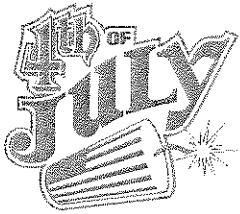


Cascade Connections



CASCADE CELEBRATION!

It's time for the Annual Cascade Township July 4th Celebration! Begin the celebration with a spectacular fireworks show on Monday, July 3rd at Forest Hills Central High School.

Continue the festivities on Tuesday, July 4th by watching the parade with antique cars, fire trucks and floats. Following the parade you can enjoy the street fair, where there will be free rides, games and activities for kids of all ages. Come join in the fun with your community!

Please remember that if you are participating in the 4th of July bike parade and are 14 years and under, you must wear a bike helmet, as per Cascade Township ordinance.

Biography for Ronald J. Biermacher

Date of Birth February 8, 1932



On July 4, 2006 Ron Biermacher and the Cascade Barbershop will be celebrating 48 years of being in business in Cascade Township. Ron purchased the shop in July 1958 and it remains the oldest operating

business in Cascade in its original location. Just two months after purchasing the shop, Ron and his wife Marcia purchased a home in Cascade. This was just the beginning for the young couple that came to love the community that they were so much a part of. In the years that followed Ron and Marcia raised seven children and became an integral part of the community of Cascade.

Ron passed down his entrepreneur knowledge to kids Ron, Amy, Julie, Andy, Liz, Anne and Molly through the side businesses he helped them run at the barbershop. Following in his fathers' footsteps Andy became a barber in 1981 and con-

tinues the family tradition at the Cascade Barbershop today. The Biermacher family remains very close and regular family gatherings include not only Ron's seven children but also 23 grandchildren.

Ron was asked to be part of the Cascade Downtown Development Authority because he was a resident and long-time business owner in the community. He gladly accepted the invitation and served for many years acting as both Treasurer and Secretary at various times during his service. Ron enjoyed participating and watching the community grow through the works of the DDA. During his time with the DDA he saw many improvements in Cascade including paved walking paths, installation of ornamental streetlights in the downtown area, and the development of Tassell Park. Ron enjoyed his years of service because it allowed him to give back to a community that had been so good to him.

In addition to his years of service and business in Cascade, Ron has been an active member of his church. He remains a charter member at St Paul the Apostle Parish in Grand Rapids where he acted as music director and organist for many years. He also played the organ and acted as music director for many years at St. Robert's of New Minster Parish in Ada.

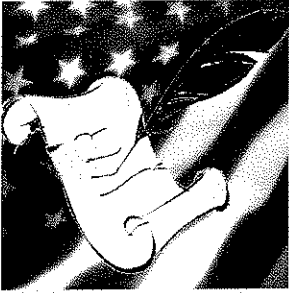
Ron suffered a heartbreaking loss in June of 2002 when Marcia, his wife of 49 years died. Shortly after Marcia's death Ron was forced to retire from the DDA because of health issues.

Ron continues to remain visible in the Cascade area and although he is semi-retired enjoys spending time at the Barbershop a couple of days a week to visit and pass the time with the people of the community he has come to love.



Cascade

What is an American?



Your answer could win you a \$100 savings bond and recognition at the “Let Freedom Ring, a 9/11 Tribute” concert sponsored by the Cascade Community Foundation at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center on September 11, 2006.

Just write an essay of **no more than 1500 words** on what you think it means to be an American.

Duty. Honor. Country. Patriotism. Pride. The Flag. Freedom. Use these ideas to get you started and go from there.

Send your answer to:

The Cascade Community Foundation
6475 28th Street SE
Suite 192
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

All essay participants will receive a certificate of recognition.

- There are two categories of participants.
- Adults and students – grades six through twelve.
- Winners in both categories will receive a \$100 savings bond.
- Type your essay, double-spaced, on one side of white 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper.
- Answer the essay contest question in a well-organized, well-reasoned essay of **no more than 1,500 words**. Points will be deducted from essays exceeding the 1,500-word limit. The word count includes articles (the, and, a) and quotations.
- Number the pages of your essay.
- Include your name, school, address and telephone number on every page of the essay.
- Winners will be announced at the “Let Freedom Ring – a 9/11 Tribute” Concert.

PARADE FLOAT CONTEST

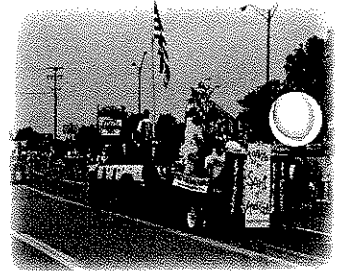
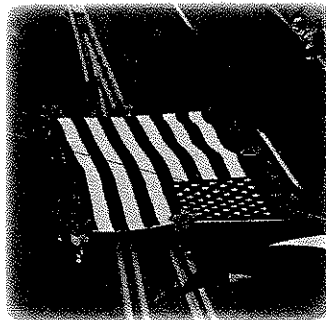
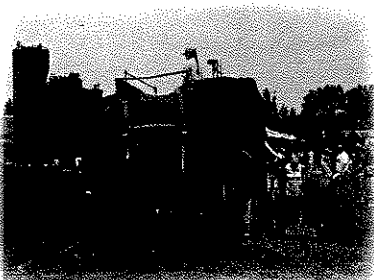
It's time for the families, neighborhoods and businesses of Cascade to get creative as we head toward another 4th of July Parade Float Contest. Put your thinking caps on and come up with a unique and fun float to entertain our Cascade Township residents and many visitors who watch the parade.

