

## SPRING 2016

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Cannon Township Board,  
Kent County, Michigan



### 2016 Waterfest

**Don't miss it!**  
**Saturday, April 30th**

**P5**



### Upcoming Events:

**Important  
Dates to  
Remember**

**P3**



### Election Rules In Michigan

**Changes to  
Michigan  
Election Rules**

**P6**

# Communicator

## FROM THE SUPERVISOR

### *AA+ Bond Rating by Steve Grimm*

As you know, we are about to begin the renovation of our sewer system. When we began the engineering and financial analysis, we quickly realized that the best way to pay for the renovation was to combine low interest bonding with our own cash. Throughout the process our goal was, and is, to complete the repairs without the necessity of raising sewer rates beyond

the 3% annual increase.

In order to determine the interest rate, we underwent a financial analysis by Standard and Poor's. Based upon that analysis, we were assigned a bond rating which directly impacted the interest rate. The higher the rating, the lower the interest rate. Based on that analysis, Cannon Township was assigned a

bond rating of AA+. This rating will save taxpayers \$204,500.00 in interest.

According to S&P, Cannon is a very well-managed township, with emphasis on very strong budgetary and fiscal management. In other words, S&P recognized the Township's fiscal responsibility.

The only factor which prevented a perfect AAA rating was S&P's opinion that because we have not incurred much debt, we do not have a track record of debt service. This will change once we begin to repay the bonds. Given the fact that we will timely repay the

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## FROM THE SUPERVISOR

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bonds, this will establish a favorable debt satisfaction history. We expect over the next three years that our rating will rise to AAA which will enable us at some point in the future to obtain even more favorable interest rates, thereby saving our residents even more over the life of the bonds.

## Christmas Tree Cheers! Recycling

Cannon Township would like to thank residents who donated a total of \$207 to the Rockford High School Honor Society at the Christmas tree recycling event!

## A Message About Sewer

A public informational meeting concerning the Silver Lake wastewater system improvement project was held on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, at the Cannon Township Center. The meeting began with a brief presentation on project scope and schedule, after which general questions were accepted. Detailed construction plans were available for viewing. Construction is expected to commence in mid-April 2016 and continue through September 2016 in a phased manner.

Some trees, bushes, and other landscaping within the right-of-way will be removed. You should relocate anything you would like to save outside the right-of-way before construction commences. Tree removals in the project area were marked one week prior to the public meeting.

## Airbnb

Airbnb is a company that helps people find unique rental accommodations from a local host. An Airbnb is much the same as a Bed and Breakfast establishment. It is becoming a very hot topic in many communities and can pose a lot of difficulty for Zoning and Township officials because it is a commercial use.

Many do not realize that you cannot rent out a vacant room in your home.

In Cannon Township we do allow commercial Bed and Breakfast establishments, but only in the Rural Residential zoning district and only with a Special Land Use (SLU). To be awarded this SLU an applicant must meet very specific criteria (see Zoning Ordinance section 17.07.T) reviewed

by the Township Planning Commission. This use is not allowed in any other zoning district.

Please be aware that renting space in your single-family dwelling is a violation of the Township Zoning Ordinance and the restriction is enforced.

**Julie Lovelace, Zoning Administrator**



## DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL

- April 19** .... Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm  
**April 23** .... Trail Clean-up Day – Cannon Twp Center – 9 am - noon  
**April 25** .... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
**April 30** .... **BEAR CREEK WATERFEST-TOWNSEND PARK 8:00 am-Noon**  
**April 30** .... Quarterly Sewer Bills Due

MAY

- May 7** ..... MiCorps Stream Study – Rockford Community Cabin - 9 am - 2pm  
**May 9** ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
**May 10** ..... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm  
**May 11** ..... Rogue River Watershed Meeting – 9:30 am – 11:30 am  
**May 12** ..... **Community Cleanup – 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**  
**May 13** ..... **Community Cleanup – 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**  
**May 14** ..... **Community Cleanup – 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**  
**May 16** ..... Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 – 5:30 pm  
**May 17** ..... Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm  
**May 23** ..... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
**May 30** ..... **MEMORIAL DAY – OFFICE CLOSED**  
**SUMMER HOURS BEGIN MAY 31ST (7:00 AM – 4:00 PM)**

Please remember to  
check for any  
cancellations or  
changes on the  
Township web site:

