

Cascade Connections

Spring/Summer 2005

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township

Cascade Celebration

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

This year the parade, street fair and fireworks will be held on Monday, July 4th. Watch the parade featuring antique cars, fire trucks and floats; then enjoy the street fair, 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 family, friends and neighbors right in 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.

4TH

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION – GRAND MARSHAL

The 2005 Grand Marshal for the 4th of July Celebration is Mr. Robert Somerville. Bob will preside over the festivities of our 4th of July celebration.

Bob, a resident of Cascade Township for 55 years, was born in Toronto, Ontario in 1909, the younger of two brothers. His family moved to Michigan when he was 6 months old and became U.S. citizens. His father was in the construction business, so the family moved wherever there was work.

In 1939, Bob married Marie and they purchased 40 acres, which included an abandoned, half built house on Vergennes Road. Bob started an oil pipeline construction business in Grandville in 1940. In 1946 Bob purchased 80 acres on Thornapple River Drive in Cascade Township and developed an airstrip on the land. By 1950, Bob and Marie had four children, Sandy, Bob, Mary Ann and John, and had outgrown their first home. They built a home in Cascade Township on the north side of the airstrip, and he built an office on 28th Street in Northern Industrial Park.

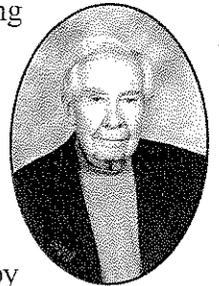
In addition to building their home on the airstrip, they developed property between Lions Park and Thornapple River Drive (Ada Township). This development was called Thornwood Pointe. Bob also developed Briarcliff Acres and Northern Industrial Park.

Besides developing properties and maintaining his company, from 1950 through 1970, Bob

Somerville also divided his time by serving on the Cascade Township Board, Planning Commission and Board of Review. He became a member of First Congregational Church in Ada in 1957 and has served on the Thornapple Valley Lions Club, Thornapple River Association, Cascade Business Association and Cascade Historical Society.

Mr. Somerville is currently spending his time working with a church on Clancy Street designing low cost housing in the City of Grand Rapids. His passion for development at the age of 95 years is still strong. Mr. Somerville states that he has one more development left in him. He has also said that Cascade Township has been and continues to be an exciting place to live.

Cascade Township is honored to have Mr. Somerville as a resident for the past 55 years. On behalf of Cascade Township, we congratulate Bob Somerville as the 2005 Grand Marshal and thank him for his contributions to Cascade Township and the Grand Rapids area.



Cascade

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

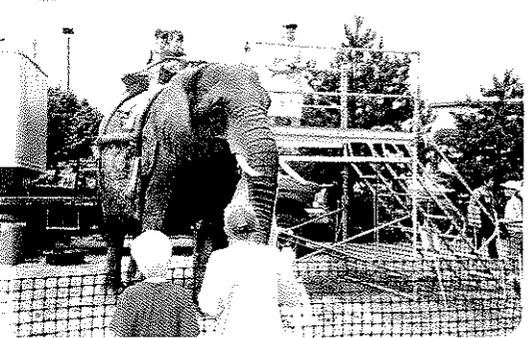
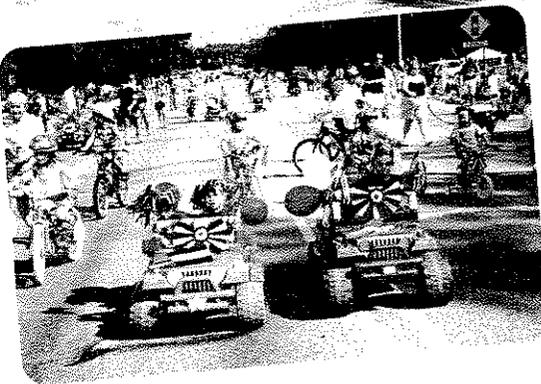
Organizations are in the other. The parade contest has inspired many new neighborhoods to join together to build a float – it has encouraged Churches to use their floats as an outreach tool, and it has inspired just plain FUN for the friends and neighbors who attend the parade.

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!



