

# Communicator

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Summer 2007

## From the Desk of the Supervisor...

### Why do we need local

#### GOVERNMENT?

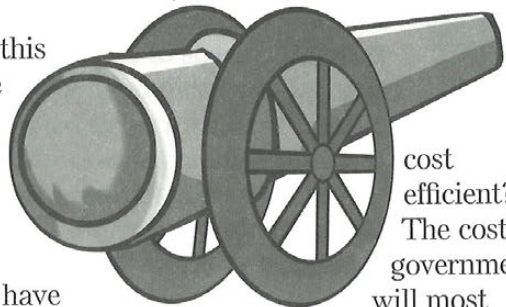
The State's ongoing structural budget deficit has caused many people to suggest restructuring government, which would include the most effective form of government – township government. The notion is that this could lower public expenditures. Local government consolidation, and eliminating township government, has also been suggested as a strategy to make governments more

efficient and save money. Consolidation proponents often try to depict Michigan's townships as fragmented or excessive in number.

On the surface this may sound like a fresh idea and a valid solution, but in reality local governments and townships have been sharing services for years and townships are characteristically low-cost entities. True examples of cost sharing are - 57 percent of all townships have joint fire operations and 74 - 80 percent share police and ambulance services.

Cost savings will not automatically result

from making smaller governments combine into bigger governments. When has a bigger government produced cost savings or ever been more



cost efficient? The cost of government will most

certainly increase from reducing the number of local governments in Michigan, rather than reducing costs as consolidation proponents wish were the case.

Township governments efficiently, economically and effectively protect the

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Cannon Township

The Cannon Communicator, Summer 2007

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public safety of families and enhance the quality of life for more than half of the State's residents. Townships provide more services with fewer resources to residents—and do it in an accountable manner.

Townships are governed by everyday residents serving each other. Because neighbors are serving neighbors, townships match the needs of the communities they service. Township or local governments work more closely with small businesses—both recruiting and expansion—which provide more jobs locally for families. Township governments understand the needs of the local community.

The premise that combining smaller units of government into larger entities will produce cost savings in providing government services is overly simplistic. There is little, if any, evidence that larger units of government have lower costs. In fact, the opposite is generally true. Cities spend eight times as much as townships on operations and services. County government is even higher. In no way does township service duplicate the services provided by the county. There would be a citizen alienation factor that could be devastating. Frustration, dissatisfaction and aggravation would ensue among residents for simple tasks such as obtaining a building permit for a deck or inquiring about

property assessments. While consolidation may appear to address specific local issues, residents should expect local taxes to increase significantly as a result of eliminating townships.

Each year townships receive less and less financial support from Lansing, yet we are able to adapt, adjust our expenditures and continue to provide for the safety, health and welfare of our township citizens. Keeping local government closest to the people results in greater accountability, enhanced responsiveness to constituents and maximizes democracy to serve our State's residents.

*Pete MacGregor,  
Supervisor*

**Have A Safe and  
Happy  
4th of July!**



# From the desk of Cannon Township's New Treasurer...

**H**ello! My name is Jim LaPeer, and I would like to introduce myself as the New Treasurer for our Township. The former Treasurer, Dan Barker, recently decided to take (a well earned) retirement and I was appointed by the Board in April to take Dan's place, vacating my Board Trustee position.

I am a long time resident of Cannon Township, with an extensive background in local public service. My wife Alice and I have been married for 35 years, with two grown children, Mary and Tom. We have lived in our current residence on Cannonsburg Road for 25 years, where we raised our family and became very involved in our Church, Schools, and Township. I am a 1978 graduate of Louisiana State University with a dual-major in Business Administration and Computer Science and worked for 32 years in the Information Technology industry. Additionally, I have served with the US Marine Corps, and the Louisiana and Michigan State National Guards.

