



# Cascade Connections

Summer 2003

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

## 4th of July

# CASCADE CELEBRATION!

It's time again for the Annual Cascade Township July 4th Celebration, and

## EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Begin the celebration with a spectacular fireworks show on Thursday, July 3rd, at Forest Hills Central High School. Continue the festivities on Friday, July 4th, by watching the parade with antique cars, fire trucks, and floats.

(Check the article on page 2 to enter your own float.)

Following the parade, there will be FREE rides, games, and activities for kids of all ages. Join the celebration right in your own community!

SCHEDULE  
OF  
CELEBRATION  
EVENTS IN  
THIS ISSUE!

## JULY 4TH CELEBRATION GRAND MARSHALS



Presiding over the festivities of our July 4th celebration will be Grand Marshals William Sr. and Dorothy Bos.

Bill Sr. was born and raised at 1674 Spaulding in Cascade Township, making him a lifelong resident since 1922. His father purchased the Bos Farm in 1913 and constructed the first greenhouse in 1919.

In 1931, the farmhouse that Bill Sr., his parents and 10 brothers and sisters were living in burned to the ground. The house was rebuilt at its current location on Spaulding Avenue.

Bill Sr. and Dorothy will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary this September. They raised two children, Bill Jr. and Victoria (deceased) on the farm as well as three foster children, Debbie, Laurie and Cheryl.

Thank you Bill Sr. and Dorothy for your lifelong dedication to the Cascade community.

# Cascade

## ANNUAL 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY FLOAT CONTEST

What an exciting time for Cascade families - for local companies working together - local churches looking for outreach - it's the annual Cascade 4th of July FLOAT CONTEST!

In 1998 the Vredevoogd family of Cascade was sitting around talking about their memories of the 4th of July. The discussion followed about how they loved a parade, especially the Cascade Parade which went up and down Cascade Road when the children were very small. The kids (Brett, Leah, Joel, Jesi, and Jon) decided to build a float to enter in the parade that year. It was a water raft built around Brett's golf cart and they all had a great time building the float and driving it with everyone stuffed in along the parade route. This first float and the fun everyone had with it really inspired the family to challenge their Mom - Pat Vredevoogd - to do "something" to encourage more floats in the Parade. The next year, Pat from AJS Realty, sponsored the 4th of July Float Contest and the Vredevoogd family has been running the FLOAT CONTEST ever since.



The FLOAT CONTEST has two categories - Family and Neighborhood Floats are in one category and Churches, Businesses and other Organizations are the second category. The parade has inspired many new neighborhoods to join together to build a float. It has encouraged Churches to use their floats as an outreach tool and it has inspired just plain FUN for the friends and neighbors who attend the parade.

You're probably wondering - just what do I get if I win this contest? The winners in each category win a trophy to keep plus get to put the "Winner" banner on their float during the parade. In addition, their photo is on a plaque in the Township Offices for the following year.

Once again, Pat Vredevoogd, is sponsoring the FLOAT CONTEST. No sign ups are necessary - just show up at the Parade Staging area (parking lot of the Forest Hills Administration Building at the corner of Cascade Road and Burton Street) by 9:00 a.m. on the morning of the 4th of July and get in line. Sign up on site and judges, Carl and Irene Kerekes, will take a look at your masterpieces.

**Everyone loves a Parade!**

**Let's make it great with  
loads of new Floats!**



Cascade Township Electrical Inspector Tom Boersma and son Ryan, members of the West Michigan Walleye Club, will participate in the prestigious Cabela's Invitational fishing tournament in Kansas on June 6th and 7th. Reel 'em in Tom!!



# Connections

## PHONE NUMBERS

As many of you have noticed, the Cascade Township phone numbers were omitted from the 2003 Ameritech phone directory.

For your reference we will print department phone numbers in each newsletter this year.

**TOWNSHIP OFFICE. . . . . 949-1500**

**ASSESSING. . . . . 949-6176**

**BUILDING PERMITS . . . . . 949-3765**

**CLERK . . . . . 949-1508**

**FIRE . . . . . 949-1320**

**MANAGER . . . . . 949-1500**

**PLANNING . . . . . 949-0224**

**TREASURER. . . . . 949-6944**

**KENT CO. SHERIFF. . . . . 632-6188**

**LIBRARY . . . . . 647-3830**

## HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION...

*Check your tax bill*

Summer 2003 tax bills will be mailed the first week of July. Check immediately to be sure you have received the homestead exemption. If you have a 100% exemption, the tax amount on the "School Operating" line will be a "-0-".

