



# Communicator

Published by the Cannon Township Board, Kent County, Michigan

Fall 2010

## From the Desk of the Supervisor

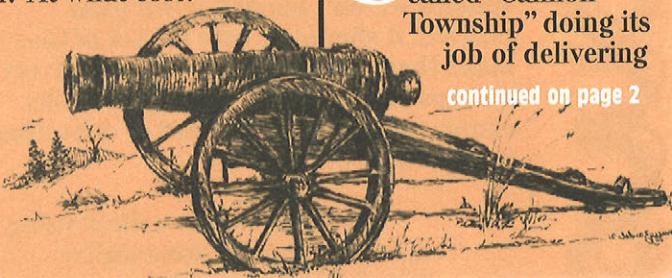
### Our Delivery System

We've got a lot of government. In Lansing, in Washington, at all local levels, we have government structures. Cities, townships, counties, school districts, state agencies and departments are all over the place, doing stuff and needing revenue to pay for it. Where did they all come from? Well, they weren't created by God. People constructed these organizations for a purpose: to deliver

things to the citizens.

These government organizations are delivery systems, pure and simple. That's it. They are taxpayer-funded systems to deliver a public good. So when we talk about government, the starting point is basic: it's a system to deliver something. What is that something? Once you answer that, you have the key and can move right along.

Is our state, county, school district or township delivering that something? How well? At what cost?



How do you measure performance? Remember, government systems are public servants, and paid for by tax revenue from the people. Are the people getting their money's worth? Are they getting that service at all, and at a price they can afford? Could the delivery system do a better job of delivery? Could a different delivery system do an even better job? It is my opinion that the bigger the delivery system, the more difficult it is to answer these questions optimistically.

So how well is the delivery system called "Cannon Township" doing its job of delivering

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# Cannon Township

The Cannon Communicator, Fall 2010

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services? You tell me. Do we need less service in certain areas or more? The Cannon Township Board has two service categories: 1) those services that are deemed "critical" and 2) everything else. It is our goal to spend within our means and balance the budget without draining our reserves. The areas we judged as critical are fire protection, law enforcement and roads. Our deliverables may be good ideas and generally wanted, but we continue to try and answer the previously stated questions: Can we afford them? Are the people getting their money's worth? Could the delivery system do a better job of delivery? Could a different delivery system do an even better job?

**M**ichigan's flat out of spare wealth to just pour into government. We have to look hard at all our public service delivery systems, and ask the obvious questions: what are you supposed to deliver and how well are you delivering it? Can someone else deliver it better, faster, cheaper? Because here's the kicker: if the current government delivery systems weren't handed down from Heaven, it shouldn't take an Act of God to make them change. Government delivery systems should not be serving the folks running the systems, instead of delivering the service.

**N**ote: This article was written using excerpts from Representative Chuck Moss' newsletter, August 2010.

**Best regards, Peter MacGregor,  
Cannon Township Supervisor**



## Like to explore?

Members of the Recreation

*Committee have been trying to create some mowed pathways on the Township property. We also placed steel posts on the east and south boundaries and marked them with surveyor's tape. Come check out the property you own as a taxpaying resident. We have wetlands, woods, and meadow areas. I suggest you avoid this area during firearms season, however.*

**By Bonnie Blackledge,  
Township Clerk**

I know that some people have misgivings about Facebook, but I have found that it's a great way to exchange information. In fact, the Cannon Clerk's Office now has a Facebook page. It would be wonderful if you would "like" it and get up-to-date news.

One day a few weeks ago, I read some information posted by Rick Plite who is heavily involved with the mountain biking association and has been a valuable consultant for our Recreation Committee. My response to his comments resulted in him sending me an important link to Michigan rules for riding bicycles along the roadways.

