



# Communicator

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Summer 2009

## From the Desk of the Supervisor

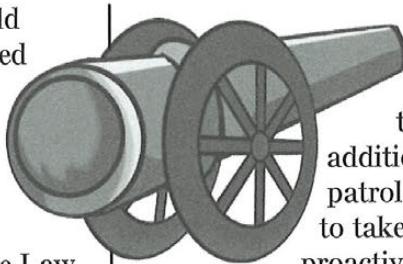
### Extra Law Enforcement at Night

Over the last few summers Cannon Township has had a rash of vandalism, larceny from motor vehicles, underage drinking parties, disorderly conduct, and home invasions in various neighborhoods late at night. It was brought to our attention this last March by our Law Enforcement Committee, and it is the Township Board's belief, that these have gone beyond just being isolated incidents. The Law Enforcement Committee developed

a proposal that would increase the Dedicated Sheriff Patrol Budget for the upcoming summer.

In April, a solution was submitted by the Law Enforcement Committee and the Kent County Sheriff's Department to the Township Board to curb this troubling summer trend. The Board voted unanimously to execute the plan and extend more coverage for late night periods and target the areas that have had past issues with these crimes.

It is the belief of the Sheriff's Department that the majority of the crime is being committed by a few misdirected youths in these areas. The goal of



the additional patrol is to take a proactive approach to

overnight law enforcement issues in Cannon Township in order to reduce and effectively respond to the type of incidents that have occurred in past summers. This will be accomplished by citizen street contacts, traffic stops, property checks, surveillance, and a more rapid response to citizen calls for service. The deputies assigned to this patrol would keep a log of their activities, and the logs would be reviewed by Sheriff's Department supervisors.

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# Cannon Township

The Cannon Communicator, Summer 2009

## Extra Law Enforcement At Night Continued...

### **Supervisor, continued from page 1**

Budgeting and approving additional sheriff patrol is only part of a proactive approach to the overnight matters in Cannon Township. Another key part in solving this problem is communication with the neighborhood associations, local businesses and Cannon Township families. If our actions are communicated effectively, and the troublemakers (locals or outsiders) are aware of our intentions to crack down on late night crime, this will reinforce our plan to solve this ongoing problem.

It is also our intention to communicate to our Township citizens that they too can take preventative measures. The Sheriff's Department continues to take reports by people who didn't even take the simplest preventative measures from becoming a victim. There are many common sense actions one should take to prevent these crimes. If you park your car outside the garage, don't make it any easier for a crime to take place; lock your car. Don't leave any valuables exposed in your car enticing a misguided individual. If you leave, even for a neighborly visit in the evening, close your garage door.

The Sheriff's Department encourages any Neighborhood Watch Program or neighborhood association who wishes to receive a refresher course or jump start a new program to either contact them

directly (Kent County Sheriff's non-emergency number 632-6100) or call the Township for assistance. The neighbors must organize and run the program to make it effective, but the Sheriff's Department and Township will be more than happy to provide guidance, information and a place to meet for anyone who requests help.

Please remember that the plan to reduce crime in our neighborhoods will not only take additional law enforcement patrol, but communication and prevention as well. If you

have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or any other Township Board members at **874-6966** or email [pmacgregor@cannontwp.org](mailto:pmacgregor@cannontwp.org).

**Best regards,  
Peter MacGregor,  
Cannon Township  
Supervisor**

## Option Available for Some to Defer Payment

Jim LaPeer, Treasurer



Certainly in these days we would all like to hold on to our money as long as we can. One option available for some of the folks in our Township is the State provided, "Deferment of Summer Taxes". This allows a taxpayer to defer payment of Summer taxes for five months, from the normal due date of September 14th to a new due date of February 14th. You may qualify if you meet either condition #1 or #2 below:

**1** The property is your Principal Residence and your gross household income did not exceed \$40,000 last year. Also, you must be able to meet one of these conditions:

- Be 62 years of age or older.
- Be a Paraplegic or Quadriplegic
- Be an eligible Veteran, serviceperson, or widow/widower.
- Be a blind person
- Be totally and permanently disabled.

