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Cannon Township Board,
Kent County, Michigan

**Sample Fire
Millage
Proposal**

On the August 2nd
Primary Ballot

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Events:**

**Important
Dates to
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the Cannon Communicator

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Township Proposal for Fire Millage by Steve Grimm

The Cannon Township Fire Department was formed in 1958 by a group of concerned Cannon citizens. Shortly thereafter, the Cannon Township Fire Department became one of the best, most efficient fire departments in West Michigan. In the early 1970s, then Chief Junior Morris and the Township decided that the Department's funding should be

voted on by the citizens through a millage. He and the Township felt that this was the most democratic way to fund the department. It has been done that way ever since. The last millage was on the ballot in 2006. On August 2, the matter will again be on the ballot.

The requested funding enables us to maintain a staffed department from 6 a.m. to 11p.m. 365

days per year, and in the next few years will enable us to staff the department 24/7. It also pays for up to 30 on-call personnel. Because our personnel are so well trained, we have achieved the Basic EMT level, which is higher than even the City of Grand Rapids. This means that in Cannon Township, our first responders to an emergency call will be able to

administer a much higher level of emergency care before an ambulance arrives. Over the years, this has saved many lives.

The Cannon Township Fire Department is also very frugal with taxpayer money.

For years, we have implemented a

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FROM THE SUPERVISOR

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system of rotating and replacing aging vehicles and equipment without having to dip into the general fund or raise taxes to do so.

The Township is requesting one mill, which translates to one dollar per every thousand dollars of your home's taxable value. As an example, on a home with a **taxable** value of \$180,000, the owner of that home will pay \$180 per year to fully fund our Fire Department. Although the ballot language presents the millage proposal as "new" additional millage for fire protection, it is actually the same amount (1 mill)

that was voted on over 40 years ago. Because of the Headlee Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Michigan, a local unit of government is required to reduce its millage when annual growth on existing property is greater than the rate of inflation. As a consequence, the local unit's millage rate is "rolled back" so that the resulting growth in property tax revenue, community-wide, is no more than the rate of inflation. Over the last 10 years, the fire millage has been reduced to .9239 mill. Ballot language rules require this to be presented as a "new" millage since 1 mill is higher than the current amount.

Because our Department has

achieved an ISO rating of 5, which is the best rating of all Kent County townships' fire departments, the savings on homeowner insurance premiums in Cannon Township will pay for the requested millage. One of the reasons behind this rating is that in 1984, when our current Fire Chief Jim Morris was in his early years with the Department, he developed a system by which water, necessary to fight fire, could be efficiently utilized in the absence of hydrants. This was an important development, since 80% of our Township is not served by hydrants. Since then other departments in the County have adopted this system, though none does it as well as Cannon, which

is why we have such a tremendous insurance rating. By funding our Fire Department through the millage, we have maintained our well-earned reputation as a leader in public safety.

Please consider this when you vote on August 2nd.

FREE TO GOOD HOME – PIANO

There is a free piano available to anyone in the Township if you agree to pick it up from the Cannon Township Center. Please contact **Bonnie Blackledge at 884-2204.**



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Like Us On FB

<https://www.facebook.com/cannontownship>

JULY

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 1 **OFFICE CLOSED - HOLIDAY**
2016 Summer Tax Bills Mailed
Quarterly Sewer Bills Mailed

July 2 Lake Bella Vista Association Fireworks Display

July 3 Bostwick Lake Association Fireworks Display

July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED - OFFICE CLOSED

July 4 Silver Lake Association Fireworks Display

July 5 Last Day to Register for August 2, 2016 Primary Election

July 11 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

July 12 Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

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

July 18 Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

July 19 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm

July 20 Board of Review – 10:00 am

July 25 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

July 30 Office Open for Absentee Ballots - 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Tire Recycling with Kent County - 8:00 am - Noon

July 31 **Quarterly Sewer Bills Due**

AUGUST

August 1 Last Day to vote Absentee Ballot in office - 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

August 2 PRIMARY ELECTION – Polls open 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