The Cascade Dam

History: The Cascade Dam was constructed by the Michigan Water Power Company in 1926 for hydro-electric generation. The dam is constructed of two earthen embankments in an arch shape, a gated concrete spillway and a powerhouse built of brick and reinforced concrete. The powerhouse contains one large turbine, which is turned by flowing water and drives the electric generator. (The dam also has four gates that can be used during high water periods to release impoundment water.) On the other side of the fence is a fish ladder, which was designed as part of the original dam, but is no longer in use. Normal river flow through the spillway and powerhouse is 200 to 1000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The powerhouse turbine can handle up to 1700 cfs. Join the Cascade Historical Society to learn more about the Township history.

The Cascade Historical Society is looking for new members. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Cascade's history. Come and visit our booth at the 4th of July celebration and enjoy a glass of lemonade and penny candy. The following fund raising items will be for sale at our booth: Cascade Historical Afghan for \$75.00 and the Cascade Chronicles for \$10.00. Other items may also be available, as well as membership forms. Please call Mary Carpenter at 949-6944 for more information.

Connections

Library Expansion Update

The extra excitement you may be noticing on your recent library trips is probably due to the anticipation generated by our expansion plans. The new "Enrichment Center" will include a 3,000-square foot dividable multi-purpose room, additional study rooms, a teen center, an Early Literacy room and many other amenities. We are nailing down the details and hope to begin construction sometime this summer. All of this will be accomplished with no new taxes.

Contributions have already been received from local supporters which bring us halfway to our goal of collecting \$700,000 from private donors. We will soon be launching a community fundraising campaign, where you will be invited to purchase designer tiles to add your personal touch to the "Enrichment Center". These tiles are to be displayed in the new lobby as part of a "patron bookshelf motif."

You will be receiving a brochure in the mail with more details on how you can become a part of this new chapter of the Cascade Library. There will also be information available at the library as you are asked to Imagine the Possibilities!

Pine Ridge Elementary - Garden Tour

This year, Pine Ridge Elementary School will be part of the Kent MSU Extension Master Gardeners Garden Tour. Pine Ridge Elementary will feature the efforts of student gardeners as young as kindergarten as well as students involved in the Junior Master Gardener Program at the school.

The Garden Tour is Saturday, July 16 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday, July 17, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM.

Proceeds from the garden tour benefit the Kent MSU Extension Junior Master Gardener Program. This volunteer program equips young gardeners with current, research-based gardening knowledge so that they can volunteer in their home communities.

Tickets are available at

Kent MSU Extension

5 Ball Ave., NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616/336-3265

Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM



SAFE AT HOME

On May 1, 2005, Bob and Gina Nolan, their sons, Connor & Jack, along with Connor's friend Anthony Bowie, went to play on the playground equipment at Thornapple Elementary School. As Connor and Anthony ran ahead, they discovered some playground equipment on fire and informed Connor's parents. Bob Nolan investigated and quickly called 911. Cascade Township Fire Department responded to the call and extinguished the fire.

Both Connor and Anthony recently completed the "SAFE AT HOME" fire safety classes at their school, taught by Cascade Firefighters Albright and Monterusso. Cascade Fire Department is proud of these two boys and would like to recognize Connor Nolan and Anthony Bowie, first graders at Thornapple Elementary School, for their quick actions in alerting Bob and Gina Nolan to the fire.



Cascade

The Rapid Launches Countywide Transportation Service

Cemetery Reminders

Burial sites at the three Cascade Township cemeteries are available at no cost to current residents of Cascade Township. Two sites will be given at the time of need. The charge for opening and closing of the gravesite is \$500.00. Additionally, a foundation is required before a headstone can be placed at the site. These charges are paid directly to the monument company chosen by the family. The fee for an unused site, which is reserved for a previous resident who now lives outside Cascade Township, is \$10.00 annually.

Acceptable decorations include:

Annual or perennial flowers planted within one foot of the headstone

Urns or metal baskets placed at the ends of the headstone (not in front or behind)

Artificial flowers placed within one foot of the headstone or in urns or baskets.

Inappropriate decorations would include:

Benches

Trees, shrubbery or roses

Evergreens

Fences, railings, edging or walls

Gravel, brick, stone, marble or wood chips around the headstone

Anything in the walkway

The seasonal decorations must be removed if you wish to save them. Summer decorations will be taken out if not removed on October 1. Winter decorations will be removed on April 1 each year.

Please contact the Clerk's office at 949-1508 if you have questions or concerns.

