



# Communicator

Published by the Cannon Township Board, Kent County, Michigan

Fall 2008

## Striving To Keep A Balance...

**Pete MacGregor,  
Supervisor**

Cannon Township continues to weather the economic storm that threatens our beautiful State in 2008. Our Board persists on cautious and conservative financial decisions due to the status of the frail economy. The Township continues to receive less and less from Lansing, yet we have committed to maintain all key essential services, offer a great quality of life and remain fiscally strong for our constituents.

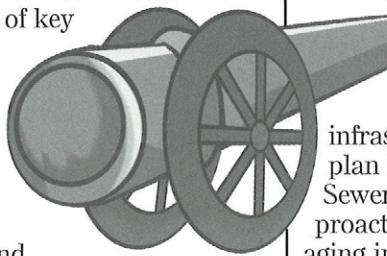
With the current banking troubles in the country our steadfast Finance Committee continues to protect our reserves by securing saving investments with minimal risk. In 2008 the top objective

of our Township Board is to provide the least amount of risk on our current reserves.

Our Board strives to balance the cost of key services that are crucial not only for the health, safety and welfare of our citizens, but for our citizens' quality of life. This is balanced with a mission to maintain a healthy million dollar reserve or "rainy day" fund.

The new "Cannon Trail" is now The Premier recreation site in the whole County – maybe even the whole State (what a gem!). Providing functional, practical and valuable amenities, like the Cannon Trail, is how our Board continues to endeavor a high quality of life for our constituents.

Looking toward the near future, the Township Board,



with great effort, will make key decisions on three significant issues. With our Planning Commission, the Board will debate and vote on a revised and rewritten zoning ordinance. Secondly, we will be presented with a strategic capital infrastructure improvement plan for the Township Sewer System so as to be proactive with upgrading our aging infrastructure. Lastly, the Board will be looking at plans to expand and renovate Fire Station Number 2. The latter two issues will definitely have cost concerns and our assessments and decision must support a significant value to the community.

As always, your input and feedback to me and the Township Board is welcome and appreciated. It is citizen involvement that helps make Cannon a stronger community and safer place to live. I can assure you that each Board member is vigilant toward maintaining a safe and healthy place to live and work.

# Cannon Township

The Cannon Communicator, Fall 2008

## 2 Chronic Wasting Disease...

### Chuck Bloom Served Cannon Township For Twenty Years

For the past twenty years it has been my honor and pleasure to serve the residents of Cannon Township at various times on the Township Board, the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. I decided not to run for re-election to the Township Board this past election, so the November 10th Board meeting will be my last one as a trustee.

I want to thank all the colleagues whom I have served with over the years for their encouragement and support. Also, the Township office staff deserves my grateful thanks for all the help and assistance which they have furnished so graciously to me.

The Township has a very talented and dedicated group of people who will be serving on the Board and other Township bodies, as well as a dedicated office staff, and I believe Cannon Township will be well served by them in the coming years.

Thank you and may God bless Cannon Township.

*Chuck Bloom, Trustee*

**T**hank you to all the Cannon Township voters who supported the millage vote for recreation. This ensures a yearly budget for trail maintenance and future expansion as well as funds for other recreational amenities in the Township.

### For Hunters And Deer Lovers

Chronic Wasting Disease is serious! Cannon Township is one of the areas in the surveillance zone. All hunters who take a deer during any deer hunting season this fall within the CWD surveillance zone will be required to visit a DNR deer check station so that their deer can be tested for CWD.

There is also an immediate ban on baiting and feeding deer in all areas of the Lower Peninsula. Check the DNR website for more information. <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

# Fall Cleanup

Cannon Township has again hired J & S Service to conduct a trash pickup on the Township Center property at 6878 Belding Road for our Township residents.

