

# the Cannon Communicator

Published by the Cannon Township Board, Kent County, Michigan

## From the Desk of the Supervisor

Steve Grimm,

*Cannon Township Supervisor*

**A**s we continue our analysis of the fiscal stability of the Township, we have turned our attention and focus to sewer. The sewer fund is not healthy. This is a result of a number of factors, but regardless of how the Township got here, we cannot sweep the problem under the rug, or more appropriately, flush it down the toilet any longer. The Township has conducted a detailed and painstakingly exhaustive review of needed repairs, costs, capital

improvements and revenue. Since increasing debt to solve the problem is not an option, a combination of cost cutting and more fiscally sound decisions regarding maintenance, repairs and improvements is necessary and underway. However, the fact is that without an increase in revenue, none of that will matter much.

**T**here are two ways to increase revenue: A substantial increase in connections through new development, or an increase in rates. Since the economy continues to prevent the former, that leaves the latter as the only viable option. Thus, as mentioned in the last Communicator, that means an increase in rates. Unfortunately, that increase will be more than originally thought to ensure the safe operation of the system. Starting July 1, 2011, the quarterly rate for those residents on sewer will be \$120.

**T**he detailed analysis performed by the sewer committee revealed objectively that by implementing the increase now, with future rates tied directly to the rate of inflation, much needed capital improvements, including improvements to the Rogue River and Grass Lake lift stations can be done as scheduled, rather than risking putting them off because

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# Cannon Township

**Summer 2011**

## A Historic Rural Community

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we do not have the money to pay for the needed improvements. Our efforts to avoid implementation depended on an improving economy and the commensurate increase in the demand for new housing, which would have meant more connections, and thus more revenue. As no doubt everyone is aware, our state and national economies continue to struggle, with no signs of improvement. This led to a Hobson-like choice: Raise rates or put off repairs until we have the money, thus risking catastrophic failure. If your Township Board decided to forego the rate increase and we suffered system failure, which is more likely everyday, we would have utterly failed everyone in the Township; not just those on sewer. Though not popular, the choice was necessary, and everyone who serves on the Board deserves credit for putting right before popular.

**A**s you read this article, Treasurer Jim LaPeer, Deputy Supervisor Chris James and I will have met with the associations to fully inform their board members of the decision-making process and provide the empirical data, as well as the sewer work plan for the next year. The data and analysis follow this article. The first graph shows a comparison of the sewer rates of neighboring townships. With the exception of Alpine, which has enormous commercial development, Cannon sewer rates after this increase will remain the lowest. Wright

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#### **June 21, 2011 PHONE SURVEY:**

Algoma Township .....	flat rate monthly	\$42.00/quarterly .....	\$126.00
Alpine Township .....	per REU quarterly .....	.....	\$70.00
<b>Cannon Township .....</b>	<b>per REU quarterly .....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>
Courtland Township .....	per REU quarterly .....	.....	\$130.00
Crattan Township .....	flat rate .....	.....	\$155.00
Plainfield Township.....	sewer/water sewer REU's per chart	.....	
Grand Rapids Township.....	billing and charges through the city of Grand Rapids	.....	
Cascade Township .....	billing and charges through the city of Grand Rapids	.....	
Wright Township .....	billing and charges through the city of Grand Rapids only REU customer per REU quarterly .....	.....	\$193.35

**REU – Residential Equivalency Unit**

**Christine M. James, Deputy Supervisor/Zoning Administrator**



# Cannon Township

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Township which chose to stay with the City of Grand Rapids when Cannon formed the North Kent Sewer Authority, pays a quarterly rate of \$195.35. That is what we would be paying if we had not said no to the City's onerous and one-sided demands many years ago. The second table shows the work that has been completed, and the work that is scheduled to be completed. This work is necessary to maintain the integrity of the system. As you can see, it takes a great deal of money to maintain the system, and this increase, while painful, is necessary. This information will be posted on the Township website, and everyone is encouraged to review the information, and call, write or email your concerns and questions. The sewer bills went out July 1, 2011. If you have any concerns or want to discuss this issue with me, please call Sue Clarin at the Township (874-6966) and set up an appointment.