My Township service began in March of 1987 when I was appointed to the Planning Commission by then Supervisor Paul Bieneman. Over the years I gained proficiency in Planning affairs by attending seminars, studying related publications, and through experience. I also provided Leadership in many various roles and capacities, serving as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Master Plan Chairman, and chairman of numerous sub-committees. After winning election in 2004 as a Township Trustee, I began to expand my interests to include general Township business concerns as well as working with Dan on IT related matters. I am very pleased at this opportunity to be our Township Treasurer and am looking forward to becoming even more involved with Township affairs.

In conclusion...My email is [jlapeer@cannontwp.org](mailto:jlapeer@cannontwp.org). If you have any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions in mind, please feel free to email me; I would love to hear from you! We have a wonderful group of people serving in the Township, too numerous to mention by name here. And, we all know that serving you, our residents, always comes first.

*Thank you, Jim LaPeer*



## Clerk's Corner...

—By Bonnie Blackledge



### GRCC Millage Vote

For those of you on our absentee voter list, you might be wondering why you received an application for a ballot. We weren't planning on an August election, but Grand Rapids Community College decided to put a millage issue on the ballot for this date. This will be the only issue on the ballot for the August 7, 2007 election. You will vote at your regular polling place. Please make our poll workers happy and come out to vote!

### Presidential Preference Primary

Several people have asked me whether there will be a presidential preference primary in 2008. We have been told that there hasn't been a decision made yet, but we should know in September. Hopefully, by the time the next newsletter comes out, I'll have an answer.

### Legislation Against Townships

Lately, township officials across the state have been concerned about a movement that seems to be coming from the state level to eliminate townships. House Bills 4780-88 would strip townships of the power to collect property taxes, administer elections, and assess property. Some see this as a first step to changing the form of Michigan's government.

Unfortunately, some State Legislators seem to be trying to take the focus from the problems at the State level and shifting the attention to local

units of government which are actually managing things quite well and functioning with a balanced budget. Take elections for instance.

These bills suggest moving election administration to the County, then having the townships reimburse the County for its costs. Right now, my deputy, our office administrative assistants, and myself do most of the election work in Cannon Township. No one gets any extra pay for election administration – we find time to do what needs to be done within our regular working hours. My Deputy Clerk, who is paid by the hour, sometimes gets overtime pay the week leading up to the election when extra work is required, but other than that, no other salaries increase.

If the County were required to prepare for elections and handle absentee voting, they would have to hire additional staff to do this. It's hard for me to imagine how they would handle all the various ballot styles that need to be distributed. It takes two tables in Nancy's office to accommodate the ballots and other supplies needed for our six precincts. Handling this for the entire County would be quite difficult. And for those of you who like to walk in and pick

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up an absentee ballot or who like to vote in the office prior to the election, would you be required to drive all the way to the County Building and pay for parking in order to get a ballot?

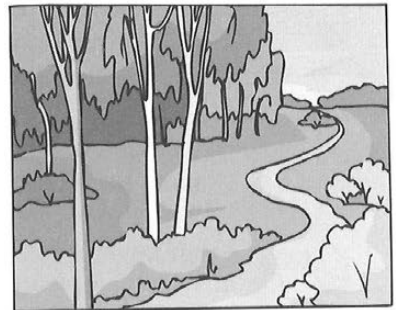
At the present time, I hire and train all precinct inspectors (poll workers). At the November 2006 election, I hired and trained over 50 workers to staff the six precincts. Multiply Cannon's inspectors by the number of townships in Kent County. Would the County be able to tackle this task?

I'm not saying that townships are perfect, but it seems that being able to walk into the Township Center and meet with your elected officials and express your concerns beats dealing with the kind of bureaucracy you find as government becomes larger. Instead of meeting with your elected clerk, treasurer, or supervisor, you are often shuffled into the office of some staff person who doesn't have the authority to resolve your problem. I hope the legislators that are trying to eliminate this efficient form of government will come to realize there are more important ways in which they should be focusing their time.