**2** The property is used as Agricultural, and cash receipts from such use are greater than your household income.

In order to claim this deferment, a State of Michigan Form **"Application for Deferment of Summer Taxes"** must be filed with the Township Treasurer by September 14 of the intended year to be used. This form may be picked up at the Township Center or downloaded from the Township Web Site ([www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org)), Finance Dept, "Related Documents". Any questions, please feel free to give us a call.

## Recreation Plan Update

**C**annon Township is in the process of updating our Recreation Plan. Some of you may have attended the public input meeting in January or you might be following our progress through the website. Whether or not you have contributed to the process up to this point, you still have the opportunity to get involved and give us your opinion. If it seems like this process is taking a lot longer than it should have, that is because the Committee decided to update the Township Center Park Plan and the Trail Plan in addition to the Recreation Plan.

**T**he plan is being developed by the Recreation Committee with the assistance of Pat Cornelisse from Cornelisse Design, Inc. At this time we have considered goals and objectives and are now working on proposed plan Action Items. Since the plan is intended to be utilized over the next five years, we are looking at what can conceivably be done in that period. The areas the Committee is looking at are: Communications, Park Development, Trail Development,

Land Acquisition, Maintenance Financing, and Miscellaneous Improvements.

**S**ome of the action items within those categories include things like analyzing current communication and formalizing communication with surrounding recreation providers. This is something that will not cost anything, but will require work on the part of the Committee or a subcommittee formed for that purpose.

**O**ther items are costly, such as extending sidewalk up Myers Lake Avenue to Cannon Farms Drive that has an estimated price tag of \$135,000. Other items identified so far are construction of a picnic shelter area, tot play area, and multiuse lawn at the Township Center, and trail extensions around Bostwick Lake, west on M-44, and in the Cannonsburg area.

**T**here is still time to have your voices heard. Our Recreation Committee meets the third Monday of the month from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Even if you can't be

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present at the start of the meeting, you are welcome to wander in later. Our Township Board meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Public comment is at 7:00 p.m. and you're always welcome to voice your opinion on any matter. Phone calls and emails are welcome. Or stop by the Township Center and we can chat.

Our next step is to refine the action plan and revise our current trail plan. Once a completed draft is ready, we will have a formal public hearing to get final input before the plan is adopted. The best way to be informed is to check our website ([www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org)) frequently for updates. These will be found in the Parks & Recreation Department under "News and Notices." More detail will be found on the Plans & Map page.

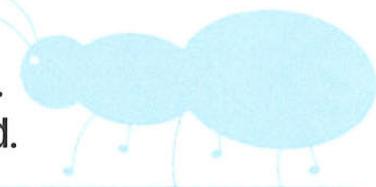
**Bonnie Blackledge,**  
**Township Clerk**  
**[bonnies@cannontwp.org](mailto:bonnies@cannontwp.org)**



## Historical Society News

**The summer picnic will be held on  
Tuesday, July 21st at 6:00 pm  
at the Cannonsburg Museum.**

**Please bring a dish to pass  
and table service.  
Beverages are provided.  
All are invited to attend.**



**The museum is open every Sunday afternoon  
until the end of September from 2 PM to 4PM.**

**Have A Safe  
And  
Happy  
Fourth of July!**



**A**dditional options are available for conveniently paying Tax & Sewer Bills. You may choose to pay online at the Cannon Township Web Site ([www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org)) by using a Credit Card or Electronic Check, or choose to make payment by utilizing the services of the Township Center with traditional cash, check or Automatic Bill Payment options. Here is an overview of the services offered:

**Internet Online Payment:** This is a fee-based service, provided through an agreement with the Official Payments Corporation, to process Tax or Utility payments made by Credit card or Electronic check. To get started:

Go to [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org), click on the Finance button, then select 'Internet Tax (or Utility) Bill Payment'.

Credit cards accepted are: VISA, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover.

