

CASCADE CONNECTIONS

A newsletter from Cascade Charter Township • Summer 2023



July 4th Celebration

- + The Power of Parks
- + Summer Wonder at KDL
- + History of Cascade Dam

NEWS FROM THE SUPERVISOR

GRACE LESPERANCE



First, *thank you* to all the residents who have volunteered to serve on Township boards and commissions and to the many residents who have shared their thoughts, ideas and suggestions at Township Board meetings or to myself and trustees individually. This collaborative effort is shaping important initiatives in the Cascade community and helping to ensure Cascade's unique character is maintained and enhanced.

This summer will be busy – let me share with you the status of several current projects being completed with existing funds:

PATHWAY, LIBRARY & PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Repairs to approximately 5 miles of existing pathway along Cascade Road and Buttrick Avenue are underway and scheduled to be completed soon.
- Reconstruction of the pedestrian portion of the bridge over the Thornapple River on both sides of Cascade Road has been approved. Construction is slated to begin in early 2024.
- Installation of outdoor gardens and activity space around the KDL – Cascade Township Branch will begin in the coming weeks.
- The new position of Parks

and Recreation director was established, and Ms. Melanie Manion was hired for this role. Her first task is to work with the Building and Grounds team to spruce up our parks and recreational facilities. Her appointment highlights a new and vigorous commitment to enhancing both the quality and opportunities for parks, recreation, green spaces and resource protection.

FIRE STATION 1

Construction of Fire Station 1 – long identified by residents as a top priority – is on schedule and within budget.

The new fire station *does not* require an additional millage or tax burden. The project is funded by monies set aside for the past 15 years and bonds paid for fully with state revenue-sharing increases.

Fire Chief Adam Magers and his crew helped cut costs without compromising quality by successfully securing a FEMA grant, partnering with local businesses like Steelcase to acquire heavily discounted office furniture, auctioning old equipment and building some of the amenities themselves.

PFAS REMEDIATION

THANK YOU to the residents impacted by PFAS and the remediation effort for your patience and participation as this challenging and disruptive issue is addressed. This has been a difficult, extended and often frustrating process involving complicated legal issues, multiple funding sources and coordination with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and

Energy, City of Grand Rapids, Kent County and Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

Extension of municipal water to the 400-plus properties impacted by PFAS is underway and on schedule. Residents near the Burger-Greenwood intersection can expect to be connected to municipal water before the end of 2023, with the remaining homes beginning to connect in 2024. This project is funded entirely by state and federal sources and the Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

These projects are all part of our larger effort to preserve and enhance Cascade's unique character, including managing the inevitable growth pressures with proactive zoning and land-use tools, conserving green spaces and natural areas, enhancing and creating recreation infrastructure and providing for public safety.

CELEBRATING THE FOURTH OF JULY

Finally, we hope you join us as we once again gather as a community to celebrate our country's independence on July 4, my favorite Cascade tradition. Find all the details on page 10.

Reminder: It is sometimes hard in the midst of busy schedules to contact Township officers during normal business hours. To make it a bit easier, I have scheduled after-hours business hours on the first Thursday of each month, during the summer, from 6-7 p.m. at the KDL – Cascade Township Branch, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE. As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Grace Lesperance, Supervisor

Township Contacts

Township Hall Office Hours

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

Supervisor

Grace Lesperance; 949.1500
glesperance@cascadetwp.com

Clerk

Sue Slater; 949.1508
sslater@cascadetwp.com

Treasurer

Windy Korstange; 949.6944
wkorstange@cascadetwp.com

Trustees

Jim Koessel
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Tom McDonald
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Timmy Noordhoek
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John Shipley
jshipley@cascadetwp.com

Manager

Currently unfilled

Assessing

Jennifer Genter; 949.6176
jgenter@cascadetwp.com

Building Inspections

Brian Wilson; 949.3765
bwilson@cascadetwp.com
Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Community Development

Brian Hilbrands; 949.0224
bhilbrands@cascadetwp.com

Fire

Adam Magers; 949.1320
amagers@cascadetwp.com

Parks and Recreation

Melanie Manion; 949.0224
mmanion@cascadetwp.com

Sheriff/Non-Emergency Dispatch

336.3113

Community Policing Officers

Omar Dieppa; 632.6435
omar.dieppa@kentcountymi.gov
Kate Chase; 430.7811
katherine.chase@kentcountymi.gov

Welcome, Treasurer Korstange

It's our pleasure to introduce our new Cascade Township treasurer: Windy Korstange.



