

Communicator

Published by the Cannon Township Board, Kent County, Michigan

From the Desk of the Supervisor

Steve Grimm,
Cannon Township Supervisor

The Cannon Township Board has always focused on being open and transparent in the conduct of your business. When I became Supervisor in January of 2011, the Board allowed public comment in the beginning of every Board meeting, and every person was allowed three minutes to comment. As of my first meeting as Supervisor, we added public comment at the end of each meeting and removed the time limit. I have always felt that there should be no limit in Cannon Township on free speech, and if something was important enough for someone to take the time to come to a meeting, they should not be limited in the amount of time they have. We have said, however, that if a person has five

minutes of something to say, they should to do it in five minutes, not six or ten.

We recently had over a hundred people at a Board meeting when we were considering a revision to the Special Land Use Ordinance for recreational areas in Cannon Township, like, but not limited to, Cannonsburg Ski Area. Everyone at the meeting had an opportunity to address the Board, and everyone, without exception, had something meaningful to say. That was a very important moment for our Township, because it proved that the changes I mentioned above work very, very well. Everyone was courteous and respectful, and the Board appreciated every word that was said. As a result of this exercise in representative democracy, the Board was able to glean very important information and pass our concerns on to the Planning Commission for analysis and input. The Planning Commission then appointed a subcommittee to analyze those concerns. Then a subcommittee of the Board met with representatives of the Planning Commission and came up with a very good ordinance, as well as an amended Outdoor Assembly ordinance. Best of all, we had input and advice from interested citizens in the subcommittee as well. In Cannon Township, we realize that the collective wisdom of her residents far outweighs that of her Board.

Taking things one step further, we recently changed the make-up of our sewer committee, to include a board member who actually pays a sewer bill, Deb Diepenhorst, as well as residents of the township who similarly are on sewer. The advice and counsel of those residents has already begun to benefit the Township. Part of being open and transparent is first admitting that as an elected person, you don't automatically know everything, and that's okay.



Cannon Township

Spring 2012

A Historic Rural Community



Cannon Township

Free Kids' Fishing Every Saturday Morning in May!

FREE Kids' Fishing every Saturday morning in May at their Conservation Center Pond at 5641 Myers Lake Ave. 9:00 - Noon Equipment, bait, and help provided! Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Summerfest!

June 23, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm More fishing! Games, Nature trails, Native Plant & Gardening Info, Rainbarrels, Habitat Improvement, Birdhouse Building! The Dwight Lydell Chapter has its door open so you can explore the woods, creek, pond, and lodge. It is a non-profit dedicated to connecting kids with nature, and defending Woods, Waters, and Wildlife!

The Cannon Communicator



Cannon Township now publishes the Communicator electronically. To sign up, go to www.cannontwp.org. To sign up, click the Email Alerts button on

the left side of the home page to subscribe to the newsletter and other publications. If you would like a hard copy of the newsletter, they are available at the following locations: Choice One Bank on Belding Road, Huntington Bank on Myers Lake Ave and Belding Road, Ric's Market, Pizzeria Grande, Bostwick Lake Bakery, Cannonsburg Gristmill, Honey Creek Inn, and the Cannon Township Center lobby.

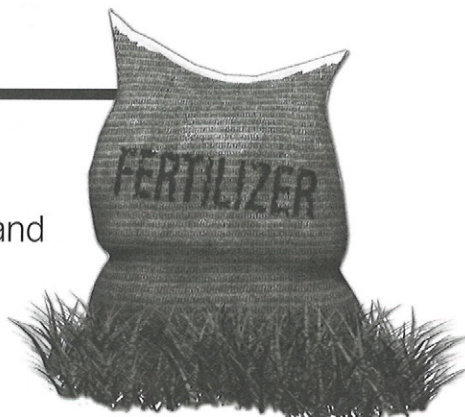
The Men's Club at Bostwick Lake Congregational Church holds an annual fertilizer sale on the Saturdays in April and May from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. All their products are phosphate free, so they meet the requirements of Cannon's fertilizer Ordinance.

