



# CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP



**Office Hours:**

Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Township Board:**

**Supervisor:**

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rbeahan@cascadetwp.com

**Clerk:**

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**Treasurer:**

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**Assessing:**

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**Building Inspections:**

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**Community Development**

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**Fire:**

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**Sheriff/Non-Emergency:**

632-6100

**GRAND MARSHAL - VI MURPHY...**



7 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and many great, great grandchildren, many whom are still in the area.

Vi keeps very busy, is an avid reader and keeps up on current affairs by reading the newspapers from front to back and watching numerous news programs. For years, Vi was a very active volunteer in her community at Cascade Christian Church and its numerous programs. She still bakes cookies for friends who drop by for coffee. She has also perfected a recipe for a legendary potato soup among other culinary treats.

So, when you see Vi Murphy leading the 4th of July parade this year be sure to wish her an early 100th birthday. A wonderful and gracious Grand Marshal for Cascade!



Many years ago Vi Murphy managed a roller skating rink in Big Rapids, Michigan while the owners were on an extended trip for the summer. While Vi won't be roller skating in the 4th of July parade, she will be riding in it as the Grand Marshal as she approaches her 100th birthday.

She was born in Morley, Michigan on September 7, 1917 to Myrtle and Frank Brockway whose Brockway ancestors were the first non-native American settlers in Mecosta County. Vi and her family moved to Cascade in 1960 where she has lived in the same house since then and even with the same phone number. She was blessed with 4 children,



**GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON 2017**

Huntington NUTRILITE

**RACE DAY JUNE 11TH**

Please be aware of road closures in the area of the Thornapple River on both June 10 & June 11. If you have any questions please contact Andy Vidro 616.805.3059

We hope you'll plan to join us at the 7th annual GR Tri. There is still time to register for our event or sign up to volunteer. Check our website for details.

Once again, thank you for welcoming us and our athletes to your community.

[WWW.GRANDRAPIDSTRI.COM](http://WWW.GRANDRAPIDSTRI.COM)

## FROM THE SUPERVISOR...



FROM THE SUPERVISOR  
ROB BEAHAN

Spring and summer usually mean the start of local road construction and improvements and this year will prove no exception. Cascade Township budgets general fund dollars each year for road projects throughout the Township. In early spring Cascade Township staff compiles a list of potential road improvements. This list is developed by utilizing resources such as pavement ratings supplied from

Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC), visual inspections by Township staff, and a 1-5 rating system map created by the Kent County Road Commission (KCRC). The list of potential road projects is given to KCRC who then provides the Township with their recommendations and cost estimates. The cost of many of the projects is typically a shared cost with Cascade Township paying 50% of the project cost and KCRC paying the remaining 50%. KCRC recommendations are reviewed by Township staff for priority rating and presented to the Infrastructure Committee and Township Board for approval. This year the approved local road program includes four project areas.

The first project area is the Bridgewater Plat that will have removal of the existing asphalt and repaving with 3 ½ inches of asphalt. This will include Bridgewater Drive, Riverton Avenue, Hillsboro Avenue, Middlebrook Avenue, Sandy Point Avenue, Springline Court, and Donnegal Court.

The second area is Denison Drive with asphalt removal and replacement.

The third project area is Wycliff Drive, also with pavement removal and asphalt replacement

The fourth project area will be on Bolt Avenue between Buttrick and Grand River Drive and is minor construction. This will include ditching, tree removal and limestone overlay on the gravel portion of Bolt Avenue.

The Township's portion of the cost sharing with the KCRC is \$300,500 for these four 2017 road projects.

In addition to these projects, other road improvements are being done in the Township. Thornapple River Dr. between Tassell Park & Thornhills is being resurfaced as part of the water and sewer installation project, with completion in mid-June. Kraft Avenue and 28th Street is slated for some turn lane configuration and well needed repaving from 28th Street to Burton Street.

