

# CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FROM CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

# Fall 2015

### Office Hours:

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

### Township Board:

#### Supervisor:

Rob Beahan; 949-1500  
[rbeahan@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:rbeahan@cascaadetwp.com)

#### Clerk:

Ron Goodyke; 949-1508  
[rgoodyke@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:rgoodyke@cascaadetwp.com)

#### Treasurer:

Ken Peirce; 949-6944  
[kpeirce@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:kpeirce@cascaadetwp.com)

#### Trustees:

Jim Koessel  
[jkoessel@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:jkoessel@cascaadetwp.com)

Jack Lewis

[jlewis@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:jlewis@cascaadetwp.com)

Fred Goldberg

[fgoldberg@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:fgoldberg@cascaadetwp.com)

Tom McDonald

[tmcdonald@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:tmcdonald@cascaadetwp.com)

### Department Phone Numbers:

#### Manager:

Ben Swayze; 949-1500  
[bswayze@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:bswayze@cascaadetwp.com)

#### Assessing:

Roger McCarty; 949-6176  
[roger@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:roger@cascaadetwp.com)

#### Building Inspections:

Brian Wilson; 949-3765  
[bwilson@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:bwilson@cascaadetwp.com)

### Community Development

Steve Peterson; 949-0224  
[speterson@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:speterson@cascaadetwp.com)

#### Fire:

John Sigg; 949-1320  
[jsigg@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:jsigg@cascaadetwp.com)

### Sheriff/Non-Emergency:

632-6100

## YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM – FALL 2015

Purchase Yard Waste Tags at the reception desk of the Township Offices from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Tags are \$1.00 each. Pick up will be every Monday from October 19 through November 16

- Please have your yard waste near the curb by 6:00 a.m. to assure pick up.
- Place a tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches. (No grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand or rocks please).
- Please use 30 gallon plastic bags or paper yard waste bags.
- Sticks should be no longer than 4 feet in length and branches, logs and stumps are not to exceed 1 inch in diameter.
- Residents 62 years of age and older will receive 20 tags FREE 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 on **October 23-25 and November 13-22.**

For more information, please call (616) 949-1500.

**Note:** 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 pickup list.

## FALL CLEAN UP DAY

Cascade Township is offering a fall clean up day this year in conjunction with Ada Township. The fall clean up day will be held on Saturday, October 3rd from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Kent County Road Commission building at the end of Fase Street in Ada Township. You must be in line no later than 2:30 p.m. to drop items off.

Any resident of Cascade Township (you must show your driver's license) is welcome to bring trash, household items or yard waste. Appliances are welcome, however, the Freon must be removed prior to dropping the appliance off or you may be charged. No household hazard waste products or tires will be accepted. For household hazardous waste and tire disposal, please contact the Kent County Department of Public Works at (616) 336-2570.

In The Image will have a truck at Leonard Field for the collection of household goods and Shred Docs will have a truck available for document shredding.

If you have any questions regarding fall clean up, feel free to contact Steve Peterson (616) 949-0224 or by email at [speterson@cascaadetwp.com](mailto:speterson@cascaadetwp.com).

## CASCADE FIRE DEPT. HALLOWEEN PARTY

Bring your ghosts! Bring your goblins! Cascade Township Fire Department invites you to the annual Halloween party on Saturday, October 31st at Cascade Township Fire Station #1 located at 2865 Thornhills Avenue SE.

The Halloween party at the Fire Department will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. Activities will include clowns, a costume contest with prizes, and a bag of goodies for all the children. Complimentary cider, hot chocolate, coffee and doughnuts will be served. Come early or late, but if you choose to have your costume judged, please be here at 7:30 p.m. for the group judging.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact the Cascade Township Fire Department at (616) 949-1320. Join us for a safe night of Halloween fun at the Fire Station.





FROM THE  
SUPERVISOR  
ROB BEAHAN

## FROM THE SUPERVISOR...

As I'm sure you have noticed, construction projects are underway throughout the Township and especially in the core village area. It's been challenging to say the least with different road and lane closures every few weeks. While the whole project is lengthy, we are able to shorten the total construction time significantly by temporarily re-routing traffic and closing lanes and even streets for a short time.

