

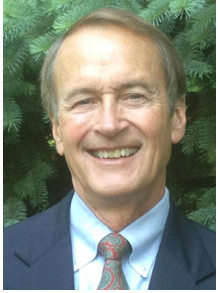
CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from Cascade Charter Township • Fall 2019



- + Proposal 3
- + Summer Taxes
- + Clean-Up Day
- + KDL Events

NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR



Recently, the Cascade Township Board approved the 2019 master land use plan. This type of document is required to be updated every 10 years and helps as a guide for the direction of development and growth in the

Township. The master plan was the result of a year-long effort, created with a great deal of input from residents, business owners, policy makers and Township staff. Information was gathered in a variety of ways – including public surveys, meetings and mailings – to ensure that the needs and desires of the community were addressed.

The new master plan focuses on four major themes: neighborhood and partnerships, environment and sustainability, transportation and mobility and economy and innovation. Each has a goal and a set of data, maps and projects for possible implementation.

The master plan is available as a website – cascadetwpvision.com – and is user friendly and complete with modern design features. Throughout the master plan website are links to many of the sections, such as future land use, zoning plans, complete streets, goals, objectives and existing conditions.

Thank you to everyone who participated in creating the master plan this past year. I encourage you to visit the website to learn more. The plan is an invaluable tool that will be used to shape and direct our Township in the coming years.

Township Contacts

Office Hours

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

Supervisor

Rob Beahan; 949-1500
rbeahan@cascadetwp.com

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Adam Magers; 949-1320
amagers@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff/Non-Emergency Dispatch

336-3113

Community Policing Officer

Eric Toonstra; 632-6435
eric.toonstra@kentcountymtmi.gov





Sue Slater, clerk

From the CLERK

NOTICE TO PRECINCT 10 VOTERS ONLY

There is a Caledonia School election on Nov. 5. **Also, Precinct 10 polling location has been permanently changed to Ada Bible Church; watch for a letter with more details coming soon!**

I want to provide further detail on the changes enacted by the passage of Proposal 3 in 2018:

- All qualified individuals will be automatically registered to vote when performing a driver's license or personal ID transaction at the Secretary of State branch office unless the person declines.
- Changes SOS branch office and mail-in voter registration from 30 days to 15 days prior to election.
- Requires SOS to provide notice to individuals who register to vote in SOS branch office by mail or online in the 14 days prior to Election Day that he/she is not eligible to vote in the next election unless application is made in person at the clerk's office.
- Allows in-person voter registration with proof of residency at the clerk's office 14 days prior and through Election Day.

Acceptable proofs of residency:

- Utility bill or credit card bill issued within the last 90 days (electronic copies are acceptable).
- Account statement from a bank or other financial institution issued within the last 90 days (electronic copies are acceptable).
- Michigan high school, college or university report cards or transcripts less than two years old.
- Mortgage, lease or rental agreement; latter two must include the landlord's telephone number.
- Pay stub or earnings statement issued with the name and address of the employer.

- Life, health, auto or home insurance policy.
- Federal, state or local government documents, such as receipts, licenses or assessments.
- Michigan title and registration, which must show current residential address.

Note: Residency documents in a family member's name may be used if the family relationship can be established by other forms of documented proof.

Absentee voting:

- Constitution provides that any voter can vote by absentee ballot (no-reason AV) during the 40 days prior to election.
- Allows a person to submit a voter registration and an absent voter application at the same time when registering to vote in person at the clerk's office through Election Day.
- Changes the last date that an absentee ballot can be mailed via first class mail to an elector to 5 p.m. Friday prior to election. Previously, it was Saturday at 2 p.m.
- Requires clerks to be available at office for at least eight hours on Saturday/Sunday prior to election to issue and receive absentee ballots and to post notice of these hours with SOS 30 days prior to Election Day. Previously, it was six hours.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding Proposal 3, please contact the clerk's office at sslater@cascadetwp.com or 616.949.1508.

SUMMER TAXES DUE

Summer taxes are due and payable as of July 1. The last day to pay your Summer 2019 property taxes without penalty is Monday, Sept. 16. Postmarks are not accepted.

Our office hours are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office will be closed Monday, Sept. 2 for Labor Day.

If you mail your check, it would be helpful to include your telephone number on the check in case there are any issues with the payment. Information is available on the Township's website to help you verify the amount of summer property tax paid or the balance due.

