



CITY NEWS Spring 2017

A Community Newsletter for Waseca Residents

2017 Spring Cleanup

Starting Monday May 1st, the City of Waseca will provide free pickup of brush. All materials must be on the curb by 7:00 a.m. May 1st to be included in the pick-up. There are several regulations that must be met for the material to be picked up.

- Brush must be piled on the curb - crews will not enter on private property to pick up the brush.
- No material other than brush shall be placed in the brush pile.
- Animal waste, garbage, demolition material, lumber, etc. **will not be accepted.** Any inclusion of any excluded materials will result in the whole pile being left. Crews will not sort piles.
- A limit of one dump truck load per address will be in effect. Any more than one dump truck load will be left on the curb.
- No tree branches over 8" in diameter or material over 8' in length will be taken.
- All limbs and branches must be placed parallel to the curb.

The City of Waseca will not be responsible for turf damage caused by this service.

Because this is a costly service in terms of manpower and equipment, it will be a one-time only service. As a result, if the material is not on the curb by 7:00 a.m. May 1st, we cannot guarantee that it will be picked up. The crews will make only one pass on each street to pick up the material. There are many other jobs that the crews will be involved with and as a result, we will not be able to return to make special pick-ups.



This is an opportunity for residents to clean up their trees and bushes and have the material hauled away for them. Let's all take advantage of this opportunity to clean up our yards and our community!

Keep in mind that there will be an expanded FALL pick-up of leaves scheduled at a later date and advertised in the City Newsletter & Website.

Emergency Siren System



On the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., the emergency siren system is activated for testing. On Thursday, April 20, 2017, during Severe Weather Awareness week (April 17th to April 21st), the sirens will be activated twice during the

day at 1:45 p.m. and at 6:45 p.m. In the event of severe weather, activation of the emergency siren system means that Waseca County is in a TORNADO WARNING and a tornado has been observed by Law Enforcement, Skywarn Watchers and/or the National Weather Service. 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. Outdoor warning 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 if you are 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. A wise investment would be a National Weather Radio which can be purchased at local retailers.

State Imposed Water Surcharge

If you have a water service connection to your property, your April utility bill will reflect a special State mandated water connection surcharge fee in the amount of \$6.36. Legislation that became effective July 1st, 1992 requires all public water systems in Minnesota to collect this money on



an annual basis. The money is being collected for the State to pay for the increased costs of monitoring and testing programs due to the federal Safe Drinking Water regulations

Waseca Vision 2030

BEST of Waseca County, in collaboration with the City of Waseca, Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, Waseca County, the Waseca Mayo Clinic and Waseca Public Schools, is leading an effort for the City of Waseca to develop a community vision to establish what the residents, businesses and other stakeholders would like our community to look like in 2030. This robust community engagement effort is designed to reach out into the community to get a broad range of perspectives on what makes this community great and what we need to improve to stay that way. This process builds on and complements the work done over the past several years on strategic planning, but focuses on generating implementable and visible change.

To achieve this, BEST is requesting applications for individuals interested in being on the Steering Committee for this effort. The Steering Committee will be responsible

for assisting in the development of visionary plans to address future issues and opportunities for Waseca, and will be champions for moving the vision process into implementation. Those interested in being on the Steering Committee should be forward thinking, positive problem solvers who have the ability to collaborate and be respectful of those with different perspectives. They should be able to look at the big picture and understand the necessity of making tradeoffs in order to accomplish great things.

More detailed information on the role and responsibilities of the Steering Committee, as well as an application to be a member of the Steering Committee, can be found at www.wasecavision2030.org.

Energy Star Rebates



Waseca Electric residential customers may qualify for a rebate by purchasing ENERGY STAR rated appliances, electric or gas dryers, room air conditioners and LED bulbs. These items must have ENERGY STAR documentation in order to qualify.

There are also rebates for air conditioners and efficient furnace fan motors available. There is a higher rebate amount on ceiling fans with lighting, clothes washers and dishwashers when they are rated “Most Efficient”. The

“Most Efficient” label is an extension of the ENERGY STAR program. It represents the highest efficiency products among those that qualify for the ENERGY STAR rating.

Customers who purchase items in 2017 will need to submit their rebate applications in the same year.

An ENERGY STAR rebate application is available by contacting Waseca Utilities at 835-9718 – Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A fillable application is also available on the City website www.ci.waseca.mn.us along with a list of rebates available.

Utility Rate Increases Effective on Bills due 4-15-17

At the regular City Council meeting on December 20, 2016, the City Council approved utility rate increases that will be effective on the utility bills due 4-15-17. The electric rates are increasing by approximately 2% in response to increases in wholesale power costs to the City. There is also an increase in the water capital funding and sewer capital

funding charges. These charges were established in 2016 to address existing and ongoing capital infrastructure repair and replacement needs. A full listing of utility rates can be found on the City’s website at www.ci.waseca.mn.us or by contacting the Utility Billing Office at 835-9718.

Save Money This Summer on Energy Costs

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 unless you have moved since last summer. If you have not moved, you will automatically receive the credit each year unless otherwise notified.



For additional information, please contact the Utility Billing Department at 835-9718. Business hours are Monday – Friday - 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery



The Waseca Fire Department would like to remind you that the day when you change your clocks for daylight savings time is the perfect opportunity to change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

When smoke alarms fail, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected or dead. According to the National Fire Protection Association, the households with non-working smoke alarms now outnumber those with no smoke alarms. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and MAINTAINED play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. As most fatal fires occur at night, by taking the time to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms, you can sleep better knowing that you've provided one of the best ways to alert those in your household should a fire occur.

Remember, almost every day a smoke alarm saves someone's life.

