

Cascade Connections

Autumn 2004

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

Thank You! Cascade Voters

The Cascade Charter Township Board and Fire Department wish to thank all voters who voted "yes" on the Fire Protection millage on August 3, 2004. The millage proposal passed in all seven township precincts. The vote was 3,183 "yes" and 1,868 "no".

The Township is now working on fulfilling the promises made in the millage proposal. The Fire Department is developing the specifications for the purchase of a medical response vehicle and a fire truck tanker. These vehicles will be used at Buttrick Station. We anticipate having these vehicles ordered within the next 30 - 45 days.

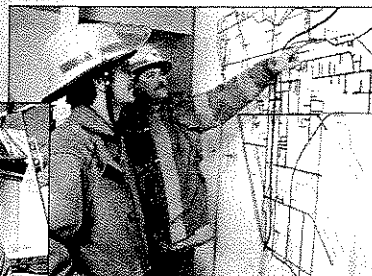
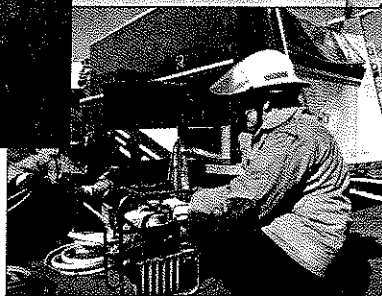
The Building & Grounds Department, Building Inspections Department and the Fire Department are working collaboratively to develop plans for the occupancy of Buttrick Station. We expect to have this planning effort completed within the next 30 days with a recommendation to the Township Board.

The process of hiring six additional firefighters for Buttrick Station will begin very soon. Hiring announcements will go out within the next 30 days. Actual pre-employment testing and physical agility testing will follow. Barring any construction delays related to occupying Buttrick Station, the new firefighters will begin work on January 1, 2005.

In conclusion, the Township wishes to express deep thanks and appreciation to the voluntary citizens committee called the "Cascade Township Fire and Medical Safety Committee" for volunteering their time and effort. These committee members were:

Rosie Briggs
Cynthia P. Fox
Michael S. Goldman
Michelle Goldman
Shirley Goldman

Bernie Link
Carol Meyer
Vernon Meyer
Robert Norris
Laura Sigg

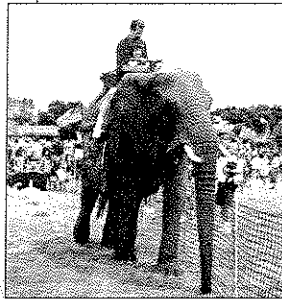


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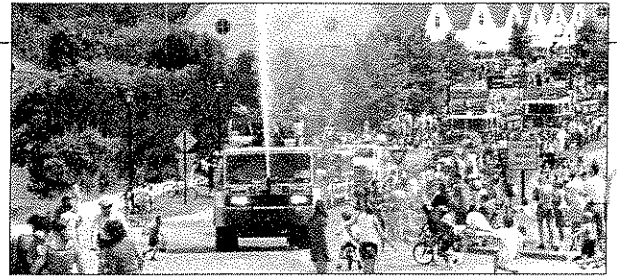
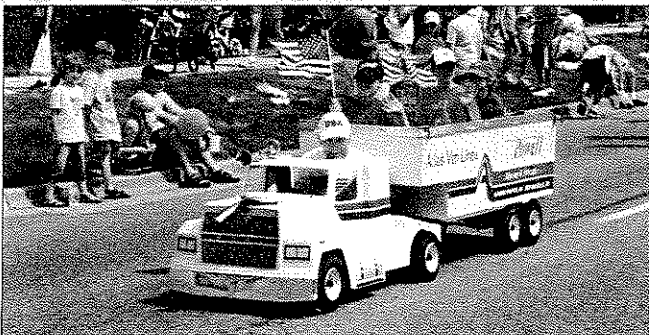
THANK YOU!!

A BIG thank you to all who attended the 2004 July 4th Celebration. The festivities were a tremendous success. The celebration began with the always popular Cascade Friends of the Library book sale, followed by the bike parade. Hundreds of youngsters on red, white and blue decorated bikes, wagons, strollers and rollerblades participated in a creative display of patriotism. The parade was kicked off with a flyby of a Citation Bravo jet from Northern Jet Management. Special thanks to the Parade Grand Marshal, Carl Kerekes and his wife Irene. As always, there were many vintage cars, trucks and tractors, fire/rescue vehicles from surrounding areas and festive floats.

Following the parade, children and adults enjoyed the street fair activities, which ranged from a petting zoo, inflatable activities, arts and crafts, rock climbing, good food, live music and the very popular elephant ride.



The Cascade Firefighter's Association raised monies from the sale of t-shirts, water and ice cream at the street fair tent, which was manned by firefighters and family members. These monies will enable two burn victim children from the West Michigan area to attend the Great Lakes Burn Summer Camp near Kalamazoo. The Cascade Firefighter's Association would like to thank Country Fresh and Sysco for donating items sold to raise this money.