If you purchased a new home or one that was previously a non-homestead property, you must have owned and occupied it as your primary residence on or before May 1, 2003, to receive the exemption on your 2003 tax bills. If you have purchased a piece of vacant land that is contiguous to your homestead, the vacant parcel is also eligible for the homestead exemption.

If you qualify for the exemption and it is not reflected on your summer tax bill, call the Assessing Department at 949-6176 before July 14th so the correction can be made. If you do not receive a tax statement during July, please call the Treasurer's Office at 949-6944.

## SUMMER 2003 TAX BILL CHANGES

Public Act 244 of 2002 requires the State Education Tax (SET) be wholly collected on the summer tax bill. For 2003 only, the SET millage rate will be 5 mills, reduced from the normal 6 mills collected in prior years. Taxpayers will receive a one-year savings on the SET as compensation for the collection timing change. After 2003, the SET millage rate will be returned to the usual 6 mills. The SET millage will no longer be collected on the winter tax bill as it has in the past.

Summer deferments are still available to certain individuals with disabilities, full-time farmers, and lower income seniors who can defer the payment of summer taxes with no penalty until the winter bill is due. Deferment forms are filed yearly with the treasurer's office. The deadline to receive a deferral is September 15th for 2003. More detailed information on this program will be mailed with your summer tax bill during the first week of July.



## BEAR SCOUTS HELP TOWNSHIP WITH A "GARLIC MUSTARD PULL"

On May 13, 2003, 10 members of Den 4 of Bear Scout Pack 3364, their den leaders and some of their younger brothers and sisters participated in a "Garlic Mustard Pull" at Leslie E. Tassell Park. The scouts wanted to do a project that would benefit the community and help the environment. The Garlic Mustard Pull seemed like a perfect opportunity for the scouts to work outside on a sunny spring day and help remove an invasive non-native plant that is threatening our area woodlands.



Garlic Mustard is a cool season biennial herb in the mustard family with stalked, triangular to heart shaped, coarsely toothed leaves that give off an odor of garlic when crushed. First-year plants appear as a rosette of green leaves close to the ground. These rosettes remain green through the winter and develop into mature flowering plants in the spring. Flowering plants of Garlic Mustard reach from 2 to 3 1/2 feet in height and produce button-like clusters of small white flowers each with four petals in the shape of a cross.

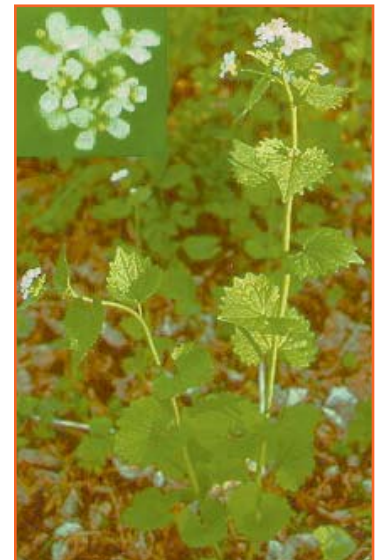
Garlic Mustard poses a severe threat to native plants and animals in forest communities. Many native wildflowers that complete their life cycles in the springtime (e.g., springbeauty, wild ginger, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, hepatica, toothworts, and trilliums) occur in the same habitat as Garlic Mustard. Garlic Mustard is simply more aggressive and takes over these wildflower communities.

The scouts learned that the best way to remove Garlic Mustard is to remove the plant when the soil is moist by grasping the plant firmly and tugging it slowly and gently until the main root loosens from the soil and the entire plant pulls out. The scouts removed enough Garlic Mustard to make a pile 3 feet high by 5 feet in length. Buildings and Grounds Director Darrin McSorley and Gardener Gabriel Vlasma then placed the pile of Garlic Mustard in plastic bags to kill it. Eventually the invasive plants were disposed of in a manner so that plant seeds could not spread into the environment.