**TABLE 9B**

CANNON TOWNSHIP CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - SANITARY SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - ALTERNATE  
\$1.2M Bond + \$300K Rate Increase in 2 yr (\$17 then \$34/quarter)

Year	Township Share	Total Twp. Cost	Total Est. Cost	Cannon	Courtland	Cannon	Courtland
2009	Young Lift Station Replacement		\$155,000	100%	0%	\$155,000	\$0
	Eldred Lift Station Replacement		\$174,000	100%	0%	\$174,000	\$0
2009	Wildermere No.1		\$212,000	100%	0%	\$212,000	\$0
	Bostwick Lake Lift Station Replacement		\$212,000	100%	0%	\$212,000	\$0
	Wildermere No.2		\$212,000	100%	0%	\$212,000	\$0
	Lift Station Replacement		\$212,000	100%	0%	\$212,000	\$0
	Kitson No.1 Lift Station Replacement		\$212,000	100%	0%	\$212,000	\$0
	Kitson No.2 Lift Station Replacement		\$212,000	100%	0%	\$212,000	\$0
	Ramsdell Lift Station Replacement		\$212,000	100%	0%	\$212,000	\$0
2010	No Projects						
2011	No Projects						
2012	Rogue River Lift Station Improvements*	\$751,000	53%	8%	\$396,403	\$56,874	
2013	No Projects						
2014	Grass Lake Lift Station Improvements	\$563,000	87%	13%	\$491,386	\$71,614	
2015	No Projects						
2016	Belding Road Trunk Sewer Improvements	\$450,000	87%	13%	\$392,760	\$57,240	
2020	Silver Lake Lift Station Improvements	\$212,000	100%	0%	\$212,000	\$0	
2021	Davies Lift Station Improvements	\$212,000	100%	0%	\$212,000	\$0	
2022	Pinehurst Lift Station Improvements	\$212,000	100%	0%	\$212,000	\$0	
2023	Sunfish Lift Station Improvements	\$212,000	100%	0%	\$212,000	\$0	
	<b>PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$4,213,000</b>				<b>\$3,729,549</b>	<b>185,728</b>
	Annual Misc. System Repairs & Replacement	\$50,000	100%	0%	\$50,000		\$0

\*39.6% of the Rogue River Lift Station Improvements Total Cost are allocated to Plainfield Township. Emergency repair may necessitate immediate adjustments in priority. All costs in 2008 dollars.

# Cannon Township



## Clerk's Corner...

By Bonnie Blackledge



### Election Update

The May school election had a typical low turnout, especially since the local school boards had no contests, and the only true race was for the Grand Rapids Community College Board. Many voters commented on what a waste of money it was to run this election. There is currently legislation that will require schools to hold their elections on even year Novembers which would coincide with the regular state elections for governor and president. This would cost the schools nothing (the present system requires that they pay for the cost of running the election), and the voter turnout would be high. Some school officials are concerned that people would neglect to vote the entire ballot, ignoring the school offices. However, when the average turnout for school elections is only 6.5% compared to 60 - 80% for November elections, then it seems like the percentage of people voting for the school positions would increase. Schools would still have the option of holding a special election at other approved dates throughout the year. At this time, the bill is in the House, so you may wish to let your local representative, Pete MacGregor, know how you feel about it.

Because of the results of the 2010 census, political boundaries are shifting throughout the State and County. This might result in some changes in your voting districts and may require that we send out new

voter ID cards. At this time, we are not aware of any changes, but rumor is that we may be required to issue new cards anyway. If so, this will probably happen late fall or early winter.

The political parties are already talking about whether to hold a presidential primary in 2012. It looks as though the Democrats will have a caucus, but the Republicans are considering a primary election. If one is held, it will most likely be in late January or early February.

### Recreation Update

The restrooms for trail users were completed as part of the fire station expansion. These will be open during daylight hours. We are planning to connect these restrooms to the trail with a sidewalk so that people won't have to walk through wet, muddy areas and they will also be handicap accessible. There is also a drinking fountain available and a spigot where you could pump some water if necessary. I hope to leave a dish there for people to be able to give their dogs a drink.

The Recreation Committee is looking into trail extension from where it now ends in Townsend Park into the village of Cannonsburg. This is more involved than we originally thought as we will be crossing Bear Creek and moving across some difficult terrain. We hope to at least get this started by fall.

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**A**nother project we're planning is a kid-friendly beginner mountain bike trail on the Township property. This project is being led by volunteers from the West Michigan Mountain Biking Association. The trail has already been marked, and construction should begin before the end of the year.

