

Town of Canosia Newsletter

Volume 25 Issue 67

Spring 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2:
P&Z Transition
SLC Contact Info
FD Report

Page 3:
Road Report
2020 Census

Page 4:
Recycling
AIS

Page 5:
Trails

Page 6 & 7
1918 Fire:
Eyewitness Account

Page 8:
Township Contacts

TOWNSHIP ELECTION & ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 12

Each spring, one person is elected to serve a three-year term as a town board member (or “supervisor”). This year Supervisor Dan Golen is up for re-election. He is running unopposed, but write-in votes are possible. The polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12. The town hall will also be open for absentee voting on Saturday, March 9 from 10 a.m. to noon and Monday, March 11 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Board of Canvass will certify the votes immediately after they are tallied on March 12.

The Annual Meeting will start at 8:30 p.m. that same night. This is when the township residents determine the tax levy for the following year (2020). The town board is recommending the following levy amounts for the electorate to consider:

Recommended 2020 Levy	General	\$117,200	Total \$297,200
	Road & Bridge	\$98,000	
	Fire Department	\$82,000	

The levy has been \$297,200 since 2011. As you may remember, the residents attending the Annual Meeting determine the levy amounts for the three major funds listed above. The decisions on how to spend money within those funds is the responsibility of the township board.

At the recent budget meeting, the supervisors all agreed they would not recommend raising the levy unless, in the coming years, there is a specific reason for doing so (e.g. low fund balances, major road project on the horizon or a necessary major improvement initiative or purchase). The board also discussed one interesting concept for residents to keep in mind: as the Canosia tax base continues to grow with new homes and property improvements, the levy is spread across a larger base; this means some residents could actually see the township portion of their property taxes decreasing as the levy stays the same.

Other discussion topics at the Annual Meeting: town board election results, road report, Fire Department news, the recent planning & zoning changeover, and future trail plans.

Township Day at a Glance

Date
Tuesday, March 12

Town Board Election
Polls Open Noon to 8 p.m.

Annual Meeting
8:30 p.m.

Location: Canosia Town Hall



St. Louis
County now
administers
township
planning &
zoning.
More info on
Page 2



PLANNING & ZONING: TRANSITION COMPLETE

Effective February 1, 2019: Planning & Zoning within Canosia is now administered by St. Louis County. All land use permits, variances and conditional use permits will be issued through the county planning department. As you may already know, the town board opted to make this transition for many reasons:

- The county has full-time professional resources to best serve our residents as well as technological capabilities to streamline the application process and answer resident questions. This includes filling out and submitting applications right online.
- P&Z costs (and associated legal fees) continued to rise; county administration will not cost the township any additional money
- There was very little difference between the township and county zoning ordinances. If the need arises in the future for Canosia to be more restrictive than the county ordinance in certain areas (e.g. lakeshore regulations), we have the option of working with them to add a township-specific overlay to the county map to address these concerns

The county planning team prides themselves on their accessibility and response times. Their website is stocked with helpful information, including maps, instructions and fact sheets. In addition to submitting applications online, you can see lists of all accepted permit applications as well. Use the contact info below for any P&Z questions or concerns.

P&Z: SLC CONTACT INFO

Website

www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/planning-development/land-use

Phone

725-5000

Email

LandUseInfo@stlouiscountymn.gov

FIRE DEPARTMENT

2018

183 total calls

1 service call

7 mutual aid medical calls

23 mutual aid fire calls

26 fire calls within the Township

126 medical calls within the Township

2018 was another hugely busy year for the Canosia Volunteer Fire Department. They responded to a record-setting 183 emergency calls.

The CVFD members also invested significant time in their mandatory firefighting training and medical certification classes. Often our volunteers are the first people on the scene for all kinds of medical emergencies within Canosia.

ROAD REPORT

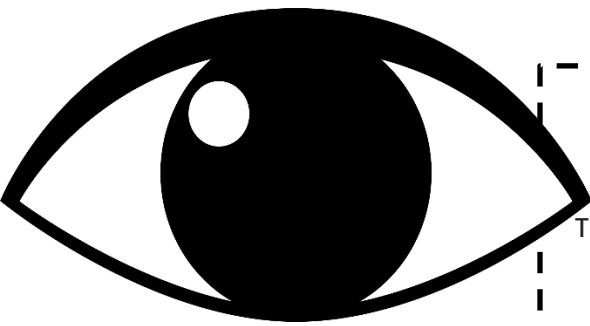
2019 will be another busy year for road improvements in our Township. Working with St. Louis County, we will be doing the following scrub seals and road striping projects:

2019 Scrub Seals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holly Lane ▪ Shady Lane ▪ South Pike Lake Road ▪ Spruce Lane 	2019 Road Striping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vaux Road ▪ Kehtel Road ▪ Lakeway Drive

We will do our best to keep you notified on the exact timelines for these projects. Please check our website for updates. In addition to these plans, we are working on a five-year road improvement program to bring all of our asphalt roads up to St. Louis County road standards. We will also continue to maintain all our gravel roads and determine the need for any culvert replacements in the township. These maintenance and improvement projects will be scheduled so as not to add any additional levy dollars.

