



Cascade Connections

Autumn 2006

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

**Celebrate the
Strength & Courage
of the
American Spirit!**

Let Freedom Ring
A 9/11 Tribute

Tickets on Sale Now!

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

\$5 General Admission

Featuring Music by:

Phil Biggs & Beyond Belief

Great Lakes Chorus

West Michigan Academy
Of Music for Girls

Cascade Christian Church

Thornapple Community Church

9/11/01

WHERE WERE YOU?



WHERE WILL YOU BE?

9/11/06

Cascade



July 4th, 2006

On behalf of Cascade Township, I would like to extend a BIG Thank You to those who attended, participated in, volunteered for and sponsored the 2006 July 4th celebration. The day started out with the always popular Cascade Friends of the Library book sale at the Cascade Library.

At the parade grounds, the annual bike parade kicked off the official July 4th parade. After hundreds of youngsters on red, white and blue decorated bikes, wagons, strollers and roller blades completed the parade route; the main parade was set to begin. Two A-10's from Air National Guard Battle Creek provided the crowd with a flyover to honor our nation's military. After the flyover, the parade began. We would like to pass along special thanks to Ron Biermacher, who was this years Grand Marshal.



After the completion of the parade, the street fair began. The street fair offered many opportunities for young and old to have fun. Live music provided a festive atmosphere and the sounds of laughter and joyful screams from the children and adults alike filled the air.



The July 4th celebration event could not run smoothly without the help of all the volunteers. A very BIG Thank You goes to the parking attendants, those responsible for the parade line up and traffic control at the staging area and the numerous other volunteers who assisted with or provided Cascade Township with donated goods.

The financial sponsors of this event include Cascade Township, as well as those listed. We are very grateful to

have individuals and companies willing to help make this event happen.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me at the Cascade Fire Department at 949-1320 or via email at skorhorn@cascadetwp.com. Thank you again to all the participants, attendees and volunteers who made the 2006 July 4th celebration a wonderful success.

Sincerely, Stephen W. Korhorn - Lieutenant/July 4th Coordinator

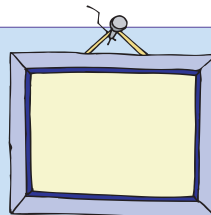
Thank You to the 4th of July Celebration sponsors, who made the FREE rides and games possible:

- Anonymous
- Betten Imports
- Brann's Steakhouse & Grill
- Cascade Firefighters Assoc.
- Cascade Hospital for Animals
- Chemical Bank West
- Dickinson, Wright
- Emerald Tree
- Falcon Printing
- First Horizon Home Loans
- Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber
- Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.
- Funny Business Agency
- HME
- Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter
- Huntington Bank
- Impact Vehicle Damage Erasure
- Independent Bank
- Joyce & Tom Wisner
- Kingsland True Value
- Koenes Auto Body
- Lake Michigan Credit Union
- LaSalle Bank
- Meekhof Lumber
- Meijer
- Nye Uniform Company
- Performance Systematix, Inc.
- Spartan Stores
- Staples
- Superior Asphalt
- United Bank
- Verburg's Automotive



Photography Contest!

What do Ada, Vergennes, Cascade, Grattan, Lowell, and Cannon Townships have in common? Beautiful natural features. Historical sites. Precious open space. Also, we have the Eastern Townships Open Space Preservation Committee! In September 2007, this regional group will have a photography contest to depict what "open space" means to you. You have four seasons to capture the images of open space in your world that are important to you, so start snapping those photos! Please share the beauty of our local townships as you see it! Details are pending – more information to come in a later township newsletter. Watch this space!



Connections

MILDRED and IRVING KESLER

LEAVE LEGACY BY DONATING FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE CASCADE RECREATION PARK

Long time residents of Cascade Township will have noted the end of an era in November 2004 when Mildred Kesler of Cascade Road's Kay Hon Kennels passed away.

Born in Detroit on October 12, 1918, Mildred Driscoll married Irving Kesler, guitarist, band leader, and graduate of Grand Rapids High School. The young couple settled in Cascade Township where they raised a champion line of Collies. The Kay Hon Kennel sign on Cascade Road and the bright yellow New Era Potato Chip billboard at the edge of their property served as local landmarks for decades.

After Irving died in 1986, Mildred's strength declined and she gradually lost the ability to continue their work. In 1993 she was found in the kennel where she had fallen 3 days earlier. Although she was unable to move, her dogs had gathered around her and kept her from freezing until she was found by concerned neighbors who had noticed her absence.