You may bring your junk to the Township Center on the following days:

### **Wednesday,**

*September 24th  
from 9 am to 6 pm*

### **Thursday,**

*September 25th  
from 9 am to 6 pm*

### **Friday,**

*September 26th  
from 9 am to 5 pm*

### **Saturday,**

*September 27th  
from 8 am to 1 pm*

### **Also these rules apply:**

- All tires must be cut in 4 pieces.
- No shovel offs or loose trash allowed. Small items must be in a bag, box, or barrel.
- Fencing must be flattened or folded.
- Barrels must have one end open or be full of holes.
- Fuel oil tanks must be cut in half.
- No liquid, hazardous waste, or yard waste.
- No propane tanks.

### **We accept the following items:**

rubbish, furniture, lumber, metals, appliances, units with Freon (freezers, air conditioners, humidifiers, etc.), and batteries.

**I**t is important to enter the Township property from the Myers Lake Avenue entrance and exit on Belding Road to keep

the flow of traffic moving. Be aware that there could be an emergency call while you are in line, so make sure you are not blocking a fire truck or other emergency vehicle.

Cannon Township sponsors this yearly event to help keep our Township clean. You may be asked to provide proof that you are a Township resident, so bring along a copy of your voter ID card, tax bill, or sewer bill. Please do not abuse the rules! Often people get upset when they come too late on Saturday to dump their load. If you are in line before 1 PM, you will be allowed to dump your trash. If you come later than that, you will be asked to leave.

If you have any questions, please call the Township Center (874-6966) during regular office hours.

## News From Kent County Sheriff's Department

The County Sheriff's Department has offered to come and present recent incident statistics and talk to the Township Board about the current law enforcement activities within the Township four times per year. In attendance will be two or three command officers willing to answer any questions regarding the services they provide our Township citizens. The agenda will be set up for a 10 minute update from the Sheriff's Department and the Board will allow citizens some time to ask questions or convey their concerns. Please see the Township Calendar on the web site for specific dates for scheduled meetings on the Board agenda. The first scheduled date is October 13th at 7:00 PM.

*Peter MacGregor Supervisor  
Cannon Township*

### Actual Statistics 4-1-08 to 6-30-08:

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Accidents, Motor Vehicle ..... | 37         |
| Alarms .....                   | 52         |
| Arrests.....                   | 4          |
| Assault .....                  | 3          |
| Larceny/B&E .....              | 41         |
| Citizen Asst.....              | 123        |
| Asst. Others .....             | 28         |
| Community Policing .....       | 13         |
| Disorderly .....               | 46         |
| Domestic/Civil Matters.....    | 26         |
| Medicals/Fire .....            | 59         |
| Frauds .....                   | 4          |
| Deaths .....                   | 6          |
| MDOP/Vandalism .....           | 32         |
| Robbery .....                  | 0          |
| Sex Offenses .....             | 3          |
| Suspicious Situations.....     | 77         |
| Traffic Related.....           | 43         |
| VCSA .....                     | 1          |
| Other.....                     | 85         |
| <b>TOTAL.....</b>              | <b>683</b> |

## Historical Society News

Margaret Janose

There is an antique doll display courtesy of Margery Graham at the Cannonsburg Museum until the end of September. The museum is open every Sunday afternoon from 2 – 4 pm through September 28th.

You are invited to the Christmas potluck on December 7th at 2:00 pm at the museum. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Beverages will be furnished. For more information, call Margaret Janose at 874-6865.

## Road Repairs

**A**s we enter into the autumn season we would like to look back on this past summer and review the major repairs that were completed. These included 5 Mile Rd. from Cannonsburg Rd. East to Tiffany, Ramsdell South of Belding Rd. to Cannonsburg Rd., the second half of Egypt Valley between Belding Rd. and Cannonsburg, and six streets in Bella Vista. The cost to our Township for these repairs was \$255,000 and approximately \$510,000 for the County. (\$250,000 was for the 5 Mile section).



**N**ext year we are already looking at some items such as repairing Wildermere, paving of Dursum, repairing Sunfish and parts of Bella Vista. We will also continue to stress the need to the County to repair Cannonsburg Rd. from Myers Lake East to 5 Mile Rd. (This would be funded by the State and the County.) These items will be discussed by the Township Board during the budget time next February.