Many thanks to Forest Hills Public Schools, Thornapple Evangelical Covenant Church, Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, Cascade Township Library and Cascade Township Offices, and Noto's Restaurant for participating in the emergency contingency plan for severe weather, should the need arise.

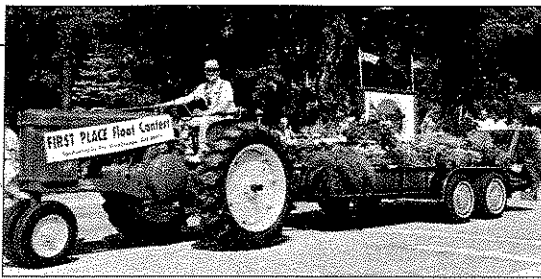
A very special thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the activities for the July 4th celebration. This includes the parking attendants for the Library Book sale, those responsible for the parade line up and traffic control at the parade staging area, and the numerous other volunteers who helped with the celebration.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me at 949-1320 at the Cascade Fire Department or via email at skorhorn@cascadetwp.com. Thank you again to all the participants, attendees and volunteers who made the 2004 July 4th celebration a wonderful success.

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Korhorn
Firefighter/July 4th Coordinator





Connections

**Thank you to the 4th of July Celebration sponsors,
who made the FREE rides and games possible.**

Brann's Steakhouse & Grill
Buiten, Steensma & Associates
Cascade Engineering
Cascade Firefighters Association
Cascade Hospital for Animals
Chemical Bank West
Cintas - The Uniform People
D & W Food Stores
Dickinson, Wright
Discover Chiropractic
Emerald Tree
Falcon Printing
Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber
Funny Business
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Independent Bank

Kingsland True Value
Koenes Auto Body
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Northern Air & Northern Jet Management
Nye Uniform Company
Standard Federal Bank
Superior Asphalt
Tom & Joyce Wisner in Memory of Leslie E.
Tassell
Thornapple River Nursery
United Bank
Verburg's Automotive

Also, thank you to Panera Bread for supplying bagels and condiments to the volunteers on the morning of July 3rd.

Thanks, Cascade!



We would like to thank the organizers of the Cascade July 4th celebration for allowing us to sell water and soda along the parade route and the Cascade community for their support in our efforts to raise funds for our East Paris Christian Reformed Church mission trip to Salasaca, Ecuador. Not ever having done anything like that before, we were unsure what to expect. We were greeted with smiles, eager buyers, and with lots of questions about our trip. Because of your support and generosity we sold out of the products and were able to add \$175 to our fund.

*Thanks again.
Paul and Nancy VanderWeide*

Planning For Tomorrow - Today

by John Van Laar, Chairman, Kent County Aeronautics Board

As with any successful enterprise, the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) must have a plan for how it will best serve its customers today and in the years to come. As such, the Kent County Aeronautics Board has recently completed a major update to GFIA's 20-year Master Plan. This update is part of a continuous planning process that serves as a guide for the airport's short, intermediate, and long-term development needs, and is a key component in ensuring that we accommodate forecasted growth in a financially responsible manner.

Recently completed forecasts, approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, predict that GFIA will be doubling in both passengers and cargo over the next 20 years. Based on this and other results of the forecasting phase of the Master Plan update, the key findings of the update are as follows:

- Additional passenger terminal capacity will be required, including additional aircraft gates and expansion of ticketing, baggage claim, and lobby areas.
- Vehicle parking capacity will have to be increased, with options that include the construction of a parking garage and the expansion of existing surface lots; additionally, the rental car service centers are to be relocated to an area along the east side of Patterson Avenue south of 44th Street.
- Expansion of the Air Cargo and Trade Center facilities will be necessary.
- Improvements to the airfield will be required, including aircraft apron expansion, minor taxiway work, and construction of additional perimeter security roads.
- The new explosive detection machines for screening checked luggage should be moved out of the ticketing lobby to an area behind the airline ticket counters, pending the availability of federal funding for this project.

In addition, the Master Plan update included a review of the timing for a third aircarrier runway.

However, based on forecasted growth, the need for additional runway capacity was determined to be beyond the 20-year planning horizon.

In addition to completing work on the Master Plan update, the Aeronautics Board is responding to our record-setting passenger growth this year by adding vehicle parking capacity. The Board recently approved the design of an expansion of the Express Shuttle lot. This popular parking option will be expanded from its current 1,000 spaces to 1,750 spaces.

Finally, the Board will be completing work this fall on a major landscaping project at the airport entrance and along Oostema Boulevard, the airport entrance drive. This project includes new plantings and earth sculpting designed to imitate the natural beauty of the West Michigan landscape. New directional roadway signs are also being installed as part of the project, along with a new airport exit sign near 44th Street welcoming patrons to "Michigan's West Coast".

As always, I thank the residents of Cascade Township for your long-standing support of Gerald R. Ford International. My fellow Aeronautics Board members and I appreciate the trust you have placed in us as stewards of this important community asset.

Publication Notes.....

