



Communicator

Published by the Cannon Township Board, Kent County, Michigan

Fall 2005

From the Supervisor's Desk...

How does an elected official know if a decision he or she is making for the Township is the correct one? That is the \$64,000 question or in North Kent's case, the \$50 million dollar question.

I have always tried to state the facts behind our decision-making process. When writing or speaking about Cannon's involvement on a particular issue, the Board tries to make decisions that would be best for Cannon Township. Some issues are much broader in scope and will affect many more people than just Cannon Township residents. In the case of the North Kent Sewer Authority (NKSA), I believe the Township Board cannot look at our sewer issue as if our Township were in a vacuum.

The North Kent Sewer Authority Board (of which I am the Cannon representative) has been involved with the colossal task of gathering the most accurate information necessary to make an informed decision regarding a new Clean Water Plant. There are many pros and cons for building a new plant, just as there are many pros and cons to signing the contract Grand Rapids has offered.

One of the biggest disagreements between Grand Rapids and NKSA is the lack of difference the contract places between a retail customer and a wholesale customer. Simply put, Grand Rapids owns and maintains retail customers' sewer and water lines and issues the utility bills. The North Kent communities have had a wholesale sewer relationship with Grand Rapids through Kent County since 1969. The wholesale customers own and maintain their own collection infrastructure and issue their own utility bills.

Retail customer communities throughout the region did not have much of an alternative to signing the contract, because they own no infrastructure, and it would have been nearly impossible to separate treatment from Grand Rapids. As a wholesale customer, NKSA had the opportunity to look at other alternatives. We could physically design a system to channel through our new 4-Mile lift station and into a treatment facility separate from Grand Rapids.

This was the crossroad that NKSA was faced with in 1997. The NKSA communities did not want to be treated like a retail customer and Grand Rapids did not think the wholesale communities should have a contract that would treat us more favorably than the retail communities.

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The new costs being levied on the existing wholesale communities were skewed heavily in favor of Grand Rapids, and we felt it treated our constituents unfairly.

As the North Kent communities began to analyze the Grand Rapids' contract and the terms of future costs to our communities, the clean water plant appeared to be a viable option. Over the past three years the Authority pursued the feasibility of a new plant while being open to continuing negotiations with Grand Rapids.

The negotiations became very difficult because there was really no incentive for Grand Rapids to negotiate a separate contract with North Kent, when it already had 90% of the flow to its plant locked up in a very good deal for them. Many of the communities cut the best deal they possibly could with Grand Rapids, yet NKSA thought that there were better options for our communities.

To keep things in perspective, only people on sewer will be affected by the path NKSA finally decides to take. Our engineer's estimate is \$48.9 million, and the independent financial consultant suggests \$52 million. At \$52 million the financial consultant says our option to build a new plant is competitive to signing Grand Rapids' new contract. Simply put, sewer rates are going to jump notably with either option.

Here lies the difficult part for our Township Board members and the Authority as a whole. If financial estimates are virtually a wash over thirty years, then what other aspects of building or signing on with Grand Rapids are important to our community? Some say that growth control and long-term financial risk are most important while others point out that autonomy and control are great concerns. Some simply state that the environmental issues and risk to West Michigan alone are most critical.

I strongly believe that every leader within the North Kent Sewer Authority as well as the individual communities will take into consideration every viewpoint and issue when we make the final commitment. There are certain steps that will always be unknown until we move forward. Unless you can see into the future there are many unknowns to the Grand Rapids cost risks. Likewise, we will never know the exact cost of the plant until we receive the bids.

I have full confidence that the Cannon Township Board will make the very best decision for its constituents in regards to NKSA issues. If you have an opinion, please feel free to attend one of our Board meetings (2nd and 4th Monday of each month) or e-mail me at pmacgregor@cannontwp.org.

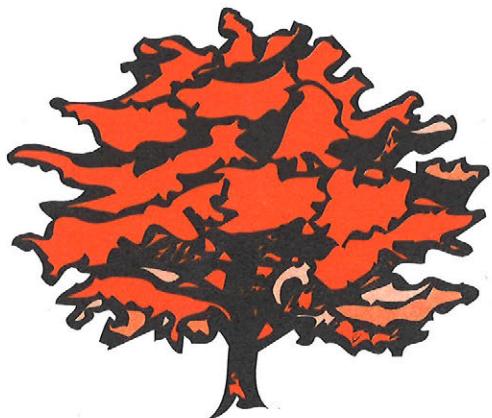
Peter MacGregor, Cannon Township Supervisor

News on the Cannon Township web page changes frequently. Check our site at www.cannontwp.org. Our ordinances are now available on line.