## Cemetery News

**I**f you haven't already seen it, please stop by Old Bostwick Lake Cemetery on Ramsdell Avenue to check out the Reflection Area created by local Eagle Scout Nate Finneran. Nate and his troop did an excellent job creating a resting point for the people who enjoy walking around Bostwick Lake or the visitors that come to the cemetery.

**T**he next cemetery project will be the completion of the parking area at Cannonsburg Cemetery. This looks like it will also be an Eagle Scout project. We hope to have that completed before winter.



## Watershed

**S**ome people may wonder why Cannon Township has a part time position for a Watershed Assistant. Since we were first awarded a grant to study and implement improvements in the Bear Creek Watershed in 1992, we have maintained our commitment to keep our watersheds healthy. It's amazing how much time that can take! When Kim Sapkowski resigned in February, I was lucky to find a replacement, Julie Lovelace, who is able to carry on with the day today responsibilities. (See article in Watershed Pages.)

**T**wo weeks ago I found out that Cannon Township was awarded a MiCorps grant to set up a volunteer stream monitoring program on Bear Creek. This \$13,557 grant will allow Julie to work an extra four hours a week on the grant requirements. The grant will provide equipment and training for me, Julie, and our volunteers. The volunteers will learn to search for and identify the macro invertebrates that live in Bear Creek. These include, but are not limited to stonefly larvae, damselfly larvae, caddisfly larvae, and various water beetles. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please contact me or Julie as we can always use more volunteers.

I wish you all a wonderful summer. Please enjoy the trails, parks, and water resources of your Township!

### 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.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Cannon-Township-Clerks-Office/135763236465301>

## GRATTAN TWILIGHT CANCER WALK



Cannon Township

The tradition continues with the 3rd 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 of children, adults, families and friends.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2011

GRATTAN RACEWAY PARK

7201 LESSITER, GRATTAN TWP

**Registration begins at 5:00 pm**  
**Walk begins at 7:00 pm**

#### Events include:

- silent auction
- hair cutting for Locks of Love
- children's face painting, games

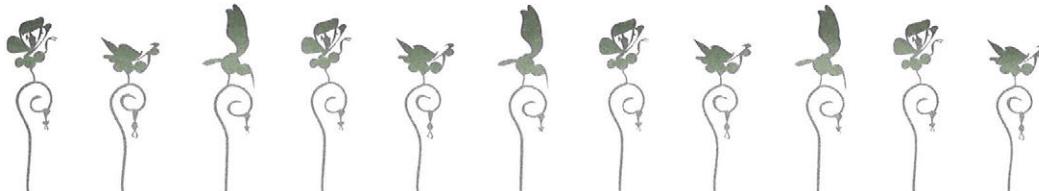
and music by the Stroke Of MidnitE Band

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](http://www.GrattanTLCWalk.com)  
for more information about our cause and for registration forms.



## July 2011

**July 1.....2011 Summer Tax Bills Mailed to Residents  
Quarterly Sewer Bills Mailed to Residents**

**July 1.....Floating Holiday – OFFICE CLOSED**

**July 3.....Bostwick Lake Association Fireworks Display**

**July 4.....Silver Lake Association Fireworks Display**

**July 4.....INDEPENDENCE DAY - OFFICE CLOSED**

**July 11.....Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**July 12.....Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm**

**July 14.....Bear Creek Watershed Council Meeting – 6:00 pm**

**July 18.....Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm**

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

**July 20.....Board of Review – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**July 25.....Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**July 31.....QUARTERLY SEWER BILLS DUE**

Remember  
to check for  
any cancellations  
or changes  
on the Township  
web site.

[www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org)

## August 2011

**August 8.....Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**August 9.....Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm**

**August 16.....Zoning Board of Appeals – 7:00 pm**

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

## September 2011

**Sept 5.....LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED**

**Sept 12.....Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**Sept 13.....Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm**