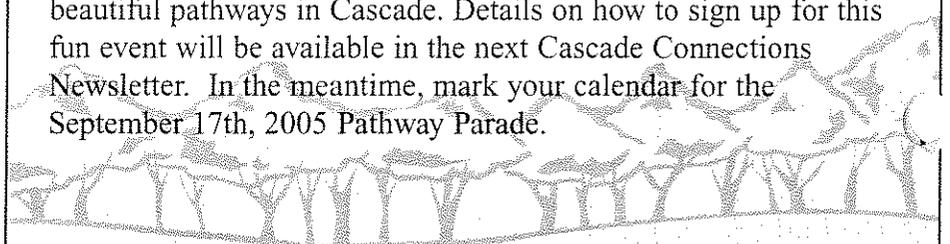
The Rapid has kicked-off the County Connection, a new countywide transportation service. The County Connection service ensures that all residents of Kent County have access to public transportation. It is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, with the exception of major holidays. Rides are scheduled in advance and cost \$14.00 each way; same day rides can also be scheduled on a space-available basis with a \$5.00 surcharge per person/per ride. Children under the age of 5 are free. The service area is the borders of Kent County, approximately 22 Mile Road to the north, 108th Avenue to the south, Wilson/Kenowa to the west, and Boynton/Snow to the east. You can ride from any point in the county to any other point in the county using this service.

The County Connection program is funded through a competitive federal job access and reverse commute grant matched by state money. The Rapid worked closely with the Workforce Development Board and the Area Community Service for Employment and Training (ACSET) to design a program that supports work or work-related trips throughout Kent County. Priority is given to clients of ACSET and the Michigan Department of Human Services (formerly FIA), but it is available to all residents of Kent County.

County Connection has brought transportation alternatives to many areas of Kent County that previously had no access to public transportation. The service also assists those choosing to live in rural areas in finding a cost-effective, reliable way to get to work. The County Connection significantly enhances the quality of life for Kent County residents and is quickly on its way to becoming a major success story for The Rapid, and ultimately, the people it serves. To schedule a ride or find out more about the service, call The Rapid at 800-849-1191.

Pathway Parade

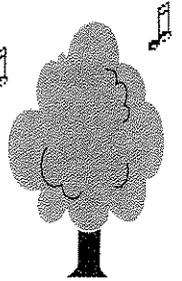
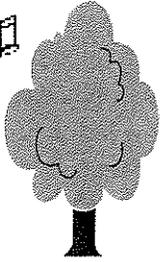
The Cascade Community Foundation has set the date for the second Annual Pathway Parade. Join your friends and neighbors on Saturday morning, September 17th, 2005 for a walk along the beautiful pathways in Cascade. Details on how to sign up for this fun event will be available in the next Cascade Connections Newsletter. In the meantime, mark your calendar for the September 17th, 2005 Pathway Parade.



Cascade Township
&
Cascade Community Foundation
Presents:

River Beat

The Leslie E. Tassell Park
The Second Thursday of the month
June, July, August, September
7 p.m.



Thursday, June 9
Mustard's Retreat



Thursday, July 14
Scottville Clown Band



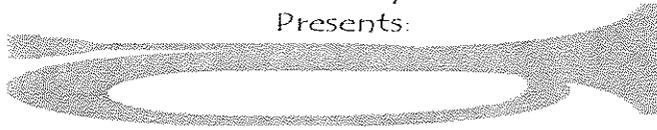
Thursday, August 11
Great Lakes
Chorus



Thursday, September 8
Boogie Woogie
Babies

Bring a picnic basket & a lawn chair, your children and lots of smiles!
(But please NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES - Thank you!)

Cascade Township
&
Cascade Community Foundation
Presents:



River Beat



MUSTARD'S RETREAT - Thursday, June 9; 7p.m.

In an age where bubblegum pop seems all the rage, David Tamulevich and Michael Hough, otherwise known as Mustard's Retreat, have been using their music to take audiences on a folksy, good-time, jive-jumping ride for 31 years. How have they lasted so long? The reason, they say, is the audience. Mustard's Retreat are wonderfully unafraid to get silly with their audience, spinning out smartly goofy parodies, too-tall tales of wily rabbits and stupid frogs, hard-traveling cadavers and marauding technonerds. Whether performing for large festivals, tiny coffeehouses, at special shows for children or families, it clearly pleases them to please their audiences

SCOTTVILLE CLOWN BAND - Thursday, July 14; 7p.m.