PLEASE NOTE, that Official Payments Corporation will apply a convenience fee as follows:

**Credit Card (Tax) .....** 3% of transaction amount.....(example: \$1,000 x 3% = \$30.00)

**Elec. Check (Tax).....** \$3.00 flat fee per transaction .....(example: \$1,000 = \$3.00)

**Credit Card (Sewer)....** \$5.95 flat fee per transaction.....(example: \$70 = \$5.95)

**Elec. Check (Sewer) ....** \$3.00 flat fee per transaction.....(example: \$70 = \$3.00)

**Automatic Bill Payment:** This is a free service, performed by Township staff, whereby a Tax or Utility payment will be automatically deducted from your designated bank account. To get started:

Please go to [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org), click on the Finance button, then select 'Automatic Tax (or Utility) Bill Payment' for further instructions.

An authorization form must be completed, and returned to the Township Center prior to any requested service.

For Sewer payments, setup requests may be made at any time, but should be not less than 30 days prior to the first desired payment date. You may also request repeating Automatic Bill Payments.

For 2009 Summer Taxes, this form must be received in the Township Center no

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later than September 4, 2009 even if you have used automatic bill payment for your taxes previously. Automatic repeating payment requests are not available for Property Taxes at this time.

**Payment by Mail:** For Taxes, please use the enclosed envelope along with your check and the bottom portion of your Tax Statement.

**Payment at the Township Center:** As always, we would be pleased to assist you at the counter with cash or check payments.

We hope these services will be of help to the Residents of Cannon Township. If you should have any questions or suggestions about these services, please feel free to email us or call the Cannon Township Offices, **874-6966**. We will be glad to hear from you!

**Jim LaPeer, Treasurer**

## Izaak Walton League Summerfest Celebration

By Georgia Donovan

Our local Izaak Walton League chapter will be open to the public for a "Summerfest" on Saturday, June 27th. The Center will host fun, food, and information from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. The focus will be on natural landscaping, gardening, invasive-species control, and some fun things for the kids to do, like archery, scavenger hunts, bird-house building, and fishing! It's a great way to see how a solar-powered system can work or pick up a rain barrel.

So, mark your calendars, and if you need more information, call **866-1061**. Please join us for a pleasant day enjoying the outdoors in a lovely setting. Our local "Dwight Lydell" chapter at 5641 Myers Lake Rd. is part of the IWLA, a non-profit conservation group defending woods, waters, and wildlife.

A note from Bonnie Blackledge – Cannon Township has always valued our partnership with the Izaac Walton League on many conservation issues. We appreciate having their presence in our community, and we are pleased that they welcome community members to partake in their festivities for no charge. I encourage all residents of Cannon Township to attend this event and learn for yourselves what a great organization this is.

## News From The Fire Department...



### 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 website has this ordinance in full detail under Chapter 21A at <http://www.cannontwp.org/>. Click on Fire Department and find it listed under "Related Documents."

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.

**T**he watches and warnings are defined as:

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### **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.

**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.

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- 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.**

## **GARLIC MUSTARD**

By Bonnie Blackledge



**S**ounds like a spice, doesn't it? And if you're familiar with this invasive plant, you know that it smells like garlic, too.

Garlic mustard originated in Europe and was introduced to the United States for herbal and medicinal purposes. It was first recorded in the United States in 1868 in Long Island, New York. By 1991, garlic mustard had invaded 28 Midwestern and northeastern states.

Garlic mustard aggressively out-competes native species in the understory of forests and woodlands. This plant begins growth in early spring and ends growth later in the season than most native species. As a result, garlic mustard shades out native

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wildflowers and out-competes native seedlings. Garlic mustard grows in dense clusters and can displace most herbaceous native plants within ten years. Large quantities of seed are produced and can remain viable in the soil for up to seven years. The seeds are dispersed by wind, water and transported by animals and humans.

