

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Check for articles in the newsletter for more details on events.)

Month of March MN Food Share March Campaign – Give to Your Local Food Shelf

March 12-14 From the Heart Gifts' Luck of the Irish Sale, 100 S 4th St, Cannon Falls (Weichert Realty)

March 13 3rd Anniversary St Paddy's Day Weekend, Tilion Brewing Company, Doors Open at Noon, 432 Mill St

March 16 "Build Your Community, Build Your Youth", Chamber Monthly Zoom Meeting, 7:30 am, RSVP for Zoom Link

March 18 Mary Week's Retirement Open House, 2 pm – 4:30 pm, Cannon Valley Specialties, 114 N 4th St

March 19 Comedy Night at Riverwood, Video starts at 7 pm, Riverwood Community Church, 5343 Hwy 19 Blvd, Cannon Falls

March 21 3rd State of the State Address, 6 pm, Governor's YouTube page [here](#).

March 22 1st Day for Cannon Falls Students to return to the school buildings

March 26 Friday Fish Fry, 4:30 pm – 7 pm, St Pius V Catholic Church, 410 Colvill St W – Pre-Order Only

April 1 Bike Rentals, 9 am – 1 pm, Cannon Valley Senior Center, 507-263-2136

April 3 Children's Easter Cruise, 10 am – Noon, Cannon Valley Fairgrounds, watch for maps

June 24 Chamber Golf Tournament & Fundraiser, Noon – Lunch, 12:30 pm Shot Gun Start, Summit Golf Club

FREE ADVERTISING FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS

ATTENTION CHAMBER MEMBERS: If you would like to be included in the Easter Coupon Listing, please send your information (business name with logo, item(s) on sale, discount, expiration date, etc...) to the Chamber by noon on Wednesday, **March 24th**. The coupons will be 4 ¼" x 1 ½". Be creative with your discounts and add an expiration date if you would like. These coupons can be used by the children, or any member of their family. No identification required. *(These coupons will be printed on a dark-colored paper to avoid copies being made.)*

CHAMBER CHILDREN'S EASTER CRUISE

The Chamber Children's Easter Cruise is set for Saturday, **April 3rd**, from 10 am – Noon, at the Cannon Valley Fairgrounds. This cruise is a drive-through, "Safety-First" event, so please stay in your cars to meet and greet the Easter Bunny. The Cannon Falls Fire Dept. will be delivering the Easter Bunny at 10 am, and then he will be handing out bags of candy to kids up to 10 years old.

This event is a sponsor for the Cannon Falls Food Shelf. Please bring a non-perishable food item or cash donation. Those who "give" will "get" a full page of coupons from participating Chamber Members.

BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY, BUILD YOUR YOUTH

Tuesday, **March 16th**, 7:30 am

Chamber Monthly Zoom Meeting – [RSVP to receive the Zoom Link](#)

The new Tree House Youth Program is presenting, "Build Your Community, Build Your Youth." If you have an interest in your community and its future, make sure to sign up for this program. The youth in our community are your future employees. Come and find out how to take proactive steps to ensure our young people develop confidence and character.

This presentation will cover what early signs to watch for and ways to reduce dangerous behaviors such as suicide, drugs, and alcohol. Are these things already happening in your family or to your employees' families? Come and see how and what you can do to be a part of the future of Cannon Falls.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN AN ART SHOW?

The Cannon Falls High School Art Teacher is planning ahead for an Art Show during the middle of May 2021. If the Covid-19 Restrictions are still in place, the public would not be allowed into the school to see the students' art projects.

Would you be interested in having these art projects displayed in the front windows of your business or service? This could become an **Art Walk for Downtown Cannon Falls**. Please let the Chamber know if you would be willing to be a part of this Art Walk event by calling 507-263-2289 or emailing tourism@cannonfalls.org

2021 CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS

The most current membership listing is attached with this Chamber E-Newsletter. We now have a total of 148 members.

