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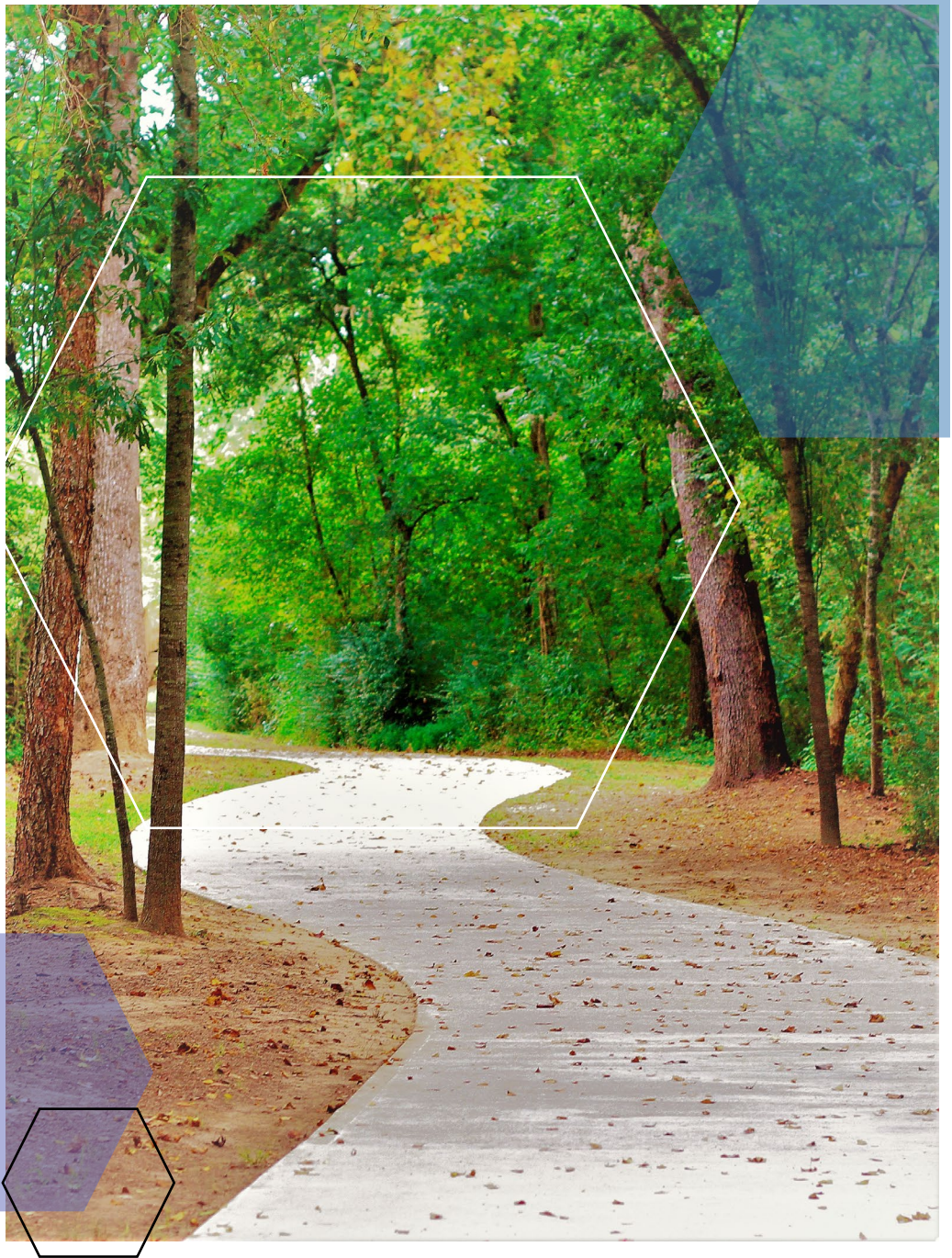
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# MAPPING OUR COURSE