With over 16 years of leadership experience in the highly regulated health care industry, Treasurer Korstange brings extensive financial and managerial experience to the Cascade team. Her background includes developing and overseeing annual operational and capital budgets; establishing accounting and financial control processes; and performing financial reporting.

An active member of the community, Treasurer Korstange recently served on the Planning Commission and the Parks Committee. She also volunteered her time on various Township subcommittees, including the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee.

Treasurer Korstange and her family have lived in Cascade for 17 years. She and her husband chose to raise their four children in Cascade because of its natural beauty, the Thornapple River, safety, schools, parks and trails, and proximity to amenities. As treasurer, she is committed to helping preserve all the characteristics that help make Cascade so special while providing more financial oversight and transparency to residents.

"I appreciate the work of this current Board of Trustees and past boards, which have contributed to making Cascade Township the wonderful community that it is," Treasurer Korstange said. "I value cooperation, teamwork and collegiality – assets that will guide me working with residents, trustees and staff."

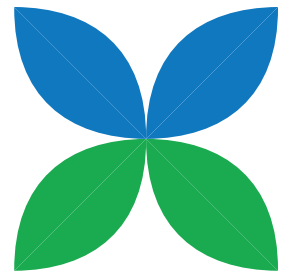
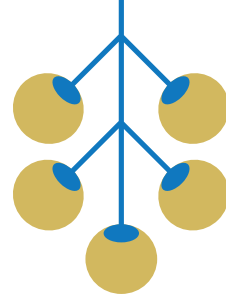
We are delighted to welcome Treasurer Korstange to the Cascade team!



July 4th information
begins on page 10.



The Power of Parks



MELANIE MANION, PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

Did you know parks are often viewed as a peripheral service within a community? When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and park employees were defined as essential workers, the critical role of parks within our communities was solidified.

Public lands could no longer be an afterthought on the fringes of community development. Parks became a vital resource for resiliency.

Fortunately, Cascade Township has a great parks system. Here are few of the ways your parks have been and are currently working for you:

ECONOMIC BENEFITS – Local Park and Recreation programs contributed **\$218 billion** in U.S. economic activity in 2019. From creating jobs to supporting recreational equipment sales, parks positively contribute to the local

and regional economy. Additionally, studies have shown home values are higher near parkland.

HEALTH BENEFITS – A Huron-Clinton Metroparks study found the average health care costs for an adult who did physical activity within their parks was \$1,250 compared to \$2,500 for those who did not recreate. For this reason, many communities are developing community health programs rooted in the parks system. Because parks are often free or low cost to use, this provides an equitable solution to the mental and physical problems facing our society.

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES – Parkland – especially natural areas – can clean our water, sequester carbon dioxide, support pollinators like monarch butterflies, moderate our temperatures and mitigate flooding. Additionally, parks can be a refuge

for a diversity of plants and animals both big and microscopic. There is growing evidence that a reduction in biodiversity in an area can lead to an increase in infectious disease.

As the new Parks and Recreation director, I look forward to working with our community to bring the Cascade Parks Department to the next level by leveraging all that parks have to offer. Whether you are getting your vitamin D while playing pickleball at Cascade Recreation Park or escaping into the serenity of Peace Park, our parks are here to benefit you. I hope to see you at one of them soon!

Join us **9 a.m.-noon Saturday, July 15** and/or **6-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17** at Burton Park for our eco-stewardship workdays. Visit cascadetwp.com/community/calendar for more information.



New Parks and Recreation Director

This spring, we hired our first Parks and Recreation director, Melanie Manion.

After working 13 years for Ottawa County Parks, Melanie comes equipped to help maintain and improve the

diversity of parks within Cascade Township. Her life's passion is to improve people's quality of life through a connection to the outdoors. For this reason, she previously worked 10 years as an environmental educator at both Chippewa and Blandford Nature centers. Melanie also was the stewardship coordinator for the Land Conservancy of West Michigan.

Melanie has a bachelor's degree in biology and environmental science and a master's degree in conservation biology from Central Michigan University.

She immerses herself in the natural world through hiking, backpack camping, native landscaping, bird-watching, herping (the act of searching for amphibians and/or reptiles) and much more. You may see Melanie at our parks with her two daughters, pulling garlic mustard, planting trees or taking out invasive bittersweet vines. Melanie is excited to work in a community that appreciates parkland.

