

the Cannon Communicator

Published by the Cannon Township Board, Kent County, Michigan

From the Desk of the Supervisor - Steve Grimm

We were recently advised that Cannon Township was awarded a Storm Water, Asset Management and Wastewater (SAW) grant from the state, in the amount of \$476, 991.00. This money will be utilized to televise manholes, to conduct smoke testing in key areas to identify inflow and infiltration, to inventory and build sewer plans, making sure that the sanitary sewer system is accurately depicted on the Township's GIS system. The money will also be used to create a sanitary sewer flow capacity model that will identify any sewer capacity issues in the system and to update the Capital Improvement Plan. We will also use the money to determine the forty to fifty year cycle needs of the sanitary sewer system and estimate future sewer costs. We will also conduct a financial analysis of the sewer user chart system that will analyze future costs and revenue forty to fifty years out, enabling our engineers to advise us as to likely future sewer charges and borrowing options. At the end of all of this, the results of this assessment will be put into a Sewer Assessment Management Plan.

We have already used some of the money to complete the televising of the system, which enabled the sewer committee to recommend a near-term improvement plan to the areas most in need. Those areas are the north end of Silver Lake, the Silver Lake Lift Station

improvements and the Belding Road trunk. The Silver Lake improvements will be performed and completed in 2015-16 and the Belding Road trunk will be completed in 2018, and will be done in conjunction with MDOT improvements to Belding Road, saving sewer users thousands of dollars in costs. These projects will total approximately \$4,000,000.00 and will be paid for by obtaining low interest bonds.

Because we committed ourselves to strict conservative fiscal principles in 2011, when I became Supervisor and put Dick Davies, Deb Diepenhorst and Henry Betten on the new Sewer Committee, along with Gene Kuehle, Mark Verwys and Nick Van Belkum, we have added over \$250,000.00 to our general sewer fund, without unexpected and unpredictable increases in rates. By adhering to a 3% per year increase to keep up with the average cost of living, we have increased not only our fund balance, but our maintenance as well. Since we turned over operation and maintenance to the North Kent Sewer Authority, we have realized not only an improvement in service, but we have saved tens of thousands of dollars in the process. Because we have implemented a fiscally conservative approach, we will be able to pay for future repairs on a cash basis, while still maintaining a healthy fund balance to meet any emergency.

Cannon Township

Fall 2014

A Historic Rural Community

Dedicated Veteran's Millage on Ballot...

Cannon Township



November Ballot Proposal

Kent County Dedicated Veterans Millage

There will be a proposed dedicated veteran's millage on the election ballot this November 4. The millage is dedicated and can be used only for veteran's services in Kent County. The proposed millage is limited to a specific period (eight years) and will cost a property owner \$2.50 for each \$100,000 of market value (.05 mills).

The supporting ballot committee (Citizens Supporting Kent County Veterans) reports the millage will be used to meet emergency service needs, provide better transportation to medical appointments and to improve outreach and assistance to veterans applying for benefits from the Veterans Administration.

The all-volunteer ballot committee has a Facebook page and a website www.kentcountyvets.com which provides more information and, if desired, opportunities to assist this grass roots effort.

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Like us on Facebook –

Clerk's Office: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cannon-Township-Clerks-Office/135763236465301>

Christmas Tree Recycling

Cannon Township will be providing a drop off for Christmas trees from December 27, 2014 through January 10, 2015.

For those of you who like to be ahead of the game, a self-service dumpster

will be in the drop-off area on the west side of the Township building in the parking lot starting December 27.

Otherwise, members

of the RHS Honor Society will be volunteering their time on Saturday, January 10, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help unload your tree. Donations will be accepted (and appreciated) to benefit the Honor Society. The trees will be recycled so please remove all wire, tinsel, etc. (no wreaths). Trees will not be accepted after 3:00 p.m. on January 13.



Anyone leaving a tree after 3:00 p.m. will be ILLEGALLY DUMPING and may be fined.

