

CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from Cascade Charter Township • Summer 2019



4th
of July!

- + Pool Safety
- + Summer Taxes
- + Metro Cruise Warm Up
- + KDL News + Events

NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR



Summer is in full swing with the Cascade Fourth of July festivities, which represent so much of what is great about our area.

As far back as I can remember, there has been a celebration in the village honoring our nation's independence. As our community has grown, so has our holiday celebration. The whole event has evolved into something both current and former residents look forward to, with many families coming together to take part. The traditional book sale, bike parade, regular parade, carnival rides, food booths, music and activities, capped off by a fireworks finale, all make the day special and unique. It's a wonderful opportunity for everyone in Cascade and the surrounding communities to come together and enjoy each other and celebrate our national heritage.

The amount of effort to put the event together is amazing, with so much of it done by a great number of volunteers: individuals, families and Cascade Township staff. Without their help, the Fourth of July festivities would not be the success they have become. A sincere expression of gratitude is extended to all who help in any form.

I hope that you are able to enjoy Cascade's July 4th Celebration with your family, friends and neighbors and also take part in the numerous other activities in the Cascade area throughout the coming summer months.



Township Contacts

Office Hours

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

Supervisor

Rob Beahan; 949.1500
rbeahan@cascadetwp.com

Clerk

Sue Slater; 949.1508
sslater@cascadetwp.com

Treasurer

Ken Peirce; 949.6944
kpeirce@cascadetwp.com

Trustees

Jim Koessel
jkoessel@cascadetwp.com
Jack Lewis
jlewis@cascadetwp.com
Tom McDonald
tmcdonald@cascadetwp.com
John Shipley
jshipley@cascadetwp.com

Manager

Ben Swayze; 949.1500
bswayze@cascadetwp.com

Assessing

Roger McCarty; 949.6176
roger@cascadetwp.com

Building Inspections

Brian Wilson; 949.3765
bwilson@cascadetwp.com

Community Development

Steve Peterson; 949.0224
speterson@cascadetwp.com

Fire

Adam Magers; 949.1320
amagers@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff/Non-Emergency

632.6100

cascadetwp.com





FROM THE **CLERK**

Proposal 3 – How it Affects Voting Policies

Sue Slater

In 2018, Michigan passed Proposal 3, which added several voting policies to the Michigan Constitution. This proposal is intended to make it easier for voters to register and cast ballots on Election Day. These new policies include straight-ticket voting, automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration and no-reason absentee voting.

Please note the following changes to the typical schedule related to Proposal 3:

- Last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is 15 days prior to the election
- In-person registration with local clerk with proof of residency is 14 days prior to the election through 8 p.m. on Election Day
- The last day a voter may obtain an absentee ballot via first class mail is 5 p.m. the Friday prior to election day
- The time frame to obtain an emergency absentee ballot begins at 5 p.m. the Friday prior to Election Day through 4 p.m. on Election Day
- Election Day registrants may apply and vote an absentee ballot in person when registering at the clerk's office.

To find out more information about Proposal 3 and how it affects your voting, please contact us by emailing sslater@cascadetwp.com or calling 616.949.1508.

Cascade Township Senior Luncheon

Tuesday, Aug 13. • 12 p.m.

Cascade Library • 2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

Relax in the company of friends at the Cascade Township Library's Wisner Center. Enjoy a picnic lunch prepared by Carole's Catering and musical entertainment following. This free event, sponsored by Cascade Township, is a great opportunity for our senior citizens to enjoy some music, food and fellowship.

Lunch at noon with a musical performance following. The menu includes croissant sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, fresh fruit, coffee and dessert.

Reservations required. Please call Forest Hills Community Services at 616.493.8950 or visit enjoylearning.com.



Cascade Metro Cruise Warm Up

Aug. 22 • 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

This family-friendly event offers lots of show cars, kids' activities, food trucks, music and more! The event will take place at Cascade Road and 28th Street, between United Bank and the Fowling Warehouse, 6797 Cascade Road SE

More information at cascadetwp.com

From the **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Cascade Historical Society is making exciting changes to help generate additional interest in the rich history of Cascade Township.

Cascade Township, like many communities, has its own unique past. Our overriding goal is to learn and preserve the Township's history – the good, the bad, the obvious and the nuanced.

We are going to open the museum to the public more often. The museum will be open on July 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Aug. 11 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Next time you visit the museum, you will notice some things are a bit different. We are going to concentrate more on the Cascade community – exhibiting more pictures and text about our Township's past. We will display historical photographs of Cascade from our collection and are looking for more.