## Trail Progress...

*-By Bonnie Blackledge*

Hopefully, everyone in the Township is aware that we have a major construction effort going on with the trail that is going from the Township Center to Townsend Park. By the time you read this, this will be old news since so much is happening daily on the trail construction. As of June 21, 2007, here are my observations:



- The section that runs through Townsend Park is probably the part with the least problems since the County Parks Department is working with the trail engineer and the contractor to find the best route and minimize any negative impact.
- The section along the Kreuter Road Right-of-way is giving us the most headaches due to the uneven terrain. We've had some major problems with trees and steep slopes on the sides of the trail due to meeting a 5% slope for ADA compliance. There are safety issues that we need to address (and will have by the time you're reading this).
- Another area where we're dealing with extra possible expenditures is the section that runs along Belding Road. MDOT would like us to stay on the far southern side of the right-of-way, but that puts us directly in front of some front porches and forces us to move some electric poles. We're still trying to work out a compromise in some spots.



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- The Sunnyside Meadows and Dix Farms sections seem to have been the easiest to deal with so far. No major issues, but there is still a boardwalk to construct linking these two developments.
- So far, we have been mainly doing tree cutting, clearing, and excavating. Soon there will be retention wall building and the construction of two boardwalks and a stream crossing.
- The neighbors along the way, for the most part, have been wonderful to work with. The Township realizes that this has been an inconvenience for a lot of you, but we have been trying our best to make sure it is a win-win situation for all involved. Hopefully, we can all soon be using the trail and appreciate the beauty and benefit it is to our Township.

## Trail Email List –

If you're not already on it, please send me your email address and I'll add you to the list. At least once a week, I send updates of trail construction information to everyone on the list. If you think you signed up and you're not getting a weekly email from me, please contact me or send your address again. I have had several emails returned with various error messages. Send your request to: [bonnies@cannontwp.org](mailto:bonnies@cannontwp.org). You may also check our web site under "what's new" for this information.

## From The Historical Society...

The picnic is the 17th of July at the Museum on Cannonsburg Road. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and we'll eat at 6:30. Beverages will be furnished.

Summer museum hours are from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00

p.m. on Sundays. For more information, please call Margaret Janose at 874-6865.



## Summer Hours

Are 7:30 am To 4:30 pm  
Until September 1

You are welcome to let us know how summer hours work for you. Please call (874-6966) or email [Bonnie](mailto:bonnies@cannontwp.org) at [bonnies@cannontwp.org](mailto:bonnies@cannontwp.org).

### Summer Road Repairs...

Plans are in process to repair and resurface some of our roads which are in need of major repairs this summer. The first project will be to crush, shape and repave Egypt Valley from M44 south approx 1.1 miles. Cost for this project is estimated at \$200,000. Township cost is 50% or \$100,000. This was approved by the Township Board in May. The remaining southern section to Cannonsburg Road is being planned in 2008 as budget money becomes available.

The second project this summer will be micro-surfacing the older section of Rockford Village and some of the busy streets in the northern Bella Vista area. The cost for these will be \$220,000. Township cost is 50% or \$110,000. Plans for those projects were presented to the Township Board on June 11th.

These projects were prioritized when Pete MacGregor, Jerry Byrne from the County Road Commission, and I drove around the Township reviewing the conditions of our roads. Other major road repairs will be planned in the future as budget dollars become available.

The County is also planning to resurface Cannonsburg Road from Chauncey to Myers Lake Ave. Cost is \$700,000, 50% paid by the Federal Government and 50% by the Road Commission. The section from Myers Lake to Ramsdell is scheduled for 2011 at a cost of \$750,000.