The end result will be worth it with improved intersections and crosswalks on Cascade Rd at 28th Street and also at Thornapple River Drive. A dedicated right turn lane on Thornapple River Drive at Cascade Road will be in place to help traffic flow. Old 28th Street will end up with a safer intersection at Cascade Road by changing it to more of a ninety degree intersection for better visibility and safety. A mid-block pedestrian crossing will also be completed in the area by the Citgo station and Cascade Barber Shop. While all the road work is going on we have also been working on storm and sewer line issues beneath the road surface.

The museum gardens are also going through changes. Unique benches will be added and the new design will also include an "interactive sound garden" with chimes and bells. All the personalized brick pavers will be relocated in the park upon completion.

Lastly, the traffic signals at the intersections will be replaced and installed on mast arms eliminating some of the overhead wires.

Both commercial and residential construction have also been very active with the area around 28th Street. Existing businesses are remodeling and new ones are moving into the area. Overall, a lot of disruption and inconvenience but the end results will be worth it when all the projects are finished.

## TREASURER'S OFFICE

Summer 2015 property taxes are due by 5:00 p.m. Monday, September 14th, 2015. Our office hours are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The office will be closed Monday, September 7th, 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 Cascade Charter Township web site to help you verify the amount of summer property tax paid or the balance due.

**Please note:** The Township does not accept postmarks as payment dates.

Please visit the web site for tax information at: [cascadetwp.com](http://cascadetwp.com)

- Quick Links (left side of screen)
- Assessing/Bldg/Tax Info
- Enter Parcel No., Address, or Name in search bar
- Click on the parcel number and the tax information tab.

If you have not received your 2015 summer property taxes, call the Treasurer's office at (616) 949-6944. We look forward to assisting you.

Your 2015 Kent County Dog License is also available at the Treasurer's counter.



## TOWNSHIP ISO RATING IMPROVES

This year the Cascade Township Fire Department requested and completed a Public Protection Classification Survey conducted by Insurance Services

Office (ISO). An ISO survey involves the collection and evaluation of information related to the Fire Department's fire suppression capabilities. The information collected, which includes information on water supply reliability, emergency communication systems and fire department equipment and operations, is used to evaluate the department according to a uniform set of criteria developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association. The evaluation of this information results in a rating for the Township, including a rating for properties that are within 5 miles of a responding fire station and within 1000 feet of a public water supply and those properties that are within 5 miles of a responding fire station but beyond 1000 feet of a public water supply.

Cascade Township is proud to announce that our ISO rating for properties located further than 1000 feet from a public water supply has been upgraded to a 5Y classification from what would have previously been a 5X classification. This upgrade in classification is due to many operational improvements that have been made in the fire department over the past several years, including an upgrade in our fire response vehicles, full-time staffing at Station #2 on Buttrick Avenue and several automatic aid agreements that have been executed with neighboring departments. Our other classification remains a 5 at this time, but the department has come within only a few points of a 4 classification. The fire department staff is continuing to meet with ISO representatives to implement a few operational items to help us obtain a 4 classification.

So what does the ISO classification mean for you? Perhaps the biggest benefit is a potential reduction in homeowner insurance rates. The ISO rating plays a very important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. If you do not live on the Township public water supply (and are not within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant) make sure that when it is time to renew your homeowners insurance you let your insurance agent know that there has been an improvement to your ISO classification. We have heard from several residents that they have already seen significant savings!

While the potential homeowners insurance savings to Cascade residents may be the biggest benefit from the improved ISO rating, there are other benefits as well including benchmarking our operations against other departments nationwide and a tool to assist the department in operation planning, budgeting and justification for departmental improvements. We hope that by the end of the year we will have a similar announcement for properties located on the public water system.

## ENERGY CODES

### WHAT CONSUMERS NEED TO KNOW...

The 2009 Michigan Uniform Energy Code (MUEC) is enforced by all authorities having jurisdiction to enforce codes in the entire state. Energy Codes provide minimum requirements for efficient design and construction for new and renovated residential and commercial buildings. They form part of the overall building code that is adopted by the Michigan Single State Construction Code Act. Current building codes require the following insulation values in Kent County:

- R38 Ceiling
- R20 Walls (R13 + 5 continuous is OK)
- .35 u-value for windows
- R10 / R13 for Basement walls
- Mandatory air sealing

### ENERGY CODES ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY...

#### SAVE YOU MONEY

Buying a home is likely the most expensive investment you will ever make. Before you buy, you should think about how much it will cost to run it. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the average U.S. home spends about \$2,125.00 on utility costs per year. Buildings constructed to meet the MUEC use less energy, reduce utility bills, and puts money back into your pockets.