Please reach out to her with any questions, comments or ideas regarding our parks. Melanie may be reached at mmanion@cascadetwp.com or **616.949.0224, ext. 318**.



DEER STUDY UPDATE

Rob Keys from Cornerstone University recently provided a report on the deer study at Burton Park. The study, conducted in response to park user concerns about deer populations, used cameras to estimate the number of deer passing through the park.

During his presentation, Keys stressed that deer populations are a complex issue, and emphasized study estimates include resident deer and deer that are just passing through the park.

By analyzing trail camera images during pre-rut, rut and post-rut, Keys calculated a snapshot in time of the deer population using the Lincoln-Petersen Index, which helps conservationists estimate population sizes of individual animal species. The results indicated 39 deer – plus or minus 10 – move through the 80-acre park.

For comparison, the University of Michigan-Dearborn environmental study area set a goal of five to 10 deer to maintain ecological health within a 300-acre natural area.

With this first step complete, Cascade Township staff will begin a thoughtful process to address the issue.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO FIGHT THE AUTUMN OLIVE SPREAD AT PEACE PARK

Join Cascade Township staff and the Kent Conservation District Invasive Strike Team for an autumn olive control workday at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 10 at the Bolt entrance to Peace Park, 8610 Bolt Drive SE.



You are welcome to stay for the day or come for a few hours. Ages 16 and above are welcome.

Supplies will be provided along with a short training. You may want to bring a pair of gloves and bug spray. Dress for the weather, but make sure to wear a long-sleeved shirt, pants and closed-toed shoes. You may want to bring a hat. A snack will be provided but bring water.

For questions, email cascadeparks@cascadetwp.com.



Building the Cascade Dam

Three Bushels at a Time

In the mid-1920s, Orval Kilmer was a strapping young man working on the Family Farm on 28th Street. A grandson of pioneers who settled in Cascade in 1864, Kilmer knew how to plow a field, drive a team of horses and fix machinery.

These were exactly the abilities the Michigan Waterpower Company was looking for as it assembled a workforce to build a dam on the Thornapple River. Kilmer and his two work horses were recruited and put on the payroll at \$4.50 a day — good money at the time.

The dams in Cascade and Ada were important projects for the area, symbols of progress and pride. Without the dam's control, spring flooding and ice jams periodically damaged property and took out bridges on the Thornapple River.

In 1923, a flood picked up the bridge on Cascade Road and deposited it on the shore, creating long detours for the area's growing traffic. Meanwhile, the electrification of street lights, businesses and homes had spread from the cities to rural America. Cascade was ready to follow suit with a hydroelectric dam.

To begin building the dam, the river's waters had to be diverted. Kilmer and other recruits drove hundreds of pilings vertically into the riverbed, creating a barrier across a large portion of the river that forced the stream to one side. This made the riverbed accessible for excavation.

The next step was to create a 30-foot-high mound of soil to serve as a dike for the dam. To do this, Kilmer and five other men, each driving a

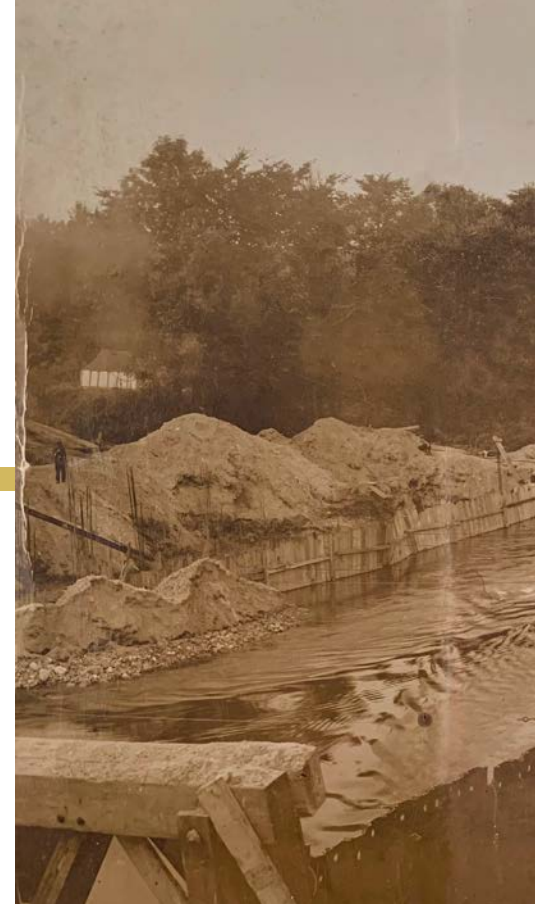
two-horse team, moved seemingly endless loads of dirt from the riverbed to the dike. This was accomplished by horse power alone, without the use of bulldozers or other heavy equipment.