*Dick Davies, Trustee*

### Newest Township Trustee...

As your newest township trustee, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My wife, Sherri, and I have lived in the Township since 1988 and have been blessed with three

wonderful daughters. I have served on the Planning Commission (PC) for over 10 years. During my time on the PC I have worked with a talented group of forward-thinking leaders who have consistently embraced the objectives of the Master Plan. Our Master Plan calls for planning for growth and development in a manner which preserves the fundamental rural characteristics of the Township. When the opening

on the Board occurred, I felt that it was an opportunity to apply my passion for planning at the Board level. In fact, the Board currently has four members who have served on the PC. I appreciate the Board's support of my nomination and look forward to working with them and all the citizens in continuing to make Cannon Township a special place to live.

*Rob McBrien, Trustee*



# The Fire Chief's Report...

By Fire Chief Harry Morris

## Starting on a Positive Note:

The Cannon Township Fire Department is one out of five fire departments under the medical control authority of the Kent County Emergency Medical Services, certified to carry and use an airway intubation product called the King LT-D disposable supraglottic airway. Due to our licensing as a Basic Life Support department, Cannon Township along with Cascade, Kentwood, Grandville and Wright/Tallmadge (technically in Ottawa) who also share the same licensing, we are now allowed to carry and utilize this intubation device. This device is designed for positive pressure ventilation as well as for spontaneously breathing patients, thereby allowing versatility as an airway management tool. This will go in effect as of Monday, June 18th for our department.

## Community News:

As part of our day to day operations, the Cannon Township Fire Department maintains a sense of community involvement by participating in local events. So far, we have participated in continuing safety awareness presentations to various preschools, primary and secondary schools within our Township. In addition, we have had the honor in participating in the Burn Survivor Benefit Car Show at Fifth-third Ballpark in nine out of the last eleven annual shows. More recently, we proudly attended the Lillian Evans Benefit Carnival and Auction on May 1st in Rockford at the Bella Vista Church, and on June 9th, we were part of the Rockford Parade. In case you missed us at any of the above events, be sure to look for the Cannon Township Fire Department at the Cars and Guitars event at the Bella Vista Church on July 13th.

## 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. Many low branches prevent many of our trucks from getting close to the scene when time was critical. Many people do not realize that our vehicles have equipment that is exposed, and we can not drive through these tight quarters. So please take a minute and cut back the branches so that in the event you need us to respond, we may arrive quickly.

## Severe Weather Tips:

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



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

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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.

Know 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 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.

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.

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- 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.

### For Cookouts:

- Don't experiment with homemade fireworks.
- 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.

## Township Facts...

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, cities in Michigan spent nearly \$12 billion on municipal operations in fiscal year 2001-02. During the same period townships spent \$1.7 billion—one-eighth the amount of cities.

Michigan ranks relatively low in terms of the number of local governments per capita.

- There are 1,242 townships in Michigan.
- Michigan is one of 20 states that have the township form of government.
- Michigan is 12<sup>th</sup> nationally in total number of local governments.
- Michigan is 32<sup>nd</sup> nationally in total number of governments per person.
- More than half of Michigan's population (50.1 percent) lives in townships.



## Services Provided by Cannon Township:

- Fire and EMS
- Deputy Sheriff
- Planning and Zoning
- Road Funding and Repair
- Cemetery Operation
- Property Assessing
  - Public Sewer
- Parks and Recreation
  - Tax Collection
- Election Administration
- Watershed Protection/  
Education

## Keep Land Planning Local

A bill has been introduced in Lansing called "The Township Services Consolidation Act" which would transfer the conducting of elections, the collection of taxes, and the assessment of property from our local offices in Cannon Township to the offices of Kent County. At this time, no one is aware of any analysis having been done of the "savings" which would occur. No one that I have talked with can come up with any perceived savings, but can identify extra costs, to say nothing of the frustration and inconvenience it would cause to Cannon residents.

This could well be only the opening salvo from Lansing. Planning and Zoning could be next. One of the most valuable services furnished on a local basis is the work of our Planning Commission. Over the years it has developed a plan for development which has as its overriding principles the protection and preservation of the natural resources, unique character, and environmental quality of Cannon Township. Every development in Cannon Township is analyzed in detail by our seven-member Commission to determine that the project complies with these objectives. Any Township resident may comment on developments and bring concerns or support to the Commission.

