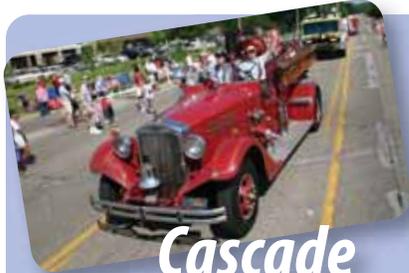




Cascade Connections

Spring/Summer 2007

A Newsletter from Cascade Charter Township



Cascade Celebration

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

Continue the festivities on Wednesday, 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.

Raymond and Jeannette Gaylord Grand Marshals of the Cascade 4th of July Celebration



Neither Jeannette nor Raymond Gaylord ever envisioned living any other place but Ohio, having grown up there, attending school there and serving churches there. However, fifty years ago a small country church in Cascade kept calling and inviting them to be considered as the potential pastor at Cascade Christian Church. After giving an emphatic "no" to the tiny church, the church kept calling and fifty years later, the Gaylords are still serving as best they can at the church they love so much, not to mention the larger Cascade community.

Under the Gaylords leadership, the church grew from 200 to 1300 members; the campus from one to eight prime acres at the center of the village. New buildings were built; former residences were used for various ministries of the church.

In addition, the Gaylords reared three children: Jonathan (deceased); Sara, now living in Ridgewood, New Jersey; and Peter, in San Francisco. The Gaylords have four grandchildren of whom they are justly proud.

Jeannette, a World War II Navy nurse and educated as a public school nurse and an educator, worked for thirteen years in the former Butterworth School of Nursing, as well as having been a substitute teacher in the Forest Hills Schools for many years. She still has a weekly Bible study class for women at the Cascade Church.

Raymond, now emeritus pastor of Cascade Christian, still preaches each Sunday at one of four Sunday morning services, as well as assisting with funerals, visitations, etc. He has always worked in an ecumenical relationship with the Catholics and all other protestant churches in the area and was honored as the second recipient of the Msgr. Hugh Michael Beahan Award for ecumenism.

Raymond also received the Ben Emdin Award for his work in the public schools; and several awards from the Boy Scouts, with whom he has been a participant for seventy years. Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia, awarded him a Doctor of Divinity degree for his work in the church. For many years, he served as the chairman of the Cascade 4th of July celebration. Raymond continues to serve as the president of ACCESS 6, which does welfare work in the six township area, including Cascade.

Jeannette and Raymond are most humbled to be asked to serve as the Grand Marshals of the 2007 Independence Day Celebration.

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.

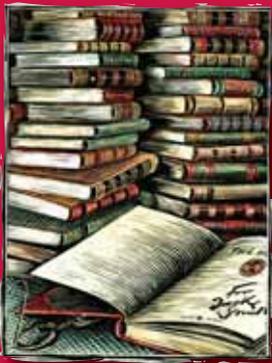
Prizes!! You are probably wonder-

ing – 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!



Join The Festivities!

What?
Gigantic Annual
Used Book Sale

When?
Wednesday
July 4th
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Where?
Cascade Library
2870 Jacksmith SE

Sponsored By:
The Friends
Of Cascade
Library

Kent District Library Kicks off the 2007 Annual Summer Reading Club

The Kent District Library kicks-off the 2007 Summer Reading Club for kids and teens with two parties! Last year, 600 people attended the kickoffs—this year, a full summer's fun will be packed into these free events that the entire family can enjoy, including: Reneé Hudson's face painting, Truffles the Clown's balloon animals, the JumpnJacks Moon Bouncer, and pizza provided by Papa Murphy's Pizza. Register for the SRC, and enjoy activities for the whole family at the SRC kick-off extravaganzas!

The Wyoming Branch of KDL will host a family festival on Saturday, June 9, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The Wyoming Branch of KDL is located at 3350 Michael Avenue, SW, in Wyoming.

John Collins Park in East Grand Rapids will be the site of the second festival, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, June 14. John Collins Park is near KDL's East Grand Rapids Branch, 746 Lakeside Drive, SE.

This year, kids and teens can enjoy a mystery theme during KDL's 2007 Summer Reading Club between June 11 and August 4! The theme for younger children is “Get a Clue,” and includes both reader and pre-reader programs which encourage early literacy. Participants in the Get a Clue Club who reach their reading goals will receive a “top secret detective kit,” and get a chance to win a new bike.

Teens can participate in “YNK: You Never Know,” and can choose to enter their names in drawings for a variety of prizes, including a mall gift certificate and an iPod Shuffle.

Sponsors of this years event include: Avalanche Bay Indoor Waterpark, Berlin Raceway, Cold Stone Creamery, Giant, John Ball Zoo, Meijer, Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids, Village Bike Shop, West Michigan Travel and Tours, and WOTV4 and Maranda.

