

Summer 2026

CANNON TOWNSHIP

Communicator

**UPDATES FROM THE
SUPERVISOR**

CLERK'S CORNER
TECHNOLOGY, ROADS,
ELECTIONS, CEMETERIES

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THE CLEYPOL FAMILY

PARKS & REC UPDATE

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PHOTO | PREIN & NEWHOF

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From Your Township Board

This issue of the Cannon Communicator highlights the many ways our community is planning for the future, from the James and Shirley Balk Family Park and Community Center to road, trail, sewer, election, public safety and recreation updates. These projects reflect years of thoughtful planning, strong partnerships, community input and responsible decision-making.

Thank you for staying informed, asking questions and continuing to help make Cannon Township a wonderful place to call home. All of us are here to serve you.



Steve Grimm
Supervisor



Jim Alles
Clerk



David Spencer
Treasurer



Henry Betten
Trustee



Cy Balk
Trustee



Todd Olson
Trustee



Jessica
Gutowski-Slaydon
Trustee

HERE TO SERVE YOU

-  Cannon Township Center
6878 Belding Road, Rockford, MI 49341
-  Main Office: 616-874-6966
Zoning Administrator: 616-884-2206

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FROM THE START

James and Shirley Balk Family Park



Steve Grimm

Supervisor

P: (616) 822-6895

E: sgrimm@cannontwp.gov

Committees:

Fire & Law Enforcement, Sewer

Communications, Personnel

Finance & Elections

Several years ago, a large number of residents filled the boardroom before a scheduled Township Board meeting. During public comment, residents voiced concerns about what they believed was an already approved 450-home development on the former Silver Lake Country Club property.

The board dispelled that rumor, but shortly thereafter, the developer did submit a plan to the Planning Commission.

During the planning process, several concerns arose including traffic impact and sewer capacity. As many residents know, Belding Road is already heavily traveled, and there was significant concern about adding a large development in that area. The Township also analyzed whether the sewer trunk line along Belding Road could handle that level of density. The conclusion was that it could not.

Given those concerns, along with others, the Township decided to limit the density to one home per two acres. That decision would have severely limited the profitability of the project for the developer.

ENTER THE BALK FAMILY

With the development at a standstill, Jim and Shirley Balk approached the Township. They agreed to fund the purchase of the property from the developer so Kent County could turn it into a county park. With that, James and Shirley Balk Family Park was born.

Shortly thereafter, the Kent County Parks Department and the Kent County Parks Foundation began drafting plans and raising funds. The plans were ambitious and reflected the philanthropic spirit of the Balk family. They included a covered pavilion, natural playground, walking trails, bird-watching tower, scenic overlook and disc golf course.

Unfortunately, the new park was not high on the county's priority list, and the project did not gain traction.

ENTER CANNON TOWNSHIP

Late last year, the Township approached the Balk family with a question: What if Cannon Township built the park?

Since the county had made little progress, the Balk family was fully supportive of the idea.

The Board then went to work. The Township was able to secure Visser Brothers Construction for the project, and the company generously offered to complete the work without profit. Bill Mast, president of Visser Brothers, along with Vice President Heath Baxter, both Cannon Township residents, were excited to offer their construction services and donate Visser Brothers' profits as a way to give back to the community.

Architect Robert Andrus also offered his services at cost. As a Cannon Township resident, he was equally excited to support the project by donating his profits back to the community.

The Township also obtained a favorable contract with Dykema Excavators.

As a result, the Township expects to complete the project for approximately \$4 million, compared with the county's original estimated cost of \$8 million. There will be no tax increase and no reduction in other Township services.

As the Township's accountant stated during a recent board meeting, very few municipalities are in a position to do what Cannon Township can.

MOVING FORWARD

Because Cannon Township decided to build the park itself, the Township and the county agreed that the people of Cannon Township will own and operate the pavilion, which will be known as the Cannon Township Community Center.

The facility will be available for reservations for weddings, receptions, open houses and other community events. Cannon Township residents will receive priority access to reservations before the rest of the county.

The Township also will consolidate its polling locations so all residents will vote at the Community Center, thus saving the Township more than \$20,000 per year.

Because of uncooperative weather last winter and earlier this year, progress on the park has moved more slowly than anticipated. However, despite those delays, the park is still expected to be completed this year.

Residents can follow project updates on the Township's project page and through official Cannon Township communication channels.

Technology, Roads, Elections, Cemeteries



Jim Alles

Clerk

P: (616) 884-2207

E: jalles@cannontwp.gov

Committees:

Elections, Personnel, Cemetery
Fire & Law enforcement, Facilities
Communications & GVMC Rep

ELECTIONS

Everyone who is a registered voter should have received a new voter information card by now. If you did not receive one, it may indicate that you are not registered or that we have an inaccurate address on file. To check, call the office at 616-874-6966 or email elections@cannontwp.gov.

You do not need to bring this card with you when you vote. The card provides information about your U.S. Congressional and Senate districts, state Senate and House districts, Kent County Commissioner district, voting precinct and permanent polling location.

That said, there will be a **change in polling locations** for the August 4 primary and the November 3 general election.