#### PROVIDE QUALITY AND COMFORT

So you found your dream home, but how do you know it's built well? One way to measure quality construction is energy efficiency. Homes and additions that are constructed to meet the MUEC are built with the occupants in mind, which carries over to all facets of construction. Energy-efficient homes are more durable and comfortable, require less heating and cooling, and have fewer drafts and better air quality.

#### REDUCE POLLUTION AND INCREASE RELIABILITY

Most buildings waste energy needlessly, making power plants work harder and putting stress on the electric grid. Buildings that meet the MUEC requirements use energy more efficiently, reduce pollution and help the environment.

#### HELP YOU MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS

Would you buy a gallon of milk without checking the expiration date or a car without checking the miles per gallon? Buying a house shouldn't be any different. Ask your builder about energy efficiency features. Then, check with your local Building Department and make sure it was inspected and approved to be in compliance with the MUEC.



### PLEASE NOTE: CHARLEVOIX DR. – TREE REMOVAL

Cascade Township will be removing approximately 31 dead or dying trees on Charlevoix Dr. between 28th Street and Orchard Vista Drive. Township staff will work with a landscape designer to develop a plan to determine the number and type of trees that should be replaced in this area.

## EAST PRECINCT

Construction season is well under way. Many of us are getting familiar with the sight of orange cones and barrels; however, the Sheriff's Office is still investigating several crashes at construction sites. I have been asked to remind everyone of the penalties associated with crashes and speeding within a construction zone.

Let's start with speeding. A speeding ticket varies based on your speed and the court that the ticket is written in. However, in a construction zone the fine is always more and sometimes doubled. An example would be a ticket for 10 MPH over the speed limit in 63rd District Court costs about \$100. That same violation in a construction zone is \$120.

A crash in a construction zone also has a heavier penalty. If a construction worker is hit by a vehicle the driver could face up to a year in jail. If that worker is injured the driver could face several years in prison.

Yes, construction is annoying and it causes delay and frustration in our commute. However, we need to understand that it's temporary and in most circumstances it can be avoided. If you cannot avoid it, remember that soon it will be much better than what it was prior to the construction.

In the meantime here are some suggestions to get us through the construction zones safely.

- **Slow down** – speed only enhances the risk of a crash. Driving slow also allows us more time to understand where the cones are directing us to go.
- **Leave room between vehicles** – many crashes in construction zones occur when traffic is slowing or stopping and the vehicle cannot slow in time because they were too close to the vehicle ahead of them.
- **Pay attention** – this should go without saying but many times cell phones are a distraction while driving. Put the phone away and focus on driving.
- **Lastly, anticipate being delayed** – if you arrive to your destination early that's great. Leave 10 or 15 minutes earlier than what is typical. If you discover you need more time, leave for your destination at an appropriate time.

These tips will help relieve some stress on your commute during this busy construction season.



Be Safe and Aware,

Deputy Ryan Roe

## A LOOK BACK TO 1963

The Cascade Historical Society has 12 bound copies of the Suburban Life Newspaper for the years 1958-1969. The weekly paper covered news for Cascade, Ada, Eastmont and Lowell. Ellie BruinSlot was the reporter. These volumes provide an informative and entertaining snapshot of life in Cascade. Let's see what was going on in 1963.

The issue generating the most print was the controversy over building a new Kent County Airport in its current location to better serve the growing needs of industries such as furniture manufacturing. In 1963, an outdated airport and a railroad in a junkyard greatly hampered business travel to Grand Rapids. At a time when the downtown was being upgraded and a dual highway system was in development, a modern airport with services such as a good restaurant, motel, gas station and parking facilities was very much needed.