The Township Buildings and Grounds Department would like to thank the scouts of Den 4 in Bear Pack 3364 and their leader Gary Cook for their fine work in the community.

If you would like more information about Garlic Mustard, here are a few web-sites: [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm)  
[www.invasiveplants.net/plants/garlicmustard.htm](http://www.invasiveplants.net/plants/garlicmustard.htm)  
[dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/LANDS/Weeds/GarMust.htm](http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/LANDS/Weeds/GarMust.htm)

Note: A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Esther Groninger, a MSU Extension Master Gardener who first raised awareness of Garlic Mustard to Township Staff.



## TOWNSHIP CONDUCTS PROGRAM TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF WEST NILE VIRUS

With warmer weather ahead many residents are beginning to ask questions about what their local government is doing to curb the spread of West Nile Virus (WNV). Over the past three months Township officials have learned quite a lot about WNV and the Culex mosquito that spreads this potentially life-threatening virus.

After the Memorial Day holiday weekend, the Buildings and Grounds Department placed chemical briquettes into the 1,990 public catch basins in the roadways to kill the Culex mosquito larva. A larvicide program was chosen as the most cost effective and efficient means to break the breeding cycle. This larvicide, called "Altosid" is supposed to be effective for 150 days. This 150-day period will cover the entire mosquito breeding season for 2003.

Altosid is a trade name for a chemical called Methoprene. Methoprene is an insect growth regulator used to control many types of insects. It has also been used for many years as a pesticide in the processing of foods like meat, milk, eggs, mushrooms, peanuts, rice, and cereals.

A larvicide program will only be 40 percent effective in curbing WNV in the community. Residents will need to be vigilant in taking care of shallow stagnant water on their property. The Culex mosquito breeds in stagnate, stinky water. Storm water retention ponds do not pose a problem because their water is usually moving and deeper than what the Culex prefers.

The following measures are recommended to reduce the mosquito population on your property and in your neighborhood.

- Reduce or eliminate standing water in or on:
  - Birdbaths and flower pots (remove water every 3-4 days)
  - Buckets and other containers
  - Water gardens and fountains (keep the water moving)
  - Tires and cans
  - Clogged rain gutters
  - Barrels and uncovered trash containers
  - Tarps, plastic and pool covers, wading pools and unused pools
  - Wheel barrows
  - Low spots in yard
- Keep grass cut at regular intervals
- Keep shrubbery well trimmed
- Let the sun shine on your yard
- Remind your neighbors to eliminate breeding sites on their property

Remember to report dead or dying birds to the Kent County Health Department at (616) 336-3030. Do not touch the birds or any dead animal with your bare hands. Use gloves or an inside-out plastic bag to pick the animal up to put in the trash.

There are many varieties and brands of repellents currently on the market, but studies have shown that only those containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) are effective for the typical periods of time a person could be exposed to biting mosquitos.

Two recent articles, one in the May 2003 issue of Consumer Reports and another in the New England Journal of Medicine (2002, Vol 347, pg.13) indicate that non-DEET based repellents, such as those based upon botanical derivatives, were simply not sufficiently effective to be recommended as reliable protection from mosquito borne diseases. A recently available geranium oil-based repellent was not specifically tested, however the aforementioned studies include tests of products that contain some geranium oil, and it is unlikely that this product provides the same degree and duration of effectiveness as DEET-based repellents. Other commonly available products include soybean oil, citronella oil and garlic. The New England Journal of Medicine article also pointed out that wristband versions of repellents were the least effective of any repellent tested.

If you would like more information on Altosid or the West Nile Virus, visit our web site at [www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com) or the following sites.

#### Altosid Sites:

<http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/html/wnv/wnvfaq6.html>  
[http://www.jamestownnd.com/vectorcontrol/altosid\\_chemical\\_label.htm](http://www.jamestownnd.com/vectorcontrol/altosid_chemical_label.htm)

#### West Nile Virus Sites:

<http://www.accesskent.com/health>  
<http://www.cdc.gov/westnile>



# SUMMER FUN AT THE LIBRARY!

## **PUT YOUR PET IN PICTURES PHOTO CONTEST**

Put your pet in pictures for the Kent District Library 2004 calendar. Take a picture of your pet with library materials and it could be featured for an entire month next year. Pick up contest rules and registration forms at any KDL branch beginning June 16th. Winners will be announced in August. Calendars go on sale this fall. Proceeds from the calendar sales will benefit the Alliance of Friends to fund library programs.