August 8 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

August 9 Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

August 10 ... Rogue River Watershed Partners Meeting - 9:30 am – 11:30 am

August 15 ... Recreation Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

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

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

SEPTEMBER

FALL HOURS BEGIN SEPT 6 (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

Sept 5 **LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED**

Sept 12 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Sept 13 Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

Sept 14 Rogue River Watershed Partners Meeting - 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Sept 14 2016 SUMMER TAXES DUE
2016 Summer Tax Senior or AG Deferments are due

Sept 15 2016 Summer Taxes past due - 1% interest charged

Sept 19 Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Sept 20 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm

Sept 26 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

OCT

Oct 6, 7, 8 ... Community Cleanup
(9:00 am – 3:30 pm)

Please remember to
check for any
cancellations or
changes on the
Township web site:
<http://www.cannontwp.org>

Keep Your Neighborhood Safe

Summer is here, and there tends to be a little more mischievous activity. Here are a few tips to keep your valuables safe this summer.

- If your car is parked in your driveway, make sure the windows are closed, doors are locked, and valuables are out of view.
- Leave your outside lights on.
- Check to make sure doors (also your garage service doors) and ground level windows are locked at night.

Remember, if you see something out of the ordinary that makes you think, "Someone should call the police," please call 911. If it is just suspicious, such as a strange car driving slowly through the area, or someone knocking on the door who tells you they're lost or looking for someone who does not live there, call the non-emergency number (616) 632-6100. According to Community Policing Officer, Patrick Frederick, things such as this typically happen before a crime is committed.

We also hear of vandalism this time of year. Many residents are afraid to call the police for fear of retaliation.

Officer Frederick stated that's very rare. When you call into the Sheriff's Department you can ask not to be contacted by the responding deputies, then no one will connect you to the call. If you are willing to be a witness you may ask to be contacted only by phone. You never know. What you just experienced may stop a crime or help police solve a problem in another area.

*Deb Diepenhorst,
Trustee/Deputy
Supervisor*

September 14, 2016. If the tax bills become past due, then interest will be added to your bill. The Township offers free service performed by Township staff whereby your tax payment will be automatically deducted from your designated bank account. For this, an authorization form must be completed and returned by September 4, 2016. The summer tax bills will usually be a larger amount than the winter tax bills because some of the organizations such as the County, schools, Kent Intermediate and Community College, receive their funds from the summer taxes instead of the winter tax.

*Dick Davies,
Treasurer*

Recreation Update

by Bonnie Blackledge

OUR SUMMER PROJECTS ARE:

- Completion of the Bostwick Lake Park project
- Complete engineering and prepare for bid – Expanded sidewalk system along 10 Mile and Courtland Drive

- Minor repairs to Cannon Trail – Please report any damaged asphalt or other issues to Bonnie with mile mark locations if possible.
- Additional specialized playground resurfacing added to Cannon Township Center Park

This is the ballot wording for Cannon's Fire Millage proposal that will be on the August 2 Primary Ballot. It is located in the third column on the first page. (See "From the Supervisor" Article)

**TOWNSHIP OF CANNON
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
PROPOSAL NO. 1
FIRE PROTECTION MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

Shall the limitation on general ad valorem taxes within Cannon Township imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution be increased for Cannon Township by 1.0 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of ten (10) years, beginning in the year 2016 and continuing through the year 2025, both inclusive, to provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the Cannon Township Fire Department, the purchase of firefighting and emergency vehicles, apparatus and equipment, the purchase, construction, improvement, maintenance and site development of real estate and/or buildings to house the Cannon Township Fire Department and the related equipment, vehicles and apparatus and any related financing for these purposes, and shall the Township of Cannon levy such increase in millage for said purposes?

This proposed millage is new additional millage for fire protection in the amount of 1.0 mill. However, if adopted, the millage will replace the current authorized fire protection millage of 0.9239 mill which expired with the 2015 tax levy. It is estimated that a levy of 1.0 mill will provide revenue of \$620,127 in the first calendar year. The revenue from this new millage will be disbursed to the Township of Cannon.

Yes
No

Clerk's Corner

By Bonnie Blackledge



Since this is an election year, my focus is primarily on election issues. We are attempting two strategies to make your Election Day experience more pleasant.

60 and Over Voters...

