

the Cannon Communicator

Published by the Cannon Township Board, Kent County, Michigan

From the Desk of the Supervisor - Steve Grimm

Mike Warmbier Appointed to Trustee Position

At its meeting on Monday, February 24, the Cannon Township Board appointed Mike Warmbier to the trustee position which became vacant when Diane Jones was appointed to the County Commission. Mike brings a tremendous amount of experience to the Board. He has been on the Planning Commission for the last six years, a year and a half as chairman (he's also an MSU Certified Citizen Planner), member of the Zoning Board of Appeals the past ten years, on the Township's IT Committee for the last two years, and he regularly attends Board meetings. Mike takes his dedication to Cannon very seriously, missing only one meeting in his ten year tenure serving the Township. He will remain on the Planning Commission as the Board representative. We know Mike will do a great job representing the residents of Cannon.

Prior to selecting Mike, we had invited all residents to submit applications for the position. A committee reviewed eight applications; of those three candidates were interviewed. David Phillips, of Lake Bella Vista, was one of the applicants. Even though he did not have prior involvement in township government, he was

considered for the board vacancy. We felt that he would better serve the Township on the Planning Commission, and he graciously accepted that appointment. Henry Betten, who has long been involved in the Township and was also seriously considered for the opening on the Board, agreed to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. We also appointed Terry Brod, who has spent many years on the Township's Board of Review, to sit on the Planning Commission.

Also on the agenda for the meeting on the 24th was the renewal of the Special Land Use at the Cannonsburg Ski Area. This renewal had been voted down by the Planning Commission, but the Board, by a 4-2 vote (McBrien and Nelson dissenting) renewed the Special Land Use, with an amendment limiting amplified music to no more than four hours during any event or concert. Had the Board failed to approve the Special Land Use, the Grand Rapids Symphony's Picnic Pops would have been canceled. We also voted to implement a better communications system that would allow residents to lodge complaints at the Township if too much noise emanates from the concerts or events.

 Cannon Township
Spring 2014
A Historic Rural Community

Cannon Township



The Cannon Township Recreation Committee has been very busy this past year. We have four major projects going on...

1 Bostwick Lake Park – The committee made a decision to renovate the park. With support from the Township Board, a consultant prepared a plan that will add many improvements. I recently submitted a grant application asking for \$45,000 to help pay for this project that is estimated at \$98,000. The project will involve parking lot improvements, a sidewalk, deck, new stairway with landings, new retaining walls, and shoreline stabilization improvements. The entire park will comply with ADA requirements with the upper level being universally accessible. Since we are waiting on a grant announcement that won't happen until November, this project is scheduled for 2015.

2 Cannonsburg Trail – Last fall we received a grant award from MDOT through the Grand Valley Metro Council, thanks to Chad Sosnowski who submitted the application. This award is for \$245,700 and will be used to fund the trail extension from Townsend Park into the Village of Cannonsburg (total project cost is \$485,000). This project should be done in 2014.

3 Cannon Township Center Park – In 2012, Cannon was awarded \$100,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for improvements on the Township property. Construction will commence this summer on the park that will include a pavilion, playground,

playing field, parking area and accessible trail that will extend to the southern property line and through a wetland area. The total cost for this project is estimated at \$317,000.

4 Bostwick Lake Trail – Cannon Township is in the process of obtaining an easement that will preserve access to residents who walk around Bostwick Lake. This easement will be defined and improved with crushed stone.

These four projects will all use some of the millage money that you all so generously pay for recreation. A millage renewal will be on the ballot in August.

**Bonnie Blackledge,
Clerk & Recreation
Committee Chair**

Open Burning Ordinance

 It's hard to believe that we are just around the corner from spring clean-up projects. As a reminder, the Cannon Township Open Burning Ordinance was developed as a necessary means to ensure the safety of our residents.

We on the department, feel strongly that this ordinance will also 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.

A copy of this ordinance may be reached by clicking on the hyper link:

http://www.cannontwp.org/egov/documents/1236703320_725616.pdf

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

Until next time, stay safe!

