

Spring 2021

508 SOUTH STATE STREET
WASECA, MINNESOTA 56093

2021 SPRING CLEANUP

Starting Monday, May 3rd the City of Waseca will provide free pickup of brush. All materials must be on the curb by 7:00 a.m., May 3rd to be included in the pick-up. There are several regulations that must be met for the material to be picked up.

- Brush must be piled on the curb - crews will not enter on private property to pick up the brush.
- No material other than brush shall be placed in the brush pile.
- Animal waste, garbage, demolition material, lumber, etc. will not be accepted. Any inclusion of any excluded materials will result in the whole pile being left. Crews will not sort piles.
- A limit of one dump truck load per address will be in effect. Any more than one dump truck load will be left on the curb.
- No tree branches over 8" in diameter or material over 8' in length will be taken.
- All limbs and branches must be placed parallel to the curb.

The City of Waseca will not be responsible for turf damage caused by this service.

Because this is a costly service in terms of manpower and equipment, it will be a one-time only service. As a result, if the material is not on the curb by 7:00 a.m., May 3rd, we cannot guarantee that it will be picked up. The crews will make only one pass on each street to pick up the material. There are many other jobs that the crews will be involved with and as a result, we will not be able to return to make special pick-ups.

This is an opportunity for residents to clean up their trees and bushes and have the material hauled away for them. Let's all take advantage of this opportunity to clean up our yards and our community!

Keep in mind there will be an expanded FALL pick-up of leaves scheduled at a later date and advertised in the City Newsletter & Website.



WATER UTILITY ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The 2020 Water Utility Annual Consumer Confidence Report, or Drinking Water Quality Report, as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will be available by late May on the City of Waseca's website at:

<https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/water-department>

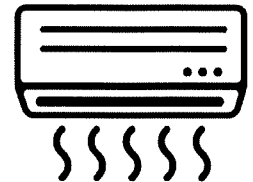
This report provides water quality information about the quality and testing of the drinking water that the City Water Utility delivers to your home and business.

If you have any questions regarding this report or wish to obtain a paper copy, please call the Waseca Utilities at 835-9718.



SAVE MONEY THIS SUMMER 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.

For additional information, please contact Waseca Utilities at 835-9718. Business hours are Monday – Friday - 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

EMERGENCY SIREN SYSTEM

On the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., the emergency siren system is activated for testing. On Thursday, April 16, 2020, during Severe Weather Awareness week (April 13th to April 17th), the sirens will be activated twice during the day at 1:45 p.m. and at 6:45 p.m.

In the event of severe weather, activation of the emergency siren system means that Waseca County is in a TORNADO WARNING and a tornado has been observed by Law Enforcement, Skywarn Watchers and/or the National Weather Service. When you hear the outdoor warning system sirens, you should immediately go inside. Once indoors, go to the lowest level, most interior space in your home or office.

Outdoor warning sirens are located throughout the City of Waseca and by Lakeside Golf Course (north side of Clear Lake). People often have the misconception that the sirens are meant to be heard indoors. However, the system is intended to be heard outdoors. You may not hear it if you are inside or in noisy areas.

Residents need to pay attention to the weather, watch the television reports, or listen to the radio for weather updates. A wise investment would be a National Weather Radio which can be purchased at local retailers.

If you are interested in some ideas of how you can participate in Severe Weather Awareness Week, search Severe Weather Awareness Week to access the Minnesota Department of Public Safety website.

SPRING FLOODS

With spring right around the corner, flooding may not be far behind. Floods are the most frequent and costly natural disaster which can occur from thawing snow or from significant rainfall which could result in water coming into the lower level of your home. Simple steps can be taken prior to flooding such as, keeping your home in good repair and/or creating good drainage around your home. Here are a few tips to help you prepare and possibly reduce potential flood damage to your home and keep yourself safe too.

GUTTERS and DRAINS

Clear gutters and drains around your home. Keeping gutters and drainage systems clean will help carry water away from your home.

SUMP PUMPS

Sump pumps let you pump water out of your home and can be an excellent defense against flooding if maintained. Consider a back-up battery-powered sump pump or a generator should you lose power to your home.



SEWER BACKUP

Install (or have a plumber install) sewer or septic line check valves, which allow waste to flow only one way to prevent a sewer back-up in your home.