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

Prizes!! You are probably wondering – what do I win if I come in first place? The winners in each category win a trophy to keep plus you get to put the “Winner” banner on your float during the parade. In addition, your winning entry photo is on a plaque in the Township offices for the year.

Once again, Pat Vredevoogd of AJS Realty is sponsoring the Float Contest. No sign ups are necessary – just show up at the parade staging area (parking lot of the Forest Hills Administration Building on the corner of Cascade Road and Burton Street) by 8:30 a.m. on the morning of July 4th and get in line.

This is your Township – This is your parade – Let's make it great with loads of new floats!





Connections



From the Assessor's Office...

PRINCIPLE RESIDENCE EXEMPTION ... Check your tax bill

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

If you purchased a new home or one that was previously a non-homestead property, you must have owned and occupied it as your primary residence on or before May 1, 2006 to receive the exemption on your 2006 tax bills. If you have purchased a piece of vacant land that is contiguous to your principle residence, the vacant parcel is also eligible for the principle residence exemption.

If you qualify for the exemption and it is not reflected on your summer tax bill, call the Assessing Department at 949-6176 before July 14, 2006 so the correction can be made before the tax bill is due.

Summer 2006 Tax Information

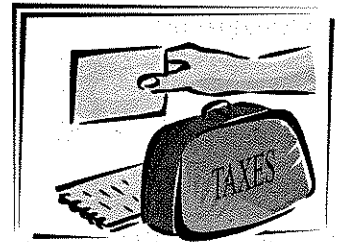
Summer 2006 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed July 1st. Summer taxes are due on or before September 14th, 2006. If you do not receive a tax statement during July, please check the township's website or call the Treasurer's office at 949-6944. The Township is not responsible for delays in the postal system. 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 7 days to ensure timely delivery.

SHIFT IN COLLECTION OF COUNTY OPERATING TAXES!

Reminder: Your annual County operating tax will be collected as follows: In 2006, 2/3 will be collected on the 2006 summer tax and 1/3 on the 2006 winter tax. In 2007, all of the county operating tax will be on the 2007 summer tax. The effect of this change is zero increase to your taxes.

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 \$37,500, 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. Deferment application forms are available in the Treasurer's Office through September 14th. **The deferment period covers only one year, so you must reapply each year.**



You may check property taxes at any time with a link from the Township's website www.cascadetwp.com.

Instructions for link on web site are:

- Departments
- Treasurer's Department
- Tax & Assessing and Building Information
- BS & A "please click here" link
- Current Tax Search
- Click in box marked Parcel Number you may also search by name or street. Click "Search" when criteria entered for your inquiry.
- Click on Parcel Number (This will give you history of the parcel. Click on (+) sign for detail of history.

Cascade

East Trail Network

We are still seeking volunteers for the East Trail Network. Please contact Deputy Coil at 632-6435 if you are interested

Election News

Precinct Location Change

Clerk Ron Goodyke announces a change in location for those voters in **Precinct 4** who vote at the Cascade Christian Church. Those voters will now vote in the Skutt Room at the **Cascade Library's Wisner Center**, located at 2870 Jack-smith S.E. You will enter the Wisner Center door and follow the signs to the Skutt Room. **This is a permanent change for Precinct 4 voters.** New voter cards will be sent to all Precinct 4 voters.

Precinct 6 voters will continue to vote in Centennial Hall at the Cascade Christian Church. Vote August 8
Voter Registration

The last day to register to vote for the primary is July 10, 30 days prior to the August 8 election.

The National Voter Registration Act allows voter registration at any of the following locations:

1. Secretary of State Branch Office
2. Secretary of State "Renewal by Mail" when you renew your driver license
3. Cascade Township Office or the Kent County Office
4. State or federal mail-in registration form
5. Michigan Department of Social Services, which administer benefits for ADFC, Medicaid, and Food Stamp programs. Also county health department offices, which administer benefits for the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC)
6. Armed Forces Recruitment offices
7. Federal Post Card Application procedure. (FPCA)
8. Direct delivery of registration applications by persons associated with voter registration drives. Usually they use the state and federal registration forms developed to

implement the Mail Registration Program

Please be sure you are a registered voter and can participate on August 8.

Cascade Township appreciates the cooperation of community churches and schools that have for many years opened their doors at no cost to serve as polling places. Their willingness to participate gives our citizens a convenient place to vote.

Thank you to the Forest Hills Schools, Thornapple Evangelical Covenant Church, Cascade Christian Church, Thornapple Community Reformed Church, and Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church for their generosity in allowing us the use of their facilities for the May 2, 2006 School Election and the two up-coming elections in August and November of 2006.