**What can we do about it?**  
Mechanical controls of garlic mustard include hand-pulling and cutting, and are most effective on smaller infestations. Hand-pulling of plants can be very effective, although labor intensive. Care must be taken to insure that the entire plant is removed and that all plant materials are bagged and moved off-site. A plant can continue to mature and produce seeds even if it has been pulled up. Hand-pulling and removal must continue until the seed bank is exhausted (at least 7 years).

Cutting populations of garlic mustard is effective for medium to large concentrations of plants. Stems may be cut by mowing, brush-cutting, or by hand when the plants are in flower.

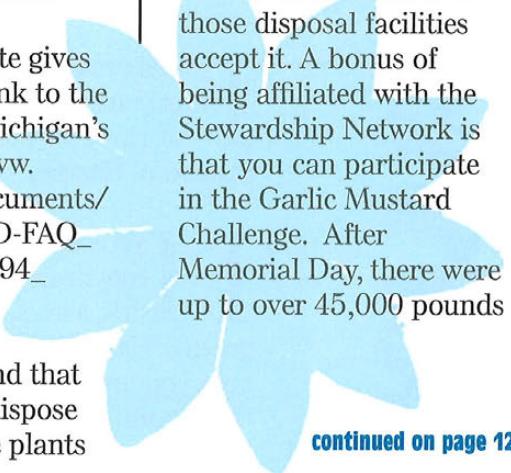
This can result in total mortality of the plants, however it does not affect the seed bank. Cutting must continue every year until the seed bank is exhausted. Prescribed fire and herbicides can also be effective.

If you are pulling garlic mustard, and you have several bags lying around, what do you do with them? According to the Stewardship Network ([www.stewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org)), you should dispose of your pulled garlic mustard in a plastic bag headed to the landfill.

Their website gives you this link to the State of Michigan's website: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/DEQ-WHMD-FAQ\\_Residential\\_230194\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/DEQ-WHMD-FAQ_Residential_230194_7.pdf)

There I found that you may dispose of invasive plants

in a landfill if they were collected through an eradication or control program. If you would like to be considered part of an eradication program, the Stewardship Network requires you to become a member of the Network and sign an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with them. If someone has done that and they are removing invasive species that are being specifically addressed by the Network on their private property, then that waste is part of an eradication or control program and could be disposed of in a landfill or incinerator if those disposal facilities accept it. A bonus of being affiliated with the Stewardship Network is that you can participate in the Garlic Mustard Challenge. After Memorial Day, there were up to over 45,000 pounds



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pulled in Michigan and the West Michigan area was leading at that time.

**A**nd now for some fun! I do know that garlic mustard can be used in recipes. I searched online and found this recipe that is not only simple to make, but sounds good, too.

### **Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) Pesto**

**Submitted by Jennifer Chesworth,  
Centre Hall, Pennsylvania 16828**

1/2 Cup Olive Oil

1 Cup Pine Nuts or Walnuts

1/2 Cup finely grated Parmesan Cheese

Enough Garlic Mustard leaves to choke a horse  
(or to clear a forest floor)



**F**inely mince the walnuts and garlic mustard. An electric coffee grinder works like a charm. Add Oil and Cheese, serve with pasta or rice or other whole grain. For vegan pesto use Nutritional Yeast instead of Cheese.

**H**arvesting Garlic Mustard: take out the entire plant including the roots early in the season before it has a chance to flower. Young first leaves are best for pesto (and for salads or as a steamed green). Use only the leaves for this recipe. Remove the roots from the area you are clearing as they will re-establish themselves if left in a pile on the ground. If you pull up garlic mustard after it has flowered beware as it will develop the seedhead even after it is pulled from the ground.

**M**ost entertaining garlic mustard website award goes to: <http://www.wildmanstevebrill.com/Plants.Folder/Garlic%20Mustard.html>, part of the site of "America's best-known forager, Wildman Steve Brill." Great sense of humor!