MN FOOD SHARE – MARCH CAMPAIGN

40th Year Anniversary - During the month of March, give to your local Food Shelf or donate at www.mnfoodshare.org/donate. In March, your dollars will go farther with the State of MN giving back a percentage of your donation to your local Food Shelf.

Our local Food Shelf needs the following specific items:

Food items:	Non-food items:
hearty soups	laundry detergent
saltine crackers	dish soap
Hamburger Helper	shampoo
snack crackers	pump hand soap
cookies	toothpaste
coffee	

CANNON FALLS STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 – Chamber Monthly Zoom Meeting

Presenters: Mayor John Althoff; Neal Jensen, City Administrator, and Laura Qualey, CEDA Business Specialist.

MAYOR JOHN ALTHOFF

Changes in Cannon Falls Staffing:

- Neal Jensen started as City Administrator in March 2020.
- Lanell Endres retired in January 2020.
- Laura Qualey started in April 2020 as the Economic Development Director/CEDA Business Specialist.
- Ellen Hartman started in January 2020 as the Public Works Secretary and Receptionist at City Hall.
- Danny Howard became the Cannon Falls' Public Works Director in January 2021 – he had been with the Oronoco Public Works for the past 1 ½ years.
- The City of Cannon Falls is using the Goodhue County Attorney to handle our criminal prosecution.
- Sarah from Hoff Barry, PA will be covering any civil situations for the city.

Updates in Cannon Falls

- The City Liquor License Fees have been lowered for 2021.
- The Cannon valley Trail had over 150,000 individuals using the trail in 2020. This is 50% more than in 2019 and the revenue was over \$200,000 for 2020.
- The sale of fishing licenses in the Cannon Falls area also doubled.
- In 2021, Derek Lundell and Steve Gesme were both re-elected to the Cannon Falls City Council as 2-year Council Members. Matt Montgomery and Laura Kronenberger were elected as the 4-year term council members.

NEIL JENSEN – CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Neil announced that there was a reduction of 3 FTE in staff in 2020, and that the September 2020-2021 Budget did not have an increase in the tax levy. Jensen was able to refinance 2 bonds that the City had creating a savings of \$440,000. There was also a reduction of \$160,000 in other municipal bonds.

\$130,000 was budgeted for the Mill and Overlay Project for 10 blocks in 2020. This budget has been increased to \$150,000 in 2021. Neal wants to get this part of the budget up to \$200,000 to get caught up on all of the maintenance projects.

There is currently \$400,000 in the community's Capital Funds Reserve. These funds will be used if there is a reduction in Local Government Aid Payments from the State of Minnesota

In 2023, the Cannon Falls Fire Department will be purchasing a new fire truck worth approximately \$400,000.

Cannon Falls Activities in 2020-2021

- The Cannon Falls' Community Pool will be open in 2021. The facility was refurbished in 2020 with new paint, splash pads, and railings.
- The 3rd Street Bridge had structural issues and was closed in the fall of 2020. This project will begin this spring and is planned to be completed by November 1st. This is a \$2 million project, and Goodhue County, State of Minnesota and the City of Cannon Falls are working together on this project. The water main that used to be just under the bridge, will be replaced with a larger main and go under the river.
- A grant is being looked into to complete the connection of the Mill Town Trail to the Cannon Falls City Trail in 2021.
- Maintenance Projects for 2021 include: the Ridge Crest and Evergreen Street areas, the Pool Parking Lot, 1 block of Mill St, and Woodridge on the south side of Co Rd 17.
- John Birch Park's limestone rock wall on the west side of the park is in need of major repair. The wall itself needs to be replaced and the seating over the wall will also need to be redone. This project could cost more than \$400,000. There are hopes to have the wall look similar to the St Mary's hospital Walls in Rochester.
- The Water Tower will need to be painted in 2022.
- The planning stages for a Reconstruction Project for 2023 is being started. This will include 7-9 blocks along Park Street.
- There is also a bad water situation in the Colvill area. This area has a 4' cast iron pipe that will be changed in the fall of 2021. It is estimated this project could run from \$160,000 to \$200,000.

