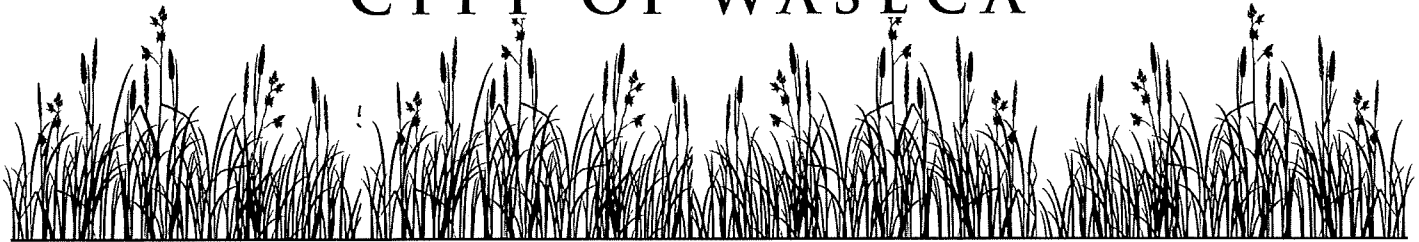




FALL 2018

CITY OF WASECA



508 South State Street • Waseca, Minnesota 56093

CITY OF WASECA I & I TESTING SEWER SMOKE TESTING NOTICE

The City of Waseca has scheduled smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system for the month of October, beginning Monday, October 1st, as weather and fall projects permit. City crews will be testing most of the sewers south of Eleventh Avenue NE and south of Eleventh Avenue NW. The reason for this testing is to help pinpoint where rain water is leaking into sewer pipes, which is called Inflow and Infiltration, or I & I. With this leak information, the City can prioritize which sewer pipes to repair first.

The testing involves using blowers to push smoke into the sanitary sewers through City manholes. **This testing is not intended for individual home plumbing; it is a test of public and private sewer lines outside the home or building.** In Waseca, each property owner does own the sewer service from the home or building to the City main. Sewer mains are usually located under the City streets and right of way, but some sewer services and City mains are located in backyards, alleys, and easements.

The white colored smoke used for testing is non-toxic without permanent odor, and soon disappears, leaving no trace. It is possible for the smoke to enter your home through faulty plumbing or dry traps in floor drains. **Prior to October 1st, please pour one (1) gallon of water into any seldom used drains to ensure the traps are not dry.**

If during this testing, smoke does enter your home, this may indicate a problem with your plumbing that would also allow sewer gas to enter. A properly plumbed property will have a vent pipe on the roof, which will release smoke during the testing.

City staff conducting the testing may cross yards to look around buildings to identify locations where smoke is escaping from the sewer system.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact the City of Waseca Utility Billing Department at 507-835-9718.

The Waseca Fire Department is aware of this City project so that test smoke is not misunderstood as fire smoke. Notices are also provided on Facebook, the PEG Channel, and City website.



ANNUAL NOTICE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL MINN. STAT. 325E.028

Minnesota law requires that utilities make utility payment arrangements available for military service personnel in the following situations. If a member of a household has been issued orders into active duty, deployment, or change in duty station, and the residential customer meets specific income criteria, the City of Waseca must not disconnect the utility service of that qualifying residential customer due to nonpayment provided the customer complies with the provisions of the referenced statute.

An application for payment arrangements must include a copy of military orders as described in the law. The City of Waseca may shut off utility service for nonpayment if an application does not include the required proof of military orders as required by Minn. Stat. 325E.028.

If you would like a copy of this statute or wish to obtain an application for payment arrangements, please contact the City of Waseca Utility Billing office at (507)835-9718. Office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. The statute can also be found online at: www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=325E.028



WATER HYDRANT FLUSHING !

The City of Waseca's Water Utility will be flushing fire hydrants beginning Monday, September 24th. Utility workers will be moving Southwest to Southeast, then Northwest to Northeast.

Rusty water may be evident during this time and shortly after. For more information, call Utility Billing at 835-9718.



2018 FALL LEAF PICKUP

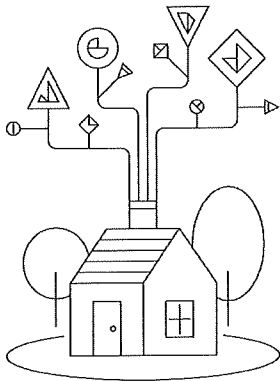


The City of Waseca is proud to announce the return of the Fall Leaf Pickup program for City of Waseca residents. This program is in addition to the City's Spring Cleanup Program which focuses on tree/branch/shrub pickup. As part of our MS4 permit, the City is required to complete regular street sweeping and try to reduce the sediment and organic waste loadings into the MS4 system to protect and improve the City's surface water system.

