

# CITY NEWS

VOLUME I, ISSUE II

www.ci.waseca.mn.us

## Waseca Parks...In-City Adventures

Don't miss the in-city adventure that's just down the street!

Waseca Parks have something for everyone. We have fifteen beautiful city parks offering a variety of activities, including picnic areas, volleyball courts, nature park, ball fields, playground equipment and biking and hiking trails.

You can swim at the Water Park, play at the park, bike or walk on a trail, play a game of tennis,

or skate board at the skate park. Whatever your interest Waseca Parks has what you are looking for.

For more information on City Parks or to view a map of our parks and trails, visit us on the world wide web at [www.ci.waseca.mn.us](http://www.ci.waseca.mn.us).



RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME IS A PRECIOUS COMMODITY. WE ALL WORK HARD AND WANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF OUR "PLAY" TIME. WE INVITE YOU TO COME TO A CITY PARK AND SPEND SOME OF YOUR PRECIOUS LEISURE TIME MAKING MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF YOUR OWN!

## Waseca Water Park

The Waseca Water Park will open on Saturday, June 4th at 12 noon. Weather permitting, the Water Park will be open every day from 12 to 6 pm. The daily admission will remain at \$5 per person. Punch cards are available at City Hall until the Water Park opens for the season.

<u>Resident</u>		<u>Non-Resident</u>
\$40	10 punch	\$45
\$70	20 punch	\$80
\$105	30 punch	\$115

## Adopt-a-Park

Adopt-A-Park is a public service program for volunteers who are interested in cleaning up Waseca's parks. It is an excellent way for citizens and organizations to make a personal contribution to the community.

The City provides trash bags for cleanup, coordinates pickup for trash, debris and limbs. For more information, please contact Mark Bartelt, at 507-835-9700.

# SAVE ON ENERGY COSTS

## Cold Weather Protection

April 15th marked the end of the Cold Weather Protection period. If you are having difficulty paying your utility bill, we encourage you to be proactive and contact the Utility Billing office, at 835-9718 to discuss your account or to set up a payment plan.

## LOAD MANAGEMENT

Volunteer your central air conditioner for the load management program. Waseca Utilities will have a licensed electrician install a controller unit on your central air conditioner, at no cost to you the customer. The controller unit cycles your air conditioner compressor off for short periods of time during peak electrical usage. Residential participants in the load management program will receive an \$8.00 monthly credit on the June, July, August and September electric bills or a total savings of \$32.00 for the year. Commercial participants will receive a \$20.00 monthly credit for the same months or a total savings of \$80.00 for the year.

If you participated in the program last year, you do not need to contact us. You will automatically receive the credit each year unless otherwise notified. For additional information, please contact the Utility Billing Department, at 835-9718.

## PEAK ALERT

You have the power to help keep electricity costs down. A Peak Alert means Waseca Utilities is nearing our peak electrical demand for the year. Our electrical peak is the amount of power we use during the time when our power supplier, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) experiences their annual peak. This peak usually occurs on very hot weekdays during the months of June through September between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Waseca Utilities will announce a Peak Alert by radio and television announcements.

By helping to reduce our peak electrical demand, you can help keep electricity rates low. Some energy saving suggestions are: set air conditioner to 78 degrees, delay running the dishwasher and clothes washer until after 7:00 p.m., turn off excess lights and close curtains and draperies. Please conserve energy and keep your electrical usage to a minimum by using major electrical appliances before 11:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. on Peak Alert days.

## Warning System Sirens



Testing of the outdoor warning system sirens occurs on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Outdoor warning system sirens are located throughout the City of Waseca and by Lakeside Golf Course (north side of Clear Lake).

People often have the misconception that the sirens are meant to be heard indoors. However, the system is intended to be heard outdoors. You may not hear it inside or in noisy areas.

Residents need to pay attention to the weather, watch the television reports, or listen to the radio for weather updates. To receive emergency notifications indoors, a National Weather Radio can be purchased at local retailers, which alerts listeners to hazardous weather.

When you hear the outdoor warning system sirens, you should immediately go inside. Once indoors, go to the lowest level, most interior space in your home or office.

# EASEMENTS & RIGHT-OF-WAYS

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If you own property, it may be subject to a utility easement or another type of easement, which is also known as a right of way. To safely deliver the electricity and water, underground and overhead lines may be located in a utility easement to insure their protection and maintenance.

## **WHAT IS A PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY?**

A public right-of-way is an easement created for the use of the general public. The road or street in front of your property is probably in a public right of way. Public utilities are authorized to construct their facilities within the part of the public right-of-way beyond the edges of the road. In addition, the utility has certain rights to trim and remove trees and remove obstructions.

## **WHAT IS A PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT?**

A public utility easement on your property permits the City to use the land within the easement in controlled ways and may permit the construction and maintenance of overhead and underground electric lines, water and sewer lines, transformers, poles, transmission lines, and other utility facilities. Easements are also used by other utility companies to provide gas, cable TV, and other utility services. More than one utility may have the right to use an easement.

## **WHY DOES CITY NEED EASEMENTS?**

An easement allows immediate access to water, sewer and electric lines and equipment. In case of an interruption, City must restore service as soon as possible. If you change the grade of a lot, build retaining walls, plant trees or shrubs, or place fences or other obstructions in an easement, City crews may not have access to the utility facilities and equipment. An easement provides a corridor of clear space for the construction, repair, and operation of utility lines for your safety and the safety of utility crews. Easements exist for your protection,

safety, and service. They enable the City to provide safe and efficient water and electric services. By observing restrictions on the use of the land within an easement, you, the property owner, can help protect yourself from property damage, as well as hazards that could cause serious injuries.

