

Cascade Connections

Autumn 2005

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

Library Enrichment Center Is Initiated

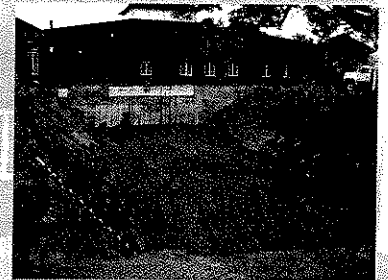
The groundbreaking ceremony for the new addition to the Cascade Branch Library took place Thursday, August 4. Senator Bill Hardiman, Representative Glenn Steil, Cascade Township Supervisor Mike Julien, Cascade Library Advisory Board Vice-president, Ed Dupke and Kent District Library Board President, Joel Hondorp were among the 100 guests on hand to help launch the nearly \$3 million project.

The construction of this building is the result of more than five years of planning by the Library Advisory Board (LAB), which is led by Chairman Rev. Charles Fry. The LAB is appointed by Supervisor Julien and approved by the Board of Trustees. The Building Committee and Capital Campaign Committee were formed a year ago and worked with Architect Tom Smith and his firm at Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber to finalize the building plans and work out the financing.

The result of all this labor is a beautiful new addition designed to meet the needs of everyone in the community. The new facility will include an Early Literacy room, three connecting meeting rooms for library and community use, a teen space with a collection of books and media, comfortable seating and computers. Additional study rooms are being added for tutoring and the Historical Room will feature a work area for research as well as displays. The various township boards will have an improved and larger area to hold their meetings. The Friends of the

Cascade Library will have a book store where they will sell the thousands of books donated to the library each year as well as improvements to their work area—all the proceeds from this effort by dozens of volunteers go to our library.

The best news is that this will be accomplished with no new taxes! The campaign to raise \$700,000 stood at \$500,000 the morning of the groundbreaking. As the groundbreaking was concluding, Joyce and Tom Wisner announced that they are giving the final



\$200,000 to put the fund drive over its goal. The Friends of the Cascade Library started the campaign on the road to success by donating \$130,000 of the money they earned through book sales. Lead gifts by the Klopocic family, the Doug and Maria DeVos family, the Dan and Pam DeVos family, the Robert Skutt Fund, the Pricilla Good Fund, Precise Engineering, the Meijer Corporation and dozens of gifts by the very generous citizens of our community have brought us to this point. We now have the Patron Bookshelf campaign which gives everyone the opportunity to add his or her personal touch to the Center by purchasing hand-printed tiles which will be permanently displayed in the entrance to the new Center.

The Dan Vos Construction Company, which won the bid to build the addition, estimates that we will be able to move in sometime next May. Meanwhile, pardon our dust, get involved and help us imagine all the possibilities this new facility will provide for our Cascade Community and watch us grow!



Tom and Joyce Wisner



(L to R) Manager Jay Cravens, Gord DeYoung, Supervisor Mike Julien, Trustee Rob Beahan, Trustee Jim Koessel, Trustee Brian Currier
Back: Clerk Ron Goodyke



(L to R) Cascade Supervisor Mike Julien, Representative Steil, Senator Hardiman, Joyce and Tom Wisner



(L to R) Lynne Quinlan, Jean VanderLaan, Lexie Straub, Debbie Straub, Maureen Sullivan, Marilyn Meyer, Ed Dupke, Betty Jean Fry, Rev. Charles Fry

CASCADE



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

A BIG thank you to all who attended the 2005 July 4th Celebration. The festivities were a tremendous success. The celebration began with the always popular Cascade Friends of the Library book sale. The bike parade with hundreds of youngsters on red, white and blue decorated bikes, wagons, strollers and rollerblades participated in a creative display of patriotism. The parade was kicked off by Uncle Sam and the American Flag carried by our local Boy Scout Troop, followed by our veterans. Special thanks to the Parade Grand Marshal, Mr. Somerville. As always, there were many vintage cars, truck and tractors, fire/rescue vehicles from surrounding areas and festive floats.