East Precinct News

Area Burglar Apprehended by East Precinct Officers.

During the early months of this year, some of our East Precinct residents fell victim to a daytime home burglar actively working the East Precinct Townships. The suspect, later identified as Brian Scott Barnes, had been approaching homes in the area under the scam of doing chimney repairs, when in reality he was checking to see if the homeowner was at home. If the home was unoccupied, Barnes would enter through an unlocked door or

window, and quickly go through the residence, taking anything of value he could carry.

Brian Scott Barnes was apprehended on March 24, 2006, when he was stopped by East Precinct Officers and was found in possession of stolen property from an earlier home invasion from the Ada area. Mr. Barnes was arraigned in 63rd District Court on two counts of home invasions and is currently awaiting his trial.

Like in so many other home invasions, these perpetrators take full advantage of the unsuspecting resident who leave behind an unsecured home with its many valuable items. Most of these indi-

viduals are searching for things to steal quickly, then later re-sell, to maintain their ongoing drug habits. Always remember, when leaving for the day or to just run errands, make sure to lock and secure your residence and garage, prior to leaving.

If someone suspicious should come to your door, make sure to contact the Kent County Sheriffs Department at 632-6100, as soon as possible. If it is an emergency, dial 911.

With your help, we can make a difference,

Lt. Bill Weston

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

TAXES DISBURSED TO:




CALEDONIA SCHOOLS	3,734,151.52
LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS	273,047.49
FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	15,242,217.69
TOTAL COLLECTED SCHOOL MILEAGE	19,249,416.70
GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	2,363,163.92
KENT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT	6,144,823.05
KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY	1,141,181.79
STATE EDUCATION - TO STATE OF MICH	701,672.86
STATE EDUCATION - TO KENT COUNTY	7,796,621.04
KENT COUNTY - OPERATING, JAIL, SENIOR	6,928,293.02
KENT COUNTY - DRAINS	27,493.08
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT	108,353.15
CASCADE TOWNSHIP **	4,603,313.81

SUBTOTAL 2005 TAX LEVY	49,064,332.42
CASCADE TWP ADM FEE AND PENALTY	482,955.82
2005 SUMMER AND WINTER COLLECTION TOTAL	49,547,288.24
2005 SUMMER AND WINTER DELQ	1,388,515.84
2005 SUMMER AND WINTER DELQ ADM FEE	13,897.96
2005 SUMMER AND WINTER DELQ TAX TOTAL	1,402,413.80
2005 SUMMER AND WINTER LEASE	2,532.46
2005 SUMMER AND WINTER LEASE ADM FEE	25.29
2005 SUMMER AND WINTER LEASE TOTAL	2,557.75
TOTAL 2005 TAX LEVY	50,952,259.79

** INCLUDES LEVY FOR CASCADE GENERAL OPERATING, FIRE, POLICE, PATHWAY AND CASCADE LIBRARY.

Connections

July 4th Celebration - Tuesday, July 4th

Date/Time	Event	Location
Monday, July 3rd		
Dusk	Fireworks	Forest Hills Central High School
Tuesday, July 4th		
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.	Friends of the Library Book Sale	Cascade Public Library
8:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m.	Parade Participants Form	Cascade Rd. and Burton St. (Back Parking Lot of Forest Hills Admin. Building)
9:45 a.m.—10:00 a.m.	Bike Parade Participants Form (Please remember to wear your bike helmet)	Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church
10:00 a.m.	Bike Parade Begins	Cascade Rd. to 28th Street
10:30 a.m.	Main Parade Begins—Antique Cars, Trucks, Floats and more	Cascade Rd. Southeast to 28th Street, west up 28th Street to Jacksmith
11:30 a.m.	 Huntington Presents Laura the Elephant A bank invested in people. Street Fair Begins! Free Games & Rides for kids, Food Booths, Clowns & more	Thornbook & Jacksmith area (Cascade Library)
12:00-12:45 p.m.	  Presents music by Trilogy	Stage at Thornbook & Jacksmith area
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Kids Home Fire Safety Show	28th Street & Jacksmith at the Safety Trailer
12:30 p.m.	Canoe Race	Tassell Park to Camelback Bridge (Please register at 12:00 at Tassell Park near the Boardwalk)
12:55 p.m.-1:15 p.m.	Ronald McDonald Magic Show	Stage at Thornbook & Jacksmith area
1:15 p.m.—2:00 p.m.	Music by Trilogy	Stage at Thornbook & Jacksmith area
2:10 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Big Dog Taekwon-Do Demonstrations	Stage at Thornbook & Jacksmith area
2:30 p.m.-3:15 p.m.	Music by Trilogy	Stage at Thornbook & Jacksmith area
3:30 p.m.	Closing of the Celebration	

Special Thanks To The Sponsors Listed Below



Betten Imports
 Brann's Steakhouse & Grill
 Cascade Firefighters Association
 Cascade Hospital for Animals
 Chemical Bank West
 Dickinson, Wright PLLC
 D&W
 Emerald Tree
 Falcon Printing
 Family Fare