Take a look at us at <http://cannonfire.org> or visit our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/CannonTwpFireDept>

Budget Information...

During the month of March the Budget Committee has been busy preparing the Township Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2014.

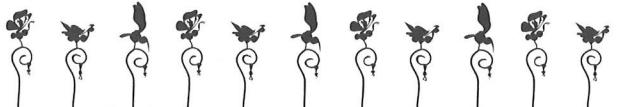
Several major items have been included in this year's budget that were not included in prior years.

These are:

- **\$75,000** for parking lot on 10 Mile Road for Luton Park (The total project will be approximately \$300,000 with Courtland Township contributing \$75,000 and the balance paid by the County.)
- **\$25,000** to increase shoulder width from 4ft to 6ft when 10 Mile Road is resurfaced this summer from Courtland Drive near Rockford Village to Myers Lake Avenue. (Courtland Township is also contributing \$25,000.)

Other items include **\$28,000** to spread limestone on Bush Drive, **\$70,000** additional repairs on roads because of the cold and snow this winter, **\$29,000** for Master Plan update, **\$370,000** for a new fire vehicle, **\$239,300** for additional trail construction (\$485,000 total offset by \$245,700 grant), **\$217,000** for Township Center Park construction (\$317,000 total offset by \$100,000 grant), **\$66,700** engineering fees for trail and park, **\$10,000** for cemetery improvements (\$14,700 total offset by \$4,700 prior C.D.), and **\$10,365** for landscape improvements at the Township Center.

**Richard R. Davies,
Cannon Township Treasurer**



Sewer Rates were increased effective April 1, 2014
The new rate per REU is \$127.00



Clerk's Corner

Bonnie Blackledge



2014 Election News – AV Ballots

Before every election we send out applications for Absentee Ballots to everyone on our permanent list. In order to qualify to be on the list, you must be 60 years of age or older, physically unable to attend the polls without assistance of another or you cannot attend due to the tenets of your religion. If your job generally requires you to be away from the community during the time the polls are open, we will also add you to this list. Please contact **Nancy** (nancyp@cannontwp.org) if you would like to be added to this list.

Even if you are on the list and receive an application for an absentee ballot, you always have the opportunity to come to the polls to vote if you would like. If you don't send the application back, you won't get a ballot. If you do get a ballot, you can still vote in the polls if you "surrender" your ballot when you come in to vote. Just bring the ballot in, enclosed in its envelope, and ask to speak to the Chair when you arrive at your precinct.

Personally, I love the opportunity to vote an absentee ballot. As I make decisions on the races, I can vote those races, and then do more research on the ones I'm unsure of. I can have my laptop handy to Google candidates' names and read

about their positions on various issues. I'm excited about turning 60 this year and being qualified to vote this way.

For years the legislature has debated the issue of "no reason absentee voting." I have always questioned why they are so reluctant to pass legislation to allow this, as it is a good option for our citizens, especially in elections with long, two-sided ballots. I'd love to see this opportunity available before my term ends in 2016.

Just a note – forwarding requests at the Post Office do not apply to ballots. If you will not be collecting mail at your residence, please contact Nancy with the address where you would like your ballot sent. Even better – complete the area on the application form that gives an alternate address to mail your ballot.

Remember – election law allows you to return the sealed envelope containing a voted ballot from a person in your household. However, we are not allowed to give an unvoted absentee ballot to anyone other than the voter.

Upcoming Elections

There are three elections scheduled for 2014.

- **May 6th** – Rockford Public Schools Bond Proposal
- **Aug 5th** – State Primary Election
- **Nov 4th** – State General Election

Election Workers Needed

We need workers who are able to use a computer efficiently. If you are interested in working on August 5th and November 4th, please email bonnies@cannontwp.org or more information.

Wish To Lodge A Complaint?

It's the middle of the night. Your neighbor's dog has been barking for two hours straight. You want to lodge a complaint, but you're worried that in your rush to get to work in the morning, you'll forget to call. What can you do?

Cannon Township has just developed a new Phone Complaint System that you can call 24/7. So pick up your phone and dial 874-6966 and wait for a response. This is what you'll hear after the general announcement: "If this is an ordinance enforcement issue, please press 1 to leave a message."

