

Cascade Connections

Summer 2004

SCHEDULE OF
CELEBRATION EVENTS
INSIDE THIS ISSUE.

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

CASCADE CELEBRATION!

It's time for the Annual Cascade Township July 4th Celebration.

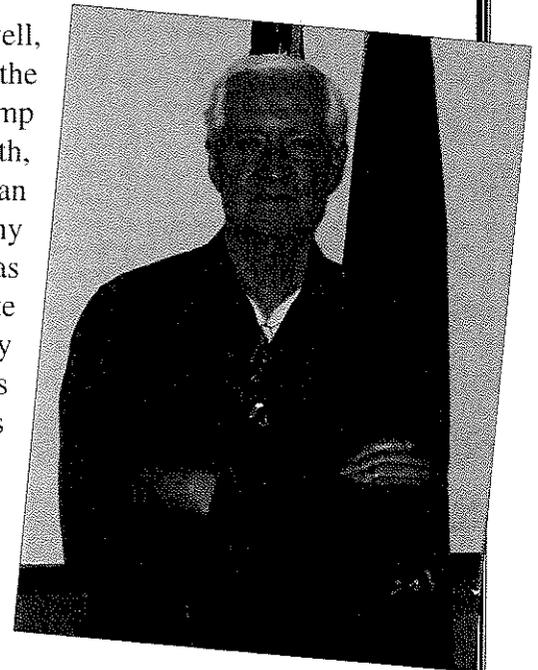
This year the parade, streetfair and fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 3rd. Watch the parade with antique cars, fire trucks and floats; then enjoy the streetfair, where there will be free rides, games and

activities for kids of all ages. End the evening with a spectacular fireworks show at Forest Hills Central High School. Come join in the fun with friends, neighbors and family right in your community!

July 4th Celebration Grand Marshal

The 2004 Grand Marshal for the July 4th Celebration is Mr. Carl Kerekes. Carl and his wife, Irene, will preside over the day's festivities.

Carl, a resident of Cascade Township for 50 years, was born in Lowell, Michigan in 1924, the youngest of three brothers. In 1943 he joined the U.S. Ski Troops which later became the 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale, Colorado. His two brothers, Lloyd and Paul, also joined the 10th, which went to Italy to lead the final American assault against the German army in Northern Italy. He served as a platoon leader and Company Commander during the Italian Campaign. Sadly, his brother Lloyd was killed in action there. After the war, Carl graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Industrial Psychology. He was employed by Kelvinator, Division of American Motors, for 30 years. He ended his career there as Director of Personnel and Labor Relations. During this period he was active with the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce as Chairman of the American Opportunity Committee. Following retirement, Carl served as Cascade Township Manager for 10 years and remembers this service as a very satisfying part of his career. During this time, he also worked for the State of Michigan as a Labor Arbitrator and Fact Finder.



Now, fully retired, he lives with his wife Irene on the Thornapple River in Cascade Township. Each day they thank God for its beauty and the river that runs through it.

Cascade

July 4th activities
will take place
on July 3rd this year.

Cascade Community Foundation presents --

Pathway Parade

Saturday, July 10, 8 a.m.

*A community walk on Cascade's beautiful paths to benefit the
Township Residents.*

For more information:

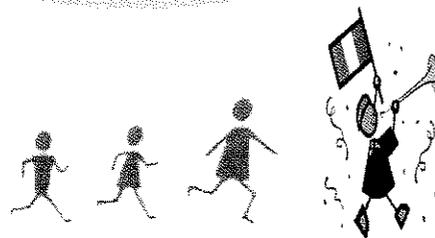
- Pick up a flyer at your favorite Cascade business
- Or go to the web at www.pathwayparade.com

Walk—

For you...

For your neighbors...

For charity!



Cascade

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

PARADE FLOAT CONTEST!

