



AUTUMN 2022

**508 SOUTH STATE STREET
WASECA, MINNESOTA 56093**

2022 FALL LEAF PICKUP BEGINS OCTOBER 10TH

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. 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 of 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 10th. It takes 2 weeks to complete the entire City, thereby over a 6 week program all properties will have 3 pickup days over the 6 week program.



To view the fall leaf pick up dates for your location, log on to the City's website at www.ci.waseca.mn.us

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.



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, for deployment, or for a permanent 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.

If you would like a copy of this statute or wish to obtain an application for payment arrangements, please contact Waseca Utilities at (507)835-9718. Office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. The statute can be found online at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/325e.028>



ONLINE PARK SHELTER RESERVATIONS BEGIN MARCH 1, 2023

New for the 2023 season, the City of Waseca will begin taking online park reservations and payment. Reservations and payment will be accessible ONLY on the City website at www.ci.waseca.mn.us beginning March 1, 2023. We have a variety of park shelters to rent for your planned events. The park calendars are also available on the City website to check availability. A paid park reservation is your guarantee of a shelter for your planned event. Pavilions/shelters are available from May through October and reservations are available on a four-hour or daily time frame. For more information, please contact City Hall at 835-9700 or stop in Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

PROPOSED SOLAR POWER PROJECTS

In compliance with State of Minnesota mandates, customers of Waseca Electric must comply with the City of Waseca's Solar and Small Power Generation Policy relating to electric power production. All proposed solar installations require pre-approval from Waseca Electric prior to proceeding with any proposed project or be subject to immediate disconnection of the solar connection to Waseca Electric. The City of Waseca must provide information regarding rates and installation requirements free of charge to all interested customers upon request. All installations require a pre-approved application through the Utilities Office at City Hall, non-refundable application fee, engineering review fees, building permit, meter costs, and final approval from the City. Interested customers should contact Waseca Utilities at (507)835-9718.

EMERALD ASH BORER – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This information concerns every resident of Waseca. In March 2022, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was detected in Waseca County. EAB is a destructive exotic beetle native to Asia that was discovered in Michigan in 2002. The adult beetles feed on Ash foliage while larva feed on the inner bark. This inner damage to the tree disrupts the tree's natural ability to take on water and nutrients, eventually killing the tree within 3 to 6 years. Because there are several insects that can be incorrectly identified as EAB, assistance with proper identification can be found at dnr.state.mn.us/eab.

The City has been taking proactive steps over the past few years in anticipation of the arrival of EAB. In 2019, the City did an inventory of all known public (City owned) Ash trees. We graded them with a condition rating, 1 being low quality and 3 being high quality. This inventory has assisted the City with identifying and targeting desirable and non-desirable Ash trees. This means that there are trees that we will try to save, but there are trees that we will not be able to save. In 2021, the City received a \$78,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for removal and replacement of trees damaged by emerald ash borer. This grant will assist the City with increasing tree diversity through new plantings and by removal of problem trees in public areas and road right of ways throughout the community over a multi-year period (2022-2025). After this initial grant period, there will still be approximately 400+ Ash trees in our inventory that we will be dealing with for years to come. This Ash tree inventory does not include trees located on private property.

Ash trees can be treated with insecticide chemicals to protect them from EAB. These treatments are effective when applied properly and then repeated as prescribed, every 2 years. In 2022, the City treated approximately 130 Ash trees in public areas. The treatment process will not only protect the tree from EAB, but it has been shown to slow the spread of EAB, allowing the City and residents more time to remove and properly manage Ash trees in the community.

Presence of EAB in Ash trees is most easily seen with woodpecker damage. This damage is typically shallow as the insect does not bore deep into the tree. Other signs are bark splits and "S" shape galleries, or channels, just under the bark. While tree damage can be obvious, the siting of adult beetles is rare.

Ash tree removal project #1 will take place from October 10, 2022 – December 16, 2022. Adjacent property owners to these City-owned public trees will be notified when boulevard/right of way trees are scheduled for removal. Restoration of boulevards, including stump removal and potential tree replacements, will be scheduled by the City or a contractor working on behalf of the City.

Please direct your questions to the City of Waseca Parks Superintendent at 507-835-9727 or by email at the following address: Brad Dushaw, Parks Superintendent – bradd@ci.waseca.mn.us

For Emerald Ash Borer Information, please go to this link: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab-info-homeowners>



CARBON MONOXIDE DANGER

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, poisonous gas produced by burning gasoline, wood, propane, charcoal or other fuel. 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.

Signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may include a dull headache, weakness, nausea or vomiting, dizziness, shortness of breath, confusion, blurred vision, or loss of consciousness. 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 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, open windows to ventilate the house and call an experienced technician to investigate.

WINTER PARKING



Parking on City Streets is not allowed after any part of the City of Waseca receives 3" or more of snow. The snow emergency can start at any time of the day or night; there will be no public announcement and your vehicle will be ticketed if left on the street after 3" of snow has fallen. The vehicle owner is responsible for monitoring weather conditions and moving their vehicle off the street. Your vehicle does not need to be plowed around to be considered blocking snow removal. If your vehicle is still not moved 24 hours after being ticketed, it will be ticketed again and towed. The cost of a ticket is \$30.00. Vehicles may be parked on the street once it has been plowed from curb to curb. Vehicles parked overnight in the downtown No Parking from 1 -5 AM zones, will be ticketed and towed immediately if a snow emergency is in effect. For more information, please contact the Waseca Police Department, at 507-835-9720. ■



OVERHANGING TREE BRANCHES

Did you know that low overhanging tree branches can be a serious hazard? They can damage tall vehicles (school buses, street sweepers, snowplow 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.

City crews will be performing their annual pruning of trees within the boulevard and right-of-way October – February.

For more information, please contact the Parks Superintendent at 507-835-9727.



PAYING YOUR BILL ONLINE?

If you pay your bill online through Payment Service Network (PSN), don't forget to update your account profile if any of the following happen:

You have recently changed banks or routing/account numbers

Your utility account number changes due to a recent move

Your debit/credit card expiration date has changed

Log in to your PSN account to make changes or contact PSN's customer service staff at 877-885-7968 for assistance.

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT

The City of Waseca is asking residents 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 the Fire Department at 835-3210. We greatly appreciate your help in identifying and clearing away snow from the hydrants.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF SALT & DEICING CHEMICALS

With colder weather just around the corner, many of you will begin treating your sidewalks and driveways for snow and ice. The most commonly used deicer in Minnesota is salt, or sodium chloride. While it is very effective in melting ice, high concentrations can have negative impacts on the environment.

Salt that is applied to roads, driveways, and sidewalks accumulates in the surrounding soil which is harmful to vegetation. It can also be transported by stormwater and melting snow to surface waters, which disrupts aquatic life by eventually settling into a concentrated layer and creating a "dead zone" at the bottom of a lake or pond.

There are alternative deicing agents such as calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) and carbohydrate-based deicers such as beet juice. However, in high concentrations, these alternatives can also have adverse effects on the environment.

Whether you use large or small quantities of salt or other deicing materials, they should be stored such that they cannot potentially enter a waterway. An airtight container is best for smaller quantities.

While a 100% environmentally friendly deicer does not exist, the best practice is only apply deicers where needed, and to NEVER OVER APPLY. Not only is this cheaper, but it limits the potential for negative environmental impacts.

Finally, near the end of the winter season, please remember to sweep up excess salt/deicer and throw it in the trash. Otherwise, it may eventually be washed into a sewer drain and eventually reach a local river, lake, or pond.

For additional information on the environmental impacts of salt and deicing chemicals, please go to: https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Environmental_impacts_of_road_salt_and_other_de-icing_chemicals

2022 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY STAR REBATE PROGRAM DEADLINE

It's not too late to take advantage of Energy Star Rebates for 2022!

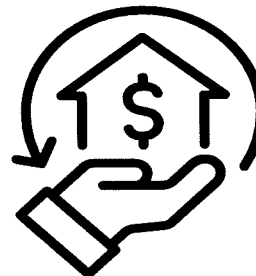
Eligible rebates include refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, heat pump water heaters (if replacing an electric water heater, or in new construction), dehumidifiers, window air conditioners, LED light fixtures and LED bulbs. Smart thermostats (for your heating system) with an Energy Star logo may also be eligible for a rebate.

Rebates are also available for the purchase of a qualifying central air conditioner, mini-split air conditioner, air/ground source heat pumps or mini-split air source heat pump, an efficient furnace fan, and an air conditioner tune-up. The rebate for these items requires an AHRI number and a minimum SEER rating requirement for the cooling equipment. The contractor that installed the unit should be able to provide this information.