## SUMMER 2017 TAX INFORMATION

**Summer 2017 tax bills** and informational notices will be mailed July 1st. Summer taxes are due and payable on July 1st and may be paid without any penalty or interest charged as late as September 14th, 2017. If you do not receive a tax statement during July, check the township's website or call the Treasurer's office at 949-6944. Please use the return envelope provided with your tax statement. Payments are receipted on the same business day they are received. We recommend that you allow 7 days to ensure timely delivery, especially for Internet check payments. We want to remind you that Cascade Charter Township does not accept postmarks as proof of timeliness. All payments must be received in our office by 5:00 p.m. on the date the payments are due.

**The Summer Tax Deferment** allows qualifying taxpayers to pay summer taxes after they receive a property tax credit refund from the State of Michigan. To qualify for this deferment, your household income must not exceed \$40,000, and you must be either 62 years or older; a paraplegic, quadriplegic, totally disabled; blind; a serviceperson, veteran or widow or widower of a veteran. Deferment application forms are available in the Treasurer's Office through September 14th. *The deferment period covers only one year, so you must reapply each year.*

**Attention Travelers!** If you will be away this summer, please call our office with your email, fax, or temporary address. We will forward the tax statement to you if it is returned to our office by the U.S.P.S. The treasurer's office is not responsible for postal deliveries and taxes are due whether a statement is received by the taxpayer, or not.



**Online Tax Payment** Option is available for the residents. Customers may pay their bill right out of their checking or savings account. Unlike credit card payments, which charge a convenience fee, this option is free to the taxpayers. Please follow the link on our website to make a payment.

**Check your property tax status 24/7 with a link from the Township's website:** [www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com).

- Quick Links
- Property/Parcel Lookup
- Search Municipal Records By (top of page)
- Drop-down arrow to select data search (Address, Name, Parcel Number)
- Double Click on Selected Parcel
- Click Tax Information Tab

Have a safe summer.

Kenneth B. Peirce  
Cascade Charter Township Treasurer

## SUMMER READING AT KDL

Mark your calendar for Michigan's most popular summer reading program. All ages are welcome to participate for a chance to win fun prizes. Visit [kdl.readsquared.com](http://kdl.readsquared.com) or a branch to get materials on **June 5.**

**June 5 – August 12**



### TOUCH-A-TRUCK

A close up look at big trucks! There will be an assortment of awesome vehicles on hand to explore, plus the pros who operate them. Decorate your own hard hat.

**Tuesday, June 13, 10:00 am**

### THE GEARS OF NERF

Teens, let loose the Gears of Nerf. You and your team are given 30 minutes to build a free standing structure that will protect your medic. Nerf blasters are provided; please do not bring your own.

**Thursday, June 22, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

### JULY 4TH BOOK SALE

Thank you for your generous gently used book donations. Join us for the biggest sale of the year.

**Tuesday, July 4, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm**

### GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Learn the basics of researching your family's history through vital records, the census and other various documents.

**Monday, July 17, 6:00 pm**

### PET SHOW

Every critter's a winner in this unique show designed to put the spotlight on your furry, scaly or feathered friend. All acts must pre-register. Visit the library for details.

**Thursday, July 27, 7:00 pm**

### MAGIC WITH A SMILE

Magic that thrills one minute and leaves the audience roaring with laughter the next, with local magician Renee Hudson.

**Thursday, August 3, 7:00 pm**

### FOR ALL AGES

#### KDL PRESENTS: SUPER PARTY WONDER DAY

Join us as we celebrate the completion of another Summer Reading program! This one-day event will feature some of the best of KDL programming, as well as live music, food trucks, children's activities and a BBQ Competition. **Saturday, August 12, noon to 8:00 pm**



### CASCADE'S METRO CRUISE WARM UP

Please join us for Cascade's Metro Cruise Warm Up, at **28th Street and Cascade Road, from 4:30 to 8:30 pm on Thursday, August 24th!**

We will have food trucks, live music from the band Decades, kids' activities, a dunk tank to benefit the Kent County Sheriff's Department K9 Unit, and of course lots of show cars.