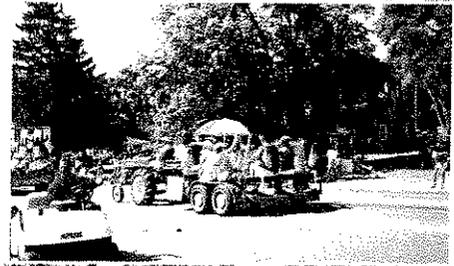
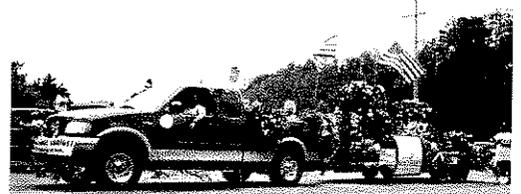
It's thinking time for the families, neighborhoods and businesses of Cascade as we head toward another 4th of July Parade Float Contest. Get your thinking caps on for a unique and fun float to entertain our Cascade Township Residents and many visitors who watch the parade.

The float contest has two categories - Family and Neighborhood Floats are in one category while Churches, Businesses and other Organizations are the second. 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're probably wondering - just what do I get if I win this contest? The winners in each category win a trophy to keep plus get to put the "Winner" banner on their float during the parade. In addition, their photo is up on a plaque in the Township Offices for the following 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 9:00 a.m. on the morning of July 3rd and get in line.

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



2003 Conservationist of the Year

Mick McGraw, CEO of Eastbrook Homes, was recently awarded the 2003 Conservationist of the Year Award by the Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Isaak Walton League of America. The annual award recognizes him for being a developer with a bold vision and innovative leadership in protecting the environment.

During 2003 Cascade Township received title to a beautiful piece of property, donated by Mr. McGraw, along the Grand River in the northeast corner of the township. This property was named Mick McGraw Park in honor of the donor. If you haven't visited the park yet, take a walk along the paved trail and enjoy its natural beauty soon.

Publication Notes.....

2865 Thornhills Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 949-1500
www.cascadetwp.com

Township Board

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Mickie Kleinheksel, Clerk
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Sandra Frost Parrish, Trustee
Richard Jones, Trustee

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Christopher Estes

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Lorissa MacAllister
Brian Logue
Tom McDonald
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Richard Jones

Board of Review

Bruce Poppen
Barbara Averill
Phyllis Gillie

Editor: Jean E. Neve
Deputy Clerk

PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION

(fka HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION)..... Check your tax bill

Summer 2004 tax bills will be mailed the first week of July. Check immediately to be sure you have received the primary residence exemption (P.R.E.). If you have a 100% exemption, the tax amount on the "School Operating" line will be a "-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, 2004, to receive the exemption on your 2004 tax bills. If you have purchased a piece of vacant land that is contiguous to your homestead, the vacant parcel is also eligible for the P.R.E.

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 13th so the correction can be made. If you do not receive a tax statement during July, please call the Treasurer's Office at 949-6944.



SUMMER 2004 TAX BILL CHANGES

For 2004 and future years, the State Education Tax (SET) millage rate will return to the normal 6 mills. The entire 6 mills will be collected on the summer bill.

Summer deferments are still available to certain individuals with disabilities, full-time farmers, and lower income seniors, who can defer the payment of summer taxes with no penalty until the winter bill is due. Deferment forms are filed yearly with the treasurer's office. The deadline to receive a deferral is September 14th for 2004. More detailed information on this program will be mailed with your summer tax bill during the first week of July.

Cascade

Fire / Emergency Rescue Millage on August Primary Ballot

On May 19, 2004, the Township Board passed a resolution to place a fire protection services millage on the primary election ballot this August 3rd. The proposed resolution asks electors to consider a 0.58 millage levy increase. The additional millage would be used in the following manner.

- *Finance six (6) new firefighter / emergency medical response positions for Buttrick Station.* Buttrick Station would be manned 24-hours a day, seven days a week. This would provide better fire and emergency response to residents on the east side of the Thornapple River.
- *Maintain 24-hours a day, seven days a week coverage from the Thornhills Avenue (Main) Station.* Increased health insurance costs and new occupational safety requirements from the federal government have resulted in budget shortfalls for the fire department. This millage would maintain current levels of service from the main fire and emergency rescue station.
- *Purchase a second medical response vehicle.* This new vehicle would be used at the Buttrick Station for emergency rescue calls.
- *Purchase a fire truck tanker.* A tanker would increase the ability of the Fire Department to respond to fire calls. Only 50 percent of our residences are within 300 feet of a water hydrant. The map on the following page shows residential properties within 300 feet of a hydrant.
- *Fund the scheduled replacement of equipment.* The Fire Department has a capital improvement plan which proposes a conservative equipment replacement schedule for vehicles such as fire pumpers and rescue vehicles. Protective gear also needs to be replaced due to wear.