Although the goal in Cannon Township is to create pathways that will take bicycles off the streets, we all know that it is impossible to go from Point A to Point B without some road riding. I have to admit

that I was ignorant about some of the rules included in the link that Rick sent. So, for all of you who have ever ridden a bicycle on the street or those of you who get frustrated when you are driving and see bicyclists riding along the street, here's a link to let you know the State requirements:

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-300-1949-vi-operation-of-bicycles-motorcycles-and-toy-vehicles>

## Rumors, rumors, rumors...

Remember – just because someone says something doesn't make it true. When it comes to Township

business, don't always trust the word of the local grocery checkout clerk or pizza delivery boy. Check out rumors at the source. *Call the Township Office at 616-874-6966 to find out what the rules REALLY are.*

**The Cannon Communicator goes electronic! – Check our website [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org) to get information on signing up to receive our newsletter and other information automatically. Newsletters in hard copy format are available in our lobby and at various businesses.**

## Cemetery Committee Update

Bonnie Blackledge

**T**he Cemetery Committee now has seven members – Bonnie Blackledge (Chair), Betty Wamser, Dorothy DeMyer, Ted Seling, Diane Jones, Sandie Herrington, and Deb Diepenhorst. We have met several times this spring and summer in order to coordinate the clean-up project in the northwest corner of the Old Bostwick Lake Cemetery. We are hoping that Eagle Scout candidate, Nate Finneran, will be able to complete his project there this fall. It will include benches and landscaping so that people visiting the cemetery will have a nice area to sit down and rest. A slight modification was made to our cemetery ordinance to prohibit any type of lighting in the cemeteries and to require grave decorations to be removed by October 31.

## Finance Committee Update

Jim LaPeer

**T**he Finance committee is composed of four members: Jim LaPeer, Dick Davies, Rob McBrien, and Chuck Bloom. Current issues being addressed are a new Fixed Asset policy, Fund Balance policies, and a review of the Township's Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) security practices. The committee also provides continuous review

and audit of Township investment and cash management practices.

## IT Committee Update

Jim LaPeer

**T**he Information Technology Committee consists of four people: Jim LaPeer, Bonnie Blackledge, Deb Diepenhorst, and Sue Clarin, and meets approximately four times yearly. Issues managed and addressed include a Web Site upgrade, Telephone System replacement, Computer systems upgrade, and the assessment & adoption of new technology. Current focus issues are migration to a new outsourced spam filtering service, and a 'feature & function' upgrade to the Township's web site to allow for more citizen interaction via the Internet.

## Recreation Committee Update

Bonnie Blackledge

**T**he Recreation Committee's members are: Bonnie Blackledge (Chair), Chuck Bloom, Michael Cramer, Mary

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Hefferan, Dave Heyboer, Sue Keith, Jim LaPeer, Debbie Lea, and Andy Vredenburg. Some of the issues we've dealt with so far this year are: the completion of a five-year recreation plan, approval of administrative rules, establishment of a trail maintenance fund, creation of an events policy, and the development of walking trails on the Township Center property. A public restroom is being constructed as part of our Fire Station Expansion.

Next spring we anticipate volunteer construction of a bike loop on the Township Center property that can be used by mountain bikers, especially children and beginners. A Non-Motorized Pathway Ordinance, created by the Committee and approved by the Board can be seen on our website at this link

[http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/docs/1276723737\\_798919.pdf](http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/docs/1276723737_798919.pdf)



### HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

**S** The last Sunday that the museum will be open (until next May!) is on September 26 from 2 to 4 pm. Don't forget the Christmas Lighting Ceremony on Monday, November 29th in downtown Cannonsburg. The Annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 5, at 2 pm at the museum. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

**All are invited!**

## Township Roads

Dick Davies, Township Trustee and  
Township Road Committee Chairperson.

**A**s summer winds down I would like to summarize the major work that was accomplished on our roads. We re-surfaced the South 6,000 ft of Sunfish Lake Ave., Weller Dr. and Weller Ct., Farrell and Homestead, Los Altos and Grand Via Ct. The cost to our Township will be approximately \$211,000 and another \$211,000 will be paid by the Kent County Road Commission. I would like to thank your Township Board members for approving these projects.



In addition to these, a major resurfacing was completed on Cannonsburg Rd, from Myers Lake Rd. East to 5 Mile Rd. This was paid by the Kent County Road Commission and the Federal Government

Also, major repairs were made on Kies, Northport, Kitson and Honey Creek paid for by the Road Commission.

Next year we will be looking at other roads to be repaired such as McCabe. Anyone who wants us to look at other road repairs in 2011 should call me at **874-5810**.