When you **press 1**, you will hear: "Please leave your name, number, specific information, and address of your concern. Press the # key after the message to reach the person on call, or hang up."

The morning of the next business day your message will be routed to the person responsible for enforcement of the issue. In the case of the barking dog, the Zoning Administrator will send a letter to the owner of the dog, registering the complaint and asking him to keep the dog quiet. If the dog is still barking after a week or so, please call again. The owner will get a second letter. Up to this point, the name of the person who complained is not included in the letters.

If a third letter is necessary, this is accompanied with a citation for a court appearance ticket. In order to issue this citation, witnesses to the violation must sign a statement.

The barking dog example was given, but there are many other ordinance violations that could be handled with a message on this complaint line.

Our ordinances are available on our website.

<http://www.cannontwp.org>

Spring Fertilizer Sale

Bostwick Lake Church is holding their annual spring fertilizer sale on **Saturdays in April and May** from 9 am until noon.

This fertilizer is **phosphate free!**



Cannon Township



Another Successful Christmas Tree Drop Off...

Thank You!

Cannon Township would like to extend a thank you to the Rockford High School Honor Society students listed here for helping with our Christmas tree drop off event.

If you did not get a chance to leave a donation for the Honor Society when you dropped off your tree, please feel free to do so here at the Township office. Julie Lovelace will make sure your donations reach the Honor Society.

- **Kate Busen**
- **John Dubravec**
- **Aimee Hite**
- **Linnea Hjelm**
- **Hannah Koolewyn**
- **Haley Mast**
- **Elaine Rahrig**
- **Julia Riccibono**
- **Zak Riebschleser**
- **Philip Staublin**

The Cannon Communicator

Cannon Township now publishes the Communicator electronically. Sign up on our website www.cannontwp.org. Use the Email Alerts button on the left side of the home page to subscribe to the newsletter and other publications.

If you would like a hard copy of the newsletter, they are available at the following locations:

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

This year we allowed tree drop off beginning December 27 and extending until January 11. This seems to meet the needs of everyone's schedule. We love to offer our residents the opportunity to bring their Christmas tree to the Township Center in order to have an earth-friendly way to dispose of it. HOWEVER, some people are taking advantage of this service by dropping off trees after the cutoff date.

We have to PAY for disposal of these trees. If you drop your tree off after the deadline, we have to hire someone to come out a second time to pick up these trees. This is not an effective use of taxpayer money. We actually had someone leave a tree sometime the first week of April! Really!!!? The Township property is not a dumping ground. Please don't ruin this service for your neighbors!



April 2014

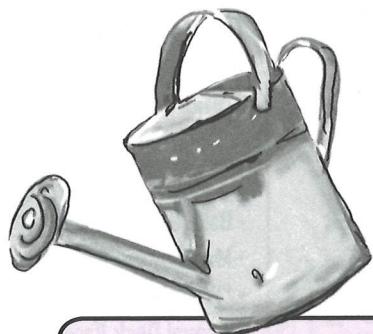
April 18 **OFFICE CLOSED**
April 21 Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
April 26 **BEAR CREEK WATERFEST-TOWNSEND PARK 8:00 am-Noon**
April 28 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
April 30 Quarterly Sewer Bills Due

Remember
to check for any
cancellations or
changes
on the Website:

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

May 2014

May 1 **Community Cleanup/Electronics Recycling– 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**
May 2 **Community Cleanup/Electronics Recycling– 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**
May 3 **Community Cleanup/Electronics Recycling– 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**
May 3 Office open for Absentee Ballots 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
May 5 Absentee Voting in office from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
May 6 **ELECTION–Rockford Public Schools Bond Proposal
Polls open 7:00 am–8:00 p m**
May 12 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
May 14 Rogue River Watershed Meeting – 9:30 am – 10:30 am
May 19 Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 – 5:30 pm
May 20 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm
May 26 **MEMORIAL DAY – OFFICE CLOSED**
No Township Board Meeting



Please "Like" the Clerk's Facebook Page

Notices are posted about elections,
recreation, watershed, cemeteries,
and all the other Township
activities that the Clerk manages.

