anymore – they're getting their dose of screen time in the car, at the restaurant, in their room and certainly at school."

CCF's aim is to convene a group of collaborative partners in order to streamline resources, education materials and professional services for parents and caretakers. If approved, CCF will also establish a public fund for tax-deductible donations for local families who want to join the battle against mental illness and addiction.

If your child or teen is struggling with a nicotine addiction or experiencing anxiety or depression as a result of social media content or screen use, we would like to hear from you. Email addiction@cascadecommunityfoundation.com or call **616.499.8122**.