The proposed restaurant stirred up the most dissent. "Service of Liquor At Airport Needed" declared a January headline. A letter to the editor requested "Uphold Majority Opinion on Liquor by the Glass in Cascade, Citizens Say"

On November 6, 1962, the voters of Cascade Township voted a resounding "No!" on the issue, saying that no hard liquor had been sold in the township for 80 years and the community wanted the board to live by the wishes of the majority. Many citizens were also against the proposed annexation of a portion of the airport property by the City of Grand Rapids in order to permit the sale of alcohol at the airport. Rumors flew of forced annexation of the entire airport and surrounding acreage. A letter of protest was sent to the newspaper, signed by 28 residents.

J.C. Veen Jr, President of Kline Manufacturing Company wrote "Now is the time for each of us to look beyond our personal horizons and take such action as is necessary for the best interest of all of Kent County and West Michigan."

In the February 28 issue, Gerrit Baker, Township Supervisor defended annexation to protect the township's interest. He wrote, "After nearly two months of investigation, hearings and deliberation, the township board felt it their duty to release the non-taxable 41 acre parcel of the new airport to Grand Rapids and thereby to retain the balance of the new airport and the taxable industries and occupancies. "It should be understood that transfer of this area to Grand Rapids does not constitute conveyance of title to property. The entire airport still belongs to the citizens of Kent County."

"Cascade looks UP! Airport Opens Saturday" announced a November headline. The new Kent County Airport opened with much fanfare on November 23, 1963. The new terminal building was up and running. The 130-foot control tower housed the Federal Aviation Agency facilities and air traffic control. The building also had a passenger service wing, offices and an observation lounge. It had been five years since Leigh Fisher, head of the consulting firm, had proposed the first plans. The completion of the restaurant,

motel, service station and parking facilities would take another six months. The formal opening was planned for June 1964, which included a full scale air fair. The U.S. Navy "Chuting Stars," stunt planes and the Blue Angels performed.

A Constitutional Convention referred to as the "Con-Con" was held in April 1963. A March headline asks, "How Much Do You Want to Pay in Taxes?" Citizens for Sound Government urged a "No" vote. In April Michigan voters approved Proposal 1 by a sound majority.

A brief article advised taxpayers to take their income tax refunds in the form of U.S. Savings Bonds.

In January, the Debonaire Dress Shop advertised a "2 for" dress sale. New dresses were selling \$6 each or 2 for \$11. Carey's at W. Main in Lowell, advertised a set of double sheets for \$5.54. A dozen Birdseye diapers were on sale for \$1.67.

Hank and Gus at the Thornapple TV and Appliance Center, 2840 Thornapple River Dr. invited the public to a color TV demonstration on Saturday afternoon. Watch Sports International in COLOR!

On February 23, Forest Hills High School welcomed the All Star Bands of Greater Michigan for a concert in the gym. That month, "Walk Like a Man" by the Four Seasons was Number 1 on the Top Pops Chart.

In Michigan the office of Notary Public was strictly a man's job. Women weren't allowed to hold that office.

Governor George Romney wrote a letter to the 105 graduates of Forest Hills High School advising, "My favorite success formula is going to apply just as well to tomorrow's world as it has to today's and yesterday's. Search diligently, pray always, and be believing and remember that 90% of the time, luck is when preparation meets opportunity."

In July, Ada mail carriers issued Zip Code cards to residents.

On November 22, 1963 President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. All U.S flags were ordered to be lowered to half-staff until December 22. Do you remember where you were when you heard the news?

The Cascade Historical Society hopes you have enjoyed this quick look back in time to 1963. If you enjoy history, have some knowledge or expertise to share, please join us on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Township Museum at 2839 Thornapple River Drive near Cascade Road. You can also contact us at [cascadehistory@cascadetwp.com](mailto:cascadehistory@cascadetwp.com).

## BOOKLOVER'S BONANZA

### Used Book Sale

#### The Cascade Township Branch of the Kent District Library

The Friends of the Cascade Library are sponsoring a Fall Used Book Sale

- Saturday, November 7, 2015, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Sunday, November 8, 2015, from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

### The Friends Members-Only Preview Sale

- 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 7
- Join at the door for only \$10, seniors \$5

