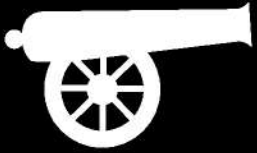


SUMMER 2025



# CANNON TOWNSHIP

*Communicator*

## Parking Dispute Settled

## Generations of Service

The Alles Family Legacy

## Fire Department Update

Save the Date - Pancake Breakfast

## What is the Planning Commission?

## Treasurer's Report

## Business Spotlight

West Michigan Chiropractic

## Parks & Recreation and Facilities

## Zoning Update

Condominiums and PUDS

## Clerk's Corner

Elections, Cemeteries, Roads  
Information Technology, Traffic Safety

## Invasive Species and Wetlands

We need your input – recreation survey



Scan the QR code



## Contents

- 2 From The Supervisor
- 3 Invasive Species and Wetlands
- 3 Treasurer's Report
- 4 Business Spotlight
- 6 Fire Department Update
- 7 Clerk's Corner
- 8 What is the Planning Commission?  
Parks & Recreation and Facilities Update  
Zoning Update
- 9
- 11
- 12 Generations of Service
- 13 Dates To Remember
- 14 Contact Information

**The Cannon Communicator** is published quarterly for \$1.34 per issue by the Cannon Township Offices, and it is mailed at presort postage rate.

**The Cannon Communicator** is published quarterly and dedicated to sharing Township happenings condensing 3 months of news into just a few pages. To stay updated with the most relevant news in real time, subscribe to receive updates at [www.CannonTwp.org](http://www.CannonTwp.org).

**The Cannon Communicator**  
PUBLISHED BY Cannon Township  
6878 Belding Rd.  
Rockford, MI 49341 USA  
Phone: (616) 874-6966  
E-mail: [jslaydon@cannontwp.org](mailto:jslaydon@cannontwp.org)

Coordinated by:  
Trustee Jessica Gutowski-Slaydon

Edited by: Denise Vorgias

Designed by: Bre McCarthy, Design by Bre, LLC

Printed by: Kent Communications,  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

## Stay In The Loop



Did you know you can subscribe to receive notifications from the Cannon Township website? Here's a step-by-step guide on how to do it:

- Visit [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org) and scroll down past the "Departments" section.
- Click on the "Get Meeting Notifications" button.
- Check the box next to the meeting type(s) that you would like to subscribe to.
- Enter your email address.
- Check the box to confirm you are not a robot.
- Click Subscribe. A verification email is sent directly to your inbox.
- Click the link within the verification email to validate your email address.
- Enjoy automatic notices—subscribe once and receive all future notices.

★ Receive this newsletter digitally!



Pictured on the cover are all the entries from Clerk Alles' logo contest. The winners below were selected by the Township Office, and all prize money was generously funded by Jim Alles personally—no taxpayer dollars were used. Congratulations to our top three winners!



**1st**

Ciana Coretti



**2nd**

Ellie Gorby



**3rd**

Sadie Debski



## From The Supervisor

Bostwick Lake Inn and Aunt Belle's have resolved the parking issue that has plagued them since 2018. Both Bostwick Lake Inn and Aunt Belle's have recognized that the situation was at minimum a nuisance, and at worst dangerous. After giving the parties every chance to resolve the issue on their own, the Township was left with no other choice but to file suit against both Bostwick Lake Inn and Aunt Belle's. Finally, after extensive mediation, the parties reached an agreement. This agreement will prohibit parking on public roads related to the commercial use of Bostwick Lake Inn. It also preserves the private parking area of Aunt Belle's. Under the agreement reached by the parties with the blessing of the Circuit Court Judge, a portion of Aunt Belle's parking lot will be secured for use by patrons of Bostwick Lake Inn. Those spaces will be paid parking. Signs will let patrons know where to park and how to

pay for the space. The attached photos show the signs. We ask everyone to respect this resolution and park in the designated areas. Doing so should resolve the nightmarish parking issues in that area. Cars will no longer be parked on Belding Road, across the street at the bakery, and along Kitson. It will also improve public safety and greatly reduce the very real chance of serious injury or even death.