Following the parade, children and adults enjoyed the street fair activities, which included a petting zoo, inflatable activities, arts and crafts, rock climbing, good food, live music and the very popular elephant ride.



The Cascade Firefighter's Association raised monies from the sale of water and ice cream at the street fair tent, which was manned by firefighters and family members. These funds will enable two burn victim children from the West Michigan area to attend the Great Lakes Burn Summer Camp near Kalamazoo, MI. The Cascade Firefighter's Association would like to thank Country Fresh and Sysco for donating items sold to raise this money.



Many thanks to Forest Hills Public Schools, Thornapple Evangelical Covenant Church, Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, Cascade Township Library and Cascade Township offices, and Noto's Restaurant for participating in the emergency contingency plan for severe weather, should the need arise.

A very special thank you to all the volunteers that help with the activities for the July 4th celebration. This includes the parking attendants for the Library Book sale, those responsible for the parade line up and traffic control at the parade staging area, and the other numerous volunteers who helped with the celebration.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me at 949-1320 at the Cascade Fire Department or via email at skorhorn@cascaadetwp.com. Thank you



again to all the participants, attendees and volunteers who made the 2005 July 4th celebration a wonderful success.

Sincerely, Stephen W. Korhorn, Firefighter/July 4th Coordinator

Thank You to the 4th of July Celebration sponsors, who made the FREE rides and games possible:

Brann's Steakhouse & Grill

Buiten, Steensma & Associates

Cascade Engineering

Cascade Firefighters Assoc.

Cascade Hospital for Animals

Chemical Bank West

D&W Food Stores

Dickinson, Wright

Emerald Tree

Falcon Printing

Family Fare Supermarkets

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber

Funny Business

Gordon Food Service

Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter

Impact Vehicle Damage Erasure

Independent Bank

Kingsland True Value

Koenes Auto Body

Meekhof Lumber

Meijer

Nye Uniform Company

Performance Systematix, Inc.

Standard Federal Bank

Superior Asphalt

Tom & Joyce Wisner in Memory of

Leslie E. Tassell

Thornapple River Nursery

United Bank

Verburg's Automotive



Cascade Road History

During the 1870s, Cascade Road developed its reputation for romance. Civil War cavalymen of Grand Rapids who had kept their houses after the war, galloped out along it with their ladies to the village, then followed the road along the Thornapple to Ada.

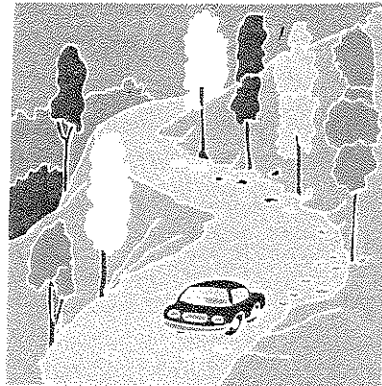
From the 1890s to around 1900, Cascade Road was a toll road. In the early 1920s, paving the section of Cascade Road from Hall to Whitneyville Road for the first time involved an elaborate setup, with the gravel pit (where Family Fare is located) as the center of operations.

A narrow-gauge railroad was laid on the edge of the road right-of-way, and small cars filled with gravel were pulled by a tiny engine to the cement mixers, which were on the site of the pouring. Much hand labor meant that there was a large crew of men working. Teams of horses pulled graders to smooth the roadbed, preparing it for the concrete. As the road progressed, the narrow tracks were picked up and laid in the opposite direction.

Cascade Road (US-16) was one of the first roads taken over by the State Highway Department. It would become a part of what is today an all-but-forgotten name: The "Wolverine Paved Way" (to connect Grand Rapids and Lansing).

The Cascade Historical Society needs you to be a part of its history. If you are interested in joining, please call 949-6944.

