



Communicator

Published by the Cannon Township Board, Kent County, Michigan

From the Desk of the Supervisor

Last year, we established an ordinance review committee made up of Planning Commission members, Board members and residents to review Cannon Township's Zoning Ordinance. In 2008, the Zoning Ordinance was amended to include many restrictions that have proven to be both unpopular and unworkable. In many cases, the changes are indecipherable. This has led to confusion for both residents and zoning staff. That confusion has led, in turn, to complaints from current and past Zoning Administrators, as well as many residents.

The committee is carefully addressing every word of the ordinance and, with the help of committee members, particularly those residents who deal with the ordinance, will recommend an overhaul of the ordinance sometime this Fall. We are employing a common sense approach that will match the

common sense possessed by most Cannon residents. In addition to listening, we are also reviewing the Zoning Ordinances of other communities and will borrow the approaches those communities have taken on various issues, and adapting them to fit Cannon's issues. Unfortunately, this factor has proven tedious, because like our current ordinance, most townships rely on verbosity to regulate zoning.

At the conclusion of the Committee's work, it will forward a recommended amended Zoning Ordinance to the Planning Commission for consideration and recommendation to the full Board. With any luck, the residents of Cannon Township will have a streamlined, easy to understand Zoning Ordinance later this year.

Steve Grimm,
Cannon Township Supervisor



Cannon Township
Summer 2013
A Historic Rural Community

Cannon Township



Recreation Committee Update

Cannon Trail

From my window I can see that the trail is used constantly throughout the day. It truly is a joy to see people of all ages and their furry friends enjoying a walk, run, or ride on this four-mile pathway. We have trail volunteers that help maintain the trail and trim intruding branches. If you happen to notice something that needs attention please let me know.

[\(bonnies@cannontwp.org\)](mailto:bonnies@cannontwp.org)

We're waiting for word of a grant award (or not) for the extension from Townsend Park into Cannonsburg. We hope to know by the end of

June and plan to begin the construction process as soon as we know. It would be nice to complete that project before the snow flies!

Bostwick Lake Park

The park is mowed and the trash emptied on a regular basis. We recently had the ground near the shoreline leveled and arranged to have the banks maintained on a regular basis. It is our hope that this will be a great spot for families to be able to enjoy Bostwick Lake. Please let me know if you encounter any problems. And remember – dogs are not allowed at the park!

Township Center Park Property

You may remember that we received the promise of a grant award for improvements to this area. Unfortunately, since the funds are federal, we have to wait for additional

approvals before we can sign the contract and begin work. I have asked the state to look into granting us a waiver so we can get started before we actually sign the contract.

The grant will cover the creation of a parking lot, grassy play area, picnic pavilion, and accessible trail. I'm also waiting to hear the results of a grant to pay for a play area for preschoolers and should know about that in November.

Though still lacking a sign, there is a mountain bike trail that veers off to the right as you walk south from the trail head on the Township property. This mile-long trail can be used for walking or biking. I skied on it a couple of times last winter. Please try it out if you get a chance!

Bonnie Blackledge,
Clerk

Cemetery Update

The Cemetery Committee would like to thank Elaine Shupe, Pat Detmer, Ivan Judson, Bea Nestle, and Mary Lou Krampe for attending our April Visioning Meeting. These residents were an instrumental part of assisting us in prioritizing improvements to our cemeteries. Lawn maintenance in the Cannonsburg and Bostwick Lake Cemeteries were at the top of the residents' list. Cemetery Sexton and Landscaper, John Venman will be testing an organic liquid matter, Suma Groulx, which will provide liquid nutrition and maintain moisture for a healthier lawn. The product will be tested in a small area that has not been able to grow grass. If improvement is noticed the committee will investigate applying Suma Groulx over the entire lawn.

Another area of opportunity which arose from the meeting was a secondary water source at the Cannonsburg Cemetery. The water pump has been fixed, but is still not as easy to pump as it could be. The Committee has decided to place a 55 gallon water tank in an expanded enclosure on the property. This water will be for watering plants only; it will not be drinkable. A base needs to be built and the enclosure expanded before the tank can be placed. This project is expected to be completed by the end of June.