Cannon Township Center
6878 Belding Rd. NE
Rockford, MI 49341

Pancake Breakfast

You are cordially invited to the Cannon Township Fire Station Pancake Breakfast on **Saturday, October 4th from 8:00-10:00** am 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.

Daylight Savings Time Reminder

On Sunday, November 2, 2014, at 2:00 a.m.

Daylight Savings ends.

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 a Friday this year. Make sure all of your trick-or-treaters have reflective material on their costumes or a flashlight if they are going to make their rounds at dusk or after dark.

And when you're done, please stop by **Station 2 on Belding 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.**

Fall Leaf Burning Dates:

- Thursday, October 23
- Friday, October 24
- Saturday, October 25
- Thursday, October 30
- Friday, October 31
- Saturday, November 1
- Thursday, November 6
- Friday, November 7
- Saturday, November 8
- Thursday, November 13
- Friday, November 14
- Saturday, November 15

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 At Us At...



Facebook

at <https://www.facebook.com/CannonTwpFireDept> and at our website <http://cannonfire.org/>

Until next time, stay safe!



What Is On The November Ballot?

Clerk's Corner

Bonnie Blackledge



Gearing up for November 4th

The Primary Election is over and we're gearing up for the November 4th General. By the time you're reading this, absentee ballots have already been sent. If you don't get yours by October 3rd and you think you requested one, please call Nancy at 874-6966.

Cannon Township's turnout for the Primary was 29.92%, much higher than the State (<18%) or County (19.21%) average. Precinct 3 voters took the lead at 32.76%. These statistics include the absentee voters. The State has us preparing for a high turnout in November. Hope to see all your names on the voter lists!

If you anticipate being away from the community on Election Day, make sure to get an Absentee Ballot. Anyone 60 years of age or older or a voter with a handicap has the right to get one, too. It's a long ballot with four proposals-three for Cannon's voters in Lowell and Forest Hills districts.

Here's What You Can Expect:

- Governor/Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- U.S. Senator
- Representative in Congress, 3rd District
- State Senator, 28th District
- State Representative, 73rd District
- State Board of Education (2)
- Regent of the University of Michigan (2)
- Trustee of Michigan State University (2)
- Governor of Wayne State University (2)
- County Commissioner
- Trustee Cannon Township
- Justice of Supreme Court (2)
- Justice of Supreme Court, Incumbent Position
- Judge of Court of Appeals, 3rd District Incumbent (2)
- Judge of Circuit Court, 17th Circuit Incumbent Position (3)
- Judge of Probate Court, Incumbent Position (1)
- Judge of District Court, 63rd District, 1st Division Non-incumbent Position
- Board of Trustees, Member Grand Rapids Community College (2)
- Board Member Rockford (3), Lowell (3), and Forest Hills (2) Schools
- Proposal 14-1 –Referendum regarding wolves
- Proposal 14-2-Referendum regarding wolves
- Kent County Dedicated Millage for Veterans Services
- Rockford Schools-Operating Millage Renewal Proposal

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Ballots Available On Our Website

The ballot for your precinct is available on the Cannon Township website at:

<http://www.cannontwp.org/department/division.php?structureid=38>

I wish you all an enjoyable Fall. Try to get out on our trail and enjoy the new Township Center Park!

Mark Your Calendar! Fire Department Open House & Pancake Breakfast

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 4TH
FROM 8 AM TO 10 AM

*After you've eaten your breakfast
and seen the station,
walk out back to check the
progress on the new park!*

FUTURE OF BELDING ROAD

Listed below is a quick summary of our upcoming projects on Belding Road as described by Pam Blazo of MDOT.