<http://www.cannontwp.org>

JUNE

- June 1** ..... **Principal Residence Exemption Due**  
**June 8** ..... Rogue River Watershed Meeting – 9:30 am – 11:30 am  
**June 13** .... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm  
**June 14** .... Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm  
**June 20** .... Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm  
**June 21** .... Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm  
**June 27** .... Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

JULY

- July 2** ..... Lake Bella Vista Association Fireworks Display (rain date July 3)  
**July 3** ..... Bostwick Lake Association Fireworks Display (rain date July 9)  
**July 4** ..... **INDEPENDENCE DAY - OFFICE CLOSED**  
**July 4** ..... Silver Lake Association Fireworks Display  
**July 5** ..... **Last Day to Register for August 2, 2016 Primary Election**

Like Us On FB

<https://www.facebook.com/cannontownship>



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## *Planning Commission is Busy*

Thanks to the input of many citizens and work of the Planning Commission, Township Board, Planning Consultant and Staff, the Cannon Township Master Plan Update is now in place, officially adopted during 2015. It is used to guide Township growth while balancing the need to retain what is unique and valuable about our community. Our Zoning Ordinance is based on the Master Plan, and it is against these two standards that Planning Commission decisions are measured.

The Planning Commission (PC) is a seven member appointed board that

gives guidance to the Township's land use, zoning, and planning process. This committee, with aid from outside legal and planning professionals, evaluates requests for a zoning or use change and makes a decision. For some decisions, approval/denial is final at the PC level, while others must go to the Township Board for adoption. A Public Hearing is required for many requests and a notice is published in the local newspaper and on our website. Public comment is welcomed and is an important component in identifying and evaluating all the ramifications of any change.

Some requests are relatively simple. In January, the PC reviewed and approved

Camp Roger's application to alter their site plan, replacing two storage buildings with one new building. In March the owner of two parcels on Kitson Drive requested they be rezoned from "commercial" to "lakes residential". This request met the criteria for a Map Amendment, was approved and sent to the Township Board for adoption.

Other requests are much more challenging, such as a request in January to consider a Zoning Ordinance amendment to permit a snowmobile racing event to be held at privately owned outdoor recreational areas such as Cannonsburg Ski Area. Discussion and discovery of relevant issues in February resulted in a draft ordinance amendment. The Public Hearing was during the March meeting. Many

residents, both pro and con, participated in the discussion after Cannonsburg Ski Area presented its request. PC members discussed their reasons for or against, weighing all input, current zoning and the Master Plan before recommending that the request be denied.

Officers were elected at the March meeting with Mike Hanna assuming the Planning Commission Chair. Future meetings and topics will depend on requests as they are received.

Please note that the details of Planning Commission meetings are on the Township's website under Information & Services, Minutes, Planning Commission.

**Terry Brod, Trustee & Planning Commission Representative**



## Major Projects

There are going to be several major projects taking place in Cannon Township in the next two years. In 2016 major replacement is planned on the sewer lines on the

North side of Silver Lake, South on Myers Lake Ave to Belding Road and then Belding Road West to Wolverine Blvd. Estimated cost for this is \$5,600,000 and will be financed by bonds. After completion of

this sewer work Wilkinson Drive will have to be re-surfaced at a cost of approximately \$150,000.

In 2017 MDOT is going to resurface Belding Road from Wolverine Blvd to Blakely Drive and

a third lane will be constructed from Blakely Drive to Myers Lake Ave. MDOT is planning on keeping Belding Road open during this construction period with some lanes closed.

**Dick Davies,**  
Treasurer

## WATERFEST 2016

**On Saturday, April 30th**

Up Close & Wild With Michigan Wildlife Outdoor Discovery Center

**Townsend Park 8280 Six Mile Road • Cannonsburg, MI 49317**

(Corner of Ramsdell & Six Mile)

## Scheduled Activities

### Pancake Breakfast:

**8:00am —10:00am**

Adults \$5 Kids (12 and under) \$3 • Family \$15

Proceeds benefit the Cannonsburg  
Christmas Light Committee

## Duck Races Held Throughout the Morning

### Music by the Hawks & Owls

**9:00am —12:00pm**

### AAA Canoe Rental Canoeing Demonstrations

**9:00am & 11:00am**

### Outdoor Discovery Demonstration

**10:00am & 12:00pm**

- Bake Sale - Historical Society
- KC The Recycling Raccoon • Fishing Games
- “Creeky Critters” • “Drop in the Bucket” Activity by  
Kent County Parks Foundation

## Door Prizes From These Generous Donors:

- \$100 Gift Card from Ric's Food Center
- \$100 Visa Gift Card from Choice One Bank
- Canoeing Experience for four from AAA Canoe Rental
  - Season Pass to Millennium Park
- Four Tickets to Frederik Meijer Gardens

***Drawing at 11:45am and must be present to win.***



## Clerk's Corner

By Bonnie Blackledge



One thing you can be sure of about elections in Michigan is that the rules are constantly changing. In order to facilitate the process for this year's August Primary and November General, I decided to focus on one huge change this year.