For the August 4 primary, precincts 1, 2 and 3 will vote at Crestwood Elementary School, 6350 Courtland Drive NE. Precinct 4 will vote at the Cannon Township Center.

For the November 3 general election, precincts 1 and 2 will vote at Bostwick Lake Congregational Church, 7979 Belding Road which is at the corner of Young Avenue and Belding Road. Precinct 3 will vote at Crossroads Church, 8331 Myers Lake Avenue, which is at the corner of Myers Lake Avenue and 10 Mile Road. Precinct 4 will vote at the Cannon Township Center.

Each voter will receive notice of temporary polling locations before the August primary and November general election.

For the August 4 primary, voters cannot cross parties. You must vote for either Democratic candidates or Republican candidates. For example, you cannot vote for a gubernatorial candidate from one party and a Senate candidate from the other party. As clerks say, "Stay in your lane."

This will be a busy election, so I urge everyone to take advantage of in-person **early voting** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 25, through Sunday, August 2. You may also sign up to have a ballot mailed to you, allowing you to take your time, research the candidates and vote from home. Cannon Township currently has nearly 4,000 residents signed up for absentee ballots out of more than 12,000 registered voters.

If you feel more secure voting in person, new election laws allow you to receive an absentee ballot and bring it to an early voting site (Cannon Township Center) or to your polling location on Election Day to cast through the tabulator. This can save time at the polling location and also gives you extra time to research candidates before completing your ballot.

It is important to remember that if you use an absentee ballot, your signature on the envelope must match the signature on your driver's license. If it does not match, you will be required to complete a "signature cure" process.

Do not sign anyone else's ballot. Power of attorney is not valid for ballots. Not only is it invalid, it is against the law.



Round about at 10 mile and Myers Lake Rd

ROADS

10 Mile Road and Myers Lake Avenue Roundabout Project

Construction of a commercial-grade, single-lane roundabout at 10 Mile Road and Myers Lake Avenue is underway and is expected to be completed by October 2.

The project is part of the Kent County Road Commission's ongoing efforts to improve safety and traffic operations at key intersections throughout the county. Along with the roundabout under construction at 10 Mile Road and Pine Island Drive, the project received federal Highway Safety Improvement Program funding through a competitive, data-driven process focused on reducing fatal and serious injury crashes.

Roundabouts are designed to improve safety and traffic flow by slowing vehicle speeds and reducing the number of potential conflict points. This helps lower both the frequency and severity of crashes while keeping traffic moving more efficiently.

The intersection is currently closed to through traffic with a posted detour. However, the west leg of 10 Mile Road remains open to eastbound motorists turning south onto Myers Lake Avenue. Access to residences and the NUVU Fuels gas station on the northwest corner will be maintained throughout construction.



While a signed detour route is in place, motorists are encouraged to consider alternate routes that may better suit their travel needs.

"We understand construction creates temporary challenges for motorists, but we are confident the long-term benefits will be worth the investment," said Erik Easterly, KCRC (Kent County Road Commission) director of engineering.

Project updates, roundabout safety information, and videos showing how to safely navigate a roundabout are available at kentcountyroads.net.

All other road projects should be complete by the time you receive this newsletter, and planning will soon begin for next year's construction. If you think your street should be considered for future work, please email me at jalles@cannontwp.gov.

David Spencer Treasurer

P: (616) 874-6966
E: dspencer@cannontwp.gov

Committees:

Finance, Personnel, Parks & Rec, Elections, Rockford Area Foundation Rep



Treasurer's Report

Summer tax bills should have arrived at your home during the first week of July. The final date for Cannon Township to receive your summer tax payment without interest or penalty is Monday, September 14, 2026.

Postmarks are not accepted, and we recommend allowing extra time by mailing your payment at least two weeks in advance. If you use your bank's bill pay feature, we recommend choosing a due date earlier than September 14, as these delivery dates are only estimates. We regularly receive late bill pay checks – some up to a week after the due date. Payments received after September 14 are subject to interest and penalties.

The Treasurer's Department offers several options for paying property taxes without relying on the Post Office. Residents may set up automatic ACH payments, pay online through the Township website, or use the secure drop box located in the lobby of the Cannon Township office. The drop box is available 24 hours a day. If you choose to pay by ACH, the authorization form is available online at cannontwp.gov or at the Township office.

If your Cannon Township home is your primary residence, we recommend reviewing your tax bill to make sure you are receiving the Principal Residence Exemption, or PRE. If the PRE is in place, your annual tax savings are approximately 18 mills. There are two places on your tax bill to confirm the PRE is in place. Your bill should show "% PRE/MBT: 100%" and "Exempt" next to your school district operating tax. If the PRE is not in place, please bring it to the attention of the Assessor's Office or Treasurer's Office, and we will help arrange the proper forms for you to sign.

On March 1, 2026, all unpaid 2025 tax obligations were transferred to Kent County. Residents with unpaid balances should contact the Kent County Treasurer's Office with questions or to make payment arrangements. The office can be reached at 616-632-7500.