## **SUMMER READING CLUB**

Laugh it up at your Library and sign up for summer reading club. Reach your goal and receive great prizes. Families are encouraged to read together and win prizes through the "Parents as Reading Partners" club. For kids going into grade 5 and younger. Sponsored by WOOD TV-8 and Meijer.

## **TEEN SUMMER READING RAFFLE**

The more you read, the better your chance of winning! For every 4 books you read, you can enter your name in a drawing for some great prizes like a \$50 gift certificate to the mall or an HP Pocket PC. For teens going into grades 6-12.

## **PARTY IN THE PARK Thursday, July 10th      12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

It's a party and you're invited. Join WOOD TV-8's Maranda for an afternoon of fun, games, and prizes. All ages are welcome. The party will be held at Fifth Third Ballpark, 4500 West River Drive NE, Comstock Park.



Publication Notes.....  
2865 Thornhills Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
(616) 949-1500  
[www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com)

#### Township Board

Michael Julien, Supervisor  
Mickie Kleinheksel, Clerk  
Mary Carpenter, Treasurer  
Robert Timmons, Trustee  
Sandra Frost Parrish, Trustee  
Richard Jones, Trustee  
Ronald Goodyke, Trustee

#### Zoning Board of Appeals

Claude Robinson  
Jack Lewis  
Rob Beahan  
Barbara Wilson  
Robert Timmons  
Mel Casey  
Christopher Estes

#### Planning Commission

Eric Richards  
John Nuereberg  
Tom McDonald  
Lorissa MacAllister  
Jim Koessel  
Jack Lewis  
Fred Goldberg  
Melissa Erickson  
Richard Jones

#### Community Foundation

Mary Carpenter  
Michael Julien  
Jack Lewis  
Sandra Frost Parrish  
Claude Robinson  
Susan Roeder  
Pat Vredevoogd

#### Board of Review

Paul Schurr  
Bruce Poppen  
Barb Manus-Averill

Editor: Jeanie Neve

## CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECKS

Cascade Fire Department now offers car seat safety checks for residents of Cascade Township. Firefighter Kreigh Deering attended a week long training class in the fall of 2002 to become certified. The safety checks will take place at the Fire Department at 2865 Thornhills SE. If you are interested in having your child's car seat checked, please contact the Fire Department at 949-1320 to schedule an appointment.

## REMEMBER YOUR HELMET

Now that the school year is winding down and nice weather is upon us, kids everywhere are getting those bicycles out of the garage. When they do, please remember that Cascade Township has an ordinance regarding the use of bicycle helmets by persons aged 14 years and under. The ordinance specifically states that "No person aged fourteen (14) years or under shall operate or be a passenger on a bicycle on a public roadway, sidewalk, or public bicycle path unless at all times when the person is so engaged he or she wears a protective bicycle helmet of good fit fastened securely upon the head with the straps of the helmet."

If a person aged fourteen (14) or under is seen operating a bicycle without a protective helmet, a Kent County Sheriff's Deputy or designated Township Employee must report the person's name to the Township Manager. The Manager will write a letter to the person's parents or legal guardian. This violation is a civil infraction and is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$50.

Please be safe and wear a helmet. The Township is looking at possible options to provide helmets at a low cost to residents who may need them. If you are interested in this program, please contact Sandra Otey at 949-1500 or e-mail at [sotey@cascadetwp.com](mailto:sotey@cascadetwp.com).

## SURVIVING SOLICITORS

Cascade Township has an ordinance requiring solicitors be licensed. Any person who travels from house to house attempting to take orders for the sale of goods or to collect monies for charitable organizations must obtain a license from Cascade Township. This license requires the solicitor to wear a picture identification badge, signed by the Township Manager, on his or her person in full view.

If you encounter a solicitor who is not wearing a name badge, please call the Township Office (949-1500) or the Kent County Sheriff's Department (336-3113) immediately. If a licensed solicitor causes you any problems, please report this to the Township.