The Committee voted unanimously to increase the mole budget in both the Cannonsburg and Bostwick Lake Cemeteries. We recognize the moles are a challenge and we have an on-going program to address the issue.

If you are interested in volunteering to help in the cemeteries please feel free to call me **874-6966** or send an email to ddiepenhorst@cannontwp.org Thank you!

Deb Diepenhorst,
Trustee/Deputy Supervisor and
Cemetery Committee Chair

The Cannon Communicator

Cannon Township now publishes the Communicator electronically. To sign up, go to www.cannontwp.org, click the Email Alerts button on the left side of the

home page to subscribe to the newsletter and other publications.

If you would like a hard copy of the newsletter, they are available at the following locations: Choice One Bank on Belding Road, Huntington Bank on Myers Lake Ave and Belding Road, Ric's Market, Pizzeria Grande, Bostwick Lake Bakery, Cannonsburg Gristmill, Honey Creek Inn, and the Cannon Township Center lobby.

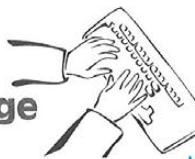


Cannon Township



Clerk's Corner

Bonnie Blackledge



It seems nice to not have had a May election and not to have to worry about sending ballots out for an August primary. That gives the Clerk's Office a little breather. I've been using this time to catch up on filing and record-keeping.

The recent sale of oil and gas leases in the Cannonsburg State Game area triggered a reaction in Cannon Township. Many local citizens are concerned that this type of drilling would affect their quality of life. Our Township Board listened and is taking action!

Cannon Township has taken the leading edge in this area, passing a resolution for a six month moratorium on "**fracking**" (hydraulic fracturing) until we are able to update our ordinances to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens as well as protect our water quality. Although townships cannot regulate oil and gas drilling itself, we are able to adopt ordinances that regulate related ancillary activities.

These include access roads and routes, storage tanks, ponds, pits, high capacity water wells, and certain pipelines. We can also regulate hours of operation, noise levels, and odors.

During this six-month period, Cannon officials are attending informational sessions conducted by FLOW – For Love of Water. These meetings are open to anyone who is interested. Please see our website for meeting information.

Speaking of our website – www.cannontwp.org – we have recently had some major upgrades. These changes do not affect the site itself, but have greatly changed the way information is added to the site. During this turnover, some links may have been broken or there might be data missing. Please let me know if you notice anything that is outdated, incorrect, or missing on the site. bonnies@cannontwp.org

Please "like" the Clerk's Facebook Page

Notices are posted about elections, recreation, watershed, cemeteries, and all the other Township activities that the Clerk manages. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cannon-Township-Clerks-Office/135763236465301>

Remodeled Restrooms

Cannon Township Hall

Please enjoy the remodeled restrooms. The main concern for the remodeling was the odor issue. While the construction was in process the source of the odor was identified and corrected. This remodeling project will benefit our residents for many years to come. The last remodeling served the residents for 25 years. In addition, the refrigerator and stove have been replaced for all groups that rent the board room for events such as wedding showers, bridal showers, graduations and birthday parties. Nugent Builders won the bidding for the project. I would like to thank the Nugent Builders team for their professionalism and appreciate them finishing on schedule. Again, the remodeling will be used by residents for many years to come.

To help make our residents' rentals of the Board Room a quality celebration, new carpet will be coming at the end of June. This project, too, will last for many years to come. Rockford Flooring won the bid for the new carpet. We appreciate them holding on to the carpet until we were able to get an installation date in June.

If you own a business that has proper insurance and offers services that might be of interest to the Township, please submit your information to the front desk. That information will be placed in our bid file. We strive to work with local companies! We truly appreciate all firms that take the time to bid on our projects. The companies are always called and the results are shared.

Did you know that Cannon Township does not have a dedicated paid department for facilities? The facilities work at Cannon Township starts at the committee level which consists of a staff member, the Fire Chief and two Board members. The committee will recommend projects to the board for final approval.

Have suggestions and solutions for facilities projects? Please send me an email at djones@cannontwp.org and that information will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Diane Jones,
Cannon Township Trustee

Cannon Township



We serve an incredible Township, filled with natural beauty and wonderful people. As a Board, it is our duty to provide good governance that serves our local community and provides for our common good.