- Ramsdell to the Kent/Ionia County Line: Work is scheduled for 2015 from May to August.
 - The hill cutting at Ramsdell is included in the project. It will be a combination of raising the intersection of Ramsdell approximately 2 feet and cutting the hill just west of the intersection by approximately 3 feet. During this work at Ramsdell, west bound Belding Road traffic will be detoured (east bound traffic will be maintained); we are expecting the work requiring the detour to be completed in 4 weeks. The remainder of the work to the East of Ramsdell will be done part-width with alternating two-way traffic maintained using flag control during the day.
- Wolverine to Blakely: Currently scheduled for 2017.
- Blakely to Myers Lake: A third turn lane will be added for 2017.

Dick Davies, Township Treasurer and Road Committee Chairperson

Stream Study

Get your feet wet! Volunteer for the Bear Creek Stream Study on October 4th! (See related article on Watershed Pages)

Cannon Township



Cannon Township
is updating its Master Plan, and we invite you to
attend a Public
O•P•E•N H•O•U•S•E
to participate in planning the future
of **YOUR** community.

Thursday, October 16
Cannon Township Hall
6878 Belding Rd. NE
6:00-8:00pm

*Our Open House format allows you to stay for a quick visit or
the entire time depending on **YOUR** schedule and pace.
A short presentation will be given at 6 PM and again at 7 PM.
Browse interactive stations to learn about the community, view
preliminary concepts, ask questions, and share your thoughts
on what you would like to see in the future.*

We hope to see you there!

For additional information, please contact **Bonnie Blackledge**
at bonnies@cannontwp.org or **616.874.6966**

Recreation Update

By Bonnie Blackledge

If you've been by the Township Center lately, you saw a lot of construction going on behind the building. The Township Center Park is being built! When completed in early October, the park will contain a non-motorized loop around a wetland at the rear of the property, a small picnic shelter, an open playing field, parking area and a playground geared to preschoolers. This \$356,000 project will be partially funded (\$100,000) by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Township decided not to construct the Cannonsburg Trail Extension until next year due to the bids coming in 33% over budget. We are hoping that the bid climate will change if this is presented as an early spring project.

The Bostwick Lake Trail Easement on the north side of Bostwick Lake is complete except for two signs and tree plantings. If you use this easement, please remember the rules that apply to all non-motorized trails in the Township.

- Non-motorized vehicles only
- Please remain on the trail
- Pets must be on a leash
- No littering

A more detailed list of rules is included in our Ordinance Number 2010-3. You can find this on our website at:

http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/documents/1282058772_553558.pdf

By the way, golf carts are motorized vehicles! We've already had complaints of their use on this trail. If identified, the drivers will be ticketed. And please, in addition to keeping your dog on a leash, remember to pick up after it if it relieves itself on your walk around the lake. There's nothing worse than stepping in doggy do! Plastic grocery bags serve this purpose well.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the recreation millage. It's amazing how expensive trail and park construction is. We'll be updating our Recreation Plan over the fall and winter months and would love your input on future projects. Watch our website and future issues of the Communicator for more information.

Watershed Pages



Bear Creek

Bear Creek is a 17-mile cold-water trout stream that flows into the Grand River. It has a watershed of approximately 30 square miles. That means that all of the water that falls within those 30 square miles can eventually make it into the creek. Some rain will soak directly into the ground and make it into an underground aquifer. As the water soaks in, it is filtered and cooled before it makes it into the stream. If the water falls on impervious (water can't soak in) surfaces such as roofs, roads, driveways, and parking lots, it can flow directly into storm drains and directly into the creek without being filtered and cooled.

Obviously, pollution flowing with the water is bad for the creek. This pollution can be in the form of oil, detergent, fertilizer, pesticides, animal waste, and even sand and dirt. Dirt/sand that does not belong in the creek covers the natural streambed gravel that trout use to feed and lay their eggs. It can also make the water murky. Did you know that warm water is also a pollutant? Trout populations do not thrive in warmer water temperatures. That is why it is so important to minimize the amount of warm water flowing directly into the creek and protect the creek with shade trees. Many property owners cut down trees around the creek to improve their view. They also mow grass right to the edge of the creek thinking that looks better. Bear Creek

needs lots of shade and lots of native plants at least 25 feet on either side of the creek (this is required in our Zoning Ordinance 15.04C). These plants filter water before it reaches the creek. Plants and trees help hold the soil in place so it does not wash into the creek. It also offers habitat for smaller animals.