Please visit cascadetwp.com and follow these steps for tax information:

- Click on 'Quick Links' (left side of the screen).
- Click on 'Property/Parcel Lookup'.
- Enter parcel number, address or name in the search bar.
- Click on the parcel number and the tax information tab.

If you have not yet received your 2019 summer property taxes, call the treasurer's office at 616.949.6944.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF DAY

Saturday, Oct. 19 • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Cascade Fire Station 2
2990 Buttrick Ave SE

This is an opportunity to safely remove and dispose of unwanted hazardous materials from your home. As a reminder, this service is intended for residents of Kent County, but is not for commercial waste disposal from businesses.

Accepted chemical waste:

- Aerosol cans
- Antifreeze
- Bug spray
- Cleaning products
- Fertilizers
- Fire extinguishers
- Fluorescent tubes & CFL bulbs
- Gasoline
- Mercury thermostats and thermometers
- Motor oil
- Oil-based paint
- Paint thinner
- Photo chemicals
- Pool chemicals
- Weed killer

Materials not accepted:

- Alkaline batteries
- Ammunition
- Commercial & non-Kent County wastes
- Containers larger than five gallons
- Fireworks
- Latex paint
- Medication
- Needles
- Propane tanks

It is recommended to keep “like” containers together. Do not mix the waste with other materials, and always maintain labeling so it can be clearly seen. Any leaking or potentially dangerous chemicals should be placed in a bucket for secondary containment. It is recommended to place all items upright in a lined box and/or a plastic tote. You may transport vehicle fluids (oil, gas, antifreeze) in original/approved containers as fluids can be bulked and containers returned to residents.

Please contact Kent County Department of Public Works for further questions and directions on large loads (greater than six boxes) and for items larger than a five-gallon bucket at 616.632.7941, recycle@kentcountymi.gov or reimaginetrash.org/safehomes/safechem.

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, Oct. 12** 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, TV’s, etc.), household items for re-use and office paper for shredding.
- No yard waste: You will need to use leaf pick-up day, your curb side 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 the townships of Ada or Cascade. 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 and 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

Leaves and branches have fallen off trees onto yards around the Township, which means fall has arrived. 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 is Mondays between Oct. 21 and Dec. 2.

Please keep these tips in mind:

- Please have your yard waste near the curb by 6 a.m. to ensure pick up.
- Please place a tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches – no grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand or rocks.
- Please use 30-gallon plastic bags or paper yard waste bags.

- Sticks should be no longer than four feet in length, and branches, logs and stumps are not to exceed one inch in diameter.
- 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.
- The yard waste dumpsters will be available behind the Thornhills Fire Station Oct. 21-Dec. 2.

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.

For more information, please call 616.949.1500.

FIRE DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Sign Up for Free Car Seat Safety Check

Tuesday, Sept. 17 • 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Cascade Fire Department, Station 2
2990 Buttrick Ave. SE

The Cascade Fire Department will host the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Injury Prevention Program car seat safety check event at Station 2. The Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Injury Prevention team is committed to educating families on different ways to stay safe. The safety check allows drivers to have their car seats inspected to ensure proper installation. All car seat inspections are free, and a limited number of low-cost replacement seats will be available for those who qualify. Children who need a replacement seat must be present with a parent or legal guardian. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by calling the Injury Prevention Program at 616.391.7233.

Silent Night Firefighter’s Memorial Service and Parade

Thursday, Oct. 10 • 7 p.m.
Cascade Library
2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE

The Cascade Fire Department will again host the Silent Night Firefighter’s Memorial Service and Parade. The Fire Department respectfully requests your presence at the ceremony as we pay tribute to fallen firefighters, whether in the line of duty or not. Fire, police and EMS vehicles will form a lights-only parade, and will turn on their emergency lights without the sirens. Visitors observing the parade are encouraged to bring flashlights and American flags to light the way for the parade.