**Steve Grimm**  
Supervisor





## Invasive Species and Wetlands Committee

I hope that you are able to enjoy another beautiful summer in Cannon Township. We are blessed to live in a beautiful area surrounded by many natural resources. A huge thank you to everyone who participates in the 2nd annual Youth, Summer Lingo, Bingo! Our hope is that you learn something new about the Township and have an enjoyable time doing so. Please feel free to share any feedback on this to [cbalk@cannontwp.org](mailto:cbalk@cannontwp.org) so we can keep making it better every year.

Thank you also to all who rolled up their sleeves and helped volunteer in the Township. Whether it was at one of our own events or something hosted by Kent County, these are all great opportunities to learn more about how to take care of your own property and keep our Township free of invasive species.

As we head into a new season, take time to enjoy the last few warm days and enjoy the crisp fall days to come!



Cy Balk  
Trustee



## Treasurer's Report

### A FRIENDLY REMINDER

The summer 2025 tax bills arrived at your home the first week of July and payments may be made upon receiving your tax bill. The final date for the Township to receive your summer tax payment without interest/penalty is Monday, September 15, 2025.

Postmarks are not accepted, and we recommend that you allow extra time by mailing your payment at least two weeks in advance. When using your bank's Bill Pay feature, we recommend that you choose an earlier due date than September 15th, because these are estimated delivery dates. We regularly receive late Bill Pay checks; some being up to a week late. Bill payments received after September 15 are subject to interest/penalties. In addition, payments may be made by Automated Clearing House (ACH). By using ACH, you permit the Township to withdraw the money from your bank account. If choosing to pay by ACH, the authorization form is available online at [cannontwp.org](http://cannontwp.org) or at our office.

If your Cannon Township home is your primary residence, we recommend that you review your tax bill to make sure you are receiving the Principal Residence Exemption (PRE). If the PRE is in place, your annual tax savings is approximately 18 mills. There are two places on your tax bill to check to make sure the "PRE" is in place. On your tax bill you should see: **% PRE/MBT:100% and Exempt next to your school**

**district Operating Tax on your bill.** If the PRE is not in place, please bring this to the Assessor or Treasurer's attention, and we will arrange for the proper forms for you to sign.

On March 1, 2025, all unpaid 2024 tax obligations were transferred to Kent County. Those with unpaid balances will now need to call the Kent County Treasurer's office with any questions and to make payment arrangements. They can be reached at (616) 632-7500.

Unrelated to taxes, school is out, so please drive slowly as kids will be running around neighborhoods and riding their bicycles. Let's keep the kids safe. Additionally, to avoid theft, please close your garage doors at night.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call David at (616) 884-2201 or Judy at (616) 884-2202.



David Spencer  
Treasurer



\* See page 5 for the 2025 Youth, Summer Lingo, Bingo Card!



## Business Spotlight

### WESTMICHIGANCHIROPRACTIC: HEALING THROUGH SERVICE AND CONNECTION

West Michigan Chiropractic is more than just a place to get an adjustment, it's a hub of healing, family values, and community support.

Dr. Chris Hawkins, the trusted face behind the practice, knows firsthand how life-changing chiropractic care can be. As a high school basketball player, a serious injury left him struggling—traditional physical therapy just wasn't cutting it. That's when he discovered chiropractic treatment, and everything changed. That pivotal experience not only helped him heal, it inspired a lifelong passion to help others find relief, recovery, and resilience.

What began as a personal setback became the spark for a career dedicated to care. Today, Dr. Hawkins and his wife Jodie are raising their four children here in the Township, and their commitment to wellness is matched only by their commitment to the community.

Step inside their office and you'll immediately feel the difference, welcoming smiles, helpful staff, and a sense that you're not just a patient, you're a neighbor. Whether it's hosting a spot for a winter coat drive, promoting local events,

or simply sharing community resources, West Michigan Chiropractic always finds a way to give back.

Their approach is simple: serve with heart, heal with purpose, and stay connected. That mindset has earned them not just loyal patients, but genuine friendships with folks across Cannon Township. They also offer massage and sell Rocky Mountain oils as well as Standard Process supplements.

So if you're in need of care or just looking for a business that's as invested in our community as it is in wellness, Dr. Hawkins and the team at West Michigan Chiropractic are always ready to help.