Oaks Threatened

(This article was submitted for publication in our Township newsletter after Rebecca investigated a case of oak wilt in Bear Creek Estates, south of Cannonsburg Road.)

Gardeners may feel bombarded with serious plant disease and insect threats lately. With Emerald Ash borer and Beech Bark disease making the news, one may feel like there are too many tree problems to remember them all. Well, if you love your oak trees, stand up and take note!



Oak wilt is becoming a serious disease threat to the West Michigan oak population. The oak wilt fungus attacks a tree's vascular system, plugging it and in essence, a "wilting" occurs that is followed by death. You may recall a disease like this one called Dutch Elm Disease (a.k.a. DED) that killed off most of our native American Elms. If this doesn't paint an eerie picture for you, it should. The result was nationally devastating.

In red oak, symptoms include curling leaves that have a "scorched" appearance as if the tree just had its faucets turned off. Trees shed leaves heavily in July and August. Whole sections of the tree will appear to go dormant. Leaves normally shed in autumn will be a rich red-brown in color, not withered from the tips.

Oaks become infected when picnic beetles carrying the fungus are attracted to the sap and smell of open wounds created by construction, pruning or storm damage. A tree is most susceptible to infection during the growing season when beetles are active, so special care should be taken not to prune or damage oaks during this time.

According to Brian McKenzie, certified arborist for Bartlett Tree Experts in Grand Rapids, same-species oaks trees that are in close proximity to infected trees should be treated with injection treatments followed by removal of the infected specimen two to four weeks later. White oaks are somewhat less susceptible to oak wilt than red oak.

The other, possibly more serious conduit for infection is through oak-to-oak, underground root grafts. This threat can endanger trees within two times the infected tree's drip line. A Certified Arborist may take the precaution of trenching between trees after an injection treatment has occurred to slow the spread. McKenzie says that trees that are immediately adjacent to the tree and

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even across a paved driveway will likely be infected. Even after the tree is removed, the roots can infect one that is root-grafted to it.

I recently visited a site where a tree had been infected with oak wilt after being pruned this spring by an uninformed pruning service. The fungus completely defoliated the tree by August. What I find scary is that this site is a beautiful, 200-acre development right smack in an Oak woods. The homeowner is now going through a costly procedure, not just to remove the infected trees, but also to protect his other trees and subsequently all the trees in the area.

Oak wilt is much easier to prevent than to control. McKenzie strongly cautions people not to prune any oaks during the growing season. If you do need pruning and you are unsure whether you have an oak or another type of tree, contact a certified arborist to do the job, he says. That will at least help ensure that our native and neighborhood oaks will be here for many years to come.

A publication is available from the Kent MSU Extension office entitled "Oak Wilt in Michigan-E 2764 for seventy-five cents." Numerous websites also have information on oak wilt.

Rebecca Finneran

Rebecca Finneran is a Michigan State University Extension Horticulture Educator, garden writer and lecturer you can contact the Kent county MSU Master Gardener Lawn and Garden Hotline at 336-3881 with your questions or log on to www.stuckongardening.com for classes, conferences and program information.

Update on Roads

On August 2nd Pete MacGregor, Bob Swenson and I met with three officials from MDOT to discuss their plans for M-44. MDOT stated that their immediate goal is to preserve the existing highway in its present form, and that there is no plan to make any major changes within the next five years on M-44. In the meantime, MDOT will continue to work on improving traffic flow by reviewing additional left turn lanes, more acceleration and deceleration lanes, and minimizing driveway cuts. They also assured us that anytime major changes are being considered that they would welcome recommendations from the local Township government.



Bush Dr. was scheduled for new gravel this year; however, the Township Board approved a new material using limestone to reduce the "washboard" effect and reduce the mud in the Spring.

Dick Davies, Trustee

Kent County Sheriff Review

On August 22, 2005 representatives from the Kent County Sheriff's Department addressed your township board. Deputy Keith Kazelskis and I were in attendance. Keith is one of the day shift officers assigned to patrol Cannon Township.

One of the questions posed to us was if a citizen should call the Sheriff's Department with minor property destruction complaints or when they observe suspicious activity in their community. Your township board requested that I address these two questions in this issue of your township publication.