### June 2009

June 22..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
June 27..... Izaak Walton League Summerfest 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
(see related article)

### July 2009

July 1..... 2009 Summer Tax Bills Mailed to Residents  
Quarterly Sewer Bills Mailed to Residents  
July 3 ..... INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED – OFFICE CLOSED  
July 3..... Bostwick Lake Association Fireworks Display  
July 4..... Silver Lake Association Fireworks Display  
July 6..... FLOATING HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED  
July 9..... Bear Creek Watershed Council Meeting – 6:00 pm  
July 13..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
July 14..... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm  
July 20..... Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm  
July 21..... Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 7:00 pm  
July 22..... Board of Review – 10:00 am  
July 27..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
July 31..... QUARTERLY SEWER BILLS DUE

### August 2009

August 10 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
August 11 ..... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm  
August 13 ..... Bear Creek Watershed Council Meeting – 6:00 pm  
August 17 ..... Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm  
August 18 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 7:00 pm  
August 24 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

### September 2009

Sept 7 ..... LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED  
Sept 8 ..... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm  
Sept 9 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
Sept 10 ..... Bear Creek Watershed Council Meeting – 6:00 pm  
Sept 14 ..... 2009 SUMMER TAXES DUE  
Sept 15 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 7:00 pm  
Sept 21 ..... Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm  
Sept 28 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
Sept 30 ..... Community Clean-up – 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

### October 2009

Oct 1..... Community Clean-up – 9:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Oct 2..... Community Clean-up – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Oct 3..... Community Clean-up – 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Any changes or additions to the calendar can be found on our web site – [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org) under "Events Calendar"

## Spring Watershed News

Kim Sapkowski,  
Watershed Administrative Assistant

**L**akes age just like people but a lake's life span is much longer. A lake starts out as a large body of water but over hundreds or thousands of years, it will fill in with plants and debris and get shallower. Eventually it will become a wetland. This process of natural aging is called eutrophication.

**H**uman activity can greatly speed up eutrophication so the lake will age and "die" more quickly than nature intended. Human activity, such as using fertilizers, leads to excess algae and weeds and thus increases a lake's productivity. This in turn leads to an imbalance of the numbers and varieties of fish and plants, decreased water clarity and less dissolved oxygen for fish and aquatic organisms.

**W**hile humans cannot change the natural aging process of a lake, we can stop rapid eutrophication through our actions. Here are some guidelines:

- Don't use fertilizers or pesticides if you live on or near a lake (or stream). Less lawn care means more lake protection.

Mulch your grass clippings where they will break down into the soil and naturally feed your lawn.

- Maintain your septic system. Septic leakage can find its way into a nearby lake or stream.
- Leave or create a buffer strip at the edge of your lake. A buffer strip is a section of native plants that is about six feet wide. It can be aesthetically pleasing, deters geese and helps filter run off. If you are not willing to give up your sandy beach, consider running a buffer strip along a portion of your shoreline.
- Use natural stone to protect the shoreline.
- Don't dump lawn clippings or other wastes near the lake shoreline, stream, creek or wetlands. The nutrients from a pile of clippings will quickly run off into the lake.
- Control shoreline erosion. Remember that if you live

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in the Township's Lake Drainage Areas, you cannot use a fertilizer that contains phosphorus. Many "zero phosphorus" fertilizers are available at your local home improvement center.

- Come to the Township offices for a copy of the publication "Your Lake & You," for more information on keeping your lake healthy.

## Bear Creek Watershed Council

The Bear Creek Watershed Council has recently formed. We had our first meeting May 14. The purpose of this group is to form a permanent Council whose interest is protecting the Bear Creek Watershed. The Council is interested in educating the public on water quality, conducting stream studies, and comparing past watershed data with new

watershed data. If you are interested in learning more about the group, feel free to join us each second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at Cannon Township Center.

## Bear Creek Waterfest a Huge Success!

The Bear Creek Waterfest took place April 25 at Townsend Park. Attendance is estimated to have been around 250 people, the most this festival has seen in its sixteen years! Many

thanks to Townsend Park, the Isaac Walton League, The Cannonsburg Christmas Lights Committee, the Cannon Historical Society, the Rockford National Honor Society, Grand Valley Metro Council, the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, Rain Gardens of West Michigan, Frozen Creek Floral and Great Northern Trading Company.