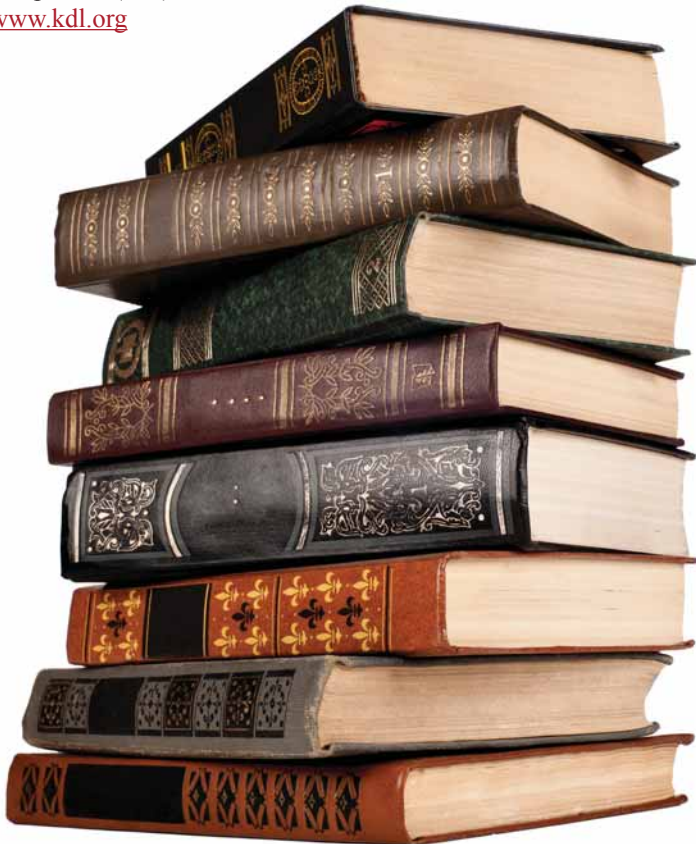
Adult hardcover books are \$1, paperbacks \$.50 or buy a bag for only \$10. Further reductions on Sunday

You will find over 8,000 adult and children's books sorted into many categories of fiction and non-fiction, as well as hundreds of specially priced collectible & rare books and other surprises such as music cd's, LP's, & sheet music.

Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted. All proceeds of the sale support the Cascade Library

#### Location:

Cascade Township Branch of the Kent District Library  
2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Telephone: (616) 784-2007  
[www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org)



## FOREST HILLS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Membership to the FHBA is open to all entities interested in the Forest Hills area businesses and community. Membership runs from January through December and is priced at \$150. 2015 memberships are available now! Call (616) 676-9774 for more information or visit: [www.fhba.org](http://www.fhba.org).

Upcoming events are highlighted below:

### September 10, 2015 –

Topic: Supporting economic growth in West Michigan

Speaker: Bing Goei, Owner of Eastern Floral,  
Director of The Office for New Americans

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Noto's Old World Italian Dining, 6600 28th Street SE  
Sponsor: FHBA, Ada Business Association, and March of Dimes

### October 8, 2015 –

Topic: Networking Event!!

Location: Sentinel Pointe Retirement Community,  
2900 Thornhills Avenue SE

Sponsor: Kumon Learning Center of Cascade

### November 12, 2015 –

Topic: Grand Rapids Drive Basketball

Speaker: Steve Jbara, G.R. Drive Owner

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Cascade Library Wisner Center (to be confirmed)  
Sponsor: Consumers Credit Union

### December 10, 2015 –

Holiday Party!!

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Noto's Old World Italian Dining, 6600  
28th Street SE

Sponsor: Forest Hills Business Association

Stay tuned for more great events in 2016!!



**FOREST HILLS**  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



## CASCADE RECREATION PARK

The Township Board has recently approved some improvements for Cascade Recreation Park. These improvements include:

- A fenced in dog area
- Parking
- Basketball courts
- Handicapped accessible entrance from Forest Valley Drive.

As a result of these improvements we will also be redesigning the disc golf course. These projects are scheduled to begin the last week of August and be completed by mid-November. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (616) 949-0224.

**Steve Peterson**  
*Community Development Director*



**KDL** Information.  
Kent District Library Ideas.  
*Excitement!*

**As of August 15, 2015, Kent District Library branches are no longer participating in battery recycling due to a change in Kent County's recycling procedures.**

Regular (Alkaline) batteries are safe to put in your trash at home.