### September 2010

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

### October 2010

Oct 1 ..... Quarterly Sewer Bills Mailed

**Oct 4 ..... Last Day to Register for November 2 General Election**

Oct 11 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Oct 12 ..... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

Oct 14 ..... Bear Creek Watershed Council Meeting – 6:00 pm

Oct 19 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals – 6:00 pm

Oct 21 - 23 .... Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

Oct 25 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

**Oct 28 - 30 .... Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department**

Oct 30 ..... Office Open for Absentee Ballots 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Oct 31 ..... HALLOWEEN TREATS (Both Fire Stations - 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm)

#### QUARTERLY SEWER BILLS DUE

### November 2010

Nov 1 ..... Absentee Voting (in office only) – 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Nov 2 ..... GENERAL ELECTION – POLLS OPEN 7:00 am – 8:00 pm**

Nov 4 - 6 ..... Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

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

Nov 9 ..... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

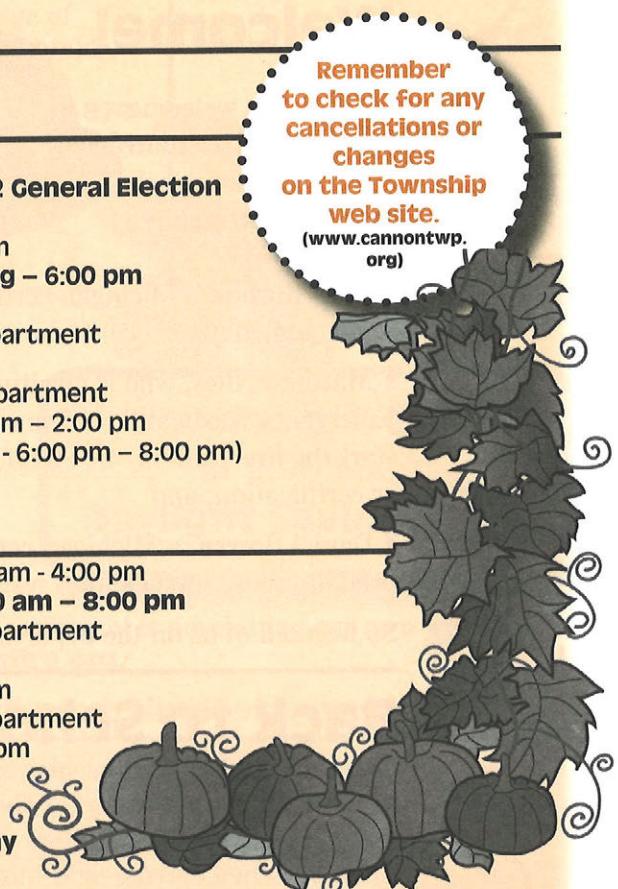
Nov 11 – 13.... Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

Nov 15 ..... Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm

Nov 16 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals – 6:00 pm

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

**Nov 25, 26 ... OFFICE CLOSED - Thanksgiving Holiday**



### December 2010

Dec 1 ..... Winter Taxes (2010) Mailed to Residents

2011 Dog Licenses at Township Office through March 1, 2011

Dec 13 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Dec 14 ..... Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm

Dec 15 ..... Board of Review – 10:00 am

Dec 21 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals – 6:00 pm

**Dec 24 & 27 . OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas Holiday**

**Dec 31 ..... OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON - New Year's Holiday (Drop Box Available for Payments)**

### January 2011

**Jan 3 ..... OFFICE CLOSED - New Year's Holiday**

Jan 8 ..... Christmas Tree Recycling - 9:00 am – 3:00 pm - One Day Only - Township Hall Parking Lot

Remember  
to check for any  
cancellations or  
changes  
on the Township  
web site.  
[www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org)

## Welcome!

We welcome three more personnel to our department:

- John Barnes, a Michigan certified firefighter and emergency medical technician;
- Matthew Alles, who is awaiting to take his Emergency Medical Technician test and will start the fire academy this fall for his firefighter certification; and
- Daniel Bowen, a Michigan certified firefighter and medical first responder

So from all of us on the department, welcome!



