



CITY NEWS Summer 2017

A Community Newsletter for Waseca Residents

Are you Interested in an Electric/Water Energy Audit House Call?

Waseca Utilities is pleased to offer our residential electric utility customers the opportunity to have an Electric/Water Energy Audit House Call. We will offer two levels of House Call: **Standard House Call** (\$150 value for a customer co-pay of \$50) and **Performance House Call** (\$270 value for a customer co-pay of \$90).

The House Call will be performed by a qualified energy professional with GA Ernst & Associates, Inc., and will include the following: review of your energy usage history; assessment of appliances, water heater, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment; a detailed written report that lists energy saving recommendations specific to your home; and energy saving materials valued at over \$40. Energy saving materials provided with the **Standard House Call** will include outlet seals, four Energy Star® LED light bulbs, a hot water card for testing the temperature setting of your water heater, a water saving showerhead, a kitchen faucet aerator, a bathroom faucet aerator, and insulating pipe wrap.

The **Performance House Call** includes all the features of a Standard House Call, and will also include an infrared diagnosis of your home. The final written report will include infrared photos identifying areas of concern. Energy saving materials (valued at over \$50) provided with the Performance House call will include outlet seals, four Energy Star® LED light bulbs, a hot water card for testing the temperature setting of your water heater, two water saving showerheads, a kitchen faucet aerator, two bathroom faucet aerators, and insulating pipe wrap.

Program participation is limited to City of Waseca electric customers. Due to limited funding, this program offer can be withdrawn at any time without notice and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For questions regarding the Electric/Water Residential Audit House Call program or to sign up, contact Waseca Utilities at (507)835-9718 or email lorih@ci.waseca.mn.us

Waseca County Relay for Life – Saturday, July 22, 2017



Fun for the entire family! The Waseca County Relay for Life will be held on Saturday, July 22, 2017 at Northeast Park and Water Park, 200 26th Avenue NE, Waseca from 3:00 – 10:30 p.m. BINGO will be played from 10:45 p.m. to Midnight.

There will be lifeguards on duty at the Water Park so kids can swim from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.! Free will offering. Games begin at 3:30 p.m., there will be a silent auction, food vendors, luminaries and walk. Music by Larry Johnson and MC's Molly and Andy – **(Rain date will be Sunday, July 23rd)**

Considering a Home Improvement? Don't Forget your Building Permit!

Permits are required for new additions and remodeling, finishing a basement, re-roofing, re-siding, window replacement, decks, porches, plumbing, heating, electrical work, garages and more. Getting a building permit helps you to ensure that your project meets safety and building code standards. There is a penalty for starting construction prior to the issuance of a

building permit. In addition to permits, please contact the Planning Department for information on set-back requirements, lot coverage, fences, shoreland regulations and other useful information. We encourage you to call with any questions about construction projects being considered or already in progress, at 835-9700.

Please Stop Flushing Flushable Wipes! Dispose of Flushable Wipes in the Garbage, NOT the Sewer!

The City of Waseca has experienced an increase in different types of wipes, towels, disposable diapers and feminine hygiene products being flushed into the sanitary sewer system. This has created problems with backups in City sewers, residences and businesses, and resulted in the costly failure of expensive pumps.

There are several different types of wipes and towels being used in health care facilities, factories, and homes. Examples include shop towels, paper towels, baby wipes, adult wipes, floor wipes, kitchen wipes, bathroom wipes, window wipes, automobile wipes, and toilet cleaning wipes. Some of these wipes display a “do not flush down

the toilet” symbol on the package and some say that they are flushable and will dissolve. What they don’t tell you is how much time is required for the wipes to break down. **Please dispose of these items in the trash and not the sanitary sewer.** So called “flushable wipes” may even lead to your sanitary sewer service to plug, and should this happen, the repair bill is 100% the responsibility of the property owner. Wipes that make it into the City’s sanitary sewer mains cause very expensive problems, and ultimately every customer pays to remove these “flushable wipes” and replace pumps and other equipment.



Every year people pour grease and used cooking oil down their drains clogging up pipes and causing expensive backups in the City’s sewer system. Instead, pour your grease and used cooking oil into a sealable container and dispose of in the trash.

Everyone plays an important role in protecting the sanitary sewer system and in helping to keep costs down. Please do your part by disposing of all wipes in the garbage.

Preventing Stormwater Pollution

With warmer weather, it seems appropriate to discuss the City’s storm water system and how each of us can help reduce the amount of pollution that enters our lakes and streams. The storm sewer system consists of curbs, drain pipes, tile, and catch basins in the streets intended to carry large amounts of surface runoff. Many people mistakenly believe that storm water flows to the waste water treatment facility; however, a majority of storm water flows untreated directly or indirectly 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. The City has programs in place, such as an aggressive street sweeping schedule, to help keep the storm sewer clean of debris, but the practice of pollution prevention by residents will always be more effective than any cleanup effort.