First Horizon Home Loans
 Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber
 Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.
 Funny Business
 HME
 Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter
 Huntington Bank
 Impact Vehicle Damage Erasure
 Independent Bank
 Joyce & Tom Wisner in Memory of
 Leslie E. Tassell
 Kingsland True Value
 Koenes Auto Body
 Lake Michigan Credit Union



LaSalle Bank
 Meekhof Lumber
 Meijer
 Nye Uniform Company
 Performance Systematix, Inc.
 Staples
 Superior Asphalt
 United Bank
 Verburg's Automotive



Cascade

36th Street Interchange

As you have probably noticed it is road construction season again. Along with several Kent County Road Commission projects (you can see the complete list of KCRC projects on our website at www.cascadetwp.com/whats_happening), the Michigan Department of Transportation has already started the final stage of the completion of the 36th Street inter-

change. This interchange will connect I-96, using both tunnels and bridges in all directions to 36th Street. This work is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2006.

Along with the road work MDOT officials have indicated they would work with neighbors on replacement tree locations to help minimize visual impacts. The plantings, landscaping and site restoration activities will continue into 2007.

Garlic Mustard Invades Cascade

Many communities in West Michigan, like Cascade Township, are being invaded by a non-native plant called garlic mustard. In fact this plant is virtually along all major roadsides in the community. You may have this plant on your property now without knowing.

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a cool season biennial herb in the mustard family (Brassicaceae) with stalked, triangular to heart-shaped, coarsely toothed leaves that give of an odor of garlic when crushed. Flowering plants of garlic mustard reach from 2 to 3.5 feet in height and produce button-like clusters of small white flowers (see picture), each with four petals in the shape of a cross. By late May, seeds are produced in long, slender pods and become shiny black when mature.

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

Current Management Approaches

Garlic mustard seeds can live for five years or more. Effective management of garlic mustard requires a long-term commitment. The goal is to prevent seed production until the stored seed is exhausted. Hand removal of plants is possible for light infestations and when desirable native species co-occur. Care must be taken to remove the plant with its entire root system because new plants can sprout from root fragments. This is



best achieved while plants are small and the soil is moist, by grasping the base of the plant firmly and tugging slowly and gently until the main root loosens from the soil and the entire plant pulls out. Pulled plants can be left on-site or removed. For larger infestations, flowering stems can be cut at ground level or within several inches of the ground, to pre-

vent seed production. For very heavy infestations, where the risk to desirable plant species is minimal, application of the system herbicide glyphosate (e.g., Roundup) is effective.

Bring Your Garlic Mustard to Us!

Now that you have considered pulling the garlic mustard on your property, you are probably wondering where to dispose of it. The Township will have a dumpster at the Township Administrative Offices for the disposal of bags of garlic mustard only. For every garbage or yard bag of garlic mustard you bring in, we will give you a yard waste bag tag that you can use for a the fall or spring curbside pick up program. The yard waste bag tags will be available during normal business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will need to see the bags before giving you the tags. The dumpster will be behind the building from June 5, 2006 through June 23, 2006.

Connections

Cascade Township
&
Cascade Community Foundation
Presents:

River



Beat

The Leslie E. Tassell Park

2900 Thornapple Drive

Alternate Rain Location - Wisner Center - KDL Cascade Branch

**The Second & Fourth Thursday in
June, July & August**

7 p.m.



6:15 PM
FREE Library
Activities for
The kids!



JUNE 8 - JAN KRIST - folk music

JUNE 22 - DREW NELSON - new folk

JULY 13 - RAPID CITY SWING - big band music from the '30's and '40's

JULY 27 - BOOGIE DOWN BROADWAY - show tunes

AUGUST 10 - KIDS NIGHT! ADAM MELLEMA &
MIRANDETTES MARSHALL ARTS

- story telling & power displays at their best!

AUGUST 24 - BRANT SATALA & FRIENDS - pop-folk-rock

Bring your family & friends, a picnic & a chair
(But please - NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES - Thank you!)
Parking is limited - please walk or park at KDL Cascade Branch

Cascade

A Citizen's Guide to Household Hazardous Waste

The average U.S. household can have as much as 100 pounds of hazardous waste stored throughout their house and garage. Improper disposal of these materials can contaminate drinking water, harm the environment, and create health hazards for you and your family. Simple alternatives can replace many hazardous substances. However, if you choose to use commercial products, make sure to dispose of them properly!

Where Can I Take My Household Hazardous Waste?



To drop off your household hazardous waste, schedule an appointment with the Kent County

Department of Public Works to participate in the free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program for Kent County residents. To schedule an appointment, or for additional information, call the Kent County Department of Public Works at 1-888-217-2850 or 616-336-2570. Appointments can be made at the South Kent Landfill or North Kent Recycling & Transfer Station.

South Kent Landfill
300 100th Street, Grand Rapids
Tuesday afternoon appointments available

North Kent Recycling & Transfer Station
2908 Ten Mile Road, Rockford
Friday morning appointments available

What Household Hazardous Waste Can I Dispose?

