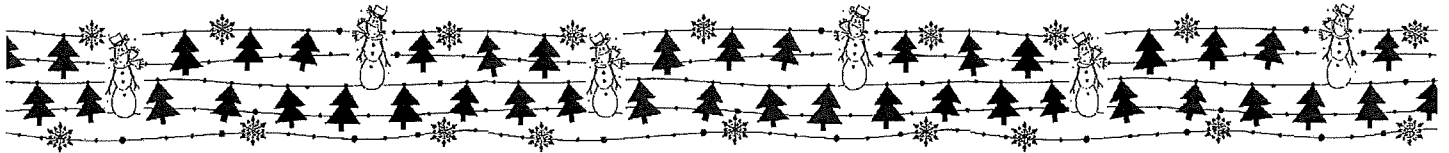




DISCOVER

CITY OF WASECA

WINTER 2018

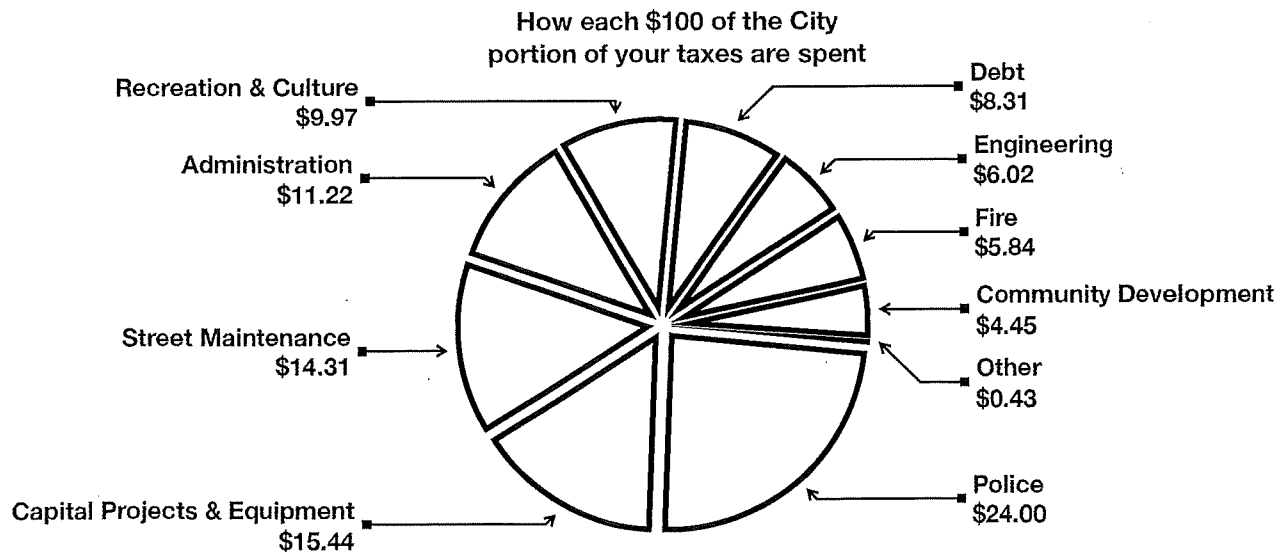


508 South State Street • Waseca, Minnesota 56093

2019 CITY PROPOSED TAX LEVY

Following the December 4, 2018 City Truth-In-Taxation meeting, the City Council proposed tax levy is set to increase 5.5%. During the many budget planning work sessions, it was determined this increase is required to maintain Good Governance as outlined in Vision 2030. Items funded with this budget include costs related to maintaining current services, increased capital improvement program and equipment replacement funding plans. After many years of no increase to funding for infrastructure improvements, this levy continues to move the City in the funding direction needed to address deficiencies.

Where Do My Taxes Go? The amounts reflected below illustrate how \$100 of the City portion of your taxes are utilized by service provided:



UTILITY RATE CHANGES EFFECTIVE ON BILLS DUE 4-15-19

At the regular City Council meeting on December 18, 2018, the City Council approved utility rate changes that will be effective on the utility bills due 4-15-19. Electric usage rates will decrease slightly in response to a decrease in wholesale power costs to the City. Water and sewer base and usage rates will be increasing in order to maintain a balanced budget and sufficient working capital reserves. Previously approved increases in the water capital funding and sewer capital funding charges will also be reflected on the utility bills due 4-15-19. These capital funding charges were established in 2015 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.