First, never be afraid to contact the Sheriff's Department. I've answered phones in the past and the caller apologizes for calling saying, "I'm sorry to bother you" or "I know you've got more important things to do". That truly is not the case. We may have to prioritize your call depending upon the nature and seriousness, but you don't have to apologize for calling us.

In regards to minor property destruction complaints; for instance someone destroys your mailbox. We want to know that. A mailbox can be considered a minor act of vandalism. However that act must be stopped or the perpetrator can continue with this conduct and, given the opportunity, escalate to even more serious and expensive crimes of destruction in your neighborhood. When people invade your neighborhood to destroy property they neither care about you or your community.

A suspicious person is one that is doing something out of the ordinary that would lead you to believe that a crime is about to be committed. Some examples of this are: a person walking down the street looking into cars, going house to house looking through the windows, or walking up into yards. Not all people that are acting suspicious are criminals but by reporting suspicious activity, you can effectively reduce the opportunity for a crime to be committed.

9-1-1 is the Sheriff Emergency Number. An emergency is defined as an immediate threat to life or property. This is the only time that 9-1-1 should be used. Calls that come in on 9-1-1 lines are given priority.

336-3113 is the number dedicated to Non-Emergencies. Please be patient when you call as, at times, our dispatch center can be overwhelmed with phone calls.

Stop by your township office and pick up a free copy of our Neighborhood Watch Handbook and An Adult's Guide to Halloween Activity. Please remember that the Kent County Sheriff's Department cannot function effectively unless it has the support and cooperation of the people it serves.

I'd like to thank your elected township officials for the opportunity to address them last month and for allowing us to get this information out to all of you.

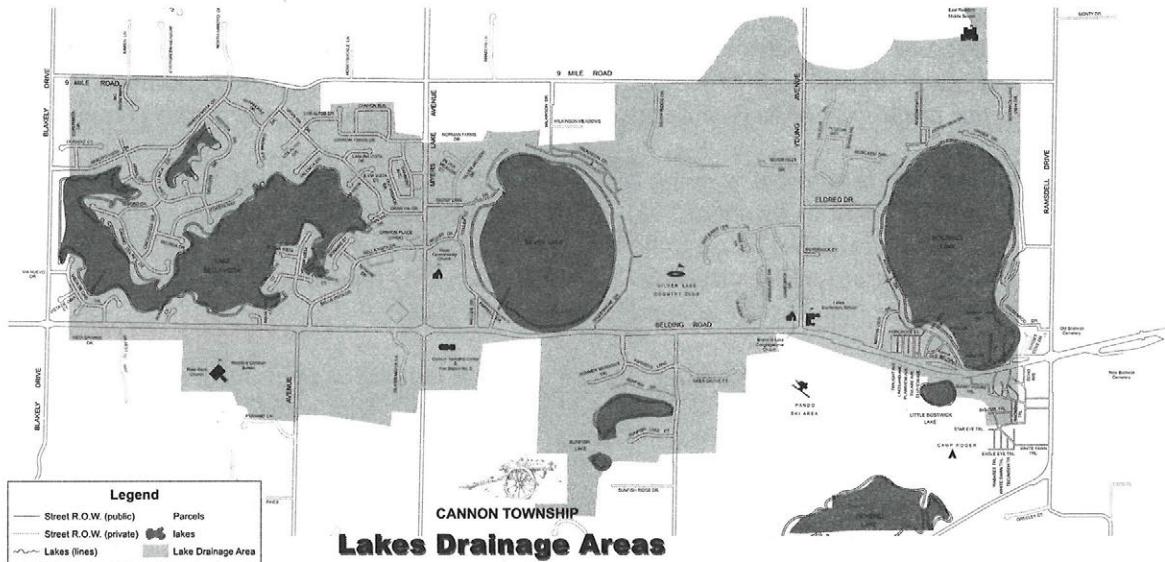
*Lieutenant Larry Orlowski
Central Sector Commander*

Cannon Township's Fertilizer Ordinance

Cannon Township recently adopted a fertilizer ordinance that primarily requires residents in the lakes drainage district to avoid using phosphorous fertilizer on their lawns. The lakes district was created because these areas drain directly into the lakes through runoff from land or storm sewers.

If you live in the Lakes Drainage District and use a lawn company to fertilize your lawn, it is required to be licensed by Cannon Township. Licensing is a simple process involving filling out a one-page form and agreeing to abide by the ordinance. The ordinance can be read on line at www.cannontwp.org. It is included in the "what's new" section as well as in the general ordinances. Please inform your lawn care company of this new requirement.