As a user of the storm water sewer system, you can make a big difference in keeping Waseca’s water resources clean and healthy. Listed below are some little steps that everyone can do to help keep our water clean (adapted from US Environmental Protection Agency):

- Keep grass clippings and leaves out of the street and drains
- Use Zero-phosphorus fertilizers on lawns.
- Keep yards, driveways and sidewalks clear of debris that may be washed into the storm water system.
- Use a commercial carwash to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm water system.
- Recycle oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Do not dump these down the storm drain.
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste.
- Use non-toxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.

Additional information and educational handouts regarding the City’s storm water program are available at City Hall. Any urgent issues regarding the storm water system can be directed to the Storm Water Complaint Hotline, at 835-9730.

Save Money 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.



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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.

Stay Safe this Summer While Enjoying a Recreational Fire!



1. The burn pit cannot exceed three feet in diameter and must be at least 18 inches deep.
2. Fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a building or combustible materials unless contained in a fire pit.
3. No materials other than untreated wood or charcoal may be burned for recreational purposes.
4. The fire cannot be larger than three feet diameter and the flames cannot be higher than three feet.
5. Buckets, shovels, garden hoses or fire extinguishers shall be readily available.
6. Fires shall be constantly attended by a person knowledgeable in the use of extinguishing equipment.
7. The fire shall be supervised by an adult until fully extinguished.
8. The Fire Department or Police Department may require the fire to be extinguished if it becomes a hazardous situation or there are complaints about smoke from the neighbors.

Pickleball Courts and Corn Hole Boards Added to Waseca Parks!

Clear Lake Park just added a new feature! The regulation size corn hole boards made of cement are located near the Clear Lake Park large pavilion. They will be a great addition to your next family outing at the Park. Don't

forget to B.Y.O. Bags! If you don't have your own bags, you are welcome to check them out at City Hall (\$30 deposit), during regular business hours. You can rent them for a 24-hour period or Friday-Sunday.

The City recently completed a project at Oak Park converting two previous tennis courts into six new pickleball courts. The Park Courts are open for play on a first come first served basis.

Swimming Pools, Spas & Hot Tubs

Summer is here, and that means it's time to cool off in the pool or lounge in the hot tub. Waseca City code applies to all items capable of holding water at a depth of 30 inches or more.

All pools, spas or hot tubs shall not be located in the front yard and shall be at least 5 feet from any property line. The pool, spa or hot tub itself, the back yard or entire property shall be enclosed by a wall or fence or combination thereof which is at least 4 feet tall with a self-closing gate capable of being secured with a lock. A cover capable of being locked but not easily penetrated

when the subject is not in use may be substituted for fencing. For above ground pools, spas or hot tubs, vertical sides may contribute to required fencing, provided that all points of access are controlled by the removing of all stairs and ladders, etc. when the pool is not in use.

Existing pools, hot tubs, spas, etc. must comply within one year of the adopted ordinance. Any questions regarding the ordinance or for a complete listing of the code, please contact Bill Green, Planning & Zoning Coordinator, at 507-835-9738. billg@ci.waseca.mn.us



BULLETIN BOARD

WATER PARK HOURS FOR 2017: Open Every Day:



June: - Noon-7:00 p.m.
 July: - Noon-7:00 p.m.
 August: - Noon-7:00 p.m.
 September (through Monday,
 Labor Day): Noon-6:00 p.m.

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Daily Rate Admission: \$5.00 per
 person per day

Starlight Admission Rate after 5

pm to 7 pm: \$3.50 per person per day.

NIGHT TO UNITE: The Waseca Police Department would like to invite the community to join the annual Night to Unite celebration at the Waseca Water Park! The 2017 Night to Unite will take place on Tuesday, August 1st, 2017 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. The purpose of Night to Unite is to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Come on out and enjoy free admission to the Water Park and visit with local Police, Fire and Emergency personnel. Enjoy refreshments, prizes and fun!

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 days during the months of June through September between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. – Monday – Friday. Waseca Utilities will announce a **Peak Alert** by all means possible.

By helping to reduce our peak electrical demand, you can help keep electricity rates low. 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. Also, set your air conditioner no lower than 78°F and dehumidifier no lower than 78% between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING SCHEDULE

The City of Waseca would like to try to keep your summer nights a little more enjoyable with fewer mosquitos! The City will be spraying for mosquitos on all City streets, trails and parks beginning at **9:00 p.m.** until finished on the following dates, weather permitting: Wednesday, June, 21st and 28th. July 12, 26, August 9, 23 and September 6th and 20th.



In case of inclement weather, the spraying will take place the next available evening. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 835-9700.

PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS: In order to maintain the City of Waseca's goal for natural and scenic beauty and attractiveness, the City would like to remind everyone of the regulations regarding the parking of passenger cars and trucks on private yards. All exterior automobile parking shall be confined to areas paved with asphalt, concrete or approved pavers. All new or expanded parking shall meet this standard. You cannot park on grass areas of yards. Inoperable or unlicensed automobiles shall not be stored outdoors, whether on a lot or on a street. All vehicles must have current registration, be in running condition, and be street legal per the State of Minnesota regulations.

Questions can be directed to Bill Green – 835-9738

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 business 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.

PEG CHANNEL 8 - The City of Waseca operates the local PEG access channel. This channel can be viewed locally by all Mediacom and Consolidated Communications 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 call us, at 835-9700.