To learn more, simply stop by their office at 6475 Belding Rd. NE or visit their website at [www.wmichiro.com](http://www.wmichiro.com).



### Shredding Event

On September 17 from 1:00 to 3:00pm, there will be a shredding truck at the Township Center, 6878 Belding Road, to shred your unwanted documents. They will be shredded on site while you watch for no charge to residents. This is the second year that we have done this, and the previous shred day was very successful with over 5,000 lbs. of documents shredded. Please ensure that all metal has been removed; i.e., hanging folder metal carriers, binders, etc.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Cannon Township's Youth, Summer Lingo, Bingo

Complete as many boxes as possible. If you fill five in the same row, you win the bingo challenge!  
Turn in your BINGO card to the Cannon Township Fire Department on Belding Road  
for an ice cream voucher to Cowlicks and a free sticker.

Come to a Cannon Township Civic Meeting (Board or Planning Commission)	Do a random act of kindness	Visit a Cannon Township Park	Trade a book from our Little Free Library (located at Cannon Township offices)	Attend an Invasive Species and Wetlands Committee Environmental Stewardship Event
Explore a Cannon Township Trail	Plant a Native Michigan plant in your yard	Encourage a friend or neighbor to do this BINGO Challenge	Take a swim at Bostwick Lake Park	Visit The Cannon Township Museum
Visit one of the Cannon Township fire departments	Have a picnic at a Cannon Township Park	FREE CHOICE _____ _____ _____	Pick up litter at a park or trail	Enjoy a sunset
Pick invasive species and dispose of it properly	Support a local small business in Cannon Township	Call a friend on the phone and tell them how you value their friendship	Donate your old clothes or toys to the Acorn Resale Shop or any thrift shop in need	Exercise outside
Make a craft with leaves and sticks. Post a photo on social media with #CannonTwp	Hike or Bike the Cannon Township Mountain Bike Trail behind Township Hall	Find a fungus among us	Play a game of Pickleball	Go on a night hike under the moonlight

**CANNON**  
Township



**Swift**  
PRINTING



## Fire Department Update

We extend our sincere gratitude to John Frueh of Wood Graphics Signs for his invaluable assistance in the refurbishment of the Cannon Township Station #1 sign. Residents may have noticed the sign's removal over the past months. The former faded emblem, which hung for over 30 years, was victim of extensive sun exposure and weather and has been meticulously restored and repainted.

The sign now prominently features "Cannon Township" in radiant gold paint, with "Station 1" distinctly integrated into a silver bell. This enhancement not only significantly improves the station's aesthetic appeal but also unequivocally highlights its role as a critical community asset. It stands as both a symbol of safety for our residents and a renewed source of pride for our dedicated firefighters. This refurbishment, alongside the recent upgrade of the Station's garage doors, provides a well-deserved and much-needed revitalization.



Fuelup for a cause at our Annual Pancake Breakfast! On Saturday, October 4, from 8 AM to 10 AM, we are serving up stacks of pancakes to benefit Great Lakes Burn Camp and Riding for Ryan.

Great Lakes Burn Camp is a volunteer-run organization dedicated to providing a supportive, fun, and healing retreat for young burn survivors aged 6–17. Campers grow together through summer and winter sessions, finding acceptance, confidence, and lifelong friendships in a safe, understanding community.

Riding for Ryan is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting youth programs and community safety initiatives in memory of Ryan Marsman. Through fundraising events and partnerships, the organization works to create positive impact by offering scholarships, promoting helmet safety, and supporting local families in need.

Your participation directly supports these vital organizations. This yearly tradition, held on the first Saturday in October, is open to everyone, and any donation is greatly appreciated. Come enjoy a fantastic breakfast, meet your Cannon Township Firefighters and help us make a difference!



**James M. Morris**  
Fire Chief, EMT

**Save The Date**

**PANCAKEBREAKFAST**

Saturday, October 4  
8 AM to 10 AM





# Scrap Tire Cleanup & Recycle Event

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH  
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Scrap tires pose a fire risk and a human health risk as mosquito breeding grounds. Whole tires have been banned from Michigan landfills since 2004. Fortunately, tires can be 100% recyclable! They will be accepting passenger and light truck tires. (Passenger tires on rims are allowed but NOT oversized tires)

Volunteers are needed. Please contact Courtland Township if you are able to help at 616-866-0622 [www.courtlandtwpmi.gov](http://www.courtlandtwpmi.gov).