### Elimination of Straight Party Voting

In the past, voters at the November General Election were able to mark an oval for their party preference and this would give a vote to every

candidate on the ballot representing that party. This was helpful for those who had strong party affiliations because it saved a lot of time at the polls.

Last year, legislation was approved to remove this option from the ballot. Instead, you are being asked to consider each candidate for each position. We Clerks expect that this change will result in longer lines at the polls since the voter will take longer in the privacy booth.

What can we do to help eliminate these lines? First, we will provide more privacy booths in November to give voters more places to vote. Second, you can choose to vote by absentee

ballot if you qualify. One qualification for receiving an absentee ballot is to be 60 years of age or older.

### Permanent Absent Voter List

Cannon Township maintains a list of voters who have asked to be placed on a permanent Absent Voter (AV) list. This means that for every election, voters on this list will be sent an application for an Absentee Ballot. You may decide you would rather vote at the polls – that is your right. However, I encourage you to try the AV process, especially if you have never done so before.

I love being able to vote my ballot in the comfort of my home. I usually vote for candidates I know first, and then I research the ones I'm not as

familiar with. It's nice to have access to Google when I'm voting! I can take my time and spread my voting over several days. If I make a mistake or change my mind, I can return my ballot to the Township and then get a new one.

We will be sending out letters in May asking those of you who are 60 or older who are not on the permanent AV list whether you would like to sign up. Please watch for this letter or call **Nancy at 874-6966** to sign up now!

### Dual AV Application

It is our practice to use a dual application form that includes the August Primary and November General. This will be sent out to the voters on our Permanent AV List sometime in June.

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When you receive this postcard in the mail, please look it over carefully. You must mark why you qualify for an AV Ballot in a check-box for each election. If you just want a ballot for August, only complete that column. If you just want a ballot for November, just check that one. Otherwise, if you want a ballot for both elections, you need to check the box in both columns. We will not be sending applications out again for November, but they will be available upon request.

Also, please make sure you **SIGN** the application form. We usually end up contacting several voters who forget this important step. In order for us to

be able to send a ballot, we need your signature and a check by the reason you qualify. And please do not sign your spouse's application. We have copies of your signature here in the office and we check every one before we send a ballot. We will call you if we notice a discrepancy. If a handicap makes it difficult to sign, do the best you can, even if it's a scribble.

### Must Vote in Person (MVIP)

Michigan law requires a person who has registered by mail to vote in person the first time he/she votes unless that person is over 60. This often affects our college students.

If you registered by mail, please stop by the office sometime before the election if you wish to receive an AV Ballot. Come in and show us

your ID so we can remove that restriction from your status. We will be sending letters out early this summer to all of those voters

with that restriction so you will know who you are.

See you at the polls...

### Saying goodbye to a friend...

Those of you who knew her would agree that Margaret Janose was a good person to have around. She was always willing to volunteer whenever there was a need. She served Cannon Township well for many years working elections, keeping the Historical Museum records in good shape, and making sure that repairs were done on a timely basis. I was always a little afraid to ask Margaret what needed to be done at the museum because I knew there would be a long list.

In addition to the museum and elections, Margaret was always involved with the annual Bear Creek Waterfest. We will miss her smiling face at the event this year. I must confess that I was the first to nab her famous cookies at the bake sale.

On Thursday, March 31, Margaret was taken to her heavenly home. With her gift of hospitality, I'm sure she's keeping everyone there comfortable and well fed. I do know that she will certainly be sadly missed in the Cannon community.

Bonnie Blackledge

**Cannon Township  
now has a Twitter  
Page! Please  
follow us @  
CannonTownship.**



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Volunteers search for insects from the collected debris.

## Watershed News

by Julie Lovelace,  
Watershed Coordinator

### Bear Creek Stream Study

For the past four years we have been studying the macro-invertebrates (bug) populations in Bear Creek. Their identification and numbers will tell us a lot about the water quality of Bear Creek and how well

we're doing protecting our watershed. We sample five sites along the creek and it is our goal to continue this study indefinitely.