Thanks To Students For Their Volunteer Efforts

Cannon Township would like to thank Rockford High School Honor Society representative **Eric Pilko** and the following students for their volunteer efforts during our Christmas tree recycling 2012:

- David Dominiak
- Mark LaPrarie
- Abby Howell
- Maddie Ek
- Halley Hollstein
- Emily Prus

The Honor Society was able to raise **\$286.75** thanks to Cannon Township resident donations. Thanks everyone!





Cannon Township

Clerk's Corner...

By Bonnie Blackledge



Elections

The Presidential Primary in February marked the beginning of a busy election year. Our turnout averaged 26.47%. Detailed results can be found on our website.

In addition to the August Primary and the November General, we will be having a special election in May. The election on May 8th is a bonding proposition by Grand Rapids Community College. Lowell Schools also has an operating millage renewal proposal on the ballot in that district. Ballot language can be found on our website – www.cannontwp.org. Department - clerk, election information. If you are interested in an absentee ballot for the May election, please contact **Nancy at 874-6966**

or nancyp@cannontwp.org.

I'm always looking for election workers, so please complete an application if you are interested in working the elections. Pay is \$8.24 an hour. All meals are

"Just saw a bluebird out my window. Many thanks to Lee Peterson for installing bluebird houses on the Township Center property a few years ago."

provided. The application can also be found under "Election Information" on our website.

This year Township Board positions are up for election. The terms are for four years. There are four Trustee positions as well as Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer. If you are interested in running for local office, packets are available at the Cannon Township Center and due by 4 PM on May 15th. Information on what these positions entail can be found at <http://www.michigantownships.org/realasitgets.asp>. I would also be happy to answer any of your questions about running for office or the duties of the board members.

Election Workers Needed

If you're interested in working elections, I could use a few more workers, especially those who are familiar with computers or would like a leadership role. Election Days usually start around 5:30 - 6:00 am and can go as late as 10 pm.

Pay is \$8.24 an hour.

Contact Bonnie at 874-6966, bonnies@cannontwp.org for more information.

continued from page 4

Recreation Update

The Recreation Committee made a decision to construct two projects in the Recreation Plan this year. One is a trail extension from where the existing trail ends in Townsend Park to the Village of Cannonsburg. The other is the development of a park on the Township Center property, south of the building. Plans of both of these projects can be found on the web.

The trail project should be a welcome pathway bringing trail users into the Village of Cannonsburg where they can stop to eat at one of the restaurants there or pick up a picnic snack at the deli. This extension also brings us that much closer to a future connection to the trails in Ada Township.

The park project has been in the discussion phase since before the 2002 Recreation Plan was created. Design shows a small picnic pavilion, a "tot lot" (play area for preschoolers), a large, grassy open area where people could throw a Frisbee, kick around a soccer ball, or have a family softball game. There would be some walking trails,

including one that would be handicapped accessible and a small parking area nearby. This park would be adjacent to the existing trail and would be a welcome oasis for trail users.

I am applying for three grants to help fund these projects. The total being requested is \$445,000. The trail project is estimated at approximately \$420,000. The grant request from Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for this project is \$300,000. Two grants are being sought for the park – a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for \$100,000 and a Recreation Passport grant for \$45,000. All three of these grants are due on April 2nd, so March is keeping me very busy.

Budget

Cannon Township adopted the Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013 Budget at the March 26th meeting. This year's budget will continue the tradition that began two years ago of building our fund balance so that we have a reserve enough for a year's operating cost. The Board is committed to maintaining the fund balance for general fund at \$1.2 million. We are also working at building up the sewer fund to handle any major repairs that might be needed. A copy of the budget is available on our website.

As I'm writing this, we're into our second week of summer-like weather. That's strange for the middle of March. My prediction is that we'll see some winter-like weather before spring and summer come to stay. Enjoy it while you can!