The Kent County Household Hazardous Waste Program accepts the following waste materials:

- Oil based paints and stains
- Paint thinner
- Pool chemicals
- Weed killers
- Insecticides & pesticides
- Cleaners
- Household batteries
- Gasoline & kerosene
- Mercury & acids
- Automobile liquids
- Solvents

Where Can I Take Recyclables?

In addition to disposal of hazardous waste, the North Kent Recycling & Transfer station also offers residential recycling of plastics, paper, glass, metals, and cardboard. The site is available to the public Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, call the station at 616 866-5070.

Septic System Maintenance

Does your septic tank need to be inspected or pumped out? If so, give a reputable septic tank service contractor a call this spring.

Your septic system should be inspected every 3 years and pumped out every 3 to 5 years to avoid a costly septic system failure.



A Citizen's Guide to Auto Care



How we take care of our cars, trucks, and other vehicles greatly influences the health of the Grand River. You can do your part to stop pollution at the source by preventing detergents, oil, grease, and gasoline from entering street drains, which lead directly to nearby streams and lakes.

Vehicle washing

- Look for non-toxic and phosphate-free cleansers at your local grocery store.
- You can also use alternative cleaners, such as baking soda and lemon juice. Avoid products with bleach, ammonia, lye, or petroleum distillates (see chart).

Fuel and oil

- When fueling, avoid topping off! Remember that fuel expands as it warms up in your tank.
- Store fuel only in approved containers.
- Routinely check for and fix oil and fuel leaks.
- Recycle your waste oil. Never dump it down a street drain!



Engine care

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

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



www.lowergrandriver.org



www.lowergrandriver.org

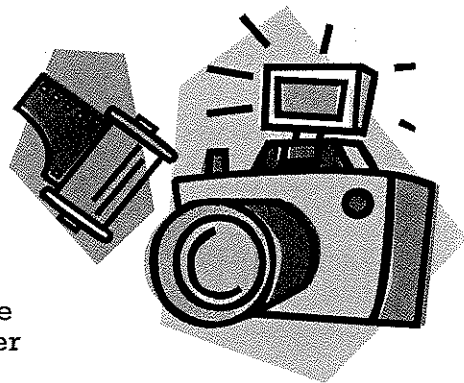
Connections

YOU COULD BE THE TOWNSHIP'S WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER!

Photos are now being accepted in the Cascade Community Foundation Photo Contest. Amateurs and Professionals welcome.

Photos should be representative of life in Cascade Township and must be taken within Cascade Township. The winning photo will be showcased on the cover of the 2007 Cascade Directory. Many other submissions will be included inside the 2007 Directory. Winners will be notified by September 30, 2006.

Please submit your 4 x 6 hard copy photo(s) and the enclosed form by **August 15, 2006**, to The Cascade Community Foundation, 6475 28th Street SE, Suite 192, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Each photo must be labeled on the back with the photographers name, address and phone number.



Photographer: _____ Age: _____

Names of people in photo: _____

Story behind
photo: _____

The undersigned hereby gives The Cascade Community Foundation and any news agency, television station or other media the absolute and irrevocable right and permission, with respect to any photographs or pictures (collectively referred to as "pictures") that have been taken by or of the undersigned or in which the undersigned may be included with others and any reproductions of them without compensation to the undersigned to use, re-use and publish the same in whole or in part, individually or in conjunction with other pictures in any medium for the purpose of illustration and promotion of The Cascade Community Foundation photo contest and The Cascade Community Foundation' products; and to use the undersigned's name(s) in connection therewith, if The Cascade Community Foundation so chooses.
PHOTO'S WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

PHOTOGRAPHER SIGNATURE:

ADDRESS and telephone number:

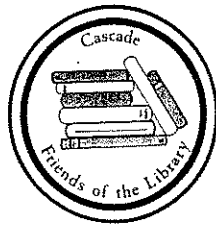
PARENT(S) or legal guardian(s) of Minor
(under 18) who do hereby consent to the
execution of the foregoing Release:



Cascade

Cascade Friends of the Library And the Vision for the Cascade Historical Society

Quality of Life
Enhancement in
Cascade



Value the History
Of the beginning

.... The roots of the present
lie deep in the past, and nothing in
the past is dead to the man who
would learn how the present came
to be what it is

History Timeline of the Library

- | | | | |
|-------|--|------|---|
| 1845 | Ferry House was built on the Thornapple River. | 1965 | Weekly bookmobile service (Moby) provided from 1965-1972 with stops in Cascade Village at the Cascade Drug Store year around. |
| 1848 | Cascade Township separated from Ada. | 1972 | October 1972 old Township Hall converted into a library Cascade Friends of the Library founded. |
| 1898 | Cascade Township Hall was built on Thornapple River Drive.
It has been used as a meeting hall, an election location, and a library and is now used as a museum sponsored by the Cascade Historical Society. | 1974 | Cascade Historical Society Founded with members of Cascade Friends of the Library. |
| 1900s | Cascade Library was housed in the home of township clerk, George W Gordon, fire destroyed his home, the library collection and township records. | 1979 | Cascade Township Government Offices and Fire Department moved to Thornhills Drive. |
| 1930s | Cascade Library on shelves in a corner grocery store. Closed in 1943 when the volunteer custodian, Mr. Vanderjagt was called into the army. | 1981 | Cascade Library moved into the Township office complex. |
| 1936 | Kent County Library System was legally established. | 1991 | Jack Smith of Ada donated three acres of land for the new Library. |
| 1960 | The Kent County Library Book Mobile visited Cascade in the summer months, ending in August each year. | 1997 | December, Library opened on Jacksmith Avenue. |
| | | 2006 | April, 2006 Cascade addition opened, housing addition and other township services. |