We hope to see you there!



**Cascade Community Foundation**  
Enhancing The Greater Forest Hills Communities

**AIRPORT VIEWING PARK PARTY JUN 14**

**DONOR APPRECIATION PARTY JUL 27**  
(FORMER "LIFE PRESERVER" EVENT)

**IRON CHEF SIGNATURE EVENT OCT 4**

[info@cascadecommunityfoundation.com](mailto:info@cascadecommunityfoundation.com)  
[www.cascadecommunityfoundation.com](http://www.cascadecommunityfoundation.com)

**SAVE THE DATE**

## EAST PRECINCT NEWS...



Smart 911, what is it and how does it work? I am so glad you asked. Smart911.com is a website that is secure and confidential. You visit the website and put information in that you want police, fire and rescue personnel to know.

Once you visit the website, you create a profile. The profile you create contains your personal information such as phone numbers, address, and medical information that is important and specific for your family. The profile is not just a fill in the blank document. It allows you to attach

photos and contact phone numbers for additional family. When you are done adding information to your profile, you submit it and the website holds this information.

What happens when you call 911? Another good question. Kent County Dispatch has a separate screen that pops up from Smart911 that has your profile attached. The information you put on your personal profile is now available to the emergency dispatcher. For example, if you added that a family member has a disease that affects their breathing and dispatch receives a 911 call but the caller is not audible, dispatch may send rescue personal to respond emergency for a medical.

I have a friend who even added that he has a 1969 Camaro in his garage and in case of a fire please save the car first. I don't know in his case if that would really happen, but it is a good example of the information you can add to your personal profile.

I have another person who added that they have 3 dogs and listed the names of the dogs and the veterinarian's information if first responders needed it.

One of the best features of Smart911 is that our society is phasing out land lines and transitioning to only cell phones. However, when you call 911 from your cell phone and cannot speak or you lose signal, sometimes dispatch cannot find you. The 911 call is tracked to a small area, often times a square mile, but not always an exact location. As you can imagine, location is vital in an emergency. In Smart911 you can pre-register different address for your cell phone, so when you call 911 and lose signal, dispatch can look at the location given from the cell tower and look at addresses you registered at and see where you may likely be.

Lastly, the best example is something that our cell phones have in them, which is the In Case Of Emergency (ICE) contact. This website allows you to enter that information in as well. This is great for family members who are aging or in poor health. It allows emergency personal to contact their emergency contact for additional information on the patient or to update the contact about their family member's status. Smart911.com is a good website that allows the information you want the first responders to have upon arrival of your home. Take a look for yourself and make a choice of completing the profile or not based upon your specific situation. I am not an expert on Smart911 by any means, but I can see the benefits of information accessible to first responders sooner than later.

Be Safe and Aware!

Deputy Ryan Roe

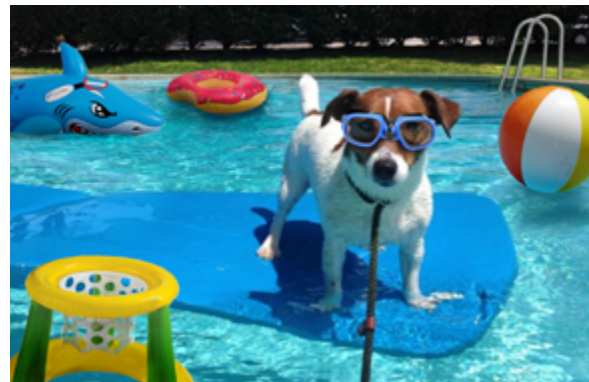
Kent County Sheriff Department  
[Ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov)

## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY 2017

The term "Swimming Pool" means any structure, basin, chamber or tank which is intended for swimming, diving, recreational bathing or wading and which contains, is designed to contain, or is capable of containing water more than 24 inches deep at any point. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground pools; indoor pools; hot tubs; spas; inflatable pools and fixed-in-place wading pools.

