



# Communicator

Published by the Cannon Township Board, Kent County, Michigan

## Backups

**Steve Grimm,**  
*Cannon Township Supervisor*

**For** those on sewer, please accept this public service announcement: Your homeowner's insurance policy may not cover you in the event of a sewer backup into your home. Governmental entities, like Cannon Township and Rockford Public Schools, maintain coverage for backups, but pursuant to Public Act 222, that coverage kicks in only when the governmental entity is negligent. The fact is that many times backups occur in the absence of negligence. All too often, backups occur when the lateral pipes coming from a

private residence fail. This is the homeowner's responsibility, and you need to make sure that your homeowner's coverage insures you in such an event. According to Marty Anderson, owner of the Anderson Agency in Sparta, some companies, like Farm Bureau, include a \$2,500.00 limit for damages caused by a backup, but higher limits can be purchased for a higher premium. Marty cautions that many other companies do not automatically include it, but it can be purchased as a rider to your policy. Again, this is offered at a higher premium, and every company is different.

**A** resident in Cannon Township suffered a backup last year when the Middle School's water softeners simultaneously dumped 6,000 gallons of water into our system, overwhelming the nearest lift station, causing a backup into the resident's home. The damages far exceeded the homeowner's policy limits. It is important to assess your potential losses in the event of a backup and purchase the appropriate amount of insurance. Your homeowner's carrier will be happy to assist and provide advice. Though we are aggressively pursuing a long range capital improvement plan, it is important to realize that the area's system is aging, and as with any aging mechanical system, failures can happen, even without negligence.

**Cannon Township**  
**Fall 2012**  
**A Historic Rural Community**



# Cannon Township

# 2012 Cannon Fall COMMUNITY CLEANUP

## 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

### Where?

The Cannon Township Parking Lot

### Who?

Open To Township Residents/  
Taxpayers Only. Please Bring  
Voter Id, Tax Or Sewer Bill To  
Prove It.

### What To Bring?

General Household Items Including  
Appliances, Scrap Metal, Large  
Batteries (Car, Boat, Etc.)

*For a complete list of  
Household Items not accepted  
and disposal options for those  
items, please visit [www.accessKent.com/hhw](http://www.accessKent.com/hhw)*

### *For an absentee ballot, do one of the following:*

- 1) Call **874-6966** and we will send you an application
- 2) Email **nancyp@cannontwp.org** and she will send you an application.
- 3) **Go to this website:** [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/AbsentVoterBallot\\_105377\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/AbsentVoterBallot_105377_7.pdf)  
Print and complete the application form, scan it, then:  
email it to **nancyp@cannontwp.org** or mail it to:  
Cannon Township, 6878 Belding Road NE, Rockford, MI 49341 or fax it to:  
Nancy - **874-8940**

## Bostwick Lake Park – 2012 Improvements

Bostwick Lake Park is a gem located in Cannon Township. The park is located on Kitson (just up the hill from Bostwick Lake Inn). The Facilities Committee and the Recreation Committee worked together to accomplish the following improvements:

- *The landscaping on the slopes was cleared of unwanted brush leaving room for existing plants to grow.*
- *The stairs and retaining walls were stained.*
- *Mulch was added to the slopes and under the picnic table.*

The following firms and individuals were fabulous partners in accomplishing these improvements and maintaining the park:

- *Andrew Krietermeyer, Mowing & More*
- *The Gardening Angels*
- *Nate Finneran*

*If you are looking for a nice spot in Cannon Township to enjoy a picnic, you might want to add Bostwick Lake Park to your options.*

## Re-surfacing for 2012 is “Winding Down”

Dick Davies Trustee and  
Road Committee Chairman

**A**s we are “winding down” on our road re-surfacing for 2012 we are beginning to look at our program for 2013. Some of the areas that we will be looking at will be the section just south of Bostwick Lake but north of M44, (Elmview, Malvern, Plainview, Poot, Rollins and Tulaire) and south of M44 (Cardinal, Eagle Eye, Merry, Montok, Naontah, Old Belding Road, Potowatomi, White Fawn, Star Eye and Echo).

Other projects that will be reviewed will be to improve the visibility at the intersection of Kies and Blakely.

During the next few months our Citizens Road Committee along with the County Road Commission will be reviewing other areas and will present these to the Township Board at budget time. Our current annual expenses for 2012 are approximately \$155,000 which is the third largest expense item in our budget right behind sewer and law enforcement.

# Cannon Township



## Clerk's Corner...

By Bonnie Blackledge



**A**t the time I am writing this, we have approximately 1200 requests for absentee ballots for the November 6th General Election. Amazing! With the election just less than five weeks away, approximately 12% of our registered voters have requested ballots.

I anticipate long lines and crowded polling places on Election Day. Here are some tips to help alleviate frustration at the polls.