We are in the process of preparing a list of places where fertilizer without phosphorous can be purchased. When complete, this will be included in our future newsletter and on our web site. Please call Bonnie Shupe at 874-6966 if you have any questions about the fertilizer ordinance.



Stop by and see the bell at the Cannon Township Historical Museum. The bell came from the old school house in Cannonsburg. It was removed and stored for years by Bob Alcumbrack. After changing hands a few times, it was acquired by Bonnie and Clarence Rewa who donated it to the Cannon Township Historical Museum in 2004. Rick Nugent recently constructed a cupola with the bell inside, similar to the structure that was on top of the old school house. Many thanks to Rick and the others involved for this great addition to the museum.

Fireplace and Home Fire Safety fact sheet from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration)



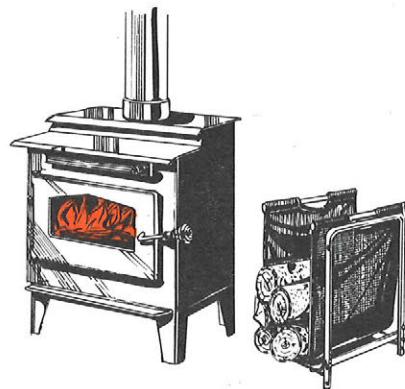
THE Fire Chief's Report

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels. Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stove-pipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to practice the following fire safety steps to keep those home fires safely burning. Remember, fire safety is your personal responsibility... Fire Stops With You!

KEEP FIREPLACES & WOOD STOVES CLEAN

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.



PROTECT THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME

- Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester.
- Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

PROTECT THE INSIDE OF YOUR HOME

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Consider installing the new long life smoke alarms.
- Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment.
- Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof.

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For More Information Contact:

The United States Fire Administration
Office of Fire Management Programs

16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Or visit the USFA website:
www.usfa.fema.gov

Helpful Hint...Porch Lights

Please make sure to turn on your porch light after you have called 911. This seemingly simple tip allows us to locate and respond to an address more quickly.

Back to School

School is back in session for many of our children so please make sure to keep an extra cautious eye open while driving! And as a service to our community, the Cannon Township Fire Department also begins fire safety and prevention with the schools within our community in the fall when the kids are back in session. For some children, the excitement of the beginning school year is a great time to discuss and practice an in-home fire safety plan. For some fire safety tips, please check out <http://www.fema.gov/kids/>



Daylight Savings time...take advantage of the time change as a reminder

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. local time on the first Sunday in April. On the last Sunday in October, areas on Daylight Saving Time return to Standard Time at 2:00 a.m. On Sunday, October 30, 2005, 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 Monday 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 will be permitted during the last two weekends (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) in October and the first two weekends (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) in November. Please call 874-9725 for a burn permit prior to burning your leaves. Burn permits are free but required for Cannon Township residents.

Until next time, stay safe!

New Code Enforcement Officer

The Township has hired Bob Devereaux, a recently retired 32-year veteran of the Kent County Sheriff's Department, to be the new part-time code enforcement officer. He will be involved with zoning and building situations. His experience and people skills will be an asset to the Township. He can be reached by email at ceo@cannontwp.org or 874-6966. You may contact him with questions about possible zoning violations.

A Facilities Committee Update

Over the summer, the Board voted to add an entrance sign off Myers Lake Avenue to identify Cannon Township Center and Fire Station No. 2.

The Board also voted to have the Historical Building maintained with some much needed fresh stain on the front door and paint on the porch.

The Board approved a landscaping project suggested by Dan Barker, Township Treasurer and will be considering quotes to add some shrubs near the "Welcome to Cannon Township Sign" on Belding Road.

As always, please feel welcome to come to the Board meetings. The meetings are the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Center.

Diane Jones

The last day the Cannon Township Historical Museum is open for the public this year is Sunday, September 25, from 2 PM to 4 PM. After this date, please call Margaret Janose (874-6865) to set up an appointment if you wish to visit.



Thank you to Jackie Kroff and many other Township residents who have donated perennials for the Township gardens. Pat Herrington and her crew have made the Township grounds a showcase for the community. The addition of plants by local gardeners makes it extra special.





WATERSHED PAGES



New Watershed Assistant

Hello! My name is Kim Sapkowski and I am Cannon Township's new Watershed Administrative Assistant. My first day here was August 23. My regular office hours will be Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 – 4:30 and Fridays from 8:30 – 12:30.

