

# Communicator

Published by the Cannon Township Board, Kent County, Michigan

## From the Desk of the Supervisor - Steve Grimm

### Keeping an Eye on Sewer

**F**or a number of years, Cannon's sewer system was overseen by a committee made up of the Supervisor, the Treasurer and a board member, who were not on Cannon's sewer system. Shortly after becoming supervisor in 2011, after Peter MacGregor was elected to the State House, the Cannon Township Board of Trustees instituted a new approach. We expanded the Sewer Committee to include a Township Trustee on sewer, Deb Diepenhorst, and members of the Township who actually pay sewer bills, as well as the Township's engineer, the Director of the North Kent Sewer facility, who also lives in the Township, and the person in charge of maintenance and repairs.

**A**fter the committee was appointed, it became clear that the sewer operations in Cannon needed a new approach. We realized that the days of unpredictable and large rate increases needed to stop, and we needed to increase the dangerously low fund balance. We developed an aggressive plan to update the system, which is nearing the end of its life expectancy, increase the fund balance

so as to have the resources to cover a failure in the system, and do these things without unpredictable rate hikes.

**A**s a result of the work of the committee, primarily resident committee members Mark Verwys, Nick VanBelkum, Gene Kuehle and Henry Betten, we have made tremendous progress. We reached our fund balance goal a year early. We completed videotaping the entire system six months early, so that we will have the most accurate data to analyze the condition of the system. We obtained low interest bonds and grants from the state to begin the system improvements. This summer, we will complete our work plan that will grade the most needed repairs, and begin to carry out those repairs. We anticipate that the cost of the repairs and updating will approach eight million dollars.

**B**ecause we have diligently dedicated ourselves to proactively and aggressively dealing with our aging system, we will complete the task.



# Cannon Township

Summer 2014

## A Historic Rural Community



# Cannon Township

## Henry Betten Appointed as Trustee

**A**t the regular meeting of the Township Board on June 9th, Henry Betten, a 17-year Cannon Township resident, was appointed as Trustee to fill a vacancy on the Board. Henry brings a wealth of experience to the Board. He is no stranger to public service. He is the past president of the Bostwick Lake Association and is currently volunteering his time on two of their committees. He is an accomplished business owner with extensive sales and marketing expertise.

**H**enry has served the Township representing Bostwick Lake on the Sewer Committee, was a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate, and regularly attends board meetings. Because Henry has been so active at the Township, his transition to the Board has been seamless.

**M**r. Betten has true passion for his community and a proven track record of achievement. He will be a great asset to the Board.

Deb Diepenhorst,  
Trustee and Deputy Supervisor

## Treasurer Department Information

..... As July 1st approaches we are busy preparing the "summer" tax bills. This year all tax bills are due no later than September 15th (the usual date would be September 14th but since the 14th falls on a Sunday the date is changed to Monday, September 15th). After September 15th, interest will start accumulating for any tax bills that are late.

Dick Davies,  
Township Treasurer

## Road Projects

*Because of the severe damage to our roads caused by the brutal winter, the Township Board has approved additional monies to repair some of our roads. The amount approved totals \$444,000 (a normal year would be approximately \$300,000). Projects scheduled for repair are:*

***limestone application on Bush Drive and Tiffany 1/2 mile south of 10 Mile Road and resurfacing Egypt Valley Avenue between 4 and 5 Mile, Honey Creek Ave from Cannonsburg to 5 Mile and parts of Hunters Ridge. In addition to these projects, we are contributing funds for the Luton Park mountain bike parking lot on 10 Mile Road, widening the shoulders on 10 Mile from 4 feet to 6 feet from Courtland Drive to Myers Lake Avenue and resurfacing of 10 Mile Road from Myers Lake Avenue to Young Avenue.***

Dick Davies,  
Chairman Road Committee



**Congratulations** to our newest firefighter, Jason Van Horn! Jason came to us after five years of service with the Rockford Fire Department. Along with Firefighter I and II certifications, Jason is also certified in HazMat operations, and is a licensed Michigan Medical First Responder (MFR). So from all of us on the department....Welcome!

