

SEPT COUNCIL OFF

September 2020

Volume 32 • Issue 9

www.canton-mi.org



Canton
— WE'VE GOT IT —

Please be advised that dated information in this issue is subject to change based on COVID-19 conditions and recommendations. Visit www.canton-mi.org regularly for Canton's most up-to-date information.

Voting by mail in November

All voters may check the status of their mail ballot, or request a ballot at www.mi.gov/vote. The Clerk's Office will be mailing ballots the final week of September and they should arrive in early October. Voters may also register to vote at the same website, and request a ballot.

Facts about mail voting:

1. An application must be received by the Clerk's Office every election and must be signed by the voter themselves.
2. Applications/ballots are always processed once received. Unless you did not sign your ballot/application, it will be processed.
3. We do not reject ballots for mismatching signatures without contacting the voter first.
4. We strongly urge voters to return ballots as soon as possible. This helps the Clerk's Office process ballots in a timely manner and avoid mail delays.
5. Voters should expect to see additional applications sent by political parties and other interest groups. Voters do not need to submit multiple applications for each election. Check your status at www.mi.gov/vote before filling out additional applications (duplicates slow the processing of applications).
6. Send in ballots as soon as possible, do not "wait and see." The USPS can take up to seven days within Canton to deliver a ballot. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on election night to be counted.

Please have patience with the Canton Clerk's Office as we navigate unprecedented demand and work hard to meet the needs of the community.

Convenient ballot drop box

The Clerk's Office recommends Canton voters drop off absentee ballots in-person at the new secure ballot drop-box, located behind Canton's Administration Building on the southwest side of the parking lot.

Not only does the new drop-box save voters time and money on stamps, it is also compliant with COVID-19 public health precautions. The stainless steel, double-lock-access, anti-pry door provides a secure way to protect ballots from harsh elements or any tampering while avoiding any USPS mail delays.



Election worker shortage

The Clerk's Office is in need of Election Inspectors to help assist voters at the polls. If you are interested, please sign up at www.canton-mi.org/223. This is a paid position and is a great way to be a part of the process! Stop by the website for rates of pay, to apply online, and to view inspector manuals.

We experienced 130 cancellations during the August primary and were almost unable to open polling locations on Election Day. We must make sure this does not happen again, so sign up today!

**This
Month in
Canton**



STATUS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Supervisor
Pat Williams

Treasurer
Dian Slavens

Clerk
Michael Siegrist

TRUSTEES
John Anthony
Sommer N. Foster
Anne Marie Graham-
Hudak
Steven Sneiderman

A message from Supervisor Williams



Late last month, U.S. Census Bureau enumerators, or door knockers, began their operations in Michigan to count people who have not responded to the census by mail, phone, or online.

To avoid having a Census representative knock on your door, be sure to fill out the census as soon as possible. You can fill it out online at www.2020census.gov, or over the phone by calling 844-330-2020. It's not too late to be counted!

It is important to know that it is much more than a head count. It provides a picture of our nation that helps determine where to build schools, hospitals and businesses. It determines how federal funding is distributed and how congressional seats are apportioned. It also helps to see how our community has changed over time, allowing us to adjust to the needs of our residents.

Business owners rely on census results to make decisions, such as where to open new stores, restaurants, factories, or offices, where to expand operations, and which products and services to offer.

I am hoping you can all spread the word on the importance of getting an accurate count for our community. As of this writing, Canton's response rate is only 79%, but I know we can do better.

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. Make sure you are counted, Canton!

The Canton Administration Building is now open to the public Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., with limited access to the first and second floor offices.

Canton's annual Hazardous Waste Collection cancelled

Canton's annual Hazardous Waste Round-up scheduled for Saturday, September 12 has been cancelled.

Residents can still dispose of a limited amount of hazardous waste at Canton Clean-ups. The Clean-ups are held on scheduled Saturdays from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the GFL facility located at 42100 Van Born Road. During Canton Clean-up, residents are limited to ONE TRIP PER HOUSEHOLD and are responsible for unloading their own items and placing them in the dumpster. GFL employees will not be able to assist. For a complete list of what is, and is not, accepted at the Canton Clean-ups, please visit www.canton-mi.org/917.

The next clean-up date is scheduled for Saturday, September 26.

New outdoor fitness classes available

Area residents are encouraged to get out and get moving in Canton Leisure Services' new Outdoor Fitness Classes! Participants can choose from a variety of classes, including: Yoga; Cardio & Core; Zumba; Plyometric Sculpt; Total Body; Circuit Training; Bootcamp; Cycle; and more!

Each 55-minute class will be held at either the Heritage Park Amphitheater, located behind the Summit on the Park at 46000 Summit Parkway, or the Summit on the Park Community Courtyard, located in the Summit's west parking lot; weather permitting. Fees are just \$5 for residents and \$7 for non-residents. No onsite registration will be available. Pre-registration is only available online at www.cantonfun.org/relaunch. Registration for each class will open two weeks before and will close 24 hours prior to the class.

Please note that these classes are not included in Summit on the Park memberships, which are currently frozen. Masks or face coverings must be worn during check-in and when exiting class. Masks may be taken off during class time if 6-foot social distancing can be maintained. For additional information, visit www.canton-mi.org/relaunch, email leisure@canton-mi.org, or call 734/394-5360.

