T·T·C·M

TRAVEL TRAILER CLUB OF THE MIDWEST

August 2026 **Since 1963** **Volume 2026-05**

President News

Hello Campers,

It's hard to believe that we are already heading into August. I would like everyone heading to Hesperia campground for the Labor Day campout to get your western wear ready. That's right. The theme this year is western! Hopefully this will be a good time!

On a different note I would like members to take a look at the campground rules. These are for everyone, no exceptions! Please read through them when you get a chance.

July was a rough month. We lost a member, Pat Blanchette crossed over on July 17th. Also, Ray and Brenda Hilderbrandt's father / in-law passed on July 16th. Our thoughts and prayer go out to both families.

Take care everyone,

Bill Fox

Secretary News

Hello Fellow Campers,

Wow it's hard to believe this is the end of July. While camping I have noticed that fellow members are NOT displaying their TTCM numbers or their current Yearly sticker that the secretary has given or mailed to them. "WHY" is my question??? Some of these members have been in this club for many years and know that they must be displayed AT ALL TIMES. This is a club rule. NO exceptions! This is just one of the things that I have witnessed while camping this season — members not following the rules that we as a club set forth to abide by.

July 4th at Hesperia was so much fun. The raffle that I started on Memorial weekend brought in $640.00 for the Hesperia clubhouse new roof. The quilt was won by Dan & Lori Yaklin. Combined with what we previously had in the fund we now have $840.00 total. If anyone would like to contribute to the roof fund ask Sherri Martin or your campground director how to do so. Every little bit helps us to attain our goal.

Don't forget, you can pay your 2027 dues anytime to me. We already have the 2027 stickers. Reminder, you must pay next year's dues before you can put your RV in storage at either campground for the winter.

Happy camping,

Sandy Jarrell — TTCM Secretary

Vice-President News

Many Hands Make a Better TTCM Campground

One of the greatest benefits of belonging to TTCM campground is that it truly becomes a home away from home. Unlike a commercial campground where staff handle every task, membership campgrounds thrive because members volunteer their time and talents. Every helping hand, no matter how small the task, makes a difference.

Helping around the campground doesn't require special skills or a lot of time. Simple acts such as picking up litter while taking a walk, emptying trash containers after an event, wiping down picnic tables, or sweeping out the clubhouse help keep the grounds clean and welcoming for everyone.

If you enjoy working outdoors, there are plenty of opportunities to lend a hand. Mowing grass, trimming weeds, planting flowers, pruning shrubs, stacking firewood, or helping maintain trails all contribute to a campground that members can be proud of. At the beginning and end of each season, volunteers are often needed to help open or close facilities, clean buildings, and prepare campsites.

Members with specialized skills are especially valuable. Electricians, plumbers, carpenters, mechanics, and computer-savvy members can assist with repairs and maintenance that save the campground both time and money. Even if you don't have technical skills, your willingness to help wherever needed is just as important.

Volunteering isn't limited to physical labor. Many campgrounds rely on members to organize potlucks, coordinate activities for children, plan holiday celebrations, welcome new members, serve on committees, or help with office duties. A friendly smile and a warm greeting can make newcomers feel like part of the campground family from their very first visit.

One of the best ways to contribute is simply by sharing your ideas and positive attitude. When members work together respectfully and support one another, the campground becomes more than just a place to park an RV—it becomes a community built on friendship, cooperation, and pride.

Remember, no contribution is too small. Whether you volunteer for an hour during a work weekend or dedicate several days throughout the season, your efforts help create a cleaner, safer, and more enjoyable campground for everyone.

As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work." By giving a little of your time and talents, you're investing in the campground we all enjoy and ensuring it remains a wonderful place for generations of members to come.

The next time you visit the campground, look around and ask, "What can I do to help today?" Chances are, there is always something that could use an extra pair of hands—and your fellow members will appreciate your willingness to pitch in.

Brenda Hilderbrandt
Vice President

Treasurer News

Hey Campers,

Summer is flying by! The evenings are getting a little cooler, making them perfect for sitting around a bonfire. Hopefully, the season doesn't pass us by too quickly.

Bellevue is excited to introduce their new property tender, Karley Johnson. Thank you for stepping up and volunteering to serve our campground.

Hesperia has also started a dedicated Roof Fund. Thanks to the generosity of the Sewing Bee ladies and proceeds from the raffle, the fund has already grown to $840. Great job, everyone, and thank you for supporting this important project!

I did purchase three refurbished laptops. However, they were not what I expected. I did return these and will continue to look for better options. I'll keep everyone posted.

I looked into installing Starlink internet service. To provide reliable coverage throughout both the campground and the clubhouse, we would need to make a significant upfront investment in equipment. This is something we'll need to discuss and decide on in the near future, and I plan to bring it up for discussion at the September meeting.

I know there has been some confusion and concern regarding the campground reservation software that Bellevue recently implemented, so I'd like to explain how it works and why it was chosen.

