

Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



July 2026

July in Michigan always feels like the state has finally settled into summer. The long evenings, the hum of backyard gatherings, and the steady rhythm of holiday mail moving through local post offices all remind us how connected we are—both to each other and to the wider postal story we collect piece by piece.

It's also a month when American history feels especially close at hand. From classic Fourth of July covers to the many patriotic issues released over the decades, July gives collectors plenty of reasons to revisit the symbols, figures, and ideals that have shaped our nation. Whether you're paging through Bicentennial commemoratives, hunting for a better example of the 1869 Eagle, Shield & Flag, or simply enjoying the latest USPS releases, this is a perfect moment to reflect on how stamps have carried the country's story across generations.

Thanks to Kevin Dunn of Royal Oak for his philatelic donation to our club and a warm welcome to Randy Gloth of Waterford as a guest at our June 16th meeting.



At our June 2nd meeting, the date and place for our annual banquet were set - October 20th at Infinity Hall / Sidebar, 16650 East 14 Mile Rd., Fraser, 48026 at 6 p.m.

The FERNPEX 2026 show is now set for Friday/Saturday, October 2nd and 3rd at St. Ronald Church Hall, 17701 Fifteen Mile Road, Clinton Township, 48035. This show will be cosponsored by the Pontiac Stamp Club. Thanks to club members Martin Brown and Phil Vallelunga for their effort in securing the venue. Several dealers have already committed to the show. Also noted at our June 16th meeting is the scheduled move of the NEXT facility in May, 2027.

Club Meetings –

July 7th and 21st, 6:00 p.m. at the NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham.

Upcoming Events –

August 1st, Modern Stamps Public Auction #539 at their Oak Park facility, Saturday at 12N.

In This Issue

Page 2 – Historic Flags, Pat Hensley

Page 3 – Allen Park VA Hospital, Michael Swope

Historic Flags

Pat Hensley

In July 1968, the U.S. Post Office Department marked Independence Day with a striking set of ten commemoratives celebrating historic American flags (Scott #1345-1354). Issued in Pittsburgh and printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the series highlights banners that flew at pivotal moments in the nation's early history. For collectors, these stamps offer a colorful tour through the Revolutionary era and the young republic.

The **Fort Moultrie “Liberty Flag”** (1345) recalls the 1776 defense of Sullivan’s Island, a victory that saved Charleston. The **Fort McHenry flag** (1346), with its 15 stars and 15 stripes, inspired *The Star-Spangled Banner* during the War of 1812.

Washington’s early naval fleet flew the **Washington’s Cruisers flag** (1347), a white banner with a pine tree symbolizing liberty. The **Bennington flag** (1348) commemorates the 1777 colonial victory in Vermont, while the **Rhode Island Regiment flag**—with its anchor emblem (1349)—was carried at Yorktown.

The series also includes the **First Stars and Stripes** authorized by Congress in 1777 (1350), the **Bunker Hill flag** (1351), and the **Grand Union flag** (1352), the first national flag combining colonial stripes with the British Union Jack.

Rounding out the set are the **Philadelphia Light Horse Troop flag** (1353), carried when Washington took command of the Continental Army, and the **First Navy Jack** (1354), featuring the rattlesnake symbol of colonial resistance.



References:

Reprinted in part from *Cresthaven Stamp Club News*, Vol. 9, No. 5, September 2022
Mysticstamp.com/Products/United-States/1345-54/USA/

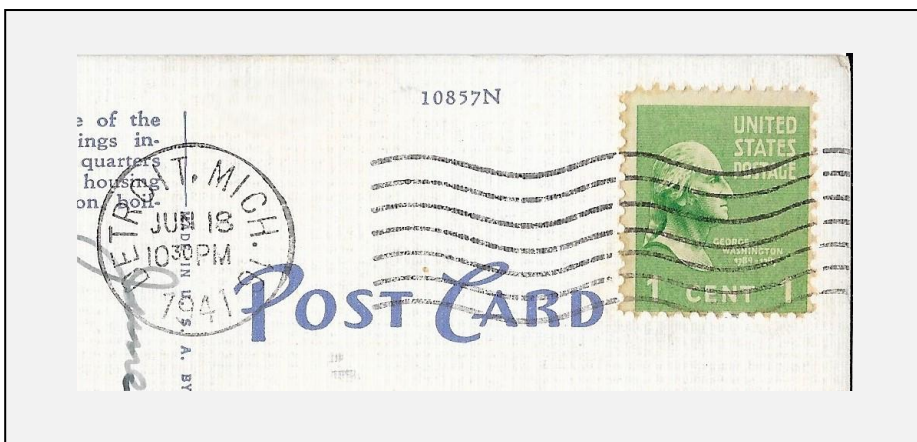
Allen Park VA Hospital

Michael Swope

The Allen Park Veterans Administration Hospital began with a gift of 38 acres from Henry and Clara Ford in July 1937, leading to the hospital's opening two years later. For decades, it served thousands of Michigan veterans and became known for its Georgian Revival architecture, a design significant enough that the Library of Congress deemed the facility eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.



As medical needs evolved, Congress approved construction of a modern replacement in Detroit. In 1996, patients were transferred to the new John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, marking the end of the Allen Park hospital's long service. The building stood vacant until its demolition in 2004, but its legacy endures in the generations of veterans it cared for and in Michigan's rich medical history.



Shown above is an E. G. Kropp Company (Milwaukee), post card created for the United News Publishing Company of Detroit in 1940. It is franked with the Presidential Issue, 1¢ green Washington postage stamp, Scott #804 and cancelled at Detroit on June 18, 1941.

References: Post card from Author's collection
VA.gov/detroit-health-care/about-us/history/