Smoke Alarm Tips:

- Test smoke alarms once a month
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms twice a year (when you change your clocks for daylight savings time)
- Never remove the batteries from smoke alarms, not even temporarily
- Regularly vacuum or dust smoke alarms to keep them working properly
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years
- Don't paint over smoke alarms
- Practice family fire drills so everyone knows what to do if the smoke alarm goes off

If you have any questions regarding the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms, or if you have any other questions about how to protect yourself and your household in the event of a fire, please feel free to contact the Waseca Fire Department at 303 South State Street or 507-835-3210.

Spring Business Summit

Save the date. BEST of Waseca County is planning its Spring Business Summit April 25 at the Southern Research Outreach Center. The agenda is being completed but not ready for this newsletter. More information about the Spring

Business Summit will be available in the near future. For information from the Fall 2016 Business Summit, see <http://discoverwaseca.com/resources/economic-development/b-e-s-t/fall-business-summit-2016/>

Free Public Event - "It's Time to Talk: Forums on Race"

It's Time to Talk: Forums on Race is a YWCA trademarked racial dialogue facilitation process utilizing trained facilitators to lead small table discussions on race. Participants exchange ideas during the introductory conversation in a nonthreatening environment.

- Opportunity to build community connections
- Grow professional development skills
- Learn new ways to think about race
- Awareness-building dialogue
- Small table discussions
- Share stories and experiences around themes of race.

When: Thursday, April 27 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where: Waseca Public Safety Building, 303 South State Street, Waseca.

Register with the Community Education Office – By Friday, April 21 at (507) 835-5626 or online at: <https://isd829.cr3.schooltoday.com/public/home/> under Community Events, or in person: Community Education Office, 501 East Elm, Waseca.

Free child care provided for those who register for this event.



BULLETIN BOARD

STILL HAVING FLOOD ISSUES? The Waseca County Long Term Recovery Committee is available to assist with issues still occurring from the flood, and those that may result from the Spring thaw. Please call 507-308-4336 or visit www.wasecafloodingrecovery.com for information regarding available assistance.



The storm sewer system consists of curbs, drain pipes, tile and catch basins in the streets which are intended to carry large amounts of surface runoff. Storm water flows untreated into regional wetlands, ponds, lakes

and streams. Therefore, any debris (grass, leaves, fertilizer, pet waste, chemicals, etc.) that makes it into the storm drains, ends up polluting our water resources. Pollution prevention by the general public can make a big difference in keeping Waseca's water resources clean and healthy. Per City Code, it is also illegal to put your grass clippings in City streets.

WHEN THE SNOW MELTS AND SPRING ARRIVES, IT'S TIME TO:

- Promptly clean up the yard waste from your pets
- Pick up unwanted litter, trash, garbage and dispose of properly
- Don't park on the lawn, grass or unapproved surfaces.
- Move that accumulation of material/junk/rubbish inside or off your property
- Get the lawn mower and weed eater ready for the mowing season
- Gather up the sticks, branches and brush and be ready for the City brush pick up

PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PETS! Please scoop up after your pets and dispose of the waste properly. Waste not cleaned up can find its way into our lakes, rivers and ground water, causing sanitary issues. Proper disposal includes putting it in a bag, preferably biodegradable, and depositing it in your garbage container. Do not toss it down the storm drain.

It's the Law. 95.25 SANITATION.

(A) Any person who owns, keeps or harbors a dog or cat shall have the responsibility for keeping their property clean of all fecal matter created by the animal. All animal waste shall be removed periodically so as to keep the surrounding area free from obnoxious odors. For the purpose of this section, "periodically" shall be defined as a period of time not to exceed one week.

COLD WEATHER PROTECTION PERIOD ENDS APRIL 15

April 15th marks 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. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

WATER UTILITY ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

REPORT: 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.

Fresh clean drinking water is yours to use whenever you need it, but not to waste. It's too valuable. Remember that a little effort and a little common sense will make a big difference!

CITY OF WASECA BOARD/COMMISSION VACANCIES

Openings exist on the following City Advisory Boards:

Charter Commission - Composed of not less than 7 nor more than 15 members. Shall be a qualified voter of the City. Appointed by the Chief Judge of the District Court. Primary function is to review and suggest amendments to the Waseca City Charter. Members may serve only two consecutive terms. The office term is determined by the Chief Judge but is not for more than 4 years. Meets monthly on an "as needed" basis.

Human Rights Commission - composed of five (5) members – four (4) general public and one (1) Councilmember, who advise the City Council regarding civil and human rights problems, issues and policies. The Commission will strive to improve human relations in the City, and develop and recommend programs of formal and informal education for all citizens. *3 year term.* Meets 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Park Board - composed of five (5) members – four (4) general public and one (1) Councilmember. The Board will make recommendations to the City Manager and City Council pertaining to, but not limited to, park land acquisition, development, improvement and use. *3 year term.* Meets 1st Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

Community Ed Advisory Board - A joint council of 12-18 members appointed by the School District and the City. Responsible for recommendations regarding the programming and operation of the Community Education Program. *3 year term.* Regularly meets the third Monday of every even numbered month.

Heritage Preservation Commission - HPC - Composed of seven (7) members, five (5) at-large members, one(1) nominated by Waseca Co. Historical Society, and one(1) nominated by City Planning Commission. The Commission will engage in a comprehensive program of historic preservation, promote the historical resources of the City, and designation of heritage preservation sites. *3 year term.* Regularly meets the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m.

Anyone interested in serving on one of these Boards may submit an application to City Hall, 508 South State Street. Applications can be obtained at City Hall or online from the City's website ci.waseca.mn.us or call 835-9740