First, you are probably aware that the State Legislature changed the rules on straight party voting so you will no longer be able to vote straight party in November. In order to help eliminate anticipated long lines, we sent

out a notice to all voters 60 years of age and older that are not already on our Permanent Absent Voter List to let them know they qualify. Those who are on the Permanent AV List receive a ballot application for every election. If they choose to complete and return the application, they receive a ballot that they can vote in the privacy of their home and return by Election Day. Please contact **Nancy (874-6966)** if you are eligible and did not receive a notice.

Must Vote In Person List...

Second, at some point we will be sending notices to voters who have the MVIP Status. MVIP

stands for "Must Vote in Person." This affects people who register to vote by mail for the first time in Michigan. In order to qualify for an absentee ballot, these people must actually come into the Township Office to prove they are "real." Otherwise, they will have to vote in the polls on Election Day the first time they vote.

Our concern about this law is that it affects college students more than anyone else. It does not apply to those over 60, and most other Township residents can easily stop by the office to pick up a ballot. However, college students that are often several hundred miles away cannot easily stop by, and this is the group that has the greatest need to vote absentee. We are coming up with a list of

voters with MVIP status, and we will be sending letters asking them to stop by the office at their convenience – even if they don't want a ballot at this time. When they stop in, they can show us their ID and we can remove that status from their record. We hope to catch our students before they leave for college in the fall.

Absent Voter Applications...

Absent Voter applications were sent out June 3rd. When you receive your AV application, you will notice that it covers both the August Primary and the November General elections. You have the option of checking one or both elections. We will not be sending applications to our Permanent AV List again before the November election,

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so please remember to use this form and return it now. Also, please fill out all six (6) areas of the application if applicable.

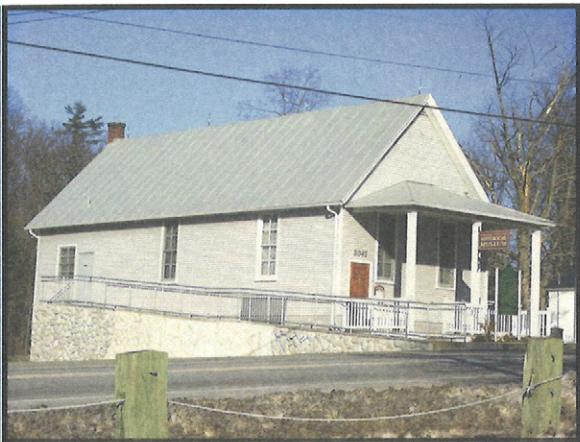
Precinct Ballots on Website...

Copies of your ballots can be found on our website by precinct (Clerk's Department, Elections). In the Primary, each precinct has a different ballot because of precinct delegates. You can also find out what is on your ballot and other election information from this website: <https://vote.michigan.gov/MVIC/>

When you come to the polls in August or vote by absentee ballot, remember that the ballot you

receive will have both the Democratic and the Republican party candidates. Because it is a primary and the purpose is to choose which candidate will go on the November general ballot, you have to choose which party to vote for. Once you make that decision, you may not cast your vote for a candidate of the opposite party. If you do, none of your votes for partisan candidates will count. At the polls you get a chance to spoil your ballot, and you will get another chance to vote properly. If you voted absentee, you won't get another chance. There is also a third category on this ballot, the Non-Partisan section that is located in the third column on the front page.

There is one judicial race and a Township proposal for Fire Millage. The language for this proposal is included in this newsletter.



Sam Fessenden was recently hired to serve as the Cannon Historical Museum Director. Sam will take charge of the museum building, making sure it is functioning properly and will coordinate open hours. He will also maintain historical records and catalog and categorize all articles. Sam replaces Margaret Janose who passed away in March.

Cannon Township now has a Twitter Page! Please follow us @ CannonTownship.



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Volunteers search for insects from the collected debris.

Watershed News

by Julie Lovelace,
Watershed Coordinator

Bear Creek Stream Study

Many of you have seen articles in the past concerning our stream study. This is an ongoing study that is done once each spring and fall and requires volunteers. The best

volunteers are ages 12 and up. At this time, I am specifically looking for high school and college students focusing in natural resources, biology, etc. It is my goal to train these students to become future team leaders for the study. All adults are welcome and no experience is necessary!