We have now joined forces with the Rogue River stream study group and we'll be doing our studies together! It is a fun time and a great way to learn more about your watershed.

**Saturday,  
May 7, 2016  
from  
9:00 a.m.  
to 1:00 p.m.**

#### Why monitor stream insects?

Stream insects are a good measure of water quality since many are pollutant sensitive and can be rapidly identified.

#### What will we do?

Volunteers will be assigned to a monitoring group with a team leader. Each group will collect and identify insects from different stream sites in the Bear Creek and Rogue River watersheds.

#### We need more volunteers.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in natural resources and the health of our streams, please

join us. All ages are welcome; however, children under 16 years old need to be accompanied by an adult. No experience is necessary, and training, equipment, lunch, and the chance to meet new people are provided!

#### What will I need?

Please bring waders if you have them and dress for the weather conditions.

#### Where do we meet?

We will meet at the Rockford Community Cabin located at 220 North Monroe Street, Rockford.

#### For more information

please contact Julie Lovelace [jlovelace@cannontwp.org](mailto:jlovelace@cannontwp.org)  
(616) 884-2206  
[Nichol DeMol nichold-emol@gmail.com](mailto:Nichol.DeMol.nichold-emol@gmail.com).



## Clean Those Septic Tanks!

As many in the Township are aware, all Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) with septic systems in Cannon Township have master deeds that stipulate how often their septic system must be pumped. Homeowners are required to send in a receipt to the Township and I track this. In 2013 an ordinance was passed that made pumping frequency every four years for all PUDs.

While four years is the limit to how long

you can go between pumping, you are encouraged to talk with your septic service provider about your home's specific needs. You may require more frequent pumping depending on the number of people in your home, soil type, etc. It is highly recommended that you have that conversation with your provider to prevent septic failure. This is advisable for all homes with septic systems, regardless of whether or not the home is part of a Planned Unit Development.

Poorly-maintained septic systems can leak harmful bacteria, viruses, and toxic chemicals into your groundwater (your drinking water). Eventually, these

pollutants will also make their way to streams, rivers, and lakes. This is harmful to humans, animals, and all plant life. The EPA has a great link devoted to septics at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/septic/septicsmart.cfm>. It describes how septic tanks function and what is at stake if they are poorly maintained or malfunctioning.

Maintaining a septic tank properly averages \$300 every 3-5 years. Not pumping your tank on a regular basis can cause drain field failure. Replacing a malfunctioning or improperly maintained system can cost from \$3,000 - \$7,000. For some homes, replacing the landscaping after putting in a new drain field can cost more than the new system!

Most of our residents are very diligent about pumping their tanks and are excellent guardians of our Bear Creek Watershed. It is my hope that all citizens utilizing a septic system will be diligent about protecting our groundwater. For those in a Planned Unit Development, if you have not had your septic tanks pumped in over four years please have it done immediately.

Julie Lovelace [jlovelace@cannontwp.org](mailto:jlovelace@cannontwp.org)  
(616) 884-2206

**We could use  
some more  
trail volunteers.**

**If you're  
interested, please  
sign up at:**

[www.SignUpGenius.com/  
go/70A0D49AFAB22A02-trail](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/70A0D49AFAB22A02-trail)



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## News From The Fire Department



### 2015 Year In Review

In 2015, the Cannon Township Fire Department responded to 500 calls.

Here is a breakdown of our calls:

#### ✓ Fires 52

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

#### ✓ Rescue & Emergency Medical Service calls 294

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

#### ✓ Calls 42

(Disregarded after dispatched, Authorized burning, etc.)

#### ✓ Service

##### Calls 51

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

#### Hazardous Conditions (no fire) 31

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

#### ✓ False Alarm 30

(Malfunctioning alarm system, CO detector, etc.)

Our average response time is calculated based on when Kent County dispatches the department to when the department arrives on scene. Sometimes our

delayed arrival is the direct result of not being able to find a street address.

Please take time to make sure that your address is clearly marked at your mailbox and/or the house numbers are visible from the street. If necessary, clear away any brush or tree limbs that may obscure your house numbers or prevent us from accessing your driveway.

As a service to the public, the Cannon Township Fire Department is still offering reflective street signs for \$10.00 per sign. Call 874-9725 or

stop in our fire station on Belding Rd., next to the Cannon Township Center, during normal business hours.