Connections

Summer 2007 Tax Information

Summer 2007 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed July 1st. Summer taxes are due on or before September 14th, 2007. 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: All of the county operating millage will be collected on the 2007 summer tax. The effect of this collection shift in the county operating tax has not increased your taxes for this line item but has changed the yearly breakdown between the amount collected on the summer tax and the winter tax. The summer tax bill will represent approximately 62% of the 2007 taxes for your property tax bill.

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 24/7 with a link from the Township's website www.cascadetwp.com.

Instructions for link on web site are:

- Click on** Departments
- Click on** Treasurers Department
- Click on** Tax & Assessing and Building information
- Click on** **B S & A** "please click here" link
- Click on** Current Tax Search
- Click on** 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)

From the Assessor's Office...

PRINCIPAL 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, 2007** to receive the exemption on your 2007 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 13, 2007** so the correction can be made before the tax bill is due.

Pathway Cleanup

The clean up of our wonderful bike and walking paths begun May 7th through May 11th was a wonderful success. The trail system looks great. I would like to express my heart felt thanks to those of you that came forward and volunteered to clean up sections of our magnificent trail system.

It is my hope that we can keep this effort self perpetuating. I think that every six weeks is a good time frame for cleaning the trail. Let us do this again in June, August, and again in October. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 942-1152. Also, if any of you need large trash bags I have them for the asking.

Again Many Thanks
Kris Taylor
Pathway Coordinator

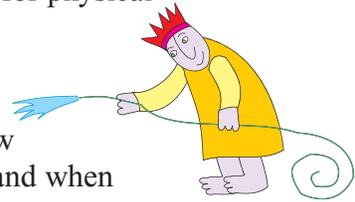


Notes From The East Precinct Community Services Unit

Summer is a great opportunity to take some time to talk to your children about strangers. With school getting out in a few weeks, the kids will be playing outside and will also be using the computer at home. Over the past few years we have seen the growing need for Internet safety. Here are a few simple guidelines to go over with the kids for physical strangers and virtual strangers:

In the neighborhood

- Make sure that you as parents ALWAYS know where your children are, who they are with, and when they'll be home
- Kids should always have at least one buddy with them
- If a stranger approaches them and asks for help or offers them something teach them to say "NO", get away as quickly as possible, and tell a parent
- Let your children know who they can trust



On the Internet

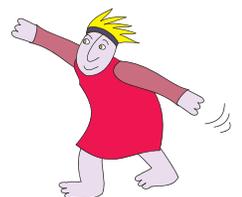
- Never share ANY personal facts or pictures with ANYONE on the internet
- Never agree to get together with someone you met on the internet
- Never open computer files, e-mails, or links to web sites sent by a stranger



The Kent County Sheriff Department offers a program called Michigan Community Child Watch. The program is aimed to provide you with tools that enable you to report and record situations that could be labeled as dangerous, suspicious, or questionable in regards to the safety of the children in our community.

If you would like to implement this program in your neighborhood, please contact me with the information listed below.

Deputy Ryan Coil
Kent County Sheriff Department
East Precinct Community Services Unit
632-6435
Ryan.Coil@kentcounty.org



Connections

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.

Tired of Raking Your Leaves? Mow 'em!

Mow tree leaves in the autumn instead of raking and bagging - just raise your mower height to accommodate! After a couple of passes with the mower, leaf pieces will slowly sift down through turf. It's an excellent way to return nutrients to the soil, and you can use them as mulch in your garden too!

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!

Do not 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.

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.

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

Use a drip pan when doing engine maintenance. Drippings left on the cement get washed into nearby drains and end up in our streams.

Cascade

This Article Appeared in the Grand Rapids Press in the Fifties'



Article and photo courtesy of the Cascade Historical Society

—Grand Rapids Press Photographer.
EXPLOSIONS WILL WARN CASCADE OF DISASTER—Lyle Dykhuizen, second from left, Cascade township civil defense co-ordinator, explains how the "noise" bombs will be operated to warn Cascade residents of an impending tornado or air raid. Listening are Volunteer Fire Chief Sybrant Dykhouse, left, Supervisor Gerrit Baker, second from right, and Mrs. Russell Jensen, assistant co-ordinator. A real test will take place at 6 p. m. Thursday, with four bombs being exploded simultaneously, centered in four quarters of the township.

Plan Cascade 'Bombing' CD to Set Off Blasts Thursday at 6 p. m.

Under a new setup for warning citizenry of impending tornadoes or air raids, Cascade township civil defense will shoot off four "noise" bombs at 6 p. m. Thursday, the day before the H-bomb "explosion" takes place in Kent county.

Cascade township is the first Kent county community which will warn its citizens with an ex-

plosive noise rather than with sirens, according to Lyle Dykhuizen, Cascade township civil defense co-ordinator.

"Can't Hear Sirens."

"We decided to use the noise bombs because in previous tests the sirens couldn't be heard by a majority of the citizens," Dykhuizen states.

"Four bombs will be shot off simultaneously each four miles apart and located in the center of each quarter of the township," he states. "We think the explosions will be heard by virtually everyone."