As the Watershed Administrative Assistant I will be responsible for monitoring lakes and streams, meeting with citizens about water quality issues, educational outreach and general watershed administration.

My predecessor, Ryan Teelander had a wealth of experience in environmental studies. I, however, come from the communications field. I began my career about twenty years ago at West Michigan Public Broadcasting. I helped build WGVU-AM/FM from the ground up. After ten years, I decided to stay at home and raise children. In that time, I continued to work freelance for WGVU-TV, pursued my master's degree in Organizational Communications and volunteered in many community organizations. Rather than return to the broadcast field, I have decided to put my administrative and communications skills to good use in a position near my community and for an issue that is of great importance to me.

I am fortunate to live in Belmont, near the beautiful Rogue River. My in-laws live on Portage Lake in Onekema, Michigan. My husband comes from a family of avid fisherman. So, my love for water and the land are steeped in me. One of the goals I have for this position is to engage in community outreach and education on watershed issues. Storm water run off, fertilizer use, creating a rain garden and dealing with invasive plant species are just a few of the many issues we can learn. Then we can put that knowledge to good use in our own backyard.

I have lived in Belmont nearly twelve years with my husband Tom. We have two children Peter, 10 and Kate, 4. Our latest family addition is Oreo, a nine-month-old Border Collie!

I look forward to working with the citizens of Cannon Township. Please call me if you have any questions, concerns, ideas or simply want to chat!



Keep Your Septic Safe

How can you protect the value of your home and the community's water supply at the same time? By properly maintaining your septic system. A leaking septic system can cost a lot of money to repair or replace. It also can contaminate the ground water you or your neighbors use and can pollute local lakes, streams and rivers. The Kent County Health Department and the Environmental Protection Agency recommends homeowners have their septic tanks pumped every three to five years.

Here are ten simple steps to take to keep your septic system working properly:

1. Locate your septic tank and drain field. Keep a drawing of these locations in your records.
2. Have your septic system inspected at least every three years.
3. Pump your septic tank as needed (generally every three to five years).
4. Don't dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets.
5. Keep other household items, such as dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms, diapers, and cat litter out of your system.
6. Use water efficiently.
7. Plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs might clog and damage the system. Also, do not apply manure or fertilizers over the drain field.
8. Keep vehicles and livestock off your septic system. The weight can damage the pipes and tank, and your system may not drain properly under compacted soil.
9. Keep gutters and basement sump pumps from draining into or near your septic system.
10. Check with your local health department before using additives. Commercial septic tank additives do not eliminate the need for periodic pumping and can be harmful to your system.

You can obtain the following brochures from the EPA's website (www.epa.gov):

Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems

Homeowner's Septic System Checklist

*Kim Sapkowski
Watershed Assistant*

Sewer rates have been increased beginning October 1 due to increased costs as a result of sewer upgrades and emergency repairs. New charges will be \$60.00 per quarter. Availability and trunkage fees were also increased.

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!

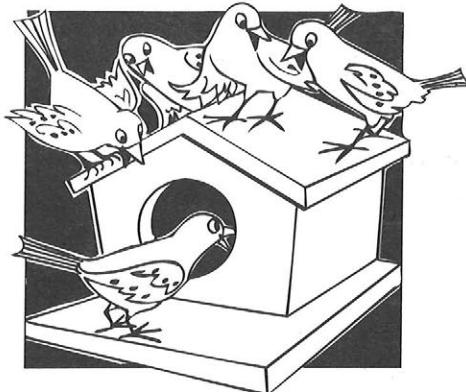
When?	Tuesday, October 4 at 7 PM.
Where?	Cannon Township Center, 6878 Belding Road
What?	A free program about attracting birds to your yard
Who?	Charlie and Debbie Lea of Bird Watchers' Market Place
Why?	To provide education about birds and their habitat

Brighten your yard with colorful birds and enjoy their activity all winter long. Deb and Charlie Lea, Cannon Township residents and owners of Bird Watchers' Market Place on Plainfield will provide information on how to attract birds in your backyard.

Avid birders Deb and Charlie will discuss types of bird food, feeders, roosting places, sources of water, and how to develop a natural habitat for birds to bring them into your yard. Come and learn about the needs and habits of different birds and how to make your yard habitat friendly.

This program is cosponsored by Cannon Township and the Izaak Walton League. The two groups have joined together to encourage local involvement in the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program and to achieve certification of Cannon Township as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat Community.

