

the Cannon Communicator

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From the Desk of the Supervisor - Fracking

Earlier this year, Cannon Township undertook a study of the potential impact fracking (hydraulic fracturing) would have on the Township's natural resources. Fracking is the process by which water, chemicals and sand are injected deep underground to fracture rock formations and free the natural gas trapped in the rock. On one side, proponents of the process argue that it is safe and has been done in Michigan for years, and is necessary to help end our dependence on foreign oil. On the other side are critics who argue that millions of gallons of water will be removed from underground, injected with chemicals and returned to the rock, making it unusable and not renewable.

The Michigan state government, through legislation, prevents local governments, like Cannon's, from regulating fracking.

Permitting is obtained from the state, not the local governments. In spite of that legislation, Cannon drafted and passed the first enforceable moratorium on fracking in West Michigan. It is based on Cannon's absolute duty to protect our resources from unreasonable overuse. The moratorium is not designed to prevent fracking, but rather to allow the Cannon Board to obtain objective, empirical data that will enable the Board to assess the impact on our resources, particularly water. With the lakes in our Township fighting to maintain their water levels, with a number of wells already dry, and with the many tributaries that we have spent large amounts of time, money and energy to protect, we would be derelict in our duties if we did not allow for a complete analysis of the potential impact fracking would have on our community.

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Cannon Township

Fall 2013

A Historic Rural Community

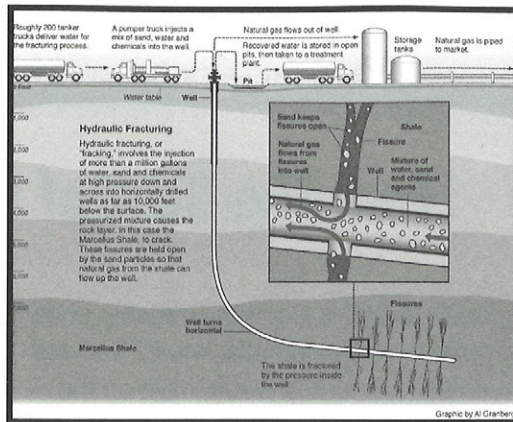


Cannon Township

Clerk Bonnie Blackledge and I recently attended a meeting of DEQ representatives at which we were able to ask very pointed questions in an effort to obtain information. Interestingly, in response to the basic question, "How much water will fracking remove from our area?" the response was equivocal. In short, no one seems to know the answer. Opponents of fracking have pegged the impact of one well as high as twenty million gallons that would be removed and not returned to the water cycle. Proponents scoff at that number, but offer no concrete data of their own. The DEQ representatives stated, in short, that they did not know, but that there is in place an "assessment tool" that will provide the assessment. They conceded that that tool is only as good as the information inputted into the formula. Thus, the moratorium remains in place. By the end of September, we will have completed an analysis of the impact sponsored by opponents of fracking.

The University of Michigan recently completed a study of the impact of fracking in Michigan. One of the conclusions was, "...the vast networks of waterways that interconnect Michigan's landscapes would make it difficult to contain major spills, erosion or nutrient releases caused by fracking itself or construction of support infrastructure such as roads." The study also concluded that the assessment tool "should help prevent abuses."

Steve Grimm, Cannon Township Supervisor



Complete Board Meeting Packets are now available on the **Cannon Township Website** Homepage. They are usually posted on the **Friday** before our regular **Monday** meetings. (2nd and 4th Mondays at 7 pm). You can get an email link if you sign up on the homepage for Email Alerts. The button is on the left side near the top.

Planning Commission Preparing For Significant Work...

As we enter into this Fall Season, the Planning Commission is preparing for some significant work ahead and looking forward to getting much busier. The State of Michigan requires every township to review its Master Plan. The current Master Plan was originally completed twenty years ago. It has been amended a couple times since then. Over the summer, we reviewed the existing document, and we hope to agree to a plan to move forward. There has been much discussion about a single Master Plan document that includes updated information and incorporates each of the updates throughout the years. Today, we have a Master Plan with separate amendment documents which makes it difficult for anyone to follow. We want to make certain we have a clear vision and a clear plan available for all.