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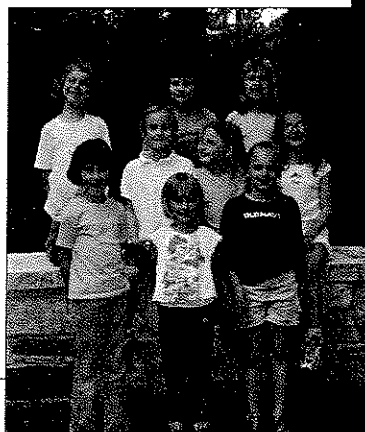
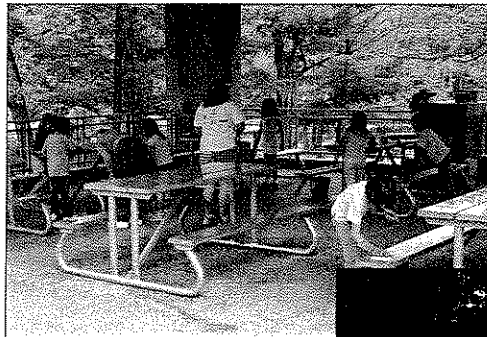
Bruce Poppen
Barbara Averill
Phyllis Gillie

Editor: Jean E. Neve
Deputy Clerk

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

This past May, a local Girl Scout Troop volunteered their services to the community, by working at the Tassell Riverfront Park. On May 18, nine girls from Troop 2429, led by Sue Ränge and Beth Kanous, participated in cleaning picnic tables, benches and sculptures. Township Buildings and Grounds staff members Fred Cox, Darrin McSorley and Sara Thacker were on hand to assist with and coordinate the project. Many thanks to Brittany Bowen, Erin Burke, Emma Dizon, Emily Hackbarth, Sophie Knape, Kelsey Lefley, Katie Ränge, Marlee Talbot and Emma Urbanski for their hard work!

A group from the Cascade Fellowship Church also volunteered a couple hours of their time this spring by picking up rubbish along several miles of pedestrian paths. The June 9th project, organized and led by resident Tess Lindholm, picked up and removed enough trash to fill several bags along the Cascade Road, Laraway Lake Drive and Burton Street paths. Thank you to all the residents who participated in this effort!



Cascade

EAST PRECINCT COMMUNITY POLICING REMINDER

It's hard to believe that fall is right around the corner. Soon we'll be sending our children back to school and they will be away from us most of the day. Now is the perfect time to remind our children about stranger danger.

- Remind your children to never go with someone they do not know.
- Tell them to never take anything from a stranger.
- Teach them to say "NO" and never get close enough to a stranger to be touched.
- Teach them to avoid deserted areas and to never walk alone.
- If a stranger approaches them, have them get away fast and tell someone they trust.
- Make sure you always know where your children are, who they are with and when they will be home.

For more information on safety issues and services provided by the Kent County Sheriff's Department - East Precinct office, please contact Deputy Todd Probst at 632-6436 or Deputy Ryan Coil at 632-6435.

The Kent County Sheriff's Department non-emergency number is 632-6100.



SEPTIC SYSTEMS IN CASCADE TOWNSHIP

Did you know that approximately 84% of the homes in Cascade Township use on-site septic systems to dispose of their wastewater? One of the main differences between a house with an on-site disposal system and a house hooked up to a public sewer system is that the homeowner is responsible to maintain the on-site septic system. That's why homeowners need to know the proper ways to use and maintain their septic systems in order for them to last. Kent County Health Department officials have indicated that all septic systems will fail at some point in time. At the point of failure (sewage on the ground surface or backups in the house) it is often necessary to replace the absorption field. If you suspect a failure, the Kent County Health Department (336-3089) can offer assistance to determine needed repairs.

What should not go through your septic system?

The following substances should not be put in the septic system: cooking grease, oils, or fats; pesticides; paints; solvents; disinfectants; septic tank additives, cleansers, or yeast. Cooking grease, oils, or fats should be placed in a container and put in household garbage. Pesticides, paints, paint thinners, solvents, disinfectants and other household chemicals are toxic substances that threaten ground water quality. There is no such thing as a safe and effective septic system additive and most harm your system.

What else do I need to do to manage my septic system?

- Conserve water use to avoid overloading your septic system.
- Your septic system is not a trash can. Using your garbage disposal or depositing napkins, tampons, plastics, cat litter, or other solids is detrimental to your system's operation.
- Have your septic system inspected every 1-2 years and pumped periodically (usually every 3-5 years) by a licensed inspector/contractor.
- Know where your septic system is and do not drive or park heavy vehicles on it or build over it. This can compact the soil and crush your system.
- Know how your septic system works and keep records of repairs, pumpings, inspections, and other maintenance activities.

Following these steps are keys to keeping your septic system a safe and economical method for treating and disposing of your wastewater onsite.

*Cascade
Connections*

PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY ETIQUETTE

Cascade Township maintains approximately 15 miles of pedestrian pathways for Township residents to enjoy. For the comfort and safety of pathway users, please remember the following:

- Always clean up after your dog.
- Walk, run or cycle on the right side of the trail in the direction you are going. Pass on the left.
- If you are on a bicycle or rollerblades and are approaching a pedestrian from the rear, please use common courtesy when passing.
- Remember that cyclers under 14 years of age are required to wear a helmet.

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