The proposed millage is at a lower rate than the millage proposal that failed in 2002. In 2002, the Township asked voters to consider a millage that would be 0.7478 mills from 2002 through 2008 and 0.975 mills through 2002.

The proposed millage does not fund any administrative or supervisory personnel. Only firefighter / emergency medical response personnel would be hired.

The Township Board has committed by resolution that \$400,000 of the General Fund will be transferred to the Fire Department budget (in the Fire Fund). This will be done annually. This annual commitment could be suspended by formal resolution by the Township Board upon finding that severe economic conditions exist which causes a budget deficit without such suspension.

Other Township funds which financed the construction and maintenance of the Cascade Public Library or the Pedestrian Pathway system cannot by law be used to finance or operate the fire department. Those improvements were funded by specific tax millage levies which limit their use to the construction and maintenance of those improvements.

The proposed millage request is based upon the participation of residents in seven focus groups. The millage and the needs of the Fire Department also have been reviewed by a citizens committee that has met with the Fire Department close to a dozen times since last fall. This citizens committee, called the "Citizens Advisory Committee for Better EMS and Fire Protection" also has reviewed the millage proposal and asked the Township Board to place the millage proposal on the August primary ballot

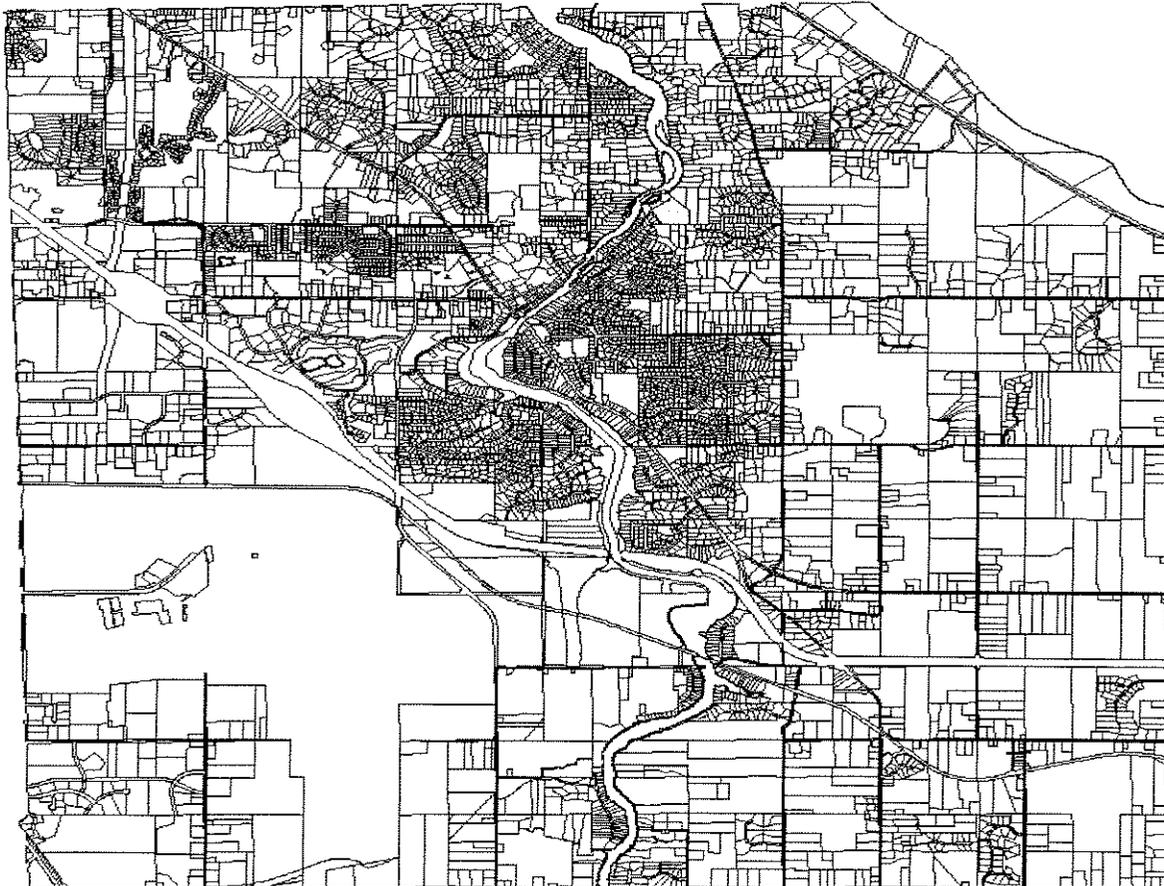
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The ballot language is as follows.

