

CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from Cascade Charter Township • Fall 2022



- + Cascade Heritage Festival
- + Cleanup Day and Yard Waste Pickup Program
- + Update on Oak Wilt at Burton Park



NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR

As we come to the end of another beautiful Michigan summer, we are fortunate that, here in Cascade, we have a front-row seat to the changing seasons. I am reminded this natural beauty moved our community's early settlers to

declare for future generations: "Cascade is to be a place of trees and falling waters." Preserving our community's unique character remains a priority today. To that end, I would like to offer an update on several topics.

Growth management: Since growth is inevitable, we must strive to ensure it is the right kind of growth in the right areas. Township elected leadership, along with staff, will soon review 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 Township, protecting the Thornapple River, managing the inevitable pressures for growth and creating a more "walkable" village area between 28th Street and Cascade Road and the Thornapple River.

In a related initiative, thank you to the over 1,800 Cascadians who participated in the surveys, focus groups and meetings during the recently completed strategic planning process. Your thoughts, ideas, suggestions and hopes for our Cascade community created a roadmap for today and the future. Also, a very special thank you to the Planning Commission's Round Hill review subcommittee and our new planning director for their recent hard work evaluating past Township oversight of private development and developing internal controls that make the Township's process of overseeing private developments more transparent, consistent and fair.

Public safety: It has been several months since the Township increased the level of Kent County Sheriff's Office patrols to reduce speeding and maintain the safety of our homes, neighborhoods and businesses. We are seeing positive results and plan to continue to monitor the effectiveness of these additional targeted patrols. Your partnership in this effort by sharing your observations and obeying speed limits is paramount to keeping Cascade a safe place to live.

Another public safety issue is the concern regarding the narrow and challenging pedestrian sidewalk over the Cascade Bridge. Thank you to the residents who have reached out to me and expressed concern about the safety of their loved ones while crossing the bridge. I recently met with representatives from the Kent County Road Commission and reviewed options for widening the pedestrian portion of the Cascade Bridge and installing guardrails to separate cars and pedestrians. Although final plans and budgets have to be approved by the Township Board, the ball is rolling. I will continue to press for this

project to move forward and keep you updated.

Parks and pathways: Last fall, the Township purchased a portion of the property at the entrance to the Cascade Woods neighborhood, commonly known as Church on the Hill. To keep the purchase price down, we split the property with a local church and agreed to share access to its existing parking lot. Acquiring this property will not only provide a safe place for residents to park and enter the pathways, it will ensure this unique property remains undeveloped and provides a calming natural buffer for the surrounding neighborhoods from busy Cascade Road.

Residents on our Parks Committee are busy preparing a comprehensive plan that will serve the needs of all residents. Special thanks to Parks Committee Chairperson Ginny Wanty, who has selflessly volunteered much time and expertise to help eradicate invasive species on Township properties and educate residents about this problem. Residents on our recently formed Pathway Committee have started meeting to offer guidance on how best to maintain and improve our pathway system.

PFAS remediation: As you may have heard, state and federal funding to extend municipal water to 400 impacted homes has been secured and the project is underway. Thank you to impacted residents for your patience, commitment and advocacy throughout this project.

Remembering a local hero: Cascade lost a hero earlier this year with the passing of longtime community member Virgil Westdale, who was 104. Despite being demoted and stripped of his pilot's license due to his half Japanese heritage, Mr. Westdale was a decorated World War II veteran who epitomized the greatest generation. Among the many highlights of his military service was assisting in the liberation of a Dachau concentration subcamp. We owe Mr. Westgate and all of our veterans so very much and we thank them for their service. To pay tribute to Mr. Westdale's service to our country and Cascade, we will commemorate him at the beginning of our Heritage Festival ceremony at 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. The small park at the corner of Thornapple River Drive and Cascade Road will be renamed in his honor during the ceremony. We hope you will join us as we honor this special local hero.

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 Trustee meetings. Starting this month, I will schedule times during non-business hours to meet with residents. Watch future newsletters and the Township website for specific times and dates.