Our partnership with St. Louis County has proven to be a great success. By working with them, we benefit from being included in the county bidding process, which allows Canosia to get a far better price for road projects. Bidding on projects on our own would result in higher costs to Canosia. If you have any questions, please contact me at 590-6473 or comnick@msn.com.

Kevin L. Comnick. Canosia Township Road Supervisor



A project to keep an eye on this summer

St. Louis County is redoing the intersection of Highway 53, Ugstad Rd. and Lavaque Bypass.

They'll be reconfiguring both Ugstad and Lavaque Bypass to accommodate a left turn lane, right turn lane and thru lane on both legs. The Hwy. 53 left turn lanes will also be lengthened and the median opening at Rose Rd will be closed.

2020 CENSUS

The US Census will be in 2020. Canosia Township will be providing important information on our website and our Newsletter keeping you up to date as the Census draws closer. The US Census is a very important tool used to determine federal funding, population, and a deciding factor in our state representation in the federal government. If anyone would have an interest in joining a census committee, please contact Canosia Township. The last Census in 2010, Canosia had an 82% response rate. Can we do even better this time?

The US Census is hiring as well! If anyone has an interest in a part time position, go to this website to apply: **2020census.gov/jobs** The starting pay is \$14.00 per hour and the hours are flexible. The hiring period is starting now.

RECYCLING REFRESHER

Below is a summary of all the items we accept at the township recycling center

Mixed Paper

- Paper of any color
- Pressboard boxes
- Junk mail
- Magazines
- Newspapers & ads
- Shredded paper (must be in a paper bag)

Corrugated Cardboard

- Cardboard with wavy layer between two pieces of thick paper
- No waxed cardboard

Mixed Containers

- Rinse all food containers
- Plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, jars and lids
- Glass bottles and jars
- Steel and aluminum cans
- No foam including Styrofoam
- No plastic cups, plates or utensils
- No buckets
- No motor oil or antifreeze containers
- No take out, deli or clamshell containers
- No window glass, ceramics or drinking glasses
- No scrap metal

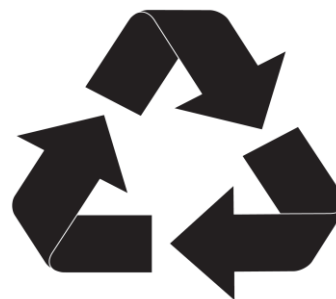
Film Plastics

- Film must be clean and dry
- Grocery and retail bags
- Newspaper bags
- Bread bags
- Produce bags
- Paper product packaging wrap
- Ziplock bags with zippers removed
- No black plastic bags
- No bubble wrap

Questions? Call WLSSD

218-722-0761

wlssd.com



A note from Recycling Attendant Frank Bolos

"I want to thank all who take the time and make the extra efforts to recycle and I want to thank you all, as well, for all your friendship and kindness."

- Frank

The Township Recycling Shed Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

AIS UPDATE

Canosia Township is pleased to announce that the Grant Request for the AIS program was approved for 2019. This grant enables Canosia Township to continue the program currently in place to address Aquatic Invasive Species.

Canosia is now the owner of the Clean Drain, Dry and Dispose Boat Cleaning Station located on Carmen's Way. Please use the station to clean your watercraft.

We will be accepting applications for Watercraft Inspectors for the upcoming boating season in the Spring. Watch for postings and check out the Canosia website for updates. The AIS Inspector position includes paid training to receive certification. It has a starting wage of **\$14.00 per**

