

SEWER FEE

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www.canton-mi.org



Canton
— WE'VE GOT IT —

COVID-19 update

In an effort to reduce the spread of exposure to COVID-19, Canton Township closed all facilities through April 5.

All critical and emergency services are continuing to operate with full staffing. These closures have not affected any Police or Fire services, including 9-1-1.

Water bills can be paid by mail to P.O. Box 87680, Canton, Michigan, 48188; the drop box* located outside the main entrance to the Canton Administration Building, by phone IVR 833-697-1711, and online at www.canton-mi.org/979. However, late fees will not be assessed for March and April water bills as long as full payment is received by Friday, May 29. *Please do not place cash in the drop box.

Please visit www.canton-mi.org regularly for updates on Township operations.

If you think you need to be tested for COVID-19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that you contact your healthcare provider to discuss your symptoms. The MDHHS also has a hotline for COVID-19 questions: 1-888-535-6136 (answered daily from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Visit michigan.gov/coronavirus for more information.



- **“No Wipes in the Pipes!”**
- We understand that there is a shortage of toilet paper right now; however, it is critical to the operation of our sewer system that you **DO NOT FLUSH WIPES OF ANY KIND** down the toilet.
- Although wipes are advertised as “flushable,” the wipes don’t break down fast enough and end up getting stuck in private sewer leads and the public sewer system. Your compliance is greatly appreciated.

- **Cancellation refunds/credits**
- As a result of Canton facility closures, we have established the following processes:
 - All Summit on the Park memberships, including Kids’ Corner, will be extended for the duration of the closure, and all monthly payments will be credited upon reopening.
 - Participants who registered for a class, program, or event that was canceled before the closure start date will receive a refund or credit. Those already in session will be prorated.
 - Facility rentals scheduled during the closures are canceled and will be fully refunded.
 - The Village Theater will automatically be issuing full refunds to ticket-holders for performances canceled during this timeframe.
- All account refunds and credits will be processed as soon as staff returns to work. Please expect delays and allow additional time for all transactions to be processed. There is no need to request these account credits and refunds, but if you have questions, email leisure@canton-mi.org and we will respond to your email as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Canton COVID-19 Resource Center: 734/394-5440

Canton has set up a COVID-19 Resource Center hotline intended to be used as a request for emergency resources for individuals who are homebound, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Individuals are encouraged to leave their name, phone number, and what assistance is being requested.

The Center is also designed to receive and coordinate offers of help from those in the position to provide assistance.

A Resource Center representative will return each call with follow up questions and information, and all calls will be logged and tracked.

This Month in Canton

S U P E R S E R V I C E

A message from Supervisor Williams



These are definitely strange times we are living in. And while we try to navigate this incredibly uncertain time, we want to do our best to keep our community safe. The health and well-being of our residents and employees is very important to us, so the decision was made on March 13 to close all Township facilities through April 5.

As of this printing, that is the plan. However, as we know all too well, those plans are fluid and subject to change from day to day.

Our Leadership Team has been meeting daily to get updates from the state and county, and to discuss measures that need to be taken locally. We are evaluating all of the available information and making necessary adjustments and decisions accordingly.

We will do our very best to keep you informed through our website, www.canton-mi.org, and our many facebook pages.

I think now more than ever we can appreciate just how small the world truly is, and the importance of looking out for one another in times of need. So please consider supporting our small business owners when and where possible, and check in on your neighbors that may be in need of some assistance.

Protecting ourselves will require all facets of our community to work together.

Canton Fire Department earns national accreditation

Last month, the Canton Fire Department was awarded full accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).



CFAI accreditation is an international recognition of achievement, demonstrating to the community that the department is performing to industry best practices and is holding itself accountable through an external peer review.

Canton Fire Department became a CFAI registered agency in 2013, beginning the cumbersome task of fulfilling the rigorous requirements and self-assessment tasks needed to comply with the 242 standards required for full accreditation. Last December, an assessment team from CFAI was on-site for one week, conducting a comprehensive review of the department's policies and proofs submitted to demonstrate compliance. In addition, the team interviewed department leaders, various department personnel, and executives throughout the Township. The panel also reviewed and evaluated fire department facilities and emergency equipment, as well as service levels provided to the community.

Upon completion, a comprehensive report was prepared outlining successes as well as items of concern, with an overall recommendation for approval by the CFAI panel at the annual conference. CFAI Assessment Team Leader Gerard Kay described Canton as having an "exceptional fire department" citing the quality of its facilities and equipment, as well as its high caliber of personnel.