If we are good caretakers of Bear Creek, there should be lots of macroinvertebrates (bugs) in the creek for trout to feed on. A healthy bug population is the perfect indicator of stream quality. To learn more, join our Stream Study! We sample macroinvertebrates in Bear Creek every spring and fall. Our next sampling is October 4, 2014.

Julie Lovelace - Zoning
Administrator/Watershed
Coordinator jlovelace@cannontwp.org or **884-2206**

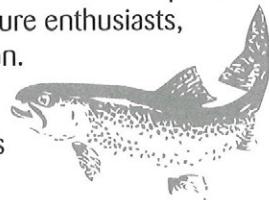


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Why we love the Rogue River

A crystal clear gem flowing just minutes north of the bustling metropolitan area of Grand Rapids, this Grand River tributary is host to thousands of animal species. Drawing nature enthusiasts, fishermen, kayakers and canoeists, the Rogue River is the pride West Michigan.

The Rogue River Watershed Partners is a newly formed organization that grew out of an earlier group of individuals. The Partners are committed to this beautiful and vital resource.



The Mission Of The Partners

The Mission of the **Rogue River Watershed Partners** is the long-term enhancement, promotion and protection of the Rogue River, its tributaries, and the watershed through education, community stewardship and watershed-based land use planning. We envision a healthy, sustainable Rogue River with a strong organization working to protect it, including watershed residents, governments, kayakers and canoeists, businesses and organizations.

Where Do You Fit In?

- Attend an event - For a full list of events, check out our website or Facebook page
- Attend Our Meetings -9:30 am on the second Wednesday of each month at the Cannon Township Hall

For more info please visit our website: <http://rogue-river.org> • Like us on facebook for updates and event announcements.

Become a Member

Membership Levels

Individual Partner	25/year
Family Partner	50/year
Supporting Partner	100+/year

Organization/ Business Levels

Business/Municipality	150/year
Corporate	250/year
Sponsorship	500+/year

Member/ Organization Name:

Address:

Phone #:

E-Mail:

Amount enclosed:

Please fill out this form and return it to:

Rogue River Watershed Partners 6878 Belding Road • Rockford, MI 49341 • Please make checks payable to RRWP

RRWP is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your membership dues and donations are tax deductible.

Cannon Township



Electronics Recycling...

Have you ever wondered what becomes of all the "stuff" that you drop off when Cannon Township hosts a free electronics recycling event?

Kyle Shoemaker, Vice President of Service at Comprenew, spoke with me when I worked with him to coordinate the recent event. Kyle said that Comprenew is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to inspiring environmental care and increasing vocation preparedness through education for all people and segments of society, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or status, through best practice technology recycling services.

It is Comprenew's mission to protect people and the environment from problems associated with electronics by extending the economic lifecycle of used electronics. They act as a resource for the community to recycle and educate, while providing job readiness programs.

Comprenew is an award winning, nonprofit corporation dedicated to inspire the local community to live and work in a sustainable manner by recycling electronics. They own and operate three refurbished electronic retail stores and partners with 17 recycling donation drop off sites around West Michigan. They are also the most certified recycling organization in the State of Michigan.

Kyle told me that all computers' hard drives are wiped clean. Some are recycled for parts, but others are refurbished and reused.

Comprenew is opening a **new** electronics store at:

**5157 Northland Dr. NE
Grand Rapids**

The grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, **October 4, from 10 am to 6 pm**. The Comprenew store will serve as a refurbished electronics retail store, electronics repair center, and donations site for obsolete and old electronic equipment.