You can help the Cascade Historical Society if you have:

- Photographs of the lumber yard, which was later a dance studio on Cascade Road
- Photographs of the original Ben's Tavern or the Sample Shop
- Photographs from the gravel pits, either the one on Cascade Road or the one on Burton Street near Kraft Avenue
- Photographs of businesses, centennial homes or farms on 28th Street, Cascade Road or any other street in Cascade
- Personal or handed-down stories about you or your family

Sometimes, people don't want to surrender a family's treasured photograph – and that is fine with us. We'll have the photograph or text authenticated, professionally reproduced and safely returned to you at no charge.



Projects we are hoping to put together are the history of Forest Hills Schools, the Kent County International Airport and the settlement called McCord's, among others. Early pictures and stories of these entities while in their infancy would be greatly welcomed.

One of our most ambitious efforts will be learning the history of the "first peoples" of this area. What did Rix Robinson and other settlers find when they first arrived?

Pictured are a couple of special photographs from our collection. The first is of Nellie and Charles Holt – rare at the time for its intimacy. The other is a footbridge over Thornapple River near the Holt homestead.

For more information about the museum and how to contribute stories and photographs, please visit cascadetwp.com

SUMMER TAXES INFO

Summer 2019 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed July 1. Summer taxes are due and payable on July 1 and may be paid without any penalty or interest charge as late as Sept. 16, 2019.

If you do not receive a tax statement during July, check the Township's website or call the treasurer's office at 616.949.6944. 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 seven days to ensure timely delivery, especially for the bank bill pay-generated payments. Cascade Charter Township does not accept postmarks as proof of timeliness. All payments must be received in our office by 5 p.m. on the date the payments are due.

The summer tax deferral allows qualifying taxpayers to pay summer taxes after they receive a property tax credit refund from the State of Michigan. To qualify for this deferral, 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.

Deferral application forms are available in the treasurer's office through Sept. 16. The deferral 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. Postal Service. The treasurer's office is not responsible for postal deliveries; taxes are due whether a statement is received by the taxpayer or not.

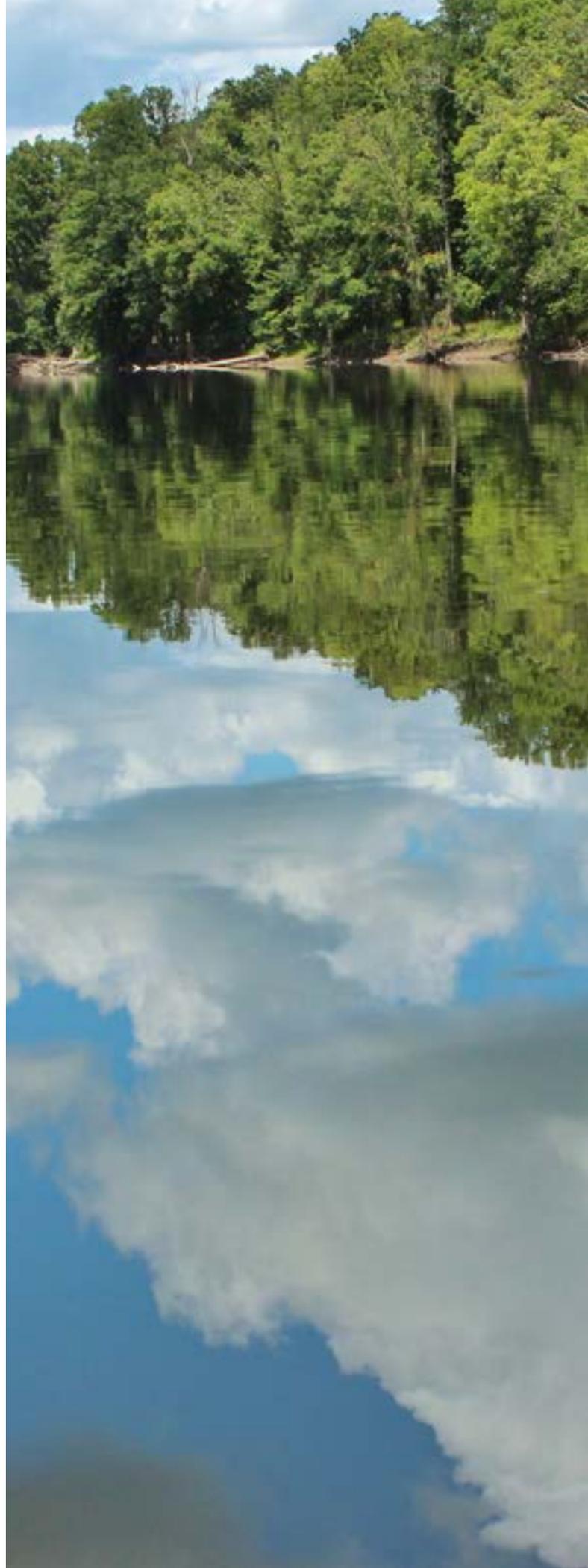
An online tax payment option is available for Cascade residents. Residents may pay their bill right out of their checking or savings account. Unlike credit card payments, which charge a convenience fee, this option is free to the taxpayers.