"Shall the limitation on general ad valorem property taxes within the Township be increased by 0.58 of one mill annually (which is equal to 58 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value of all real and personal property subject to taxation) for the period 2004 through 2023? The purpose of authorizing the Township to levy such millage is to finance new firefighter / emergency medical response positions and operate the Buttrick Station 24 hours, 7 days per week, while continuing 24 hour, 7 days per week at the Thornhills Station. The levy would also fund the purchase of a second medical response vehicle and a fire truck tanker. Further, the levy would fund the scheduled replacement of fire equipment. The amount raised by such levy the first year is estimated at \$725,191 (an estimated \$640,757 would be for the cost of providing emergency medical response and fire protection and an estimated \$84,434 would be directed to the Township's Downtown Development Authority for investment in our community)."

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact Township Manager Jay Cravens at 949-1500 or Chief John Sigg at 949-1320.

Cascade Charter Township



 Residential Parcels
within 300 feet of a
Public Watermain



2 0 2 Miles

5/20/04

Cascade

Local Road Repair Projects

During March the Kent County Road Commission took a "tour" of our Township to set its schedule for local road repair. The following streets are scheduled for overlays or micro-surfacing during the summer.

OVERLAYS

Bridgewater Dr (Thornapple River to Riverton)

Riverton Ave (Bridgewater to End)

Hillsboro Ave (Bridgewater to End)

Middlebrook Ave (Bridgewater to End)

Sandy Point Ave (Bridgewater to End)

Shadyview Dr (Hillsboro to End)

Gleneagles Dr (Hillsboro to Hillsboro)

Turnberry Dr (Gleneagles to End)

Denham Ct (Hillsboro to End)

Birkdale Dr (Hillsboro to Tammarron)

Tammarron Ave (Birkdale to Laraway Lake Dr)

Forest Shores (Cascade Rd to End)

Denison Dr (Thornapple River Dr to End)

Grachen Dr (Thornapple River Dr to Mt Ash St)

Mountain Ash St (Thornapple River to Grachen)

Oliver Woods Dr and Ct (To Ends)

MICRO SURFACING

Gladys Dr (Thornapple River Dr to End)

Hillsboro Ave (Bridgewater Dr to End)

Donnegal Ct (Tammarron Ave to End)

Cascade Farms Dr and Ct (To Ends)

Sunrise Ct (To End)

Windcrest St (To End)

Mooring Heights Ct (To End)

Gypsies in Cascade?

Yes, indeed! Every summer in the late 20s and early 30s, a clan set up camp near Cascade Christian Church, in the woods, near the creek.

If you had followed the trail east off Cascade Road on the north side of the gravel pit (where Family Fare is now) you would find the very spot. They came with canvas covered trucks that had lots of junk hanging outside. Tents were set up in the woods on several old cement foundations. These were remnants of workers' cabins that were occupied when Cascade Road was paved and the bridge was built over the Thornapple River. Visit our booth at the July 4th celebration, located near the library, and join the Cascade Historical Society.

Also available will be the 50" x 70" "Cascade" afghans priced at \$75. All proceeds will help fund construction of the future History Room in the Cascade Library.