LAURA QUALEY – CEDA/EDA

As a CEDA employee, Laura announced that she works in Cannon Falls 3 days per week. In 2020, there were five commercial projects equaling \$215 million. They include: Cannon Belles Cheese, Carstensen Trucking, AB See Pre-School & Early Learning Center, CannonBall Truck Stop – removed in July 2020, and the Banks Outdoors 30,000 sq ft expansion.

Laura was part of the CEDA team that was contracted by Goodhue County to distribute the Goodhue County Cares Act Grant project where over \$2.2 million was disbursed to 231 businesses or nonprofits in Goodhue County. Of this total, \$588,000 was awarded to 59 business/nonprofits in Cannon Falls equaling 27% of the funds. Laura was also part of the CEDA team responsible for distributing the most recent Minnesota State Relief funds in January 2021. This program gave out over \$895,000 in Goodhue County. \$242,500 of these relief funds were awarded to 25 Cannon Falls' businesses.

Laura's marketing efforts for the community started with the Cannon Roots campaign. With Blandin Foundation funds, Laura was able to promote the Cannon Valley Trail, John Burch Park, Lake Byllesby and the Cannon River. This promotion project actually started with the Local FEAST program in Rochester where local food and beverage producers showcased their goods to the public. The number of local producers at the event is what facilitated the Cannon Roots brand and has grown into its own local foods initiative to use as a niche to promote the area.

Laura also used these building block promotions with SHRPA. This is a new social media platform where you can post adventures about Cannon Falls. Laura works with a different 'sherpa' or 'influencer' each quarter to have 3-4 adventures in the Cannon Falls area which includes our community businesses in these promotions. Laura received a \$5,000 grant from SMIF last year and used it for a four-month digital marketing campaign.

In 2021, Laura and Neil hope to annex more land into the city limits for the community to grow. Cannon Falls is running out of land, but there is land between Co Rd 86 and Hwy 52 and also the Hayes Property behind Gemini and also County land between Frontier Ag & Turf and Mayo Clinic Health System that could be lots for development. Housing developments, multiple housing units and other housing projects may get started in the areas of Jablonskis' Towering Bluffs, Hayes Development, and possibly the county land by MCHS if the County agrees to selling the land to the city.

Qualey has another project she is vetting for in regard to a cold storage facility if the EDA can acquire more land. Connecting with land owners to see if they are willing to sell, and Great River Energy and Dakota Electric Association are all key partners in order for this project to come to fruition.

Further work is also happening with the available CannonBall land. This is known as the McCannonBall Subdivision. Projects included are straightening the easement to McDonalds, splitting up the land into 2-acre parcels and less than an acre parcel, and then marketing 2 separate properties.

A future project that Laura is planning to work on in 2021 is the freshening up of the Grow Cannon Falls video. This project is estimated to be a \$4,500 project and it should be completed in spring 2021.

Laura also reported that 12 homes were built in 2020 with a value of over \$2.8 million dollars, plus commercial developments were also completed in 2020. A total of 157 permits were approved for a value of over \$8.3 million.

Looking towards the future of Cannon Falls, the waste management treatment plant was created for a community with a population of 14-15,000. One of Laura's goals is to get the population of Cannon Falls over 5,000.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CANNON FALLS AREA

CANNON FALLS CANOE & BIKE RENTAL

Drivers Wanted – Must be 25 years old or older, have a clean driving record and a regular driver's license. Mostly weekend hours. If interested, call or text 507-407-4111.

EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

We are seeking candidates for **Seed Operations Lab/Field Technicians** that function as integral members of the Seed Operations team, responsible for crop production inputs including packaging, staking, planting, pollinating, harvesting, and data collection of research plots. Operate seed laboratory equipment including seed conditioning machines, seed counters, and other tools necessary for agricultural research projects. Supporting efforts to maintain integrity of seed inventory, packaging and field layout. Can perform all tasks and behaving in a manner compliant with and in support of all safety related company policies and practices.