Please follow the link on our website to make a payment.

Check your property tax status 24/7 using the link on the Township's website: www.cascadetwp.com.

1. Click on "Property/Parcel Lookup" under "Quick Links"
2. Enter the parcel number, address or name in the "Search Municipal Records By" bar on the top of the page
3. Click on the selected parcel and the "Tax Information" tab

Have a safe summer.





4th of July!

Time to Celebrate

The bike parade will kick off the celebration at 10 a.m.! Decorate anything that moves: bikes, wagons, strollers, scooters and more, and meet us at the Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church.

The famous community parade starts at 10:30 a.m. and includes vehicles, floats, fire trucks and a community march. The parade route will start at Cascade Road and Burton and end at 28th and Thornhills.

Please note roads will be closed for these events from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m. Roads affected include Cascade Road (from Burton Street to Thornapple River Drive), 28th Street (from Cascade to Thornhills) and all of Old 28th Street.

Family fun will then kick off at 11:30 a.m. with games, carnival rides, and music by the band Trilogy. Be sure to check out the huge book sale hosted by the Friends of the Cascade Library, happening 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Participants:

- Bike parade staging location: Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church (6655 Cascade Rd. SE), 8:30 a.m.
- Floats, vehicles, community parade march staging location: Thornapple Covenant Church (6595 Cascade Rd. SE), 8:30 a.m.

If you are participating in the bike parade and are 14 years of age or younger, you must wear a bike helmet, per Cascade Township ordinance.

Finally, join us at dusk as we celebrate Independence Day with a bang! Fireworks will be held on July 4 at Ada Christian School, 6206 Ada Dr. SE.

July 4 Parade Float Contest

Be creative! Streamers, balloons, flags, crepe paper, ribbons and anything else festive.

Cascade will once again hold its float contest, challenging families, neighborhoods, churches and businesses to come up with a unique and fun float for the July 4th Celebration.

The contest is sponsored again by Pat Vredevoogd Combs of Coldwell Banker AJS Schmidt Realty.

This year, the float contest will have two categories:

1. Family and neighborhood floats
2. Churches, businesses and other organizations

Meet us at 8:30 a.m. at the Thornapple Covenant Church (6595 Cascade Rd. SE) for judging based on spirit and creativity. No sign-ups are necessary.

Winners in each category will win a trophy and get to put the "winner" banner on their float during the parade.

Please note participants may only have one float or vehicle per entity, organization or neighborhood. Additionally, candy throwing from floats and vehicles is not allowed. Anything handed out must be done by walkers.

Fireworks Reminder

If you plan to set off fireworks, please be aware of any veterans living near you who may be sensitive to the noise.

We encourage you to reach out to neighbors if you plan to light fireworks so they can be aware of your plans. Many young children and pets also react negatively to fireworks displays. Finally, please be conscious of creating fire hazards for your neighbors and of the Township noise ordinance.