## Clerk's Corner

TECHNOLOGY, ROADS, ELECTIONS, CEMETERIES

### ELECTIONS

With 2025 being an odd year, there were no elections scheduled for the year. Surprise! Forest Hills Schools, where we have about 130 voters in this district, had a Special Election in May. On election day 6 voters cast ballots and 27 voted absentee. There is nothing scheduled for the fall, but we will not know until the deadline for filing passes in August. So, stay tuned and we will let everyone know as soon as we know.

### CEMETERIES

The Clerk's office has just purchased a new software package for our community cemeteries. The software will allow us to put the cemetery maps and a "look-up" feature on the web site. It is about a 4-month installation and start-up, so we should see something this fall. Also, we have contracted to have the east half of the Old Cannonsburg cemetery scanned with ground penetrating radar. It appears that we may have over 100 possible grave sites that can be used, but we must first make sure they are indeed vacant.

### ROADS

Most of the road construction in Cannon should be complete by the time this issue of the Communicator comes out. The roads on the east side of Bostwick Lake and a portion of Blakely were on the schedule this year. The Township spends about \$300,000 each year on road construction and maintenance. This is matched by the Kent County Road Commission (KCRC), so we spend about \$600,000 annually to keep our roads some of the best in Kent County. The only road that is not under our control is Belding Road (M44). This one is a Michigan State road and totally under the control of MDOT. We examine the condition of all roads each year and determine where we will invest our dollars for the following year. If you have any suggestions for road construction, please let me know. Jim Alles [jalles@cannontwp.org](mailto:jalles@cannontwp.org) (616)884-2207.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Cannon Township has recently been granted a .gov designation. This will eventually replace our current .org extension. The .gov adds an additional level of security to help ensure that our data is secure. We anticipate this will be seamless to the users because the old .org will be linked to the new .gov so we do not miss any correspondence. Please stay tuned and we will update as we progress.

### TRAFFIC SAFETY

With summer here, our children are out of school and may be walking and riding bicycles on the local roads. PLEASE – PLEASE SLOW DOWN. Nothing you are late for is worth taking the life of a child. Our local roads are somewhat narrow and many are very hilly. You will not know what is coming over the hill until it is too late. Motorcyclists, many of our roads are curvy and fun to ride on. Northern Kent County has had at least 3 motorcycle fatalities so far this year. The information I have is that all motorcyclists were experienced riders but had a contributing factor of excessive speed. I know we are all indestructible, until we aren't. Don't make your parents or family plan your funeral this summer. Stay safe and arrive alive.



**Jim Alles**  
Clerk



# What Is the Planning Commission?

## A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES

The Planning Commission plays a vital role in shaping the future of our Township. This committee works closely with our Zoning Administrator and Township Engineers to evaluate proposed projects, especially those that don't fit perfectly within our current zoning ordinances but may still be a great fit for the community. In these cases, the Commission considers whether an exception might make sense if certain conditions are met.

Take, for example, one of the most exciting developments we've seen in a while: a new Biggby Coffee coming to Town Center, right next to Ric's, with an anticipated opening in early September. When we updated our Master Plan, one of the most frequently mentioned community requests was a coffee shop. We heard you and it's happening!

But like many things in planning, it didn't happen overnight.

While a coffee shop was already a permitted use within Town Center, the original Planned Unit Development (PUD), written over 20 years ago, prohibited drive-throughs and limited square footage to discourage fast-food-style development. The irony? Huntington Bank, just across the street, has a drive-through. That's one of those "head-scratcher" moments for folks unfamiliar with the zoning process.

Because PUDs can carry more restrictive conditions than the base zoning, any change requires formal review. The business reality is that most coffee shops rely on drive-through traffic to be sustainable. That's where the Planning Commission came in, to thoughtfully consider amending the PUD to allow this specific use with conditions.

This wasn't the first time Town Center's rules have evolved. Originally, the entire Belding Road frontage was intended for commercial use, but the Township has adapted the plan over time to better serve the community.