"We had to haul the dirt in what we called 'scrapers,'" Kilmer said in a July 28, 1981, interview with *The Grand Rapids Press*. "Each scraper held about three bushels. It took us all summer long just to build the dike. Some days it was so hot we had to just let the horses stand awhile."

Kilmer continued to work on the dam after the earthen embankments were in place, helping to install the generators and turbines in the power plant and the massive gates that controlled the flow of the water.

As the dam neared completion, the river's water had been diverted to a single 8-foot-by-12-foot opening at the base of the wall of the dam. When this was sealed with concrete slabs, the Thornapple River backed up in the pond behind the dam. The valley filled with water, creating a new landscape and shoreline. Impressive as the new dam was to behold, the grand opening ceremony did not go well. Officials bypassed the automatic controls on the dam gates and opened the gates manually.

"But they opened it too quick," Kilmer told *The Press*. "The force of the water broke a blade off the turbine — it



sounded like it was going to tear the powerhouse down. The blade had to be replaced before they could start it up again. We had to get in the river to drop that turbine down so we could replace the blade. I forgot how much that turbine weighed, but I guess about 5 or 6 tons."

When the dam was completed, Kilmer applied to become its operator. However, Consumers Power Company, which had acquired ownership of the dam, had decided to operate the Cascade facility automatically, with controls at the Ada dam. Kilmer went on to work at General Motors for about eight years and then started his own heating and air conditioning business.

While he remained fascinated by the dam, he figured that part of his life was over. Then, in 1971, after extensive negotiations, Consumers began selling its smaller dams, including Cascade's. Electrical output at these hydroelectric dams often didn't match rising operational costs and Consumers was investing in nuclear reactors as the power source of the future. It sold the dam to the Township for \$1.



Though the dam stopped producing electricity, the water behind it had to be controlled to prevent flooding and erosion. Orval Kilmer, who had just retired, was hired to make sure the floodgates at the Cascade and Ada dams were working properly.

With advancing age, Kilmer stopped working at the dams but continued to “check on them” periodically. He was a strong advocate for re-electrification of the Cascade dam.

“There’s no reason to be burning coal and gas in power plants when they’ve got the water here,” he said.

Township Treasurer Paul Slater was of the same opinion and, under his leadership, the dam went back online in December 1986. Managed by an independent contractor, it continues to produce electricity and is a source of revenue for Cascade Township.

A monument near the dam commemorates the efforts of Slater, who died in 1984. Orval Kilmer lived to see the re-electrification of the dam before his death in 1992 at age 92.



Detail of a 1926 panoramic photo of the Cascade dam during construction. Note the pilings that hold back the river and the mound of soil excavated from the riverbed. Downriver, the Cascade Road bridge is in the distance, and in the far upper right, a large home at Thorncrest and Wycliffe Drive is visible.



Orval Kilmer (left) and his assistant, John DeBoer, checking the dams.



Cascade Historical Society

The Cascade Historical Society meets the first Thursday of each month, except July, at 10 a.m. at the old Township Hall, 2839 Thornapple River Drive SE. Please join us.

“Cascade Chronicles,” our local history book, is available at the Township Office for \$10/copy.

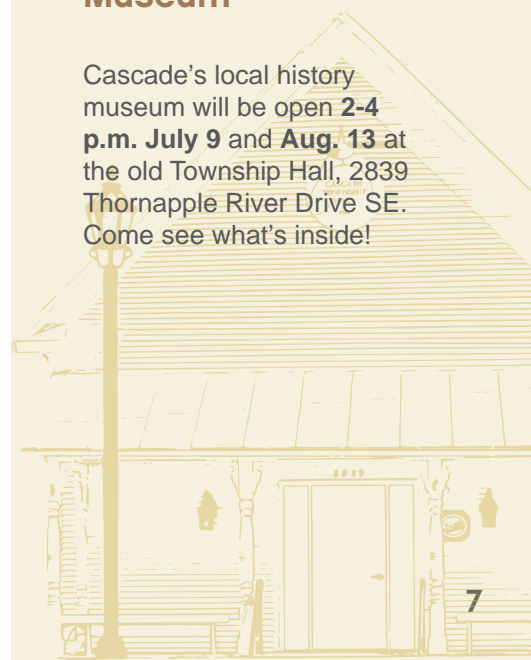
If you have questions, comments, information or photos to share, please email us at cascadehistory@yahoo.com.