In addition to the Master Plan Review, we will be reviewing ordinances that need to be adjusted. Our longer term goal is to work through the current ordinances and to simplify their flow. One example that we continue to see is someone looking into a possibility that brings them to a particular ordinance for explanation. The initially referenced ordinance then references another and another and sometimes, yet another. We would like to make this much easier to interpret. We have already discussed this with the township attorney as well as our planner.

We are also hopeful that we will be seeing initial site plans for the Village PUD to be reviewed by the Planning Commission. When Pendulum Development approached the Township, and subsequently the Planning Commission, the outcome of the meetings gave conditional approval on changes to existing PUDs. One of those conditions required site plans for the Village PUD to be submitted to the Planning Commission within six months. By the time we meet in October, we should have new information. As we go through the Master Plan Review, and the Ordinance Review and Updates, we hope to hear from many of you. If the Planning Commission votes to update the Master Plan, you will begin seeing information on Public Hearings, as well as various members and participants seeking your input. And, as always, your input and presence at our monthly meetings is always welcome.

"We want to make certain we have a clear vision and a clear plan available for all."

Michael Warmbier

Planning Commission, Chair



Cannon Township

Clerk's Corner

Bonnie Blackledge



It's been a quiet summer spent trying to catch up on those things that get shoved in a pile when more pressing matters rise to the surface. I still have a long way to go on those piles, but I hope to be able to make a huge dent in them before the 2014 Election Cycle takes over my time.

Speaking of elections, there is one that affects some of Cannon Township's residents this November. Voters who live in the Forest Hills and Lowell School Districts have a millage question on their ballots. Our Precinct One, housed at West Cannon Baptist Church, will be open on November 5th for the 296 voters that this affects. If you are one of these, please contact Nancy at our office (874-6966) if you will need an absentee ballot. Millage language is available on our website under Elections in the Clerk's Department.

It's not too early to think about becoming an election worker for the 2014 cycle. We should have a good turnout next August and November when we vote for governor, state senator, state representative, county

commissioner and more. I especially need workers who are comfortable using a laptop computer since all our precincts use the Electronic Poll Book. Please contact me for an application or download the form from our website.

Much of my time this fall is gearing up to administer the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). As many of you know, compliance with this new law is rather complicated. Maybe my piles will wait a little longer...

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.

Clerks Office FaceBook

Remember
to check for
any cancellations
or changes
on the Website:
<http://www.cannontwp.org>

Need to water your plants
at the Cannonsburg
Cemetery?
Check out the new water
receptacle behind the
privacy fence.
It's closer and easier to
use than the pump.

September 2013

Sept 23 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

October 2013

Oct 5 Fire Department Pancake Breakfast - 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Oct 7 Last Day to Register for November 5, 2013 Lowell/Forest Hills
Millage Proposal Election

Oct 8 Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

Oct 9 Rogue River Watershed Meeting - 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Oct 14 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Oct 15 Zoning Board of Appeals – 6:00 pm

Oct 21 Recreation Committee Meeting 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Oct 24- 26 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

Oct 28 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Oct 31 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

Oct 31 HALLOWEEN TREATS (Fire Stations - 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm)
Quarterly Sewer Bills Due

November 2013

Nov 1-2 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

Nov 2 Office Open for Absentee Ballots 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

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

Nov 5 LOWELL/FOREST HILLS SCHOOL MILLAGE ELECTION
POLLS OPEN 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Nov 7-9 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

Nov 11 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Nov 12 Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

Nov 13 Rogue River Watershed Meeting - 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Nov 14-16 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

Nov 18 Recreation Committee Meeting 4:00 pm – 5:30 PM

Nov 19 Zoning Board of Appeals – 6:00 pm

Nov 25 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Nov 28, 29 OFFICE CLOSED - Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2013

Dec 1 Winter Taxes (2013) Mailed to Residents

2014 Dog Licenses available at Township Office through 3/1/2014

Dec 9 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Dec 10 Planning Commission Meeting - 6:00 pm

Dec 11 Board of Review – 10:00 am

Rogue River Watershed Meeting 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Dec 16 Recreation Committee Meeting 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Dec 17 Zoning Board of Appeals – 6:00 pm