### BARRIERS

- Barriers are not childproof, but they provide layers of protection for a child who strays from supervision.
- Barriers include a fence or wall, door alarms for the house, and a power safety cover over the pool. Barriers also may be used to protect children from accessing hot tubs and spas. Use the following recommendations as a guide:



### FENCES & GATES

- Install a fence or other barrier, such as a wall, completely around the pool. If the house is part of the barrier, the doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with an alarm or the pool should have a power safety cover. Alarm and cover details are below.
- The fence or other barrier should be at least 4 feet high. It should have no foot or handholds that could help a young child to climb it.
- Vertical fence slats should be less than 4 inches apart to prevent a child from squeezing through.
- If the fence is chain link, then no part of the diamond-shaped opening should be larger than 1-3/4 inches.
- Fence gates should be self-closing and self-latching. The gate should be well maintained to close and latch easily. The latch should be out of a child's reach.

### DOOR ALARMS

- If the house forms one side of the barrier, then doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with alarms (UL 2017) that produce an audible sound when a door is unexpectedly opened.
- Install an alarm that can be temporarily turned off by an adult for a single opening of the door by using a keypad or switch that is out of a child's reach.

### ABOVE-GROUND POOLS

- Steps and ladders leading from the ground to the pool should be secured and locked, or removed when the pool is not in use.

Permits are required for the installation of a pool. Our office will verify that all safety requirements of the building code are met before the pool is used. Please call **616-949-3765** with any questions.

Cascade Inspection Services

## AN INVASIVE PROBLEM

You may have, as I did, noticed the arrival in your yard of a rather attractive vine in the last few years. It has alternating, oval leaves and red berries that birds find irresistible. If you did, you're not alone. If you pulled it up immediately you may have caught it in time. If you didn't, just about this time of the year, you'll see shoots beginning to cover the ground as they emerge from rootlets left behind. A following spring will bring shoots standing unsupported ten feet high trying to latch on to something tall to grow up. From then on, birds are going eat and excrete the seeds to spread the vine to any place they roost. This, I learned, is called a "Hot Spot".

Last year I discovered this horror show on my lot line. One shoot the size of a pencil had reached up and was pulling down the lowest branch of a mature Sycamore on my yard. A three-inch vine had already strangled, weighed down and brought to the ground smaller trees on my neighbor's property. Walking further into our wooded boundary with Thornapple Community Church I found myself standing at a spot where nothing, but the vine was visible - a monoculture.

I called the Michigan State Extension Service which gave me the number of Jessie Schulte the newly appointed Executive Director of the Kent Conservation District. Jessie came out and together we walked the immediate area along with Pastor Tim Dieffenbach of Thornapple Community Church. The culprit's name was Oriental Bittersweet, a plant first brought to this country in the late 19th Century and introduced to the Forest Hills area by an avid gardener in the late 1980's.

Sadly, Jessie informed us that unlike some of the more recently arrived invasive plants there is no hope of eradicating Oriental Bittersweet completely and as a result no public money to combat it. She went on to say that it can be controlled, but that it was on the individual property holder to do it themselves or contract with services providing treatment.



I began to cut and treat the vine. Pastor Dieffenbach organized a congregational work day to pull up and cut as much of the plants as possible and the church has plans to have the Kent Conservation District come in and kill the infestation off. So far so good, but having dealt with the vine in my yard, what's to prevent my yard from being recolonized from neighboring properties? The answer is absolutely nothing unless all of the property owners take action.

This took on more meaning as I began to notice dense stands nearby. One extended along Tahoe where it intersects with Thornhills. Other patches occurred along the West side of Thornhills up to the Cascade Township Offices and along Thornapple River Drive leading down to the dam. I also caught site of a staggering amount of Oriental Bittersweet in the wetlands surrounding Sentinel Point. Another area of Oriental Bittersweet mono-culture was found in the woods bordering the Condo development across Thornapple River Drive across from the church.