Future land use planning and the control of current development are perhaps the most important of local services. It is my belief that it is imperative that services such as planning, as well as elections and property assessments, remain at the local level. Would we want Lansing to dictate that a County or regional body determine how Cannon Township is developed? I think not.

*Chuck Bloom, Trustee*



## Natural Feature Packets Now Available

*- Articles By Kim Sapkowski, Assistant Watershed Administrator*

Cannon Township is pleased to present the Natural Features Protection Packets. A \$940 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources helped us to create this four brochure project for developers or landowners who wish to change their land in any way. The brochures in the packet are titled "Best Management Practices," "Wetlands Education," "Wetlands Ordinance," and "Storm Water Ordinance." The packet is a guideline for protecting natural features and using Best Management Practices (BMP's) during construction. It will give developers a concrete idea of the best way to preserve and protect the land. It can be obtained at the Cannon Township offices and will soon be available online at the Cannon Township watershed website. Click on [cannontwp.org](http://cannontwp.org) to see them.

## Landscaping For Water Quality



If you want to do your part to help the environment and gain great pleasure at the same time, plant a rain garden! Rain gardens are special gardens that help collect and filter storm water runoff. They can be used in both urban and non-urban settings. They contain

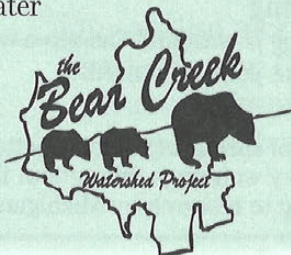


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Native plants that set down deep roots. The native plants provide many benefits other than filtering storm water, one of them being that they are hearty and easy to grow. Cannon Township has a wonderful booklet available at no cost titled **"Landscaping for Water Quality."** It contains concepts and garden designs for homeowners. The booklet contains an overview of rain gardens, garden designs (for sun, shade, butterflies, riparian, prairie) and an extensive list of native plants. We have many copies available. If you love to garden or have been thinking of trying your hand at gardening, this is the booklet for you!

## Lake 'A' Syst Program Available

If you live on lakefront property, you may have wondered about the health of your lake and what you can do to prevent your lake's water quality from deteriorating. A program called "Lake 'A' Syst" can help you. This free program is available to Michigan residents through the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program. The program is designed for shoreline property owners and includes information on how you can protect the health of your lake. Getting involved in this program can in the long run safeguard your health, prevent water contamination and protect your financial investment. For more information, call the West Michigan Environmental Action Council at 451-3051.



## Common Shoreline Pollutants

- Lawn fertilizers
- Runoff from driveways, roofs and walkways
- Lawn clippings and leaves (they contain phosphorus)
- Shoreline soil erosion
- Lawn and garden pesticides
- Oil and gas from boats
- Septic system effluent

## A Citizen's Guide to Lawn Care

Using healthy lawn care practices is one step toward cleaner streams and lakes - even if you don't have waterfront property.

### Tips for Mowing

Taller grass means a healthier lawn, and it's easier to maintain! Set your mower blade to leave about three inches of grass. Taller grass cools the soil, needs less water, and shades out weed growth. It's also more insect and disease resistant. Vary the direction of lawn mowing periodically to prevent wear patterns and soil compaction.

### Tired of Raking Your Leaves? Mow 'em!

Mow tree leaves in the autumn instead of raking and bagging-just raise your mower height to accommodate! After a couple of passes with the mower, leaf pieces will slowly sift down through turf. This is an excellent way to return nutrients to the soil, and you can use them as mulch in your garden too!

### Tips for Watering

Excessive watering is wasteful! Conserve water by using only what your lawn needs.

- 15-20 minutes of sprinkling daily is better than a few heavy waterings throughout the week, according to research by Michigan State University.