## Did you know?

Properly equipped smartphones have the ability to provide information about severe weather through Wireless Emergency Alerts. There are many free weather apps.

We found a service that does require a subscription, but provides local weather alerts:

<http://www.weathercallservices.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.

## 2013 Year in review:

By the end of last year, the Cannon Township Fire Department responded to 538 calls. Our average emergency response time for 2013 was 4 minutes 55 seconds (this statistic includes calls outside of Cannon Township and non-emergency calls) Our average response time is calculated based on when Kent County dispatches the department to when the department arrives on scene. Sometimes our delayed arrival is the direct result of not being able to find a street address. Please take time to make sure that your address is clearly marked at your mailbox and/or the house numbers are visible from the street. If necessary, clear away any brush or tree limbs that may obscure your house numbers or prevent us from accessing your driveway. As a service to the public, the Cannon Township Fire Department is

still offering reflective street signs. Call 874-9725 or stop in our Fire Station on Belding Rd., next to the Township Center, during normal business hours.

## 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 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. And, 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](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.

## 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/>

*Until next time, have a safe and happy summer!*

## Clerk's Corner

Bonnie Blackledge



### Absentee Voting

If there is one thing I've learned about election administration during my 21 years as Clerk is that election law is constantly changing. I believe it is important to stay on top of the changes and implement the new regulations at the township level.

One of the latest changes is that Photo ID is needed when requesting an absentee ballot from the Township Office. If you complete an application and ask to have a ballot mailed to your address, no Photo ID is needed. But if you're standing at the counter in front of us and requesting a ballot, you must show us a driver's license or other approved form of identification.

If you are 60 years of age or physically unable to attend the polls, you can ask to be placed on our Permanent AV (Absent Voter) list. If you are on this list, you will be mailed an application for each election held in Cannon Township. One thing to note-if you move to another community, you must ask to be on their permanent list. This does not automatically transfer when you move.

I'm excited about turning 60 this year and being eligible for absentee voting. It's so much easier for me to complete a ballot in the privacy of my home with my computer by my side so I can look up

information about the candidates and proposals on the ballot. As I learn about the issues, I can mark the part of the ballot that I feel confident about and research the other areas later. As long as the ballot is returned by Election Day, I can take as long as I want.

If you choose to get an absentee ballot, keep in mind that we can replace that ballot if you make an error or change your mind. You will need to return that ballot to us in its envelope. We "spoil" that ballot without even looking at it and hand you a new ballot and envelope so you can try again-just like in the polls.

### Primary Primer

I tend to repeat myself every two years when I write about the August Primary Election. In my opinion, the Primary Election is often more important than the November General. The intention of the Primary is to choose candidates to represent the Republican and Democratic parties on the November ballot. This August we will also have a chance to whittle down the 63rd District Court race to two candidates for the November ballot. In addition, there are several proposals on the ballot and the selection of Precinct Delegates.

Some voters get upset when they find out they can't vote for both Republicans and Democrats in a Primary. Michigan has an "open" Primary,

Cannon Township

# Have You Moved Since The Last Election?...

Summer 2014

5

continued from page 4

which means that you may vote for either the Republicans or the Democrats and no one will know which you choose. You just can't "cross vote." In Cannon Township, no one on the Democratic side of the ballot has any competition.

**N**o matter which party you choose, you will still be able to cast your votes on the 63rd District Court race and all the proposals. (See additional information in this issue regarding the Cannon Township Recreation Millage proposal.)

**C**opies of the August Primary Ballots are available on our website - [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org) or by going to the **Michigan Voter Information Center** <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/> and typing in your personal information.

## Have You Moved Since The Last Election?

**I**f so, you might want to check to make sure you are registered in your new jurisdiction. Call your local clerk's office (874-6966) or check the Michigan Voter Information Center to make sure. You have until July 7th to get registered to vote in the August Primary.