In partnership,

Grace Lesperance, Cascade Township Supervisor

Township Contacts

Township Hall Office Hours

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

Supervisor

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Building Inspections

Brian Wilson; 949.3765
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Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Community Development

Brian Hilbrands; 949.0224
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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

The August primary election is now history and went very smoothly. This is due to our wonderful election staff: Election Specialist Jennifer Jager and Deputy Clerk Krissi Brott, who managed the countless details with precision and grace. Election Assistants Mary Lou Lachniet, Jill Peirce, Jan Baumann, Katie Baumann and Karen Snoeyink did a masterful job processing over 4,000 absentee ballots! Our 62 precinct inspectors were well trained and efficient.

For the November general election, **remember**: If you filled out your absentee ballot application with both boxes checked (to receive a ballot for August and November), you do not need to fill out another application this year. We will send a ballot to you in early October for the November election.



Cascade Firefighters Are Coming to You This Halloween

Hello from your Cascade firefighters.

Halloween is approaching fast, and your Cascade firefighters are again bringing the holiday to you on **Monday, Oct. 31**.

In the coming months, we will choose neighborhoods and central points to send firefighters out in fire trucks with goody bags containing fire safety materials, stickers and candy. Ember, our department's mascot, will join us to see the best-ever Halloween costumes the kids of Cascade can create.

Keep an eye on the Township's website and Facebook page for information on neighborhoods and times.

Capt. Andrew Albright
Cascade Fire Department





Join us!

September 10, 2022

5-9 p.m. at Cascade Christian Church
2829 Thornapple Dr. SE



BEER TENT



FOOD TRUCKS



CORN HOLE

Cascade Museum open to the public
from 5-7 p.m.

Join us 5-9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10 for Cascade Heritage Festival, a community event for all ages. This year's event will be held outside at Cascade Christian Church, 2829 Thornapple River Drive SE.

The event will include a beer tent, food trucks, cornhole tournament and live music. Additionally, the Cascade Museum will be open 5-7 p.m. for attendees to learn about Cascade's unique and rich history.

There will be a variety of tasty meals from local food trucks, including Saladino Smoke, Wildwood Farms Taco Truck and Wags Dogs. Attendees can cool off with beer, cider and soft drinks from Bell's, Founders, Vandermill's Cider, Painted Turtle Cider and Thornapple Brewing Co. Food and beverages are cash-only.

Cornhole Tournament

The cornhole tournament will feature one division. The cost is \$30 per team and includes two Heritage tokens per player. Ten percent of proceeds from the tournament will benefit the McDonald-Osmer American Legion Post. The prizes are \$300 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place. For details and to register for the cornhole tournament, visit cascadheritagefestival.com.

Throughout the evening, local musician Greg Hudkins will perform hits from the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s. The music is free to enjoy.

For more information, visit cascadheritagefestival.com.

Reminder: Summer 2022 Property Taxes Due Sept. 14

The last day to pay your summer 2022 property taxes without penalty is **Wednesday, Sept. 14**. Postmarks are not accepted as proof of timely payment. If you have not yet received your summer 2022 property taxes, call the Township Treasurer's Office at 616.949.6944.

Information is available on the Township's website – cascadetwp.com – to help you verify the amount of summer property tax paid and/or the balance due.

The Treasurer's Office is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office is closed Monday, Sept. 5 for the Labor Day holiday.

We look forward to assisting you.

Kenneth B. Peirce
Treasurer, Cascade Township

To check tax information:

- Click on "Property/Parcel Lookup" on the homepage.
- Enter your parcel number, address or the property owner's name in the search bar.
- Click on the parcel number and tax information tab.

To pay your taxes online:

- Click on "Taxes" under "Services/Departments."
- Click on the online payment link.

To pay your taxes over the phone:

- Call 855.770.5856 – the access code is 90603016.

Remember: The card processors charge an additional fee of about 3% of your bill. Using your bank account for remote payments is free.

Update on Oak Wilt at Burton Park

A reminder that now is a safe time to prune and trim oak trees. The safest time to prune oak trees is mid-September through mid-April.