While she was hospitalized for exposure and hip surgery, neighbors and authorities learned the reality of this proud and independent woman's impoverished existence. Rallying to her cause, with donated time and materials, members of the community remodeled her home. When the elderly woman who could no longer get around without a walker returned home, she found that her home that was built in 1890 had a new ground floor bedroom and a modern kitchen and bathroom with all the necessary facilities.

During the remainder of her years, Mildred kept her land in a natural wooded state, providing habitat for all living creatures from eagles to deer. She was very concerned about declining habitat and clean water access for local wildlife. Before she died, she made a provision in her will for Cascade Township Parks. It was her hope that open spaces would be preserved locally for all of her neighbors, friends, and wildlife.

Mildred is survived by 3 sisters and many nieces and nephews. Irving is survived by one nephew. Her dear friend and sister-in-law, Rose Kesler died only months later.

The Cascade Township Board and the citizens of Cascade Township would like to thank Mildred and Irving Kesler for thinking of the Cascade Township Parks Department for the generous donation from the proceeds of their Estate. The Township will use this money to purchase new picnic tables at the Cascade Recreation Park as well as make a contribution to the August Homeyer Open Space Preservation Fund. Her

donation will be forever remembered by not only the plaque on the Pavilion but Cascade Township will also name the Pavilion the Irving and Mildred Kesler Pavilion.

Again, Cascade Township would like to thank the Kesler family for their generous donation.



Cascade Township Open Space Subcommittee Public Hearing 7:00 pm September 21st Cascade Library Wisner Center 2870 Jacksmith Dr

The Cascade Township Open Space Subcommittee is holding a public hearing to discuss the results of the survey sent out in the June 2006 newsletter.

In addition, Rob Bajema, a local botanist, will present his Physical Features Inventory. 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, rivers or creeks, mature woodlands, wetlands, or major topographic ridgelines.

Any questions regarding this meeting can be directed to the Planning Department (616) 949-0224.

Cascade

Please Note . . . Sen. Bill Hardiman will be holding his district office hours at the Library on Monday, November 13, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. He will be available to talk to residents about their state government concerns.

Election News - November 7 General Election

Be sure that you are prepared to vote in the November General Election. Please review the items below to ensure you are able to participate in the election.

1. Be sure you are registered.

If you are not registered, please stop at the Township office prior to the last day of registration, which is October 10.

2. Know where to go to vote.

Please check the precinct map to be sure you go to the correct polling place to vote. Note that Precinct 4 voters now vote at the Cascade Library Wisner Center.

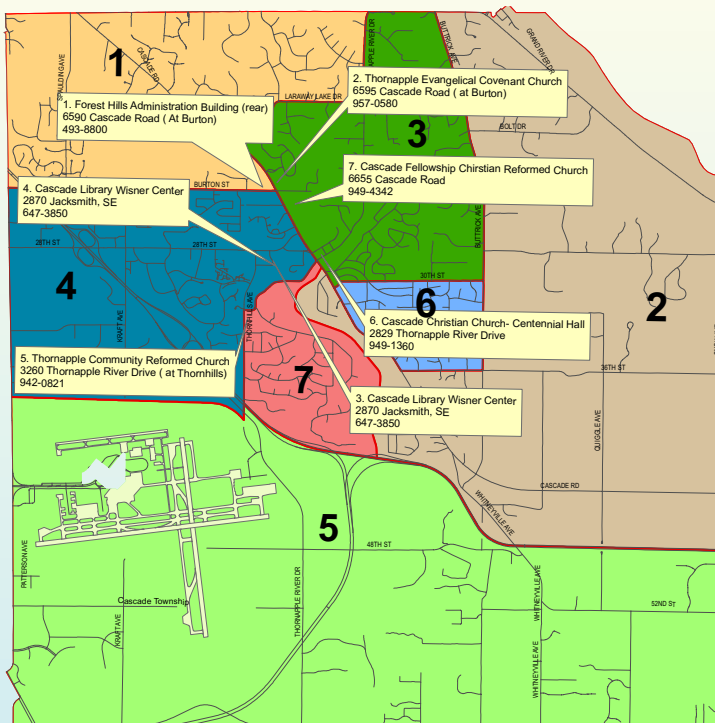
3. Know the process to vote by Absentee Ballot.

If you wish to vote by absentee ballot and are not already on the permanent list, you must apply and include your statutory reason why you are eligible. Those reasons are that the voter: 1) is 60 years or more of age 2) is unable to vote without assistance 3) expects to absent from Cascade Township the entire time the polls are open 4) is in jail awaiting trial or arraignment 5) has been appointed to be an election worker outside his or her precinct of residence 6) is unable to attend the polls for religious beliefs.