The Scottville Clown band has been entertaining audiences and parade watchers since 1903. Starting with a dozen musicians; primarily local merchants and business people, they performed at local festivals and fairs dressed up like clowns, tramps and ladies. They now perform 50 to 55 events a year and the membership has grown to over 200 musicians from all over the country. The Scottville clown band is in great demand around Michigan and the Nation and we are fortunate to be able to bring them to the Cascade River Beat.

GREAT LAKES CHORUS - Thursday, August 11; 7p.m.

Winner of the national Chorus Champions 10 times since 1953, The Great lakes Chorus' is proud to be one of Michigan's and America's best barbershop singing groups. But don't expect a simple four member quartet. This group has over 40 members, each with a voice so rich and so vibrant that it will make your skin tingle and your toes tap. Come prepared to be WOWed.

BOOGIE WOOGIE BABIES - Thursday, September 8; 7p.m.

Get ready to jump, jive and wail with the fabulous Boogie Woogie Babies, featuring the tight vocal harmonies and swing sounds of WWII in the style of the Andrews Sisters. Audiences rave about this great trio of vocalists: Francesca Amari, Mary Rademacher, Barbara Wisse, and their accompanist Mark Kahny. Between them they have trained in New York City, performed overseas with the USO, won the regional Star Search contest, have starred in shows for all of the Grand Rapids theaters for more than 20 years and performed with such legends as Red Buttons, Johnny Mathis and Ray Charles. Remember to bring your dancing shoes as no will be able to resist swinging with these remarkable Babies.

Sponsored by the Cascade Township and the Cascade Community Foundation, the River Beat is a new addition to your summers. Plan on bopping, and rocking and rolling with a new musical group the second Thursday of every month during the long, hot summer.

Bring a picnic dinner, your family and friends, blankets or lawn chairs. But don't plan on sitting for long. The music will be too good to stay in your seat!

Because the event is at the Leslie E. Tassell park and because it is a family friendly event, we are asking patrons to please leave the alcoholic beverages at home. Thank you for your understanding.

Due to parking restrictions we encourage you to walk, ride a bike or carpool to the event.

Additional parking will be available at the Cascade Christian Church and at the Cascade Public Library.

Handicapped parking available at the dam entrance.

The Cascade Community Foundation is always looking for volunteers. Do you have ideas for our community? Can you pass out coffee? Call 949-1500 for more information.

Connections

Summer 2005 Tax Information

Michigan Public Act 357 of 2004 **changed the collection schedule** for the County General Operating Property Tax collection. This shift is a result of a change in law by the State Legislature, and not by action of the County Board of Commissioners or your Township Board.

The tax bill you receive in July 2005 will be increased by at least one-third of the amount of county operating tax. In 2006 two-thirds of the operating tax levy will be collected in the summer. In 2007 (and thereafter), the entire operating tax levy will be collected in the summer. The county operating tax will be reduced on the winter tax bill each year by the same amount. The exact amount of change may vary due to changes in your assessment or a voted tax levy.

You may get an estimate of this amount by looking at the Kent County Operating line item on your 2004 winter tax statement. For your convenience, this information is available through a link on the Township's website. The link will connect you to the township's software provider, BS&A, for information on property taxes and assessing information.

Summer 2005 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed July 1st. Summer taxes are due on or before **September 14th, 2005**. If you do not receive a tax statement during July, please 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.

Certain individuals with disabilities, full-time farmers and lower income seniors can defer the payment of summer taxes with no penalty until the winter bill is due. PA 244 follows the existing guidelines for this summer deferment program. Deferment forms are filed yearly with the treasurer's office. The deadline to receive a deferral is September 14th for 2005. More detail information on this program is mailed with your summer tax bill.

Instructions for our web site are:

www.cascadetwp.com

Click on Departments

Click on Treasurers Department

Click on Tax & Assessing information

Click on the link to B S & A

On the left side of the screen are search selections, parcel number, name or address.

Ex: Click on Parcel number (in blue)

Enter your parcel number with dashes,
Click search.

On the left side of the screen is Property Information click Tax or one of the other buttons for information on your property.