Planning isn't always black and white, and that's why the work of the Commission matters. Our group brings diverse perspectives to the table, and that helps us make balanced decisions—ones that reflect both current needs and long-term vision.

It is important to note that the Planning Commission does not make the final call. We review proposals, consider input, and recommend what we believe is the best course of action, but ultimately, it is the Township Board that makes the final decision.

If you're curious about how local development decisions get made or if you're interested in shaping the future of Cannon Township, consider joining us. The Planning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Township Offices or watch live on our YouTube Channel.

We would love to have you join the conversation.



**Jessica  
Gutowski-Slaydon**  
Trustee



## Townsend Park Anniversary Celebration

Join us on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, for an evening of fun that will include a running event, recreational bike rides, nature based education programs, and stewardship projects. More details and event timing will be shared as the date approaches.





# Parks & Recreation and Facilities Update

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

It is that time again for a brief update on the many projects the Cannon Township Parks and Recreation Committee has been working on. I hope you are enjoying your summer and taking full advantage of all that Cannon Township has to offer for outdoor recreation.

## WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Every five years we update our Master Parks and Recreation Plan. This plan is vital in helping us focus our energies and resources in a direction that best benefits the residents of Cannon Township when it comes to recreational opportunities. The Master Parks and Recreation Plan is also instrumental in helping us secure grants to fund future park and trail projects. We are currently rewriting the plan to submit it to the State of Michigan by January 1, 2026, and public input is the first and most important step.

We want to hear what matters most to you so we can continue to improve, protect, and advance recreational opportunities in Cannon Township. Please take a moment to complete our short survey and share your feedback.



## CANNON TRAIL EXPANSION ALONG KIES STREET

We are excited to report that the Cannon Trail expansion, which will connect Luton Park where the trail currently ends to Courtland, is progressing nicely. This connection has been in the works for over 25 years. When we originally envisioned the trail, our goal was always to connect it to Rockford to the north and Ada to the south. This is the final step in completing the connection to Rockford. The Rockford School Board has approved the easement and the layout to route the trail through the Meadow Ridge Elementary property. We are grateful for the partnership and cooperation of Rockford Public Schools. Our plan is to begin construction in the summer of 2026 and have that section of the trail completed before school starts. Once construction on the trail starts, it will take around three months to complete the entire new section.

We would like to invite you to a public meeting to review the final plans and celebrate this next phase of the Cannon Trail along Kies Street. The meeting will be held Monday, September 22, at 5:30 PM in the Fire Training Room at Cannon Township Hall.

Speaking of exciting projects happening in our Township, there is another public meeting you might be interested in attending. Kent County Parks will be hosting a public meeting to reveal the plans for the Grand River Greenway project, which will install a paved trail from the White Pine Trail eastward along Cannonsburg Road and then south on Pettis to connect to the Ada trails. That public meeting will be held Wednesday, August 27 at 6:00 PM at Cannon Township Hall. Come share in the excitement!





### TOWNSEND PARK TURNS 100!

Townsend Park is celebrating its 100th anniversary this summer! As one of the first parks in Kent County, and in our opinion one of the best, it deserves a proper celebration.

Cy Balk and I are partnering with Don Kurylowicz from Honey Creek Inn, along with Ben Swayze and Dan DeLooff of Kent County Parks, to host a special event on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, starting at 5:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of fun that will include:

- An 18-mile and a 36-mile recreational gravel bike ride curated by Salsa Cycles pro rider and biking event promoter Matt Acker
- Nature-based education programs led by experts from Blandford Nature Center
- A 2.5K and 5K fun run through Townsend Park

There will also be a stewardship project happening earlier in the afternoon to improve the park. We would love to see a large group of volunteers take part and show their appreciation for this special park.

And, of course, it would not be a celebration in Cannonsburg without honorary mayor Don Kurylowicz helping to throw a great party! Don is planning to bring food, soft drinks, adult beverages and music to make sure everyone has a great time.

More details and a full event schedule will be shared as the date approaches. All proceeds from the scheduled events will benefit Kent County Parks and go directly toward improvements at Townsend Park.