## Back to School

Every year school bus accidents happen because many drivers forget about some school bus safety basics. Here are a few rules to follow when driving near buses:

- ✓ Michigan law requires drivers to stop at least 20 feet from a school bus with flashing red lights. The red lights indicate that children are either loading or unloading from the bus. It's against the law to pass a school bus with flashing red lights in every one of the country's 50 states.
- ✓ Be alert and patient around school buses and bus stops. Do not pass school buses in school zones, for safety's sake.

✓ Pay attention to those people acting as crossing guards, and to the signs and instructions they use to keep children safe.

✓ Allow extra time for the drive from home to school.

## Daylight Savings Time Reminder

On Sunday, **November 7, 2010**, at 2:00 a.m., 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

## Halloween Open House

October 31st falls on Sunday 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.

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Reflective bags are available at the Cannon Township Center. And when you're done, please stop by Station 2 on Belding Rd adjacent to the Township Hall or Station 1 on Cannonsburg Rd in Cannonsburg.

We will be serving cider and donuts from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## Fall Leaf Burning

**Leaf Burning dates for 2010 are:**

- **Thursday, October 21**
- **Friday, October 22**
- **Saturday, October 23**
- **Thursday, October 28**
- **Friday, October 29**
- **Saturday, October 30**
- **Thursday, November 4**
- **Friday, November 5**
- **Saturday, November 6**
- **Thursday, November 11**
- **Friday, November 12**
- **Saturday, November 13**

Burning is permitted only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and must be supervised by a responsible

person over the age of 18. You must also obtain a permit from the Fire Department by calling **874-9725**. Burn permits are free but required for Cannon Township residents.



## Take a Look

With help from our computer savvy firefighter, James Palm, the Cannon

Township Fire Department is developing our own website.  
<http://cannonfire.org/>

**November 7, 2010,  
at 2:00 a.m.,**

**Daylight Savings Ends**

**Until next time, stay safe!**

**The Cannon Township Clerk's Office is now on facebook. find us and "like" us to get up-to-date information.**

**facebook**

## Cannon Township Christmas Tree Recycling

**January 8TH  
One Day Only!**

Drop off your Christmas Tree to be recycled Saturday, **January 8, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** in the parking lot of Cannon Township Center. Due to the first Saturday of January falling on New Year's Day, this year's Christmas Tree Recycling will be held one day only!

Please check your tree for loose ornaments, wire or tinsel. These items cannot go through the chipper. Thank you!

More information will be in the December issue of the Communicator and on our web site as the holidays grow closer.

**Halloween Bags Are Available  
At The Cannon Township Office**



## Zoning Updates

**Christine James,  
Zoning Administrator**

**P**ole Barns, Detached Garages, Sheds-

No accessory building or accessory structure shall be located in any front yard; unless it is set back at least 200 feet from the front lot line. However, on lots zoned LR and abutting a body of water, an accessory building may be constructed within the street side front yard; provided all setback requirements for a principal building are met. Forms can be found on the web site under Planning & Zoning or Building Departments.



**Due to  
necessary budget cuts,  
there will be no Community  
Clean-up until  
further notice.**

**S**igns – Signs are not permitted at any intersection except for signs approved by the Kent County Road Commission as a street name sign or a stop sign. Stop signs shall be installed at the intersection of all private roads at the public road.

**S**igns are not permitted on telephone poles. Real estate for sale signs may only be located on the property that is for sale. Real estate signs are not permitted at intersections nor are arrow direction signs permitted.

## **Thank You Cannon Township Trail Volunteers**

Many thanks to the Cannon Township Trail Volunteers for keeping the pedestrian trail clean. Our volunteers pick up trash along the trail, empty trash barrels, sweep away wash outs, pick up debris after a storm and much more. We are so thankful to them for an outstanding job. Our volunteer season comes to an end in October. We'll start again in April 2011.