Please call the Clerk's office (616-949-1508) if you have questions or concerns.

Precinct Locations 2006

- 1. Forest Hills Administration Building
- 2. Thornapple Evangelical Covenant Church
- 3. Cascade Library Wisner Center
- 4. Cascade Library Wisner Center
- 5. Thornapple Community Reformed Church
- 6. Cascade Christian Church- Centennial Hall
- 7. Cascade Fellowship Reformed Church



Wisner Center Reservations Now Online

Wisner Center reservations now online

Reservations can now be made online by going to the township's website (www.cascadetwp.com) or the library's website (www.kdl.org > branches > Cascade)

The online software allows residents to see the different room configurations as well as pricing and available equipment. The Wisner Center is available for non-profit groups, neighborhood associations, service groups or clubs. Businesses in Cascade Township may use the Wisner Center for in-house meetings.

Want to make a reservation but don't have a computer? Librarians can assist in getting you on the Internet and to your destination. Classes are available by reservation to use the Internet or other computer software. The Cascade Branch is open 7 days a week and 4 evenings. Call 647-3850 for more details.

The Wisner Center Celebration Continues!

October is the Month of Sundays Grand Opening celebration for the new Wisner Center. Activities for the entire family will be sponsored by Cascade Charter Township, the Friends of the Cascade Library and Kent District Library.

- October 1—Patron Appreciation Day -- Friends of the Cascade Library appreciates all the people who support the Friends and the library. Join us for refreshments and fun!
- October 8—Barnyard Make and Take --The Friends of the Cascade Library sponsors live farm animals and activities to make and play to develop the skills needed to read.
- October 15—Collecting Consort--Friends of the Cascade Library sponsors musical storytellers to entertain the entire family.
- October 22—Meet the Candidate--All candidates for Governor, US Senate and House, State Senate and House, County Commission and County Drain Commissioner have been invited to share their views on key issues and then mingle with the audience. This is an informal gathering to get to know candidates for offices. Sponsored by Cascade Township.
- October 29—Jonathan Rand--Author of the popular Michigan and American Chillers will talk about and sign his books.

For more details, call the Cascade Branch at 647-3859.

Connections

Industrial Facility Tax Abatements

Headlines tell us about the latest business to close and move out of Michigan. This July, Cascade Township assisted four companies to expand in Cascade Township by approving Act 198 Industrial Facility Tax Abatements (IFT). These tax abatements reduce the amount of property tax the companies pay during the period covered by the abatement. In conjunction with other State level economic development tools, IFTs are an incentive to companies to invest in the area.

At a time when area industries are shedding jobs, these four businesses are adding jobs. At a time when companies are moving out of West Michigan, these companies are moving business to West Michigan.

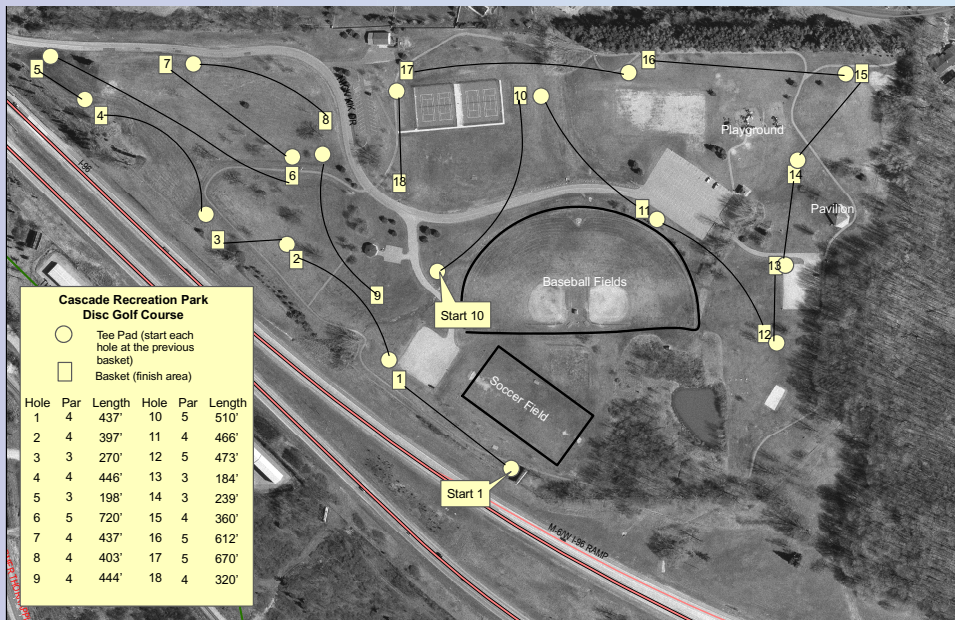
Several years ago, Citation Corporation purchased ITN, a long time Cascade die casting company. This year the company was looking to consolidate production