Clerks Office FaceBook

June 2014

June 1 **Principal Residence Exemption Due**
June 9 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm
June 10 Planning Commission Meeting – 6:00 pm
June 11 Rogue River Watershed Meeting – 9:30 am – 11:30 am
June 16 Recreation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
June 17 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting – 6:00 pm
June 23 Township Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

Watershed Pages



Waterfest 2014

Owls & Raptors & Worms . . . Oh, My!

WHEN

Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 8 am - 12 pm

Pancake Breakfast 8 am until they run out

- Adults.....\$5.00
- Kids.....(12 & under) \$3.00
- Family.....\$15.00

*Proceeds benefit the Cannonsburg
Christmas Light Committee*

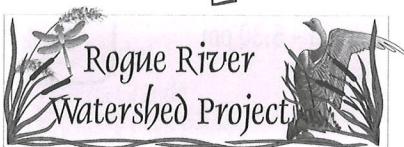
WHERE

Townsend Park

8280 Six Mile Road , Cannonsburg, MI 49317
Corner of Ramsdell & Six Mile Rd.

FEATURING

- Bake Sale –benefiting the Cannon Historical Society
- Music by the “Hawks & Owls”
- “Froggie” Hunt
- Annual Duck Race
- Exhibits by the Blanford Nature Center
- Door Prizes



Schedule Of Events

Owl Presentation

10:00am –10:20am
11:20am – 11:40am

Recycle With Worms

10:20 am – 10:40am
11:00am – 11:20am

Raptor Presentation

10:40am–11:00am
11:40am –12:00pm

Children visit all exhibits and win a prize!

Door Prizes

- Tickets to Frederick Meijer Gardens
- Grand Rapids Symphony Pop Tickets
- \$100 Gift Card from Ric's Food Center
- Frozen Creek Floral Gift Basket

*Drawing at 11:30am,
must be present to win.*

Sponsors

- Choice One Bank
- Donations from:
- Grand Rapids Symphony
- Frederick Meijer Gardens
- Ric's Food Center

Education On

Bear Creek Watershed

Cannon Township Boat Docking Ordinance

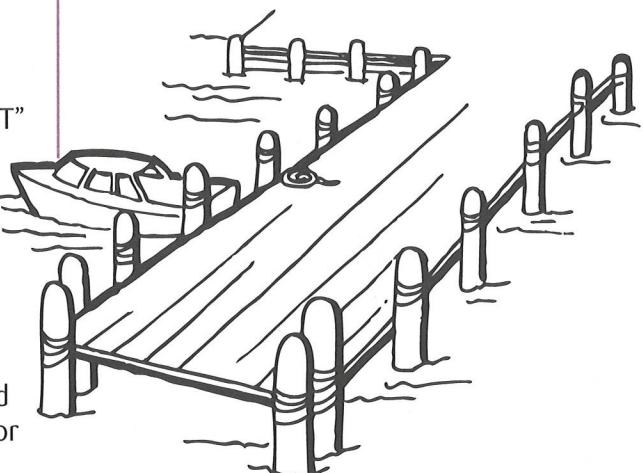
Spring is on the way, or so we hope! It has to come eventually, and with it, boating season.

Some key things to remember when putting in your dock:

1. No more than one dock and one shore station/boat cradle shall be permitted per parcel. You may have one additional dock if you have additional frontage of 70 feet or more.
2. The length of the dock should not present a hazard to navigation, and "T" or "L" sections may not exceed 6 feet in width. Docks and boats must be at least 7 feet from side lot lines. Shore stations or boat cradles must be at least 2 feet from side lot lines.
3. No more than two (2) motorized watercraft and two (2) non-motorized watercraft may be launched from, docked, or utilized from each frontage.

4. No boat dock or lift shall be sold, leased, or the use thereof given in exchange for consideration to any third party, other than the owner or lessee of the lot and building thereon.