10 Minutes That Could Save Your Life

Life Line Screening will be at the Thornapple Community Church on Tuesday August 2, 2005. Life Line Screening screens the carotid arteries in the neck for plaque (75% of all strokes are linked to carotid artery blockage) and the arteries in the legs for peripheral arterial disease, which is linked to heart disease. They offer a third test that screens for aneurysms in the aortic vessel in the abdomen. Life Line Screening will also offer a bone density screening to test your risk for osteoporosis. This is a preventive program, and is really worth participating in...problems can be detected early, and taken care of before they become life threatening. Your results are mailed back to you and you are referred back to your own doctor (your doctor may recommend a yearly screening). These non-invasive, completely painless vascular screenings take about 10 minutes each, and are quite inexpensive. **YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER.** Call 1-800-407-4557 for your appointment or for more information. Please check your bulletins or your church office for more informative flyers on this beneficial health service.

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

Township Board
Michael R. Julien, Supervisor
Ron Goodyke, Clerk
Mary J. Carpenter, Treasurer
Robert Beahan, Trustee
Brian Currier, Trustee
Sandra Frost Parrish, Trustee
Jim Koessel, Trustee

Zoning Board of Appeals
Rob Beahan
Jack Lewis
Mel Casey
Gary Crawley
Christopher Estes

Planning Commission
Eric Richards
Jim Koessel
Fred Goldberg
Jack Lewis
Lorissa MacAllister
Brian Logue
Tom McDonald
Claude Robinson

Community Foundation
Claude Robinson
Susan Roeder
Jack Lewis
Mary Carpenter
Sandra Frost Parrish
Pat Vredevoogd
Michael Julien
Rob Beahan
Carl Kerekes
Bill Green
Michelle Bottrall

Passport Planning

Planning for foreign travel must include applying for a passport, if you do not already have one. You now have the convenience of doing this at the Cascade Township Office. The cost is the same as it would be in any Passport Acceptance Agency. There are a few things to keep in mind when applying.

PLAN AHEAD TO SAVE MONEY AND REDUCE STRESS

Don't wait to apply for your passport. Normally you should plan on six weeks to get your passport returned to you. The fee (including the Security Surcharge) is \$67.00 for those 14 and older and \$52 for those under 14 years of age. A check must be made out to the U.S. Dept. of State for these fees. In addition, a \$30 execution fee is due payable to Cascade Township. If you need your passport within two weeks, a \$60 expediting fee is required. To assure that the expediting process moves quickly, you have the option of including two express mail envelopes from the U.S. Post Office. The cost of these envelopes is \$13.65 each way. (The envelopes and postage are only available at US Post Offices, not mailing centers.)

By getting your passport early, you can save money and eliminate stress and concern over the timely arrival of that important document.

BRING THE NECESSARY PIECES OF INFORMATION

You need:

Proof of U.S. citizenship (one of the following)

Previous U.S. passport

Certified Birth Certificate (US born)

Naturalization Certificate (born outside the US)

Certificate of Citizenship

Current photo ID

2 passport photographs

Appropriate fees

COME TO THE CASCADE TOWNSHIP OFFICE

You must appear in person to apply. The Cascade Township Office will accept applications Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please call Marilyn at 949-1500 if you have any questions.