Please Note: Rev. Ray Gaylord, the former pastor of Cascade Christian Church, will be the guest speaker at the September 1st meeting of the Historical Society. Rev. Gaylord will be speaking at 10:00 a.m. at the Cascade Christian Church chapel. Free will donations will help finance the historical room at the Cascade Enrichment Center.



Board of Review Position

There will be an opening on the Cascade Township Board of Review in 2006. The Board of Review hears assessment appeals. This involves approximately one week in March and meets briefly once in July and December. To qualify for an appointment to this board, you must be:

- United States Citizen
- Cascade Township Taxpayer
- 30-day township resident

This appointment is a two-year term. Real estate or appraisal experience is helpful but not required. Please direct your letter of interest to: Judith M. Hedke, Deputy Assessor, 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Bus Stop Tips For

2005-2006 School Year:

Since there may be several buses picking up children in the same area, we recommend...

- Before the school year begins, you and your child should visit the arranged bus pick-up location.
- Be sure your child knows the safest way to the exact location where the bus will stop.
- When taking your child to the bus stop it is important to be at the pick-up location at least five minutes early.
- Your child should know the route number and the name of their school. This will insure that your child will board the correct bus. Each bus will have a sign located on the side of the bus in the second window on the door side for your convenience.
- You and your child should become familiar with your bus driver, but be aware that a different driver may substitute when needed.
- Make sure your children get to the school bus stop in plenty of time.
- Discourage loosely fitting and baggy clothing that can get caught in handrails, in swinging doors, and on seats.
- The most dangerous area is at the loading and unloading areas. Instruct your children to avoid horseplay and to stay back away from the bus until it is okay to board.
- Instruct your children to remain seated while on the bus, and avoid horseplay or being exceptionally noisy.
- It is up to seven times safer for children to ride the bus to school vs. riding in the private passenger vehicle. Encourage your children to take the bus.
- Stop for school buses with red lights flashing...even in the school yard!
- Don't buy student raincoats that are yellow, buy another color. The yellow raincoat has a tendency to blend in with the yellow school bus making it hard for motorists to see the

**Reminder: Leslie E. Tassell Park Concert -
Sept. 8 at 7:00 p.m. featuring
"Boogie Woogie Babies!"**

Open Spaces In Cascade Township

Publication Notes.....

2865 Thornhills Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 949-1500
www.cascadetwp.com

Township Board

Michael R. Julien, Supervisor
Ron Goodyke, Clerk
Mary J. Carpenter, Treasurer
Robert Beahan, Trustee
Brian Currier, Trustee
Sandra Frost Parrish, Trustee
Jim Koessel, Trustee

Planning Commission

Fred Goldberg
Jim Koessel
Diane Richards
Jack Lewis
Lorissa MacAllister
Brian Logue
Tom McDonald
Claude Robinson
Gary Postma

Zoning Board of Appeals

Rob Beahan
Jack Lewis
Mel Casey
Gary Crawley
Jack Neal
Richard Vaughn
Eric Richards

Board of Review

Bruce Poppen
Barbara Averill
Phyllis Gillie

Library Advisory Board

Charles Fry
Holly Sturges
Maureen Sullivan
Barbara Kalinka
Edward Dupke
Lynne Marie Quinlan
vacant



Many residents are concerned about sprawl--even in Cascade. Consequently, there is interest in open space preservation in all corners of the state. Since 1997 Cascade Township has preserved over 220 acres of open space through our subdivision regulations. Of these 220 acres a majority of them are environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, steep slopes, woodlands and scenic views. None of these open spaces includes the three golf course developments in Cascade (Watermark Country Club, Thornapple Pointe, and Quail Ridge).

Cascade Township is blessed with many natural attributes as well as excellent schools and good jobs that make it an attractive place to live and work. But with these blessings come challenges to make sure we use our limited resources responsibly and efficiently.

If you are interested in developing or selling land in Cascade and have an interest in the land remaining as natural open space you do have other options. These option include:

- Apply to the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights Program (www.accesskent.com/YourGovernment/BOC/PDR). For more information

contact Kendra Wills at the Michigan State University Extension offices at (616) 336-2028.