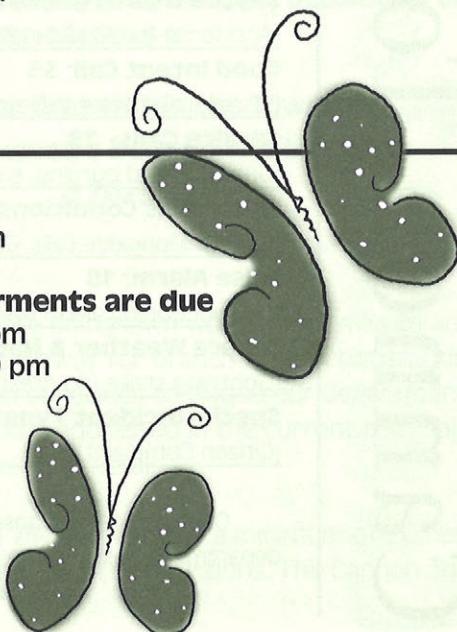
**Sept 14.....2011 SUMMER TAXES DUE**

**2011 Summer Tax Senior or AG Deferments are due**

**Sept 19.....Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm**

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

**Sept 26.....Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm**



# Cannon Township



## Congratulations!

...to Matthew Alles for successfully passing his firefighter training. All Cannon Township Fire personnel are required to complete Michigan certification requirements for Firefighting I and Firefighting II. This is done over many months of classroom instruction that includes both written and practical testing, complete with final exam. So from all of us on the department....Congratulations!



## 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW...

2010 saw a slight increase in the number of calls we served. By the end of last year, the Cannon Township Fire Department responded to 453 calls compared to 443 calls from 2009. Our average emergency response time for 2010 was 5 minutes 24 seconds (this statistic includes calls outside of Cannon Township). For the calls inside of our Township, the response time improved to 5 minutes 16 seconds.

### **Fires: 39**

(Grass fires, Structure fires, Chimney fires, etc.)

### **Rescue & Emergency Medical Service calls: 290**

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

### **Good Intent Call: 36**

(Disregarded after dispatched, Authorized burning, etc.)

### **Service Calls: 28**

(Unauthorized burning, smoke investigation, lock outs, etc.)

### **Hazardous Conditions (no fire): 40**

(Carbon Monoxide calls, Gas leak, Power line down, etc.)

### **False Alarm: 16**

(Malfunctioning alarm system, CO detector, etc.)

### **Severe Weather & Natural Disaster: 2**

(Lightning strike (no fires))

### **Special Incident Type: 2**

(Citizen Complaint)

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.

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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 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/apps/document/center.egov?path=browse&id=7&fDD=6-0>**

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

## Watch Out

**A**s 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  
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# Cannon Township



website has this ordinance in full detail under Chapter 19 Section **19.05** at [http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/docs/1256060919\\_363830.pdf](http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/docs/1256060919_363830.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

**D**uring 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.

**K**now the differences between a watch and a warning when the National Weather Service issues an alert. The four most available weather warning systems

are your television, radio, a NOAA weather radio and your computer.

## 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

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children are home alone when the possibility of severe weather is the highest.

**M**ake 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.

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

# Watershed Pages



## Summer Watershed News

By Julie Lovelace

**M**y name is Julie Lovelace and I am very happy to be your new Watershed Administrator for Cannon Township. I have lived in Cannon Twp for five years now. I have two children ages 8 and 11 who attend Crestwood Elementary.

### Waterfest

**M**y very first duty was to coordinate Waterfest this year at Townsend Park. Cannon Twp has done Waterfest for 18 years now so they have it down to a science. It was also my first time being at Waterfest and I was very impressed. I would like to thank all of our sponsors. I have posted a list of sponsors on our website under Breaking News. You can take a look at pictures on our website, too, under Bear Creek Watershed. I look forward to adding more activity tables next year and I welcome ideas! If you have a business that supports any outdoor activity/recreation I would love to speak with you about a possible demonstration at next year's Waterfest.

### Trails

**A**nother duty of mine is coordinating volunteers to clean/maintain the Cannon Trail. Thank you to all of the volunteers we have thus far. You picked up where you left off last year for me while I was beginning my new role. We have also added two new parts to the trail. One starts at Bella Vista on Belding Rd. and runs to the corner of Belding and Myers Lake. The other starts at Cannon Farms and runs along Myers Lake to the Twp offices. I am looking for volunteers to help keep these parts of the trail clean. If you commonly walk your dog, run, or bike along these parts of the trail please contact me and let me know you would like to volunteer. Also, please let us know if there are any issues with the trail that need to be addressed. You can reach me at [jlovelace@cannontwp.org](mailto:jlovelace@cannontwp.org) or 884-2206. This a perfect volunteer opportunity for a church group, Scouts, etc!