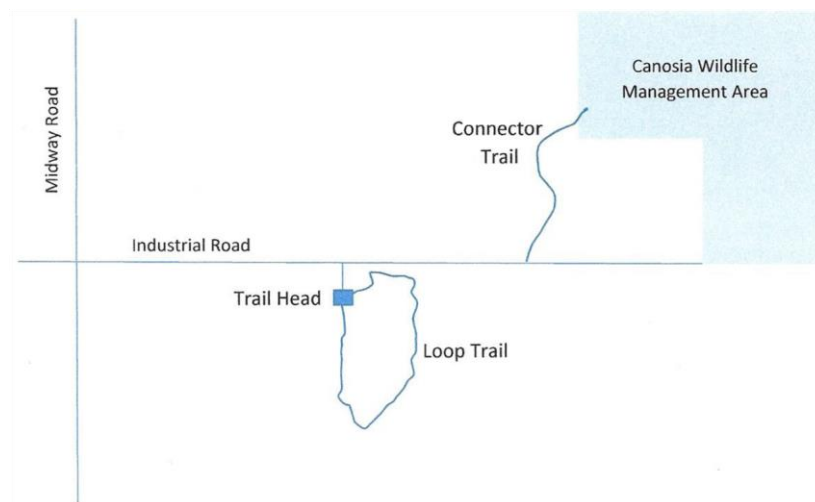
hour. Successful applicants will need a smart phone and the ability to use it. This is a great part time position for students, retirees, or anyone with an interest in keeping our Lakes free of AIS. Our inspection season begins in May and runs thru Labor Day.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH TRAILS?

Last May the town board approved the Canosia Trails Plan completing a two-year effort by the Canosia resident steering committee and the Metropolitan Interstate Council to gather input and ideas from residents and stakeholders and develop a trails plan for our township to guide our future trail development. There is a lot of support for us to be making more hiking and biking trails available for our residents and the Canosia Trails Plan captures the background, public interest surveys, potential ideas for hiking and biking trails and a number of potential projects.

The plan details some of the existing trails in our town for example, the **Canosia Wildlife Management Area** (CWMA) operated by the DNR and the 38-acre Proctor School Forest maintained by the school district. We hope to spread the word about these trails, improve signage and make them more accessible for public use. The CWMA is owned and maintained by the DNR. The wildlife area is a diverse forest, wetland and bog complex, with upland openings and waterfowl ponds and has an extensive trail system that can be used for snowshoeing, hiking, biking and hunting. Two easy access points are from the trailhead parking lots near the dead end of Ugstad Rd. north of the Martin Road.

The trails committee is currently working with the Proctor School District to enhance summer trail maintenance and encourage the public utilization at the **School Forest**. Late last fall some trail smoothing and adding of wood chips was started to improve the trails to make them more user friendly. Work will continue this summer. The school forest can be accessed for hiking either from the Canosia recreation field or from the trail head/parking lot which is located south of the Martin Road about ¼ mile east of the town hall.



For 2019 the trails committee has started permitting a trail head/parking lot on the Industrial Road which will be connected to the Canosia Wildlife Management Area (CWMA) trail system and also includes a separate one-mile loop trail starting and ending at the trail head. The loop trail will use town and state-owned land south of the Industrial Road. Once permitting is complete, there are plans to rough in the loop trail in the next few months. We have some volunteers who are helping with trail development.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The following is a first-hand account of the devastating 1918 fire, written by Leona Kolojeski Molinowski. The story takes place on the old Kolojeski farm at the southwest corner of Martin & Lindahl Roads. Her story was submitted to the Canosia Historical Society by her relative Terry Kolenda.

This I Remember: The Day My Whole World Burned

As I sit here looking out of my window and see the green grass and green trees, I think back to the autumn of years ago when, as a child, another beautiful scene was turned into an inferno of horror. I think of the hot and dry summer of 1918. I was living on a farm in Pike Lake, with two older and two younger brothers, mother and father, a farm homesteaded by my father years before.

Saturday was clean up day on the farm. My older brother's job was to clean the hen house and barn. The boys always wore old clothes for these chores. The air was still and beautiful on that beautiful hot Indian summer day of October 12.

Mother and we children were alone because my father had gone to Duluth, 12 miles away, with a load of cord wood in his new Republic truck.

Late in the afternoon, we noticed black smoke many, many miles away. To me, it seemed miles wide. The wind came up suddenly. Soon I could see fire and smoke creep slowly toward our farm. It looked like it would bypass us as the wind was blowing in the opposite direction. Suddenly, the wind shifted and the fire crept like a thief in the night to devour a huge pile of logs across the road from us. The sparks fell like small flaming torches on the barn roof. A neighbor lady also saw what was happening and, knowing my father wasn't home, came running to our place. She helped mother milk the cows. After that she and my mother turned the livestock loose from their stalls, but they got frightened from the smoke and fire and refused to go outside. They had to be pushed out bodily through the barn door to safety. The horses were terrified.

At 7 o'clock my father finally came home. Now the sky was red as far as one could see. Sparks and small burning chips filled the air. Mother rushed into the house and packed two suitcases of clothes for us, but in the excitement, we forgot to carry them outdoors. I chased our dog Dewey out the doors to safety, but unseen by us, he went back into the house to later burn to death.