On an unrelated note, school is out for the summer. Please drive slowly, as children will be playing in neighborhoods and riding bicycles. Let's help keep kids, walkers and runners safe. Additionally, to help prevent theft, please remember to close garage doors at night. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call David at 616-884-2201 or Judy at 616-884-2202.

Parks & Recreation and Facilities Update



Todd Olson
Trustee

P: (616) 443-6475
E: tolson@cannontwp.gov

Committees:
Parks & Rec, Facilities,
Fundraising Committee

Hello again Friends and Neighbors,

For the Parks and Recreation update in this issue, we reached out to Ben Swayze, Executive Director of Kent County Parks, and asked him to provide an update on the Grand River Greenway Project that is coming through Cannon Township.

Before we get into that, I would like to share a couple of updates.

First, I would like to thank the young members of our community from Rockford Christian School who, for the second year in a row, built a picnic table that will be enjoyed at the Cannon Pickle Ball Courts. Pictured here are Calvin Dams, Hudson McKnight, Evan Stuckhart, Max Yosin, Drew Eldersveld, Grant DeVries, Hudson Hoover, Analeigh Vandenberg, Penny Sees, and Matt Christians. Thank you again to these young folks for the hard work and excellent craftsmanship they put into this project. I would also like to thank Matt Christians, their teacher, for considering Cannon Township for this opportunity.

I would also like to share some exciting news. We have reached the final plan for the expansion of the Cannon Trail along Kies Road to connect with Rockford.

As many of you know, it has been our goal for 25 years to create a trail connection between the Village of Cannonsburg and Rockford. Here we are, many years and many hours of work later, and that dream is finally coming to fruition.

Our original plan was to route the trail through Meadow Ridge Elementary School along the eastern and northern borders of the property. That plan changed when a few residents expressed opposition to the concept. At that point, the Parks and Recreation Committee amended the



2026 Picnic table donated by Rockford Christian: Pictured is Calvin Dams, Hudson McKnight, Evan Stuckhart, Max Yosin, Drew Eldersveld, Grant DeVries, Hudson Hoover, Analeigh Vandenberg, Penny Sees, Matt Christians, & Todd Olson

plan to end the trail at Luton Park. At the time, we believed this would give us additional time to explore the many options available for connecting the trail to Rockford.

Several years ago, Cannon Township was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the State of Michigan for this project. However, when we submitted the amended plans to the state, we learned that if we proceeded with that design, our grant would be reduced to \$75,000, resulting in the loss of \$225,000 in funding. As you can imagine, that was not a financial hit we were willing to take.

As a result, the Parks and Recreation Committee, with the assistance of our engineering firm, Prein & Newhof, worked diligently to evaluate several alternatives and their associated costs. After reviewing the available options, the potential easements required, and the challenges associated with acquiring those easements, it was determined that the lowest-cost and most practical solution was to route the trail along the north side of Kies Road all the way to Courtland Avenue, where it will connect to the existing multi-use trail.

After reviewing the final plans, the Parks and Recreation Committee voted unanimously to advance the project to both the State of Michigan and the Cannon Township Board for approval. Both entities approved the plan, and we are now moving forward.

We have saved for many years to make this project possible and are excited that we will be able to pay cash for the construction while still retaining funds to begin saving for our next trail project. Our goal is to have the project completed before the asphalt plants shut down for the season in November.

Ben Swayze and Kent County Parks have been actively working on the Grand River Greenway Project, which will bring a paved multi-use trail through Cannon Township. This project is part of a larger vision to connect communities along the Grand River corridor through a network of paved multi-use trails.

Kent County Parks has done an impressive job advancing this project, and I could not be happier to see Cannon Township benefit from their efforts. Ben shared with me that, if everything progresses as planned and all required easements are secured, Kent County Parks hopes to complete the section through Cannon Township sometime in November.

Wishing you a life well lived in Cannon Township

GRAND RIVER GREENWAY

The Grand River Greenway continues to be a focus for the Kent County Parks Department as it works to complete an east-west nonmotorized connection across the county. This spring, several sections of the project in or near Cannon Township have seen progress, with more groundbreakings expected soon.

Read the vision & framework for action here: <https://bit.ly/4arhxvf>

PETTIS TRAIL

The Pettis Trail project includes 3.5 miles of separated nonmotorized trail through the rolling hills of Cannon and Ada Townships. The trail will connect the Cannonsburg Trail to the existing Ada Township trails at Knapp Street and Pettis Avenue, near the Forest Hills Eastern campus.

This project is scheduled to begin in July 2026.

CANNONSBURG TRAIL

This section of nonmotorized trail will connect the trail being completed on Northland Drive to the trail being constructed on Pettis Avenue. The project will be completed in two phases. The Chauncey to Pettis section is expected to begin in June. And the Northland Drive to Chauncey section is expected to be constructed this fall. Be on the lookout for a project update page on the Kent County Parks website: <https://www.kentcountymi.gov/Parks>

NORTHLAND TUNNEL

One of the premier features of the Grand River Greenway, the Northland Tunnel will allow safe passage under Northland Drive at the Rogue River Drive intersection. The tunnel will eliminate the need to cross seven lanes of traffic on one of the busiest roads in northern Kent County.