The study involves collecting, identifying and counting macroinvertebrates (bugs) from the creek. A healthy bug population is indicative of clean water and quality habitat. It is imperative for a healthy fish population!

Not only do I provide free training, I also am happy to be a reference for those serious candidates who would like to beef up their college and job applications!

If you are interested in natural resources and Bear Creek's water quality please join us. Training, equipment, lunch, and the chance to meet new people are provided! For more information please contact:

Julie Lovelace
jlovelace@cannontwp.org (616) 884-2206

Beaver Dams and Wetlands

Many of you have noted the loss of wetland south of Sunfish Lake. This, we suspect, was the impact of improper beaver dam removal. We have made some calls and, as far as we can tell, the dam removal was not done in coordination with Cannon Township, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Please remember that beaver dams have an important role to play in creating and maintaining valuable wildlife habitat. These beavers are where they belong. Having said that, it is sometimes necessary to remove dams when the water levels threaten homes in their vicinity. As you can see, there are serious repercussions when removed.

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If you feel that water levels are getting too high, it is imperative that you contact the DEQ and let them decide if and how the dams should be removed. They will be able to determine what impact the removal will have on surrounding wetlands/habitat and plan accordingly.

The following was taken from the DEQ https://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_3684_3723-9535--.00.html

Hunting & Trapping Regulations

Because hunting and trapping rules change from year to year, Wildlife Division authorities should be consulted before taking any action.

For additional information, please visit the **DNR's Wildlife and Habitat website** or you may contact:

Dam Safety Program
DEQ, Water Resources Division

P.O. Box 30458
 Lansing, Michigan
 48909-7958 • 517-281-6821

Rogue River Watershed Partners—Tuesday Talks

Did you know that Cannon Township is part of the Rogue River Watershed and the Bear Creek Watershed? Did you know that both are subwatersheds for the Grand River? Did you know that whatever happens in these watersheds affects Lake Michigan?

Now that you know, you may want to become more educated on watershed issues. The Rogue River Watershed Partners is a nonprofit organization committed to protection and enhancement of the Rogue River, its tributaries and the watershed.

The group meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Cannon Township Center at 9:30 a.m. They have also been

sponsoring "Tuesday Talks" at the Rockford Brewing Company. Past topics have been:

- Invasive Plants in the Rogue River
- Salmon in the Classroom
- Wetland Workshop
- Purple Loosestrife (invasive plant) control with beetles

July 26th

Join us on Tuesday, July 26th at the Rockford Brewing Company at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate the removal of the Rum Creek Dam! Learn about the history of the dam, located near the Rockford Community Cabin, and its impact on the important cold-water tributary to the Rogue River. Hear from Trout Unlimited staff, who secured the funds for the \$70,000 project, about concept design, installation of gradient control structures, a complete in-stream and stream bank restoration plan, and pre-

and post-monitoring done by Grand Valley State University students. Come join the party to learn more and show your support of this great community project which will open up 7 miles of habitat for trout!

August 30th

Aubri Spenski (Invasive Species Outreach Coordinator, Michigan Conservation District) will be giving a presentation on aquatic invasive species at the Rockford Brewing Company at 6:00 p.m.



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News From The Fire Department



Our Family Continues to Grow...

Welcome to:

- Jess Dear accredited firefighter and medical first responder
- Brian Mulder accredited firefighter and medical first responder
- Stephen Zukowski accredited firefighter and emergency medical technician – basic

Congratulations!

Dan O'Connor for successfully completing Medical First Responder training and passing the national exam!



Did You Know?

Properly equipped smartphones have the ability to provide information about severe weather through Wireless Emergency Alerts. Wood TV recently posted a great article about this. **Check it out at:** <http://woodtv.com/woodtv-news-weather-app/>

Also, we found another service that does require a subscription, but provides local weather alerts: <http://www.weather-callservices.com>

While the Cannon Township Fire Department takes the responsibility of safeguarding of their residents very seriously, we cannot be

held responsible for the content of this third party internet service. Vigilant radio and television monitoring should always be maintained during inclement weather. Please take time to fully read and understand any costs related to subscribing to this service.