Dec 23,24,25 OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas Holiday

Dec 31 OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON (Drop Box Available)

January 2013

Jan 1 OFFICE CLOSED - New Year's Holiday

Quarterly Sewer Bills mailed to Residents

Jan 11 Christmas Tree Recycling 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (one day only)



Cannon Township

Recreation News

By Bonnie Blackledge

In 2012, Cannon Township applied for three grants – one for the Cannon Trail extension into Cannonsburg from Townsend Park, one for a park on the Township Center property, and one for a playground in that park. We were awarded \$100,000 for the Township Center Park, and we were all very happy. We just hired a Prime Professional to design and coordinate the park project.

When we didn't get the award for the trail extension, our engineer, Chad Sosnowski, submitted the grant to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) through the Kent County Road Commission (KCRC). He heard they were looking for projects that were ready to go, and he thought ours had a good chance of an award. Working closely with Prein & Newhof, GVMC, and the KCRC, we pursued that opportunity and just found out in August that we have been awarded approximately \$245,000 in MDOT funds through GVMC to fund that trail extension. That made us even happier. The jury is still out about the playground award. I will find out about that grant request - \$45,000 – in November.



The \$345,000 in grant funds will be supplemented by the recreational millage funds paid in your tax bills to be able to complete the projects. The trail extension will cost approximately \$460,000 and the park project will cost around \$270,000. Subtracting the grant funds gives us an out of pocket cost of \$385,000, not including the playground area (estimated at \$78,000). We currently have a cash balance of just over a million dollars available for recreational needs. The grant funds help enhance Township funds in order to provide quality projects for our community.

These funds will help in the future as we connect our trail to the Ada Township system

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down Honey Creek Avenue. This connection was submitted to GVMC as a 2016 project.

Another project that the Recreation Committee is working on is Bostwick Lake Park. We are currently working with a consultant to design a park that will be more appealing to our residents. Care will be taken to add features that prevent hillside and shoreline erosion and make the park more attractive.

The Board recently approved the purchase of two interpretive signs. One will be placed at each Boardwalk on the Cannon Trail. The design work was done by Rob Keys, a professor at Cornerstone University, and user of our trail. He has also done work for Kent County Parks. His designs were approved by the Committee and sent to Fossil Industries for fabrication. You should see these signs sometime this fall.

The West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance recently built a couple of new features at the Cannon Township Mountain Bike Trail this weekend. They also trimmed everything back again and did some clean up, removing a couple of old tires and other junk from the property. One new feature is a "skinny" that gets progressively more narrow as you go, like a balance beam for bikes. It's low to the ground, stable and doesn't have any support

pieces sticking out from it so if you ride off it you won't run into anything. It will be challenging to ride the whole length of it but at the same time, not much risk if you can't as you're only a few inches off the ground. The original trail is still there to the right to be used as a bypass.

The other feature is a cedar bridge. These are common on trails around town so they wanted to make an easier one for people to practice on when they're ready. It's about twice as wide as the one at the Merrell Trail that it was modeled after, yet it will still be pretty challenging because of the steepness and elevation inherent in this type of trail feature. A caution sign was added to warn people, and of course, a bypass so people can easily ride around it if they're not quite ready for it.

Everything was built solid and according to the IMBA guidelines and the agreement the WMMBA has with the Township regarding trail building and maintenance. There was an experienced general contractor with the group who helped with structural items. They used cedar for almost everything, but they had to use treated lumber for one section at the start of the skinny because they don't make cedar that size.



Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Septic Pumping in Developments

**Julie Lovelace -
Zoning Administrator/
Watershed Coordinator**

If you live in a development in Cannon Township then you are aware that you are required by ordinance to have your septic tank pumped at a set frequency. Up until this point, each development's frequency was different.

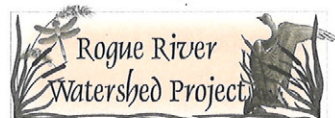
On July 22, 2013 the Planning Commission passed an addition to the Zoning Ordinance setting that frequency to every four years for all developments.

Septic tanks can and should still be pumped more frequently than four years if there is heavy use or poor soil drainage. That will be left up to the homeowner.