Grenelefe Takes A Step Toward Safety

Recently the Grenelefe Condominium board approached the Cascade Firefighters Association about purchasing green reflective address signs for all of their buildings. Grenelefe board members realized that in an emergency, minutes and even seconds count toward a positive outcome. Working in conjunction with the condo board, the Firefighters Association was able to make and install 44 reflective address signs. Now whether it be day or night, emergency personnel will be able to respond quickly to locate an address in Grenelefe condominiums.

If you or your neighborhood association would like to purchase address signs, please contact the Firefighters Association at 949-1320.

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"A Message from Kent District Library - August 3 Library Millage Ballot Questions"

Kent District Library is comprised of 18 branches and a Service Center, serving 26 municipalities in Kent County.

On August 3, Kent District Library will be asking for a total of 1.0 mills for ten years, in two questions (0.88 and 0.12). If both questions pass, KDL will be able to maintain enhanced library programs and services that meet the needs of your growing community.

If only the 0.88 rate (Question 1) passes, all KDL branches will stay open. However, it is projected that Kent District Library will have to cut operations. For example, the book budget, open hours, and support services for local library building projects would be reduced. If a millage initiative does not pass in 2004, KDL could not continue services and would close all 18 branches.

How much will the millage cost?

- In 2000, taxpayers approved a 0.88 millage rate for four years.
- At 0.88 mill, the owner of a \$100,000 home will pay \$44 a year, or about 12.5 cents a day.
- At 1.0 mill that same homeowner would pay \$50 a year, or about 14 cents a day.

Your 1.0 mill funds will ensure ongoing, enhanced library service.

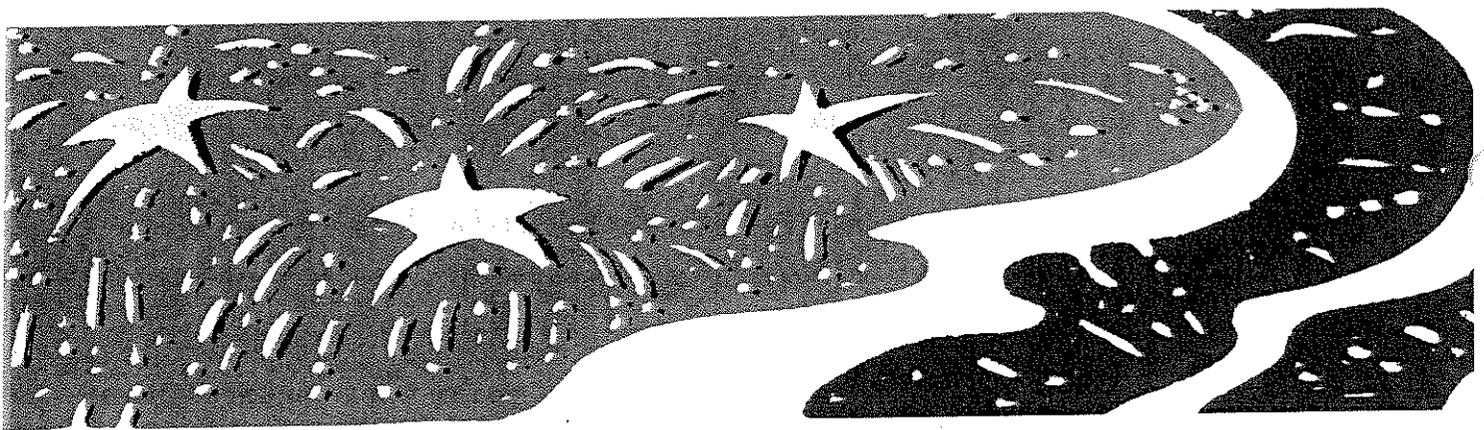
- All library materials will be free, including videos, DVDs, and music CDs.
- More bestsellers will be purchased, so waiting lists are shorter.
- The book and materials budget will be increased by 50%, over the life of the millage.
- KDL will increase "Self Checkout" to deliver fast, convenient service.
- KDL will support local library building projects with staff, materials, and computers.
- KDL will continue to offer early literacy programs, such as laptime and storytime for children 0-5 years of age.
- KDL will increase programs and services, such as computer classes, geared to older adults.
- KDL will continue to fund the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.
- KDL will provide new technology, such as more PCs and high speed Internet access.