Please "like" the Clerk's facebook Page

Notices are posted about elections, recreation, watershed, cemeteries, and all the other Township activities that the Clerk manages.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Cannon-Township-Clerks-Office/135763236465301>



Cannon Township

As Spring approaches, it is time to explain what our proposal will be for the coming summer. The planning for these repairs was started last winter with input from our Citizens' Road Committee and the County Road Commission. Details are as follows:

50 % Township Share	
Resurface Goldenrod Dr.	\$31,000
Resurface Kitson Ave.	45,000
Chip seal Old Belding Rd.	16,500
Cape seal 9 Mile Rd (Blakely to Myers Lake)	40,000
Cape seal Bella Vista Roads	
Cape seal Tesoro (5900 to Camino Del Rey)	4,000
Cape seal Belinda (Crescenda to end)	5,000
Cape seal Decosta Ct. (Cuesta Way to end)	3,500
Sub Total \$145,000	
Dust Layers	5,000
Grand Valley Metropolitan Transportation	2,000
Miscellaneous ditching and manhole repairs	7,000
Total \$159,000	

These will be presented to our Township Board for their approval sometime in April. Other roads that are need of repair are in the south end of Bostwick Lake and across from M 44. These are planned for the year 2013.

Our Road Budget is the third largest dollar item in our budget after sewer repairs and law enforcement.

Dick Davies, Trustee and Road Chairperson



April 2012

- April 1** Quarterly Sewer Bills Mailed to Residents
- April 6** **OFFICE CLOSED**
- April 9** Last Day to Register for the May 8, 2012 Election
- April 9** Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
- April 10** Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm
- April 11** Rogue River Watershed Meeting – 9:00 am – 11:00 am
- April 14** MiCorps Stream Study
- April 16** Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
- April 17** Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm
- April 23** Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
- April 28** **19th ANNUAL BEAR CREEK WATERFEST–TOWNSEND PARK – 8:00 am - Noon**
- April 30** Quarterly Sewer Bills Due

**Remember
to check for
any cancellations
or changes
on the Township
web site.**

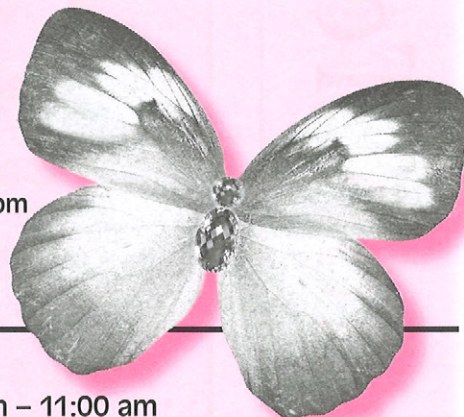
www.cannontwp.org

May 2012

- May 1** **Principal Residence Exemption Due**
- May 5** Office Open for Absentee Voting 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
- May 7** Absentee Voting in Office from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
- May 8** **Election - GRCC & Lowell Schools Special – Polls Open 7:00 am – 8:00 pm**
- May 9** Rogue River Watershed Meeting – 9:00 am – 11:00 am
- May 10** **Community Cleanup – 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**
- May 11** **Community Cleanup – 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**
- May 12** **Community Cleanup – 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**
- May 14** Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
- May 15** Candidate Filing Deadline by 4:00 pm
- May 15** Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm
- May 19** **Electronics Recycling – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**
- May 21** Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 – 5:30 pm
- May 28** **MEMORIAL DAY – OFFICE CLOSED**

June 2012

- June 11** Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
- June 12** Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm
- June 13** Rogue River Watershed Meeting – 9:00 am – 11:00 am
- June 18** Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
- June 19** Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm
- June 23** **SUMMERFEST** – sponsored by the IKES – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- June 25** Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm





Cannon Township

Electronics Recycling with Cannon Township

FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING



**Saturday,
May 19th 2012
from 9AM TO 1PM**

**at the Township Center
6878 Belding Road NE,
Rockford, MI 49341**

Do you have
old electronics
taking up space
at home?