Over 5,000 local history records can be searched at accessionary.com. Select Cascade Historical Society and enter your search criteria. This site also offers access to Ada, Cascade and Eastmont Suburban Life newspapers from 1955-68.

For quick access, look for a link on the Cascade Township website – cascadetwp.com – under Community/Historical Society.

An Invitation to visit the Cascade Historical Society Museum

Cascade’s local history museum will be open **2-4 p.m. July 9** and **Aug. 13** at the old Township Hall, 2839 Thornapple River Drive SE. Come see what’s inside!



a summer of Wonder

Summer is here, and that means Kent District Library's Summer Wonder program is back.

This program runs **June 5-Aug. 11** and is designed for readers of all ages. Each participant who completes the program will receive a special prize and an entry into a drawing for one of 40 \$100 Meijer gift cards. Each KDL branch also will give away special prize baskets.

Summer Wonder is more than an annual tradition in the KDL world. Why? Because it is a community reading challenge supplemented with fun programs that are unique to the season.

Summer Wonder is also a chance to help keep learning alive and reduce the chance of summer slide for school-aged children. We know how hard kids work during the school year and want to help sustain and encourage their growth throughout the summer.

A **Magical Creatures Party** with dragons and unicorns will take place 2-3 p.m. Friday, July 21. There will be many other great programs June 5-Aug. 11, including magicians, musicians and more. Join us this summer for lots of fun and learning!

Aug. 4 is the **End of Summer Wonder Bash** at the Cascade Branch to celebrate a summer of learning with fun all-ages activities. To sign up for Summer Wonder, register at kdl.org/summer.

Other exciting news: A new outdoor space is coming soon to the Cascade Township Library. On April 18, KDL Branch Manager Lulu Brown and Native Edge consultant Wes Landon attended the Downtown Development Authority board meeting. During this meeting, the DDA board committed **\$1.07 million** to the outdoor project, covering increased construction costs for phase one

and fully funding the project's remaining phases.

Brown and Landon plan to work closely with the new Parks and Recreation Director Melanie Manion to keep this project on track to break ground this fall, with an anticipated project completion by summer 2024.

Proposed Outdoor Space Layout



1. New 6' Sidewalk
2. Active Lawn Space
3. Paved Seating Area
4. Perennial Garden Spaces
5. Fountain
6. Seat Walls or Curved Benches
7. Rain Garden
8. Expanded Woodland Area
9. Restored and Enhanced Woodland Area
10. Woodland Play Areas
11. Pavilion
12. New Prairie Areas
13. New Retention Area Meadow Planting
14. Wet Meadow Planting
15. Trails
16. Seating Areas
17. Access to Improvement Areas

Get Tickets to Cascade Community Foundation's "Price is Right"

COME ON DOWN! You're invited to CCF's Tributes & Triumphs Awards featuring an all-new theme: The Price is Right.

CCF's Tributes & Triumphs Awards is 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 at the MSA Fieldhouse in Cascade. Experience classic games from the hit game show "The Price is Right," a live Showcase Showdown and plenty

of chances to win fabulous prizes.

CCF will also celebrate five award recipients for their tireless work in community philanthropy, volunteerism and business impact – and the announcement of this year's Joyce & Thomas Wisner grant recipients.

Tickets are \$100 and include a strolling dinner, open bars, a live

auction and paddle raise for your chance to join Contestant's Row as well as live music and more prizes at the afterglow party.

Visit **CCF.Events** to buy tickets or for more information.

Questions? Contact Justin at **Justin@CCF.Events**.

know before you pool

Thinking about adding a swimming pool on your property? The Cascade Township Inspections team has some tips for you to ensure the installation is done correctly and required safety measures are in place so you can enjoy your pool for many years to come.

First, make sure the pool installer is licensed and obtains a permit from the Township's Building Inspections Department so the team can verify all safety items are in place. Also, ask about the barrier and alarm requirements before entering into a contract.