At a recent Michigan Township Association meeting, the head of the training arm of the MTA shared the central principle in good governance. To the crowd of elected officials gathered she said, "Remember, it's not your money." We are to hold this role as a sacred trust that protects the best interests of the people. Truthfully, the principle is best seen when a local township looks at the limited resources and finds the most efficient way to provide good governance.

To accomplish this end, our IT committee has been wrestling with this question: "In what ways can we work to increase accountability and improve communications so as to better improve the health of the Township?" Currently we are making improvements to our website to make it easier to navigate so people can gain access to important documents and find the

answer to their questions. We are also striving to provide video projection so that people in our conference room can see the documents or maps that the board is viewing. These are just a few ways our board can increase accountability and provide better access to Township affairs.

These projects represent an important value in local government and serve to highlight a major reason that people like me would seek to serve our local community as an elected official. I believe the best form of government is the one that is closest to home. In other words, as things move further and further away from local control, special interests seem to creep in and exert their will in often unhealthy ways. The oldest and best form of representative government in Michigan is the local township. It enables elected officials the chance to provide wisdom and oversight in keeping our community running well.

To be sure, the highest form of governance comes when those who are elected listen to those who elected them and do their best to represent their needs in the context of this local community. Whether it be through our IT efforts or important votes on the Township Board, it's our privilege to serve this local Township.

Tim Nelson, Trustee

July 2013

July 1 2013 Summer Tax Bills Mailed to Residents
Quarterly Sewer Bills Mailed to Residents

July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

July 4 Silver Lake Association Fireworks Display

July 4 Bostwick Lake Association Fireworks Display

July 8 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

July 9 Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

July 10 Rogue River Watershed Council Meeting 9:30 am – 11:30 am

July 15 Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

July 16 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm

July 17 Board of Review – 10:00 am

July 22 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

July 31 QUARTERLY SEWER BILLS DUE

Remember
to check for
any cancellations
or changes
on the Website:
[http://www.
cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org)

August 2013

August 12 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

August 13 Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

August 14 Rogue River Watershed Council Meeting
9:30 am – 11:30 am

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

August 20 Zoning Board of Appeals – 7:00 pm

August 26 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm



September 2013

Sept 2 LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED
Cannonsburg Duathlon <http://honeycreekduathlon.com>

Sept 9 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Sept 10 Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm

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

Sept 14 2013 SUMMER TAXES DUE
2013 Summer Tax Senior or AG Deferments are due

Sept 16 2013 Summer Tax Payments accepted without Interest Charges
Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Sept 17 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm

Sept 23 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Cannon Township



The tradition continues with the 5th annual

Grattan Twilight Cancer WALK



Many people in our small community and surrounding areas have been affected by cancer of all types. We wish to raise funds and distribute 100% of the profits to GILDA'S CLUB OF LOWELL. Gilda's Club is a FREE cancer and grief support community for children, adults, families and friends.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2013

Grattan Raceway Park

7201 LESSITER, GRATTAN TWP

Registration begins at 5:30 pm • Walk begins at 7:00 pm

A donation of \$10.00 includes the walk and a t-shirt. The event consists of a 2 mile walk around the track, silent auction and music. Hot dogs and ice cream treats will be available for a donation. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the music from 6:00-9:00 pm. This is a fun event for the whole family.

Please visit our website at www.GrattanTLCWalk.com
for more information about our cause and registration forms.



The Cannonsburg Historical Museum

is looking for special guest speakers and/or demonstrators to discuss and show your knowledge or specialty at the museum during their open hours in the summer. Examples: Antiques Evaluator, Floral Designer, Tax Professional, Fishing Expert, Knitting, Crocheting, Photographers, Painters, Sculptors, Wood Working, Quilters, Stained Glass Artists, etc.

If interested, please call either Margaret at 874-6865 or Arlene at 874-6991
The Cannon Historical Museum is open every Sunday from 2 pm to 4pm through the end of September.