This millage will not be used for buildings.

Kent District Library provides the books and materials, staff, and computers to operate the branch libraries. This millage request is for general library operations. Local communities provide the buildings that house the branches.

Questions?

E-mail millageinfo@kdl.org, or call (616) 784-2007, extension 2240.



July 4th Celebration - Saturday, July 3rd

Come Help Us Celebrate!!!

Schedule of Events

Date/Time	Event	Location
Saturday, July 3rd		
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.	Friends of the Library Book Sale	Cascade Public Library
9:00 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.	Cessna Citation Bravo Fly Over Sponsored By Northern Air and Northern Jet Management	
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.	Street Fair Begins!!! Free Games & Rides for Kids, Elephant Rides, Kiddie Train Rides, Animal Petting Zoo, Food Booths, Clowns and more!	Thornbook & Jacksmith area (Cascade Library)
11:30 a.m.—1:15 p.m.	Music by Spellbound	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 for Canoe Race at 12:00 at Tassell Park near the Boardwalk)
1:30 p.m.—2:00 p.m.	Ronald McDonald will perform a magic show	Stage at Thornbook & Jacksmith area
2:15 p.m.—3:00 p.m.	Music by Spellbound	Stage at Thornbook & Jacksmith area
3:30 p.m.	Closing of the Celebration	
Dusk	Fireworks	Forest Hills Central High School

Special Thanks To The Sponsors Listed Below

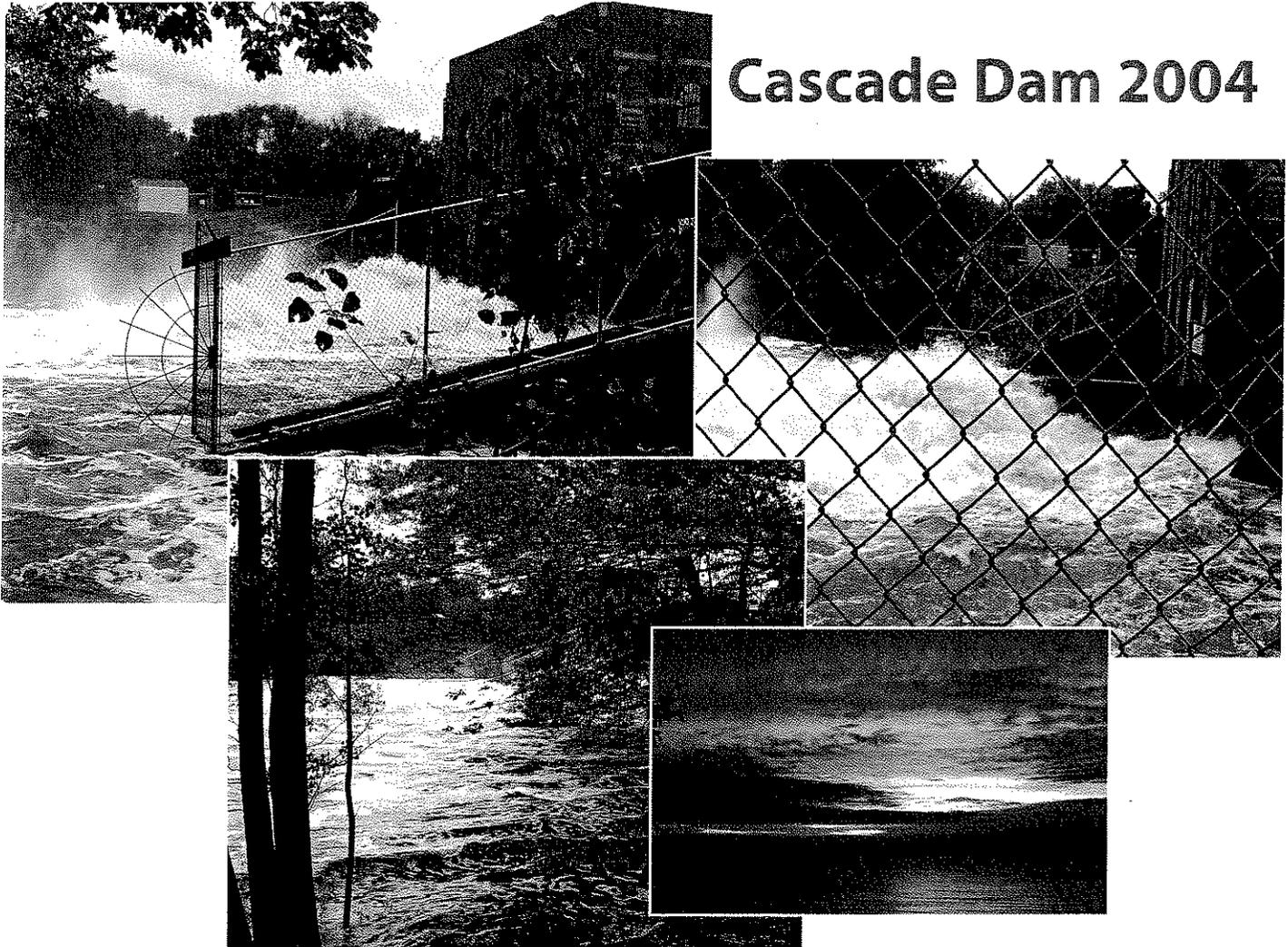
Brann's Steakhouse & Grill
 Buiten, Steensma & Associates
 Cascade Engineering
 Cascade Firefighters Assoc.
 Cascade Hospital for Animals
 Chemical Bank West
 Cintas—The Uniform People
 D&W Food Stores
 Dickinson, Wright
 Discover Chiropractic

