



DISCOVER
waseca

CITY OF WASECA



AUTUMN 2021

508 SOUTH STATE STREET
WASECA, MINNESOTA 56093

2021 FALL LEAF PICKUP – BEGINS OCTOBER 11, 2021

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 (Go to www.ci.waseca.mn.us to view the leaf pick up map). 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 11th. 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.

Log on to 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.



2021 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY STAR REBATE PROGRAM DEADLINE

Electric appliances, including heat pump water heaters (if replacing an electric water heater, or in new construction), dehumidifiers, window air conditioners, LED light fixtures and LED bulbs and Smart thermostats (for your heating system) with an Energy Star logo may be eligible for a rebate.

Additional rebates are available for the purchase of a 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.

Applications may be obtained at Waseca Utilities or are available online by typing saveenergyinwaseca.com or ci.waseca.mn.us in your computer browser. You can find rebate forms under Residential Rebates - 2021. An application must be completed and submitted to Waseca Utilities along with the receipt and required paperwork/packaging verifying that it is Energy Star rated.

The submittal deadline for the purchase of 2021 Energy Star products ends three months after date of purchase. If you need more information or have questions, please contact Waseca Utilities at (507)835-9718.

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!



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



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.



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>

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/

Key facts about Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program:

- Homeowners and renters can qualify for energy assistance.
- Income eligibility is increased to 60% of median household income, so more Minnesota households than ever before qualify for energy assistance. For example, a household with four people can have annual income of up to \$67,765 to qualify.
- Services include payments for current and past-due bills for water and wastewater utilities when disconnection is threatened, electric, gas, oil, biofuel and propane energy, emergency fuel delivery, repair/replacement of homeowners' broken heating systems.
- The application for the Energy Assistance Program is the same one to determine if a household will qualify for water bill assistance and for services in the Weatherization Assistance Program, which provides free home energy upgrades to income-eligible homeowners and renters to help save energy and make sure your home is a healthy and safe place to live.
- Payments on energy and water bills are sent directly to the household's utility company.
- Households also receive education on efficient and safe use of energy.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is expanding the Minnesota Energy Assistance Program to pay water and sewer bills for Minnesotans who apply and qualify for energy assistance. Commerce is using \$15 million in additional American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding designated for water assistance. Commerce has expanded income eligibility to help more Minnesotans than ever before pay costs to heat and cool their homes and power their lights and electricity.

Households that qualify can receive energy bill payments of up to \$1,600 and could receive an additional \$1,200 in crisis funding to avoid energy disconnections. The program may also pay for any past due amount for municipal water and sewer for eligible households.

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.

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



2021 LED HOLIDAY LIGHTING REBATE PROGRAM

If you're buying new light strings 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. A typical household could save up to \$50 during the holiday season.

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 saveenergyinwaseca.com; the coupon can be found under Residential Rebates – 2021. Completed rebate coupon, sales receipt, and packaging must be submitted to the Utilities Office at City Hall for reimbursement. There is no Energy Star requirement for LED holiday lights. This promotion submission ends December 31, 2021.

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

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.



HOUSE NUMBER REMINDER!

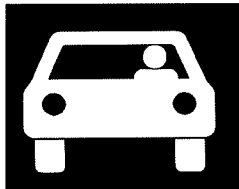
Address numbers for your residential home, must be at least four (4) inches in height, contrasting in color, placed in front, visible from street. This will also help any emergency personnel that may need to reach you!

BULLETIN BOARD



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 springtime you'll be glad you did!

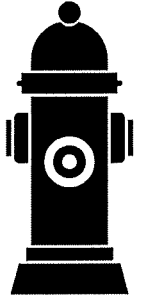


WINTER PARKING

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.

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.



CHANGING BANKS?

Have you recently changed banks or routing/account numbers? If your utility account is set up for automatic payments, be sure to contact the Utilities Office at 507-835-9718 at least three (3) business days before the due date to update your bank information.

Not sure if you set up automatic payments through the Utilities Office or online through Payment Service Network (PSN)? Contact the Utilities Office – we're here to help!



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 check made payable to HeatShare along with your utility payment, and Waseca Utilities will forward your contribution directly to the Salvation Army.