"However, in case there are sections where the noise can't be heard, then we'll make immediate plans for increasing the number of bombs which will be set off," he said.

Four mortars, which are sections of thick iron pipes about 30 inches long, will be set into the ground with only about the top 10 inches showing.

The long fuse is unwrapped so that it can be easily lighted by the operator. The bombs, containing TNT, are placed in the mortars and let down to the bottom. In being set off, the fuse is lighted.

The bomb is shot into the air from a small section of ignited dynamite, thus setting off the large part, which explodes with a sharp report high in the air.

List Area Wardens.

The four area wardens in charge of the warning bombs are Clare Snyder, George Bain, John Pollice and Orville Graham. There are alternates in case they aren't on hand for setting off the warning bombs.

Dykhuizen states that in an actual use, each warden will explode three bombs, timed about a minute apart.

Ottawa county is planning to use warning bombs, according to the co-ordinator.

Outdoor Warning Sirens

Cascade Township has recently installed five (5) new outdoor warning sirens throughout the township. With the installation of these and the current one at the Township offices that will give us six (6) warning sirens. The new sirens are located at the Township recreational park, Whitneyville between 45th and the expressway, Buttrick Fire Station, Laraway Lake by Tammarron and Spaulding by Abbeydale. A master plan was developed of all locations in the township for the placement of weather sirens. These siren locations were chosen due to the amount of population in these areas. Additional sirens will be installed when funds become available.

The sirens will be used to notify the community of emergencies dealing with weather, chemical spills, floods and other types of emergencies that the community might need notification. These sirens are only part of the whole system and residents should use radios, TV and NOAA weather radios as well. Once the sirens are activated, residents should turn on their TV, radio or NOAA weather radio to obtain more information as to why the sirens were activated. The sirens can be activated in two (2) ways: by the Kent County Sheriff Department Dispatch center or Township staff at the main fire station.

Sirens will be tested on the first Friday of the month from April through October at 12 noon. The test lasts 3 minutes.

Connections

Health, Fitness And Outdoor Fun as School Fund Raiser

The PTO at Pine Ridge Elementary decided to try something different for fund raising this year. Instead of asking family, friends and neighbors to buy wrapping paper and other catalog items to support their local elementary school, Pine Ridge students asked for donations to support their first ever Panther Prowl Walk-A-Thon.

In an effort not only to raise money, but also encourage physical fitness and health awareness, on May 4th, more than 500 students, 40 staff members and 96 parent "road guards" donned lime green Panther Prowl tee shirts and walked a total of 2.1 miles to the Buttrick fire station and back to school raising over \$10,600.

The graduating 4th graders led the Panther Prowl, waiting at the fire station and then at the Pine Ridge parking lot to cheer on their younger classmates. A healthy reward of cheese sticks, orange slices, graham crackers and bottled water awaited all 600 plus walkers as they returned to the school. Celebrating outside with live music performed by Pine Ridge's own music teacher and fellow band members, the students felt a sense of pride and physical accomplishment as they, one by one, completed the 2.1 mile walk promoting health, fitness and outdoor fun while raising money for their school.



Emergency Preparedness

Are you prepared for an emergency? Can you and your family cope with the destructive aftermath of a fire or natural disaster? Every citizen should have an emergency plan.

For those who want to take emergency preparedness to the next level, consider signing up for the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Free classes are offered through the Cascade Township Fire Department to prepare residents to help themselves and their neighbors during an emergency. Be a survivor! Be prepared!



Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program trains citizens to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations within their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members may give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims within their neighborhoods and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members may also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.

A trained team of first responders and community members teach the CERT training courses. CERT training includes disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic emergency medical operations, first aid, CPR, light search and rescue operations and terrorism awareness.

If you are interested in becoming a CERT member, please call Fire Chief John Sigg at 949-1320 for more information.



Cascade Connections

Annual Cascade Township Lunch For Seniors - August 14, 2007

We hope you will be able to attend our annual luncheon, hosted by Cascade Township, in cooperation with Jean Kubiszewski of the Forest Hills Senior Center.

This event is intended to provide an opportunity for our senior citizens to mingle, relax and reminisce. Lunch is provided by Cascade Township at no charge, but space is limited so we need your reservations as soon as possible (we can only accept the first 100 registrations).

To register, either call 493-8950 or stop in at the Forest Hills Senior Center. Call Ron Goodyke (949-1500), Cascade Township Clerk, if you have questions. Here are all the details you need

Who: Cascade Township Seniors

What: Annual luncheon (serving assorted breads, meats and cheeses, potato salad, pasta salad, baked beans, fresh fruit, coffee/punch and dessert)

When: August 14, 2007 at noon

Where: Wisner Center at the Cascade Library, located at 2870 Jacksmith just one block south off 28th Street

We look forward to a fun time with entertainment again provided by Tom and Sherry Hagen. Please make your reservations soon.

Cascade Charter Township

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Grand Rapids MI 49546
phone: 616.949.1500
fax: 616.949.3918
www.cascadetwp.com

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