In order for the Fall Leaf Pickup Program to be a success, the City requests residents abide by the following guidelines:

- The City has been divided into 8 sections (View the map on the City's website at www.ci.waseca.mn.us). Each section will have their leaves picked up by the City's leaf vac on a specific day. Leaf pickup is scheduled for 4 out of the 5 work days. This allows a "make-up" day each week in case of difficult weather or emergency work.
- Residents are allowed to rake their leaves into the street gutters no more than 24 hours prior to their scheduled pickup date. Leaves should be loose and not in bags. No sticks/branches/trees/etc should be placed in the street, if staff determines that there is unwanted debris in the leaf piles, the piles will be left and the property owner will be contacted and required to remove the leaves and debris from the street and either separate the debris and wait for their next scheduled pickup day or dispose the leaves themselves. Residents are able to rake their leaves into a pile on their lawn prior to the scheduled pickup day, but the leaves should not be actually placed in the street until 24 hours prior.
- City crews will then vac the leaves as scheduled as part of our regular fall street sweeping and leaf pickup program.
- The leaf pickup program will run for 6 weeks starting the week of October 8th. It takes 2 weeks to complete the entire City, there by over a 6 week program all properties will have 3 pickup days over the 6 week program.

See the map referenced above on the City's website at www.ci.waseca.mn.us for the scheduled dates of pickup in each section of town. The City appreciates your participation and attention to the guidelines for this fall leaf pickup program. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at 507.835.9700.



COLD WEATHER RULE & DISCONNECTION OF UTILITY SERVICE

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (MN Statute 216B.097) was established to help customers who cannot pay their utility bill in full. It does not completely stop winter disconnections, but provides extra protection from October 15th through April 15th. During this time, a residential utility customer can prevent disconnection for nonpayment if the disconnection would affect their primary heat source AND if the customer enters into and keeps a mutually agreed upon payment schedule with the utility. You must exercise your rights under the Cold Weather Rule in order to be protected from utility disconnection if you are delinquent on your utility bill and receive a disconnection notice.

Information about the Cold Weather Rule and an application for disconnect protection was included with your October utility bill. There is no requirement to return the completed application; however, residential customers wishing to be covered by Cold Weather Protection should return the application, with a proposed payment plan, to the Utility Billing office as soon as possible after October 1st. Please be aware that submittal of a cold weather protection application does not automatically protect a customer from disconnection, but only initiates the process for review and approval of the application.

If you have any questions regarding your utility bill or need to obtain an application, please call the Waseca Utility Billing office at 835-9718 during the office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

UTILITIES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If you need help paying your utility bills, you may qualify for assistance. Please contact any of the following agencies for more information:

Minnesota Valley Action Council
108 10th Ave NE, Waseca
(507)835-8240

Neighborhood Service Center
203 3rd Ave NW, Waseca
(507)833-4119

MN Prairie County Alliance
299 Johnson Ave, Suite 160, Waseca
(507)837-6600

Salvation Army Heat Share
(800)842-7279

United Way
2-1-1 or www.211.org



Remember!

As a courtesy to your City workers, and to streamline the work they need to do to keep the City looking beautiful, please keep these things in mind:



- Try to keep your garbage cans out of the street – this will allow the street sweeper to clean the entire street.
- During City-Wide leaf pick up, please do not park your cars in front of the leaf pile, or the City will be unable to pick up your leaves.
- With winter approaching, please remember to keep your cars off the street so that the snowplow can pass freely in front of your home.

energy star rebates DUE BY 1-4-19

Just a reminder that Waseca Electric customers must submit their rebate applications by Friday, January 4, 2019, for the 2018 purchase of Energy Star rated items. Electric appliances, dehumidifiers, window air conditioners, light fixtures and LED bulbs with an Energy Star logo may be eligible for a rebate.

Additional rebates are available for the purchase of an air conditioner, air & ground source heat pumps, an efficient furnace fan and an air conditioner tune-up. The rebate for most of these items requires an AHRI number and a minimum SEER rating of 14.5. The contractor that installed the unit should be able to provide that information.

Applications may be obtained at the Utility Billing Department or they are available on the City website www.ci.waseca.mn.us. An application must be completed and submitted along with the receipt and paperwork showing the Energy Star logo for the Energy Star rated items listed above.

The rebate for LED Holiday strings/decorations does not need to have an Energy Star logo on the package. Submit the packaging, receipt and completed coupon for processing. The coupon will be available November 1st for holiday lights at the Utility Billing office and on the City website www.ci.waseca.mn.us. There are also will be totes available in the City Hall foyer for customers to bring in holiday lights for recycling.