Connections

July 4th Celebration - Monday, July 4th

Schedule of Events

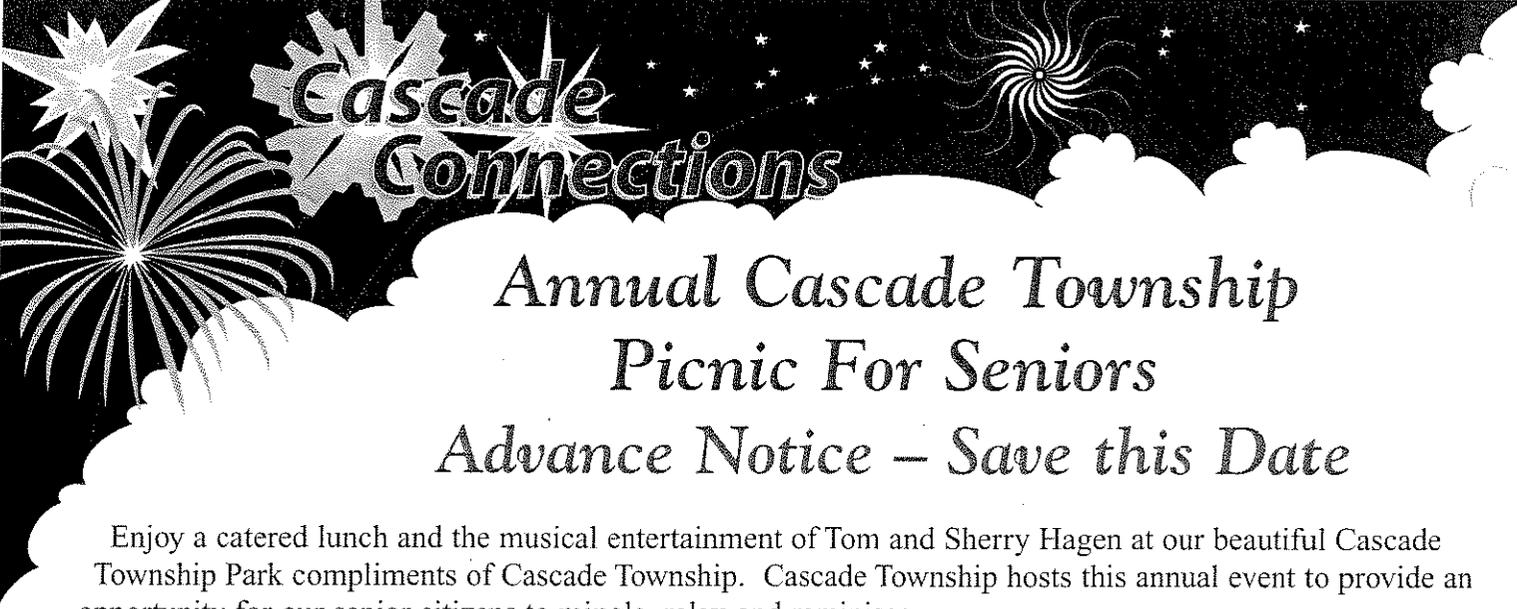
Date/Time	Event	Location
Monday, July 4th		
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.	Friends of the Library Book Sale	Cascade Public Library
8:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m.	Parade Participants Form	Cascade Rd. and Burton St. (Back Parking Lot of Forest Hills Admin. Building)
9:45 a.m.—10:00 a.m.	Bike Parade Participants Form (Please 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.	Street Fair Begins!!! Free Games and Rides for Kids, Elephant Rides, Kiddie Train Rides, Animal Petting Zoo, Food Booths, Clowns and more!	Thornbook & Jacksmith area (Cascade Library)
12:00-12:45 p.m.	 Presents music by Midlife Crisis	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)
12:55 p.m.-1:15 p.m.	Big Dog Taekwon-Do Demonstrations	Stage at Thornbook & Jacksmith area
1:15 p.m.—2:00 p.m.	 Presents music by Midlife Crisis	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.	 Presents music by Midlife Crisis	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 Association
 Cascade Hospital for Animals
 Chemical Bank West
 D&W Food Stores
 Dickinson, Wright
 Emerald Tree
 Falcon Printing

Family Fare Supermarkets
 Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber
 Funny Business
 Gordon Food Service
 Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter
 Impact Vehicle Damage Erasure
 Independent Bank
 Kingsland True Value
 Koenes Auto Body
 Joyce & Tom Wisner in Memory of
 Leslie E. Tassell

Meekhof Lumber
 Meijer
 Nye Uniform Company
 Performance Systematix, Inc.
 Standard Federal Bank
 Superior Asphalt
 Thornapple River Nursery
 United Bank
 Verburg's Automotive



Cascade Connections

Annual Cascade Township Picnic For Seniors Advance Notice – Save this Date

Enjoy a catered lunch and the musical entertainment of Tom and Sherry Hagen at our beautiful Cascade Township Park compliments of Cascade Township. Cascade Township hosts this annual event to provide an opportunity for our senior citizens to mingle, relax and reminisce.

The event will be held on Tuesday, August 16, beginning at noon and ending at 2:30. In case of rain or unbearable heat, the picnic will be held inside at the Forest Hills Senior Center. This is offered to our senior Cascade Township residents by the Township at no charge; all we ask is that you make a reservation by calling 493-8950 or by stopping in at the Forest Hills Senior Center and leaving your name. Please contact Clerk Ron Goodyke at 949-1508 if you have any questions.

Cascade Charter Township

2865 Thornhills Ave SE
Grand Rapids MI 49546
phone: 616.949.1500
fax: 616.949.3918
www.cascadetwp.com

PRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT No. 653 GRAND RAPIDS MI