The project also includes a half-mile of nonmotorized trail on the east side of Northland Drive, connecting north to 7 Mile Road and south to Cannonsburg Road. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in late April, and work has begun on the east side of Northland Drive.

Construction updates are available at: <https://bit.ly/4gKGA02>

KNAPP STREET BRIDGE

The Knapp Street Bridge project will include new sections of asphalt path, several raised boardwalks and a steel nonmotorized bridge attached to the existing vehicle bridge on Knapp Street across the Grand River.

When completed, this important crossing will connect miles of Ada Township and Grand Rapids Township trails directly to the Grand River Greenway.

The project also includes the permitted relocation of the federally protected snuffbox mussel, which started early June. Construction will ramp up after the relocation. Due to the complexity of the project, completion is expected in mid-2027.

It is an exciting time for the Grand River Greenway. Projects led by the city of Grand Rapids, Plainfield Township and the Lowell Area Recreation Authority are either under construction or scheduled to break ground this year.

The Parks Department also continues to design and raise funds for the next section, which will connect downtown Ada to the city of Lowell.

To learn more about all of the projects, visit the Grand River Network website: <https://bit.ly/GRNCT>



Pictured are renderings of the Northland Drive tunnel.

Community Center Brick Campaign Underway

The Cannon Township Community Center Brick Donor Campaign is underway, inviting residents, families, organizations, and local businesses to leave a lasting mark on the new Community Center through the purchase of commemorative engraved bricks.

The engraved bricks will become part of the Community Center walkway, creating a meaningful tribute to the people who have helped shape Cannon Township and support its future.

All brick inscriptions are intended to recognize individuals, families, organizations, or contributions to the community and to maintain a welcoming and inclusive environment within the Township park system.

A COMMUNITY PROJECT THROUGH AND THROUGH

The Community Center reflects years of planning, collaboration, and community input. It also represents Cannon Township's commitment to responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.

As stated earlier in this issue, this project is a unique partnership with the County. Visser Brothers Construction and Andrus Architects has helped make that possible, with both organizations contributing their expertise and services at cost. This approach allows project dollars to go further while maintaining a focus on quality and long-term value.

"We've worked hard to create a facility that serves residents of all ages and provides opportunities for people to gather, learn, celebrate, and connect," said Supervisor Steve Grimm. "The brick campaign is another way for residents to participate and take pride in a project that truly belongs to the community."

Parks and Recreation Chair Todd Olson agrees.

"This project has always been about creating spaces where people can come together," Olson said. "Whether it's attending an event, participating in a program, or simply meeting a neighbor, the Community Center will help strengthen the connections that make Cannon Township such a great place to live. The brick campaign gives people an opportunity to be part of that for years to come."

MORE THAN A FUNDRAISER

While the campaign will help support the Community Center project, organizers say it is about much more than fundraising.

"This is really about community ownership," said Campaign Chair Cy Balk. "**The Community Center belongs to all of us**, and this gives people an opportunity to become part of its story. Every brick represents a family, a memory, an organization, or a connection to Cannon Township."

For Balk, the project carries special meaning. As the grandson of the Balk family, whose generosity helped make the park and Community Center possible, he has watched the vision evolve from an idea into reality.

"It has been incredible to see so many people come together around this project," Balk said. "My grandparents have always believed in investing in people and place. This campaign allows everyone to participate in that spirit and leave something meaningful behind."

CREATING A LASTING LEGACY

Many donors choose to recognize family members, commemorate loved ones, celebrate milestones, or acknowledge their connection to the Township. Others use their brick to recognize a local business, organization, or non-political community group.

Whatever inscription is chosen, each engraved brick will become part of a shared story that future generations will see and appreciate.

"Years from now, children and grandchildren will walk through the Community Center and find their family's brick," said Trustee Jessica Gutowski-Slaydon. "That's what makes this campaign so special. It's not just about today. It's about creating a lasting connection to Cannon Township and helping future generations understand the people who invested in this community."

The campaign is designed to be accessible and inclusive, with options available for individuals, families, businesses, and organizations.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Residents interested in purchasing a brick can scan the QR code to purchase online or or stop by the Township office to fill out a form in person.

Donors may include a personalized commemorative inscription, such as a name, family name, organization name, milestone recognition, or “in memory of” message, subject to Township review and approval, ensuring each brick reflects the community-focused purpose of the project.

To preserve the commemorative and community-focused nature of the program, inscriptions are limited to names and recognition messages and may not include political campaign messages, advocacy, or other content inconsistent with the purpose of the Community Center.

The Township reserves the right to review and approve all inscriptions and to decline or modify requests that do not meet program guidelines.

Community members are encouraged to participate early to be included in the initial installation.

As construction continues on the Community Center, the Brick Donor Campaign offers a unique opportunity to help build not only a facility, but also a lasting legacy of community pride, connection, and investment in Cannon Township’s future.

BRICK CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

The campaign is being led by a volunteer fundraising committee consisting of:

Cy Balk, Roch Gagnon, Jessica Gutowski-Slaydon, Ray Moulden, Todd Olson

Together, they invite the community to leave its mark — and help build a lasting tribute to the people, families, and organizations that make Cannon Township such a special place to call home.