If you would like to be a volunteer for the 2011 season, call Kim Sapkowski at **874-6966 or email** [\*\*ksapkowski@cannontwp.org\*\*](mailto:ksapkowski@cannontwp.org)

Election information is available on the Cannon Township website in the Clerk's Department. Click on this link: [\*\*http://www.cannontwp.org/department/division.asp?IDD=3-28\*\*](http://www.cannontwp.org/department/division.asp?IDD=3-28)

## Fall Watershed News

Kim Sapkowski,  
Watershed Administrative Assistant

### Volunteers Needed

**C**annon Township received a \$1,000 grant from the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) program. The grant will help the Township design a monitoring strategy for Bear Creek. We are now seeking volunteers who would like to be a part of our stream study. Your job as a volunteer will be to go out with other volunteers and take water temps, wear waders in the creek and catch macro-invertebrates (the little creek creatures that live under rocks, woody debris and mud), place macro-invertebrates in trays, identify the creatures, and more. The stream studies will take place in spring and fall of 2011.

**M**ore than twenty volunteers attended free macro-invertebrate training Saturday, September 18 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Cannon Township Center.

**T**hey learned how to collect and identify macro-invertebrates in Bear Creek. It's not too late to volunteer to join a group this spring. You do not need prior experience in stream studies, just an interest in learning about stream health. Call Kim Sapkowski at 874-6966 or email at [ksapkowski@cannontwp.org](mailto:ksapkowski@cannontwp.org) to volunteer to help.

## Fall Watershed Checklist

Before the snow flies, you might want to do the following to help keep the watershed healthy.

- 1. Have your septic tank pumped and inspected.** Septic tanks should be pumped about every three years. This keeps your system running properly and helps prevent ground water contamination. If you would like more information on septic systems, stop in our offices and pick up a one page information sheet.
- 2. Rake leaves into a compost pile, not into the gutter or next to waterways.** Leaves in street gutters clog storm water drains. Leaves that are piled up next to waterways provide nutrients for algae growth.
- 3. Plant natives.** Fall is a great time for planting. The cooler temperatures allow plants to comfortably settle their root systems before they go to sleep.

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for the winter. Also, you will find end of season bargains on many plants. Native plants are conducive to local climate and soils and provide habitat for native insects and animals. Contact your local nursery or garden center for more information on native plants.

## Watershed Education

A variety of watershed information is available on the Cannon Township website. Please take a moment to browse the pages and learn more about the Bear Creek Watershed. [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org) Click on Watershed.

Also, a variety of booklets and brochures are available on watershed health (stormwater, wetlands, water quality, invasive species and more) in the lobby of Cannon Township Center. We also have many books on watershed health that we'd be happy to loan you. Feel free to inquire!

## Cannon Township Rain Garden

I hope you had a chance to stop by Cannon Township Center this summer to see the magnificent, blooming rain garden! The garden is only in its second year of growth and it is thriving! It has bloomed yellow, orange, violet, pink and purple all summer. And most importantly, the rain garden did exactly what it is supposed to do – it caught rain water runoff from the parking lot. The heavy rains of spring and early summer really put the garden to the test. But the garden handled the runoff beautifully. Yes, there were times the middle of the garden was under water (as it was designed to be). But the water filtered down through the special soil and the roots of the native flowers in a reasonable amount of time. We are proud of the natural storm water catch basin!

The plants have filled in fast so it looks like plants will need to be divided this fall or next spring. If you are interested in helping divide plants in the rain garden, call Kim Sapkowski at 874-6966.



## Clerk's Corner...

By Bonnie Blackledge



The August Primary is history and we're now gearing up for the November 2nd General Election. If you voted in August – and many of you did - (see turnout results chart below), then you probably used the Electronic Poll Book. Everyone was amazed at how well this new system works. For those of you who have not yet tried it, all the workers do is swipe your driver's license and that issues you a voter number and a ballot number immediately. This combines a two-step procedure into one step and helps streamline the voting process.

We should be getting our Absent Voter ballots by September 17th and they should be mailed out the following week. If you asked for an AV ballot in August, you probably asked for one for the General Election, also. If you wanted an AV ballot, but do not receive one by the end of September, please call our office to request one.