Public Safety Director Joshua Meier stated, "CFAI accreditation is highly regarded by firefighting agencies internationally. The Canton Fire Department is now one of only four agencies in Michigan to have received this prestigious award."

Receiving CFAI accreditation solidifies the professionalism Canton strives for in its continual service to the community. Maintaining accreditation will require the department to continue being community-focused, data-driven, outcome-focused, strategic-minded, well organized, properly equipped, and properly staffed and trained—all of which are components of CFAI.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Supervisor
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FOCUS on 2020 Census

2020 Census FAQs

What is the census?

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future.

What's in it for me?

- Your responses inform where over \$675 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.
- Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future.
- Responding also fulfills your civic duty because it's mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.
- Your responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Is my information safe?

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

When can I respond to the census?

In early 2020, every household in America will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that have yet to respond.

What will I be asked?

You will be asked a few simple questions, like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children.

What won't be asked?

The census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

For more information, visit 2020census.gov

The 2020 Census is accessible for everyone

They are making sure that however you choose to respond—online, by phone, or by mail—that the census is accessible. You should have received an invitation to respond in mid-March. You choose how you want to respond.

You can respond online in English or in 12 additional languages. The online questionnaire is accessible, following the latest web accessibility guidelines. There is also a video in American Sign Language available to guide you through responding online.

You can respond by phone in English or in 12 additional languages. You can also respond in English by TDD at 844-467-2020.

By mid-April, the Census Bureau will mail a paper questionnaire to every household that hasn't already responded. (Some households will receive a paper questionnaire along with the first invitation in March.) Braille and large print guides are also available online to assist you with completing the paper questionnaire.

If necessary, you can respond in person beginning in mid-May. Census takers will visit all households that have not yet responded. Census takers who can communicate in American Sign Language and additional languages will also be available. When the census taker visits to help you respond, you can request that another census taker who communicates in American Sign Language returns, if you prefer. If you prefer, you may also choose to have another member of your household interact with the census taker.

Responding is important. A complete count helps ensure that services like Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and public transportation can support those who need them. Responding is safe. All of the information you share is protected by law and cannot be used against you. Responding is accessible. Everything is being done to ensure the ways to respond are accessible for everyone.

Any questions? Please visit 2020census.gov. This website is 508 compliant and accessible to people of all abilities.

FOCUS on 2020 Census

The 2020 Census will ask for the following information:

Number of people at address

This is to collect an accurate count of the number of people at each address on Census Day, April 1, 2020. Each decade, census results determine how many seats your state gets in Congress. State and local officials use census counts to draw boundaries for congressional districts, state legislative districts, and school districts.

Any additional people living or staying there

The goal is to count people once, only once, and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Keeping this goal in mind, we ask this question to ensure that everyone living at an address is counted.

Owner/Renter

They ask about whether a home is owned or rented to create statistics about homeownership and renters. Homeownership rates serve as an indicator of the nation's economy and help in administering housing programs and informing planning decisions.

Phone number

This is in case they need to contact you. They will never share your number and will only contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.

Name

This is to ensure everyone in the household is counted. It also helps keep ancestry records. Listing the name of each person in the household helps respondents include all members, particularly in large households where a respondent may forget who was counted and who was not.

Sex

They ask about the sex of each person to create statistics about gender. This data about is used in planning and funding government programs, and in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of genders. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in government programs and in society.

Age and date of birth

This is to understand the size and characteristics of different age groups and to present other data by age. Local, state, tribal, and federal agencies use age data to plan and fund government programs that provide assistance or services for specific age groups, such as children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population.

Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

This information is needed to create statistics about this ethnic group. The data collected in this question is needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

Race

This information is needed to create statistics about race and to present other statistics by race groups. The data is used to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

Whether a person lives or stays somewhere else

The goal is to count people once, only once, and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Keeping this goal in mind, this question is asked to ensure individuals are not included at multiple addresses.

Relationship

Data is used to create estimates about families, households, and other groups. Relationship data is used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for families, people living or raising children alone, grandparents living with grandchildren, or other households that qualify for additional assistance.

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

Ordinance Enforcement
734/394-5335

GFL (refuse collection)
844/464-3587

Canton Public Library
734/397-0999

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



Yard Waste collection begins

Curbside pickup of residential yard waste will begin April 1 and continue until December 4. All yard waste should be placed with recyclables on the opposite side of your driveway from your refuse. Yard waste and recyclables must always be placed separately from your refuse to avoid confusion during collection.

GFL will hold a clean-up event on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at their facility located at 42100 Van Born Road.

For more information visit www.canton-mi.org or call GFL at 844/464-3587.