My father and mother rounded up the children and our 80-year-old grand-aunt who lived with us, to decide what to do to save our lives. Mother grabbed two quilts from the bed, and my father filled a small syrup pail with water. We had no place to go other than out into the field where there was a deep ditch.

As we started out, I looked back toward our house. It had caught fire. Tongues of red flame shot out of the windows. My heart sank. The house that was my castle was belching smoke and fire. My folks had remodeled and added to the kitchen and had completed three bedrooms upstairs just a few months before. I realized I could no longer spend many happy, playful hours in the attic above the kitchen. *(contd. on*

next pg)

(contd. from previous page) The short stubble of grass caught on fire. Our feet felt like we were walking on hot coals. We kept choking from the smoke. We had to dip our hands in the water to rub our eyes to see to go on. My father half carried and half dragged my aunt as she couldn't walk very well. When we came to a large rock pile in the field, she was given a quilt and set down in the middle of the rock pile. We hoped she would be safe there. One of my brothers had taken his iron penny bank with him, only to lose it. It was found years later, the pennies melted into a hard mass.

Because of the intense heat and burning grass, it seemed like an eternity before we came to the ditch on the far side of the field. The seven of us lay down horizontally and covered ourselves with the remaining quilt. Indian summer was over. The night grew cold. We slept fitfully together. Finally came the cold dawn.

We walked over the charred field and picked up our Aunt who safely spent the night on the rock pile. I couldn't believe my eyes. All the trees and grass were gone – just black hulks pointing to the sky. Soot was everywhere. All that was left of my folk's farm was the blue stone foundations where the buildings so proudly once stood. The hen house and fifty hens burned. The hog pen and barn were gone. Hogs and livestock were walking around aimlessly. The hair on their legs and feet were burned off. The animals looked as forlorn as we felt. I walked to where our house once stood. The hundred bushels of potatoes stored in the basemen looked like a huge pile of coal, topped off by the molten glass of more than three hundred quarts of fruits and vegetables my mother so laboriously canned that summer and fall. The smoldering mass was still hot to the touch.

I happened to look down at my feet. I found the burned black little ornament, a grim reminder from my mother's large brimmed straw hat she always wore but which had blown off from the wind the night before. We all looked at each other. We were all covered in soot. It was sad yet almost laughable. We were happy to be alive.

My baby brother started to cry from hunger. My father rounded up one of the cows, milked it, putting the milk in a burnt black pail and strained it through my mother's apron she wore. He found a burned tin cup and poured the milk into it, to satisfy the baby's hunger. Father's truck tires had burned off and the gas tank had exploded. The rest of the truck was in good condition. We were all numb from the horror of it all. Now even the animals stood around in groups. I wondered if their thoughts were like ours.

My father's brother, who lived in Duluth, drove up to the farm crying, thinking we had burned to death, because he saw the smoke and red sky the night before. He took us back with him until my folks could rebuild. I can still hear a statement my father made before the tragedy: "I have everything I need here. Now my children will get the education I didn't have." So much of my parents' dreams and mine went up in smoke the night of October 12, 1918. This I'll always remember – the day my whole world burned.

- Leona Kolojeski Molinowski

If you need a good book, please stop by our Little Free Library located on the side of the town hall. We'll also have a **whole table of free books** set up at the Election and Annual Meeting on March 12.



Canosia Township Newsletter

4896 Midway Road
Duluth, MN
55811

CONTACT INFORMATION**TOWN HALL**

4896 Midway Rd, Duluth MN 55811
Phone/Fax: 218-729-9833

Website: canosiatownship.org
Email: canosiatownship@yahoo.com

Official Posting Places

Bulletin boards at the town hall and intersection of Lavaque & Martin Rds.

TOWN BOARD**Regular Meeting**

1st Wed. of each month at 7 p.m.

Dan Golen, Chair: 464-2365
Kurt Brooks, Supervisor: 393-0304
Kevin Comnick, Supervisor: 590-6473
Susan Krasaway, Clerk: 590-6746
Cheryl Borndal, Treasurer: 729-9833

PLANNING & ZONING

Administered by St. Louis County
Phone: 725-5000

Email: landuseinfo@stlouiscountymn.gov
Website: www.stlouiscountymn.gov

VARIOUS

Rec Area: Director Mike Ellingson 260-5599

Historical Society: 729-9833, Regular meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

Recycling: Tues/Thu 5-8 p.m., Sat 9 a.m. – 5p.m

FIRE DEPARTMENT& BURNING PERMITS

Emergencies: 911
Gene Stevens, **Chief:** 729-6211
Burning Permits: Tom Amendola 393-5533

PLAWCS

Phone: 451-3310
Email: plawcsclerk@gmail.com
Website: PLAWCS.com