Important Canton Phone Numbers

Administration Building
734/394-5100

**Public Safety
(non-emergency)**
734/394-5400

Supervisor's Office
734/394-5185

Clerk's Office
734/394-5120

Treasurer's Office
734/394-5130

Water Billing
734/394-5240

Summit on the Park
734/394-5460

**Building and Inspection
Services**
734/394-5200

Ordinance Enforcement
734/394-5335

**Village Theater at
Cherry Hill**
734/394-5300

GFL (refuse collection)
844/464-3587

Canton Public Library
734/397-0999



Volunteers needed for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Canton Public Safety's Emergency Management Division is seeking volunteers to join its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The CERT Program educates its members about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

CERT Team members have been utilized in a number of capacities such as Liberty Fest, the Canton Cup Soccer Tournament; food bank distribution; point of dispensing sites, COVID-19 testing sites, HAM radio operations, call center operations; etc.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Basic CERT training classes will now be offered in a self-paced, online format that can be completed on your schedule and in the convenience of your own home. Once the online training has been successfully completed, participants will demonstrate proficiency with their newly acquired skills in COVID compliant, socially distanced, small groups with subject matter experts.

For an application or information on becoming a CERT member and participating in this ground-breaking online CERT Training, contact William Hayes, Emergency Management Coordinator, by email to whayes@canton-mi.org, or by phone at 734/394-5357.

Completed applications must be received by September 18.

The Canton Administration Building's Lower Level meeting rooms will not be available for use for the foreseeable future. Watch future issues of the FOCUS and visit www.canton-mi.org for updates on meeting room availability.

Treasurer Slavens' Corner

During this very unique and challenging time with COVID, I hope you have had an enjoyable summer. Although we are limited in our travels I see many residents enjoying the wonderful parks and trails that Canton has to offer. With September here and the uncertainties this fall, I hope you are able to enjoy the many beautiful sites that our parks and outdoors provide.

A quick reminder, your summer taxes are due by Monday, September 14. After this date an interest charge of 1% per month will be added. Currently, our hours are Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. If you are unable to stop by our office, you may pay by mail (please consider the delay in the mail), our 24-hour drop box, online at www.canton-mi.org/304 or by phone (IVR) 833-679-1710.

With so many residents spending more time at home, you may have noticed an increase in your water usage. Estimates vary, but, on average, each person uses about 80-100 gallons of water per day, for indoor home uses. The largest use of household water is the toilet, and after comes showers and baths. That is why we newer toilets and showers use less water than before.

With the challenges COVID has brought, it is important to continue to pay your water bill. We have begun to look over any water/sewer balances that are six months in arrears. Since the Township pays the water/sewer cost up front, we must place any arrears owed on your winter property tax. This is the one of many ways to keep our water/sewer rates down. I will be sending out a letter to notify residents who have arrears. This notification will give you time to pay off the water debt before we roll it on to your winter tax bill.

Have a safe and enjoyable September and as always, we continue to work on educating and improving services to our residents.



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Westland, MI

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Canton, Michigan 48188

FOCUS

FOCUS is published monthly to provide Canton residents with information on issues and events in the community. If you have any comments contact:

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Canton Leisure Services relaunches community programming efforts with new, innovative experiences

This fall, Canton Leisure Services invites the community to return to its old stomping grounds...where old friends gather...new friends meet... and your health and wellness remain the top priority. Through a variety of virtual/online and outdoor physically-distanced programs and events, a small but dedicated team of CLS staff aim to restore a little hope and celebration, re-engage those seeking regular group fitness routines, and to help create a sense of 'normalcy' and safe socialization for interested residents of all ages. Thoughtful and careful safety procedures and protocols will be the building blocks of these programs, but creative and innovative experiences will ultimately be their signature.

For decades, the Summit on the Park and Heritage Park have served as safe spaces for the community to come together. Please rejoin us as we relaunch program efforts centered in these outdoor campus locations while some of our more traditional spaces remain closed for now. Parking lots will become yoga studios. Tents will become classrooms. Parks will become Teen Centers. Our programs may not look exactly the same, but our hearts are still in it, and while we might stand six feet apart, there's so much fun we can still have together!

Open-air art classes, winter wonderland walks, front yard visits with Santa, (Imagine him keeping his jolly old self safe with a six-foot candy cane,) carpool cinema, parking lot Bingo, online trivia, mental health support groups, e-gaming leagues, virtual senior travel, blacktop Zumba, and much more await.



We know there's a lot you'll want and need to know before signing up, so we've created an online hub dedicated to this important information. It's all about our rolling/ongoing registration processes, new (more flexible cancellation policies), weather guidelines, waitlists, new program additions, mask policies, refund policies, and everything else we think you should know. Check it all out at www.cantonfun.org/relaunch.

Other great ways, in addition to our website, to stay informed and connected about new and exciting program opportunities include:

- Making sure you're subscribed to our newly bi-weekly newsletter, Leisure Link.
- Following the Canton Leisure Services Facebook page
- Tuning into "Rec Your Week," our new weekly online video update show, which will be released on our website and social media channels at the end of each week

We've missed you a lot since spring, but we've loved seeing so many of you staying healthy and active in our parks and on our trails. We can't wait to make new memories with you this fall! Wash your hands, stay safe, and come out and play with us again, as we slowly and safely bring Parks and Rec back to all of you in a brand new way.