Campfires in Cannon Township

We receive many calls requesting burn permits for campfires. In Cannon Township, you do not need a burn permit for campfires as long as you are in compliance with the Township

ordinance. Ordinance NO. 2006-3 (An Ordinance to amend the Cannon Township Open Burning Ordinance No. 95-22, as amended) states as follows:

SECTION 3. OPEN BURNING

(e) Open fires used solely for cooking for immediate human consumption, or for recreation or ceremonial purposes, shall not be prohibited if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (i) any fire in excess of three feet across shall require an Open Burning Permit;
- (ii) such open fire shall not be composed in

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By the way...

There are now **two** ways to follow us

Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/CannonTwpFireDept> and at our

Website:
<http://cannonfire.org>

whole or substantial part of leaves or grass clippings; and (iii) such open fire shall use non-processed wood and shall not burn garbage or any material described in Section 4(f) of this Ordinance.

Additionally, the campfire should never be left unattended, or should be thoroughly extinguished before leaving. A protective steel rim or rock formation should be used to help control the size and fire exposure to its surroundings.

The exact ordinance can be found at this website:
http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/documents/1236703320_725616.pdf

All other fires within the Township MUST be issued a burn permit by calling **874-9725**.

In Cannon Township, you do not need a burn permit for camp fires as long as you are in compliance with the Township ordinance.



Cannon Township Fire Department Station 2

Watch Out

As you are outside doing lawn work, take a minute and inspect your driveway for branch obstructions. This simple problem continues to plague our department when responding to calls and is addressed in the current Township ordinance which states in general:

Driveways longer than 75 feet, to have a minimum of 20 feet wide and 14 feet high, cleared of all obstructions. The Cannon Township website has this ordinance in full detail under Chapter 19 Section 19.05 at http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/documents/1409241009_13958.pdf. (disregard message) This can be found on page 19-3 of the Zoning Ordinance that comes up when you click the link.

Many low branches prevent our trucks from getting close to the scene when time is critical. Some residents do not realize that our vehicles have equipment that is exposed and we cannot drive through these tight quarters. So please take a minute and help us out by cutting back the branches so we may arrive quickly to any need that arises.

Until next time, have a safe and happy summer!

Cannon Communicator

Cannon Township publishes the Communicator electronically. 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.

You may also find the newsletter at these locations:

- Choice One Bank on Belding Road
- Ric's Market
- Pizzeria Grande
- Bostwick Lake Bakery
- Cannonsburg Gristmill
- Honey Creek Inn
- Cannon Township Center Lobby



Cannon Township
A Historic Rural Community



Communicator

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, Terry Brod:	..... tbrod@cannontwp.org
Trustee, Henry Betten:	..... hbetten@cannontwp.org
Trustee, Kim McKay:	..... kmckay@cannontwp.org
Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma:	..... nancyp@cannontwp.org
Deputy Treasurer, Milissa Soderstrom:	..... milissas@cannontwp.org
Zoning & Watershed Administrator, 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

Cannon Township Offices:	..... 616.874.6966
Cannon Township Fax:	..... 616.874.8940
Cannon Township Fire Department:	..... 616.874.9725
Cannon Township Hours:	..... (Summer Hours 7:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday, May 31 - September 2)
Cannon Township Web Site:	..... www.cannontwp.org
County Commissioner, Diane Jones:	..... Diane.Jones@kentcountymi.gov
State Representative, Chris Afendoulis:	..... ChrisAfendoulis@house.mi.gov
Phone:	..... 1-855-347-0218
State Senator, Peter MacGregor:	..... senpmacgregor@senate.michigan.gov
Phone:	..... 1-855-347-8028
Kent County Sheriff's Department Non-Emergency number:	..... 616-632-6100
Kent County Web Site:	..... www.accesskent.com
State of Michigan Web Site: www.michigan.gov
Emergency: 911



Cannon Township
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Township Board Meetings

2nd & 4th Monday, Monthly, 7:00 p.m.,

Township Hall

6878 Belding Road, NE • Rockford, MI 49341