*Dick Davies, Trustee*

## Volunteer Group Formed to Maintain Cannon Township Trail

**A** volunteer group has formed for the Cannon Township Trail. This group will be responsible for light maintenance of the trail, such as picking up branches and litter along the trail. They'll also work on special projects

as needed. The group will operate from March through November. A separate group, the Cannon Township Trail Patrol, is forming via the Kent County Sheriff's Department. If you are interested in being a patrol volunteer, please call

Sgt. Steve Dabkowski at 632-6232.

The Cannon Township Trail Volunteers have divided into four teams. Each team will cover a one mile stretch (the trail is four miles

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## More Volunteers Needed...

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long). Team One: from the Township Center to Sunfish Lake. Team Two: from Sunfish Lake to the Two Mile Trail Marker Sign. Team Three: from the Two Mile Marker Sign to Arch Creek. Team Four: from Arch Creek to Townsend Park.

Each team member will work once a month at their designated section. The Township will provide trash bags, clippers, a broom and other necessary tools as needed. Again, light maintenance is the goal for this group.

The Cannon Township Trail has been a very popular attraction. It is not unusual to see half a dozen cars parked in the Township lot on weekday mornings. Weekends can be even busier!

We have sixteen members on our Trail Volunteer Group. There's still plenty of room for you to join! This is a great opportunity to get outdoors and be a part of a beautiful trail. If you would like to be a Cannon Township Trail Volunteer, please call Kim Sapkowski at 874-6966.

**Don't forget the annual Christmas Lighting Ceremony in Cannonsburg on Monday, December 1st at 6:00 pm**



## Photo Contest Entries Due by September 26



**T**ime is growing short for photographers to snap their prize-winners for the second annual photography contest hosted by the Open Space Preservation Council for the Eastern Townships of Kent County. With a theme of "Wetlands and Water," contestants have just a few weeks to find that special view of any water feature in the six township area before entries are due to be submitted the week of September 22-26. The goal of the contest is to "expand public awareness and understanding of the abundant water and wetland resources found in the eastern townships of Kent County, and enhance public stewardship of these resources," according to contest rules.

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**P**hotographers from anywhere and of all ages are encouraged to enter up to three photographs in the contest, but photographs must be taken somewhere within the six townships of the council: Vergennes, Lowell Township, Grattan, Cascade, Cannon, or Ada. Entry forms and complete information about the contest can be obtained from each township's website, and should be available in print at local township halls and at many area schools, arts councils and galleries.

**T**he Wetlands and Water contest will open with an artists' reception on Tuesday, September 30, 2008 at Cascade Township's Wisner Center. After the opening reception, selected photos will hang in all six township halls from October 6 through Friday, October 29.

**T**wo prize categories – adult, and youth age 18 and under – are up for grabs. Judges

for the contest are photographer Steve Frykholm and water resources expert Bob Day. Frykholm, a graphic artist and creative director and vice president at Herman Miller, is an award-winning graphic designer and avid nature photographer. Day is District Representative in the Land and Water Management Division for Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). They will judge entries on technical merit, artistic merit, and visual impact in keeping with the contest theme of "Wetlands and Water."

**T**he Open Space Preservation Council for the Eastern Townships of Kent County is a cross-jurisdictional volunteer citizen council committed to preserving rural character across multiple adjacent townships. Membership is open to residents of Cascade, Ada, Grattan, Cannon, Vergennes, and Lowell Townships. Its mission is "to facilitate proactive measures to preserve private and public open space through cooperation between citizens and township leaders in the eastern townships of Kent County."

**F**or more information about the photo contest, contact Betty Jo Crosby at 616-949-0417, [bjcroz@comcast.net](mailto:bjcroz@comcast.net) or Bonnie Blackledge at 616-204-0085 [BonnieS@cannontwp.org](mailto:BonnieS@cannontwp.org)

*By Bonnie Blackledge*

## Township Board Meetings

2nd & 4th Monday, Monthly

7:00 p.m.