Qualifications:

- HS Diploma
- Ability to use MS Office, especially Word and Excel
- Ability and motivation to learn new technologies
- Good organizational skills
- Ability to work in a team and to communicate with individuals throughout the department
- Must be detail oriented
- Accuracy is a must
- \$15.00/hour

If you, or someone you know, is interested in these positions, please call 651-385-6331 or go to www.expresspros.com

RANCHO LOCO GRILL AND BAR

Help Wanted – **Looking for waiters, waitresses and hostesses**. PT or FT. To apply, stop by the restaurant at 31303 – 64th Ave Path or call 651-800-8200 and ask for Isma.

ST. ANSGAR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Job Opening: Applications open for **Secretary Receptionist position**. St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church 7459 Highway 19 Blvd. Cannon Falls, MN. Part Time, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Monday – Friday. Send written work-related resume along with two job related written references to: sapastorrandy@gmail.com. For more information call 507-923-3098.

MEMBER-TO-MEMBER NEWS –

If you have an event, activity or announcement you want shared with all of the Chamber Members, please send your information to the Chamber Office at tourism@cannonfalls.org by Thursday of each week.

FROM THE HEART GIFTS – LUCK OF THE IRISH

From the Heart Gifts will be open on **March 12th – 14th** celebrating the Luck of the Irish. This shop is made up of a diverse group of talented artists and crafters who bring in their crafts, jewelry, wall hangings, refurbished items, and collectibles. Local businesses also have their products and services available for purchase. If you would be interested in having your gifts be a part of this new boutique, please contact Cheryl Siebenaler on her cell at 507-951-0839 or email her at Cheryl.Siebenaler@gmail.com

MORE WEEKS OF READING!

Fridays, March 12th and March 19th

Groundhogs Day kicks off our winter reading program for adults and teens. Read books, attend events, and win prizes. Sign-up at the Library, call 507-263-2804 or [Register Here](#).

TILION'S 3RD ANNIVERSARY ST PADDY'S DAY WEEKEND

Saturday, **March 13th**, Doors Open at Noon, Live Music at 2 pm

Tilion Brewing Company, 432 Mill St

Celebration begins at Noon; reservations are taken at the door and are on a first-come-first-serve basis. Cannon River Catering will be on site serving their famous Corned Beef at noon, menu of items for purchase coming soon.

Live music with Hayden Ashworth starting at 2 pm. Tilion's will be tapping a firkin of green Lazy Day Lager and tapping a new Mai Bock to celebrate the coming of Spring! Watch for more details on FaceBook and Instagram.

LET'S PLAY BINGO

Monday, **March 15th**, 10 am – 11 am

Cannon Valley Senior Center (CVSC), 120 West State St.

Starting in March, the CVSC started holding Bingo the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Due to social distancing requirements, it is best to RSVP for a seat by calling Lora Bremer at 507-263-2136 or emailing her at lora@cannonvalleyseniorcenter.org Be sure to mark your calendars for **April 5th and 19th**.

GRIEFSHARE SESSION

Tuesday, **March 16th through March 30th**, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm on ZOOM

Riverwood Church, Contact [Pastor Paul](#) for more details.

ARE YOU UP FOR CRAFTING?

Wednesday, **March 17th**, 9 am – Noon

Cannon Valley Senior Center (CVSC), 120 West State St.

Quilting, embroidering, and card making are all a part of the Craft Time that is being held at CVSC on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. More crafts can be added. Due to social distancing requirements, it is best to RSVP for your space by calling Lora Bremer at 507-263-2136 or emailing her at lora@cannonvalleyseniorcenter.org Be sure to mark your calendars for Craft Time on Wednesdays, **April 7th and 21st**.