The following items
accepted free:

Computers, Laptops, Monitors,
LCD's, Cell Phones, Printers,
Scanners, Modems, CD Drives,
Cables, Keyboards, Mice,
Televisions, VCR's, DVD Players,
Camcorders, Cameras,
Game Players and Joysticks,
Telephones, Pagers, Answering
Machines, Typewriters,
Calculators, Adding Machines,
Fax Machines, Copiers.



For questions about this Event, 630-305-0922.
To learn more about electronics recycling, visit www.vintagetechnrecyclers.com

Annual Community Cleanup Scheduled

**Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
MAY 10, 11, AND 12th
FROM 9 AM TO 3:30 PM**

This Event will be held in the Cannon Township parking lot. It is open to township residents/taxpayers only. You are required to bring your voter id, tax or sewer bill to prove it.

What to bring?

General household items including appliances, scrap metal, large batteries (car, boat, ETC.)

Rules:

- No liquids (paint, oil, etc.) Latex is okay if it's hardened.
- No brush or yard waste
- All tires must be cut in half
- No shovel-offs (Smaller items should be bagged.)
- Propane and fuel tanks must be cut in half.
- Fencing must be folded or rolled up.
- Barrels must have one end open or be full of holes.
- No hazardous materials

For a complete list of Household Items not accepted and disposal options for those items, please visit www.accessKent.com/hhw

Spring Watershed News

By Julie Lovelace

Bear Creek is a trout stream that runs approximately 17 miles through Cannon Township. The Bear Creek Watershed drains approximately 20,096 acres of land and is located primarily in Cannon Township. Bear Creek is also a subwatershed to the Grand River Watershed.

Many do not know that the health of a creek is indicative of the health of the entire watershed. Point source pollution and nonpoint source pollution (such as water runoff from agriculture and development) have a direct impact on both the watershed as a whole and the health of a creek. What happens miles away from a body of water will eventually affect the quality of that water. Adequate filtration of rain and runoff through wetlands is essential.

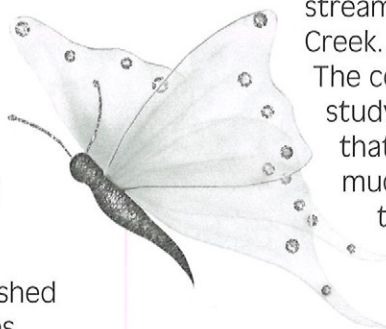
Cannon Township takes its watershed health very seriously. Recently, Cannon Township applied for (and received) the Start-Up grant and the Volunteer

Stream Monitoring grant from the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) through the Department of Environmental Quality for a stream study of Bear Creek.

The concept of studying the insects that live in a creek is much the same as the concept of a canary in a coal mine. There are insects that

are tolerant of pollution, somewhat tolerant, and intolerant. Finding these insects (macroinvertebrates) and counting their numbers in a given sampling can help determine the health of a creek. The more bugs you have in the creek that are intolerant to pollution, the healthier your creek is. The more samplings you take, the more reliable your data is. We have only taken one sampling so far. We will need a wide range of data before we can draw any conclusions.

The MiCorps grants have funded the supplies and training for this stream study for two years. Cannon Township has committed to continuing this study indefinitely after that. This stream study



continued from page 10

relies heavily on volunteers. Many volunteers have previous experience and education in this field. That is certainly not a requirement! Cannon Township would like to welcome anyone ages 8+ interested in helping collect and identify macroinvertebrates. All equipment necessary will be provided. Two samplings will be taken per year, spring and fall. The next sampling will be April 14, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. We will provide training.

If you are interested in getting your "feet wet" in this study please call Julie Lovelace at Cannon Township (616) 884-2206 or E-mail her at jlovelace@cannontwp.org.