Please note that City offices will be closed on Monday, December 24, 2018, and Tuesday, December 25, 2018, for Christmas and on Tuesday, January 1, 2019, for the New Year's holiday.



BULLETIN BOARD

CALL BEFORE YOU CUT

Shoreland alterations of vegetation and topography are regulated by the City of Waseca and the MN DNR. Alterations of vegetation and topography will be regulated to prevent erosion into public waters, fix nutrients, preserve shoreland aesthetics, preserve historic values, prevent bank slumping, and protect fish and wildlife habitat. Intensive vegetation clearing within the shore and bluff impact zones and on steep slopes is prohibited.

Help preserve our lakes and be good stewards of our natural resources. Please contact the Waseca Community Development Department at 507-835-9738 for more details or check out the code (154.054) on the City's website.

FALL CLEANUP TIME!



With colder weather and snow approaching, now is the time to ready your property for winter! It's a good time to keep the grass mowed, cut down those tall weeds and trim the overgrowth that can harbor unwanted pests during the winter months. Take a few moments to haul unwanted rubbish away and dispose of hazardous materials appropriately. Come spring-time you'll be glad you did!

91.37 PUBLIC NUISANCES AFFECTING PEACE AND SAFETY.

The following are declared to be nuisances affecting public peace and safety.

(A) Unattended or discarded furniture, appliances, materials and debris.

"SINISTER FOREST" RETURNING TO MAPLEWOOD PARK

The scary Halloween "Sinister Forest" will be returning to Maplewood Park again in October. Please be advised that Maplewood Park will be closed to the public from October 1st to October 31st for event set up. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. If you need access to the park, you may contact Steve Bakken, event coordinator, at 461-1677 or Brad Dushaw, City Park Director, at 835-9727. Thank you!

WASECA PEG CHANNEL 8

The City of Waseca operates the local PEG (public, education, government) access channel. This channel can be viewed locally by all Mediacom and Consolidated Communication subscribers on Channel 8 (or digitally at 107.1 if you are a Mediacom subscriber). This channel is a community-based resource that can be used by both individuals and organizations to display announcement slides and video programming. The City also plays back all City Council meetings on this channel. If you would like more information on Waseca Peg Channel 8, stop by City Hall or call 835-9700

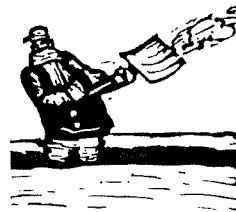
SALVATION ARMY'S HEATSHARE PROGRAM



HeatShare is a voluntary program administered by the Salvation Army that helps those in need in our community by providing funds for heating bills and heating-related repairs.

For more information, you can visit the Salvation Army's website at www.heatshare.org or contact them at 800-842-7279. If you would like to make a tax deductible online contribution to this program, you can do so on their website. You can also enclose a check made payable to HeatShare along with your utility payment, and Waseca Utilities will forward your contribution directly to the Salvation Army.

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT



The City of Waseca is asking customers to assist in keeping snow cleared away from fire hydrants. Please take a moment to locate the fire hydrant nearest your home and/or business and ensure that it is totally clear of snow. This will allow the Fire Department quick access in case of a fire. It also assists snowplow drivers

in identifying where hydrants are located. If you are not able to clear snow away from your neighborhood hydrant, please call Waseca Utilities at 835-9718 or the Fire Dept. at 835-3210 and city personnel will clear the hydrant. We greatly appreciate your help in identifying and clearing away snow from the hydrants.

CARBON MONOXIDE DANGER

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, poisonous gas. Its invisible nature makes it all the more deadly. Common household appliances, which can produce CO include hot water heaters, fireplaces, gas ranges, space heaters, wood burning stoves, refrigerators, grills, gas or oil furnaces, and clothes dryers. Your gas furnace should be tested periodically for CO emissions by a heating contractor.

Symptoms of CO poisoning include flu-like characteristics, such as headache, fatigue, nausea, and dizziness. In addition to properly maintaining, using, and venting household appliances, carbon monoxide detectors should be installed in all homes to prevent poisonings and deaths. At least one CO detector should be installed on every level of the home, near the sleeping areas.

If a CO detector sounds its alarm, alert everyone in the house to the danger. If anyone is experiencing any of the symptoms of CO poisoning, leave the house immediately and call 9-1-1. If you're not experiencing any symptoms but your CO detector sounds its alarm, turn off all fuel burning appliances, open windows to ventilate the house, and call an experienced technician before restarting the appliances.