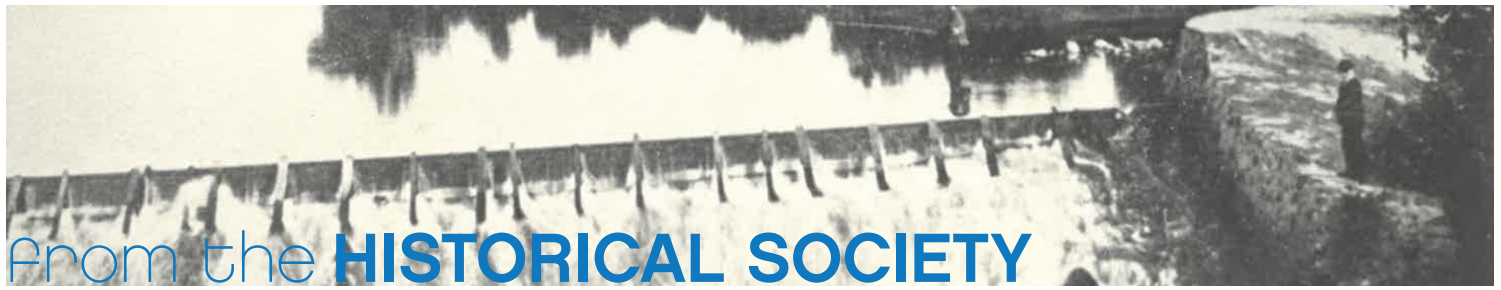
More information on the parade route and other activities will be posted on cascadetwp.com and social media as the date gets closer.

Fire Dept. to Host Halloween Party

Thursday, Oct. 31 • 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Cascade Fire Department, Station 1
2865 Thornhills Drive SE

Calling Cascade trick-or-treaters! Come to the Fire House for a Spooktacular night. There will be a costume contest, with judging and awarding at 7:30 p.m., as well as doughnuts, hot chocolate, cider and a bag of goodies to take home. Hope to see you there!





Thornapple River Rich in History

The Thornapple River is an easy-going stream which meanders through woodlands in four counties in Southwest Michigan – Barry, Eaton, Ionia and Kent. It is 88 miles long and a tributary of Michigan’s longest river, the Grand. It was carved out by the advance and retreat of glaciers some 7,000 years ago. Before European settlement, the Thornapple drainage basin had mixed hardwood and conifer forests and barrens.

It was home to the Ottawa and Potawatomi tribes who named it Tomba-Signe, meaning ‘river with the forked stream.’ Rix Robinson was the first permanent settler in Kent County. In 1821, he established a fur trading post in conjunction with John Jacob Astor’s American Fur Trading Co. at the mouth of the Thornapple River to trade with the Native Americans. By 1837, fur trade declined, and Robinson facilitated a treaty between local tribes and the federal government that opened the area to European settlers.

Rafting, kayaking, sailing, water skiing and swimming are favorite pastimes of those enjoying the river. Fishermen enjoy catching small mouth bass, perch and trout. Along the way, one can spot osprey, bald eagles, herons and ducks.

“There are times in Cascade Township when you can sit on the bank of the Thornapple, listening to the waters sing



along, watching clouds drifting overhead, perhaps hearing the chirping of birds and the gentle rustling of leaves and escape totally from the present. More than that, you feel a tremendous kinship with the past.” -- *Quote taken from the Introduction to Cascade Chronicles, the Township history written in 1987.*

In 1862, there were a number of businesses along the Thornapple, including a flour mill, sawmill and basket factory. The land flourished along the river as the population grew. Logging, milling and manufacturing industries were established. The picturesque river slowly flows through farm land and features small rapids. There are several charming spots along the way for canoers and kayakers to relax and picnic.

Save The Date for CCF’s Iron Chef Event



Food lovers won’t want to miss this fun event. On Oct. 14, the Cascade Community Foundation will host Iron Chef, an annual cooking competition that pits two finalists against each other before a crowd of onlookers and a panel of local celebrity judges. The event will be held at Northern Jet Management located within the Gerald R Ford International Airport, 5500 44th St. SE #203, Grand Rapids, MI 49512.

“This year, the theme is ‘Back to Our Roots,’ which will give us an opportunity to appreciate the work of the past twenty years, while acknowledging the opportunities the foundation is creating as we forge ahead under Justin’s

leadership,” said Hungerford Technologies’ Kimberly Livingston, the board’s marketing and event chairperson. “I think attendees and sponsors are in for an amazing experience, and this is a fun way to experience truly creative food fare, while also showing your support for the work of your community foundation.”

Iron Chef is sponsored by Betten Motors, Grand Rapids Outdoor and Rocket Science Creative. Sponsorships are open, and tickets can be purchased at cascadecommunityfoundation.com/ironchef



kent county sheriff's office warns about **FRAUD SCAMS**

Greetings from your East Precinct community officer.

I hope everyone had a great summer and was able to get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather. One of my tasks each week is reviewing all the reports that are taken in the East Precinct. In doing so, I occasionally notice certain crime trends. I would like to discuss one particular crime trend and offer some advice on how to avoid becoming a victim.