As always, report any suspicious person to the Kent County Sheriff's Department. Neighborhood children selling goods for school are not required to be licensed.





## **SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE**

Dear Fellow Cascade Citizens:

Important issues continue in our growing community. I wanted to give you the Township Supervisor's perspective on several.

### **DEDICATED FUNDS-PROTECTING YOUR TAX DOLLARS**

Since 1988 your community's government has used separate funds dedicated for a specific purpose. In last year's fire department millage ballot question, there was confusion and misunderstanding regarding these funds.

We have five such funds today — fire, police, water and sewer, library, and pathways. Four of these funds have a voter-approved tax millage dedicated solely to the specified use. The fifth, for public water and sewer, relies on business and residential connection fees for its revenue.

In 2002 your Township Board asked you to approve an increase in the fire fund millage to build a new main fire station and to support operation of our Fire Department. The millage was narrowly defeated. Opponents of the 2002 fire millage request urged use of the pathways, police, library, and water/sewer funds for the fire department, rather than additional dedicated fire millage.

Use of dedicated funds for any other purpose is illegal according to state law. The voter-approved and voter-directed specific and narrow use of these funds must be respected under the law. Of course, this requirement has been, and will be, respected by your Township Board.

Is use of dedicated funds good public policy? Does it meet the "is this good government" test that your Township Board applies to all that we do? I think so. The 1980s Township Board knew that citizens are suspicious of tax increases and rightly concerned about changed priorities of future township boards. So, when they asked us for tax increases in 1988 to fund police and fire protection, they set it up so that our tax dollars from these new millages could only be spent for police and fire protection. I think that this "tying the hands" of the board then, now, and in the future to spend the tax dollars on only the voter-approved purpose is good public policy. It meets the "good government test" in my opinion. We used the same approach for the new library millage and pathway millage in the 1990s.

### **"NEW CAMELBACK BRIDGE" AND THORNAPPLE RIVER DRIVE PATHWAY**

The Kent County Road Commission has informed us that the existing Thornapple River bridge will be replaced in 2004. As part of this project, this new (2-lane) bridge will also use the distinctive "camelback" style. Landscaping on the rebuilt causeway will also result. Further, we will partner with the Road Commission to build our long-awaited pedestrian pathway across the Thornapple.





*Message continued.....*

This "New Camelback Bridge" will cost the Road Commission more than constructing a standard bridge. I am very pleased the Road Commission plans to make this additional investment in our community to preserve the look and feel of the Camelback Bridge. The input of the many citizens who offered opinions and advice to the Road Commission on this issue was very helpful in achieving this (happy) result.

### **JAMES VELTING AND KV INVESTMENTS LAWSUIT STATUS**

In 1999 our Township government was sued by James Velting and KV Investments, alleging some \$7 million in damages as a result of the Township Board's denial of sand and gravel mining on 48th Street between Whitneyville and Little Harbor Drive. The primary basis of the Township Board's decision was the very serious consequences caused by the heavy sand and gravel truck traffic that would have resulted from this mine. Further, the situation was exacerbated by the necessity of the sand trucks to travel through a one-lane railroad viaduct angled to the road at the bottom of a very steep hill and then over an antiquated narrow bridge.

Settlement negotiations with James Velting and KV Investments were unsuccessful. They no longer want to mine the property. Rather, they want money. So, this past October the trial was held in Kent County Circuit Court before Judge George Buth.

Judge Buth has not yet issued his decision. We have been advised by our counsel that the Township has a strong legal position, although no outcome can be predicted with absolute certainty. We also have insurance. Nevertheless, the size of the alleged damages requires me to keep you informed of the status of this case.

### **PUBLIC WATER AND SEWER - SETTING A PRIORITY**

For more than a decade, your community's government has constructed as many public water and sewer line extensions as could be afforded by our Water and Sewer Improvement Revolving Fund. As a result, today in Cascade more new houses are built with public water and/or public sewer than are built with only private wells or septic systems.

However, available water and sewer line projects have exceeded our community's financial capability to pay for all of them. So, your Township Board has set a new priority for use of the available funds. The Township will increase focus on extending public water lines and reduce focus on new sewer lines. While both are important, it was our judgment that safe and reliable public water service is the more valued service by our citizens.