- If daily watering is impractical, 30-40 minutes of watering every other day is sufficient.
- Make sure your sprinkler is watering your lawn - not your driveway or sidewalk!

### Don't Guess...Soil Test!

Do not assume your yard needs fertilizer. Perform a soil test. You'll save money and reduce the chance of over-applying by only replacing the nutrients your soil needs. Michigan State University Extension offers soil nutrient testing for a nominal fee. To find out more, call the extension office in your area: 616-336-3265 (Kent County) or 616-846-8250 (Ottawa County).

### Choose the Correct Fertilizer

Over-fertilizing can contribute excessive amounts of pollutants to streams and lakes through the storm sewer. Without realizing it, many landowners are applying fertilizers and pesticides when their lawns don't even need them!

If you do choose to fertilize, use slow-release fertilizers



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that provide a slow, steady source of nutrients for plants. This also prevents the big spurt of growth common with synthetic fertilizers.

Slow-release fertilizers come in a variety of types, including organic, time-release,



and coated. Avoid “weed-and-feed” mixtures, which contain herbicides to control weed growth and are often applied where they aren’t needed. If healthy lawn care practices (correct mowing height and watering) are followed, weed control shouldn’t be necessary. Be sure your mower is set to three inches to help shade out unwanted weeds.

**DON'T FORGET THAT  
CANNON TOWNSHIP  
PROHIBITS THE USE  
OF PHOSPHOROUS  
FERTILIZER IN THE  
LAKES DISTRICT!**

## Septic System Education...

Failing and improperly maintained septic systems threaten drinking water wells and rivers, streams and lakes because they release bacteria, nitrates and other impurities.

### Properly functioning septic systems require:

- Regular inspections
- Tank pump-outs every 2-3 years (depending on size and water use)
- Safe disposal of waste pumped from tanks

### For more information go to:

<http://www.cleanwateraction.org/mi/cleankent>

For a free guide to maintaining your septic system, download “**A Homeowners Guide To Septic Systems**” at [http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/homeowner\\_guide\\_long\\_customize.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/homeowner_guide_long_customize.pdf)

You can also pick up the free booklet “**Septic System Owner’s Guidebook**” at Cannon Township Center during normal business hours.

## Important Dates

### “Dates To Remember”

Summer Office Hours 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
(JUNE 1 – AUGUST 31, 2007)

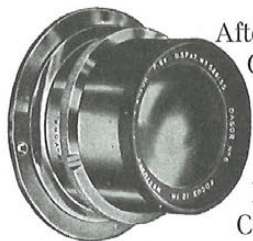
- July 1 ..... 2007 Summer Tax Bills Mailed to Residents  
 July 1 ..... Quarterly Sewer Bills Mailed to Residents  
 July 4 ..... **INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED – OFFICE CLOSED**  
 July 9 ..... Last Day to Register for GRCC Special Election  
 July 9 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
 July 10 ..... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm  
 July 17 ..... Board of Review – 9:00 am  
 July 23 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
 July 31 ..... **QUARTERLY SEWER BILLS DUE**
- August 4 ..... Office Open for Absentee Ballots 8 am – 2 pm  
 August 6 ..... Last day to vote absentee ballot in office to 4 pm  
 August 7 ..... **GRCC SPECIAL ELECTION – Polls Open 7 am – 8 pm**  
 August 13 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
 August 14 ..... Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 pm  
 August 21 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals – 7:00 pm  
 August 27 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
- Sept 1 ..... **Regular Office Hours Resume 8:00 AM– 5:00 PM**  
 Sept 3 ..... **LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED**  
 Sept 10 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
 Sept 11 ..... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm  
 Sept 14 ..... **2007 SUMMER TAXES PAYABLE WITHOUT PENALTY**  
 Sept 18 ..... Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 7:00 pm  
 Sept 24 ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
 Sept 26 ..... Community Clean-up – 9:00 am – 6:00 pm  
 Sept 27 ..... Community Clean-up – 9:00 am – 6:00 pm  
 Sept 28 ..... Community Clean-up – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
 Sept 29 ..... Community Clean-up - 8:00 am – 1:00 pm