The crime I am referring to is fraud. There are several common scams that I frequently come across that are being used to fraudulently obtain money from individuals. The first is a telephone scam where the caller claims to be a legal representative for a family member who is currently in jail out of state. The caller convinces the victim that money is needed immediately for bond to get the family member out of jail. There are also telephone scams involving fake IRS agents and fake law enforcement officials. With both of these scams, money is demanded to prevent a warrant from being issued.

There are many other scams as well, but these are the most prevalent right now. Regardless of the scam, the Sheriff's Department has created several tips to help citizens avoid becoming a victim of these crimes. First, limit the amount of personal information you put on social media. The suspects of these crimes are becoming more and more sophisticated and are regularly using social media to gather information about their victims. Second, never send cash through the mail and never pay anything by means of an iTunes or store gift card – no official transaction is ever handled via gift cards. Last, never make a quick decision when someone is demanding payment for anything. If you are unsure, take a moment and call a friend or family member, or better yet, call me. I would be happy to offer my advice on any calls/emails you receive demanding money. I would much rather give you advice beforehand than read a report about you losing thousands of dollars to a scam several weeks later.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather and stay safe.

events from **KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY**

SUNDAY AFTERNOON LIVE

The Cascade Township Branch of Kent District Library has an exciting lineup planned for this year's Sunday Afternoon Live Concert Series. Come join us for a free indoor concert featuring the best in local entertainment.

- Sunday, Oct. 13 • 2 p.m. – The Weatherheads: Americana, country, folk and rock
- Sunday, Nov. 10 • 2 p.m. – K Jones and the Benzie Playboys: Creole, Cajun, and Zydeco
- Sunday, Dec. 8 • 2 p.m. – Common Chord with Rev Robert Jones and Matt Wintruba: traditional blues, gospel and folk

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The best places to look for used books are the Friends of the Cascade Library's Chapter 2 Book Store and the Friends' special sales. Please come check out the fall sale to find a variety of books for all ages and interests.

- Saturday, Sept. 14 • 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Member presale 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. You may become a member at the door for \$5. Cash, check and credit are accepted.
- Sunday, Sept. 15 • 1 - 3 p.m.

EXPERIENCE KDL'S NEW BOOK TASTING

Tuesday, Oct. 15 • 6 p.m.

Your librarians would like to tempt your reading palette with new books to suit your tastes. Upon arrival, you will receive a questionnaire about your book preferences. Once completed, your librarian will prepare a "flight of books" for you to sample. While you are waiting, don't forget to check out selections from our new vinyl music collection, KDL Grooves. Your librarian will present their recommendations to check out – you're sure to discover your next favorite book!

KDL LAB: MAGNA TILES & KEVA PLANKS

Friday, Oct. 25 • 2 - 3 p.m.

Drop-in and build. Create cubes, pyramids and other geometric shapes and patterns from two-dimensional or three-dimensional systems with Magna Tiles. Channel your inner architect, and get ready to stack, build and balance with Keva Planks.

For more information, please visit kdl.org, CascadeFriends.org or call 616.784.2007.



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Cascade Charter Township

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



Cascade Community Foundation Names Justin Swan as CEO

The Board of Directors of the Cascade Community Foundation is excited to announce that Justin Swan has joined the organization as its CEO. Swan will guide the foundation's annual grantmaking

and lead its strategic planning efforts aimed to better serve nonprofits, businesses and the philanthropic community in Cascade, Ada and Forest Hills, each within the organization's service area.

"Community foundations are a tremendous resource for any area with vibrant neighbors and active businesses eager to support the places we work, live and play," said Swan. "Ada, Cascade and Forest Hills embody that vibrance, and serve as home to some of West Michigan's most active philanthropists. The expectation is for this foundation to serve as a reliable bridge between that generosity, and the ideas, dedication and work going into enhancing our community and tackling problems that require a solution."

Swan, 39, lives in the Forest Hills school district with his wife and

son and is no stranger to small business or nonprofit development. In 2011, Swan co-founded a local recycling company and in 2015 began focusing time on nonprofit development. He served at Hope Network Foundation and Mind Meets Music, with a goal of one day leading an organization capable of changing lives while building community by working with donors and businesses to drive solutions.

"Justin brings a level of energy and professionalism we've been seeking, and has already enhanced how we serve our community," said Pet Supplies Plus' Valery Young, the board president. "His entrepreneurial background lends creativity and ideas that business owners are already enthusiastic about, and his vision to build a reliable and trusted financial vehicle for philanthropic families will generate growth in our grantmaking process for local charities."