In case you don't know, oak wilt can be fatal to oak trees and the disease can be easily spread. It's very important not to cause any wounds that make oak trees more susceptible to oak wilt.

Trenching has been completed at the two confirmed oak wilt sites at Burton Park. The roots of the red oaks in the infected areas have had their roots discounted from non-symptomatic red oaks. The next step will be to have the infected red oaks cut down and removed sometime in November, which is a dormant period for trees. The infected stumps will be treated with a fungicide.

It's important to note the Cascade Township oak wilt consultant and other trained staff are constantly monitoring the two sites to make sure oak wilt has not spread outside of the infected area at Burton Park.

Be on the Lookout for Oak Wilt in Your Neighborhood

Look for red oaks that suddenly drop their leaves in July through September, making it look like fall in the summer.

What you can do to prevent oak wilt:

- Don't prune or wound oak trees during the growing season, which is mid-April through mid-September. Immediately use clear shellac to seal any wounds created during this time.
- Prune oak trees in November through March.
- Don't move infected wood.

For details, visit michiganoakwilt.org. For questions or concerns, email Cascade Parks Committee Chair Ginny Wanty at cascadeparks@cascadetwp.com.

Ginny Wanty
Chair, Cascade Parks Committee



Fire Station 1 Staff Set to Move to Temporary Facility in September

Since the Board unanimously gave approval to move forward with the new Fire Station 1 design and budget during its May 11 meeting, Fire Department and Township staff have been hard at work interviewing potential project partners and planning temporary operations while the new facility is built.

The next step in the Fire Station 1 project is to review the main bid packages, which the Board will consider during its Sept. 14 meeting. If bids are approved and materials are available, the current fire station could begin demolition this fall at its current site at 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE.

Another big step in the project is moving to our temporary facility during construction, which is expected to take 12 to 14 months. In mid-September, Fire Station 1 staff will relocate to an air cargo facility at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport while the new station is built.

To ensure the safety of residents and businesses during construction, we have put together an operations plan to ensure we maintain our usual high level of service to the community. To achieve this goal, we conducted a data analysis of peak incident times and high-traffic areas to determine when and where to post Fire Station 1 response crews throughout the Township. According to the analysis,

incidents in the Township that require Fire Department services happen most from mid-morning to early evening in the area west of the Thornapple River between Burton Street SE and 36th Street.

To maintain proper coverage during those peak times, we will stage our primary response teams at Kent District Library – Cascade Township Branch. The library isn't the only place you will see us, though. We will stage response crews at parks, restaurants, shops and other areas throughout the Township to ensure we are positioned to respond rapidly in case of an emergency. There's a good chance you will see an increased Fire Department presence during this time, so be sure to stop by and say hello.

As always, we greatly appreciate the community feedback we've received during this project. I'd again like to thank our project team and Township officials for their incredible work in putting together a plan that will best meet our Township's goals now – and for many decades to come.

To learn more and stay up to date on the Fire Station 1 project, visit cascadetwp.com/community/fire-station-1.

Fire Chief Adam Magers
Cascade Township Fire Department



Yard Waste Pickup Program

The Township 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 Oct.17 to Nov. 28.**

Tags are available at the reception desk 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Township Hall, 5920 Tahoe Drive SE. Residents are limited to 20 tags.

Please note:

- Place your yard waste near the curb by midnight each Sunday.
- Place an orange tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches. Only paper bags with orange tags will be picked up. No grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand or rocks. Bags can weigh no more than 30 pounds.
- If you have orange tags from last year you plan to use, call 616.949.1500 to add your address to the fall 2022 list.
- Sticks should be no longer than 4 feet in length, and branches, logs and stumps are not to exceed 1 inch in diameter.
- This service is only available in the restricted burn area. To review the restricted burn area map, visit cascadetwp.com and click on “Maps” under “Reference Desk.”

Yard Waste Dumpsters

The Township will again provide dumpsters for yard waste disposal Oct. 8 to Nov. 28. Due to the construction of the new Fire Station at 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE, the dumpsters will be located behind the Fire Station 2 building, 2990 Buttrick Ave. SE. 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.