We will also be looking for volunteers to help with parking, event information, organization, and more. If you are interested in lending a hand to help the event run smoothly, feel free to reach out to me.

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 30, and join us for a fun day as we celebrate and give thanks to a park that has brought joy to so many for the past 100 years.

### THANK YOU TO THE CANNON COURTS DONORS!

Earlier this summer we installed a plaque at The Cannon Courts recognizing the generous donors who helped make this community space a reality. Please take a moment to thank them when you see them their support made a big impact!

### MEMORIAL BENCH DONATION POLICY

We will begin installing new benches along the Cannon Trail. After being approached by two families wanting to honor loved ones with memorial benches, we realized we needed an official policy in place. After careful research and collaboration, we now have a Memorial Bench Donation Policy ready for future contributions.

If you are interested in sponsoring a bench, we have several areas in the Township where new benches would be welcome. Please reach out to me for more information.

We are truly blessed to live in such a wonderful community. I hope to see you out on the trails or in one of our parks!

Wishing you a life well lived in Cannon Township,

Todd Olson  
Trustee – Cannon Township, MI  
Chair – Cannon Township Parks and Recreation Committee  
Member – Cannon Township Facilities Committee



**Todd Olson**  
Trustee



Photo courtesy of  
Landscape Forms



# Join Us for the First-Ever Kent County North Community Fest!

Mark your calendar for a fun, family-friendly event, Kent County North Community Fest, happening on Thursday, August 14, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Kent County North Campus in Cedar Springs.

This free event will feature:

- Food trucks & free ice cream
- Kids' activities including face painting, glitter tattoos, and balloon animals
- Big trucks on display—fire engines, road equipment, and more
- Free backpacks for students in grades K–12 (while supplies last)

You'll also have a chance to connect with more than 15 Kent County departments and services, including live demonstrations by the Sheriff's Office K-9 and Mounted Units, plus routine back-to-school vaccinations offered on-site.

Location: 4191 17 Mile Road NE, Cedar Springs (between Taco Bell and Advance Auto Parts)

Free parking available

RSVP and details: Kent County North Community Fest Facebook Event

Don't miss this great opportunity to connect with your County and celebrate summer with neighbors and friends!



## Zoning Update

### UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SITE CONDOMINIUMS AND PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS (PUDS)

In Cannon Township, Site Condominiums and Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) are two distinct development types governed by different sections of the Zoning Ordinance.

A Site Condominium is a form of property ownership regulated under Michigan's Condominium Act. In Site Condominiums, individual building sites (units) are privately owned, while shared features—like roads, stormwater systems, or open space—are owned and maintained collectively by a condominium association. Importantly, site condos must comply with all zoning district requirements for setbacks, lot coverage, and density, just as traditional subdivisions do. They are not exempt from zoning regulations.

A Planned Unit Development (PUD) is a zoning tool that allows greater design flexibility. It permits a mixture of uses, varied lot sizes, and customized setbacks that would not otherwise

be allowed under standard zoning. Approval of a PUD involves a more intensive review process and is subject to Township Board approval, including negotiation of layout, land uses, and public benefits. PUDs are often used for larger, more complex projects that include open space preservation, trail systems, or mixed housing types.

In summary, a Site Condominium is primarily about ownership and must follow existing zoning. A PUD is about land use flexibility and allows for more innovative design through negotiated zoning approvals.



**Edmund Lockhart**  
Zoning Administrator  
Assistant Planner





# Generations of Service

## THE ALLES FAMILY LEGACY IN CANNON TOWNSHIP

Cannon Township is fortunate to be shaped by generations of families committed to public service, and few embody that legacy more than the Alles family. The Alles family has been here for six generations!

Jim Alles, our Cannon Township Clerk, continued a proud tradition of civic involvement that began with his father, Raymond Alles, who also held Clerk and Supervisor offices in Cannon Township from 1952-1972.

Jim is a proud Veteran of the Coast Guard, has served as Planning Commissioner for 4 years, Trustee for 9 years, Township Supervisor for 4 years, and is currently the Clerk. He also had a long fulfilling career at Steelcase. He and his wife, Pat, raised 3 children in Cannon Township, and their dedication to public service, especially for honoring our Veterans and supporting the Scouts, is nothing short of inspirational.

