



Cascade Connections

Spring 2008

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 Thursday, July 3rd at Forest Hills Central High School.

Continue the festivities on Friday, July 4th by watching the parade with antique cars, fire truck 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.

2008 GRAND MARSHALS



World War II Veterans

- Back Row (L to R): Robert VanStrien, Bill Hurt, Donald VanPortfliet, Fay Johnson, Irvin Weber
- Front Row (L to R): Martin Postma, Jeannette Gaylord, Marwood Wright, William Bos Sr.
- Not Pictured: Clark Afendoulis, Norman Lockard, Glen Morris, Thomas Reges, Robert Shields, Adrian Van Haren, Jack Vander Schuur, Bob Warners

The annual July 4th parade in Cascade is sponsored by Cascade Township and many local businesses and individuals. This year Cascade Township is honoring veterans of WWII who are members of the McDonald-Osmer American Legion Post #451. The veterans will serve as parade Grand Marshals. Each of the veterans is an example of the "citizen" military. In time of war, they left civilian life to serve our country. When the war was over, they returned to follow their chosen vocations. Even though it has been more than 60 years since they were in the service, they still remember their serial numbers and can recite them without hesitation.



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2008 4TH OF JULY PARADE GRAND MARSHALS



Jeannette (Green) Gaylord, 84, was in the Navy Nurse Corp from 1944-47. She was drafted at 22 and never went overseas (few women did) but was a psychiatric nurse at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego. She did electric shock therapy on those suffering from shell shock, as it was called then. Today, she said, it's called post-traumatic stress syndrome. When

she returned to Ravenna, Ohio, she became a school nurse. Her comment is "I'm opposed to war. It's a waste."



Mart Postma, 90, was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1941, when he was 22, and served until 1945. He was in the 5th Army 91st Division reconnaissance squad. "We were the first ones down the road" in North Africa. He recalls being in Casablanca one Christmas Eve. Besides Tunisia, he also served in Sicily and was in on the invasion of Italy.

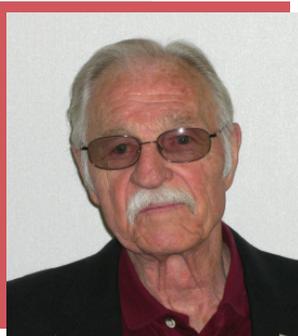
He was a first gunner on an 81 mm mortar. When he returned to civilian life, he worked for the Corduroy Rubber Co.



Marwood Wright, 93, was a military personnel officer in the U.S. Army and was headquartered at the Second Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. A captain, he served from 1943-46. "I processed boys who dropped the A-bomb. It was a big secret when we went to California to process the boys."



Fay Johnson, 82, served from 1943-46 in the U.S. Navy. He was on a destroyer in the Pacific where he was a fire controlman (FC2C). "I was most impressed by all the equipment we were running - and we were just kids. Our ship, USS Terry, was hit off Iwo Jima. We almost sank, but didn't."



Irv Weber, 83, served in the U.S. Army from 1943-45 and was a T4 in European fighting. "I was in the tail end of the (battle of the) Bulge through Belgium and France." Because he could speak fluent German (his parents were German) he was used to interrogate German prisoners of war.



William "Bill" Hurt, 82, was 18 years old when he enlisted in the US Marine Corps in New York City shortly after graduating from high school. After basic training at Parris Island, Camp LeJeune and Camp Pendleton, he was sent to Guam. Later, he was in the battle of Iwo Jima. After the war ended, he escorted Japanese soldiers from China back to Japan, which earned

him the distinction of "China Marine." When he returned to civilian life, he served as a New York City Firefighter for 32 years. When asked about his service, he said that in WWII, young men were in service - now they demonstrate against the military.

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William "Bill" Bos, Sr., 85, was sworn into the US Navy when he was 21. Since he was a farmer, he was deferred, but felt it was his duty to join the military. Following basic training at Great Lakes Naval Station, he served as a Gunner's Mate on PCS1402, a smaller vessel that looked for enemy submarines. He was in combat at Saipan and Okinawa, then participated

in the liberation of the Philippines. After he was discharged, he returned to the farm on Spaulding, SE where the family still grows vegetables. Bill said he likes to see young people go into the service. "Service Life is good training."



Donald "Don" VanPortfleit, 84, rode the train from Grand Rapids to Plymouth to join the US Army Air Corps in 1942. He was 19 years old. When he completed basic training in Florida, he was sent to the South Pacific as a Radar Operator plotting incoming planes. He sometimes served in a gun battery and on one occasion during a Kamikaze attack, he was at his station on the beach when

the ammunition dump was hit. He said it's hard to dig a foxhole in the sand and he thinks he just burrowed in. After the war, he returned to the area and went back to work at his father's bar on the corner of Cascade Road and Forest Hill. Later he opened Don's Service Station across the street. When asked about his service, Don replied, "We were all going back then" and he was proud to serve.