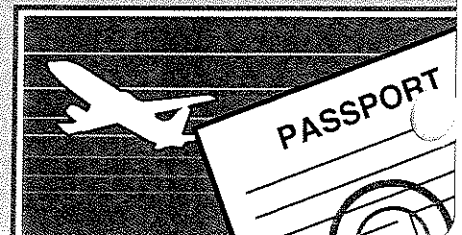
- Apply to the West Michigan Land Conservancy (www.naturenearby.org). For more information contact Rhoda deZoete at (616) 451-9476.
- Gift the property to the Township or other public agency.

Other property owners have also gifted portions of their estate to the Township for the acquisition of open spaces or parks.

While Cascade Township does not endorse any one of the programs specifically, we certainly encourage you explore all of your options as a landowner. If you have any questions about the development practices in Cascade please feel free to call our Planning Department at 949-0224 during normal business hours.

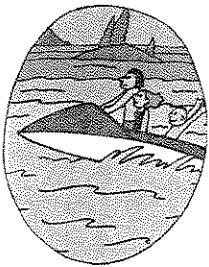
Please remember...

The Cascade Township Office will accept passport applications Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You must appear in person to apply.



Connections

A Citizen's Guide to Boat and Vehicle Care

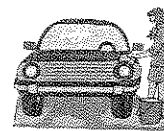


How we take care of our boats, personal watercrafts, mobile homes, cars, and other vehicles greatly influences the health of the Grand River and its tributaries. You can do your part to prevent pollution at the source by checking up on your marina and following a few simple tips at home.

Car Washing and Boat Cleaning

- Look for non-toxic and phosphate-free cleansers.
- Use alternative cleaners, such as baking soda and lemon juice.
- Avoid those with bleach, ammonia, lye, or petroleum distillates (see chart).

Product	Better Alternative
Bleach	Borax or hydrogen peroxide
Chrome cleaner	Apple cider vinegar to clean, baby oil to polish
Drain cleaner	Boiling water and plunger or plumber's snake
Engine cleaner	Steam clean the engine in a dedicated service area
Fiberglass stain remover	Baking soda paste, scrub pad, "elbow grease"
Paint stripper	Physically remove old paint without chemical use Avoid products containing methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, benzene, trichloroethylene, xylene, or toluene
Scouring powders	Baking soda and "elbow grease"
Window cleaner	Vinegar and lemon juice mixed in lukewarm water
Wood polish	Olive oil or almond oil for interior wood; use water-based or borax-based products



References: Marine Environmental Education Foundation's National Clean Boating Campaign 2000 Action Kit and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's "Tips to Protect the Environment"

Fuel and Oil

- When fueling, avoid topping off! Remember that fuel expands as it warms up in your tank.
- Store fuel only in approved containers.
- Routinely check for and fix oil and fuel leaks.

Engine Care

- Keep boat and car engines properly tuned for efficient fuel consumption and clean exhaust.
- Use a drip pan when doing engine maintenance. Drippings left on the cement get washed into nearby drains and end up in our streams.

Sewage Control

- Use onshore restrooms when docked, and encourage everyone to use the facilities before casting off.
- Empty portable toilets only at pump-out stations or at home.
- Clean up after your pet to prevent pet waste from washing into storm drains.

Many marinas statewide have pump-outs and allow non-members to use them.
Keep sewage out of storm drains and lakes!

Be Stormwater Savvy

One of the most significant, yet unrecognized groups of water contaminants is storm water pollutants. When it rains, storm water runs over yards, streets, roads, highways, parking lots, parks, and playgrounds, carrying with it everything in its path, including debris and pollutants. Eventually, the water will travel to a stream, either over land or via a storm drain. Storm drains are frequently located alongside streets and parking lots. Unlike sanitary sewers that divert water to a treatment plant directly from your home, storm drains lead directly to surrounding lakes and rivers without any type of treatment. All the debris and pollutants that were picked up by storm water runoff, end up in your lakes and streams!

