



# The Connection

June 2022

Canton City Hall 106 N. Main St. P.O. Box 92 Canton, MN 55922 507.743.5000



In an ongoing effort to improve Canton's appearance, the city council discussed a potential community cleanup day at its May 11 meeting. Here's how it would work.

- Property owners in need of some sprucing up, and unable to complete work on their own, would voluntarily reach out to city hall and request assistance with basic tasks. Things like yard clean up, tree trimming and painting (with paint supplied by the property owner).
- Community volunteers would sign up for specific tasks and provide the necessary tools to get the job done. The only way this effort can happen is with firm commitment from volunteers, ahead of any established cleanup day.

So, are you willing to team up to clean up Canton? If so, contact city hall prior to the June 8 city council meeting. If there's enough community support, the council will set a date for the cleanup at the meeting.

We want to stress, neither the City nor volunteers would be seeking out properties to clean up. The decision for some help would be solely on the property owner, with an advanced registration process.

## 2022 property inspections set for June 15

City of Canton annual property inspections are scheduled for Wednesday, 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.

### Here are three to know...

**1)** Mayor Nick Prestby and Councilman Josh Nordsving, accompanied by 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, excessive vehicles, broken windows, and severe building deterioration. Owner's consent is required to enter private property.

**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 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 [cantonmn.com](http://cantonmn.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 continue the cleanup of Canton.

### Citations issued for nuisance property ordinance violations

❖ 2017	0
❖ 2018	1
❖ 2019	1
❖ 2020	3
❖ 2021	0

## Something to Consider

- ➔ 70% of properties notified of nuisance-related ordinance violations in 2021 were also notified of violations in 2020.
- ➔ Prosecution costs for 2020 nuisance-related citations totaled more than \$4,000, paid out of the General Fund.
- ➔ City of Canton nuisance ordinances are from the *Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances*, utilized by most of our neighboring communities.



The City of Canton is partnering with the City of Mabel to provide summer recreation opportunities for area children. Program offerings are for boys and girls who are at least three years old by June 1 and continue for youth who will complete seventh grade. City of Canton residents pay \$15 per activity, with a family maximum of \$85. Registration forms are available at Canton City Hall. Transportation to and from Mabel is the responsibility of parents and caregivers.

**REMINDER**

Garbage and recycling totes must be pulled from the street after each weekly collection. Any damages to totes are the property owner's responsibility.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**June 14 12 to 6p.m.**  
**Canton Town Hall**

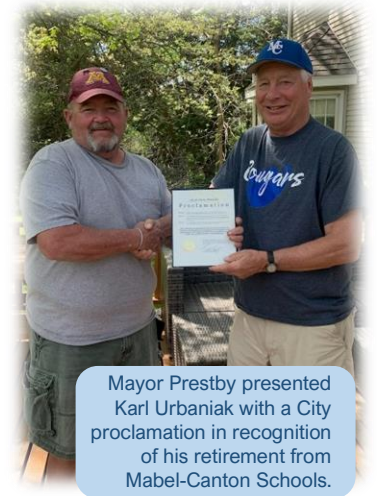
Register online:  
[RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)



# Canton City Council Meeting Recap

The Canton City Council met in regular session on May 11. All members were present, with four visitors in attendance.

- During the public comment period, resident Dennis Clausen inquired if planting clover in his yard, as an alternative to grass, would be acceptable to eliminate the need for lawn mowing. Mayor Prestby responded that as long as the height of the clover wasn't an ordinance violation, he didn't see a problem with it.
- The council approved the fire department's recommendation of appointing Isaac Crawford to fill the open firefighter position.
- Mayor Prestby announced former city clerk Lolly Melander had satisfied the restitution requirement of her sentencing order, reimbursing the City \$69,916. The council approved Resolution 2022-07 establishing the fund distribution of Melander's restitution.
- The council issued a proclamation in honor of Canton resident Karl Urbaniak, who, at the end of this school year, will retire after a 37-year teaching and coaching career at Mabel-Canton. Urbaniak was unable to attend the meeting; he was coaching a baseball game. Mayor Prestby will present the proclamation at a later date.
- A seven year contract renewal with Richard's Sanitation, for solid waste collection and disposal, was approved. It takes effect August 1 and ends July 31, 2029.
- The council voted to cite the property owner at 200 E. Canton Ave. for violations to the City's public nuisance ordinances. It was noted the City has been in communication with Ted Lord for more than a year, with no voluntary compliance in addressing the violations. Several complaints have been received at city hall in regard to the appearance of his property. Lord was invited to the council meeting, but he did not attend.
- Wednesday, June 15 was set as property inspection day in the City of Canton. This year, Mayor Prestby and Councilman Josh Nordsving will join a sheriff's deputy in the annual drive around town to document ordinance violations. In years past, the city clerk and a deputy conducted the annual inspections. Last summer, the city council held a town hall meeting on nuisance properties. Pertaining to the inspections, some participants voiced displeasure with the clerk's prior involvement, claiming he was being too picky and calling the entire process intimidating to residents.
- The council gave the greenlight for the continuation of the Adopt-A-Planter contest. Community members and organizations can adopt an available Main Street planter, prior to June 1, and create a floral design of their choice. Online voting will determine the first, second and third place planters, with \$100, \$75 and \$50 cash prizes awarded.
- The council voted to cover 25% of the costs associated with the City of Mabel's summer recreation program to make it a joint offering between the two cities. Based on 2021 numbers, approximately one-quarter of Mabel summer rec participants were Canton area kids; hence, the 25% contribution from Canton. The council's action directs \$2,000 be used from the money gifted to the City from the late Don Wilken, earmarked for recreational purposes, with the remaining \$1,220 of the \$3,220 portion of Canton's share being donated by the Canton American Legion. It was noted the Canton softball field was offered to the City of Mabel for potential use for summer rec purposes.



Mayor Prestby presented Karl Urbaniak with a City proclamation in recognition of his retirement from Mabel-Canton Schools.

The next regular Canton City Council meeting is June 8 at 6 p.m. in the town hall.