Emerald Tree
 Falcon Printing
 Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber
 Funny Business
 Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter
 Impact Vehicle Damage Erasure
 Independent Bank
 Kingsland True Value
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 Leslie E. Tassell
 Meekhof Lumber
 Meijer
 Northern Air & Northern Jet
 Management
 Nye Uniform Company
 Standard Federal Bank
 Superior Asphalt
 Thornapple River Nursery
 United Bank
 Verburg's Automotive

For information on prevention of
West Nile Virus click on the
Township website at
www.cascadetwp.com

Connections



Cascade Dam 2004

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

The General Primary Election is set for Tuesday, August 3, 2004. If you are not registered in Cascade Township you must do so by July 6th to be eligible to vote in the Primary Election. You no longer have to declare your party preference to vote in a Primary Election. The complete ballot will be available for viewing on our website at www.cascadetwp.com after July 12th.

If you require an absentee ballot and are not already on our permanent absentee voter list, please call 949-1500 or stop by the Township Clerk's office after July 5th. The Township office will be open on July 31st from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for absentee voting.

Cascade Connections

SURVIVING SOLICITORS

Cascade Township has an ordinance requiring solicitors be licensed. Any person who travels from house to house attempting to take orders for the sale of goods or to collect monies for charitable organizations must obtain a license from the Township. This license requires the solicitor to wear a picture identification badge, signed by the Township Manager, on his or her person in full view.

If you encounter a solicitor who is not wearing a name badge, please call the Township Office (949-1500) or the Kent County Sheriff's Department (336-3113) immediately. If a licensed solicitor causes you any problems, please report this to the Township.

As always, report any suspicious person to the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

Neighborhood children selling goods for school are not required to be licensed.

REMEMBER YOUR HELMET

Now that the school year is winding down and nice weather is upon us, kids everywhere are getting on bicycles. When they do, please remember that Cascade Township has an ordinance requiring the use of bicycle helmets by persons under 14 years of age. The ordinance specifically states that "No person aged fourteen years or under shall operate or be a passenger on a bicycle on a public roadway, sidewalk, or pathway unless at all times when the person is so engaged he or she wears a protective helmet of good fit fastened securely upon the head with the straps of the helmet."

If a person aged fourteen or under is seen operating a bicycle without a protective helmet, a Kent County Sheriff's Deputy or designated Township Employee must report the person's name to the Township Manager. The Manager will write a letter to the person's parents or legal guardian. This violation is a civil infraction and is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$50.

Please be safe and wear a helmet.

Cascade Charter Township

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