Swimming pools – inground, above

ground and portable – are regulated under the 2015 Michigan Residential Code, which is designed to provide protection to children through the use of barriers. Requirements for barriers – most commonly fences – include height, type, gates and latches. It's best to work directly with a pool installer who is familiar with all of the code requirements. The code also requires alarms on doors and windows of the home that are part of that enclosure.

A newer option for inground pools features an automatic safety cover. This approved device eliminates the need for a fence and alarms. Many new pool installations in

Cascade Township and surrounding communities include an automatic safety cover, so it's common to see a pool without a fence.

For above-ground pools, it's common for the sidewall height to be taller than 48 inches. This serves as a barrier when used with an approved ladder that can be secured when not in use. Before adding a deck around an above-ground pool, make sure the installer is familiar with all the barrier requirements and designs the structure to comply.

For more information, contact the Cascade Township Inspections team at **616.949.3765**.



Summer 2023 Tax Information

Summer 2023 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed July 1. Summer taxes may be paid without penalty or interest charged by Sept. 14.

Please use the return envelope provided with your tax statement. Payments are receipted on the same business day they are received. We recommend you allow seven days to ensure timely delivery, especially for bank bill payments. As a reminder, the Township does not accept postmarks as proof of timeliness. All payments must be received in the Treasurer's Office by **5 p.m. Sept. 14**.

If you do not receive a tax statement during July, check the Township's website – cascadetwp.com – or call the Treasurer's Office at **616.949.6944**.

The Summer Tax Deferment allows qualifying taxpayers to pay summer taxes after they receive a property tax credit refund from the state of Michigan. To qualify for this deferment, your household income must not exceed

\$40,000 and you must be either 62, a paraplegic, quadriplegic, totally disabled, blind, an eligible service person, veteran or widow or widower of a veteran.

Deferment application forms are available in the Treasurer's Office through Sept. 14. The deferment period covers only one year, so you must reapply each year.

Attention, travelers: If you will be away this summer, please call our office and provide an email and/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, and taxes are due whether a statement is received by the taxpayer or not.

Check your property tax status 24/7 at cascadetwp.com by following these steps:

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



Join the July 4th Celebration!

Enter a float, rev up your car, decorate your bike, dress up your pet, promote your business

The 2023 Cascade Township July 4th Celebration is jam-packed with a full day's worth of events to celebrate our nation's founding.

A bike parade will kick off the Cascade Township July 4th Celebration at **10 a.m. Tuesday, July 4**. Decorate anything that moves – bikes, wagons, strollers, scooters and more – and meet us at **8:30 a.m. at Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, 6655 Cascade Road SE**. Bike parade participants 14 and younger must wear a bike helmet per Cascade Township ordinance.

The famous community parade begins immediately following the bike parade and includes vehicles, floats, fire trucks and a community march. The parade route starts at Cascade Road and Burton Street and ends at 28th Street and Thornhills Avenue. Participants are asked to meet at the parade and march staging area at **8:30 a.m. at Thornapple Covenant Church, 6595 Cascade Road SE**.

Portions of the roads along the parade route and all of Old 28th Street will be closed **9:30 a.m.** to approximately 12:30 p.m. These sections are Cascade Road from Burton Street to Thornapple River Drive and 28th Street from Cascade to Thornhills.

Games, carnival rides and music by Trilogy will begin at **11:30 a.m.** Be sure to check out the giant book sale hosted by Friends of the Cascade Library 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be over 20,000 sorted books offered in all categories and at amazing prices worth celebrating, including bag sales and further price reductions beginning at 1 p.m. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Cascade library and additional literacy programs across the KDL system.

Join us at dusk as we celebrate Independence Day with a bang. Watch the fireworks in Ada from any location in downtown Ada or at Legacy Park, 7430 River St. SE.

New Additions This Year

- Keep the kiddos cool at seven splash zones
- Grab a bite to eat from local food trucks

July 4th Parade Float Contest

We will again host a July 4th parade float contest, challenging residents, neighborhoods, faith groups and businesses to come up with unique and fun floats. Get creative and grab streamers, balloons, flags, crepe paper, ribbons and anything else festive.