lines and move equipment from an Illinois facility to Cascade. The township was able to provide a twelve-year tax abatement on the equipment being moved into Cascade. As a result, \$2,700,000 worth of equipment and 37 new jobs was brought to the area.

Stac Pak is another long term Cascade company. They were purchased by a company, which was going to shut the facility down. The original owner contacted the Mc Carthy Group about buying the company. They not only bought the company but they decided to build a new building and move their headquarters from the east side of the state to Cascade Township. Cascade Township provided a twelve-year abatement on a new \$2,400,000 building and looks forward to an application for new equipment in the future. Not only were 25 present jobs saved but also 25 new jobs will be created as a result of this project.

Concept Industries went into a joint project with Allsteel, a division of Hon to start a production line for fiber products. Hon wanted them to locate the project in Iowa. Concept Industries has been located in the Township for fifteen years. Concept and Allsteel were able to obtain tax abatements to locate the project in the Concept Industries Cascade Township facility. As a result of the project, \$7,000,000 of new equipment and 66 new jobs are coming to Cascade Township that might have gone to Iowa.

Taxes are just one part of the mix when a company is making the decision if and where to expand. The quality of life and quality of the workforce in the area are important factors. The IFT is the economic development tool available to the Township. The Cascade Township board is pleased that they were able to play a part in the decision of these companies to expand in Cascade.



Disc Golf at the Township Recreation Park

Special thanks go out to the Wisner family who purchased the new disc golf baskets at the Cascade Recreation Park. Also, a special thanks to Ben Hamlin for his assistance in the new design for the layout of the course. You can view a map of the course on our webpage at www.cascadetwp.com.

Please remember... The Cascade Township Fire Department Halloween party will be held Tuesday, October 31 at Fire Station No. 1 (2865 Thornhills Ave.) from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cascade

A Citizen's Guide to Lawn Care

Using healthy lawn care practices is one step toward cleaner streams and lakes - even if you don't have waterfront property.

Tips for Mowing

Taller grass means a healthier lawn, and it's easier to maintain! Set your mower blade to leave about three inches of grass. Taller grass cools the soil, needs less water, and shades out weed growth. It's also more insect and disease resistant. Vary the direction of lawn mowing periodically to prevent wear patterns and soil compaction.



Tips for Watering

Excessive watering is wasteful! Conserve water by using only what your lawn needs.

- 15-20 minutes of sprinkling daily is better than a few heavy waterings throughout the week, according to research by Michigan State University.
- If daily watering is impractical, 30-40 minutes of watering every other day is sufficient.
- Make sure your sprinkler is watering your lawn - not your driveway or sidewalk!

Don't Guess...Soil Test!

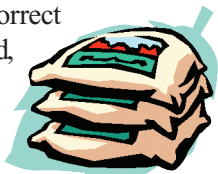
Don't assume your yard needs fertilizer. Perform a soil test. You'll save money and reduce the chance of over-applying by only replacing the nutrients your soil needs. Michigan State University Extension offers soil nutrient testing for a nominal fee. To find out more, call the extension office in your area: 616-336-3265 (Kent County) or 616-846-8250 (Ottawa County).

Choose the Correct Fertilizer

Over-fertilizing can contribute excessive amounts of pollutants to streams and lakes through the storm sewer. Without realizing it, many landowners are applying fertilizers and pesticides when their lawns don't even need them!

If you do choose to fertilize, use slow-release fertilizers that provide a slow, steady source of nutrients for plants. This also prevents the big spurt of growth common with synthetic fertilizers. Slow-release fertilizers come in a variety of types, including organic, time-release, and coated.

Avoid "weed-and-feed" mixtures, which contain herbicides to control weed growth and are often applied where they aren't needed. If healthy lawn care practices (correct mowing height and watering) are followed, weed control shouldn't be necessary. Be sure your mower is set to three inches to help shade out unwanted weeds.