Fertilizer is harmful to our lakes and streams in large quantities

By now, many of you probably know that storm water runoff goes straight into our storm water drains. You may also know that those drains are connected directly to our lakes and whatever goes in there is untreated. What runs off into our drains includes anything we put on our lawns. This includes fertilizer. While your initial reaction to fertilizer is that it is good for the earth, it is harmful to our lakes and streams in large quantities. Fertilizer containing phosphorus feeds algae and pond weeds in our lakes. These

algae then compete with fish for oxygen. Phosphorus actually promotes the weeds that we may be paying to eradicate in our lakes!

Cannon Township has adopted a fertilizer ordinance to control the phosphorus going into our lakes. This ordinance states that no phosphorus-containing fertilizer can be applied within the drainage districts of our lakes. If you are a lawn care company, if you employ a lawn care company, or if you fertilize your own lawn, please be sure this ordinance is being followed. Any companies that apply fertilizer within the drainage districts must also be permitted by Cannon Township. Please see the Fertilizer Ordinance posted on our website for more details or contact **Julie Lovelace**, Watershed Assistant, with questions.





Cannon Township



Salute!

It is with difficulty that we announce the departure of four of our firefighters to pursue personal endeavors. These four individuals were greatly admired and respected for their commitment and service to our community. However, this announcement would not be complete if I did not mention that the night that the Cannon Township Fire Department was holding a small gathering in their honor, a residential structure fire broke out. Half of the attendees exited the reception,

leaving spouses, friends and honorees behind. Fortunately, 3 1/2 hours after the call came in, the firefighters were able to rejoin the festivities and honor these individuals. There cannot be enough said about Alice, Bruce, Bill and John and how their service was valued on the department.

Thank you!

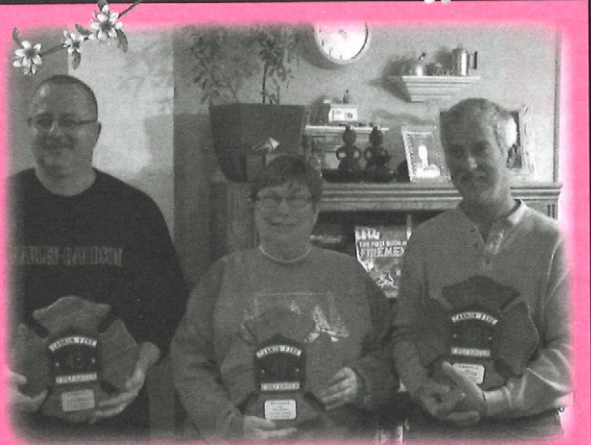


Alice Andree - Retired
26 Years of service

William "Bill" Hovarter
- Retired
16 years of service

Bruce Partridge -
Retired
17 years of service

John Barnes
2 years of service



Congratulations!

Capt. Brian Morris has successfully completed and passed the State of Michigan instructor/coordinator course, and is now licensed as an EMT-Basic I/C. This course is comprised of 140 hrs of classroom instruction, 30 hrs of student teaching and passing a state exam. This increases our current group of department instructors, from 2 to 3.

Program Sponsor

The Cannon Township Fire Department is also proud to announce that we are now an emergency medical service continuing education program sponsor. This means that we are compliant with state mandates for all of our continuing education training for the next three years. This approval allows us to coordinate and teach necessary state required courses for medically licensed personnel.

Burning Ordinance Reminder

It's hard to believe that we are just around the corner from spring clean-up projects. As a reminder, the Cannon Township Open Burning Ordinance was developed as a necessary means to ensure the safety of our residents.

We on the department, feel strongly that this ordinance will also help reduce the amount of nuisance calls and allow the Township to recover the expense of providing fire suppression efforts to those individuals and businesses that do not adhere to the same rules as the rest of our residents.

A copy of this ordinance, may be reached by clicking on the hyper link:

http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/docs/1236703320_725616.pdf

Waterfest 2012 at Townsend Park

Cannon Township will be hosting their annual
Waterfest event at Townsend Park on

Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

A pancake breakfast will be hosted by the Cannonsburg Village Christmas Light Committee at 8:00 a.m.