Robert "Bob" VanStrein, 80, joined the US Navy when he was 17. Following basic training at Camp Perry, VA, he served aboard two heavy cruisers, the USS Chicago and the USS Columbia, both based in Japan. He served as assistant to the Commander and says he did a lot of typing, which was better than scrubbing decks. After his discharge, he came

home and went into the trucking business. He also got a pilot license and for several years, kept his plane on his farm. Later he served as Trustee on the Cascade Township Board. Regarding his service, Bob said that the services offer good training.

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!





Cascade

Summer 2008 Tax Information

Summer 2008 tax bills and informational notices will be mailed July 1st. Summer taxes are due on or before September 15th, 2008. 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.

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 \$40,000, and you must be either 62 years or older; a paraplegic, quadriplegic, totally disabled; blind; a service person, 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 Treasurer's Office
- Click on Tax & Assessing and Building Information
- Click on **BS & 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...

PRINCIPLE 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, 2008** to receive the

exemption on your 2008 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 14, 2008** so the correction can be made before the tax bill is due.

East Precinct Safety Days

The Kent County Sheriff's Department's East Precinct, located at 877 Forest Hill Ave., will be hosting its fourth annual, "Children's Identification Days" on June 10th, 11th, and 12th. This event will take place in the morning between the hours of 9:00am-11:30am and again in the afternoons from 1:00pm-3:30pm.

Officers from the Kent County Sheriff's Department's East Precinct will be available each day for the photographing and fingerprinting of any child accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Upon completion of this process, parents will be provided a formal document which can be used as an official record of their child's identification.

Officers will also be on hand to answer questions regarding the latest information on children's booster seat laws, bicycle and helmet safety laws, Neighborhood Watch Programs, and any other questions you may have pertaining to your child's safety.

Stopped Program

The Kent County Sheriff's Department has partnered with the Michigan Sheriff's Association to bring the "Stopped" program to Kent County.

This program is a parental notification system that was developed to help reduce the number of young drivers who are injured or killed in motor vehicle crashes each year.

Parents may register any vehicle that will be operated by a driver under the age of 21. After registering the vehicle, an identification sticker is issued to each vehicle and should be placed on the front windshield.

If for any reason the registered vehicle is stopped by the Kent County Sheriff's Department, the deputy will complete a notification card that will be mailed to the parents.

For more information or to register, please.

Deputy Ryan Coil
East Precinct Community Services

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Election News

Precinct Location Change

Clerk Ron Goodyke reminds voters in Precinct 1 of a change in location. Voters who have been voting at the **Forest Hills Public School Administration Building** will vote in the Family life Center at the **Cascade Fellowship CRC Church**, located at 6655 Cascade Road SE. This change began with the May 2008 School Election. The church is located around the corner from the FHPS Administration Building. There will be signs posted on the church drive to direct voters to the correct location in the facility (Precinct 7 currently votes in the upper level). You were mailed new registration cards prior to the May 6 School Election. This is a permanent change for Precinct 1 voters only; all others continue to vote in the same location.

Vote August 5th

The next date for an election is August 5. The August Primary selects candidates for State and Local Offices from opposing parties to be placed on the General Election ballot in November. If there are no opponents from other political parties, the only opposition in November would come from candidates running as Independent or Write-in candidates.

At stake at the local level will be all the elected positions for the Cascade Township Board. Candidates for Trustee are incumbents Cynthia Fox, Fred Goldberg and Jim Koessel along with Jack Lewis, Don Mancinelli, Kenneth Peirce and Daniel Waugh. Rob Beahan is running unopposed for Supervisor to replace retiring Supervisor Mike Julien. The two candidates for Treasurer are incumbent Marjorie Dood and Tom Wood. Rounding out the slate is Ron Goodyke running unopposed for Clerk.

Also on the ballot will be two proposals by the Cascade Township Board to renew millages for Fire and Police protection. These proposals represent **no increase** for the Fire portion and a **reduction** of 0.0172 mills for Police.