**Township Hall**

# The Fire Chief's Report...

By Fire Chief, Harry Morris

## Congratulations...

I would like to begin this article with congratulations to James Palm and Lonnie Herrington for successfully completing Emergency Medical Technician Basic training and passing the national accredited testing. At the time of this article, the Cannon Township Fire Department now has nine Medical First Responders, six EMT-Basic personnel (including James and Lonnie), two EMT-Specialists and two Paramedics.

James has been on the department for three years, while Lonnie has been a member for almost 22 years.

Congratulations gentlemen and thank you for your continued commitment to our Township. Congratulations James and Lonnie.

## Back To School...

School is back in session so please make sure to keep an extra cautious eye open while driving! And as a service to our community, the Cannon Township Fire Department also begins fire safety and prevention with the schools within our community in the fall when the kids are back in session. For some children, the excitement of the beginning school year is a great time to discuss and practice an in-home fire safety plan. For some fire safety tips, please check out <http://www.fema.gov/kids/>

**D**aylight Savings Time Reminder—On Sunday, November 2, 2008, Daylight Savings ends so don't forget to turn your clocks back before you go to bed on Saturday. This is a perfect time to take a minute to test and replace the batteries in all of your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

**H**alloween Open House—October 31st falls on Friday this year. Make sure all of your trick-or-treaters have reflective material on their costumes or a flashlight if they are going to make their rounds at dusk or after dark. And when you're done, please stop by Station 2 on Belding Road adjacent to the Township Hall or Station 1 on Cannonsburg Road in Cannonsburg. We will be serving cider and donuts from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**D**riveway Ordinance—Some of the driveways within Cannon Township have

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become overgrown with branches and bushes and may prevent emergency vehicles from getting to your home when time is critical. In general, our current Township ordinance requires driveways longer than 75 feet to have a minimum of 20 feet wide and 14 feet high cleared of all obstructions. The Cannon Township website has this ordinance in full detail under Chapter 21A at <http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/docs/329431205779160.pdf>. Please help us out by trimming these obstructions back.

**H**all Leaf Burning—Leaf Burning dates are:

- October 18th
- October 23rd thru 25th
- October 30th and 31st
- November 1st
- November 6th thru 8th
- November 13th & 14th

Please call 874-9725 for a burn permit prior to burning your leaves. Burn permits are free but required for Cannon Township residents.

## Great Tips from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov))

### Keep Fireplaces & Wood Stoves

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.

### Protect The Outside Of Your Home

- Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester.
- Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

### Protect The Inside Of Your Home

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Consider installing the new long life smoke alarms.
- Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment.
- Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof.

### Porch Lights Make It Easy For Us

Please make sure to turn on your porch light after you have called 911. This seemingly simple tip will allow us to locate and respond to an address more quickly.

Until next time, stay safe!

By Kim Sapkowski,  
Watershed Administrative Assistant

## Rogue River Watershed Council Annual Meeting

The Rogue River Watershed Council is dedicated to the long-term protection and restoration of the Rogue River and its tributaries through community stewardship, education and watershed-based planning. The northeast corner of the Township is within the Rogue River watershed.

The Rogue River Watershed Council will hold its Annual Meeting Wednesday, September 24 at 7 p.m. at the Rockford Community Cabin, 220 N. Monroe. Everyone is welcome to attend!

## Conservation Easements

One of the main reasons our citizens live in Cannon Township is because of its natural beauty. It is comforting to the soul to drive out of the hustle and bustle of the city into the open vistas, farmland and green woodlands of Cannon Township. But it is also disconcerting to see that natural beauty suddenly disappear due to development. That is where conservation easements come into play.

Many property owners want to see their land kept in its natural state. At the same time they may be concerned that the land may not stay undisturbed in future generations. Or they may be tempted to sell the land for economic reasons. Conservation easements can help on both accounts.