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 biannual Cascade Cleanup Day returns **Saturday, Oct. 22.**

From 8 a.m.-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.

Please note:

- This event is for nonhazardous household waste only, such as appliances, scrap metal, electronics for recycling and paper for shredding.
- No yard waste will be accepted. You will need to use the yard waste dumpsters, leaf bag pickup program or other services for yard waste such as leaves, branches and brush.
- No hazardous materials will be accepted. Paint cans that are opened and dried are allowed. Please see earlier in this article for information on hazardous waste disposal resources.
- Residents should enter the Ada Bible Church parking lot off Cascade Road and exit on Quiggle Road. Please follow the signage on site.
- Identification is required to verify your residency within Cascade Township.

Services on Site:

- Arrowaste Services will be on-site for general trash and junk, large and small appliances and scrap metal. No yard waste or hazardous waste will be accepted.
- Shred-it will be on-site for shredding of up to 100 pounds of office paper and personal documents.
- Valley City Electronic Recycling will be on-site for computers, televisions, small appliances, cell phones, household batteries and other electronics.
- The Salvation Army will be on-site to collect gently used household goods.

All services are subject to availability, so check the Township’s website – cascadetwp.com – as the date gets closer to ensure the service you want to utilize is available.

For questions, call Township Hall at **616.949.1500**.



Introducing the Cascade Township Building and Grounds Department

Cascade Township is fortunate to have a wonderful and knowledgeable group of seasoned employees who make up the Building and Grounds Department.

The Buildings and Grounds Department is responsible for the maintenance and landscaping of all Township parks, cemeteries, buildings, pedestrian pathways and village streetscapes. They are busy throughout the year maintaining these areas to keep them beautiful and safe for everyone to enjoy.

Responsibilities of the Building and Grounds Department include mowing, watering, weeding, pruning, collecting trash from parks and throughout the village, planting flowers, snow plowing and removal, maintaining irrigation systems and maintaining village decorations. The team also maintains the department's vehicles and equipment as well as inspects, corrects and reports safety hazards within the Township.

The Building and Grounds Department can use your help. Please let the team know about the following:

- Items that need repair within Township parks or other properties.
- Suggestions for building and grounds improvements.
- Concerning situations that repeatedly occur on Township property and require addressing.
- Vandalism or information about the cause of vandalism at Township properties.
- Safety concerns, such as an amenity not working.

Either approach one of the Building and Grounds crew members – easily identifiable in their bright yellow Cascade Township shirts – or email Building and Grounds Supervisor Jim MacDonald at jmacdonald@cascadetwp.com. Please include your phone number so Jim can get back to you.

Thank you for your support in making Cascade Township one of the best places to live, work and play.

Kent District Library Announces New and Familiar Programs for All Ages

After a lively summer full of sword fighting, oversized vehicles and wild animals, the Cascade Library is ready to launch exciting new programs – as well as familiar standbys – for all ages. Additional times and dates are available at kdl.org.

Adults are invited to enjoy community, coffee and conversation in a new lineup of daytime events:

- Let's Talk Vinyl will highlight our record collection Monday mornings.
- Coffee Club will introduce library services and resources during a social hour Tuesdays.
- Senior Chats will feature conversations on travel, wellness and other topics of interest Wednesday mornings.
- Making Connections, a time for adults with dementia and their caregivers to enjoy therapy dogs, art, music and other interests in a social setting, will take place Thursdays.
- Awesome Adults, featuring stories and activities for adults with intellectual disabilities and their caregivers, will close out the week Fridays.

The Write Michigan series will present Michigan authors, illustrators and publishers on most Tuesday nights. Featured speakers will include Gary Schmidt, Terri DeBoer and Ruth McNally Barshaw.



Youth activities will be available nearly every day:

- A new American Sign Language storytime will welcome both deaf and hearing children and their families Mondays.
- The Write Stuff, a new program for kids interested in the Write Michigan contest or who just enjoy writing, will take place Tuesday afternoons.
- Dance, music, Fall Play Date, Glow in the Dark Party and Magical Rainbow Unicorn Party will be offered Friday mornings.
- Other afterschool activities each week will include Art Party, Pokémon Club, Radical Race Cars, Dance With Me and KDL Labs.