Rechargeable and lithium batteries can be recycled at the following stores:

**Home Depot   Best Buy   Lowes   Sears**

For more information, visit the Call2Recycle website at: [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org)



## JULY 4TH, 2015

It was a beautiful day in Cascade for our parade and celebration. All those attending were able to enjoy the parade with its many different participants and afterwards enjoyed another great celebration.

As always, the day started with the Friends of the Library Book Sale at our Township library. The bike parade started the day with many boys and girls riding their bikes up Cascade Road to 28th Street. After they were done, the parade followed with the motorcycles from the Kent County Sheriff's Department, then Uncle Sam and the Boy Scouts carrying the flag. There were floats, cars, trucks, bands and other businesses that participated in the parade.

For the last several years, Pat Vredevoogd Combs sponsors the event and supplies trophies for the best two floats in our parade. Pat purchases the trophies with her own money and has always been a supporter of our event. Thank you Pat for your many years of support to Cascade Township.

After the parade was finished, the celebration started on the grounds by the library and Noto's restaurant. We were able to have many fun rides and inflatables for kids to enjoy throughout the day. This year we had many rides and fun for all that attended. There was food, music and a steady stream of water from Caledonia Fire Department's ladder truck to keep all attending cool during the day.

This event takes many hours of planning to make it a success. It starts many months prior to the event. This cannot be completed without all of the help from so many people - from Cascade Christian Church helping set up tables and chairs the night prior to the event, staff from the Township Board, Fire Department and Building and Grounds working all day of the event to make it enjoyable for those attending the celebration.

I would like to thank all that attended the event, businesses that donated money, businesses that were at the celebration and Funny Business Agency for rides and time spent helping with the event. I would also like to thank all Township Board Members, Building and Grounds, Fire Department and Township staff for all of the hours spent prior to and during the event. Your work and support was appreciated and made the celebration a huge success.

If anyone would like to help, has a suggestion or comments for next year's celebration, please call me at (616) 949-1320 or e-mail me at [jsigg@cascadetwp.com](mailto:jsigg@cascadetwp.com).

## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR JULY 4TH 2015 CELEBRATION SPONSORS

Lacks Enterprises, Inc.	Emerald Meadows	Goldfish Swim School
Friends of the Cascade Library	Dewitt Packaging Corp.	Kingsland Ace Hardware
Cascade Hospital for Animals	Flexfab	The Goddard School
Thornapple River Nursery	Quality Air	Cascade Fellowship Church
Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber	esmiles	Osaka Sushi and Steakhouse
Betten Imports	R-Athletics	Oriental Martial Arts Center
McClure Metals	Cascade Business Center LLC	Cascade Art Gallery
Family Friends and Veterinary Hospital	United Bank	MVP Sportsplex-GR, LLC
Recycling Concepts of West MI.	True Textiles Inc.	Forge Industrial Staffing
Fox Powersports	Pepsi-Grand Rapids	Cascade Car Wash
First Wok	Cascade Barber Shop	Country Fresh
Meijer	Ken Carey	Cascade Automotive
Menards Water Conditioning	D&W Fresh Market	Supervisor Rob Beahan



**Cascade Charter Township**

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[www.cascadetwp.com](http://www.cascadetwp.com)

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS MI  
PERMIT No. 1

**PATHWAY NEWS...**

Periodically, just to break the monotony, Kathy and I will target in on something that has been discarded along Cascade Road and make a contest out of who can find the most of that particular item. On one occasion it was empty cigarette packs. On another trash adventure it was empty chewing tobacco tins. You have no idea how many people chew tobacco. Blue surgical gloves were the prize find on yet another trash run. I sure hope those gloves are used for other things besides surgery or medical procedures. Yuck! That's probably not a complete sentence, but I think you get the picture.

This go round we have honed in on those artificially flavored and colored sugar water beverages referred to as power aids. You all know what they are. Pardon my rant. Has anyone ever finished a bottle of these beverages? They're not something I would want to ingest, but apparently they do work. They give the consumer just enough power to hurl the two-thirds full bottle out of their car window and give us something to pick up.

I hope you all had and are continuing to have a wonderful summer. Thanks to all of you that help keep our trails and roads looking good. Remember **KEEP CASCADE BEAUTIFUL!**

*Kris Taylor  
Pathway Coordinator*