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Program

The Clean Water Act of 1972 set up the NPDES. The NPDES program required communities around the country with urbanized areas to begin tackling the issue of storm water pollution. In recent years, several communities in Kent and Ottawa Counties were required to develop an illicit discharge elimination program (IDEP). The IDEP was required to include an investigation of the waters of the state to identify, and eventually eliminate, illicit discharges and connections to the storm sewer.

What is an Illicit Discharge or Connection?

An illicit discharge is any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of rain water or groundwater. Examples include dumping of motor vehicle fluids, household hazardous wastes, grass clippings, leaf litter, industrial waste, restaurant wastes, or any other non-storm water waste into a storm water system. An illicit connection is the discharge of pollutants or non-storm water materials into a storm sewer system via a pipe or other direct connection. Sources of illicit connections may include sanitary sewer taps, wash water for laundromats or carwashes, and other similar sources.

How Do I Spot an Illicit Discharge or Connection?

Look for makeshift pipes or hoses that lead to a storm drain or body of water.

Watch for stains, unusual odors, structural damage to streets or gutters, and abnormal vegetative growth in nearby lakes and streams.

If you see an illicit discharge or connection, REPORT IT to your community. The Illicit Discharge and Connection Ordinance, adopted by your community, gives them legal authority to inspect and sample discharge, as well as enforce sanctions for violations.

* Text and graphics for this article were obtained from the MDOT Storm Water Management Brochure Together...Better Roads, Cleaner Streams.

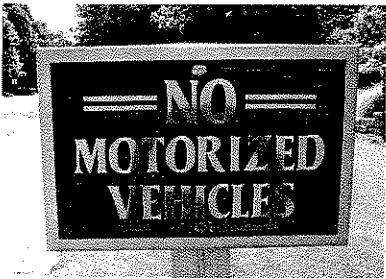
Pathway Sign Vandalism & Thefts

all. Most of this activity seems to be occurring on the paths that are east of the Thornapple River (Thorncrest, Wycliff, 30th St., Buttrick, 36th St. and Cascade Rd. paths), but by no means are isolated to this area. Additionally, sometime during the week of July 25th, the path "way finding" sign at the corner of Thorncrest and Wycliff was stolen. This sign, one of 12 which were installed two years ago at the cost of several thousands of dollars, was pulled off its mount. This was a rather large sign and would not have been easy to handle alone.

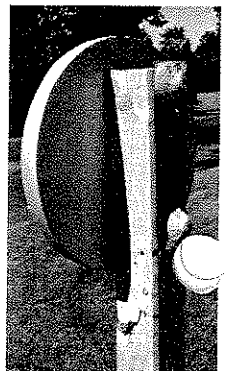
The result of these incidences is a reduction in safety to all who use the paths, as the loss of these signs, especially at intersections, increases the potential for accidents. Furthermore, it has placed an unnecessary burden on the resources of the Township.

Each sign is custom made, which increases their cost and time to produce them and consequently, the Buildings & Grounds Dept. does not generally stock enough signs to keep up with these incidences.

As most of this damage and theft is occurring in the hours after our staff has gone home, we must rely on the watchful eyes and ears of the residents. It is impossible for our staff and the Sheriff's Department to constantly monitor the nearly twenty miles of pathways, so we are asking the residents for help in watching for and reporting this activity. If you see any suspicious activity or have information about these damages or thefts, please contact the Kent County Sheriff's Department at 632-6100 or Cascade Township Buildings and Grounds Department at 682-9679.



Over the last several months, the Buildings & Grounds Department has been dealing with a rash of vandalism to pathway signage. During this time, we have replaced a large number of signs - "No Motorized Vehicles", "Caution-Road Crossing", and various others - that are generally located near intersections. It appears that most have simply been broken in two, as the pieces are usually left on the ground near the post. Others disappear altogether, as if they were stolen, and we have also seen entire post/sign assemblies pulled right out of the ground - concrete and



A Citizen's Guide to Lawn Fertilizer

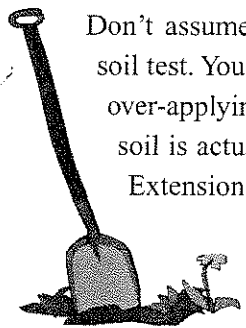
True or False:

"More is better" when applying lawn fertilizer.