Learn How You Can Prevent Car Thefts and Phone Scams

Greetings from your community police officer.

Thefts of Kia and Hyundai car models are on the rise across Kent County, including in Cascade Township. The thefts are mainly of Kia cars newer than 2011 and Hyundai cars newer than 2015 with standard key ignitions.

The thefts have been on the rise nationally after tips showing how to start these cars without the use of a key were posted on social media. Thieves are simply joyriding the vehicles or using them to commit other crimes. In most cases, the vehicles are left abandoned soon after the theft.

Here are some tips to help prevent vehicle theft:

- Buy a steering wheel lock.
- Lock your car.
- Make sure the alarm is on.
- Park in well-lit areas or a garage.
- Use camera surveillance systems.

Phone Scam Alert

The Kent County Sheriff's Office also is warning residents of law enforcement impersonation phone calls. Remember: The KCSO will never solicit payment for fines or bonds over the phone.

In the most recent scam, a fraudulent caller posing as a law enforcement officer threatens to arrest the victim if money is not sent. Typically, the reason given by the caller is to pay fines for outstanding warrants. The callers will often "spoof,"

or fake, their phone numbers so the call appears to be coming from a local police department, like the KCSO.

The callers will often ask you to obtain a prepaid credit card from a local store and provide them with the credit card number. Once the money is taken from the credit card, there is very little law enforcement can do to identify the suspect and recover the money.

The callers often threaten to extort victims with physical or financial harm or the release of sensitive data. They are becoming more sophisticated and organized in their approach, are technologically savvy and often target young persons and the elderly.

To protect yourself from phone scams, the KCSO recommends you follow these tips:

- Be wary of answering phone calls from numbers you don't recognize.
- Never give out your personal information, including banking information.
- Do not send money to anybody you don't personally know and trust, including those claiming to be law enforcement officers.
- If in doubt, hang up and contact the person they are claiming to be or report the call to local authorities.

Deputy Omar Dieppa
Community Policing - East Precinct
Omar.Dieppa@kentcountymi.gov
616.632.6435



Fire Hydrant Etiquette

If you live near a fire hydrant, please remember to keep a 3-foot area around the hydrant free from snow, shrubs, decorations, trees, brush and flowers. Precious time is lost if the Fire Department is on a call in your neighborhood and has to clear the area around the hydrant before firefighters can use it.

Cascade Township follows the 2015 International Fire Code, which requires unobstructed access to fire hydrants at all times.

While the Fire Department knows the general locations of hydrants, firefighters don't always know exactly where they are. If you landscape around a hydrant and we can't see it, we don't know it's there.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep access to fire hydrants clear.

Lt. Michael Bolt
Cascade Township Fire Department

How the Airport Came to Cascade

The first inkling of what was to come was a short three-paragraph article on the front page of "Suburban Life," a local newspaper, on Nov. 12, 1957. Headlined "Mention Cascade As Airport Site," the article reported land near the corner of Caledonia, Cascade and Gaines townships had been under consideration as the site for relocating the Kent County Airport.

The first choice was a spot in the Byron/Wyoming area, but "those folks are already putting on the gloves to fight having the airport in any part of Wyoming township. ... It appears that finding a place within a few miles of Grand Rapids where the residents are even halfway willing to have their peaceful existence destroyed will be difficult," the article concluded.

Three months later, in February 1958, the headline was "Airport in Cascade Township ... Them's Fighting Words." Suddenly, it seemed, Cascade was the No. 1 choice to replace the outdated airport south of Grand Rapids. Reaction was swift. As soon as the story broke, hundreds of residents telephoned Township Supervisor Gerrit Baker to voice their opposition to the proposed airport, citing loss of property values, the noise created by the aircraft and increased traffic.