Processing Tax Bills

As of this date we are in the process of preparing the summer tax bills for approximately 6,000 parcels scheduled to be mailed on July 1st with a due date of September 14th. If you look at your tax bill you will see that none of these "**Summer Taxes**" are designated for our township, but will be disbursed to schools, State Education Fund, Grand Rapids Community College, Kent Intermediate

School District and the County of Kent

operating funds. (Townships receive their revenue from their winter tax statements which are mailed on Dec 1st and due February 14th).

Dick Davies, Treasurer





Summer Watershed News

Julie Lovelace,
Zoning & Watershed Assistant

Watershed Education Incorporated Into ERMS Curriculum

This May I had the privilege of working with 6th and 7th graders at East Rockford Middle School. A grant was awarded to ERMS by Groundswell (<http://www.gvsu.edu/coe/groundswell-great-lakes-stewardship-initiative-188.htm>) to incorporate watershed education into their curriculum. Nichol DeMol from Trout Unlimited and I presented lessons on what a watershed is, how we can protect the health of our watershed, and a few studies to determine if we are doing a good job protecting our lakes and streams.

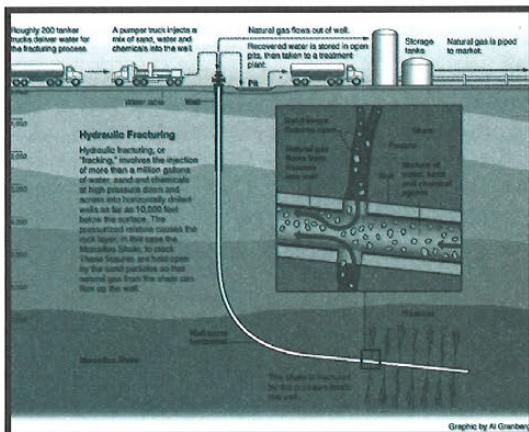
One study is looking at the macroinvertebrate (bug) population in a stream. The range of bugs and their numbers can tell us a lot about effects human impact is having on the stream. Another study involves taking samples of phosphorus and chlorophyll and measuring dissolved oxygen and temperature in a lake to determine if human impacts are speeding up the aging process of the lake. We took students down to Bostwick Lake and also got them into Bear Creek and Rum Creek to show them how these studies are done.

If you are interested in learning more, or becoming involved in ongoing studies of Bear Creek and the Rogue River, please contact me at jlovelace@cannontwp.org or Nichol DeMol at NDeMol@tu.org. We can put you on our E-mail lists. Studies are done spring and fall every year and we would love for you and your children to join us. Training and equipment are supplied.

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Upcoming Three-part Presentation on “Fracking”

Many of you may be familiar with the term **“fracking”**, which refers to hydraulic fracturing of shale rock below the earth’s surface to extract oil and gas. There are many controversial issues surrounding this method. A group called **FLOW** (For the Love of Water) has agreed to come to the Township to deliver a three-part educational series on the topic. If you would like more information on this topic please contact Brian Keeley at briankeeley@gmail.com. He is a member of Kent County Water Conservation and a local resident.



Need more information on becoming involved in ongoing studies? Volunteers are needed for stream sampling in September. This is a great family event! Please call Julie Lovelace at Cannon Township (616) 884-2206 or E-mail her at jlovelace@cannontwp.org.

Julie Lovelace,
Zoning & Watershed Assistant



Cannon Township



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://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/local/kent_county/new-wireless-emergency-alerts-on-smartphones

Safety tips for grilling and campfires from the U.S. Fire Administration:

Every year Americans look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics, and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to outdoor cooking and recreational fires. Annually, there are almost 3,800 Americans injured by gas or charcoal grill fires. (Source: CPSC)

Summertime should be a time of fun and making happy memories. Knowing a few fire

Congratulations!

...to Todd Pell and Eric Rivette!

Todd and Eric have both successfully completed firefighter training, and are now certified in Firefighter I & II. So from all of us on the department....*Congratulations!*

safety tips and following safety instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

Residential Grill Fire Facts

- An estimated 5,700 grill fires occur on residential properties each year in the United States.
- Almost half (49 percent) of grill fires on residential properties occur from 5 to 8 p.m.
- Over half (57 percent) of grill fires on residential properties occur in the 4 months of May, June, July, and August.
- Thirty-two percent of grill fires on residential properties start on patios, terraces, screened-in porches, or courtyards.
- Place your grill a safe distance from play areas and keep children away from the grill area by declaring a three-foot "safe zone."