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan describes a conservation easement as "...voluntary legal agreements between a landowner and a land conservancy or government agency that permanently limit development of the property in order to protect the conservation values of the land. The land remains in private ownership and can continue to be used by the landowner. The Land Conservancy also works with developers to create easements preserving important natural land in open space developments."

Conservation easements are legally binding. Sometimes land conservancy groups or government organizations are willing to pay for a unique parcel. Or, conservation agreements can provide tax benefits to you and your family, not to mention the economic integrity of the community.

A conservation easement can protect the overall watershed in many ways. It may prevent trees from being logged, thus keeping a tree canopy intact, a key factor in slowing down rainfall and preventing high volumes of rain from eroding soil. A conservation easement could create a buffer between one water way to the next, thus providing a link for wildlife

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and birds between their life support -- water!

If you would like to learn more about conservation easements, you can call me here at the Township. Or contact the Land Conservancy of West Michigan at 451-9476. Or go online to [www.naturenearby.org](http://www.naturenearby.org).

## Leaf Raking the Easy Way

Tired of raking your fall 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!

## Have You Had Your "Green Hour?"

**R**emember when you were a kid and you spent hours exploring the woods, tumbling in the backyard, or catching frogs at the local pond?

You may have noticed that today's kids spend a lot of time in front of electronic devices (could we have ever imagined the Internet when we were kids?!) and less time outdoors. Some worry that kids who are uninvolved in nature will grow into adults who are disconnected from nature.

The National Wildlife Federation recommends that parents give their kids a "Green Hour" every day, a time for unstructured play and interaction with the natural world. This can take place in a garden, a backyard, the park down the street or any place that provides safe and accessible green spaces where children can learn and play. This unstructured outdoor time is great exercise, offers stress relief and a positive connection to the outdoors.

To give parents and caregivers the information, tools, and inspiration to get their kids -- and themselves -- outside, NWF has created GREENHOUR. ORG, a website rich in family-friendly content and which hosts a supportive virtual community where families can learn, explore, and share their outdoor experiences and backyard adventures.

**Watershed articles**  
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Watershed Pages

**D**id you know that three creeks and their tributaries in Cannon Township are protected by *The Bear Creek Watershed Protection Overlay District*?

*Bear Creek, Stout Creek, Armstrong Creek* and their tributaries are protected within 100 feet on each side of the creeks. The purpose of the ordinance is to prevent erosion along creek banks, prevent sediment from entering the creeks, preserve and enhance vegetation along the creeks and ensure adequate setbacks for buildings, structures and septic systems.

Natural vegetation strips along creek banks and following minimum setbacks are vital to the health and well being of our streams. Vegetation helps filter sediment and runoff, controls erosion and provides wildlife habitat.

While you may think a tree is obstructing your view of the creek, remember that a tree canopy keeps the water temperature cool and regulated, which in turn provides the perfect environment for trout and other aquatic creatures.

Also, it is wise to avoid use of lawn chemicals if you live next to a creek. Chemicals will run off into the creek or leach into ground water. This in turn will affect everything from insects, fish, birds and humans.

Planting of perennial native species along the creek banks is encouraged. These plants are well adapted to our local climate, plus wildlife and insects find native plants great places to nest and feed.

Some properties may not fall under the ordinance. Since the ordinance went into effect in 1996, some properties at that time did not have a vegetation strip or already had structures close to the creek. However, if your property

is located in this district and there currently is natural vegetation surrounding the creek, you may not disturb it in accordance to the ordinance.



## Nature Club

Georgia Donovan, President of the Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaac Walton League, is starting up a Kids' Nature Club at the Izaak Walton League for 2nd - 4th graders. It's after school, 4:00-5:30 pm at the Conservation Center, 5641 Myers Lake Rd. According to Georgia – "It won't be overly structured; we'll play outside and follow our interests, learning about whatever plants and animals we see as curiosity strikes. This is our first year, and we'll have to limit it to 20 kids. We're planning to start on Sept 10."

For more information, call Georgia at 866-1061, and save our kids from Nature Deficit Disorder! (Even though you may receive this newsletter after Sept. 10, there may still be time to join the group.)