Of course, neighborhoods and individual streets can continue to request special assessment districts for either public water or sewer service. The focus on public water line extensions does not remove this opportunity.

On behalf of my colleagues, thank you for your interest in our community's government. We welcome your input and thank you for your support.

Have a safe and fun-filled summer.  
Michael Julien





# July 4th Celebration

Come Help Us Celebrate!!!  
Schedule of Events

Date/Time	Event	Location
Thursday, July 3rd	Fireworks begin at Dusk	Forest Hills Central High School
Friday, July 4th		
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.	Friends of the Library Book Sale	Cascade Public Library
9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.	Parade Participants Form	Cascade Rd. and Burton Street (Back Parking Lot of Forest Hills Admin. Building)
9:45 a.m.—10:00 a.m.	Bike Parade Participants Form	Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church
10:00 a.m.	Bike Parade Begins	Cascade Rd. to 28th Street
10:30 a.m.	Main Parade Begins-Antique Cars, Trucks, Floats and more	Cascade Rd. southeast to 28th Street, west up 28th Street to Jacksmith
11:30 a.m.	Street Fair Begins!!! Free Games & Rides for Kids, Food Booths, Animal Petting Zoo, Cold Drinks, Clowns, Music and more!	Thornbook & Jacksmith area (Cascade Library)
12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.	Kids Home Fire Safety Show	28th Street & Jacksmith, at the Safety Trailer
12:30 p.m.	Canoe Race	Tassell Park to Camel Hump Bridge (Please register for Canoe Race at 12:00 at Tassell Park near the Boardwalk)
3:30 p.m.	Closing of the Celebration	

## Special Thanks To The Sponsors Listed Below

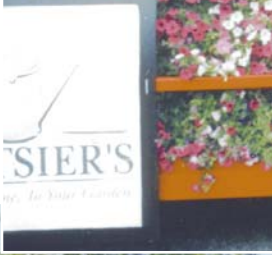
Brann's Steakhouse & Grill  
Buiten, Steensma & Associates  
Cascade Engineering  
Cascade Hospital for Animals  
Cascade Printing & Graphics  
Cascade Firefighters Assoc.  
Chemical Bank West  
Cintas—The Uniform People  
D&W Food Stores

Dickinson, Wright  
Discover Chiropractic  
Emerald Tree  
Falcon Printing  
Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber  
Funny Business  
Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter  
Impact Vehicle Damage Erasure  
Independent Bank

Kingsland True Value  
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Lacks Industries  
Leslie E. Tassell  
Meekhof Lumber  
Meijer  
Nye Uniform Company  
Superior Asphalt  
Thornapple River Nursery

# Connections

## CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE!



Everyone  
loves a Parade!



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY AFGHAN SALE

The Cascade Historical Society will be selling the "Cascade" afghan at the July 4th celebration. Portraying nine original structures of early Cascade, the afghan is loomed cotton measuring approximately 50" x 70". Several colors will be available including blue, green, burgundy, and black. The cost will be \$75. All proceeds will help fund construction of the future History Room in the Cascade Library.

There remains a limited number of copies of the popular Cascade Chronicles, which is a historical collection written in 1987, by Marjorie Wykes and her committee. The cost of this book is \$10.

Support the Cascade Historical Society by your membership which helps preserve the history of our community. Applications will be available at our booth.

Come see us on the 4th of July at our booth located near the Library book sale.

## Cascade Charter Township

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

## Check us out...

Our redeveloped website is up and running!!

Log on at: [www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com)

We're pretty excited about it, so let us know what you think.

## GET INVOLVED!

Cascade Charter Township offers citizens a variety of opportunities to participate in local government operations.

The following is a list of the different boards and commissions with Township citizens serving on them.

Planning Commission  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Parks Committee  
Downtown Development Authority  
Board of Review  
Historical Committee

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please send a letter explaining your interest in that board(s) along with your resume. Send this information to the attention of the Township Supervisor or e-mail the Township Manager's office at [manager@cascadetwp.com](mailto:manager@cascadetwp.com). If you would like to view the meeting schedule for any of the committees, you can access our website at: [www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com).

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