FALL CLEAN UP DAY

Cascade Township is offering a fall clean up day this year in conjunction with Ada Township. The fall clean up day will be held on Saturday, October 28th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Kent County Road Commission building at the end of Fase Street in Ada Township. You must be in line no later than 2:30 to drop items off.

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

The Salvation Army will have a truck available at the site to collect furniture, clothing and other household items. Shread It will also be available for document shredding.

If you have any questions regarding fall clean up, feel free to contact Sandra Otey at 949-1500 or by email at sotey@cascadetwp.com.

YARD WASTE PICK UP PROGRAM FALL 2006

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

Tags are \$1.00 each

Pick up will be every Monday

From October 16 through November 20

- Please have your yard waste near the curb by 6:00 a.m. to assure pick up.
- Place a tag on each bag of leaves or bundle of branches. (No grass clippings, dirt, sod, cement, sand or rocks please).
- Please use 30 gal. plastic bags or paper yard waste bags.
- Sticks should be no longer than 4 feet in length and branches, logs and stumps are not to exceed 1 inch in diameter.
- Residents 62 years of age and older and residents with disabilities will receive 20 tags FREE per calendar year!
- This service is only available in the restricted burn area.
- The yard waste dumpsters will be available behind the Thornhills Fire Station on November 10-12 and November 17-26.

For more information, please call 949-1500.

Note: If you have tags left over from last spring or fall and you intend to use them, please contact the Township Office so your address can be added to the pickup list.

Connections

Fire Department Rescues Ducklings

On April 30th, 2006, a call was made to the Fire Station requesting firefighters rescue ducklings that had fallen into a storm drain. Twelve ducklings and their mommy duck were apparently crossing 36th Street near Cascade Engineering, when the ducklings one by one jumped into the storm drain on the side of the road. A passerby noticed the mommy duck was pacing back and forth quacking on distress. She called the Kent County Sheriff Department, who in return called the Fire Department. Firefighters Steve Bennett, Andy Marsman, and Sara Thacker responded with Rescue #7. The storm drain cover was lifted off the drain and one by one the ducklings were swooped up. Of course it didn't come without a twist. Several ducklings were not so happy with the idea of a giant object trying to catch them and separated themselves from the others. As firefighter Andy Marsman tried to catch certain ducklings, they ran out of sight. After a little time, they would return to the center of the drain. Mommy duck was displaying to the firefighters that she wanted us to go away. She would come up to us, quack with anger, then back off. After about 45 minutes, all the ducklings were rescued and placed in a plastic bucket. A small pond was across the yard. The ducklings were placed near the pond and reunited with their mommy.



East Precinct News

Bridge Jumpers Beware

During the past few weeks, the East Precinct has responded to numerous calls of subjects jumping off the Camelback and 48th Street Railroad Bridge into the Thornapple River. The Kent County Road Commission has recently posted signs on both sides of the Camelback Bridge warning of such activity. From a law enforcement perspective, we understand the need to cool off due to the recent stretch of hot weather but beware, jumping from these bridges is not only illegal, but can cause severe injuries. Our officers have been instructed to issue Misdemeanor tickets to anyone caught jumping from either of these structures. Trespassing tickets will also be issued to subjects found trespassing upon the 48th Street Railroad overpass bridge.

Parents, please make your children aware of the risks associated with this type of activity.

Lt. Bill Weston, Lt. Kent County Sheriff's Department - East Precinct

Firefighter Assistance with Child Safety Seats



“Does it face the front or the back?” “What is this little metal piece for?” “Does the strap run under this part or over that one?” As every parent knows, instructions on installing a child's car seat are anything but simple, and the installation itself can seem downright impossible!

Cascade Township Firefighters Kreigh Deering and Jim Walker are trained and certified in car seat installation and are available to help puzzled parents solve the mystery of properly installing child safety seats in their vehicles. They offer any help needed, from answering basic questions by phone to assisting with the actual installation. Please call the Cascade Fire Department @ 949-1320 with any questions for Firefighter Kreigh Deering or Firefighter Jim Walker, or to set up an appointment for an installation at the Fire Station.

Cascade Connections

Save the Date - Real People - Real Stories Presentation and Workshop

Wisner Center • Cascade Public Library



Part I - Introduction to life story preservation in books, videos and audio CDs.
Tuesday, November 14, 2006 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Part II – Hands on workshop on how to capture your life stories and share them with family and friends for holiday gift giving.
Tuesday, November 21, 2006 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Grand Rapids members of the Association of Personal Historians will facilitate both events and will have samples of their work available to show the many different ways life stories can be captured and preserved for holiday gift giving to family and friends.

Cascade Charter Township

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