### See You At The Polls!

### Election Workers Needed For the August and November Elections

Shifts are approximately 6 am until 9 pm (this may vary somewhat depending on your Chairperson), or you can work a morning or afternoon shift. Pay is \$8.60 per hour. Computer skills are a bonus!

## WMEAC and GreenFIT Homes Offer Energy Assessments -

**I**t's just now getting hot out there (finally), but it's not too early to start thinking about your energy bills this winter. You may still be feeling the financial strain of those heating bills from last winter.

I had the opportunity to have GreenFIT Homes come into my home this past winter and do an energy assessment. They told me where I was losing energy, how they could fix it, and they gave me a quote all wrapped up in a pretty handy report.

Did you know Consumers Energy offers customer incentives for improving your home's energy efficiency?

To see examples of these home energy reports complete with pictures showing how they test your home, see our website under breaking news ([www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org)).

Contact the West Michigan Environment Action Council (WMEAC) at <https://wmeac.org> or call 451-3051 for more information and to sign up for a \$99 home energy assessment. The assessment can be done any time of the year!

Julie Lovelace, [Zoning Administrator](#)



## Renewal Of Non-Motorized Trail And Township Recreation Plan Millage...

**Cannon Township has put the following millage question on the August 5th ballot:**

### **TOWNSHIP OF CANNON COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN BALLOT PROPOSAL RENEWAL OF NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL AND TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN MILLAGE**

**Shall the increase in the tax rate limitation for the Township of Cannon be renewed and levied on all taxable property in the amount of 0.3760 Mill (\$.3760 Per \$1,000 of taxable value) in the years 2014-2019, both inclusive, subject to reduction as provided by law?**

**This proposal is for the renewal of a previously authorized millage. The purpose of this levy is to provide continued funds for non-motorized trails and recreation areas in the township, including acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance costs thereof, in accordance with the Cannon Township Recreation Plan.**

**It is estimated that a levy of 0.3760 Mill would provide revenue of \$209,484 in the first calendar year. The revenue from this millage levy will be disbursed to the Township of Cannon.**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_

This ballot proposal asks for a renewal of the existing millage that was first appropriated in 2002 at .4 Mill and was renewed in 2009 at .3760 due to the Headlee Amendment reduction. If the millage renewal passes, there will be no increase in your property taxes for recreation in Cannon Township. If your home has a value of \$200,000, your share in that tax would only be \$37.60 a year.

In the past twelve years, the recreation millage has generated \$2,353,184 for recreational purposes in Cannon Township.

#### **How has this money been used?**

The first use of these funds was to pay the match on the Cannon Township trail that runs between the Cannon Township Center and Townsend Park. This match was in the amount of \$700,000. Cannon also spent \$70,000 on the trail that runs along Belding Road by Bostwick Lake and \$78,000 (used additional grant funds of \$50,000) for the sidewalk along Belding Road and Myers Lake Avenue.



continued from page 6

Over the past six years, trail maintenance and repairs averaged over \$6,000 a year with a total of \$38,817 used. Consultant, legal and engineering fees have amounted to approximately \$125,500. Trail amenities (signs, waste stations, etc.) have cost \$13,273. The restroom attached to the fire station for trail use cost \$91,780.

### **Where has the rest of your tax dollars gone?**

Most of the millage monies have been placed in investment accounts to be available as leverage for obtaining grants. All grants require matching funds and the more you can offer generally helps your score. At the present time, we have \$1,154,659 in various investment accounts. We also allocate 10% of the millage funds collected each year to a maintenance account for major repairs.

**How will we use the funds we've been saving? We have four projects that are currently in process.**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Match/TWP Cost</b>
Cannonsburg Trail Extension	\$618,255	\$245,700	\$372,555
Cannon Township Center Park	\$356,912	\$100,000	\$256,912
Bostwick Lake Easement – Trail	\$29,050	\$0	\$29,050
Bostwick Lake Park Renovation (2015)	\$98,000	\$45,000*	\$53,000

### ***\*Grant application in process-results in December 2014***

As you can see, Cannon Township is responsible for coming up with \$711,517 for the projects we've already committed to. If we don't get the passport grant, this will grow to \$761,517. This will deplete our savings to \$443,142. This amount would probably need to be set aside for future maintenance if the millage funds are no longer available.