**A**lso, please be courteous and pick up your pet's waste. There are "doggie bag stations" located at the head of the trail at the Cannon

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Township office building, at Townsend Park and also at the Cannonsburg Cemetery on Sunfish Lake Ave.

## Wetlands

**O**ne issue I have addressed recently is dumping in wetland areas. Even if what you are dumping in a wetland is natural/biodegradable such as zebra mussels or lawn waste it will eventually fill the wetland area. Wetlands must remain lowlands in order to function. They must be able to retain water. You actually want your wetland to appear "boggy." Water runoff will gravitate to these areas where it will be absorbed by the soil and filtered. This will then recharge our water table with clean water. While we are on the subject of water filtration, natural plant life around lakes and creeks helps stabilize soil and cleans water as it drains into the ground. Mowing right up to the water's edge will add nutrients to the water that

will stimulate undesirable algae production. A natural shoreline minimizes erosion, offers wildlife habitat, and discourages geese! If you are at all interested in returning your shoreline to its natural state please contact me. I would be happy to arrange a class on natural shoreline landscaping here at the Township building.



## Volunteers Wanted!

If you've always wanted to wade in the stream and look for "bugs," now is your opportunity. Be a part of our volunteer stream monitoring effort.

Contact me at **874-6966**  
for more information.



# Cannon Township



## Sewer Maintenance

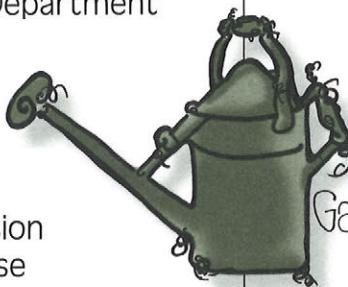
By Christine James, Zoning Administrator

**I**t is always interesting to find out some of the things that are found in the NKSA sewer lines. All forms of clothing, a Christmas tree, sand, and most often, grease.

**C**ommercial properties are required to have grease traps and these traps must be cleaned out quarterly by an independent contractor; the cleaning report is then forwarded to the Kent County Department of Public Works to prove compliance with the Sewer Ordinance.

**T**his same provision regarding grease does NOT apply to residential homes. It is very expensive to have the sewer lines televised and then cleaned because of grease build up. We ask that every property owner

on sewer refrain from putting anything down sinks or toilets except for what is intended to go into the sewer. If you have a garbage disposer, and you run hot water to melt hardened grease, the grease hardens again when it hits the sewer! The visual picture is similar to hardened arteries. Same effect – clogs occur.



Gardening requires  
LOTS OF WATER  
most of it in the form  
of perspiration.

~Lou Erickson

# Animal Control...Dogs!

I love dogs. Some of my best friends are dogs. However, dog owners need to follow the rules and remember that not all people *love* dogs, especially when they step in their "do." Please pick up after your dog, especially when using the Township Trail System. We provide bags for this purpose.

Also, it is imperative that you keep your dog on a leash or some type of a tether while walking the trail.

This is for the safety of your dog and the others using the trail. The Township has received a number of calls regarding dogs being off leash and visiting neighboring properties. The trail runs through private property and most residents do not want strange dogs wandering on their yards. Please be courteous.



## From the Historical Society

The museum is open every Sunday from 2 pm through 4 pm through September. The annual picnic will be held on Tuesday, July 19th at the museum on Cannonsburg Road. Doors will open at 5:30 pm and dinner will be at 6:00. Please bring a dish to pass and your table service. Beverages will be provided. A short meeting will follow. All are welcome to attend.

Also, if you have a rose bush you would be willing to donate, we would like another one for the front of the building.

**Please contact Margaret Janose  
874-6865**

# Cannon Township



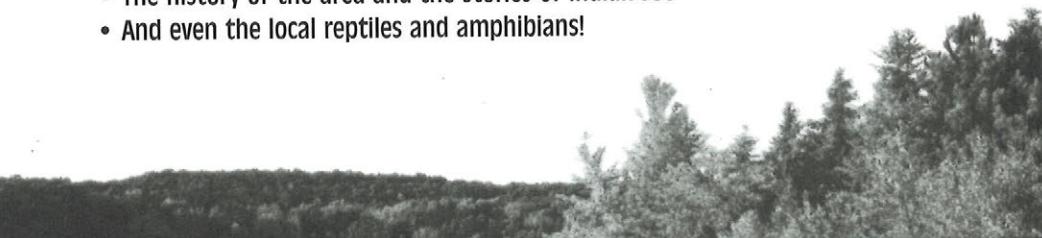
## **DISCOVER! Pickerel Lake**

**Mark your calendars for  
Saturday, September 10**

for a free and fun discovery program at Pickerel Lake/Fred Meijer Nature Preserve! Just pull on your comfortable shoes or hiking boots, gather the family and make your way down Ramsdell Drive to one of Kent County Park's hidden gems, Pickerel Lake.