Remember to check for any cancellations or changes on the  
Township web site under Events. ([www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org))



## Photo Contest Benefits Open Space



A six-township photography contest to celebrate local rural character through photography is now underway. Sponsored by the Open Space Preservation Council for the Eastern Townships of Kent County, the contest will end with a photo show in September, 2007. Photographs must depict natural features or rural character found anywhere within the townships of Grattan, Cannon, Vergennes, Ada, Cascade, and Lowell. Photographers may be of any age and address.

Participants are encouraged to "seek out those unseen treasures in your own backyard," said Betty Jo Crosby, a member of the organizing committee.

After the show's Opening Reception on September 18 at Cascade Library's Wisner Center, selected photos will hang in all six township halls from September 24 until October 19. Deadline for submission is September 14.

Judging the photo contest are three prominent area photographers: Steve Frykholm, Brian Kelly, and Bill Hebert. Frykholm, creative director and vice president at Herman Miller, is an award-winning graphic designer and avid nature photographer. Kelly, a fine art photographer, depicted many interesting scenes in his book "Grand Rapids: Night After Night." He and his wife opened their local gallery, The Photography Room in 2002. Hebert is also an award-winning photographer. Owner of Insightful Imagery, Hebert's "Growing A Masterpiece" is the 10 year anniversary book of the Frederik Meijer Gardens.

Prizes will be awarded to the top six photographs in adult and youth (under 18)

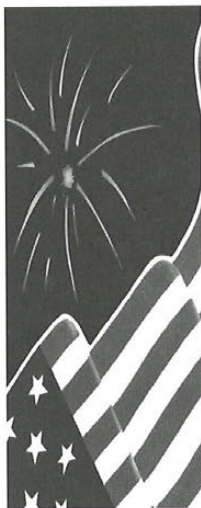
categories. Entry forms can be obtained at each township website (look under "What's new" at [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org)), in print at local township halls, and in many area schools and arts councils and galleries.

The Open Space Preservation Council for the Eastern Townships of Kent County is a cross-jurisdictional volunteer citizen committee committed to preserving rural character on a regional level. Membership is open to residents of Grattan, Cannon, Vergennes, Ada, Cascade, and Lowell Townships. Its mission is "to facilitate proactive measures to preserve private and public open space through cooperation between citizens and township leaders in the eastern townships of Kent County."

For more information about the photo contest, Contact Betty Jo Crosby at 616-949-0417 or email [bjcroz@comcast.net](mailto:bjcroz@comcast.net) or Bonnie Blackledge at 616-204-0085 or email [bonnies@cannontwp.org](mailto:bonnies@cannontwp.org).

**“Proclaim  
liberty  
throughout  
all the land  
unto all the  
inhabitants  
thereof.”**

**-words  
written on  
the Liberty  
Bell**



## Property Tax Information...

Below is an example of a home worth \$200,000 and how the yearly property tax is divided up between the State of Michigan, Kent County and Cannon Township. This is based on 2006 taxes and is only a model to show you how the money is allocated after you write your check to the township. (For demonstration purposes only).

A house worth approximately \$200,000  
with a taxable value = \$100,000

**Total property tax = \$3,040**

Itemized Schedule	% of Total Property Tax
Rockford Public Schools .....	\$949 ..... 31%
State Education .....	\$600 ..... 20%
GR Community College .....	\$179 ..... 6%
Kent Intermediate Schools.....	\$469 ..... 15%
<b>Total Education.....</b>	<b>\$2,197 ..... 72%</b>
Kent County Operating.....	\$428 ..... 14%
Kent County Jail.....	\$79 ..... 3%
Kent County Senior Millage....	\$32 ..... 1%
Kent District Library.....	\$88 ..... 3%
<b>Total County.....</b>	<b>\$627 ..... 21%</b>
Cannon Operating .....	\$84 ..... 3%
Cannon Fire Millage .....	\$94 ..... 3%
Cannon Recreation .....	\$38 ..... 1%
<b>Total Township .....</b>	<b>\$216 ..... 7%</b>
<b>Total yearly Property Tax .....</b>	<b>\$3,040 ..... 100%</b>