Grill Safety

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces such as tents, they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and

potential asphyxiation.

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railing, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets from the grill area: declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when cooking.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

Charcoal Grills

- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

Propane Grills

- Check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it

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for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will reveal escaping propane quickly by releasing bubbles.

- If you determined your grill has a gas leak by smell or the soapy bubble test and there is no flame:
- Turn off the propane tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- All propane cylinders manufactured after April 2002 must have overfill protection devices (OPD). OPDs shut off the flow of propane before capacity is reached, limiting the potential for release of propane gas if the cylinder heats up. OPDs are easily identified by their triangular-shaped hand wheel.
- Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

Fire Pits

In recent years, there has

been a new concern for the Fire Service - fire pits. Fire pits are known to be a great source of warmth and ambience. But, with the popularity of fire pits increasing, fire safety has become even more important. There are many things you should consider while setting up and using a fire pit.

- Keep away from flammable material and fluids such as gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, and charcoal lighter fluid or vehicles while in use.
- Do not use flammable fluids such as gasoline, alcohol, diesel fuel, kerosene, and charcoal lighter fluid to light or relight fires.
- Exercise the same precautions you would with an open fire. Do not allow children to use the fire pit. Keep children and pets away.
- Do not wear flammable or loose fitting clothing such as nylon.
- Do not burn trash, leaves, paper, cardboard, or plywood. Avoid using soft wood such as pine or cedar that likely pop and throw sparks. Use of seasoned hardwood is suggested.
- Before starting the fire, make sure that the lid will still close to extinguish the fire in case of emergency. Do not overload.
- Before you light the fire, check the wind direction.
- Keep a fire extinguisher or garden hose nearby.

First Aid for Burns

For minor burns, take the

following action:

- Cool the burn. Hold the burned area under cool (not cold) running water for 10 or 15 minutes or until the pain subsides. If this is impractical, immerse the burn in cool water or cool it with cold compresses. Cooling the burn reduces swelling by conducting heat away from the skin. Don't put ice on the burn.
- Cover the burn with a sterile gauze bandage. Don't use fluffy cotton, or other material that may get lint in the wound. Wrap the gauze loosely to avoid putting pressure on burned skin. Bandaging keeps air off the burn, reduces pain and protects blistered skin.
- Take an over-the-counter pain reliever. These include aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen or acetaminophen. Use caution when giving aspirin to children or teenagers. Though aspirin is approved for use in children older than 2, children and teenagers recovering from chickenpox or flu-like symptoms should never take aspirin.
- Talk to a doctor if you have concerns. (Source: Mayo Clinic)

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 the following:

Burn Ordinance

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

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Cannon Township



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By the end of last year, the Cannon Township Fire Department responded to 500 calls. Our average emergency response time for 2012 was 5 minutes 23 Seconds (this statistic includes calls outside of Cannon Township and non-emergency calls)

Here is a breakdown of our calls:

Fires - 43 (Grass fires, Structure fires, Chimney fires, etc.)

Rescue & Emergency Medical Service calls - 335

(Accidents, Ice rescues, EMS calls, etc.)

Good Intent Call - 35

(Disregarded after dispatched, Authorized burning, etc.)

Service Calls - 36

(Unauthorized burning, smoke investigation, lock outs, etc
documents/1236703320_725616.pdf All other fires within the township MUST be issued a burn permit by calling 874-9725.

Hazardous Conditions

(no fire) - 25 (Carbon Monoxide calls, Gas leak, Power line down, etc.)

False Alarm - 26 (Malfunctioning alarm system, CO detector, etc.) 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 for \$10.00 per sign. Call 874-9725 or stop in our fire station on Belding Rd., next to the township hall, during normal business hours.

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/1288380598_665496.pdf

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.

Thank you

Severe Weather Tips worth repeating:

During the next few months, the risk for severe weather will be at its annual highest. Severe weather means the atmospheric conditions are right for thunderstorms that can produce high winds, intense rainfall, large hail, lightning and even tornadoes. Take a minute and make sure you are familiar with the signs and warnings of springtime inclement weather. If nothing else, take this opportunity to discuss this section with the other members of the family so that they know where to go and what to do when the weather turns nasty.