This experiential family event for kids of ALL ages runs from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. It includes a scavenger hunt where kids get a trail guide to be stamped and entered into a drawing for a free "Discover! Pickerel Lake" t-shirt—along with a "discovery" trail walk to learn about a truly interesting ecosystem and things like:

- The birds and beavers that make their home at Pickerel Lake
- The variety of native and non-native trees around the lake
- The tamarack swamp and the turtle dock
- The wildflowers and native plants growing in the area
- The history of the area and the stories of Indian Joe
- And even the local reptiles and amphibians!



**Discover! Pickerel Lake event is a partnership between the Kent County MSU Extension office and its Master Naturalist program and the Kent County Parks Department. Go to [www.stuckongardening.com](http://www.stuckongardening.com) to get more information on this event and the MSU Extension Master Naturalist program.**

**See you on September 10th!**

## **Solicitation Ordinance-Permits Required**

**T**he next time your doorbell rings, and you open it to find someone standing there with a clipboard or a briefcase full of samples, please remember to ask them for their solicitation permit.

**O**n December 14, 2009 the Cannon Township Board approved a Solicitation Ordinance requiring for profit companies (looking to solicit goods and/or services in our area) to obtain a permit in order to do so. Companies that do not comply with this ordinance will be violation and will be fined.

The Township Board feels strongly about the safety of our citizens, and this ordinance will allow us to do background checks on individuals desiring to conduct business here. For more detailed information please go to the Township's website [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org), and type in Solicitation Ordinance.

If you happen to encounter a solicitor at your door without a permit, please obtain the name of the company and a phone number if possible, and call the Township (874-6966). Thank you for your help in making our community a safe and comfortable place to live.

**By Deb Diepenhorst, Trustee**

# Cannon Township



## DISCOVER! Pickerel Lake

Mark your calendars for  
**Saturday, September 10**

for a free and fun discovery program at Pickerel Lake/Fred Meijer Nature Preserve! Just pull on your comfortable shoes or hiking boots, gather the family and make your way down Ramsdell Drive to one of Kent County Park's hidden gems, Pickerel Lake.

This experiential family event for kids of ALL ages runs from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. It includes a scavenger hunt where kids get a trail guide to be stamped and entered into a drawing for a free "Discover! Pickerel Lake" t-shirt—along with a "discovery" trail walk to learn about a truly interesting ecosystem and things like:

- The birds and beavers that make their home at Pickerel Lake
- The variety of native and non-native trees around the lake
- The tamarack swamp and the turtle dock
- The wildflowers and native plants growing in the area
- The history of the area and the stories of Indian Joe
- And even the local reptiles and amphibians!

Discover! Pickerel Lake event is a partnership between the Kent County MSU Extension office and its Master Naturalist program and the Kent County Parks Department. Go to [www.stuckongardening.com](http://www.stuckongardening.com) to get more information on this event and the MSU Extension Master Naturalist program.

**See you on September 10th!**

## **Solicitation Ordinance-Permits Required**

**T**he next time your doorbell rings, and you open it to find someone standing there with a clipboard or a briefcase full of samples, please remember to ask them for their solicitation permit.

**O**n December 14, 2009 the Cannon Township Board approved a Solicitation Ordinance requiring for profit companies (looking to solicit goods and/or services in our area) to obtain a permit in order to do so. Companies that do not comply with this ordinance will be violation and will be fined.

The Township Board feels strongly about the safety of our citizens, and this ordinance will allow us to do background checks on individuals desiring to conduct business here. For more detailed information please go to the Township's website [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org), and type in Solicitation Ordinance.

If you happen to encounter a solicitor at your door without a permit, please obtain the name of the company and a phone number if possible, and call the Township (874-6966). Thank you for your help in making our community a safe and comfortable place to live.