## PLANS AND PROJECTS JOINED TOGETHER FOR A ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

Since 2010, the City of Canton has grown to over 30,000 residents according to Census Bureau estimates (July 2019) which is a 30 percent increase over 2010. Development, both commercial and residential, continues to find the community attractive for investment. The Mayor and Council have tasked staff with working through Council member led committees to develop a roadmap that charts the course for Canton's future. This entails combining previous plans, current projects, public input, innovation, best practices, and needs assessments into one document that will become the sales pitch, recipe, and guide for recruiting the things Canton citizens want while restricting the development of those things not matching our goals for the future. If you have ideas, please email those to [roadmap@cantonga.gov](mailto:roadmap@cantonga.gov). More about this project will be announced this month.



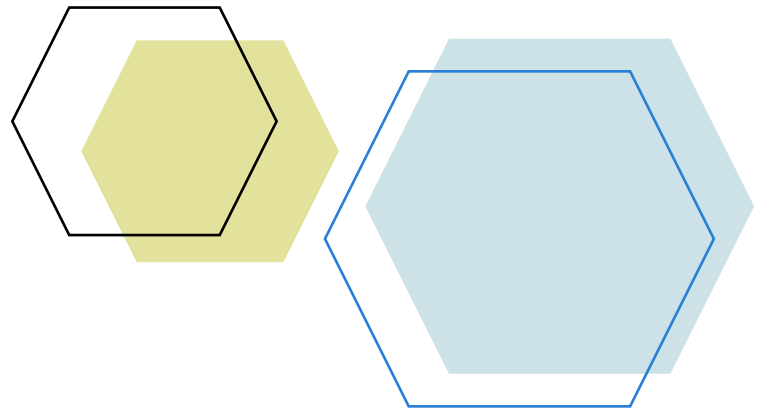


# SR-20 WIDENING

## 575 TO SCOTT ROAD TO START IN JUNE

The Georgia Department of Transportation has awarded a contract for the first section of work in the widening of State Route 20 from Interstate 575 to Cumming. This section includes work from the interstate eastward to Scott Road and will include traffic signalization, realigning Old Doss Road, adding additional highway capacity to six lanes, turn lanes, and medians. The first portion of the project will include utility relocations. The project will begin this month and is anticipated to continue through November 2022. For more information on this project, including the plan documents and schedules, please visit:

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/applications/geopi/Pages/Dashboard.aspx?ProjectId=0009164>



# ASPHALT AHEAD!

## NEIGHBORHOOD PAVING STARTS JUNE 15

Paving projects associated with a recently approved \$1.4 million contract with Bartow Paving will begin on June 15. The Towne Mill neighborhood will have paving work June 15-19 to the following streets: Jefferson Avenue, Valdosta Avenue, Midway Crossing, Berry Court, Commerce Trail, Midway Avenue and Winder Trail. From June 22-26, paving crews will be working in the Park Village neighborhood on Wildflower Circle, Park Village Drive, Stoney Hollow Road, Sunflower Drive, and Trail Finders Way. Projects in Great Sky, Laurel Canyon, Iris Park, and Norton Lake will be completed in July.

A second round of paving will occur later this summer into early fall, utilizing SPLOST and a state grant (LMIG) to pave arterial roads in certain neighborhoods and secondary roads in the City.

For more information, please contact Public Works at 770-704-7674.







Downtown Kitchen, East Marietta Street

# LICENSE TO RECOVERY

## COUNCIL APPROVES BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Businesses in the City of Canton are required to annually apply for a business license and pay an occupational tax, sometimes referred to as a business license tax. This tax varies by business and is based upon IRS tables of profitability. Renewal of Licenses occurs by March 31 annually. In discussing the current economic climate due to COVID-19, Mayor Bill Grant and Councilor Brooke Schimdt (Chair of the Economic Development Committee) tasked staff with developing an assistant program to help get cash back into local business.