A History of the Cascade Township Library 1972-2006

In 1972, a group of Cascade residents had the vision to bring together people who were interested in having a library in Cascade. Many of them were also interested in the history of Cascade and the Thornapple River Valley area. It was from this interest and the work of this small group that the Friends of the Cascade Library was formed, the old Township Hall was remodeled into a library, and just two years later, in 1974, the Cascade Historical Society founded.



Connections

Long before any of this happened, however, the history of the Township sheds some light on the eventual development of a library in the area. Cascade Township was established in 1848 and a Township Hall was built in 1898. In the early 1900s, the Township established a library in the basement of the Township clerk, George Gorman's home. Unfortunately, his home burned down and with it, the contents of the library and all the township records.

In the 1930s, another library was started and consisted of books placed on the shelves in a corner of Mr. Vanderjagt's grocery store. This library was closed in 1943 when the volunteer custodian, Mr. Vanderjagt, was called into the army.

Library books and services eventually returned to our area in 1960 by way of a bookmobile service (Moby) provided by the Kent County Library System. From 1960 to 1965 weekly service was provided only in the summer months, then from 1965 to 1972 weekly year around service was provided. The bookmobile was stationed in the parking lot of the Cascade Drug Store at the corner of Cascade Road and Orange Street.

The Friends of the Cascade Library was founded at a meeting held on November 16, 1972 to aid in the establishment of the Cascade branch of the Kent County Library System. The old Township Hall, built in 1898, gained a new identity when it became an official branch library. When the branch was opened in October of 1972, Friends' volunteer helped County library and township personnel place books and a collection of phonograph records on the new shelving. The building housed 10,000 books. Initially, the Friends' organization provided volunteer services to the new branch, and meetings – along with occasional book chats – which were held at St. Michaels Church on Wycliff Drive.

On July 04, 1973 in conjunction with the annual Independence Day celebration in Cascade, a used book sale sponsored by the Friends was held on the porch and lawn of the Cascade Library. Proceeds were used to make needed repairs to the old building, the former Cascade Township Hall, and to purchase new books for the library.

Also in 1973, an oral history of the area was compiled by the Friends of the Cascade Library who formed the Township Historical Records committee. Interviews were taped with elderly residents of the area. This was a natural for the Friends, as the Library could become a repository for all sorts

of material and for more things to be preserved. NOTE: In 2005, these oral history tapes were transcribed by the Historical Society and can be reviewed in the new History Room at the Library.

In 1974 the Cascade Historical Society was founded to discover, explore, disseminate, and preserve knowledge about Cascade Township and the Thornapple River Valley.

The library quickly outgrew its space in the old Township Hall and was moved in 1981 to a new location on Thornhills Drive in the Township Office/ Fire Department complex.

In 1991, Jack Smith donated three acres of land for a new library building. A grassroots committee of local residents spent several years developing plans and organizing fund raising events to make sure this new library would become a reality.

The current home of the Cascade Township Public Library was opened on Jacksmith Avenue in December 1997.

The goals of the Friends have always been to meet the needs of the community and to preserve the history of Cascade area. Between 1870 and 1950 the population averaged 1241 and today in 2006 is approximately 15,925 persons.

In April 2006 the goal of goals became a reality when the Friends donated \$130,000* toward the library expansion. The addition and remodeled areas features expanded library services, an emergent literacy area, a Friends' used book store, township meeting room, program room areas, a service kitchen, study rooms, a special area for teenagers, computers for patron use featuring wireless Internet, and a History Room which enhances the 1974 goal of supporting the Cascade Historical Society.

Where we are today is where we have been. We value our history of Cascade and are consistent in building its future. Please consider becoming a member of the Friends of Cascade Library and / or a member of the Cascade Historical Society. Membership Applications for both organizations are available at the Cascade Library or the Township Offices.

* These funds were earned through the annual book sale on the 4th of July and the perpetual book sale staffed by the Friends' volunteers, membership fees and private donations.



Cascade Connections

ANNUAL CASCADE TOWNSHIP PICNIC FOR SENIORS August 22, 2006

Enjoy a catered picnic lunch compliments of Cascade Township. We will enjoy this day at Cascade Library's beautiful new air-conditioned Wisner Center. Tom and Sherry Hagen will be there again to entertain us. This annual event is hosted by Cascade Township, in cooperation with Jean Kubiszewski of the Forest Hills Senior Center, to provide an opportunity for our senior citizens to mingle, relax and reminisce. The picnic will be held August 22, beginning at noon and ending at 2:30. Please contact Clerk Ron Goodyke at 949-1508 if you have questions. To make your reservation, stop in at the Forest Hills Senior Center or call 493-8950. This lunch is offered to our senior Cascade residents by the township at no charge.