First and foremost, if Hesperia does not have a need for online reservations or payments, then there is no reason to use the system there. Bellevue had a significant need for a better reservation and payment solution, and this software has provided exactly that. Best of all, it is completely free for our organization to use, and we do not incur credit card processing or software fees.

Here's how the system works:

Option 1: Members, guests, and Passport America members can reserve a campsite online. They can select their campsite, choose their dates, enter their information, and pay online. Online reservations are currently limited to a maximum stay of two weeks.

Option 2: Members, guests, and Passport America members can check in when they arrive at the campground. Staff will enter their reservation into the system, and the guest can choose to pay by cash, check, online invoice, or credit card at check-in.

Option 3: Guests can also call the campground to make a reservation. We can book their stay for them, and they may pay before arrival or when they arrive by cash, check, or credit card.

Looking ahead, if the need ever arises, I would like Hesperia to consider using this system as well. It makes managing reservations and records much more efficient. Instead of searching through stacks of paperwork or binders, everything is securely stored in one place. Guests automatically receive receipts and reservation confirmations, making the entire process easier for both campers and volunteers.

Although Bellevue and Hesperia are part of the same organization, they serve different groups of campers. Bellevue has many members and guests who prefer the convenience of paying by credit or debit card, while Hesperia's campers often have different preferences. What works well for one campground may not be the best fit for the other—and that's perfectly okay. Neither approach is better; they're simply designed to meet the needs of each campground and its campers.

Treasurer News — cont.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, whether it's about something in this newsletter or something happening at the campground, please contact me directly. I believe open communication is the best way to address misunderstandings and keep everyone informed. Rumors and assumptions can easily create unnecessary confusion, so I encourage everyone to seek clarification firsthand. I'm available and happy to answer questions.

Thank you,

Sherri Martin — T.T.C.M. Treasurer

Bellevue News

Hello Everyone,

Hope everyone is having a great camping season! It's been nice seeing projects getting checked off the list and campers enjoying their time at the campground.

We have a few things coming up that we'd love some help with. The clubhouse ceiling needs a little attention—one piece of drywall came down and will need to be replaced. If you're handy and willing to lend a hand, we'd appreciate it!

We're also starting to think about updating the kitchen. Bring your ideas and suggestions so we can put together a plan for making it a more functional and welcoming space for everyone.

Labor Day will be here before we know it, and we'd like to do something fun for the weekend. If anyone is interested in organizing or heading up an activity or event, please let us know. New ideas are always welcome!

Also, Karley Johnson is property tending, by the time you read this, she'll be parked up near the entrance. Be sure to wave, stop by, and say hello when you see her.

Thanks to everyone who pitches in and helps make our campground such a great place to spend the season. Enjoy your time at camp, and we'll see you around!

Happy Camping!

Zack — Bellevue Director

Calendar of Events for 2026

July 24 - 26	Christmas in July — Bellevue
Sep 05 - 07	Labor Day weekend
Sep 12	General Membership Meeting — Hesperia @ 11:00 AM
Oct 02 - 04	Halloween Outing weekend — both campgrounds

Hesperia News

Hi Fellow Campers,

It is time for another newsletter! While I'm writing this we got a quick rain shower, could really use a lot more. The weather sure got hot for a few days, now it is going the other way. We got a lot of smoke this last weekend, I think it kept a lot of campers home.

The fourth of July weekend we had 44 units being used and 10 not being used. The kids enjoyed the water slide we had and everyone took part in the golf cart parade and we had one little guy with his bicycle. Had another great potluck and the music was great!

Now we need to start thinking about our Labor Day Weekend Rally, the theme is Western. We need slightly used items for the ten cent auction and something for the cake walk. There will also be raffles going on that items can be donated too. The committee will have more on that.

Clione and Don

Voting Instructions and Ballot Request

Members,

As you know, according to the bylaw, we no longer automatically mail every member a ballot.

If you would like to vote in the election you must request that a ballot be sent via mail to you.

Returned ballots must be postmarked by August 31st or they will be void.

You can also vote in person during Labor Day Weekend at Hesperia or Bellevue.
Ballots can be obtained by seeing Carolyn Fitzpatrick at Hesperia or Sandy Jarrell at Bellevue.

You may also vote at the General Membership Meeting on Saturday Sept. 12th at Hesperia, **however, you must make arrangements to vote "1 HOUR" before the meeting starts**. Repeat, **"1 HOUR"** before the General Membership Meeting meeting starts.

To have a ballot mailed to you contact:
Name: Sandy Jarrell
Email: ttcmsecretary14@gmail.com
Phone: 517-545-9041 **(Leave a message !!!)**

Note: Email or phone message must include your First & Last Name "**AND**" the street address, city, and zip code that you want the ballot to be mailed to.

Committee Chair -- Nancy Hellman

Election Write-In Candidate Update

BELLEVUE DIRECTOR

Vickie George is running as a write-in candidate for Bellevue Director.