This year's float contest will offer two categories:

- Families and neighborhoods
- Faith groups, businesses and other organizations

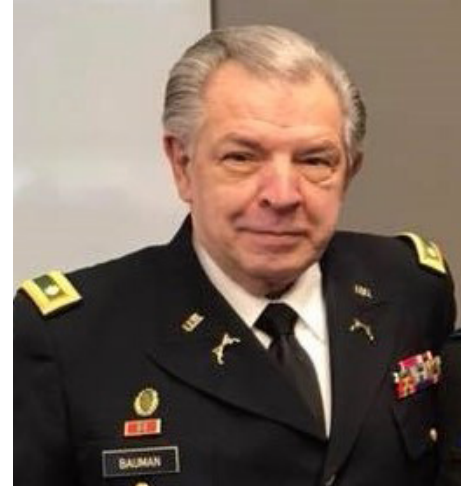
Meet us at **8:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 4 at Thornapple Covenant Church, 6595 Cascade Road SE**, for judging based on spirit and creativity. No sign-ups are necessary. Winners in each category will receive a trophy and get to put the "winner" banner on their float during the parade. Winners will also receive recognition on our Facebook page and in the fall newsletter.

One float or vehicle per family, organization or neighborhood. Please note 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 for the Fourth of July holiday, please inform your neighbors. Military veterans, young children and pets may be negatively impacted by fireworks. Please be conscious of creating fire hazards for your neighbors and of the Township noise ordinance.

Meet the Grand Marshal



Meet **Melvin Bauman**, a dedicated veteran who has spent the past 35 years living in Cascade Township and most of his life in the greater Grand Rapids area, attending Ottawa Hills High School and eventually Grand Rapids Junior College. Retired Lt. Col. Bauman has served the U.S. Army and Department of Defense in many capacities for 58 years and continues to do so today.

Bauman settled down in Cascade with his wife, the late Constance (Campbell) Bauman, and their four children. Today, he has five beautiful grandchildren.

In July 1965, Bauman entered the Army and spent 15 years as an enlisted soldier, eventually ending his enlisted career as a first sergeant commissioned to the rank of captain in October 1980. Though no longer acting as an enlisted soldier, Bauman didn't retire from the Army until April 11, 2005. By that time, he had reached the rank of lieutenant colonel and was widely respected in the community.

During his enlisted and reserve time, Bauman earned numerous commendations, including: meritorious service, Army commendation and Army achievement medals, each with two bronze oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit, Army Superior Unit Award and National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, among many others.

Bauman held various positions during his time with the Army, including as a transition employment coordinator with the U.S. Department of Defense, which was a career highlight for him. Within two years, he was able to help over 1,400 Guard and Reserve soldiers find civilian employment.

Throughout Bauman's civilian life, he earned numerous awards, including the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service, nine certificates of commendation for exceptional civilian service and three Presidential Volunteer Service Awards – two silver and one bronze. He was appointed as a Kentucky colonel and became an

honorary police officer in Southfield, Michigan. When he was named an honorary member of the Southfield, Michigan Police Department Special Emergency Response Team, he had a street named after him: Mel Bauman Boulevard.

Bauman is an active member of Cascade Christian Church, has been a member of the American Legion for 50 years, currently serving as sergeant at arms for American Legion Post 451 in Cascade, and was on the Michigan Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee for 36 years.

Whether as a civilian or enlisted in the military, Bauman has actively worked to make a difference in the lives of veterans. Cascade Township is honored to appoint him as grand marshal for this year's July 4th Celebration parade.

Ada Township 4th of July Celebration!

Join us Tuesday, July 4 for a day full of fun with residents and our neighboring communities. We'll see you there!

- **Pancake breakfast:** 7-9:30 a.m. at Ada Township Fire Department, 6990 Fulton St. E.
- **Parade:** Begins between 9:45 and 10 a.m.
 - » **Kids parade lineup:** 9 a.m. at The Community Church, 7239 Thornapple River Drive SE, parking lot northwest entrance. Enter via Headley Street.
 - » **Main parade lineup:** 9 a.m. on River Street between Thornapple River Drive and Fulton Street and on Headley between Ada Drive and the library. Enter via Fulton and Headley.

- **Classic car show and kids activities:** 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Legacy Park, 7430 River St. SE.
 - » Cars line up along River Street from Thornapple River Drive to the east. Enter via Fulton Street near Ada Fresh Market.
- **Music:** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Legacy Park featuring Hark Up and Voices of Freedom
- **Fireworks at dusk:** Set off from the east end of the Amway property, 7575 Fulton St. E.

To learn more about the Ada Township 4th of July Celebration, visit adamichigan.org/events.

Cascade Township

July 4th Celebration

Giant Book Sale 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Cascade Township Library parking lot, 2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE

Parades 10-11 a.m.