Cascade Township JULY 4th CELEBRATION

July 4, 2019



Book Sale • 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cascade Township Library Parking Lot, 2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

Parade • 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Bike parade starts at 10:00 a.m. from the Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church
Parade begins immediately following the bike parade from the Thornapple Covenant Church
Route starts at Cascade & Burton and ends at 28th & Thornhills

Games, Rides & Music • 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Cascade Township Library Parking Lot, 2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

Dual Zipline • Bumper Cars • Giant Inflatables • Petting Zoo • Face Painting • Much More!
Music by Trilogy

Fireworks • Dusk

Ada Christian School, 6206 Ada Dr SE

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

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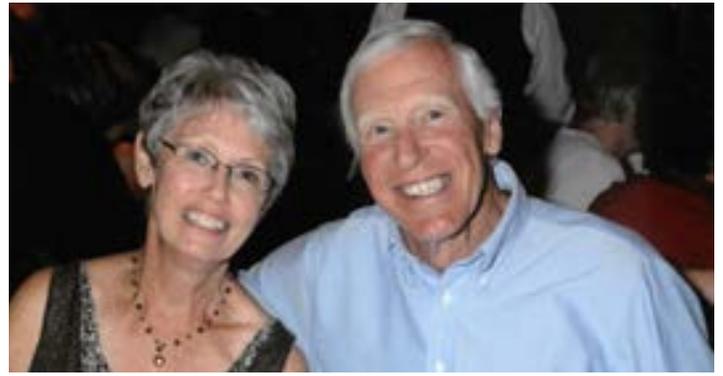
Meet the 2019 Grand Marshal

RON GOODYKE

Ron Goodyke's story began in the 1940s growing up in Holland, where he attended Holland High School and spent summers working on blueberry farms. As someone who always enjoyed helping others, Goodyke decided to attend Calvin College with his eyes set on becoming a French teacher.

Just before Goodyke's senior year, he married his wife, Sherry, and the newlyweds moved to an apartment near campus while he earned a bachelor's degree in French. In 1964, they were presented an opportunity to rent a cottage on Campau Lake where they instantly fell in love with the kindness showed by residents in the Cascade area. Goodyke was then hired as a French teacher at Forest Hills Central High School where he began his career improving the lives of others.

Goodyke was invited to join the Cascade planning commission in 1990 after giving a presentation about a new development that was being proposed in his neighborhood. The commission admired his tenacity and



willingness to do what was best for the community and he accepted the position. When an opening on the Township Board was created in 1996, Goodyke won the election and continued his journey improving the community. During this time, he was an instrumental part of the development of the Cascade Library and the Wisner Center, the Patterson Ice Arena, the airport expansion and other new growth in the surrounding industrial and residential areas.

When the Township clerk announced their retirement in 2004, Goodyke was encouraged to run. Goodyke made the difficult decision to leave his teaching career to begin his new full-time government role. He was elected in 2004 and served until 2016.

Not only did Goodyke give back to the community through teaching and government work, but also through involvement with local camps. Goodyke spent 12 summers at Camp Henry where he eventually became a director.

As a retiree, Goodyke enjoys traveling around the world and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Be sure to wave hello to this year's grand marshal during the July 4th Celebration!



It is a true honor to be chosen as the grand marshal for this year's Fourth of July parade. It is something I accept with pride and joy.



a note from

Deputy Toonstra

Greetings from the Kent County Sheriff's Office. As the temperature increases, so does our call volume. Unfortunately, crime tends to be a little more prevalent in the warmer months.

As a department, it is imperative that we continue to improve the ways we gather and distribute information. After certain crimes occur, it is important the KCSO provides information related to these crimes to citizens in the area. This helps you with situational awareness and often provides tips

that assist in solving these crimes.

With that being said, I want to take this opportunity to share the launch of the KCSO's new mobile app. The KCSO mobile app, available on Apple and Android smartphones, allows for a direct line of communication between Cascade residents and the Sheriff's Office, specifically me.

By downloading the app and selecting either the East Precinct Business Watch or the East Precinct Neighborhood Watch (or both), you will receive immediate notifications when crime trends are happening in your neighborhood or business area.



Kent conservation district launches

INVASIVES ACTION KENT

Oriental bittersweet is referred to as the “Kudzu Of The North.” It is a fast growing, highly destructive invasive vine that forms dense, curtain-like mono-cultures that quickly smothers landscaping and native plants. It can bring down mature healthy oaks by sheer weight.

Areas of heavy infestation exist in Cascade and Ada Townships. Oriental bittersweet is now a growing presence in western Lowell Township with outliers cropping up in adjoining areas.

The Kent Conservation District has launched an initiative to address this invasive species. The Invasives Action Kent Oriental Bittersweet Initiative is working to engage residents and alert them to the invasive threats and what can be done.

These notifications can include suspect descriptions, vehicle descriptions, modes of operation and times of day or night when events are happening. The app will only send you notifications for the area you select, so you won't receive any information you didn't sign up for. It is also completely free.