## Fall Office Hours 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SEP 22 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

SEP 24-27 ..... **COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP – Township Center**  
Wed. (24th) & Thurs. (25th) 9:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Fri. (26th) 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Sat. (27th) 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Oct 1 ..... **Quarterly Sewer Bills Mailed**

Oct 6 ..... **Last Day to Register for November 4 General Election**

Oct 13 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
Sheriff's Dept. Presentation – Q & A

Oct 14 ..... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

Oct 18 ..... **Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department**

Oct 21 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 7:00 pm

Oct 23,24,25 ..... **Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department**

Oct 27 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Oct 30, 31 ..... **Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department**

Oct 31 ..... **HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT**  
Both Fire Stations - 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Quarterly Sewer Bills Due

Nov 1 ..... **Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department**  
Office Open for Absentee Ballots 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Nov 3 ..... **Office Open for Absentee Voting until 4:00 pm**

Nov 4 ..... **GENERAL ELECTION – POLLS OPEN 7:00 am – 8:00 pm**

Nov 6, 7, 8 ..... **Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department**

Nov 10 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Nov 11 ..... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

Nov 13, 14 ..... **Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department**

Nov 18 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals – 7:00 pm

Nov 24 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Nov 27, 28 ..... **OFFICE CLOSED - Thanksgiving Holiday**

Dec 1 ..... **Winter Taxes (2008) Mailed to Residents**  
2009 Dog Licenses Available at Township Office  
**Cannonsburg Christmas Lighting Ceremony – 6 pm**

Dec 8 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Dec 10 ..... **Board of Review – 10:00 am**  
Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

Dec 16 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 7:00 pm

Dec 24,25,26 **OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas Holiday**

Dec 31 ..... **OFFICE CLOSED – New Year's Holiday**  
(Drop Box Available For Payments)

Jan 1 ..... **OFFICE CLOSED - New Year's Holiday**

Jan 3 ..... Christmas Tree Recycling – (9:00 am – 3:00 pm)

Jan 10 ..... Christmas Tree Recycling – (9:00 am – 3:00 pm)  
(Township Hall Parking Lot)



## Clerk's Corner...

By Bonnie Blackledge



### Election Updates

The August 5th Primary had an extremely low voter turnout (22.78%) in Cannon Township for a presidential year primary. In the past, the turnout has been higher – 44.49% in 2004 and 29.05% in 2000. Since I'm always stressing the importance of voting in a primary election, I was a little disappointed.

We're gearing up now for a huge turnout in the presidential election on November 4th. If you are on our permanent absent voter (AV) list, the application you received for the primary was also good for the general. If you filled that out and returned it, you will automatically receive a ballot when they are available. We hope to have them out to you no later than the first of October.

If you need an AV ballot because you will be out of our community on the day of the election or if you're 60 years of age or older or handicapped, please contact Nancy as soon as possible. You may reach her at 874-6966 or email [nancyp@cannontwp.org](mailto:nancyp@cannontwp.org). We also have applications available on our website that can be printed off, filled out and sent back.

If you are interested in working the November 4th election, please contact me (874-6966 or [bonnies@cannontwp.org](mailto:bonnies@cannontwp.org)) as soon as possible. I might still have some openings.

The use of the electronic poll book in Precinct 4 in the primary was successful. Thank you for your cooperation. We intend to use this again in November. Voters in Precinct 4 will be asked to let us swipe their drivers' licenses to record the fact that they are voting. I'd love to use this in all six precincts, but we only have one laptop. If anyone wants to donate a slightly used one, we won't refuse!

We are going to be buying extra supplies for the November election in anticipation of a large turnout. (Please don't let me down!) We'll be using a lot of the desktop privacy booths where you can sit at a table and vote. These heavy cardboard stations are a lot cheaper than free standing booths. I hope you will enjoy them.