The program is fee and open to everyone. Please bring your friends and neighbors. If you have any questions, please call Barb McGuirl (874-7740) or Bonnie Shupe (874-6966).



Please Don't Pick up Hitchhikers

I recently received a letter from a Cannon Township resident who was concerned about some environmental issues that could affect local lakes. Many of you are aware of the zebra mussel infestation in Lake Michigan. Are you also aware that zebra mussels can enter inland lakes by "hitchhiking" on the boats that we bring back and forth between these waters?

There are many great ideas to help prevent zebra mussels and other invasive species from entering inland lakes through your personal watercraft. Since the boating season is almost over this year, we will be exploring those ideas in the spring newsletter. But for now, here's a brief summary of things you can do to prevent hitchhikers.

1. Inspect and/or power wash your boat before launching into an inland lake.
2. Do not carry bait or liquids from other lakes or empty bait bucket contents into the lake.
3. Before taking your watercraft onto the ramp, briefly start its engine to blow the water out of the cooling system.
4. Rub down your hull and exposed motor surfaces with a rough towel. Empty your live wells and dry them before launching.
5. Waterborne plants can be transported from lake to lake by trailers. Make sure plants are removed from trailers, boats, and personal watercraft before launching.

Bonnie Shupe

Minimizing animal waste entry to water bodies reduces risk of E.Coli

Recent studies have determined that it is animal waste, from animals such as geese, ducks and pets, which brings about beach closings due to elevated E.Coli levels. When it rains, the waste left by the animals runs into the nearest water body, contaminating the water.

What can be done to prevent animal waste from entering the water? It's actually very simple. If you or your neighbors are feeding the ducks and geese, stop feeding them. Feeding them draws more and increases the concentration of waste to an area. You can keep them from coming to your yard by putting up a little fence (stakes with a string works fine), or putting shiny windmills along the waters' edge also works. Another thing that can be done is picking up pet waste, which should be done anyway. Not only does it look bad and contribute to E. Coli readings, but it can also kill spots of grass in your yard.

Ryan Teelander, Watershed Assistant



A Citizen's Guide to Lawn Fertilizer

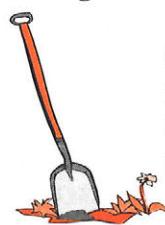
True or False:

"More is better" when applying lawn fertilizer.

False! Over-fertilizing is a problem contributing to storm water pollution in most rivers. Without realizing it, many landowners are applying fertilizers and pesticides when their lawns don't even need them! While applying an appropriate amount of fertilizer is usually okay, it's important to take care when adding chemicals to your lawn so that we can keep our rivers and streams healthy.



Don't guess... soil test!

Don't assume your plants need fertilizer. Perform a soil test. You'll save money and reduce the chance of over-applying by only replacing the nutrients your soil is actually missing. Michigan State University Extension offers easy-to-use soil nutrient testing boxes, and recommends a soil test every two or three years. To find out more, call the extension office in your area (616) 336-3265.

Choose the correct fertilizer

Use slow-release fertilizers that provide a slow, steady source of nutrients for plants. This also prevents the big spurt of growth common with synthetic fertilizers. Slow-release fertilizers come in a variety of types: organic, timed-release and coated. You may want to talk to a lawn care professional to find out what's the best for your yard.

Avoid "weed-and-feed" mixtures. These contain herbicides to control weed growth and are often applied where they aren't needed. If healthy lawn care practices (correct mowing height and watering) are followed, weed control shouldn't be necessary. Be sure your mower is set to three inches to help shade out unwanted weeds.



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How often, how much?



Unless you're maintaining a golf course, you can have a beautiful lawn by fertilizing only two or three times a year:

- Either apply twice a year, in late spring (late April or early May) and fall (September or October)
- Or apply three times a year, in late spring (Memorial Day), or early fall (Labor Day), and late fall (Thanksgiving).

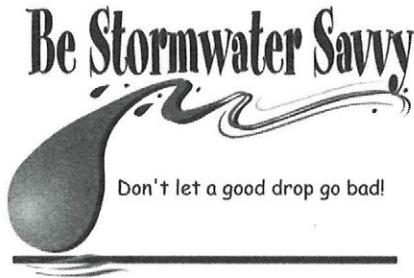
Pointers for pesticide use

Correct watering, mowing and fertilizing habits can reduce many pest problems. But if you do choose to treat for insects, it is essential that you know your enemy before you apply pesticides! If possible, hand pick the little buggers off the plants and identify the pest. The important part is to identify and treat only for the pests you have, at their most vulnerable stage.