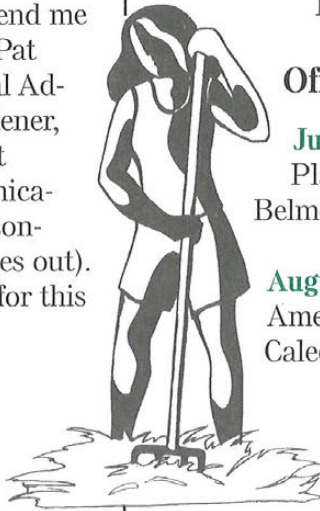
## Ask the Master Gardener...

Don't forget that you have the opportunity to send me your questions and Pat Herrington, our local Advanced Master Gardener, will reply in the next issue of the Communicator (and to you, personally, before that comes out). Here's the question for this issue.

**Question:** I have hostas that need to be transplanted. When is the best time to do that?

**Answer:** The best time to transplant any plant is during any month that contains the letter "r." That means April and September are much better than June, July, or August. Conditions are often too hot and/or dry during those months.

*I wonder if that works for December!*



## Senator Mark Jansen Holds Office Hours...

In order to be more accessible to the public, Senator Mark Jansen will be at the following places for anyone to stop by and express their concerns. Please make use of this opportunity!

### Office Hours for Senator Mark Jansen

**July 9, 2007:** 10:00 a.m. until noon at the Plainfield Charter Township Hall, 6161 Belmont Ave. NE, Belmont, MI 49306

**August 13, 2007:** 10:00 a.m. to noon at the American Legion Post 305, 9546 Cherry Valley, Caledonia, MI 49316.

**September 10, 2007:** 10:00 a.m. until noon at the Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce, 590 32nd St SW, Wyoming, MI, 49509

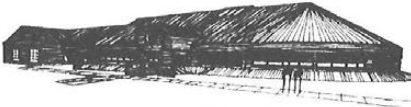
**October 8, 2007:** 10:00 a.m. until noon at the Cannon Township Hall, 6878 Belding Road NE, Rockford, MI 49341

**November 12, 2007:** 10:00 a.m. until noon at the Plainfield Charter Township Hall, 6161 Belmont Ave. NE, Belmont, MI 49306

**December 10, 2007:** 10:00 a.m. to noon at the American Legion Post 305, 9546 Cherry Valley, Caledonia, MI 49316.

## Clip and Save E-mail Addresses

Supervisor, Pete MacGregor: .....pmacgregor@cannontwp.org  
 Clerk, Bonnie Blackledge: ..... bonnies@cannontwp.org  
 Treasurer, Jim LaPeer: .....jlapeer@cannontwp.org  
 Trustee Diane Jones: ..... dianecjones2005@yahoo.com  
 Trustee Dick Davies: ..... rrd8565@hotmail.com  
 Trustee Chuck Bloom: .....heronview@sbcglobal.net  
 Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma: .....nancyp@cannontwp.org  
 Trustee Rob McBrien: .....Rj.mcbrien@helmholdt.com  
 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, Harry 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 ..... Diane Jones  
 ..... Dick Davies  
 ..... Chuck Bloom  
 ..... Rob McBrien  
 Township Offices .. 874-6966  
 (Summer Hours 7:30am – 4:30pm, Mon – Fri)  
 Fax ..... 874-8940  
 Fire Department ... 874-9725  
 Emergency ..... 911

PRSRT STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

ROCKFORD, MI 49341  
 PERMIT NO.1

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

6878 Belding Road, NE • Rockford, MI 49341

The Cannon Communicator, Summer 2007