Scan here to
Buy a Brick



Youth, Summer
Lingo, Bingo

Back by popular demand for its third year, Summer Lingo Bingo has officially started. We are excited to again partner with Cowlicks to offer ice cream cones to participants.

Bingo cards were included with your summer tax bills and there’s another copy on page 10, and more can be downloaded from the Township website. We look forward to hearing about your adventures throughout the Township.



LINGO BINGO CARD
ON NEXT PAGE



Name: _____

Email: _____

Cannon Township's Youth, Summer Lingo, Bingo

Complete as many boxes as possible. If you fill five in the same row, you win the bingo challenge!
Turn in your BINGO card to the Cannon Township Fire Department on Belding Road
for an ice cream voucher to Cowlicks and a free sticker.

Attend Cannon Kids Rocks on July 16 and/or August 13	Take a hike, ride your bike, or scooter as far as you can along the Cannon Township Trail at the beginning of summer	Find a geocache in Cannon Township	Find and remove one invasive species in your yard	Go stargazing and pick out 3 constellations
Play a game of pickleball	Take a hike, ride your bike, or scooter as far as you can along the Cannon Township Trail in the fall... did you make it farther than you did at the beginning of summer?	Find animals, birds, or plants that each match a different color of the rainbow	Visit a Little Free Library	Get your feet wet in a Cannon Township stream or lake
Take a hike at one of our local Cannon Township parks	Collect colorful leaves off the ground and glue them onto paper to create a creature – lion, tiger, mouse... what will you make?	Hike the hill at Cannonsburg	Visit the Cannon Township Museum	Pack a picnic at a park
Make a tally of how many birds you can see or hear in just one hour	Invite someone to enjoy a Cannon Township park with you	Plant a native plant in your yard	Read a book about nature	Catch a fish at a local lake
How many turtles can you spy along the Cannon Township Trail?	Explore one of Cannon Township's parks and draw a map of your journey	Identify 5 native plants in Cannon Township	Take a photo of a flower at Luton Park	Teach someone what you learned about invasive species

CANNON
Township



Invasive Species Committee Update



Cy Balk
Trustee

P: (616) 874-6966
E: cbalk@cannontwp.gov

Committees:

Parks & Rec, Invasive Species and Wetlands, Fundraising Committee

Happy Summer, Cannon Township! I hope you have been able to get outside and enjoy God's beautiful creation. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our two events this spring.

Our first event focused on pulling garlic mustard around the Township playground and mountain bike trail. It was a successful morning and helped give native plants a better opportunity to reclaim that space. If you are looking for resources or guidance on invasive species on your own property, please feel free to contact me.

For our second event, we welcomed Lea Sevigny of Joyful Wildcrafting to learn more about nature and use ingredients from our own backyards to make food, herbal remedies and crafts. She brought recipes and samples for attendees to try, and the event ended with a walk around the Township property to identify some of the ingredients used in her recipes.

You can watch the event here:

<https://bit.ly/joywild>



Sheriff's Office Update

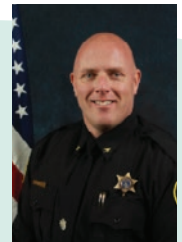


As summer arrives in Cannon Township, neighborhoods become more active with children playing outside, families traveling and residents spending more time outdoors. While summer is a great time to enjoy the community, it is also important to take a few extra precautions to help keep homes, property and neighborhoods safe.

One of the easiest ways to prevent theft or vandalism is to reduce opportunities for crime. Secure bikes, tools, lawn equipment and sports gear when they are not in use. Always lock vehicles, garages, sheds and home doors, even during the day. Many property crimes occur simply because valuables are left unsecured or visible.

Visibility is another important deterrent. Motion-sensor lighting, trimmed landscaping and visible security cameras or video doorbells can make homes less attractive targets for criminal activity. Residents also should avoid leaving valuables in plain sight inside vehicles and make sure pools, trampolines and other recreational items are properly supervised and secured.

Bryan Muir
Undersheriff, Kent County Sheriff



Strong neighborhoods remain one of the best defenses against crime. Getting to know your neighbors and watching out for one another can help prevent small issues from becoming larger problems. If you notice suspicious activity, theft or property damage, report it to the Kent County Sheriff's Office by calling 616-632-6100, option 1. In an emergency, always call 911.

Residents also can support community safety through the Kent Safety Network, a countywide public safety initiative designed to help law enforcement respond more effectively during emergencies and criminal investigations. The program allows residents to voluntarily register the location of privately owned security cameras.

Registration is free and does not provide law enforcement with live or remote access to cameras. Instead, if an incident occurs nearby, investigators may contact the owner to ask whether they are willing to share video footage that could assist an investigation.

To learn more or register a camera, visit kentsafetynetwork.org.

By staying aware, securing your property, and working together as a community, we can all help ensure a safe and enjoyable summer in Cannon Township.