Details: The library is located at 2870 Jacksmith SE, just one block south off 28th Street.

Lunch at noon will be assorted breads, meats and cheeses, potato salad, pasta salad, baked beans, fresh fruit, coffee, punch and dessert.

Make reservations by August 17 (493-8950).

Cascade Charter Township

2865 Thornhills Ave SE
Grand Rapids MI 49546
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“Open Space” and Natural Features

What Cascade Is Doing About It and We Need YOUR Input!

“Sprawl” and “open space” are hot topics across the country — and they are important for Cascade, which has beautiful natural features. The Township has established an “Open Space/Natural Features Committee” to create goals, objectives, and programs for the Township relating to open space. **Your input is needed, so please read on and participate in the survey in this Newsletter.**

The purpose of the committee is to promote the Township’s Master Plan for the preservation of natural features. The Master Plan was created with public input from residents in 1999-2000. Our Master Plan puts a high premium on “natural features.” Chapter 7 of our Master Plan states, “The citizens of Cascade Township will continue to enjoy the natural features of the community as manifested in the rolling woodlands, meadows, wetlands and farmlands, and the clean waters of the Thornapple River and its tributaries.” As a matter of fact, when the Township asked for public input in 2000, the highest item to get an “Agree” response was the statement: “The township should establish programs to preserve natural areas.” This item received a 73% “Agree” response, while 15% had “no opinion” and 9% said “Disagree.” Clearly the vast majority felt preserving natural areas was very important for Cascade. As a result, the Township has done the following.

1. The Township has contracted with a local biologist to create a “physical features inventory” of the Township. The opening objective of Chapter 7 of the Master Plan states, “Establish a comprehensive inventory of sensitive natural features in the Township.” The purpose of this inventory is to identify panoramic views, views and/or areas where natural landscapes are relatively free of human disturbance, views that are dominated by croplands, orchards, or grazing of livestock, and views which are dominated by significant natural features such as lakes or rivers or creeks, mature woodlands, wetlands, or major topographic ridgelines. This inventory will be completed by late summer.
2. “Open Space” is one of the Board’s Top 10 goals, so the Board created this committee to seek public input and create plans supporting this initiative. Therefore, your responses to the survey are very important.
3. The Township Board has established a dedicated fund for open space. The fund was initially established thanks to a substantial donation from the Homeyer family. Its purpose is to promote open space preservation, thus promoting the Township’s Master Plan.
4. The Planning Department and Planning Commission have worked to create policies and practices that promote open space preservation in new developments. Developers have responded positively by creating plans that maintain open space in new developments.

What **SHOULD** we do about open space? Please give us your input so we can create and execute goals that are compatible with the wishes of the community. A public meeting will be held on **September 21st at the Wisner Center in the Cascade Library** to provide results of the survey, show the Natural Features Inventory, report on the progress of the committee, and get further input. Please watch for an announcement of this meeting in future Newsletters.

Don’t forget to give us your input! Please fill out the survey and send it back immediately. Surveys must be received by June 19th. Please do it now!

Mission Statement of the Open Space Committee

To preserve private and public open space and natural features through cooperative efforts by Cascade residents in order to maintain a high quality of life in our Township.

Cascade Township Open Space Survey

The Township Board has established an Open Space Committee to begin to look at plans and strategies to protect open lands and natural features in the Township. In order to do this, the Committee would like to obtain input from Cascade Township property owners regarding which areas, as well as what features, should be given high priority to protect. Please fill out the following survey. It should take 3- 5 minutes to complete.

Is it important to you that the Township should pursue activities to preserve open space and natural features?

Yes No

2. Please rank each general category in order of your priority giving the number 1 the highest priority.

Rank	Description
	<u>Scenic Views/ Historic Sites</u> : Land with features that are panoramic, encompassing a long distance; maintain rural character along road corridors or property that is a significant historical or cultural site.
	<u>Plants/ Environment</u> : Sensitive environmental areas and areas which serve important ecological functions in the Township, including wetlands, floodplains, stream corridors and steep, wooded slopes, to support the needs of the natural community within the Township
	<u>Parks/ Trails</u> : Land for recreational needs of the Township residents for both passive and active activities such as neighborhood parks and pathways
	<u>Farmland</u> : Agricultural land in the Township.

Now, we would like your opinion on each category in more detail.

3. Of the Scenic Views/ Historic Sites category, please rank each category in order of your priority giving the number 1 the highest priority.

Rank	Description
	Features which are panoramic, encompassing a long distance
	Maintain rural character along road corridor.
	Historic Structures such as: Old Barns, Old Homes, Schools, Churches, etc.
	Landmark Trees and Groves

4. Of the Plants/ Environment category, please rank each category in order of your priority giving the number 1 the highest priority.