Rebate applications may be obtained at Waseca Utilities or are available online at saveenergyinwaseca.com. You can find rebate forms under Residen-

tial Rebates - 2022. An application must be completed and submitted to Waseca Utilities along with the receipt/invoice and required paperwork/packaging verifying that it is Energy Star rated.

To be eligible, purchases must be made in 2022. Rebate forms & required paperwork must be received by the Utilities Office for processing no later than March 31, 2023. If you need more information or have questions, please contact Waseca Utilities at (507)835-9718.



REBATE
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BULLETIN BOARD

2022 LED HOLIDAY LIGHTING REBATE PROGRAM

If you're buying new lights to decorate your home this holiday season, choose LED lights and decorations to save energy and to help protect the environment—that's a gift our planet will really appreciate.



This holiday season, Waseca Utilities is once again offering our electric customers rebates of up to \$12 for each plug-in LED string or decoration of energy-efficient LED holiday lighting you purchase through the end of the year. We are promoting LED lighting because it uses up to 90% less electricity than regular holiday lighting and lasts up to 10 times longer.

While the financial savings alone are a big draw, LED Holiday Lights offer other benefits as well. The environmental benefits help make our community a little greener, and LEDs are cool to the touch which reduces the risk of fire and personal injury.

Contact Waseca Utilities at 835-9718 for rebate coupons and additional information. You may also access the coupon online at saveenergyin-waseca.com; the coupon can be found under Residential Rebates – 2022. Completed rebate coupon, sales receipt, and packaging must be submitted to the Utilities Office at City Hall for processing. There is no Energy Star requirement for LED holiday lights. This promotion submission ends December 31, 2022.

Recycle your old holiday lights! Jobs Plus in Waseca will again provide bins for drop-off of old lights for recycling located in the front entry of City Hall. Thank you, Jobs Plus!

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Minnesotans should apply now for the Energy Assistance Program. Request an application from the local service provider, Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC), by calling (507)835-8240 or obtain an application online at mnvac.org/programs/energy/. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Households that qualify can receive energy bill payments and could receive additional crisis funding to avoid energy disconnections. The program may also pay for any past due amount for municipal water and sewer for eligible households.

GIVE THE GIFT OF HEAT WITH 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 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 separate check made payable to HeatShare along with your utility payment, and Waseca Utilities will forward your contribution directly to the Salvation Army.



OPEN BURNING OF LEAVES – EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW!

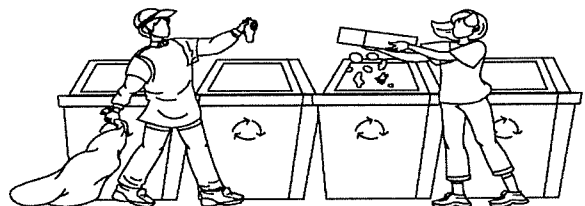
91.02 OPEN BURNING OF LEAVES.

- (A) Subject to applicable Minnesota Statutes and regulations, the open burning of dried leaves only between October 15 and November 15 is hereby permitted subject to the stated limits and conditions of the City code.
- (B)
- (1) The burning should be limited to areas of the City zoned and used for residential purposes only.
 - (2) Burning shall be permitted only between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
 - (3) All burning shall be conducted a minimum of 25 feet from all buildings, structures, flammable materials and tall grasses and weeds.
 - (4) No person shall kindle a fire on land of another without first obtaining permission of the owner or his or her agent.
 - (5) No burning is permitted in any public streets. Any burning that takes place on the in-drive of a property owned or occupied by the burner must be cleaned following the burning.
 - (6) All fires shall be attended at all times by a person of suitable age and discretion.
 - (7) No burning shall take place during an air pollution alert, warning or emergency declared by the Pollution Control Agency, or during a fire alert or warning declared by the City. The Fire Chief may prohibit burning of leaves when atmospheric or local conditions make the burning hazardous.
 - (8) The burning of other refuse is prohibited.
- (`86 Code, § 8.31) (Am. Ord. 744, passed 4-4-00) Penalty, see § 91.99



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!



REMINDER – REMINDER – REMINDER!

Garbage cans are to be placed behind the curb line so the City street crew can clear the street all the way back to the curb. This reminder has year-round implications. It's not only important for snow removal, it's also important for street sweeping, leaf and brush pick up. Please be kind and keep your City Street Workers in mind! Thank you.