The app has many other handy features such as a traffic monitoring button, which alerts you to any accidents or road closures in real time. The Sheriff's Corner provides updates on all the latest events and news surrounding Sheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young. I strongly encourage everyone to download this app – I believe it is going to be a great tool for law enforcement and citizens alike.

Oriental Bittersweet Initiative

Invasives Action Kent will inform, educate, demonstrate, train, organize and coordinate individuals and neighborhoods on how to “self-treat.” If you'd rather have others do the necessary treatment, we can provide guidance on how to proceed.

The Kent Conservation District Strike Team can be contracted to provide treatment. Currently, KCD is training commercial service providers in order to increase capacity. Whether you decide to self-treat or not, the best coverage and, consequently, impact will be obtained by organizing neighborhoods or other groupings of property owners.

You can help by:

- Speaking with your friends and neighbors about the problem and sharing this information with them.
- Keeping us informed. Let us know what street and block you are on, which will allow us to plot the presence of Oriental bittersweet and the progress in bringing it under control. This vine competes with native plants and will spread rapidly because its seeds remain viable for up to two weeks in the digestive tract of birds.
- Joining our mailing list. To keep informed, ask for an invitation to invasivesactionkent.slack.com. Slack is a more effective way to get out important information, provide necessary resources and organize communications. On Slack, you can “pin” information for easy access, such as self-treatment guidelines and necessary forms for treatment by others. As an added benefit, Slack can disallow disclosure of your contact information should that be your preference.
- Volunteering. If you want to participate more fully, you can choose to volunteer as much or as little as you care to in any of a number of roles.

The website InvasivesActionKent.org is currently under construction. When it is complete, it will serve as a portal to link property owners to the resources and services of both KCD and area providers of supplies and services.



news from **KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY**

SUMMER READING

The most exciting time at the Cascade Township branch of Kent District Library begins on June 2 when summer reading kicks off.

Come visit the library after June 2 to pick up your summer reading log or go online to record your books at kdl.readsquared.com. Babies, kids and teens will receive a book after completing the program, while adults will receive a beach blanket. Everyone who completes summer reading will be entered into the drawing for a grand prize.

SUMMER EVENTS

TAP YOUR TOES WITH THE PORTERS

Thursday, June 13 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Come swing and dance to the toe-tappin' sounds of The Porters! This wonderful troupe will captivate and entertain even the youngest audience.

BANGARANG CIRCUS

Thursday, June 27 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Bangarang Circus will wow with circus-style entertainment ranging from aerial arts to hula hooping, acrobatics and more!

BUJO WITH MO: USING A BULLET JOURNAL

Tuesday, July 16 • 6 to 9 p.m.

Learn the basics of using a bullet journal to achieve goals and organize your daily, monthly and yearly tasks. Tackle your to-do lists with confidence. All supplies provided.

For more information about events at the Kent District Library, please visit KDL.org.





SPLASH INTO **SUMMER**

Keep these pool rules in mind for a safe summer.

Summer means pool season – and pools mean fun in the sun with family and friends. Homeowners have an obligation under Michigan law to ensure they comply with regulations designed to ensure a safe experience for all.

In-ground, aboveground and portable swimming pools, as well as hot tubs, must comply with the 2015 Michigan Residential Code. The code is designed to provide protection to children through the use of barriers.

Barriers are not childproof, but they provide layers of protection for a child who strays from supervision. Use the following recommendations as a guide:

Fences and 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.

The fence or other barrier should be at least four 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 four 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 1.75 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 that produce an audible sound when a door is unexpectedly opened. In many cases, grade floor windows must also have alarms.

Install an alarm that meets UL 2017 standards and 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.

Aboveground 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. Cascade inspection services 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.





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cascadetwp.com



2019 Spring Grant Announcement

The Cascade Community Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the spring 2019 grant cycle:

- Cascade Charter Township was awarded \$1,500 for the Fourth of July parade and fireworks celebration.
- Cascade Metro Cruise Warm Up was awarded \$2,000 for the 2019 event.
- Kent District Library was awarded \$5,000 for the Sunday Afternoon Live Program.
- Mary Free Bed YMCA was awarded \$3,629 for its Summer Engagement Series.

Organizations awarded grants were required to have a focus on community benefits, community enhancement and/or community activities and entertainment.

The Cascade Community Foundation is proud of the contributions grants make in Cascade and its ability to positively impact so many lives.

For more information about the Cascade Community Foundation, please visit cascadecommunityfoundation.com.