**By Deb Diepenhorst, Trustee**

## Upcoming Life Time Event...



# Cannon Township



September 11th

**LIFE TIME EVENT** will take place in our Township. It is called "Healing Field" and it will take place from September 9 through September 12 at the Cannonsburg Ski Lodge. This West Michigan Healing Field is a 5 day display of 3200 United States of America flags for the purpose of remembering the events of 9-11-01 and honoring the lives lost that day.

When the American flags are flying at nighttime there needs to be lighting. The ski area already has this in place. It is anticipated that there will be use of lighting in the area of the flag display from 9pm to 6am Friday through Monday. There will be two search lights set up to represent the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center.

The parent organization of West Michigan Healing is the Rockford Area Community Endowment (RACE) which put up the \$50,000 required to stage the event. The highlight of the event will be at noon September 11th. Each flag will have the name of a person of the 3200 who perished that day (21 from Michigan). We are encouraging people to purchase these flags for **\$75** each. A portion of the proceeds of selling the flags and the sponsorships will go to the Safety Fund which includes Cannon Township. Anyone who is interested in purchasing a flag can do so by picking up a form at our Township Office.

Dick Davies, Township Trustee and member of RACE.

## Road Improvement Program in 2011

**B**eginning last February, we began to formulate our plans for road improvements for 2011 along with our budget constraints regarding these expenditures. The program that was recommended and approved by the Township Board included the following:

- micro surface Cuesta Way, Camino Del Rey, (Tesoro, Belinda and Decosta would be planned for 2012 ) Joyce, Northpoint, north end of Silver Lake Dr.
- chipseal McCabe ( 4 to 5 mile ) and Elm and Sturgis
- bituminous repaving of Davies Dr.

**T**he total cost of these projects is estimated at \$300,000 with the Township being charged our share of \$150,000 ( 50% ).

**W**e have been discussing with the County Road Commission other roads that need major repairing such as Kies, Honey Creek ( 4 to 5 mile ), Blakely M 44 to Kies and Ramsdell north of M 44. These are primary roads and most of the costs for resurfacing would be absorbed by the Road Commission.

**A**s a matter of information our Road Budget each year has been the second largest line budget only to law enforcement. The Road Commission also has told us that because of our yearly programs, our roads are some of the best compared to the other 20 townships in Kent County.

**M**any thanks to the Township Citizens Road Committee and the Township Board for their help on these projects.

*Dick Davies,  
Trustee and Road Committee Chairperson*

# Clip and Save E-mail Addresses

Supervisor, Steve Grimm: ..... sgrimm@cannontwp.org  
Clerk, Bonnie Blackledge: ..... bonnies@cannontwp.org  
Treasurer, Jim LaPeer: ..... jlapeer@cannontwp.org  
Trustee Deb Diepenhorst: ..... ddiepenhorst@cannontwp.org  
Trustee Dick Davies: ..... ddavies@cannontwp.org  
Trustee Diane Jones: ..... djones@cannontwp.org  
Trustee Rob McBrien: ..... rmcbrien@cannontwp.org  
Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma: ..... nancyp@cannontwp.org  
Deputy Treasurer, Milissa Soderstrom: ..... milissas@cannontwp.org  
Zoning Administrator, Christine James: ..... christinej@cannontwp.org  
Administrative Assistant Sue Clarin: ..... suec@cannontwp.org  
Fire Chief, Jim Morris: ..... Chief@cannontwp.org  
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 Web Site: ..... www.cannontwp.org  
Kent County Web Site: ..... www.accesskent.com  
State of Michigan Web Site: ..... www.michigan.gov

## Township Board

**Supervisor** ..... Steve Grimm  
**Clerk** ..... Bonnie Blackledge  
**Treasurer** ..... Jim LaPeer  
**Trustees** ..... Deb Diepenhorst  
Dick Davies  
Diane Jones  
Rob McBrien

**Township Offices** .874-6966  
**(Hours 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon – Fri)**  
**Fax** ..... 874-8940  
**Fire Department** .874-9725  
**Emergency** ..... 911

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**Communicator**  
**Cannon Township**  
Spring 2011  
Township Board Meetings • 2nd & 4th Monday, Monthly • 7:00 p.m., Township Hall  
A Historic Rural Community  
6878 Belding Road, NE • Rockford, MI 49341