BUSINESS FEATURE

Ivy Rehab

As an outpatient physical therapy clinic, Ivy Rehab treats a wide range of conditions, including post-surgical recovery, joint pain, vestibular issues, work-related injuries, and athletic injuries. Their team uses a variety of treatment techniques, including manual therapy, therapeutic exercise, dry needling, cupping, taping, and blood flow restriction therapy to help patients achieve their goals.

What sets Ivy Rehab apart is its commitment to the patient experience. The clinic strives to provide a fun, welcoming, and professional environment where treatment plans are tailored to each individual. They also prioritize getting new patients started quickly because, as the team puts it, "Nobody wants to live in pain and wait weeks to begin therapy."

The most rewarding part of their work comes when patients complete their therapy journey. Seeing someone arrive in pain or with physical limitations and helping them return to the activities they love is what motivates the team every day.

Ivy Rehab is also proud to be part of the Cannon Township community. They actively support local events through the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, participate in community activities, support Rockford Sports Boosters, and enjoy helping local athletes get back in the game.

When patients walk through the doors, Ivy Rehab hopes they feel supported and confident that the staff has their best interests in mind. Looking ahead, the team is excited to continue building awareness about the services they provide and helping more community members move better, feel better, and get back to doing what they love.



Learn More

- Phone: (616) 317-8048
- Address: 6575 Belding Rd NE # B, Rockford, MI 49341
- Website: ivyrehab.com/physical-therapy-location/rockford-mi

FAMILY FEATURE

The Cleypool Family

For the Cleypool family, Cannon Township swiftly became more than just a place to live — it became home.

Katelyn and Chad Cleypool moved to Cannon Township just over a year ago after Katelyn completed her medical residency in Metro Detroit. Wanting to return to West Michigan to be closer to family and raise their daughter in a community centered around family life and the outdoors, Cannon Township felt like the perfect fit.

Their family includes Chad, Katelyn, one-year-old Kennedy, and their energetic beagle mix, Chief. The timing of the move made the transition especially meaningful, as they moved into their new home shortly after welcoming Kennedy into the world.

The Cleypools say one of their favorite things about living in Cannon Township is the balance between nature and community. They enjoy spending time exploring Luton Park, the White Pine Trail, and taking family walks along the Cannon Trail toward Honey Creek Inn.

As a young family, they especially appreciate the welcoming atmosphere and strong sense of connection within the Township. One memory they will never forget is the kindness shown by neighbors shortly after they moved in. Families they had only just met dropped off meals, baby clothes, gifts, and handwritten notes welcoming them to the neighborhood.

“We instantly knew we had chosen the right place to build our life together,”

Katelyn shared.

The family enjoys attending the Rockford Farmers Market, the annual tree lighting, Taco Tuesdays at Cannonsburg, and spending time at MVP Athletic Club and Our Lady of Consolation Church.

Katelyn is also proud to serve the broader community professionally as a podiatrist with Foot and Ankle Specialists of West Michigan, helping patients throughout the region stay healthy and active.

For the Cleypools, the small everyday moments are what make Cannon Township feel so special: evening stroller walks, waving to neighbors, grabbing coffee at Hannah’s Coffee-house, and spending time outdoors together as a family.



TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPDATE

Belding Road / Ramsdell

On June 18, Representative Gina Johnsen hosted a Zoom meeting with Supervisor Grimm and representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to discuss the intersection of Belding Road and Ramsdell Drive.

As a result of the meeting, MDOT agreed to conduct a traffic study to determine whether the intersection meets the agency’s warrants for a traffic signal. For the first time in more than 25 years of efforts to secure a signal at this location, MDOT indicated that the warrants are likely to be met.

If the study confirms that a signal is warranted, MDOT has agreed to immediately begin the design process and order the necessary equipment. Due to ongoing supply chain and equipment lead times, the current estimate is that, if all goes according to plan, a traffic signal could be installed at the intersection by 2028.

Belding Road Sewer Update

Mark Prein
Prein & Newhof

Every community across the state is investing in aging infrastructure, which is why a short drive in nearly any direction is likely to take you through a work zone. What may be less obvious from behind the wheel is how far in advance this work has been planned.

The Belding Road sewer project follows Cannon Township's proactive Capital Improvement Plan and overall Asset Management Plan. This data-driven planning helps identify infrastructure needs early so the Township can maintain a high level of service at the lowest possible life-cycle cost.



Thank you for your patience and understanding. This critical project will help ensure Cannon Township's wastewater collection system remains healthy and reliable for years to come.

Scan to learn more about the project or visit:
<https://bit.ly/sewergrass>



The best way to stay informed about Township projects is to **subscribe to receive notifications** through the Cannon Township website. Community input is always welcomed and encouraged. You also may watch all the meetings on our website as they are recorded.

BALK PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTER TIMELINE



2019

Silver Lake County Club property sold



2021

Developer plans for 450 homes



2022

The Township begins discussions with the Balk family about a future park



2023

The Balk family donates the funds to purchase the land



Pictured at the Northland Drive tunnel groundbreaking are Kent County Commissioners Stan Ponstein, Ben Green, Kent County Board Chair, Steve Faber, Walter Bujak, Lindsey Thiel and Robin Halsted.