Voter Registration

The last day to register to vote in the August Primary election is **July 7th; you may do this at the Cascade Township Office which is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.** The National Voter Registration Act also allows voter registration at any of the following locations:

- 1) Secretary of State Branch Office
- 2) Secretary of State "Renewal by Mail" when you renew your driver license
- 3) Cascade Township Office or the Kent County Office
- 4) State or federal mail-in registration form
- 5) Michigan Department of Social Services, which administer benefits for ADFC, Medicaid, and Food Stamp programs. Also county health department offices, which administer

benefits for the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC)

- 6) Armed Forces Recruitment offices
- 7) Federal Post Card Application procedure. (FPCA)
- 8) Direct delivery of registration applications by persons associated with voter registration drives. Usually they use the state and federal registration forms developed to implement the Mail Registration Program

Please be sure you are a registered voter and can participate on August 5th.

November 4th General Election

This will be the Presidential election. We expect a large turnout and an extensive ballot. The last day to register to vote for this election is October 6th.



I.D. Requirement

Please remember that beginning in 2008 the requirement for picture identification must be enforced by precinct workers. If you do not present a piece of current I.D. with your picture, you will be required to fill out an affidavit, which we will provide at the precinct, attesting to your identity before you can vote.

May 6th School Election

Thank you Poll Workers, Voters and Facility Providers

The school election held on May 6th brought a very small turnout from Cascade residents due to the fact that there were no opposing candidates for Forest Hills or Lowell School Board positions and no other proposals on the ballot.

To the faithful poll workers, we again send our hearty thanks for a job well done. In spite of the low turnout, the poll workers performed exceptionally well. Thank you all for keeping your good humor during a long 15 hour day!

To the Cascade churches and our library who donate their space to the community for the two day period from set-up on Monday through closing late on Tuesday, we also say thank you. The polling places who generously host voters are: Thornapple Evangelical Covenant Church, Precinct 2; Cascade Christian Church, Precinct 6; Thornapple Community Reformed Church, Precinct 5; Cascade Fellowship CRC Church (which hosts two precincts!) Precincts 1 and 7; and the Wisner Center at the Cascade Library (which also host two precincts) Precincts 3 and 4. We know it is an imposition with the traffic and disruption we create and we really appreciate the friendly in manner you welcome us.

As usual with every election there are a lot of township employees who put in extra effort, so thanks also to Denise Biegalle, Deputy Clerk, Evelyn Kwekel, Election Specialist and the Building and Grounds crew for setting up the precincts.

Cascade

A Fond Farewell...



Mary J. Carpenter, Cascade Township Treasurer, is retiring May 29, 2008 after serving the community for 30 years. Mary started her career as Deputy Treasurer in 1977 when Paul Slater was our Township Treasurer. The township office/ fire department was located on Orange Street and Cascade Road (where the Bridal Elegance is now located). The Township had nine employees at that time. After Paul's retirement on December 31, 1983, the township board selected Mary to serve out the remaining eleven months of Paul's term

of office. She then went on to win the next six elections for the office of Township Treasurer.

During Mary's tenure at Cascade, the Township was able to improve its' bond rating with the rating agencies of Standard & Poor's and Moody's to AA and Aa3 respectively. The bond rating effects interest rates the community must pay for borrowed funds. Cascade's bond rating is the highest among community our size in Michigan (one other community on the east side of the state shares this privilege).

Mary is an active member of the Cascade Historical Society representing the Township Board. The 2006 inclusion of the Cascade History Room during the addition to the Cascade Library provides public awareness to our community that Cascade has an active Historical Society that values our past. This room has provided a visual reminder and the community's willingness to support this preservation by sharing and contribution items from their family's history to the Cascade Historical Society for many future generations to enjoy.

As one of the founding members of the Cascade Community Foundation, she shared the vision for the development of an

organization that promoted a permanent endowment fund to enhance the quality of life in Cascade Township. The Community Foundation presented the summer concerts in Tassell Park and the 911 programs last year.

Mary was an active member and has served on several boards and committees with the following professional organizations: Kent County Treasurers Association, President of the Michigan Municipal Treasurer Association and member of the Association of Public Treasurers of United States & Canada. She was a recipient of the PRIME (Professional Recognition In Municipal Excellence award from the Michigan Municipal Treasurer Association.

Mary has loved being a policy maker in this community, to have a voice in the growth and development of Cascade Township. She has great respect for the people who have served this community in leadership roles, numerous Township Board members, and numerous Board and Commission members that sometimes work behind the scenes to get the best possible outcome for our community.

Mary will miss the township employees that serve the public on a day-to-day basis. Cascade has been blessed with very professional individuals that have the dedication and the willingness to go that extra mile for a better community.

Mary grew up in Cascade and once lived in a cottage where Tassell Park is now located. She graduated from Forest Hills Central and obtained a degree from Aquinas College. Mary plans to spend her retirement spending time with her family and her hobbies – horseback riding and gardening.