For help identifying the bug that's been bugging you, call the Michigan State University Master Gardener Hotline (616) 336-3881.

A general spraying of insecticide is ineffective, costly and may do more harm than good.



Are there wetlands on your property? Thinking of filling or dredging? No matter what size wetlands you have, in Cannon Township you need a permit before disturbing a wetland. Call Kim, Watershed Assistant, if you have questions. She is available to help you complete your permit application for the Township for the MIDEQ. 874-6966.



“DATES TO REMEMBER”

Sept 28-30 **COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP** – Township Center
Wednesday (28th) & Thursday (29th) 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Friday (30th) 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Oct 1 **COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP** – Township Center
Saturday (1st) 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Quarterly Sewer Bills Mailed

Oct 4 Birds’ Workshop – 7:00 pm

Oct 10 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Oct 11 Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

Oct 18 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 7:00 pm

Oct 20,21,22 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

Oct 24 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Oct 27,28,29 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

Oct 31 **HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT**
Both Fire Stations - 6:00 – 8:00 pm
QUARTERLY SEWER BILLS DUE

Nov 3, 4, 5 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

Nov 8 Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 pm

Nov 10,11,12 Leaf Burning with Permit from Fire Department

Nov 14 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Nov 15 Zoning Board of Appeals – 7:00 pm

Nov 24, 25 **OFFICE CLOSED** - Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov 28 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Dec 1 Winter Taxes (2005) Mailed to Residents
2006 Dog Licenses Available at Township Office

Dec 6 Board of Review – 9:00 am

Dec 12 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Dec 13 Board of Review – 9:00 am

Dec 20 Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

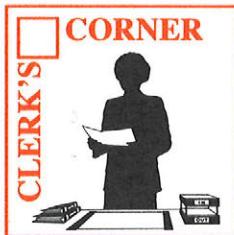
Dec 23 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 7:00 pm

Dec 26 **OFFICE CLOSED** - Christmas Eve Holiday

Dec 30 **OFFICE CLOSED** - Christmas Day Holiday

Jan 2 **OFFICE CLOSED** - New Year’s Eve Holiday

Remember to check for any cancellations or changes on the Township web site under Events. (www.cannontwp.org)



Since townships don't have an election scheduled for this fall, this is a good time to catch up on things like filing and some other projects that have been sitting on my back burner. Unfortunately, those aren't newsletter material. I thought I'd use this column to provide updates to some of the committees I'm involved with.

Bear Creek Watershed Committee

This committee plans to develop a wetlands brochure that will explain the Township's Wetland Ordinance and a Natural Features brochure to reflect the Best Management Practices necessary to protect these features. They will also conduct various educational workshops in partnership with the Ikes and other local groups. The committee is moving towards becoming more involved with education rather than regulation.

Recreation Committee

As of the date of this article, we have yet to hear the results of our latest grant application for the Township Trail. As you know, the trail will extend from Townsend Park to the Township Center. We have been working on this trail for several years and always seem to hit one roadblock or another.

The latest attempt for funding was the submittal of an application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The good news is that they appear to be considering funding the project. We are working with Kent County Parks' Department to help make this happen. The bad news is that there were many worthwhile applicants, so there is a chance that we might not be funded. If not, the Township will have to make some decisions about other options to funding trail construction. In the meantime, we are securing easements and completing the engineering.

Just in case you're wondering about the millage money you've been paying for the last three years, it's being put to good use. It's being used to pay for the engineering costs, but also accumulating to be used for the local match if we get the grant. The grant will be approximately 50/50, so we need to come up with approximately \$600,000 to cover the expenses. It just so happens that we should have that amount saved up by the end of next year.

The Township recently made the decision to purchase an adjoining parcel to our property that will add over three acres to our site. This piece could easily be incorporated into the future park that will be created on the Township grounds.

*Bonnie L. Shupe
Cannon Township Clerk*

Fall Cleanup

(You may receive this newsletter after the event. If so, I apologize, but there was no way of predicting the mailing date of the newsletter when the articles were being written and the newsletter layout done.)

Once again, Cannon Township has hired J & S Service to conduct a trash pick up on the Township Center property at 6878 Belding Road for our Township residents.