If you would like to be a volunteer at next year's Bear Creek Waterfest, call Kim Sapkowski at **874-6966**.



## Clerk's Corner...

By Bonnie Blackledge



I had so much fun writing the garlic mustard article that I'm having a hard time getting back to what I really should be focusing on – things like elections, cemeteries, records management, and other Township business.

Did you know we had an election on May 5th? We sent out absent voter applications to our established list and actually had some ballots voted and returned. Here's a table showing our turnout:

### May 5, 2009 Election

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2 & 3	Precinct 4	Precinct 5	Precinct 6	Total
In Person Voters	33	40	34	29	19	155
AV Voters	46	78	67	81	46	318
Total Voters	79	118	101	110	65	473
Total Reg. Voters	1689	3269	1896	1453	1619	9926
Percent Turnout	4.68%	3.61%	5.33%	7.57%	4.01%	4.77%

### Precinct 1 Breakdown

	Rockford	Forest Hills	Lowell	Total
Registered Voters	1404	62	223	1689
Voters	16	2	15	33
AV Voters	41	0	5	46
Total Voted Ballots	57	2	20	79
Percent by District	4.06%	3.23%	8.97%	4.68%

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If we try to analyze those results, we can see that very few people actually came in to vote. Out of 9926 registered voters, only 155 actually entered the polling place to cast a ballot. When you consider that the election cost approximately \$3,000 to administer, it averages about \$6.00 per voter. I'm not sure what the solution is, but there must be a more cost efficient way to elect school board members. And even though the schools reimburse us for our costs, the expense still comes from our tax dollars!

### FACILITIES

By "luck of the draw" I have the privilege of being the "Facilities' Committee" chairperson. Following in the footsteps of Diane Jones is not easy, but the fact that I'm here every day does make the job easier. Plus I have three great committee members – Dick Davies,

Deb Diepenhorst, and Jim Morris. One of our projects this spring has been replacing the wall on the ramp at the historical museum because the old one was deteriorating. If you happen to drive by the museum, take a look at the new ramp wall.

We recently replaced our phone system and we now have direct lines. My direct telephone number is **884-2204**, if you want to call me without going through the front desk.

## NEW FIRE CHIEF APPOINTED

On March 23rd, the Cannon Township Board appointed a new Fire Chief, James Morris. Jim is well qualified with over 32 years on the Fire Department, 27 as an officer. He has experience in departmental financial planning, fireground leadership, and departmental training. He also has a long history of commitment to the Cannon Township community.

Although the Board mourns the passing of Harry Morris, Jr., we appreciate the dedication that has been shown by his son, Jim, over the years. We are confident in this decision because we know we have chosen a great leader who will protect the citizens of Cannon Township.

[www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org)  
Be sure to make us one of  
your favorites!

## Rockford Area Endowment Ceremony

Approximately four years ago, the Rockford Area Community Endowment was changed to include all of the Rockford School District. This change added the Townships of Algoma, Cannon, Courtland and parts of Plainfield along with the City of Rockford. The Board of Directors includes one member from each Township Board, City of Rockford, School Board and members at large. Kathie Reminga, a resident of Cannon Township, is one of the members at large. I have considered it an honor and privilege to be able to serve as our Township Board representative these past four years.

At our annual meeting in May, the Endowment Board requested that each community nominate an outstanding individual who has contributed in many areas to their community. These names are placed on a column at Peppler Park in Rockford. Our nomination for Cannon Township this year was Gerald Kitson who started the famous poultry business on Belding Road. Gerald, who is buried at Bostwick Lake Cemetery, was represented at the ceremony by his

sister, one daughter and three sons who still live in our Township.

Anyone wanting to become a member can contact me or Jody Grego at the Rockford City Hall. Many thanks to Kathie Reminga for her efforts on this project.