**1) Come prepared.** You will be asked to show a picture ID, so it helps to have one ready when you get to the first table. A driver's license works best because you can also use that to scan your voter information when you get to the next station. This information is located on our laptop computer – the Electronic Poll Book – and is needed to issue you a ballot.

**2) Make sure you are in the right place.** Call the Cannon Township Office – 874-6966 – to find out where you vote or check online at the MVIC site – <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/>

**3) Be patient!** Arrive knowing that you will be waiting in line and there is a process that must be followed. Any attempt to hurry the process could

result in mistakes, so the precinct workers are being advised to take their time and check and double check along the way.

**4) Vote during the "slow" times if you can.** The busiest time is first thing in the morning. Many people start lining up shortly after 6 am, preparing to vote when the polls open at 7 am. These are often people hoping to vote before they go to work. This line often snakes outside of the polling place. If your job begins at 8 am and you do not have the flexibility to be late, I suggest you either vote on your way home or request an absentee ballot if you work long hours. If there's a reasonable chance that you won't make it back to your polling place before 8 pm, then you would qualify for an absentee ballot. You must be in line by 8 pm to be able to vote!

The quietest times at the polls are between 10 am and 3 pm. If you are able to vote during those hours, the lines should be shorter then.

**5) Know how you're going to vote before getting your ballot.** You should be well-informed before you arrive. There are several places where you can obtain information about the candidates and ballot proposals ahead of time. For instance, the **Grand Rapids Press** usually includes a *Voters' Guide*. You may bring something with your

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choices noted, but please make sure to keep that hidden while you are in the polling place and do not leave it in the privacy booth.

The State of Michigan has a great site – MVIC – Michigan Voter Information Center – that will give you the information that will be found on your ballot. The cool thing about the ballot information is that many of the candidates have links to their own websites and you can also view their campaign finance information. The link to MVIC is: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/>

The six ballot proposals are difficult to understand. The Citizens' Research Council has prepared unbiased information about these proposals. You can find it here:

<http://www.crcmich.org/election/index.html>

6) Get an absentee ballot if you qualify. You qualify if you meet one of the following criteria:

- 60 years of age or older
- absent from the community on Election Day (working and commuting during the hours the polls are open would qualify you as "absent")
- physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another
- cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion
- appointed as a precinct inspector in a precinct other than your own
- confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial

# MVIP

One of  
the most  
frustrating  
aspects of  
my job right

now is having to abide by a law that our legislature passed several years ago. This law requires that people who register by mail Must Vote In Person the first time they vote. This really affects our college students, many of whom registered by mail or in a "voter drive." Now they are sending us applications for an absentee ballot, but we are forced to deny their request. Many of them are far away at school, sometimes even in another state.

The best way to make this work is for the student to stop by the Cannon Township Office sometime between now and November 6th. If they can stop by and prove they are real people, then we can give them a ballot on the spot. Our office is open

weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm and we're always open from 8 am to 2 pm on the Saturday before an election – in this case on November 3rd.

What if someone you know fits this category? Let them know that we are extremely flexible and would be willing to meet them after hours or on weekends if they are not able to stop by during regular office hours. All we have to do is to see their face and the requirement is met. You may call my cell phone anytime if our office is closed and you want to reach me - 616-204-0085. And ask your State Representative and State Senator to change this law!

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the election process. The best way to reach me is by email – [bonnies@cannontwp.org](mailto:bonnies@cannontwp.org) or my direct line 884-2204.



Cannon Township



## CELL PHONE RECYCLING PROGRAM



PRESENTED BY:



# VINTAGE TECH RECYCLERS

A CERTIFIED RECYCLER

**It is time to empty out the junk drawers  
and recycle your cell phones!**

Vintage Tech Recyclers and Cannon Township have designed a convenient program for residents of our community to recycle their cell phones responsibly. Let's team up so we can all work together to keep the planet green!!

### Benefits of dropping off your cell phone:

- 1.) Helps keep our planet green
- 2.) Helps keep toxic materials out the landfills
- 3.) No cost to you
- 4.) No limit on the cell phones



**Location:**  
**Cannon Township Center**  
6878 Belding Road NE  
Rockford, MI 49341  
**Drop off Box Location:** **Lobby**

[www.vintagetechrecyclers.com](http://www.vintagetechrecyclers.com)