The problem in my immediate area turns out to be a 3/4 of a square mile area centered roughly on the intersection of Thornhills and Thornapple River Drive SE. Other neighborhoods in Cascade and Ada Townships have similar infestations. Cascade Township has begun taking steps to control Oriental Bittersweet and other invasives in its parks. My efforts and those of my neighbors are not enough. In not such a very long time our beautiful tree lined streetscapes are going to be taken away from us. Instead we will travel along what could become Kudzu like tunnels lined by Oriental Bittersweet.

**Kent Conservation District** is holding a neighborhood action meeting at the **Cascade Library Saturday, June 24 at 10:00**. The meeting will inform us as to what can be done and to begin the process of organizing to preserve the beauty of our area. All are welcome.

## THE PAST ONLINE

Welcome to the Cascade Historical Society's web research tool.

The Cascade Historical Society is dedicated to ensuring that present and future generations will not only know the significance of traditions of the area but also will learn from the past and recognize the need to preserve the historical heritage that has been bestowed upon them.

Please visit our new link, The Past Online, at [http://www.cascadetwp.com/Community/Historical-Society-\(1\).aspx](http://www.cascadetwp.com/Community/Historical-Society-(1).aspx).

There are photos, newspaper clippings, journals, diaries and other memorabilia. We also have been compiling a database of items in our files. If you have items which you would like to donate, we would appreciate hearing from you.

We meet the first Thursday of every month (except July) at 9:30 am at the old Cascade Township Hall located at 2839 Thornapple River Drive near Cascade Road. Come and experience Cascade history with us. If you would like us to search our records for your family's history, please email your request to [cascadehistory@cascadetwp.com](mailto:cascadehistory@cascadetwp.com) or call us at (616) 949-1500



## ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Cascade Fire Department is searching for men and women who would like to make a positive impact in our community.



If you are 18 year or older and live in Cascade and are interested in becoming a paid on-call firefighter contact the fire chief at 949-1320

**No experience necessary.**

**Cascade Fire Department Dedicated to our Community And Helping Others In Need.**



## CASCADE MEETING ON TOWNSHIP SIGNAGE REGULATIONS

Dear Resident:  
Our Economic Development Director has conducted a series of meetings with the local businesses to obtain input on the current sign ordinance.



We would like to offer the residents an opportunity to provide input as well. If you are interested in discussing this topic we will be holding a meeting at the **Cascade Library- Wisner Center on June 21 at 5:30 p.m.** Our goal is to keep the meeting limited to **about an hour.**



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve Peterson at (616) 949-0224 or via email at [speterson@cascadetwp.com](mailto:speterson@cascadetwp.com)



### FOR KIKS AND QUIGGLES (AMONG OTHERS) Streets Named for Families in Cascade Township

Early settlers in Cascade were motivated by the opportunity to buy affordable, fertile land in a peaceful, rapidly developing area on the American frontier. They sought prosperity, for themselves and their children. They weren't planning to leave their names on the growing township's streets and roads, but for many of them, this became an unexpected legacy. Today, we see their names on street signs; we hear their names when an address is mentioned on the news or in a TV commercial; voice navigation says their names when we're driving to unfamiliar destinations. Long after building their log cabins in the wilderness, their names remain part of daily life in our community.

**Here, briefly, are the stories behind a few of Cascade's family-inspired street names.**

Foremost among these families are the Pattersons. In 1831, recently widowed Rachel Patterson made her way from New York State by way of Washtenaw County (where her husband, Robert had passed away) to take possession of forty acres just over the border from Cascade in Paris Township (now Kentwood). She brought nine of her ten children with her. Miner, her eldest son, cleared the land for cultivation, and was widely respected for his axe-wielding abilities. Miner's son, Zach, became a successful farmer in Cascade, and his great-grandson, Lee Patterson, held a number of offices in Cascade from 1959 through the 1980s. Patterson Road, which marks the western boundary of the township, is named for this family. A farmhouse near Home Depot is still home to Patterson descendants.