Phragmites invades Michigan

Phragmites is an aggressive, invasive plant that grows to 15 feet in height and has had a massive impact on the ecological health of



Michigan's wetlands and coastal shoreline.

Ever-expanding stands of the grass have crowded out thousands of acres of native plants across the state in recent decades, destroying food and shelter for wildlife, blocking natural shoreline views, and reducing access for swimming, fishing and hunting.

Right now the best way to manage phragmites is identifying and treating it before it becomes well established. Once phragmites take hold, they're difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate. Phragmites reproduces like wildfire using seeds and rhizomes, which are horizontal stems growing underground. Rhizomes, which create thick, underground mats, can expand 30 feet per year with new plants sprouting all along the rhizome.

Residents with phragmites growing on their property are advised that cutting it down will not eradicate it. Canton is currently working on an education campaign to help residents identify and eliminate this invasive plant. Look for future Focus articles as well as posting and videos on our social media accounts and website.

Treasurer Slavens' Corner

While we are all dealing with the COVID-19 situation and our facility closures, I would like to remind residents that water bills can be paid by mail to P.O Box 87680, Canton Michigan, 48188; the drop box located outside the main entrance to the Canton Administration Building, by phone IVR 833-697-1711, and online at www.canton-mi.org/979.

Also, due to the unique circumstances we are in, late fees will not be assessed for March and April water bills as long as full payment is received by Friday, May 29.

As of this printing, the Water Department will not be scheduling appointments, at this time, for non-emergencies such as meter accuracy tests and noisy meters.

For new residents who want to drop off their Property Transfers and Principal Residence Exemptions please place them in the drop box or mail to Canton Treasurer; P.O Box 87010; Canton Township, Michigan; 48187

Lastly, on March 2, delinquent property taxes were turned over to the Wayne County Treasurer's office. You can make a payment online; by phone 313/224-5990; in person at 400 Monroe, 5th Floor, Detroit Michigan; by mail: Eric Sabree Wayne County Treasurer, P.O Box 554889, Detroit, Michigan, 48232; or use the delinquent tax payment kiosk.

Fair Housing presentation*

*As of March 20, this presentation is still scheduled.

On Thursday April 23, from 6 - 8 p.m. at Canton's Administration Building, the Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan Elder Law and Advocacy Center will offer a free presentation on Fair Housing. Please call Mike Sheppard at 734/394-5225 to register.



POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 253
Westland, MI

1150 Canton Center South
Canton, Michigan 48188

*Community Calendar and Village Theater schedule are subject to change. Check with sponsors to confirm date and information.

PLEASE NOTE: The calendar information below is subject to change based on COVID-19 conditions and recommendations. Please check www.canton-mi.org for the most up-to-date information.

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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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

- 6** Planning Commission Meeting. 7 p.m.
- 7** Board of Trustees Study Session. 6 p.m.
- 9** Zoning Board of Appeals. 7 p.m.
- 10** Good Friday. Administration Building closed.
- 14** Board of Trustees Meeting. 7 p.m.
- 15** DDA Board Meeting. 8 a.m.
- 15** The Emergency Food Assistance Program. 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Summit Banquet Center.
- 21** Board of Trustees Study Session. 6 p.m.
- 24** Together Towards Tomorrow – Youth Peace Walk. 7 - 9 p.m. Heritage Park.
- 26** Off-season Farmers Market. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Summit on the Park.
- 28** Board of Trustees Study Session. 7 p.m.

VILLAGE THEATER SCHEDULE

- APRIL 6-9**
Art Experience Spring Break Camp. 9 a.m.
\$150 M / \$165 R / \$190 NR
- APRIL 11**
Easter Jazz Concert. Daja Entertainment. 7 p.m. \$40.
- APRIL 12**
Harmony in Unity. Chauladevi Institute of Dance & Yoga. 3 p.m. \$20 - \$30.
- APRIL 18**
Polish Nat'l Alliance Centennial Dancers. 1 p.m. \$12.
- APRIL 18-19**
All That Jazz – The Roaring Twenties and Beyond. Michigan Philharmonic. Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. \$10 - \$30.
- APRIL 22**
Persian Art & Flavors Workshop. 6 p.m. \$20.
- APRIL 24-26, MAY 1-3**
The Sound of Music. Spotlight Players. Fri-Sat at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2 p.m. \$16 - \$18.

Postponed/canceled events

The following Canton special events have been postponed or cancelled:
Easter Bunny Breakfast and Easter Eggstravaganza– scheduled for Saturday, April 4: Canceled
Senior Summit - scheduled for Wednesday, May 13: Postponed
River Day - scheduled for Saturday, May 16: Postponed