You may bring your junk on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, September 28 – 9 AM to 6 PM

Thursday, September 29 – 9 AM to 6 PM

Friday, September 30 – 9 AM – 5 PM

Saturday, October 1 – 8 AM – 1 PM

- 1) All tires must be cut in 4 pieces.
- 2) No shovel offs or loose trash allowed. Small items must be in a bag, box, or barrel.
- 3) Fencing must be flattened or folded.
- 4) Barrels must have one end open or be full of holes.
- 5) Fuel oil tanks must be cut in half.
- 6) No liquid, hazardous waste, or yard waste.
- 7) No propane tanks.

We accept the following items: rubbish, furniture, lumber, metals, appliances, units with Freon (freezers, air conditioners, humidifiers, etc.), and batteries.

Also, it is important to enter the Township property from the Myers Lake Avenue entrance and exit on Belding Road to keep the flow of traffic moving. Be aware that there could be an emergency call while you are there and make sure you are not blocking a fire truck or other emergency vehicle.



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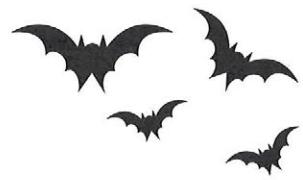
Cannon Township sponsors this yearly event to help keep our Township clean. You may be asked to provide proof that you are a Township resident, so bring along a copy of your voter ID card, tax bill, or sewer bill. Please do not abuse the rules! Last year there were people who were upset because they came too late on Saturday to dump their load. If you are in line before 1 PM, you will be allowed to dump your trash. If you come later than that, you will be asked to leave.

An added feature this year is the presence of someone from the Salvation Army who will be here with a truck so that good used items can be donated.

If you have any questions, please call the Township Center (874-6966) during regular office hours.

Where do the bats live?

In the evenings my husband and I would watch the bats fly around eating the bugs at dusk. It never occurred to us to wonder where they live. We discovered that they live in attics or barns. In the past, I might have thought that they live in trees.



The answer came a few nights ago, when it was clear that the bats we were watching (18 at last count) were living in our attic. We found that they are very quiet until they happen to fall between the walls and need to get back out. Then they announce their presence in a more conspicuous way.

A local company that helps remove the bats came out and set up a one-way system for the bats. They could get out of our attic but not back in.

We have just set free a minimum of 18 bats that are looking for a new home. My husband and I (and a few neighbors) watched them leave. I hope they find a nice barn and not another attic.

Diane Jones

Bear Creek Watershed tee shirts and sweatshirts are available for sale at the Township Office. This would make a great Christmas present! Tee shirts are \$6.00, sweatshirts are \$13.00, and hoodies are \$17.00. Not all styles are available in all sizes.

Clip and Save E-mail Addresses

Supervisor, Pete MacGregor	pmacgregor@cannontwp.org
Clerk, Bonnie Shupe	bonnies@cannontwp.org
Treasurer, Dan Barker	dbarker@cannontwp.org
Trustee Diane Jones	dianecjones@yahoo.com
Trustee Jim LaPeer	JimLaPeer@ferris.edu
Trustee Dick Davies	rrd8565@hotmail.com
Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma	nancyp@cannontwp.org
Deputy Treasurer, Milissa Soderstrom	milissas@cannontwp.org
Zoning Administrator, Christine James	christinej@cannontwp.org
Code Enforcement Officer, Bob Devereaux	ceo@cannontwp.org
Administrative Assistant Sue Clarin	suec@cannontwp.org
Watershed Assistant, Kim Sapkowski	ksapkowski@cannontwp.org
Fire Chief, Harry Morris	Chief@Cannontwp.org
State Representative, Tom Pearce	tompearce@house.mi.gov Phone: 1-888-414-3684
State Senator, Ken Sikkema	ofcKenSikkema@senate.michigan.gov Phone: 1-800-774-1174
Congressman Vern Ehlers	www.house.gov/writerep
Cannon Township Web Site	www.cannontwp.org
Kent County Web Site	www.accesskent.com
State of Michigan Web Site	www.michigan.gov



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Township Board

Supervisor	Pete MacGregor
Clerk	Bonnie Shupe
Treasurer	Dan Barker
Trustees	Diane Jones
.....	Dick Davies
.....	Chuck Bloom
.....	Jim Lapeer
Township Offices	874-6966
(Hours 8am – 5pm, Mon – Fri)	
Fax	874-8940
Fire Department	874-9725
Emergency	911

Township Board Meetings
2nd & 4th Monday, Monthly
7:00 pm, Township Hall