Consultants had identified southwest Cascade Township as the best location for the new airport because it offered excellent highway access and was just 10 miles from Grand Rapids. The land in question was agricultural, fairly flat, relatively high at approximately 800 feet above sea level and available at a reasonable cost. The site was a distance from subdivisions, schools and significant town centers. Aircraft would have excellent runway access from four directions.

An open meeting to discuss the airport issue had to be moved from the old township hall (now the Cascade Historical Society Museum) to the fire station (now Bridal Elegance) in order to accommodate the 500 residents in attendance. Members of the airport Board of Control explained: Cascade was chosen after a year and a half of study, it was the best site in Kent County and no matter where the new airport was located it would "hurt someone."

Baker ended the meeting by asking the crowd, "How shall I vote at the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on April 15?" The crowd roared, "No, no, no!" in response. At this point, "Suburban Life" observes, "The only apparent weapon in the hands of Cascade residents is in influencing the county to vote down special taxes to pay for relocation of the airport."

Baker voted no, but it was in vain. Seeing the writing on the wall, he sought and was appointed to the Kent County Aeronautics Board by the Kent County Board of Supervisors. "I will be in a better position to serve our people," he said, "since it became apparent that the new airport would be located here." He continued to vote no to any plan to bring the airport to Cascade.

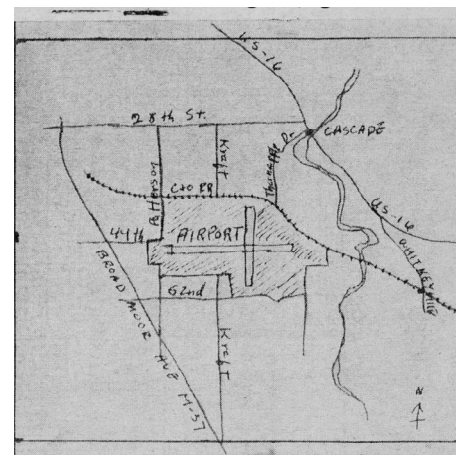
In early June 1960, the residents of Kent County approved funding for a new airport, to be located at the proposed site in Cascade. Many of the objections to the airport had been resolved: The vote in Cascade was split evenly, with 444 yes and 448 no.

The new Kent County airport officially opened Nov. 23, 1960. The public was invited to tour the airport that afternoon. Turnout wasn't as high as expected because many people were at home watching news coverage in

the aftermath of President Kennedy's assassination the day before.

Today, it's hard to imagine Cascade without the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. Now occupying 14% of the Township's acreage, the airport is woven into the very fabric of our community.

An exhibit about the airport's history is coming soon to the Cascade Historical Society Museum, 2839 Thornapple River Drive SE.



Let's Make Invasive Species Prevention a Habit

Thanks to all Cascade Township residents who dropped off bags of pulled garlic mustard at the dumpster behind Fire Station 1 this spring. There was 4.5 tons, or almost 10,000 pounds, of garlic mustard removed from properties – including Burton Park – and sent to the landfill. Together, we doubled the amount of garlic mustard removed last year.

A special round of applause to the residents who volunteered to pull garlic mustard at Burton Park and 30th Street Cemetery. We appreciate the support and hope more residents will consider volunteering for a garlic mustard pull in various Cascade Township parks and cemeteries next spring.

Did you know there are over 300 species of greatest conservation need in Michigan? These are species like the piping plover, lake sturgeon and spotted turtle, whose existence is threatened by factors that include pollution, habitat loss and the spread of invasive species. The Parks Committee would like to encourage each resident to make a difference by adopting habits that can prevent the spread of invasive species and support the protection of Michigan's threatened wildlife and their habitats.

An invasive plant is defined as a non-native species that can cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. A dandelion is not considered an invasive species because it does not cause any harm, but a dandelion can become a vigorous spreader.