The Board and the Recreation Committee is hoping that you and your family and friends are able to make use of the trails in our community. It is our hope that we can continue to build on to this system so that someday we will have a network connecting our community to other townships and the City of Rockford. We've already presented a project for transportation planning to connect to Ada Township in the near future.

It is also important that we take care of our small park on Bostwick Lake and the new one that will soon be built on the Township Center property. We hope to provide recreational opportunities for all who reside here.

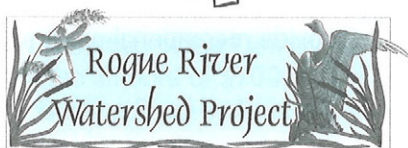
**Bonnie Blackledge, Clerk**



## Fall Stream Study Rogue River and Bear Creek

**T**his study consists of going to different sites in the river/creek to collect macroinvertebrates (bugs), identify, and count them. Based on their diversity and numbers, we are able to assign each section of the stream a water quality score. Poor scores may warrant further investigation.

Saturday October 4, 2014 Cannon Township will be joining forces again with Trout Unlimited to conduct our fall stream study of both the Rogue River and Bear Creek. We will meet at the Rockford Community Cabin at 220 N Monroe in Rockford. No experience is necessary. A pre-

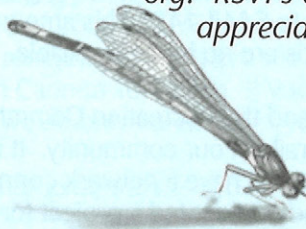


study training night, equipment, and LUNCH are provided. Ages 8 and up are welcome! This is an excellent way to engage your children.

Find out how the tiny life in our streams and rivers tell us so much about the water quality. Are we conscious of how urbanization and farming affect our water? How are we doing?

Further details will be forthcoming. If you are not already on Julie's Bear Creek stream study E-mail list please contact her at [jlovelace@cannontwp.org](mailto:jlovelace@cannontwp.org).

RSVPs are appreciated!



Julie Lovelace - Zoning Administrator/  
Watershed Coordinator

[jlovelace@cannontwp.org](mailto:jlovelace@cannontwp.org) or 884-2206

## July 2014

July 1 .....	2014 Summer Tax Bills Mailed to Residents
July 1 .....	Quarterly Sewer Bills Mailed to Residents
July 4 .....	<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY - OFFICE CLOSED</b>
July 4 .....	Silver Lake Association Fireworks Display 10:10 pm
July 5 .....	Bostwick Lake Association Fireworks Display 10:15 pm
July 7 .....	<b>Last Day to Register for August 5 Primary Election</b>
July 8 .....	Planning Commission Meeting - 6:30 pm
July 9 .....	Rogue River Watershed Council Meeting 9:30 am - 11:30 am
July 14 .....	Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
July 15 .....	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - 6:00 pm
July 16 .....	Board of Review - 10:00 am
July 21 .....	Recreation Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
July 28 .....	Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
July 31 .....	<b>QUARTERLY SEWER BILLS DUE</b>

## August 2014

August 2 .....	Office Open for Absentee Ballots - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
August 4 .....	Last day to vote Absentee Ballot in office - 7:00 am - 4:00 pm
August 5 .....	<b>Primary Election - Polls Open 7:00 am - 8:00 pm</b>
August 11 .....	Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
August 12 .....	Planning Commission Meeting - 6:30 pm
August 13 .....	Rogue River Watershed Council Meeting 9:30 am - 11:30 am
August 18 .....	Recreation Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
August 19 .....	Zoning Board of Appeals - 6:00 pm
August 25 .....	Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