**Dick Davies,  
Township Trustee**

## Here's the latest news on the Cannon Trail:

We are still experiencing a drainage problem on the trail between Dix Farms and Sunfish Lake Avenue. The snow fence was erected to protect the privacy of the homeowners. Please stay to the south if there is water on the trail. We are working on a solution to this, but it's taking time to come

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up with the most cost effective, long-term solution.

**T**railhead and interpretive signs are still planned for this summer.

**T**here are portable toilets for use on both ends of the trail. The one at the Township Center is beside the west parking lot and the one at Townsend Park is to the east of the trailhead.

**B**ags to clean up after your pet are available at the Township Center, Cannonsburg Cemetery, and Townsend Park. Please keep your dog on a leash at all times.

**T**rail maps are available at: [http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/docs/1210883939\\_808319.pdf](http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/docs/1210883939_808319.pdf)

Remember to respect the private property you pass along the way.

**If you notice any problems, please call or email Bonnie at 884-2204 or [bonnies@cannontwp.org](mailto:bonnies@cannontwp.org).**



**Enjoy the trail!**



### Trail Rules

- No motorized vehicles
- No horses
- No alcoholic beverages
- Pets must be on a 6-foot leash
- No littering
- No hunting
- No climbing retaining walls
- No vehicles or other items can be placed in the path right-of-way.
- Stay within 5 feet of the paved trail.
- Use at your own risk.

### Rules of Etiquette

- Obey all posted trail use rules.
- Use this trail in a safe and responsible manner.
- Keep to the right except when passing.
- Pass slower traffic on the left, yield to oncoming traffic when passing.
- Give a clear warning signal when passing; i.e. call out, "Passing on your left."
- Travel at a reasonable speed.
- Clean up after your pet.
- Get off the paved portion of the trail when you stop for any reason.
- No campfires or camping allowed on the trail right-of-way.
- Do not disturb vegetation or wildlife.

Approved by the Cannon Township Board  
11/12/07

## Clip and Save E-mail Addresses

Supervisor, Pete MacGregor: .....pmaegregor@cannontwp.org  
Clerk, Bonnie Blackledge: .....bonnies@cannontwp.org  
Treasurer, Jim LaPeer: .....jlapeer@cannontwp.org  
Trustee Deb Diepenhorst: .....ddiepenhorst@mindspring.com  
Trustee Dick Davies: .....rrd8565@gmail.com  
Trustee Steve Grimm: .....steve@slgrimmmpc.com  
Trustee Rob McBrien: .....Rj.mc'brien@helmholdt.com  
Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma: .....nancyp@cannontwp.org  
Deputy Treasurer, Milissa Soderstrom: .....milissas@cannontwp.org  
Zoning Administrator, Christine James: .....christinej@cannontwp.org  
Code Enforcement Officer, Bob Devereaux: .....zeo@cannontwp.org  
Administrative Assistant Sue Clarin: .....suec@cannontwp.org  
Watershed Assistant, Kim Sapkowski: .....ksapkowski@cannontwp.org  
Fire Chief, Jim Morris: .....Chief@cannontwp.org  
State Representative, Tom Pearce: .....tompearce@house.mi.gov  
Phone: 1-888-414-3684  
State Senator, Mark Jansen: .....senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov  
Phone: 1-800-774-1174  
Congressman Vern Ehlers: web site: .....www.house.gov/ehlers  
Phone: 202-225-3831  
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 ..... Pete Macgregor  
Clerk ..... Bonnie Blackledge  
Treasurer ..... Jim LaPeer  
Trustees ..... Deb Diepenhorst  
Dick Davies  
Steve Grimm  
Rob McBrien  
Township Offices ..... 874-6966  
**(Hours 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon – Fri)**  
Fax ..... 874-8940  
Fire Department ..... 874-9725  
Emergency ..... 911

PRSR STD  
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**PAID**  
ROCKFORD, MI 49341  
PERMIT NO.1

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

**Cannon Township**  
6878 Belding Road, NE • Rockford, MI 49341  
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