MARY WEEK'S RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, **March 18th**, 2 pm – 4:30 pm

Cannon Valley Specialties, 114 N 4th St

After many great years of service, Mary Weeks' last day with Cannon Valley Specialties is Friday, March 19th. Come to CV Specialties on Thursday, March 18th, to help celebrate Mary's retirement. She will be greatly missed!

LEPRECHAUN TRAP CONTEST

Entries due by **March 18th**

Soon it will be St. Patrick's Day and those pesky Leprechauns will be on the loose again, but this year we're going to outsmart the little guys with the cleverest traps we can find!

The Contest:

- Design and build a Leprechaun trap, using ordinary household materials.
- To enter, send your name, age, and a photo of your trap to: cfl_ill@selco.info by **March 18th**.
- Public voting period will be **March 18th - March 31st**.
- 1st Prize of \$10 Chamber Dollars for each category: Ages 0 - 12; Ages 13 - 18.

COMEDY NIGHT AT RIVERWOOD!

On Friday, **March 19th**, at 7 pm, Riverwood will be showing the comedy video, "Full Range Motion" by Tim Hawkins. This comedy set was recently featured on the Focus on the Family webcast. Tim Hawkins is one of the most popular Christian comedians around today. Come and have a good laugh! FREE and open to the public.

FRIDAY FISH FRY AT ST PIUS V

Friday, **March 26th**, from 4:30 pm – 7 pm
St Pius V Catholic Church (lower level)

The cost is \$10 per meal and **pre-ordering** is required (form attached to E-Newsletter). There will be curbside pick-up by the lower level of the church. The meal being served will include: Alaskan Pollack (fried or baked), Rice, Baked Beans (all gluten free), Coleslaw, Fresh Veggies, Hi-Quality Bakery Bun and Brownie.

You may call the church at 507-263-2578, but pre-payment is required by **March 19th**. On the Pre-Order Form, you also need to choose your pick-up time.

BIKE RENTALS START ON APRIL 1ST

As of **April 1st**, the Cannon Valley Senior Center (CVSC) will have bike rentals available to the public. Call Lora at the CVSC to reserve your bike at 507-263-2136. The bikes are located at CVSC, 120 W State St.

As of April 1st, don't forget to get a Wheel Pass for the Cannon Valley Trail. \$5 for a daily pass and \$25 for a yearly pass.

CHROMEBOOKS AVAILABLE TO BORROW AT LIBRARY

The CF Library has Chromebooks available to borrow. Available to loan for two weeks at a time. Request through the online catalog or contact the library at 507-263-2804. Their Chromebooks were purchased through grants from Mayo Clinic Health System and Blandin Foundation.

2021 CHAMBER SPONSORSHIPS (as of 03122021)



2021 CHAMBER DIAMOND SPONSOR

2021 CHAMBER GOLD SPONSOR



FLOWER BASKET SPONSORSHIPS FROM COMMUNITY

Carrie Johnson and Ryan Josephs – *In honor and loving memory of Patty Anderson*

Rod Nelson – *In Memory of Mary Nelson and Pat Anderson*

Gwen Rose – *In Memory of David Delzer and Theresa Rose*
Mrs. Evelyn L Strack

In 2021, the Cannon Falls Area Chamber Sponsorships are taking on a new look. Instead of selecting specific Chamber events, your business logo or name will be represented in the promotions for the events listed in that specific level.

\$100 SPONSORSHIP LEVEL –

Children's Easter Cruise, Flower Baskets, Halloween Trick or Treat Trot & Open-Air Fair

Bayer Crop Science

Cycle America

Mayo Clinic Health Services

Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Northside Storage

Peterson Turkey Hatchery – *In Memory of Pat Anderson*

Sue's Garage Sales

\$250 SPONSORSHIP LEVEL –

Golf Tournament Hole Sign & Deck the Falls & Fireworks

\$400 SPONSORSHIP LEVEL –

Golf Tournament Meal

\$500 SPONSORSHIP LEVEL –

Golf Tournament Team and Light Up Cannon Falls

**I LOVE
CANNON
FALLS!**