False!

Over-fertilizing is a problem contributing to stormwater pollution in most rivers. Without realizing it, many landowners are applying fertilizers and pesticides when their lawns don't even need them! While applying an appropriate amount of fertilizer is usually okay, it's important to take care when adding chemicals to your lawn so that we can keep our rivers and streams healthy.

Don't guess... soil test!



Don't assume your plants need fertilizer. Perform a soil test. You'll save money and reduce the chance of over-applying by only replacing the nutrients your soil is actually missing. Michigan State University Extension offers easy-to-use soil nutrient testing boxes, and recommends a soil test every two or three years. To find out more, call the extension office in your area.

Choose the correct fertilizer

Use slow-release fertilizers that provide a slow, steady source of nutrients for plants. This also prevents the big spurt of growth common with synthetic fertilizers. Slow-release fertilizers come in a variety of types: organic, timed-release and coated. You may want to talk to a lawn care professional to find out what's best for your yard. Avoid "weed-and-feed" mixtures. These contain herbicides to control weed growth and are often applied where they aren't



needed. If healthy lawn care practices (correct mowing height and watering) are followed, weed control shouldn't be necessary. Be sure your mower is set to three inches to help shade out unwanted weeds.

How often, how much?



Unless you're maintaining a golf course, you can have a beautiful lawn by fertilizing only two or three times a year:

- Either apply twice a year, in late spring (late April or early May) and fall (September or October)
- Or apply three times a year, in late spring (Memorial Day), early fall (Labor Day) and late fall (Thanksgiving)

Pointers for pesticide use

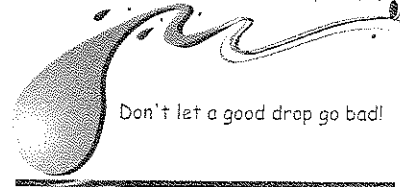


Correct watering, mowing and fertilizing habits can reduce many pest problems. But if you do choose to treat for insects, it is essential that you know your enemy before you apply pesticides! If possible, hand pick the little buggers off the plants and identify the pest. The important part is to identify and treat only for the pests you have, at their most vulnerable stage.

For help identifying the bug that's been bugging you, call the Michigan State University Master Gardener Hotline.

A general spraying of insecticide is ineffective, costly and may do more harm than good.

Be Stormwater Savvy



DEQ Information in this article was taken from *The Stormwater Tip Card Series*, funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the Bear Creek Restoration Project.

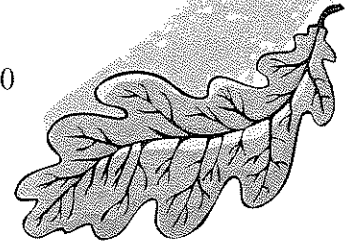
Cascade Connections

Annual Pathway Walk September 17, 2005

Last year, The First Annual Pathway Walk had all of the ingredients for a success, and it was. We had enthusiastic people coming together for a great cause, wonderful weather, fun snacks, heart healthy exercise, the Leslie E. Tassel Park and Cascade pathways as our beautiful venue, and we raised significant funds (\$8000) for The Cascade Community Foundation.

Possibly, the only thing missing was having more of our Cascade friends and neighbors joining us in the experience. So this year we're going to do it again, and hope that you can join us.

This year the Annual Pathway Walk will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2005. Registration begins at Leslie E. Tassel Park at 8:00 a.m., with the walk starting at 9:00 a.m. We've charted family friendly routes of varying distances for all to enjoy. Additional information, registration and pledge sheets can be picked up at the township offices or printed off the website www.pathwaywalk.com.



Cascade Charter Township

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