The "License to Recovery" program was approved by City Council on May 21 and will provide a full rebate of the occupational tax for businesses that are locally owned and have 50 employees or fewer. Letters with applications for the program were mailed to all business license holders at the end of May. Applications for the rebates are due by July 31 and staff will be reviewing these to process weekly over the summer. There are 1,200 business licenses in the City of Canton. For more information, visit: <https://www.cantonga.gov/civicax/inc/blobfetch.aspx?BlobID=23491> or call 770-704-1500.

# REOPENED AND READY TO SERVE

## FREE ONLINE LISTING SERVICE FOR CHEROKEE COUNTY BUSINESSES

In partnership with Cherokee's cities, the Cherokee Office of Economic Development has launched a free online tool on [cherokeega.org](https://cherokeega.org) that makes it easier than ever to find stores, restaurants, and services that are open for business. This interactive platform gives businesses the ability to create customizable business listings featuring current hours of operation, service offerings, curbside, dine-in or pick-up options, and special promotions – all in a single location.

If you are a Canton business owner, make sure to take advantage of this helpful resource by creating a free online profile on <https://covid-19.zoomprospector.com/CHEROKEE>.

Now more than ever, buying local is one of the greatest gifts we can give to our local community. Every dollar spent is an investment in Canton's future. Together, we are Cherokee By Choice. To learn more about COED's initiatives to support Cherokee's business community, visit [cherokeega.org](https://cherokeega.org).





# CANTON FARMERS MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY  
JUNE 6 through OCT 24

9-NOON

RAIN OR SHINE

BROWN PARK

DOWNTOWN  
CANTON

Brown Park is located between the  
Cherokee County History Museum and  
Canton Police Dept

Join us for the start of the 2020 Canton Farmers Market, now located at Brown Park in downtown. We welcome everyone who is healthy and feels safe to visit our Farmers Market to procure healthy, local food from area growers. We ask that you follow these strict guidelines:

- You are strongly encouraged to wear a mask
- Please be patient and follow new market rules during this time
- Only 1 shopper per booth
- Maintain at least an arm's length distance between other shoppers and vendors, especially while you are waiting in line
- Do not congregate between booths
- Do not greet anyone at the market with hugs or handshakes
- No hand-to-hand contact will be allowed between vendors and shoppers. Point to the product that you would like, allow the vendor to bag it and set it down on the table before you pick it up
- Do not hand vendors payments directly. We are encouraging a touchless point-of-sale. If you are unable to use this method of payment, please bring small bills to complete your transaction
- Please refrain from bringing your dogs to the market during this time

## CANTON RIVER ROCK RETURNS

SPREAD OUT AT ETOWAH RIVER PARK FOR THE FIRST SUMMER CONCERT OF 2020



The Canton River Rock Concert Series is returning to Etowah River Park on Saturday, June 20 with live music and plenty of room for families to spread out while enjoying the spirit of community. Join us as we welcome local-Georgia artist, Jacob Bryant as well as Smokey Jones and the \$3 Pistols. This concert is sponsored in part by Northside Hospital Cherokee, Grand Reserve Canton, Advanced Disposal, Camping World, Family Life Magazine and Aroundabout Magazine.



Jacob released his first full length album titled, *Practice What I Preach*, in February of 2019 and it debuted number 1 on the iTunes country chart. The Jasper, Georgia native performs with the confidence of a seasoned road warrior and delivers a show that combines the storytelling and heart of traditional Country Music but with a hard-hitting Southern Rock bit of KICK!