Bike parade starts at 10 a.m. from Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church. Parade begins immediately following the bike parade from 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

- ★ Music by Trilogy
- ★ Bumper Cars
- ★ Giant Inflatables
- ★ Face Painting
- ★ Airbrush Artists
- ★ Trackless Train
- ★ Rock Walls
- ★ Quad Bungee
- ★ Bounce House
- ★ Bungee Darts
- ★ Rings of Pony Rides
- ★ Dixie Twister
- ★ Parachutes
- ★ Bungee Basketball
- ★ Slip 'N Slide
- ★ Much More!



Fireworks Dusk

Viewing available from any location in downtown Ada or at Legacy Park, 7430 River St. SE.

Rocket Sponsors



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Categories:

- ★ Families and neighborhoods
- ★ Faith groups, businesses and other organizations

Winners in each category will receive a trophy and get to put the “winner” banner on their float during the parade. Winners will also receive recognition on the Township’s Facebook page and in its fall newsletter.



Keep the Kiddos Cool at Seven Splash Zones



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Electrical Safety

around swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas

For many of us, water activities equal fun. But it's important to be aware of electrical hazards while enjoying the water. Know how to be safe around swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas.

- If you are putting in a new pool, hot tub, or spa, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations.
- Outdoor receptacles must have covers that keep them dry even when appliances are plugged into them.
- Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are special devices designed to protect against electric shock and electrocution. They are required for most pool, spa, or hot tub equipment. They may be in the form of an outlet or a circuit breaker. Test the GFCIs monthly according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Electrical appliances, equipment, and cords should be kept at least 6 feet away from the water. When possible, use battery operated appliances and equipment, such as televisions, radios, and stereos.
- Avoid handling electrical devices when you are wet.
- Make sure that any overhead lines maintain the proper distance over a pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If unsure, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.
- Do not swim during a thunderstorm.
- Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and—where necessary—replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool, spa, or hot tub electrically safe.
- Have a qualified electrician show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency.

KNOW THE RISKS!

Electrocution is death by an electrical shock. Be aware when skin is wet or when surrounding surfaces, such as the grass or pool deck, are wet. Wet skin or wet surfaces can greatly increase the chance of electrocution when electricity is present.

There are several signs of electrical shock. Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation. They may experience muscle cramps. They may not be able to move. They may feel as if something is holding them in place.

If you think someone in the water is being shocked, turn off all power, but do not attempt to go in the water. Use a fiberglass or other kind of rescue hook that doesn't conduct electricity to help the swimmer. Have someone call **9-1-1**.

If you think you are being shocked while in the water move away from the source of the shock. Get out of the water.

FACT

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has reports of 14 deaths related to electrocutions in swimming pools from 2003 to 2014. Hot tubs and spas may present the same hazard as swimming pools.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to Serving You
616.949.1320

Motor home, camper, and recreational vehicle Safety

Motor homes, campers, and recreational vehicles are used for living and traveling. Each year, fires in them cause deaths, injuries, and millions of dollars in damages. Fires can start in the kitchen. They can start in the engine area. Sometimes the fires are electrical. With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent these fires from happening.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms. Make sure they work.
- Stay in the kitchen while you cook. Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- Only use one heat-producing appliance plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time. Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet.
- Refrigerators, furnaces, ovens and stovetops use propane. Check them for leaks. Keep an updated gas leak detector on board.
- Have your propane system inspected to make sure it still works properly.
- Know two ways out. Make sure windows open easily.
- Have everyone practice the home fire escape plan.
- Do not keep camping heaters and lanterns on while sleeping.
- Before setting up a campfire, make sure it is allowed.
- If campfires are allowed, they need to be at least 25 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Have your vehicle serviced by a qualified mechanic.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher on board. Only adults who know how to operate it should use it. Only use it if the fire is small and can be contained. Make sure everyone else is leaving. Make sure someone is calling the fire department.



Carbon Monoxide Awareness

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. You cannot see it. You cannot taste it. You cannot smell it. CO poisoning can result from leaks in the exhaust. It can happen because of improper use of appliances. Sometimes CO comes from another vehicle. Make sure you have a working CO alarm.

FACT

When the vehicle is used as a structure, the most common area for these fires to start is the kitchen or cooking area. This is followed by the engine area, running gear, or wheel area. Check for safety inside and outside of the vehicle.



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