## September 2014

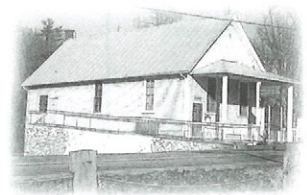
Sept 1 .....	<b>LABOR DAY - OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Sept 1 .....	<b>Cannonsburg Duathlon</b>
Sept 8 .....	Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
Sept 9 .....	Planning Commission Meeting - 6:30 pm
Sept 10 .....	Rogue River Watershed Council Meeting 9:30 am - 11:30 am
Sept 11 .....	<b>Community Cleanup/Electronics Recycling- 9:00 am - 3:30 pm</b>
Sept 12 .....	<b>Community Cleanup/Electronics Recycling- 9:00 am - 3:30 pm</b>
Sept 13 .....	<b>Community Cleanup/Electronics Recycling- 9:00 am - 3:30 pm</b>
Sept 14 .....	<b>2014 SUMMER TAXES DUE</b>
Sept 15 .....	<b>2014 Summer Tax Senior or AG Deferments are due</b>
Sept 15 .....	Recreation Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Sept 16 .....	<b>2014 Summer Taxes past due - 1% interest charged</b>
Sept 16 .....	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - 6:00 pm
Sept 22 .....	Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

Remember  
to check for any  
cancellations or  
changes  
on the Website:

<http://www.cannontwp.org>

## The Cannonsburg Historical Museum

*The Cannon Historical Museum is open every Sunday from 2 pm to 4 pm through the end of September. Stop by and see what's new.*



*The yearly picnic will be held on July 15th at 6:00 pm at the Cannon Museum in Cannonsburg.*

*Please bring a dish to pass. All are welcome.*

*We're looking for family stories for our newsletter. If you have any stories about your family that you would like to share, please contact Margaret Janose at 874-6865.*

## 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](http://www.cannontwp.org). Use the Email Alerts button on the left side of the home page to subscribe to the newsletter and other publications.



# 2014 Cannon Fall Community Cleanup

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday September 11, 12, & 13**  
**9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**Where?** The Cannon Township parking lot

**Who?** Open to Township Residents/Taxpayers Only. Please bring voter ID, Tax or Sewer Bill to prove it.

**What to bring?** General household items including appliances, scrap metal, large batteries (car, boat, etc.)

**Important!** Residents will have to pay for mattresses or box springs (\$15) and whole tires (\$10)

## Rules:

- No liquids (paint, oil, etc.)  
Latex is okay if it's hardened.

- No brush or yard waste
- All tires must be cut in half or cut the sidewalls out
- No shovel-offs (smaller items should be bagged.)
- Propane and fuel tanks must be cut in half and cleaned out.
- Fencing must be folded or rolled up.
- Barrels must have one end open or be full of holes.
- No hazardous materials

***For a complete list of household items not accepted and disposal options for those items, please visit [www.Accesskent.Com/hhw](http://www.Accesskent.Com/hhw)***

Cannon Township



## FREE Community Electronics Recycling Event

Cannon Township • 6878 Belding Road NE • Rockford, Michigan

**Thursday, Friday & Saturday**

**September 11, 12, and 13 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm**

- Need a way to get rid of old electronics?
- Computers, TVs, Electronics of all kinds accepted
  - This free collection is open to ALL
- Businesses also welcome to participate

*Please look for the Comprenew E-drop trailer in the parking lot*

- Almost any electronic item, working or non-working, with a cord or battery is acceptable
  - Review acceptable items list at [www.comprenew.org](http://www.comprenew.org), or call (616) 988-8270
    - Your computer hard drives will be wiped and/or destroyed for you
- **No worries about your data with Comprenew®**

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

**Contact** Bonnie Blackledge, Cannon Township Clerk **For More Information**  
**616.884.2204 • [Bonnies@Cannontwp.Org](mailto:Bonnies@Cannontwp.Org)**



RESPONSIBLE COMPUTER RECYCLING

Comprenew • 629 Ionia Ave Sw • Grand Rapids 49503 • 616.988.8270  
[www.comprenew.org](http://www.comprenew.org) • Comprenew Is A 501 C 3 Nonprofit Organization

# 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: ..... millissas@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

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

  
**Cannon Township**  
 Summer 2014  
 A Historic Rural Community  
 6878 Belding Road, NE • Rockford, MI 49341