The commitment to community runs deep in the Alles family—and it is clearly alive and well in the next generation.

Lieutenant Matt Alles, Jim's son, (which BTW has a strict professional relationship with his dad while on the clock!) is a key player of the Cannon Township Fire Department. Known for his calm demeanor, strong leadership, and clear communication, Matt is the Fire Inspector for our Fire Chief and a trusted voice when it matters most. Whether coordinating during emergencies or leading Fire Prevention outreach, he brings a deep sense of care and responsibility to the people he serves.

Outside of his official duties, Matt is known for his work with local Cub Scouts and for engaging families in public safety education. Alongside his wife, Tracy, they are raising two young boys, planting the seeds of a new generation of public-minded citizens.

The Alles family's story is not just about service titles, it is about values passed from generation to generation. It is about showing up, leading with integrity, and always putting the community first. Cannon Township is stronger because of families like theirs.

### Six Generations



*If you know a family with deep roots in Cannon Township, nominate them to be featured. Send the family name with contact information to [jes@swiftprinting.com](mailto:jes@swiftprinting.com).*



Jim and Pat Alles, with their children, Sarah, Rebekah and Matt, circa 1990.





*Pictured above: Lieutenant Matt Alles and Chief Jim Morris giving checks to Riding with Ryan and Burn Camp. Both are beneficiaries of the Fire Department's Annual Pancake Breakfast. This year's breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 4, from 8 AM to 10 AM.*

## Dates To Remember

Date	Event	Time	Location
8/11/2025	Township Board Meeting Planning	7:00pm	Cannon Township Center
8/12/2025	Commission Meeting Zoning	6:00pm	Cannon Township Center
8/18/2025	Board of Appeals Meeting	6:00pm	Cannon Township Center
8/25/2025	Township Board Meeting Office	7:00pm	Cannon Township Center
9/1/2025	Closed - Labor Day Township		Cannon Township Center
9/8/2025	Board Meeting Planning	7:00pm	Cannon Township Center
9/9/2025	Commission Meeting	6:00pm	Cannon Township Center
9/15/2025	Summer Tax Bills Due		Cannon Township Center
9/15/2025	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting	6:00pm 7:00pm	Cannon Township Center
9/22/2025	Township Board Meeting Fall	8:00am – 3:30pm	Cannon Township Center
10/10 & 10/11	Clean Up Township Board Meeting	7:00pm 6:00pm	Cannonsburg Ski Lodge
10/13/2025	Planning Commission Meeting	6:00pm 7:00pm	Cannon Township Center
10/14/2025	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting		Cannon Township Center
10/20/2025	Township Board Meeting Sewer		Cannon Township Center
10/27/2025	Bills Due		Cannon Township Center
10/31/2025			Cannon Township Center

For additional meeting dates, please visit the Township website at [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org). Please note that dates are subject to change.



## Here To Serve You

 Cannon Township Center  
6878 Belding Road, Rockford, MI 49341

 Main Office: 616-874-6966  
Zoning Administrator: 616-884-2206



### Steve Grimm

Supervisor  
sgrimm@cannontwp.org  
• Fire & Law Enforcement  
• Sewer  
• Communications  
• Personnel  
• Finance  
• Elections



### David Spencer

Treasurer  
dspencer@cannontwp.org  
• Finance  
• Personnel  
• Parks & Rec  
• Elections  
• Rockford Area  
Foundation Rep



### Jim Alles Clerk

jalles@cannontwp.org  
• Elections  
• Personnel  
• Cemetery  
• Fire & Law Enforcement  
• Facilities  
• GVMC Rep



### Jessica Gutowski-Slaydon

Trustee  
jslaydon@cannontwp.org  
• Planning Commission  
• Communications  
• Invasive Species and Wetlands  
• GVMC Transportation Rep



### Todd Olson

Trustee  
tolson@cannontwp.org  
• Parks & Rec  
• Facilities



### Henry Betten

Trustee  
hbetten@cannontwp.org  
• Zoning Board of Appeals  
• Sewer



### Cy Balk

Trustee  
cbalk@cannontwp.org  
• Parks & Rec  
• Invasive Species and Wetlands