PROJECT COORDINATION AND TIMELINES

With several road projects happening at the same time, the project team has worked to coordinate schedules and reduce the impact on daily commutes as much as possible.

Launch: The sewer project started in mid-June and is planned to be completed before the end of the 2026 construction season.

10 Mile Road and Myers Lake Avenue roundabout: Started in mid-June gave the 10 Mile Road and Myers Lake Avenue roundabout project more time to progress before traffic routing changes on Belding Road.

Northland Drive tunnel accommodation: Keeping the Myers Lake Avenue intersection open early in the season accommodates the Northland Drive pedestrian tunnel project, which will close Northland Drive for six days in mid-August. Myers Lake Avenue will remain open while Northland Drive is closed so traffic can still access Cannonsburg Road.

The goal is to ensure traffic always has more than one viable route available regardless of which project is actively underway.

Construction variables mean work does not always go exactly as planned. To stay updated throughout the process, residents are encouraged to use the active construction update page, which will provide the most current information.

WHY NOW?

This summer and fall, the Township will undertake the next phase of sewer rehabilitation along Belding Road. The trunk sewer from the Grass Lake Lift Station near Rockford Christian School, to just east of Myers Lake Avenue will be replaced.

Because this line has caused problems in the past, it was prioritized for replacement. The hope was to coordinate the work with a future road reconstruction project, but the risk of an underground service failure is now greater than the benefit of waiting.

The Michigan Department of Transportation has confirmed it has no plans for this section of Belding Road within the next five years, meaning the Township must move forward independently to protect its community wastewater system.



The Lost Cannon of Cannonsburg

Hillary Hatch

Around 1840, as soon as land became available for purchase on Michigan's western frontier, LeGrand Cannon and his business associates, John Ball and Edmund Bostwick, purchased thousands of acres in what is now Cannon Township.

Do those names sound familiar?

The village of Cannonsburg was named after LeGrand Cannon, although the village's name appeared with several different spellings over the years. For a brief period, it was even known as Churchtown before ultimately returning to and remaining Cannonsburg.

Around 1848, Cannon returned to Cannonsburg to personally present the village with a cannon as a gift. The cannon reportedly included an inscription and commemorative plaque. While its exact origins remain unknown, local legend describes it as an ancient brass cannon dating to the 17th or 18th century.

During that period, it was common to mark holidays and community celebrations by firing a cannon. Unfortunately, tragedy struck July 3, 1885, when a young man named Walter Tompsett was seriously injured after the cannon discharged prematurely. He lost part of his leg and, despite the efforts of local physicians, did not survive.

Following the accident, the cannon, which had been fired successfully for more than 30 years, was hauled away by horses and a team of men and buried on a nearby hill. Its location was kept secret to prevent future accidents, and over time its whereabouts became the subject of local legend.

Years later, a young boy named Bob Alcumbrack became fascinated with the story of the missing cannon. Throughout his childhood, he asked anyone who might have information about its location. In the 1980s, Alcumbrack began an extensive search. He dug countless holes, aided by volunteers who shared his hope of one day solving the mystery.

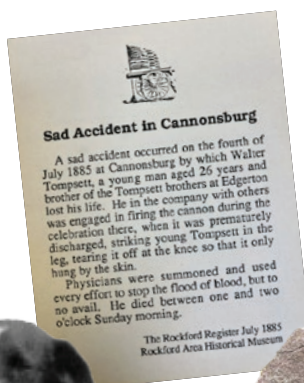
Although he never uncovered the cannon itself, he did discover at least three cannonballs, which can still be viewed today at the Cannon Township Historical Museum.

Finally, in 1988 after years of determination and persistence, Alcumbrack believed he had located the buried cannon. Using ground-scanning technology, he identified an object measuring approximately 55 inches long with two tapered ends. Although the object was never excavated or visually confirmed, many believe the long-lost cannon remains buried beneath Cannonsburg Cemetery to this day.

If you're interested in getting involved with the Historic Society, please reach out to Hillary Hatch at cannonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Young Bob Alcumbrack



1885 newspaper article about the cannon accident.

Cannonsburg plaque commemorating Bob Alcumbrack in Cannonsburg Village

CANNONSBURG

IN MEMORY OF
"CANNONSBURG BOB" ALCUMBRACK
FOR HIS QUEST TO
FIND THE LOST CANNON

Planning for Growth in Cannon Township



Jessica Gutowski-Slaydon
Trustee

P: (616) 915-5370
E: jslaydon@cannontwp.gov

Committees:
Invasive Species and Wetlands,
Communications & Fundraising,
Planning Commission

One of the things I appreciate most about Cannon Township is that growth here has not happened overnight. In fact, according to studies from nearly 30 years ago, development in Cannon Township is still well behind what projections expected by now. Personally, I'm not complaining. I love where we are as a community. We have strong neighborhoods, beautiful natural spaces, and a quality of life that so many people value.

At the same time, thoughtful and sustainable growth is part of a healthy community and I think we can all understand why people are drawn to Cannon Township and want to call this place home, too. Our responsibility is to plan for that growth in a way that protects the character of our Township while also preparing for the future.

