



The Connection

July 2022

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

WATER REPORT



The City of Canton provides information about the City's drinking water in an annual water system report. Our water met or surpassed all 2021 water quality testing, regulations and requirements.

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: two wells ranging from 404 to 665 feet deep, that draw water from the Prairie du Chien Group and Jordan aquifers. The City of Canton works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements.

A hard copy of the 2021 drinking water report can be viewed at Canton City Hall, during regular business hours. The report is also posted on cantonmn.com/public-utilities. This report aims to provide residents with information on drinking water and how to protect precious water resources.

SCHEDULE CHANGE

Regular weekly garbage and recycling collection will occur **Thursday, July 7** instead of Wednesday, July 6. The one day delay is due to the Fourth of July holiday.

Nuisance violations noted during inspections

On June 15 and 16, Mayor Nick Prestby and Councilman Josh Nordsving conducted the City of Canton's annual property inspections. Accompanied by sheriff's deputy, the elected officials toured the community to document obvious violations to the City's nuisance-related ordinances. 26 properties were identified as having at least one violation. A written notice, along with photographs of the violation(s), was mailed to each property owner. The notice included specific ordinance language pertaining to the nuisance violation(s) and a July 31, 2022 deadline to correct the violation(s). Follow-up property inspections will occur in early August, with unresolved violations up for discussion at the August 10 city council meeting. For comparative purposes, last year, 17 property owners were notified of nuisance violations following annual inspections. 10 of those same property owners received notices again this year.

According to the League of Minnesota Cities, nuisances impact a community's livability. Minnesota cities provide for and protect the general welfare of its residents. This can include the prevention or abatement of various nuisance activities. In addition, state statutes provide cities the specific authority to abate nuisances within their jurisdictions. Nuisance laws attempt to balance the competing interests and uses of property. As such, nuisance regulations commonly address neighborhood and land use issues, as well as more general quality-of-life concerns. With nuisances, a person's intent is often immaterial; the person's motive or intent doesn't necessarily enter into the analysis of whether the condition or conduct is a nuisance. While nuisances may often include negligent conduct, determining whether an individual failed to exercise due care is not always critical. Consequence, rather than intent or care, is the primary concern.



In recent years, preventing nuisance property activities has been front-and-center in the City of Canton. The City has published advance notice of annual inspections in the monthly newsletter, giving property owners plenty of time to tend to potential ordinance violations. Additionally, property owners have been encouraged to contact city hall and inform staff of personal circumstances that may limit their ability to satisfy ordinance requirements. (No such citizen communication was received ahead of this year's inspection.) In July 2021, the city council hosted a town hall meeting in regard to nuisance properties. City Attorney Greg Schieber, County Attorney Brett Corson and Fillmore County Sheriff John DeGeorge participated in the conversation. Nine City of Canton property owners attended the public forum. Last month's newsletter included mention of a proposed community initiative called Team Up to Clean Up Canton. Property owners, with limited means of making necessary improvements to their homes and yards, would receive a helping hand from volunteers. No one expressed interest in taking advantage of such services.

While voluntary compliance is the goal, sometimes legal action has been deemed necessary by the city council. Nuisance violations are classified as misdemeanor offenses in the criminal court system. Since 2018, six cases have escalated to this level. Although a costly course of action, the council has remained firm on its commitment to improving the image of the City and holding property owners responsible for outstanding violations.



**PREVENTATIVE
MAINTENANCE**

The City of Canton will be performing a chlorination preventive maintenance procedure to clean our water distribution system. This procedure will take place the week of July 11, 2022. During this period, the City's drinking water distribution system will continue to meet all federal and state water quality standards. Some residents may notice a slight chlorine taste and/or chlorine odor in the water. Additionally, you may see water being flushed from fire hydrants in your neighborhood. This is a part of the normal maintenance process.

The City's brush dump continues to be abused. Building materials, bricks, concrete and other non-brush items are **NOT** allowed. If you see someone violating the rules, please contact the sheriff's office.

**\$100
FINE
FOR
ILLEGAL
DUMPING**



Remember: The cost of an annual ATV, UTV or golf cart permit increases from \$10 to \$20 on August 1. Proof of insurance and valid driver's license is required. No one under 16 is permitted to operate ATVs, UTVs or golf carts on City streets or alleys.



Canton City Council **Meeting Recap**

The Canton City Council met in regular session on June 8. Councilman Randy Gossman was absent, with four visitors in attendance.

- There were no public comments.
- Mayor Prestby reminded the council property inspections will occur on Wednesday, June 15, with he and Councilman Josh Nordsving conducting them this year.
- Mayor Prestby noted Aimee Gourlay, with the League of Minnesota Cities, will be attending the July 13 council meeting to discuss recommendations aimed at resolving previously identified conflicts.
- Clerk Brock Bergey reported the funding application to USDA Rural Development, for the proposed water and wastewater improvement project, has been submitted for consideration.
- The council gave Public Works Director Jon Nordsving permission to seek price estimates to remove the diseased tree in the park.
- Karl Butenhoff, owner of the apartments on East US 52, requested time on the agenda to discuss the City's current water and sewer billing practice for multi-unit buildings. Presently, multi-unit building property owners receive monthly water and sewer base rate charges based on rental units. Butenhoff, who purchased the property this past January, believes this an unfair billing practice and wants it changed to a meter-based fee schedule. Instead of eight monthly water base charges and eight monthly sewer base charges, as has been the City's billing practice for at least 20 years, Butenhoff favors one monthly water base charge and one monthly sewer base charge for each of his two buildings, with each building equipped with just one water meter. Mayor Prestby noted that such a change, to all of the City's multi-unit accounts, would result in a combined annual revenue loss of nearly \$11,500 to the Water and Sewer Funds. He said the rest of the City's accountholders would need to make up for that shortfall, which he does not support. The council agreed to keep the present billing practice in place, with additional consideration given to Butenhoff's proposal during the 2023 budget planning process.
- The council granted the Canton Community Association use of the town hall for a dance on October 29.

The next regular city council meeting is July 13 at 6 p.m. in the town hall.






Four Tips to Help Conserve Water Indoors

- Turn off faucet while brushing teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- Fix leaks in faucets, showerheads and toilets.
- Only wash full loads.