Safety has played a large roll in the preparation of this concert event. Appropriate distancing will be applied for the attendees who are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets, and a cooler with food and beverage. No tents or glass please. There will be vendors available to provide food, also following all state rules for food service. For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2516139905293275/>

# JUNE BRINGS FISCAL PLANNING



One of the biggest annual responsibilities of the City Manager is to present to Mayor and Council a balanced budget for consideration and review. Working with the Assistant City Manager, Finance Department and all working groups of the City, the budget process begins in March to meet guidelines of the State and local Charter. As the calendar turns to June, the City Manager presents a draft budget proposal to the City Council for review. A copy of that budget draft is available for public inspection on the City website under Finance Department: <https://www.cantonga.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?t=30781.11&BlobID=23493>

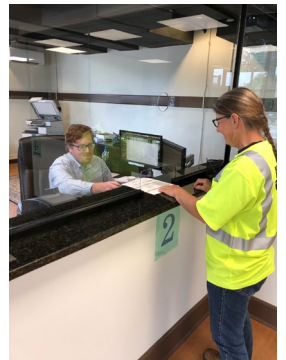
The Mayor and Council will review the budget with staff during the month of June and will have three meetings in July to hear from the public prior to adopting a millage rate (set property taxes) and approve the FY2021 Budget, which begins October 1. The hearings in July are scheduled for July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11 a.m. and 6

p.m., and July 16 at 6 p.m. The City Manager's proposed budget reflects holding the current millage rate at 5.4 (the same rate since 2017), no increases in utility fees (water, wastewater, sanitation, or stormwater), and no increases in personnel.

## UTILITY BILLING DEPARTMENT IS NOW REOPENED TO THE PUBLIC, PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

The City of Canton reopened the Utility Billing Department, Municipal Court, and Police Department to the public on June 1. Each of these locations provides a service areas with windows between employees and customers. An additional customer service window is being constructed in the Community Development Department at City Hall.

The City's Utility Billing Staff is reaching out to account holders with outstanding balances during the time of State shelter in place orders to assist in bringing accounts into good standing using payment plans. As authorized in May by the Mayor and Council, staff has the ability to create payment plans for customers to include the waiver of penalties and late fees so long as the plans are followed. If you need a payment plan, please call 770-704-1502.



# A MOMENT WITH MAYOR GRANT

Our eternal spring has passed, and summer has arrived. This is not how I envisioned the first five months of my Mayoral term, but as I have said before, I am honored to have an opportunity to serve when needed most. Speaking with mayors from across the country, no one was prepared for a global pandemic followed by a national crisis on racial injustice stemming from the tragic death of George Floyd and others. However, this is where we find ourselves, and I pray summer will bring hope, healing, justice and continued recovery for all.

In the midst of this turmoil, it is certainly reassuring to witness a few signs of normalcy emerge in our city. I know many of us are excited to see the return of the Canton Farmers Market in its larger and more shaded location in Brown Park. I can't wait to visit with the growers we've come to know and trust to bring us the best local produce and provisions in Georgia. This week, we also welcomed the Kell's restaurants back in downtown: Downtown Kitchen, Goin' Coastal and Queenies. It was almost as exciting as when Downtown Kitchen opened on December 4, 2004, but this time they added a beautiful new outdoor courtyard. I enjoyed having dinner outdoors on the first night and to receive a few air hugs from many friends and neighbors. Many other restaurants have opened in Canton, and Mayor and Council will amend our ordinance at our June meeting to allow them to permanently sell packaged beer and wine with to-go orders. In addition to the License to Recovery program where we are refunding 2020 occupational license fees for locally owned businesses with 50 employees or less, we are working hard to support our partners and local economy when it is needed most.



With all of the recent uncertainty, I am happy to report the interest in Canton has never been greater. Meetings and discussions are occurring on some very intriguing projects, and we are making good progress on our new road map for the city. As we continue to move Canton forward with intentional and strategic approaches to growth, we will also continue to engage our citizens at every level – listening to understand and acting to improve quality of life for all. I have asked Council to appoint citizen representatives to two new initiatives at our June 18 meeting: a Diversity Task Force and a Public Safety Committee. As we continue to become more inclusive and accountable, we will be more successful in creating the Coolest Small Town in America for every citizen.