Proof of septic pumping is required in the form of a receipt. Receipts may be mailed, E-mailed or faxed.

If you do not live in a development, Cannon Township still recommends having your septic tank pumped every four years to ensure the system is working properly and to avoid any leaks or backups.

Receipts and questions can be directed to Julie Lovelace – Zoning Administrator/ Watershed Coordinator. **jlovelace@cannontwp.org or 884-2206.**



Have you lost your keys lately? If so, you might want to check at the front desk at the Cannon Township Office. We often have people turn in keys or other items they find in the area. Recently, I was informed by a resident that a set of keys was found on 9 Mile between Myers Lake Avenue and Young.

Stop in or give us a call at **874-6966.**



Pancake Breakfast

You are cordially invited to the Cannon Township

Fire Station Pancake Breakfast

On Saturday, October 5th from 8:00-10:00am at the Donald E. Goodell Fire Station 2, 6878 Belding Road, Rockford, MI. Come and join your friends and neighbors for a pancake breakfast, complete with eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee. Get a tour of the fire station and meet your Cannon Township Firefighters!

Donations will be accepted, and proceeds from this event will be donated to Great Lakes Burn Camp which helps children who have been victimized by fire.

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.

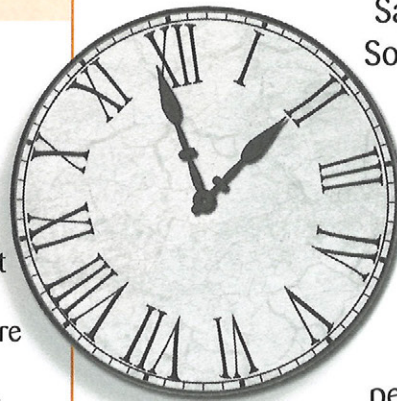
- Allow extra time for the drive from home to school.

Don't Forget Daylight Savings Time Reminder

On Sunday, November 3, 2013, 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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Cannon Township

Fall Leaf Burning

Leaf Burning dates for 2013 are:

- Thursday, October 24
- Friday, October 25
- Saturday, October 26
- Thursday, October 31
- Friday, November 1
- Saturday, November 2
- Thursday, November 7
- Friday, November 8
- Saturday, November 9
- Thursday, November 14
- Friday, November 15
- Saturday, November 16

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.

Halloween Open House

October 31st falls on a Thursday 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 (Station 1 on Cannonsburg, will not be open this year) We will be serving cider and donuts from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Take a look at us at
<http://cannonfire.org/>
 or visit our Facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/CannonTwpFireDept>

**Until next time,
stay safe!**

The Cannon Communicator

Cannon Township now publishes the Communicator electronically. To sign up, go to www.cannontwp.org, 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 Belding Road,

Ric's Market, Pizzeria

Grande, Bostwick Lake Bakery,
Cannonsburg Gristmill, Honey Creek
Inn, and the Cannon Township Center
lobby.

Places To Picnic

We have two tables on the east side of the building near the rest rooms and retention pond. We also have one near the trail head in the west parking lot and two directly west of the parking lot. Enjoy!



Clip and Save E-mail Addresses Township Board & Staff

Supervisor, Steve Grimm: sgrimm@cannontwp.org
 Clerk, Bonnie Blackledge: bonnies@cannontwp.org
 Treasurer, Dick Davies: ddavies@cannontwp.org
 Trustee/Deputy Supervisor Deb Diepenhorst: ddiepenhorst@cannontwp.org
 Trustee Diane Jones: djones@cannontwp.org
 Trustee Rob McBrien: rmcbrien@cannontwp.org
 Trustee Tim Nelson: timn@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

Other Important Numbers

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 Offices: 616.874.6966
 Cannon Township Fax: 616.874.8940
 Cannon Township Web Site: www.cannontwp.org
 Cannon Township Hours (Hours 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon – Fri)
 Cannon Township Fire Department 616.874.9725
 Kent County Web Site: www.accesskent.com
 State of Michigan Web Site: www.michigan.gov
 Emergency 911

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

 **Communicator**
Cannon Township

Fall 2013

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