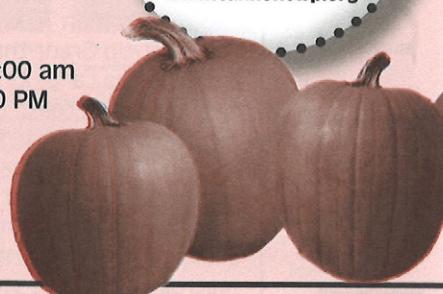
## October 2012

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- Oct 15 ..... Recreation Committee Meeting 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
- Oct 16 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals – 6:00 pm
- Oct 18 ..... Public Meeting on Fracking and Oil and Gas Lease  
Information sponsored by Representative MacGregor – 6 pm
- Oct 18- 20 ..... Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department
- Oct 22 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
- Oct 25- 27 ..... Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department
- Oct 31 ..... HALLOWEEN TREATS (Both Fire Stations - 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm)  
Quarterly Sewer Bills Due

## November 2012

- Nov 1-3 ..... Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department
- Nov 3 ..... Office Open for Absentee Ballots 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Nov 5 ..... Absentee Voting (in office only) 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Nov 6 ..... GENERAL ELECTION – POLLS OPEN 7:00 am – 8:00 pm
- Nov 8-10 ..... Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department
- Nov 12 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
- Nov 13 ..... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm
- Nov 14 ..... Rogue River Watershed Meeting - 9:00 am – 11:00 am
- Nov 19 ..... Recreation Committee Meeting 4:00 pm– 5:30 PM
- Nov 20 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals – 6:00 pm
- Nov 22, 23 ..... OFFICE CLOSED - Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov 26 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm



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

## December 2012

- Dec 1 ..... Winter Taxes (2012) Mailed to Residents  
2013 Dog Licenses available at Township Office through 3-1-13
- Dec 10 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
- Dec 11 ..... Planning Commission Meeting - 6:00 pm
- Dec 12 ..... Board of Review – 10:00 am  
Rogue River Watershed Meeting 9:00 am – 11:00 am
- Dec 17 ..... Recreation Committee Meeting 4:00 – 5:30 pm
- Dec 18 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals – 6:00 pm
- Dec 24,25,26 ..... OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas Holiday
- Dec 31 ..... OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON (Drop Box Available)

## January 2013

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- Jan 1 ..... OFFICE CLOSED - New Year's Holiday
- Jan 5 ..... Christmas Tree Recycling (9:00 am – 3:00 pm)  
(One Day Only - Township Hall Parking Lot)

# Watershed Pages



## Fall Watershed News

By Julie Lovelace

### Bear Creek Stream Study Fall 2012

When I began working for Cannon Township as the Watershed Assistant in April 2011 I dove in with both feet, literally. Cannon Township had already received the Start-Up Grant through MiCorps and had just received the Large Grant for a macroinvertebrate study in Bear Creek. I underwent my MiCorps training right here in Bear Creek with Paul Steen. Initially, I felt overwhelmed. If I were responsible for the study all by myself, that would have been one thing. I have a background in biology and I find the macroinvertebrate study fascinating. The hard part was learning the history of the grant, the history of Bear Creek, training for sampling and ID, writing the QAPP, and being prepared to organize and train others (the clincher) ASAP.

Lucky for me our Township Clerk, Bonnie Blackledge, is very knowledgeable about Bear Creek. Also, she had already established a great volunteer base so I didn't have to start from scratch, as I know other grant recipients had to do. The prep work had been done for me. I just had to dive in! While writing the QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) initially seemed daunting, I quickly found it to be very educational and useful. Reading

through it and editing it to fit the needs of our creek and our study really helped in my training. I felt much more confident by the time I was done.

Another thing I did that really helped me was to go down to Bear Creek and practice taking samples. I kept all my samples and practiced the ID as well. Once I had tried my hand at the identification I had Paul confirm them during my side-by-side training (I am continually impressed by how accessible Paul is). I now keep the samples to compare to later samples and aid in the ID. Kids like to look at them too!

We are fortunate enough to have a lot of volunteers with environmental backgrounds on our team. Some of them had participated in similar



studies before. They were easy to train and I was very confident in their abilities to lead teams by themselves. One thing I found is that, even with our backgrounds, inconsistencies in sampling technique were found when we mixed the teams up at the next sampling. It

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does help avoid consistent errors!

It has been fun watching our volunteers hone in on their skills with each sampling. I'm getting to know them better and we are even getting volunteers from other stream studies. It is definitely a bonding

experience for the community.

We had four kids join us

(two were mine).

They had a ball and are quite good

at the ID. It is

my hope that

we can continue to draw people young and old to mix together

and have such a good time. It's valuable data, it's good for our creek, and it's fun for us!



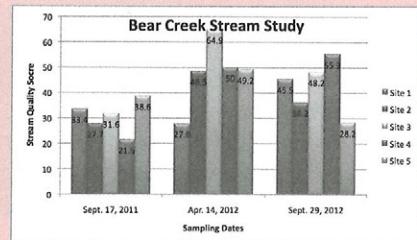
If you would like more information about our stream studies or my new position as Zoning Administrator, please contact me at 616-874-6966 or [jlovelace@cannontwp.org](mailto:jlovelace@cannontwp.org).