There are currently several projects happening within Cannon Township. The Judson Farms project, consisting of 23 single-family homes on Young Avenue near 9 Mile Road, was approved in spring 2025. Bella Woods, located just south of Silver Lake off M-44, includes 68 single-family homes and was approved last fall. Rockford Storage is expanding

on Belding Road, a project approved last summer, and The Blackridge site at 9371 Five Mile Road, which includes 10 single-family homes, was approved earlier this year.

These projects are examples of the work that comes before the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission reviews development proposals, site plans, zoning requests, ordinance updates, and long-term planning issues. It is an important group that helps guide how Cannon Township grows and develops over time.

I enjoy serving on the Planning Commission. We have a great group of people with diverse backgrounds, and you do not need to be an expert in zoning or ordinances to serve. The Township provides the tools, training, and support needed to learn. If this type of work sounds interesting to you, Cannon Township currently has an open position on the Planning Commission. The appointment is made by the Township Supervisor. Contact Clerk Alles to apply.

North Kent Sewer Update

Several years ago the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) detected elevated levels of PFAS in treated wastewater discharged from the North Kent Sewer Authority (NKSA) facility. Once notified, the Authority launched an extensive effort to identify the source of the contamination. The only active sources that were identified were remediated, resulting in a significant reduction in PFAS levels. Further investigation determined that the remaining PFAS originated from the groundwater plume associated with the former Wolverine tannery site in Rockford.

Despite this finding, EGLE required NKSA to remove PFAS at the treatment facility, at a potential cost of approximately \$30 million to ratepayers. Earlier this year, NKSA received a draft permit from EGLE requiring facility improvements.

NKSA responded that it could not reasonably comply because the PFAS entering the system originates from groundwater contamination caused by the tannery plume.

On June 10, Representatives Bryan Posthumus and Stephen Wooden hosted a meeting with EGLE to discuss the issue. As a result of that meeting, EGLE agreed to pause the draft permit process, fund a detailed study to better define the scope of the problem, and develop potential solutions. The agreement also includes a commitment from the state to provide funding for any approved solutions, which would be implemented by NKSA in cooperation with EGLE.

Thank you to Representatives Posthumus and Wooden for their leadership and support.



FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Sustaining Our Safety

The 10-Year Fire Department Operating Millage Renewal

James M. Morris
Fire Chief, EMT

For nearly 70 years, the Cannon Township Fire Department has been dedicated to protecting the safety of Township residents. Since the early 1970s, the Fire Department has been fully funded by residents through an operating millage approved by voters.

The millage appears on the ballot every 10 years and is up for its traditional 10-year renewal on the upcoming August ballot.

WHAT DOES THIS MILLAGE FUND?

This dedicated operating millage directly supports daily emergency readiness. It is the primary funding source used to maintain the essential safety infrastructure our community relies on, including:

Apparatus and equipment:

Purchasing vital life-saving firefighting gear, protective equipment and modern emergency vehicles.

Station maintenance: Ongoing upkeep and operational costs for Cannon Station 1 and Station 2.

Department operations: Covering required insurance, utilities and fuel.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to keeping our Township safe.

UNDERSTANDING THE 1.0 MILL RESTORATION

Over the course of its 10-year cycle, the millage rate naturally erodes. Under the Michigan Constitution's Headlee Amendment, when local property values rise faster than the rate of inflation, the Fire Department's tax rate is automatically reduced, or "rolled back."

Because of these annual rollbacks, the department's current collection rate has dropped to 0.8847 mills. On this ballot, voters will be asked to reset the millage to its original voter-authorized rate of 1.0 mill. Every 10 years, the Department seeks to restore this original baseline to help ensure funding keeps pace with the community's needs.

WHY THE RENEWAL MATTERS

Like households and businesses, the Fire Department faces rising costs. The price of specialized firefighting apparatus, turnout gear and rescue equipment has increased faster than many average consumer goods.

Without the periodic 10-year renewal and Headlee restoration, the Department's operating revenue would continue to decrease over time. This renewal would provide stable, predictable funding for local first responders to protect Cannon Township safely, efficiently, and effectively.



**MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS
AT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

We are proud to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our local first responders. Please join us in congratulating several members on their recent advancements and achievements:

Fire Academy graduates: Congratulations to Brayden Dear, Jack Miller, Connor Vanderhorn and Elizabeth Walker for successfully completing their 280-hour Fire Academy training.

New certification: Congratulations to Kattie Carpenter Tinsman for earning her EMT-Basic license, adding valuable medical expertise to our emergency response capabilities.

Officer course completion: Congratulations to Kyle May and Sean Richards for completing their Fire Officer 1 course.

Leadership promotion: Congratulations to Matt Alles on his promotion to Captain.



Pictured is Captain Matt Alles being sworn in by Clerk Jim Alles.



Oh, Cannon Kids Rock!
Join us for rock painting from
3-5 p.m. July 16 and August 13
at the **Fire Truck Park Pavilion.**



Pictured is Captain Matt Alles helping young student Parks Slaydon operate the fire hose during an event at Lakes Elementary.



Pictured is a group shot from the Invasive Species Garlic Mustard Pull