CITY EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

In the spring of 2018, the City of Waseca launched a Health and Wellness program for employees. The program is led by the newly formed Health & Wellness Committee, which is a group of City employees who volunteered to lead this initiative.

The intent of the program is to improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of all City employees. Over time, this should foster a work environment that promotes the health, happiness, and self-esteem of our employees. Research shows that this can lead

to increased job performance and productivity, fewer sick leave days used, and lower medical insurance plan use. Programming so far has included an educational session with a local attorney about estate planning, a water-drinking challenge, and a fruits and vegetables eating challenge. A steps challenge is planned for the first quarter 2019.

The Health & Wellness committee has also become involved in learning about the details of the City's medical insurance plan, and will have input on important health insurance benefit decisions.



WORKOUT

REMINDER!

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 snow plow to clean the entire street.
 - Please remember to keep your cars off the street so that the snowplow can pass freely in front of your home.
- Thank you!**

COLD WEATHER PROTECTION PERIOD ENDS APRIL 15TH



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 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

😊 Thank You . . .

ADOPT-A-PARK VOLUNTEERS!

The Adopt-A-Park program provides organizations, groups, families, and individuals an opportunity to volunteer their services in assisting Park Department staff keep parks and trails clean, safe, and aesthetically pleasing. The minimum volunteer commitment is to clean their chosen site of litter, debris, and downed tree limbs once per month from April to October. The City of Waseca Park Board extends their sincere appreciation to the Adopt a Park volunteers. The 2018 volunteers are: Tim & Robin Terrell Family, Lori Pommerenke Family, Vicki and Dennis Neidt, Kathy Oftedahl, Birds Eye-Pinnacle Foods, Linda Wilson and The Waseca Garden Club, Dave Dunn, Don Zwach, Gary Tobin, Bruce Boyce and Sally Takala, Gyles and Carol Randall, Dean Pertle, Kristy Larson, and Stella Ewert, Debbie Carlson, Frisk Family, and James Christian-sen. These volunteers are to be commended for their community servitude. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

For more information on the Adopt-A-Park program, please contact Brad Dushaw, at 507-835-9727.



IS MY PROPERTY LOCATED IN A SHORELAND OVERLAY ZONE?

The City of Waseca has specific codes, in conjunction with the DNR, for construction projects that occur on property located in the Shoreland Overlay Districts.

What is a Shoreland Overlay Zone, and what properties are located in such zones? A Shoreland Overlay zone is an additional layer of zoning law that applies to properties that have the potential to contribute to water quality issues in Loon Lake, Gaiter Lake, and Clear Lake.

The Shoreland Overlay Zone allows a percentage of a lot to be covered in impervious surfaces. (25% coverage for Loon and Clear lakes; 35% for Gaiter Lake)

Impervious surfaces are those that do not allow water to penetrate. Any construction or installation of a shed, patio, driveway, sidewalk, building, or other accessory use or structure must be reviewed for compliance with Shoreland Zoning.

Before planning a project, contact the City of Waseca Community Development Department for more information. Our staff will assist you in estimating your existing impervious lot coverage and will provide feedback on your proposed project. Failure to get approval of your project could result in you being required to remove the improvements.

For more information contact Bill Green at 507-835-9738 or email billg@ci.waseca.mn.us

2019 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY STAR REBATE PROGRAM

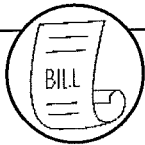
Electric appliances, dehumidifiers, window air conditioners, light fixtures and LED bulbs with an Energy Star logo may be eligible for a rebate.

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 these items requires an AHRI number and a minimum SEER rating of 14.5 for the cooling equipment. The contractor that installed the unit should be able to provide that information.

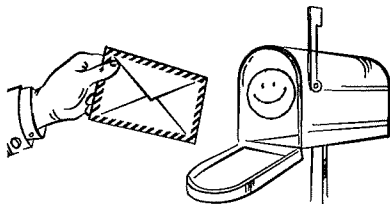
Applications may be obtained at the Utility Billing Department or they are available on the City website www.ci.waseca.mn.us. An application must be completed and submitted along with the receipt and paperwork showing the Energy Star logo for the Energy Star rated items listed above.

If you need more information or have questions, contact the Utility Billing office at (507) 835 9718.