### Open Burning Ordinance Reminder...

The Cannon Township Open Burning Ordinance is the result of a collaborative effort between the Township Board, the Fire Department and the Township's attorney.

With the upcoming months of dry, hot weather, it was

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### By the way...

There are now **two** ways to follow us

#### Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CannonTwpFireDept> and at our

#### Website:

<http://cannonfire.org>



necessary to find a way to ensure the safety of our residents. We on the department, feel strongly that this ordinance will help reduce the amount of nuisance calls and allow the Township to recover the expense of providing fire suppression efforts to those individuals and businesses that do not adhere to the same rules as the rest of our residents.

So please take a moment to read this ordinance found on the Cannon Township website and remember that burning permits are free!

<http://www.cannontwp.org/department/?structureid=9>

**In Cannon Township, you do not need a burn permit for camp fires as long as you are in compliance with the Township ordinance.**



**Cannon Township Fire Department  
Station 2**

**To obtain a permit, call 874-9725  
during normal business hours.**

*Until next time, stay safe.*

## **Fertilizer Sale**

Bostwick Lake Church (across from Lakes School) is holding their annual spring lawn/garden fertilizer sale on Saturdays in April and May from 9am until noon. All products are phosphate free!

## **Cannonsburg Museum News**

The annual bake sale held at the cabin in Townsend Park in conjunction with Waterfest will be April 30 this year. Sale starts at 8am and lasts until everything is sold. Goodies sell out fast, so plan to get there early! If you're a member, consider this a reminder to bring your baked goods by 8 am. Then please stay and have breakfast!

*The Museum will be open on  
Sundays from 2 pm – 4 pm  
beginning May 1.*



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## **Cannon Communicator**

Cannon Township publishes the Communicator electronically. Sign up on our website [www.cannontwp.org](http://www.cannontwp.org). Use the Email Alerts button on the left side of the home page to subscribe to the newsletter and other publications.

### **You may also find the newsletter at these locations:**

- Choice One Bank  
on Belding Road
- Ric's Market
- Pizzeria Grande
- Bostwick Lake  
Bakery
- Cannonsburg  
Gristmill
- Honey Creek Inn
- Cannon Township  
Center Lobby



# Communicator

## Clip and Save E-mail Addresses Township Board & Staff

<b>Supervisor</b> , Steve Grimm:	sgrimm@cannontwp.org
<b>Clerk</b> , Bonnie Blackledge:	bonnies@cannontwp.org
<b>Treasurer</b> , Dick Davies:	ddavies@cannontwp.org
<b>Trustee/Deputy Supervisor</b> , Deb Diepenhorst:	ddiepenhorst@cannontwp.org
<b>Trustee</b> , Terry Brod:	tbrod@cannontwp.org
<b>Trustee</b> , Henry Betten:	hbetten@cannontwp.org
<b>Trustee</b> , Kim McKay:	kmckay@cannontwp.org
<b>Deputy Clerk</b> , Nancy Popma:	nancyp@cannontwp.org
<b>Deputy Treasurer</b> , Milissa Soderstrom:	milissas@cannontwp.org
<b>Zoning &amp; Watershed Administrator</b> , Julie Lovelace:	jlovelace@cannontwp.org
<b>Administrative Assistant</b> , Sue Clarin:	suec@cannontwp.org
<b>Assessor</b> , Matt Frain:	mfrain@cannontwp.org
<b>Fire Chief</b> , Jim Morris:	Chief@Cannontwp.org

## Other Important Numbers

<b>Cannon Township Offices:</b>	616.874.6966
Cannon Township Fax:	616.874.8940
Cannon Township Fire Department:	616.874.9725
Cannon Township Hours:	(Summer Hours 7:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday, May 31 - September 2)
Cannon Township Web Site:	www.cannontwp.org
County Commissioner, Diane Jones:	Diane.Jones@kentcountymi.gov
State Representative, Chris Afendoulis:	ChrisAfendoulis@house.mi.gov
Phone:	1-855- 347-0218
State Senator, Peter MacGregor:	senpmacgregor@senate.michigan.gov
Kent County Sheriff's Department Non-Emergency number:	616-632-6100
Kent County Web Site:	www.accesskent.com
Phone:	1-855-347-8028
State of Michigan Web Site:	www.michigan.gov
Emergency:	911



**Cannon Township**  
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## Township Board Meetings

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

6878 Belding Road, NE • Rockford, MI 49341