Kyle said "Comprenew encourages all Cannon Township residents to utilize our electronics recycling. We are open Monday through Saturday from 10 am – 6 pm daily at the new Northland location. Stop by on October 4th and register to **win a \$200 gift certificate** to use at any Comprenew location."

Bonnie Blackledge



RESPONSIBLE COMPUTER RECYCLING

**Do The Right Thing, Love The Planet
And Keep Michigan Clean
Recycle Your Electronics Safely,
Securely, And Responsibly!**

<http://comprenew.org> • Comprenew Is A
501 C 3 Nonprofit Organization

October 2014

Oct 1 Quarterly Sewer Bills Mailed
Oct 4 Fire Department Pancake Breakfast 8am to 10 am (see related article)
Bear Creek and Rogue River Stream Study (Rockford Community Cabin) - 9:00 am
Oct 6 Last Day to Register for November 4, 2014 General Election
Oct 8 Rogue River Watershed Meeting - 9:30 am - 11:30 am
Oct 13 Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
Oct 14 Planning Commission Meeting - 6:00 pm
Oct 20 Recreation Committee Meeting 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Oct 21 Zoning Board of Appeals - 6:00 pm
Oct 23 - 25 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department
Oct 27 Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
Oct 30 - 31 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department
Oct 31 HALLOWEEN TREATS (Fire Station #2 - 6:00 pm - 8:00)
Quarterly Sewer Bills Due

November 2014

Nov 1 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department
Nov 1 Office Open for Absentee Ballots 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Nov 3 Absentee Voting (in office only) 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Nov 4 GENERAL ELECTION - POLLS OPEN 7:00 am - 8:00 pm
Nov 6 - 8 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department
Nov 10 Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
Nov 11 Planning Commission Meeting - 6:00 pm
Nov 12 Rogue River Watershed Meeting - 9:30 am - 11:30 am
Nov 13 - 15 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department
Nov 17 Recreation Committee Meeting 4:00 pm- 5:30 pm
Nov 18 Zoning Board of Appeals - 6:00 pm
Nov 24 Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
Nov 27, 28 OFFICE CLOSED - Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2014

Dec 1 2014 Winter Tax Bills Mailed
Dec 8 Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
Dec 9 Planning Commission Meeting - 6:00 pm
Dec 10 Board of Review - 10:00 am
..... Rogue River Watershed Meeting 9:30 am - 11:30 am
Dec 15 Recreation Committee Meeting 4:00 - 5:30 pm
Dec 16 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 2015

Jan 1 OFFICE CLOSED - New Year's Holiday
Jan 2 2015 Dog Licenses for sale
Jan 10 Christmas Tree Recycling 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (one day only)

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



Halloween Treats!

Stop by
the
Fire Station
on Belding Road
on Halloween night
from 6 pm to 8 pm.

The Cannon Communicator

If you found this newsletter at one of our drop off locations, did you know you can receive an electronic copy as soon as it's available by signing up on our homepage under Email Alerts? Sign up on our website www.cannontwp.org.

Use the Email
Alerts button
on the left side
of the home page
to subscribe to the
newsletter and other
publications.



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 Mike Warmbier:	MWarmbier@cannontwp.org
Trustee Rob McBrien:	rmcbrien@cannontwp.org
Trustee Henry Betten:	hbetten@cannontwp.org
Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma:	nancyp@cannontwp.org
Deputy Treasurer, Milissa Soderstrom:	milissas@cannontwp.org
Zoning Admin & Watershed Assistant, Julie Lovelace:	jlovelace@cannontwp.org
Administrative Assistant Sue Clarin:	suec@cannontwp.org
Assessor, Matt Frain:	mfrain@cannontwp.org
Fire Chief, Jim Morris:	chief@cannontwp.org

Other Important Numbers

County Commissioner, Diane Jones:	dianecjones2005@yahoo.com
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 2014

A Historic Rural Community

6878 Belding Road, NE • Rockford, MI 49341