You are allowed to request an AV ballot anytime before 2 pm the Saturday prior to the election, which in this case is October 30th. The Township Center is always open on the Saturday before an election from

### Precinct/Voter Turnout

	1 33.73%	2 30.57%	3 36.55%	4 36.82%	5 38.60%	6 39.24%	Total 35.76%
Voters at polls	430	399	419	525	363	502	2638
Absent Voters	132	120	104	148	182	125	811
Total Voters	562	519	523	673	545	627	3449
Total Reg. Voters	1666	1709	1431	1828	1412	1598	9644

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8 am to 2 pm in order to issue AV ballots. You may also vote an AV ballot at the Township Center from 8 am to 4 pm on the Monday before the election (November 1). AV ballots can be mailed, hand delivered, or returned in our drop box, but they MUST be received by 8 pm on the day of the election – in this case by November 2nd. It makes it much easier to process them when they are returned several days prior to the election.

**W**hat's on the November ballot? The offices you will be voting for are: Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Representative in Congress for 3rd District, State Senator for the 28th District, State Representative for the 73rd District, State Board of Education, University of Michigan Regents, Michigan State University Trustees, Wayne State University Governors, County Commissioner, Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of 3rd District Court of Appeals, Judge of 17th Circuit Court, and Judge of the Probate Court.

**T**here are two proposals on the ballot. Proposal 10-1 is a proposal asking whether you believe a constitutional convention should be held for the purpose of drafting a general revision of the state constitution. Proposal 10-2 asks to amend the state constitution to prohibit certain felons from holding elective office and specified types of public employment positions. I suggest that you watch your local media for more information on these two proposals. If I have access to factual information about these proposals, I will post it on our website.

**T**o see a copy of a sample ballot, follow this link: [http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/docs/1284145866\\_853118.pdf](http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/docs/1284145866_853118.pdf)

**V**oting is your right and responsibility. I hope to see you at the polls on November 2nd!

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**60** or older? Sign up to be on our permanent AV list. You will receive an application for every election and can then decide whether or not you want an AV ballot. Contact Nancy at 874-6966 or [nancyp@cannontwp.org](mailto:nancyp@cannontwp.org).

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## Clip and Save E-mail Addresses

Supervisor, Pete MacGregor: ..... [pmacgregor@cannontwp.org](mailto:pmacgregor@cannontwp.org)  
Clerk, Bonnie Blackledge: ..... [bonnies@cannontwp.org](mailto:bonnies@cannontwp.org)  
Treasurer, Jim LaPeer: ..... [jlappeer@cannontwp.org](mailto:jlappeer@cannontwp.org)  
Trustee Deb Diepenhorst: ..... [ddiepenhorst@mindspring.com](mailto:ddiepenhorst@mindspring.com)  
Trustee Dick Davies: ..... [rrd8565@gmail.com](mailto:rrd8565@gmail.com)  
Trustee Steve Grimm: ..... [steve@slgrimmpc.com](mailto:steve@slgrimmpc.com)  
Trustee Rob McBrien: ..... [Rj.mc'brien@helmholdt.com](mailto:Rj.mc'brien@helmholdt.com)  
Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma: ..... [nancyp@cannontwp.org](mailto:nancyp@cannontwp.org)  
Deputy Treasurer, Milissa Soderstrom: ..... [milissas@cannontwp.org](mailto:milissas@cannontwp.org)  
Zoning Administrator, Christine James: ..... [christinej@cannontwp.org](mailto:christinej@cannontwp.org)  
Administrative Assistant Sue Clarin: ..... [suec@cannontwp.org](mailto:suec@cannontwp.org)  
Watershed Assistant, Kim Sapkowski: ..... [ksapkowski@cannontwp.org](mailto:ksapkowski@cannontwp.org)  
Fire Chief, Jim Morris: ..... [Chief@Cannontwp.org](mailto:Chief@Cannontwp.org)  
State Representative, Tom Pearce: ..... [tompearce@house.mi.gov](mailto:tompearce@house.mi.gov)  
State Senator, Mark Jansen: ..... [senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov)  
Congressman Vern Ehlers: web site: ..... [www.house.gov/ehlers](http://www.house.gov/ehlers)  
Cannon Township Web Site: ..... [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org)  
Kent County Web Site: ..... [www.accesskent.com](http://www.accesskent.com)  
State of Michigan Web Site: ..... [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)



### Township Board

Supervisor ..... Pete Macgregor  
Clerk ..... Bonnie Blackledge  
Treasurer ..... Jim LaPeer  
Trustees ..... Deb Diepenhorst  
Dick Davies  
Steve Grimm  
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  
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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 2010