Rank	Description
	Preservation of plant and animal habitat/ Wildlife habitat/corridors
	Intact natural landscapes relatively free from human disturbance
	Sites that have wetlands, lakes, streams, steep slopes or other significant natural feature
	Rare native plants/ animals
	Water Quality protection (surface water and groundwater), Stormwater protection, Flood control

5. Of the Parks/ Trail category, please rank each category in order of your priority giving the number 1 the highest priority.

Rank	Description
	The preservation of open space areas that is consistent with the adopted master plan.
	Nature trail
	Providing public recreational opportunities (Passive and Active)
	Connectivity of private and public green space to allow for wildlife corridors.

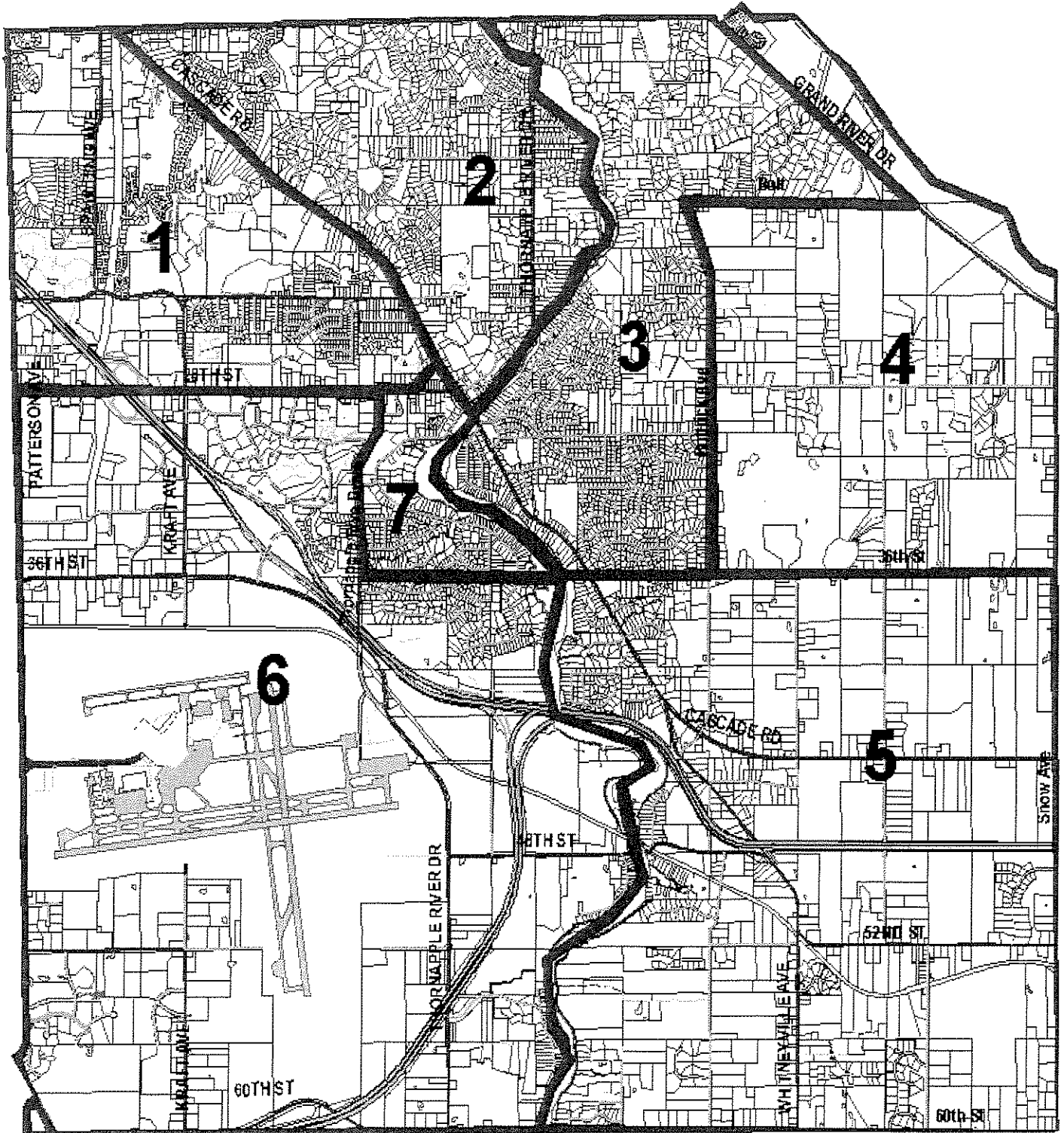
6. Of the Farmland category, please rank each category in order of your priority giving the number 1 the highest priority.

Rank	Description
	Sites dominated by working farms or have significant features that could provide for working farmland.
	Connectivity of open and agricultural spaces

7. For Cascade Residents only: Using the numbered areas on the attached map, please identify where in the Township you live:

Number _____

8. Using the attached map, please circle up to 3 sites that you regard as a high priority for open space preservation. On the following page you will have the opportunity to give more detail about your selections.



9. Please describe the locations you selected.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

When completed, just fold the survey so that the address is visible and tape or staple it closed and drop it in the mail. Please return your survey form by June 19th, 2006.



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Cascade Township
Open Space Subcommittee
2865 Thornhills SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-2845