Garlic Mustard



Autumn Olive



Buckthorn



Oriental Bittersweet



Purple Loosestrife

Here are a few tips to help prevent the spread of invasive species:

- **Learn** to identify invasive species. For resources and information on invasive species, both water and terrestrial plants, visit the Michigan Invasive Species Coalition at michiganinvasives.org.
- **Develop** environmentally healthy habits such as cleaning gear before and after outdoor activities, staying on designated trails and buying firewood locally. These habits can prevent invasive species and pests from spreading to new locations.
- **Take action** by making sure to always clean, drain and dry boats, trailers and watersport equipment between uses.
- **Prevent** the introduction and spread of invasives by checking plant tags and not purchasing high-threat invasive ornamental plants like invasive bittersweet.
- **Adopt** healthy practices to manage unwanted or excess plants and aquarium pets. Do not release them into West Michigan's ecosystems.
- **Attend** invasive trainings or eco-stewardship workshops. Invasive bittersweet vines are growing unchecked at Burton Park as well as elsewhere in Cascade Township. The Kent Conservation District Invasive Strike Team will give a hands-on demonstration on how to properly cut and treat invasive bittersweet, which will involve cut-stump application. The next invasive workshop is planned for 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 25 at Burton Park.
- **Consider** volunteering to remove invasives in your neighborhood or at a Cascade Township property.

If you know of a business or large group interested in scheduling a separate invasive species workshop at a Cascade park, call the KCD Strike Team at 616.222.5801. The Township is grateful for partners like Cascade Engineering and its group of 17 volunteers who treated and removed invasive bittersweet from Burton Park this spring.

Ginny Wanty
Chair, Parks Committee

Mark Your Calendar for Cascade Community Foundation's Awards Gala

Mark Your Calendar for Cascade Community Foundation's Awards Gala

Cascade Community Foundation's new awards gala, Tributes & Triumphs, will be **Wednesday, Nov. 16** at Watermark Country Club, 1600 Galbraith Ave. SE.

The ticketed event promises to be a special evening as the foundation pays tribute to community

philanthropy and honors the success of local nonprofits and volunteers. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and be themed around the popular TV sitcom "Friends."

To purchase tickets for Tributes & Triumphs, visit tinyurl.com/tributesandtriumphs or contact CCF CEO Justin Swan at justin.swan@cascadecommunityfoundation.com or call 616.499.2060.

"This will be a fun event for celebrating local donors, volunteers and nonprofits with friends and neighbors," CCF event co-chair and board member Ken James said. "The foundation's investment in hyper-local services has introduced us to a number of people who simply go above and beyond. This night is about paying tribute and acknowledging those triumphs while supporting the foundation at the same time."

BE HALLOWEEN Safe

Halloween is a fun, and spooky, time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.



Sparky® is a trademark of the NFPA.

Halloween Fire Safety Tips

- When choosing a costume, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he or she can see out.
- Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. **Keep all decorations** away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- Use a battery-operated candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Make sure all smoke alarms in the home are working.
- Tell children to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

If your children are going to **Halloween parties** at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

Did you know?



Decorations are the first thing to ignite in roughly **800** reported home fires each year. More than one-third of these fires were started by a candle.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
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CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(p) 616.949.1500
(F) 616.949.3918
cascadetwp.com

Do I Need a Building Permit?

Building permits are required when a property owner intends to construct, enlarge, alter or repair a building or structure.

Permits are issued to ensure compliance with the Michigan Residential Code, which has minimum requirements to safeguard the health and welfare of occupants and is applicable throughout the state. Inspections also are important to ensure compliance with the code.

Common projects that **require a permit** include:

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

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

How to Apply

Permit applications are available on the Township's website – cascadetwp.com – under "Building Inspections."

The completed applications, site plan and two sets of construction drawings can be submitted to the Building Department. Most applications are processed in a few days. Once your permit is obtained, work may begin. Inspection requests should be called in as work progresses – prior to concealing and covering – to verify code compliance. When the job is complete, a final inspection is done to finish the process.

The Township's Building Department is committed to making the permit process simple and takes pride in delivering quality inspection services to the community.

For more information, call the Building Department at 616.949.3765. The Building Department is open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday.

July 4th Celebration Float Contest Winners

Congratulations to this year's July 4th Celebration float contest winners: Forest Hills Central Ranger Varsity Hockey and Jam'n Bean Coffee Company.

