



# The Connection

June 2021

106 N. Main St. P.O. Box 92 Canton, MN 55922 (507) 743-5000

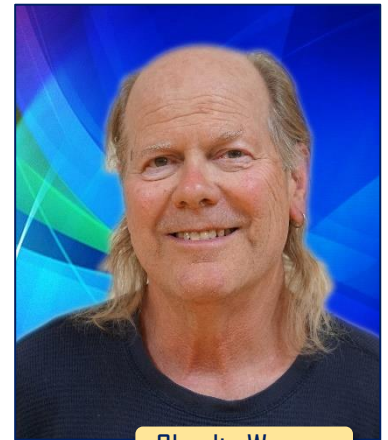


- Councilmembers Carl Ernst and Charlie Warner were absent, with five visitors in attendance.
- The council discussed the current recreational vehicle ordinance. It was decided to amend the ordinance to include the permitting of ATVs for travel on City streets. Proposed ordinance language will be discussed at the June meeting. ATVs will not be permitted until the ordinance is officially amended by the council.
- Professional Engineer Daren Sikkink, with WHKS, was present to discuss long-range street and utility projects. Sikkink talked about financing replacement of the majority of the watermain, sanitary sewer and streets within the City. He recommended using USDA Rural Development funding for such a project, noting a portion would be paid using a low-interest loan from USDA and the remaining portion would be funded by a grant. Sikkink stated the possible inclusion of curb and gutter, storm sewer and sidewalks would be the City's responsibility since it is not part of the existing infrastructure. The council directed staff to work with

continued on P. 2

## Vacancy to be filled by council *June 4 deadline for letters of interest*

At its May 12 meeting, the Canton City Council accepted the unexpected resignation of councilmember Charlie Warner. Written notice was given to City Clerk Brock Bergey just prior to the start of the meeting. Warner wrote, "I hereby resign from the Canton City Council, as of 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 12, and relinquish my sworn duties." Warner's four-year term began in 2019 and will conclude at the end of 2022. The city council will appoint a person to fill the remainder of Warner's vacated position. No special election is required.



Charlie Warner

Letters of interest, from qualified City of Canton residents, will be accepted by the city clerk through June 4, with the council reviewing the letters at the June 9 meeting. Appointment occurs through a council vote. In the event of a tie, appointment authority is given to the mayor. Thanks to Mr. Warner for his civic service to the City of Canton. ★

## Property inspections set for June 15

City of Canton annual property inspections are scheduled for Tuesday morning, June 15. That means you have a couple weeks to address any outstanding ordinance violations, or to call city hall and inform us of



special circumstances that may limit your current ability to comply. Please note: We will not be issuing any citations on June 15; that's not what this is about. The goal, as always, is voluntary compliance. That's why we're giving you this heads up and reviewing the process with you.

### So here's what you need to know:

- 1) The city clerk and a sheriff's deputy will be reviewing all residential and commercial properties on June 15 – noting and photographing obvious public nuisance ordinance violations. Examples include: debris piles, scrap metal, old tires, overgrown grass or weeds, inoperable or unlicensed vehicles, broken windows, and severe building deterioration. Owner's

continued on P. 2

## -Schedule Change-

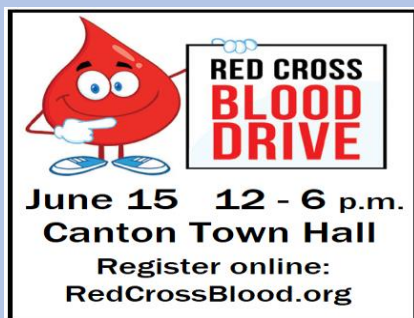
**NO GARBAGE & RECYCLING COLLECTION ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2. IT WILL BE THURSDAY, JUNE 3 DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY.**

### Inspections continued from P.1

consent will be necessary to enter private property. In some cases, permission from a neighboring property owner may also be sought to gain access to non-visible areas on your property. Out-of-sight is still out-of-compliance.

2) Letters will be mailed to property owners (not tenants) found to be in violation of City of Canton public nuisance ordinances. The letter will address the violation(s); include specific ordinance language; and provide a timeline for voluntary corrective action. Photos, taken on June 15, will also be included as documentation of the violations.

3) Failure to voluntarily comply – within the provided timeline, or to contact city hall to request additional time – will result in a follow-up visit from a sheriff's deputy. Continued noncompliance will result in the matter being addressed by the city council and possible law enforcement action. Now's the time to brush up on Canton's public nuisance ordinances relating to property and buildings. You'll find them online at [canton.com](http://canton.com) in Chapter 92. Now's also the time to reach out if you have specific questions about your property or have a special circumstance you want us to know about. Please do your part to help clean-up Canton. Progress is being made and people are noticing. Thanks for being part of the solution. ★



## Council highlights continued from P. 1

WHKS to develop a preliminary engineering report to meet Rural Development requirements to solicit funding. The matter will be back on the agenda for discussion in July.

- The council approved repaving a section of East Canton Avenue between ZZ Tap and Pauly's Canton Pub. This project will coincide with Fillmore County's repairs to the Main Street approach. Additional potential pavement repairs will be revisited next month.
- A \$3,000 plan to reconfigure the office area at Canton City Hall was also approved. If applicable, funding from the American Rescue Plan Act will cover the costs necessary to provide additional workspace for City staff.
- Approval was also given to improve the landscaping at city hall and reconstruct the landscaping around the flag pole at the town hall. Limited funds will be utilized, with many materials being reused or donated and all of the work being done by staff. ★

### NEXT MEETING:

June 9 @ 6 p.m.

Canton Town Hall

- ✓ Public comments welcome
- ✓ Agenda on [cantonmn.com](http://cantonmn.com)

## Students complete little free library project

You now have a convenient way to pick up reading materials thanks to the talents of some Mabel-Canton High School students. In 2019, the building trades students were approached by the City of Canton to design and construct to two so-called "little free libraries" for placement in our community. Although the pandemic delayed their work, the students' creations were completed last month and installed on May 18.



See more photos from the May 18 event on our Facebook page. More than 7,300 people have already checked out the social media post. The students were also featured on KIMT and in the *Fillmore County Journal*.



A little free library is a free book-sharing box where anyone may take a book or a share a book. They function on the honor system. You do not need to share a book in order to take one. Book donations are always welcome.

In addition to the work by the building trades students, four M-C art students beautifully decorated the libraries with reading-themed artwork. They're located outside Canton City Hall and in Canton's Main Street Park. The park library is geared toward children, with the city hall library designated for adults. The little free library project was funded by the City of Canton. ★