The feature event this year is a Michigan amphibian and reptile exhibit by Nature Discovery.

Nature/science-inspired activities will be presented for children along with the annual duck race in Bear Creek. There will be live music by Hawks & Owls.

A free raffle will be held throughout the morning including:

A gift certificate for kayak rental package and lunch provided by Rogue River Rentals

A gift certificate for a canoe rental package by AAA Canoe Rental and a picnic lunch provided by Ric's Food Center

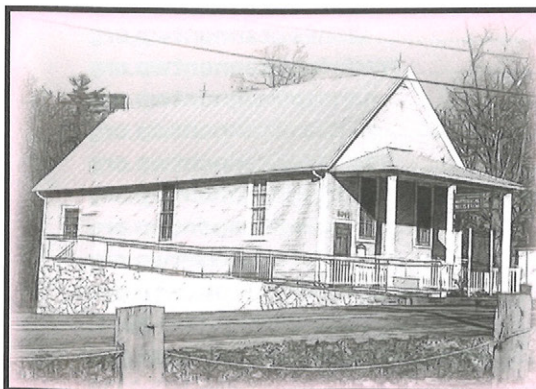


We hope to see you there!

Cannon Township



Historical Society News



Don't forget to check out the Historical Society's **Annual Bake Sale** at the Waterfest this year scheduled for April 28th from 8:00 am to noon. Buy yours early because they sell out fast! There's nothing quite as mouth watering as fresh baked goods.

Beginning in May, the Cannonsburg Museum is open every Sunday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Stop by and see what's new.

Trail News

A Friendly Reminder To Leash Your Dog While on the Trail

We've had complaints of dogs off leash on the trail. As much as you think you have control of your dog, dogs being on a leash is required in our ordinance. You could be fined if you let your dog wander. Please be respectful to other trail users and those who live along the path. And PLEASE

pick up after your pet. **Bags are provided** 🐾



Restrooms - Don't forget that we have restrooms and a drinking fountain on the east side of the Township building that are open from 6 am to 9 pm every day for our trail users.

Check Out Our Mountain Bike Trail

Now that the weather is warmer and the snow has melted, try out the Mountain Bike Trail that extends to the west from our paved trail just past the doggie bag post. It's a fun loop geared to enthusiasts of all ages and expertise. Pedestrians may also use the trail if they wish.



Clip and Save E-mail Addresses

Supervisor, Steve Grimm: sgrimm@cannontwp.org
 Clerk, Bonnie Blackledge: bonnies@cannontwp.org
 Treasurer, Jim LaPeer: jlapeer@cannontwp.org
 Trustee Deb Diepenhorst: ddiepenhorst@cannontwp.org
 Trustee Dick Davies: rrd8565@gmail.com
 Trustee Diane Jones: djones@cannontwp.org
 Trustee Rob McBrien: rmcmbrien@cannontwp.org
 Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma: nancyp@cannontwp.org
 Deputy Treasurer, Milissa Soderstrom: millissas@cannontwp.org
 Watershed Assistant, Julie Lovelace: jlovelace@cannontwp.org
 Deputy SUPV/Zoning Administrator, Christine James: .. christinej@cannontwp.org
 Administrative Assistant Sue Clarin: suec@cannontwp.org
 Fire Chief, Jim Morris: Chief@Cannontwp.org
 State Representative, Pete MacGregor: PeterMacGregor@house.mi.gov
 Phone: 1-855-DIST073 (347-8073)
 State Senator, Mark Jansen: senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov
 Phone: 1-866-305-2128
 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 Steve Grimm
Clerk Bonnie Blackledge
Treasurer Jim LaPeer
Trustees Deb Diepenhorst
 Dick Davies
 Diane Jones
 Rob McBrien

Township Offices 874-6966
(Hours 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon – Fri)
Fax 874-8940
Fire Department 874-9725
Emergency 911

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

Communicator Cannon Township Spring 2012

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

A Historic Rural Community
 6878 Belding Road, NE • Rockford, MI 49341