Laraway Lake Drive is the named for the Laraway family, enduring pioneers who settled in Cascade in the mid-1830s. Hiram Laraway, the family patriarch, died in a snowstorm as he walked home from the village of Ada. His widow, Mary, raised their four children and maintained the family's acreage with the help of neighbors.

Like the Laraways, the Quiggle family gave their name to a road as well as a lake. Early settlers here, they made their home on the shores of Quiggle Lake for well over a hundred years. In the mid-20th century, Emma Weller Quiggle, married to Guy, a descendant of this enterprising family, was well known throughout the township for her fried chicken dinner fundraisers and her caramel corn recipe.

Whitneyville Road was part of the Gull Trail, a stagecoach route that linked Grand Rapids with Cascade, Caledonia, Middleville, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. Zerah Whitney gave this section of the trail his name when he purchased land and began accommodating travelers at the intersection of present-day Whitneyville Road and 52nd Street in 1841. The first Cascade Township meeting was held in Whitneyville. Peter Whitney built the Whitney Tavern Stand, now a private home, in 1854.

Buttrick Avenue veers north off of Whitneyville, and is named for a family who arrived here in 1843. A child when his family made that journey, Charles R. Buttrick had a farm at 3024 Buttrick. His son, Charles V. Buttrick, owned and operated a general store in Cascade in the 1940s.

Dennison Drive commemorates brothers Asa and Gideon Dennison, who came here with their families in 1845, chopping down trees to clear a wagon road to Cascade. Gideon's son Henry had a farm on Buttrick Avenue. He kept a diary for many years, offering a rich and detailed account of life in Cascade in the 1880s.



Access to Cascade Township Park is provided by Nick Kik Drive, named for a popular landscape architect and nurseryman who had a farm on Thornapple River Drive, where the Mooring Heights development is now. Nick and his wife Anne, who was also a landscape architect, raised chickens and Angus beef and employed a generation of teenagers.

And finally, was there an Orange family that inspired the name of Orange Street, which runs north from Cascade Road near the white chapel of Cascade Christian Church?

No. Orange Street was named for the Osage orange trees that grew there years ago, producing distinctive green, warty, orange-sized fruit every fall.



**Cascade Charter Township**

2865 Thornhills Ave SE.  
Grand Rapids MI 49546  
phone: 616.949.1500  
fax: 616.949.3918  
[www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com)

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**PATHWAY NEWS...**

As much as Kathy and I love springtime in the Sonoran Desert, it is always great to get back and enjoy springtime in Cascade. The trees are blossoming, the perennials are coming up and the birds are singing. I never fail to find more reasons to be grateful that I live in Cascade after leaving a large metropolitan area like Scottsdale, Arizona. Take birds for example. Scottsdale is loaded with them. I'm not talking about the songbirds that we have here. I'm talking about the cooing type - pigeons and mourning doves.

As my wife and I come home from our morning bike rides, we can't help but notice all of the great local restaurants preparing for their lunch and dinner alfresco diners. The birds are the first in line. We have coined the term alfececo dining. We don't have that problem in Cascade, but I digress.

With all the rain we had in April some of the trails may be a little washed out. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, if you find areas of the trail system that need repair please report the location to Steve Peterson ([speterson@cascadetwp.com](mailto:speterson@cascadetwp.com)) right away.

Also in order to keep good free flowing movement on the trail, use the same rules that you do when driving. Drive and walk on the right, pass on the left. Be sure to announce yourself when passing a pedestrian while riding your bike. Good to be back. Remember,

**KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL!**

*Kris Taylor  
Pathway Coordinator*