We had beautiful weather for our fall macroinvertebrate (bug) sampling in Bear Creek. For those of you who have not heard, this study will help us determine the health and water quality of our creek. If the creek is "buggy" that is a good sign!

I would like to thank all of our volunteers who participated in this event. One drove all the way from Kalamazoo! Our sampling dates do not always

coincide with volunteer schedules. Some miss one and attend the next. It is important to have enough volunteers to adequately cover our sampling sites each time. If you have been thinking of volunteering please let me reassure you that you do not have to participate in every sampling! We have a review/coordination night prior to each sampling. You also do not need any prior experience to participate. Children ages 8 and up are welcome. We provide waders, equipment, supervision, training, and lunch!

This is our third sampling. While our data will become more conclusive with consecutive samplings, I have created a simple graph to show our data thus far.



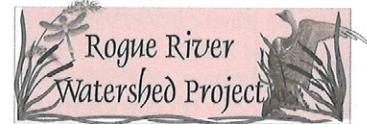
Every spring and fall macroinvertebrates are collected from a range of habitats among five sites. They are identified, counted, and sorted into groups consisting of sensitive, somewhat sensitive, and tolerant (regarding pollution, sedimentation, etc). Samples will be kept indefinitely. Teams and team leaders are rotated each sampling to avoid/identify consistent errors.

### Site Scoring

Excellent	>48
Good	34-48
Fair	19-33
Poor	<19

### Sites

Site 1	7328 Ramsdell. Headwaters near Bostwick Lake
Site 2	5621 Tiffany/Kreuter. Emergent wetlands
Site 3	Townsend Park
Site 4	Cannonsburg Ski area
Site 5	4894 Shiloh near confluence w/ Grand River



## New Zoning Administrator

*I am thrilled to add a new job description to my employment at Cannon Township. I will be continuing to perform my duties as Watershed Assistant and I have taken on the responsibilities of Zoning Administrator. I look forward to having even more contact with the residents of our Township.*

# Cannon Township



## Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Lonnie Herrington** for successfully completing certification as an Associate Fire Service Instructor. The Office of Fire Fighter Training (OFFT) along with the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC) oversee this certification requirements for fire service instructor credentialing.

### Our Newest Arrival:

The Cannon Township Fire Department is proud to announce the purchase of a Polaris Ranger 6X6 utility task vehicle. With partial funding through our recent grant success from the Healing Fields via the Rockford Area Community Endowment, this unit will be outfitted to respond to fire, medical, and search and rescue needs. This unit will carry a water tank, pump, hose, medical equipment, and place to transport a patient if needed. At the time of this article, work is still on-going to equip our newest addition with all of these items, but we look forward to putting it into use as soon as possible for Cannon Township.

### 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 4, 2012, 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.

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## Halloween Open House

*October 31st falls on a Wednesday 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 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 2012 are:*

- **Thursday**, October 18
- **Friday**, October 19
- **Saturday**, October 20
- **Thursday**, October 25
- **Friday**, October 26
- **Saturday**, October 27
- **Thursday**, November 1
- **Friday**, November 2
- **Saturday**, November 3
- **Thursday**, November 8
- **Friday**, November 9
- **Saturday**, November 10

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.

## Cannon Township Firefighters Flip Flapjacks for Charity

*Submitted by: Jason Herrington and Diane Jones*

The Cannon Township Fire Department hosted a free pancake breakfast on October 6 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The breakfast was held at Cannon Twp Fire Station 2, 6878 Belding Rd. N.E. Breakfast was served by the firefighters and included pancakes, sausages, eggs, orange juice and coffee.



Although the breakfast was free, donations were accepted with proceeds going to the Great Lake Burn Camp, which benefits kids 6-17 with healing, growth and support from other burn survivors in a summer camp environment. If you were unable to attend the breakfast, but would like to make a donation, please call 874-9725 to find out how.

In addition to the breakfast, the children were able to view the department's various fire apparatus and tour the fire station. The community breakfast was a wonderful event hosted by the fire department to kick off Fire Prevention Week. The Kent Country Sheriff Department also had an information table with educational items. Lt. Marc Burns, Shift Commander, and Community Officer Ryan Guernsey met with the people who attended. This was a wonderful time to learn tips from our experts to help keep our neighborhoods safer!

*Until next time, stay safe!*

# 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: ..... rmcbrien@cannontwp.org  
Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma: ..... nancyp@cannontwp.org  
Deputy Treasurer, Milissa Soderstrom: ..... milissas@cannontwp.org  
Zoning & Watershed Assistant, Julie Lovelace: ..... jlovelace@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

 **Communicator**  
**Cannon Township**

Fall 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