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Also, the AutoMark can be used by any voter to mark a ballot. It is not only for handicapped voters. It is especially designed for those with vision or tactile problems, but available to all. If you'd like to try it to vote an AV ballot in the office, please let me know and I'll guide you through the process. These machines are available at every precinct on Election Day.

## Trail News

It's been pretty quiet in the complaint department lately. I hope that means that "no news is good news." By the time you get this, the benches and picnic table should be installed. The benches are donations from Jim and Shirley Balk and Carlson Design. The picnic table and trash receptacle near the bridge over Arch Creek is an Eagle Scout Project for Andrew Hayes. At this time we have three Eagle Scout projects in the works associated with the trail.

We're looking into more structured parking at the Cannonsburg Cemetery on Sunfish Lake Avenue to keep cars from damaging the trail or grave sites. At this point all we have are ideas, but we hope to have something in place before next summer. The best place to park your car is at the Township Center or Townsend Park.

When I rode my bike on the trail recently, I noticed some children playing on the retaining walls. Parents, these walls are part of the trail structure – they are not a climbing wall for children! It can be very dangerous, and we advise you to prohibit your children from playing on these walls.

The best news for those of you living in the Bella Vista area is that the Township is working to construct a trail connector from the parking lot to the intersection of Myers Lake Avenue and Belding Road. We would also like to see continuous sidewalk between the corner and where it now exists along Myers Lake Avenue. This is a "wish" and clearly not a done deal, but we'd love to see a safe route from the Bella Vista, Cannon Place, and Cannon Farms developments for those wanting to ride the trail.

At the same time, we're exploring a safe pathway around the southern end of Bostwick Lake. The millage funds will help us reach these goals, but there are some other obstacles to overcome.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the polls and on the trail!



## Clip and Save E-mail Addresses

Supervisor, Pete MacGregor: ..... pmacgregor@cannontwp.org  
Clerk, Bonnie Blackledge: ..... bonnies@cannontwp.org  
Treasurer, Jim LaPeer: ..... jlapeer@cannontwp.org  
Trustee Diane Jones: ..... dianecjones2005@yahoo.com  
Trustee Dick Davies: ..... rrd8565@hotmail.com  
Trustee Chuck Bloom: ..... heronview@sbcglobal.net  
Trustee Rob McBrien: ..... Rj.mc'brien@helmholdt.com  
Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma: ..... nancyp@cannontwp.org  
Deputy Treasurer, Milissa Soderstrom: ..... milissas@cannontwp.org  
Zoning Administrator, Christine James: ..... christinej@cannontwp.org  
Code Enforcement Officer, Bob Devereaux: ..... zeo@cannontwp.org  
Administrative Assistant Sue Clarin: ..... suec@cannontwp.org  
Watershed Assistant, Kim Sapkowski: ..... ksapskowski@cannontwp.org  
Fire Chief, Harry Morris: ..... Chief@Cannontwp.org  
State Representative, Tom Pearce: ..... tompearce@house.mi.gov  
State Senator, Mark Jansen: ..... senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov  
Phone: 1-888-414-3684  
Congressman Vern Ehlers: web site: ..... www.house.gov/ehlers  
Phone: 202-225-3831  
Cannon Township Web Site: ..... www.cannontwp.org  
Kent County Web Site: ..... www.accesskent.com  
State of Michigan Web Site: ..... www.michigan.gov



### Township Board

Supervisor ..... Pete Macgregor  
Clerk ..... Bonnie Blackledge  
Treasurer ..... Jim LaPeer  
Trustees ..... Diane Jones  
..... Dick Davies  
..... Chuck Bloom  
..... Rob McBrien  
Township Offices ..... 874-6966  
**(Hours 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon – Fri)**  
Fax ..... 874-8940  
Fire Department ..... 874-9725  
Emergency ..... 911

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ROCKFORD, MI 49341  
PERMIT NO.1

Township Board Meetings • 2nd & 4th Monday, Monthly • 7:00 p.m., Township Hall

**Cannon Township**  
6878 Belding Road, NE • Rockford, MI 49341  
The Cannon Communicator, Fall 2008