The first step is knowing when severe weather is probable. Consult your local news stations, or NOAA to find easy downloadable applications (apps) for your handheld devices, laptops and computers.

Know the differences between a watch and a warning when the National Weather Service issues an alert.

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The watches and warnings are defined as:

Severe Thunderstorm Watch:

Conditions are conducive to the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: A severe thunderstorm has actually been observed by spotters or indicated on radar and is occurring or imminent in the warning area.

Tornado Watch: Conditions are conducive to the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has actually been sighted by spotters or indicated on radar and is occurring or imminent in the warning area.

Planning will help make sure your family has a severe weather action strategy when bad weather strikes. This is especially important during the summer months when many children are home alone when the possibility of severe weather is the highest.

Make sure all members are familiar with the safest spot in your home, apartment or condominium. In most cases, the safest spot will be in the lowest floor of the home, in the smallest room without windows. It is also recommended that you have an emergency kit that contains a flashlight, a battery powered radio and extra batteries.

Smart Summer Planning

As you start planning for those cookouts and fireworks, here are some tips to stay safe:

For fireworks, the Consumer Product Safety Commission offers these recommendations:

- Do not allow young children to play with fireworks under any circumstances. Sparklers, considered by many the ideal "safe" firework for the young, burn at very high temperatures and can easily ignite clothing. Children cannot understand the danger involved and cannot act appropriately in case of emergency.
- Older children should only be permitted to use fireworks under close adult supervision. Do not allow any running or horseplay.
- Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from houses, dry leaves or grass and flammable materials.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on fireworks that don't go off.
- Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Douse and soak them with water and throw them away.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container.
- Keep unused fireworks away from firing areas.
- Store fireworks in a dry, cool place. Check instructions for special storage directions.
- Observe local laws.
- Never have any portion of your body

directly over a firework while lighting.

- Don't experiment with homemade fireworks.

For cookouts:

- Keep grills away from anything that can burn, such as your house, car or dry vegetation.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children.
- Make sure everyone knows how to Stop, Drop and Roll.
- Do not leave your grill unattended while it's cooking and keep children and pets away.
- For charcoal grills, only use starter fluid designed for grills. Never use gasoline and never add fluid to an already lit fire.
- Before using a gas grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line. Make sure the venturi tubes (where the air and gas mix) are not blocked.

By the way... There are now two ways to follow us:

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

Website: <http://cannonfire.org/>

Until next time, have a safe and happy summer!

Jim Morris,
Fire Chief

Clip and Save E-mail Addresses Township Board & Staff

Supervisor, Steve Grimm:	sgrimm@cannontwp.org
Clerk, Bonnie Blackledge:	bonnies@cannontwp.org
Treasurer, Dick Davies:	ddavies@cannontwp.org
Trustee/Deputy Supervisor Deb Diepenhorst:	ddiepenhorst@cannontwp.org
Trustee Diane Jones:	djones@cannontwp.org
Trustee Rob McBrien:	rmcbrien@cannontwp.org
Trustee Tim Nelson:	timn@cannontwp.org
Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma:	nancyp@cannontwp.org
Deputy Treasurer, Milissa Soderstrom:	milissas@cannontwp.org
Zoning & Watershed Assistant, Julie Lovelace:	jlovelace@cannontwp.org
Administrative Assistant Sue Clarin:	suec@cannontwp.org
Fire Chief, Jim Morris:	chief@cannontwp.org

Other Important Numbers

State Representative, Pete MacGregor:	PeterMacGregor@house.mi.gov
Phone:	1-855-DIST073 (347-8073)
State Senator, Mark Jansen:	senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov
Phone:	1-866-305-2128
Cannon Township Offices:	616.874.6966
Cannon Township Fax:	616.874.8940
Cannon Township Web Site:	www.cannontwp.org
Cannon Township Hours	(Hours 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon – Fri)
Cannon Township Fire Department	616.874.9725
Kent County Web Site:	www.accesskent.com
State of Michigan Web Site:	www.michigan.gov
Emergency:	911

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

Cannon Township Communicator

Summer 2013

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