Please know the intent of this ordinance is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of persons using these lakes. For those of you that live on the lake please review the "Boat Launching and Docking" ordinance found in our General Ordinances at www.cannontwp.org. The General Ordinance is enforceable by Police power.



Julie Lovelace – Zoning Administrator/Watershed Coordinator • jlovelace@cannontwp.org or 884-2206

Cannon Township



Spring Cleanup...

2014 Cannon Spring Community Cleanup

Thursday, Friday, Saturday May 1 - 3
9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Where? The Cannon Township parking lot

What to bring? General household items including appliances, scrap metal, large batteries (car, boat, etc.)

Important! Residents will have to pay for mattresses/box springs (\$15) and whole tires (\$10)

Rules:

- No liquids (paint, oil, etc.) Latex is okay if it's hardened.
- No brush or yard waste
- All tires must be cut in half or cut the sidewalls out

- No shovel-offs (smaller items should be bagged.)
- Propane and fuel tanks must be cut in half and cleaned out.
- Fencing must be folded or rolled up.
- Barrels must have one end open or be full of holes.
- No hazardous materials

For a complete list of household items not accepted and disposal options for those items, please visit www.AccessKent.Com/hhw

FREE Community Electronics Recycling Event

Cannon Township • 6878 Belding Road NE • Rockford, Michigan

Thursday, Friday & Saturday
May 1, 2, & 3 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

- Need a way to get rid of old electronics?
- Computers, TVs, Electronics of all kinds accepted
 - This free collection is open to ALL
 - Businesses also welcome to participate

Please look for the Comprenew E-drop trailer in the parking lot

- Almost any electronic item, working or non-working, with a cord or battery is acceptable
 - Review acceptable items list at www.comprenew.org, or call (616) 988-8270
 - Your computer hard drives will be wiped and/or destroyed for you
 - **No worries about your data with Comprenew®**

Do The Right Thing, Love The Planet And Keep Michigan Clean
Recycle Your Electronics Safely, Securely, And Responsibly!

Contact Bonnie Blackledge, Cannon Township Clerk **For More Information**
616.884.2204 • Bonnie@Cannontwp.Org



Comprenew • 629 Ionia Ave Sw • Grand Rapids 49503 • 616.988.8270
www.comprenew.org • Comprenew Is A 501 C 3 Nonprofit Organization

Clip and Save E-mail Addresses Township Board & Staff

Supervisor, Steve Grimm:	sgrimm@cannontwp.org
Clerk, Bonnie Blackledge:	bonnies@cannontwp.org
Treasurer, Dick Davies:	ddavies@cannontwp.org
Trustee/Deputy Supervisor Deb Diepenhorst:	ddiepenhorst@cannontwp.org
Trustee Mike Warmbier:	MWarmbier@cannontwp.org
Trustee Rob McBrien:	rmcbrien@cannontwp.org
Trustee Tim Nelson:	timn@cannontwp.org
Deputy Clerk, Nancy Popma:	nancyp@cannontwp.org
Deputy Treasurer, Miliissa Soderstrom:	miliassas@cannontwp.org
Zoning & Watershed, Julie Lovelace:	jlovelace@cannontwp.org
Administrative Assistant Sue Clarin:	suec@cannontwp.org
Assessor, Matt Frain:	mfrain@cannontwp.org
Fire Chief, Jim Morris:	chief@cannontwp.org

Other Important Numbers

County Commissioner, Diane Jones:	dianecjones2005@yahoo.com
State Representative, Pete MacGregor:	PeterMacGregor@house.mi.gov
Phone:	1-855-DIST073 (347-8073)
State Senator, Mark Jansen:	sennjansen@senate.michigan.gov
Phone:	1-866-305-2128
Cannon Township Offices:	616.874.6966
Cannon Township Fax:	616.874.8940
Cannon Township Web Site:	www.cannontwp.org
Cannon Township Hours	(Hours 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon – Fri)
Cannon Township Fire Department	616.874.9725
Kent County Web Site:	www.accesskent.com
State of Michigan Web Site:	www.michigan.gov
Emergency	911

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

 **Communicator**
Cannon Township

Spring 2014

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