2027 Dues

Dues are $30.00 before December 31 and $50.00 after January 1, 2027

SEND your dues to: TTCM
6618 Allen Rd.
Fenton, MI 48430

Please make your CHECKS payable to **TTCM**

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SPECIAL REQUESTS: (Please read **both** of them.)

- Please be extra, extra, extra considerate this year and, if possible, pay your dues before the end of **"November"**.
- **Take note** — the current secretary **will not be** the 2027 secretary, therefore, the above address will not be where you send your dues if you decide to pay them next year instead of this year.

Educational News Section

Campground Rules — With Focus on Several Specific Ones

A copy of the TTCM Campground Rules are included in this months newsletter. Every member needs to read them and comply with them.

The club leadership created these rules years ago so everyone knew what was expected of them as members of our organization.

By clearly defining member responsibilities and expectations all campers are treated equitably and organizational decisions are consistent.

These rules are provided in the document package every new member receives when joining the club. This is not something new that has recently been implemented. You signed up to follow these rules when you applied for membership. These rules are also posted at each campground, in multiple locations, and on the club website.

Currently, many members are having difficulty adhering to Rule Number 2 and Rule Number 9.

Regarding Rule #2

Your membership numbers were provided to you when you joined. Therefore, there is NO excuse for not displaying them.

The yearly sticker is provided to you annually when you pay your dues. Therefore, there is NO excuse for not displaying it.

Many members display their numbers and year sticker on some form of sign placed near the front of their trailer (or tent if applicable). If you attached the numbers to your trailer, and you have since purchased a new trailer, then it is your responsibility to obtain replacement numbers to display.

This displayed information serves several purposes – which won't be discussed in this article. If you feel displaying this info is not necessary then you need to advise the club president or vice-president of your position (either in person or by telephone call), or, attend the Annual General Membership Meeting and bring your reasoning before the club members to lobby for having the rule changed.

Regarding Rule #9

The simple fact behind this rule is so our campgrounds always look nice.

Each campground grounds-crew mows the grass weekly so you have someplace nice to camp. By contrast, your campsite looks unsightly with tall weeds and grass growing around your trailer.

The area immediately around your trailer is your responsibility to maintain. It is not the campground directors job to keep your campsite presentable.

Just because the campground director has not informed you to trim your weeds does not mean you don't need to trim them.

For those who have age or health issues that may make weed control difficult, remember, this is a club. Simply asking a fellow member for assistance could result in those weeds disappearing.

Regarding the First Sentence of the Campground Rules

TTCM is a fairly easy going place, however, a few can spoil the enjoyment for many.

As stated in the first sentence of the Campgrounds Rules, club leadership has the right, and obligation to the other members, to advise those who can't abide by agreed upon responsibilities that their membership could be terminated if they cannot comply with the club rules.

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Newsletter Submission Guidelines

When creating club outing event forms, fliers, advertisements, etc. for publication in the newsletter please use some basic common sense.

You need to scrutinize and review the document you create before submitting it for inclusion in the newsletter.

If you are submitting a full page registration form or event advertisement it needs to be 8½" x 11" in size .. not freeway billboard size!!!

Be mindful of the file properties size also. It needs to be reasonable .. no one wants to download a 5 Trillion Gigabyte file onto their phone, tablet, or computer.

Preferred formats for submission are PDF or some type of WORD based document. Image files (i.e. PNG, IMG, etc.) and iPhone proprietary format files are a nightmare to work with. Sometimes they require the use of a 3rd party resource for conversion and they are not always free to use.

Also, don't create content on iPhone Apps and send it because Apple doesn't play well with the non-Apple programs that TTCM has on the computers we use.

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Editor Note

All chapters and individual members can submit articles for publication in the monthly newsletter.
If you would like to have something published in the newsletter please submit it to **ttcmnews@usa.com** by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Max Jarrell

Bellevue Campground

7418 Baseline Hwy

Bellevue, MI 49021

Phone 269-753-3214

Email: bellevue_campground@yahoo.com

DIRECTIONS:

From I-94: North on I-69 to Exit 48. Go west on M-78 about (1) mile to Babcock Road, turn left (South) onto Babcock Road.

At end of Babcock Road turn right (West).

Campground is about (0.8) miles on your right.

Hesperia Campground

6777 E. M-20

Hesperia, MI 49421

Phone: 231-338-6124

Email: hesperiacampground@gmail.com

DIRECTIONS:

From Hesperia: head 3.5 miles West on M-20.

From White Cloud: West 16.5 miles on M-20.

Campground is on the south side of the road.

Contact Information

President: Bill Fox 231-730-2814 ttcm0016@gmail.com	Vice President: Brenda Hilderbrandt 231-742-1351 mrshildy@gmail.com	Treasurer: Sherri Martin 248-825-2167 ttcmtreasurer14@gmail.com	Secretary: Sandy Jarrell 517-545-9041 ttcmsecretary14@gmail.com
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