Mary has said she is thankful for the strong support the community gave her over the last thirty years. She will miss the interaction with the residents of Cascade. She values the friendships that she has made and wishes everyone every blessing that life has to offer.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

There are new faces in the office to take care of the duties that Mary carried out over the years. The Board has selected Ms. Marjorie Dood to fill the remainder of Mary Carpenter's term as Treasurer (until November 20, 2008). Marjorie was selected from a field of 12 applicants for the position. The Township Board and its Personnel Committee spent many hours reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates for the position. Marjorie is a Township resident and last worked for Old Kent Bank. She has a Masters Degree in Finance from Northwestern University and has over 15 years of experience in the accounting/finance field. Marjorie has been involved locally in her church, school and Girl Scouts; she is an excellent addition to the Cascade Board.

The board determined that the Township should follow the recent trend toward part-time elected department heads after Mary submitted her resignation. Due to that move, the Township needed to hire a person to work along side the current Deputy Treasurer, Oxana Sourine, to

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keep the office functioning smoothly. Oxana Sourine, who has been with the Township for about a year, will continue to work as the Deputy Treasurer. Oxana has a strong accounting background and has performed flawlessly for the Township. We are glad she is part of our team.

Ms. Debhra Amos was recently hired to fill the other Accounts Clerk position in the office. She was hired from a pool of 32 applicants for the position. Ms. Amos has 18 years of local government experience in various accounting and Treasurer's Office functions. She also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Davenport University. Ms. Amos is in the process of becoming adjusted to life in the Cascade Office; we look forward to a long, positive relationship with her.

Stop in to welcome the 'new' faces in the office. I am sure you will become quickly acquainted with them as summer tax bills will be mailed in a month!

Needed: Coffee Cans

The Buildings & Grounds Department would like to make a request for donations of large coffee cans. They will be put over the faucets at the cemeteries so that people can use them to water their flowers. You can drop them off anytime at the 30th Street Cemetery garage. If you have any questions, please call Amy at 682-4836.



Comprehensive Plan Update

The process of updating the Township's Comprehensive Plan continues to move forward at great speed. As many of you know, the community survey was completed in April. We also completed seven focus group meetings and two Township-wide visioning meetings. Reports of the key findings of these meetings can be found on the Township's website www.cascadetwp.com and click on "What's Happening". Or, you can stop by the Township Hall and you can review a copy of any of the reports in the Planning Department. The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee continues to convene the last Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at the Wisner Center. Meetings are open to the public. Our next meeting topics include composing goals and objectives and mapping land uses. Please note that the Committee will not meet in July or August.

Sign Notice

The current Sign Ordinance completely prohibits the placement of temporary signs in the Township. The most common of these signs include the portable trailer signs, pennants and banners. All of these signs are a violation of the Sign Ordinance and should be removed. One of the most asked questions is: What are the regulations in regard to Garage Sale signs and Real Estate signs? The answer is: the Township Sign Ordinance regulates both of these types of signs by restricting them to the site on which the garage sale is located and to the property that is for sale. No off-premise signs are allowed. This includes posting signs on telephone and utility poles. The Township actively removes signs that are in violation of the Sign Ordinance. If you have questions regarding the Sign Ordinance, please call the Planning Department at 949-0224.

KDL

Kent District Library
www.kdl.org

Kent District Library News...

The Kent District Library Cascade Branch is preparing for a summer of fun activities for kids of all ages!

- For readers grade 5 and younger: Catch the Reading Bug! Read all summer long for prizes and activities.
- Programs on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm include everything from live animals to puppet shows.
- Thursday evenings will culminate with Renee Hudson, magician extraordinaire.
- For readers grade 6 and older: Metamorphosis @ Your Library!
- Teen programs are Thursday at 2 and 3 pm.
- Preschoolers may enjoy programs Wednesday at 10 and 11 am and Fridays at 1.30 pm
- Ruff Readers will be back for beginning readers to practice their skills over the summer with specially trained therapy dogs.

For more information and details, stop by the branch to pick up a calendar with all our activities or visit or www.kdl.org





Cascade Connections

Annual Cascade Township

Lunch for Seniors – Tuesday, August 12, 2008

Relax in the company of friends at the Cascade Township Library's Wisner Center. This popular annual event, made possible through the generosity of Cascade Township, provides a unique opportunity to enjoy a picnic lunch and great musical entertainment, and to mingle with friends, neighbors, Township officials and firefighters. The Cascade Township Library is located at 2870 Jack Smith Ave. SE, just off 28th St. near Thornhills. Complimentary lunch at noon.

Please call the Forest Hills Senior Center at 493-8950 to place your reservation. Also, if you make a reservation and then can not make the luncheon, please let us know. This allows others to enjoy the festivities.

Cascade Charter Township

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