## **HOW DO I KNOW WHERE THE UTILITY EASEMENT IS LOCATED?**

Before you purchase property, construct building, or landscape, you should ask the developer, builder, present owner, and/or the real estate agent if there are any easements on the property. Have an attorney give you a title opinion based upon an examination of an abstract or title insurance commitment. The title opinion should list all easements which have been recorded and which may affect the property. You should determine the location of any easements referred to in the title opinion and understand the utility's rights as granted by those easements. Examine the property carefully. The existence of utility facilities on or over the property may indicate the existence of an unrecorded easement and should be investigated by contacting the utility whose facilities are involved. Remember, it is easier to avoid a problem than it is to fix it after you have bought it.

## **HOW MAY I USE THE LAND WITHIN THE EASEMENT ON MY PROPERTY?**

You may not build a structure on the easement, or plant trees and shrubs around it, or place any obstruction such as a fountain or pond on or around it. You may not change the slope of the ground if the change will affect the City's access to its utility facilities, or if the change will violate required clearances for either underground or overhead lines.

You may plant and maintain a lawn, crops, flowerbeds, and vegetable gardens. City is not liable for damage resulting from the removal of obstructions within the easement, such as fences, retaining walls, terraces; etc. City is also not liable

for damages due to the trimming or removal of trees on or overhanging an easement. For this reason, it is sensible to follow the guidelines below when planting trees on your property. Thoughtful planning will help to minimize the chance that City must trim or remove the tree and will also help to reduce the risk of personal injury and property damage caused by a tree growing into a City line.

Do not plant trees or shrubs in an easement. Plant trees and shrubs far enough away from the edge of the easement and all City equipment, including power lines, so that if a limb or tree falls, it will not come into contact with the utility equipment. For your own personal safety, check the location of all underground cables and lines before planting trees or shrubs or digging on your property for any reason. To locate underground lines, call GOPHERONE, at 800-252-1166. Calls should be placed two days in advance.

## **MAY I BUILD A FENCE WITHIN A UTILITY EASEMENT?**

Fences within an easement can prevent access to the utility facilities. While City crews attempt to work around existing fences, occasionally a fence must be removed so that we can reach our equipment. The City is not liable for damages caused by removal of any part of a fence on an easement if such removal is required to gain access to our equipment.

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I ENCROACH ON A UTILITY EASEMENT?**

Erecting a building or structure or placing any other improvement within an easement is known as "encroaching." You may be required to remove any encroachments within an easement, and City is not liable for damage to or the removal of any encroachments.

## **QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions regarding easements on your property, please call the City Hall, at 835-9700.

## Reserve a Park Shelter

There is a high demand for park shelters, so don't wait to reserve your date!

Pavilions/shelters are available from April to October for a fee. Reservations are available on a four-hour or daily time frame. For more information, or to make a reservation, please contact City Hall, at 835-9700.

## Consumer Confidence

The Water Utility Annual Consumer Confidence Report, as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will be included as an insert with the June utility bill. This report provides water quality information about the drinking water that the City Water Utility delivers to your home and business.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Utilities Director at City Hall, at 835-9718.

## Swimming Lessons

Summer swim lesson registration will begin on **Monday, May 2, 2011** at 7 a.m. at the City Hall. Registration will continue until classes are filled. Payment of \$30 must be made at time of registration and registration must be done in person, no phone registrations or e-mail registrations will be accepted.

There will be four Swim Lesson Sessions that will run for two weeks each, Monday through Thursdays evenings. The sessions start on June 20, July 11, July 25, and August 8, 2011. Class starting times are 6:10 pm and 7:00 pm and will run for 45 minutes each night. For more information, contact 835-9700.

## Call Before you Dig

Protect yourselves and your property against underground utility damage. Gopher State One Call is Minnesota's one-call center for the excavating community. Homeowners, excavators and contractors must contact Gopher State One Call 48 hours prior to any excavation. They will, in turn, contact participating utility operators who will then locate and mark where the underground utilities might be buried. This is a free service. You may reach Gopher State One Call by phone (800)252-1166 or online at [gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org)

## Public Access Channel

The City of Waseca now operates the local PEG (public, education, government) access channel. This channel can be viewed locally by all Mediacom and HickoryTech cable subscribers on Channel 8. This channel is a community-based resource that can be used by both individuals and organizations to display announcement slides and video programming.

If you would like more information on Waseca Peg Channel 8, please contact City Hall, at 835-9700.

# Kids Eat Free!



- Where:** Waseca Jr. High School commons  
400 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Waseca
- When:** June 13 – August 4<sup>th</sup> (closed July 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Time:** Breakfast 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM  
Lunch 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Sponsor:** Waseca Community Education  
Waseca Public Schools #0829
- Telephone:** (507) 835-5626

All children ages 1-18 can come to this location and have a nutritious summer meal at no cost! The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

City of **WASECA** *more info: [www.ci.waseca.mn.us](http://www.ci.waseca.mn.us)*  
*Engineering Department*

**STORMWATER POLLUTION  
PREVENTION PROGRAM**

**Stormwater Hotline:  
1.507.835.9730**