AUTOMATIC BANK PAY PROGRAM



Let Waseca Utilities take the work out of paying your utility bill each month! Sign up today for the Automatic Bank Pay program. Your monthly utility payment will automatically be withdrawn on the 15th of each month from either your checking or savings account through a secured bank site and posted to your utility account. You will still receive a monthly paper utility bill. No more forgetting to make your payment by the 15th of the month, and no more late fees! Contact the Utility Billing office at 835-9718 to sign up today.



SNOW PLOWING AND YOUR MAILBOX

Each year the City of Waseca Public Works Snowplow operators attempt to clean the streets as close to the curb as possible without damaging mailboxes. Occasionally mailboxes get damaged. The City Snow and Ice Control Policy states how the City will handle any damage that may occur. When mailboxes are placed adjacent to the street it shall be the policy of the City that snow shall be plowed as close to the curb to allow for passage of traffic and mail delivery.

It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to keep piled snow away from mailboxes so mail can be delivered.

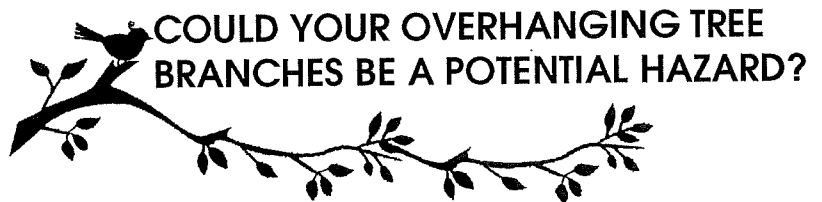
STATE IMPOSED WATER SURCHARGE

If you have a water service connection to your property, your utility bill due March 15th 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 federal Safe Drinking Water regulations.

SHOPPING WITH A HERO!

Members of the Waseca Police Department, along with members from the Waseca Fire Department, Janesville Police Department, New Richland Police Department, Waseca County Sheriff's Office and Waseca Walmart, hosted "Shop with a Hero" on December 8, 2018. Waseca, Janesville and New Richland schools worked with law enforcement agencies to help pair heroes with families from each of the surrounding communities. Waseca Police Officers, on behalf of all agencies, received grant funding from the Walmart Foundation to assist in purchasing items for the children and their families. Waseca Walmart also provided staff to assist with wrapping the presents and provided participants with some very yummy treats. This year, Shop with a Hero served a total of thirteen Waseca County families.



Did you know that low overhanging tree branches can be a serious hazard? They can damage tall vehicles (school buses, street sweepers, snow plow and fire trucks) and make it hard to travel along the sidewalk for pedestrians and obscure a driver's ability to see around corners.

City Ordinance states tree branches overhanging any sidewalk or street shall have a clear space of eight (8) feet above a sidewalk and fourteen (14) feet above any street.

Please check your trees for ordinance violations and remove those branches accordingly. If you are unable to remove those obstructing branches yourself, please contact a local insured tree contractor.

For more information, please contact Brad Dushaw at 835-9727.

Mailboxes should be constructed sturdily enough to withstand snow rolling off the plow or wing. When damage to the mailbox occurs, such damage shall be investigated by the Street Superintendent. If it is determined that that weight of the snow caused the damage, the City will not assume responsibility for repair of the mailbox. When evidence indicated that physical contact between the plow and the mailbox occurred, the City will assume responsibility for repair or replacement at a cost not to exceed \$30.00.

Please check your mailbox and replace or reinforce the post and bracing if needed.

BULLETIN BOARD

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 Department at 835-3210 and City personnel will clear the hydrant. Thank you!

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 contactor. 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, turn off all fuel burning appliances, open windows to ventilate the house, and call an experienced technician before restarting the appliances.

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.

HOUSE NUMBER REMINDER!

Address numbers for your residential home, must be at least four (4) inches in height, contrasting in color, placed in front, visible from street. This will also help any emergency personnel that may need to reach you!

Thank You! Volunteers



The City of Waseca Utility Billing Department wishes to extend a HUGE thank you to the Senior Citizens Center and its volunteers. This important group of volunteers assists the City by preparing the utility bills and inserts for mailing each month. THANK YOU for providing this valuable service to the community!

SUMMER PARK RESERVATIONS



There is a high demand for park shelters. Please don't wait to reserve your date. The City will begin accepting park reservations on March 1st, 2019.

Pavilions/shelters are available from May to October. Reservations are available on a four-hour or daily time frame. Reservation fees are based on weekday and weekend rates. For more information, or to make a reservation, please contact City Hall at 835-9700.

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