LEAKS and CRACKS

Leaky roofs and foundation cracks allow water to get into your home. When you see wet spots on the ceiling or cracks in the foundation, fix them as soon as it's safe and dry to do so. Close foundation cracks with mortar and masonry caulk or hydraulic cement, which expands and fills the gaps for a very low cost. Don't patch solely with mortar or cement, which may crack again.

SANDBAGGING

If you have experienced flooding in areas around your home previously, you may want to consider placing sandbags in those locations around your home. Sandbagging will not stop the water completely, but can reduce the amount of water entering your property.

TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN

If you come into an area that is covered with water, you will likely not know the depth of the water or the condition of the ground under it – especially at night. The best rule, whether you're driving or walking, if you come to a flooded area simply turn around, don't drown.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information on floods and how to prepare you and your family, go to:

<https://www.floodsmart.gov> or <https://www.ready.gov> or contact Emergency Management.

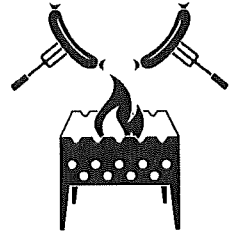
SUMP PUMP REMINDER

As we approach the spring rain season and the melt of the considerable snow cover, property owners are reminded that per Waseca City Code §52.02, it is unlawful to connect sump pump outlets or any other conductor of natural precipitation or ground water to the sanitary sewer system. The sanitary sewer system is not designed to carry this clear water, and sump pumps that are illegally connected to the sanitary sewer system contribute to sewer backups and overloading of the City Treatment Plant. Property owners should be aware that with the heavy snow fall and above normal temperatures this winter, sumps may be running earlier than normal. It is common after winter that many sump pump outlets are frozen or plugged. If this is the case, the sump pump outflow shall be piped to either the yard or City storm sewer if available. In no case should pipe cross property lines, be connected to an unauthorized sanitary sewer or storm water drainage system, or cause a nuisance to the public right-of-way including streets and sidewalks

BURNING RULES & REGULATIONS

The City of Waseca does allow recreational fires if you follow these rules:

1. Fire pit needs to be at least 18" deep and not exceed 3' in diameter.
2. The fire is for recreational purposes such as roasting hot dogs. Cannot be used for destroying rubbish.
3. No burning of rubber, plastic or painted/treated lumber.
4. Fire no larger than 3' in diameter and flames no higher than 3'.
5. Fire has to be a minimum of 25' from buildings and other combustible materials.
6. Extinguishing equipment needs to be near the recreational fire such as a hose or water filled bucket.
7. Competent person constantly attending the fire. Never leave fire unattended.
8. Be a good neighbor.
9. The Fire Department has final authority. If any of the rules are broken, or if the firefighters feel that the recreational fire is unsafe because of wind conditions or excess smoke, the firefighters will ask you to extinguish the fire.



If you have any questions about these rules, contact the Waseca Fire Department at (507) 835-3210

NOTIFICATION TO THE PUBLIC

Outdoor warning sirens are activated to promote situational awareness for citizens of a dangerous or potentially dangerous weather situation within Waseca County.

***Please note: Sirens will only be activated in the National Weather Service warning polygon area, not for the whole county.

Upon hearing outdoor warning sirens it is important that all persons immediately refer to local broadcast media (radio, TV, weather radio, etc.) for additional information.

As recommended by the National Weather Service and in agreement with Waseca County, the activation of warning sirens is based on the following weather related criteria:

SEVERE WEATHER

TORNADOES

Tornado Warning issued by the National Weather Service in Waseca County and the cities within the National Weather Service warning polygon box that are in the predicted path of the storm.

AND/OR Tornado or funnel cloud reported by local Law Enforcement, Emergency Responders, or Emergency Management personnel based upon reports received by trained severe weather spotters.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued by the National Weather Service that clearly reports sustained wind speed estimates of at least 70 mph for Waseca County and the cities within the National Weather Service warning polygon box that are in the predicted path of the storm.

SIREN DURATION

Sirens will be activated for a full cycle; roughly 3 minutes. Sirens may be activated for an additional cycle if new warnings are declared for the area.



ALL CLEAR

There is no such thing as an "all-clear" siren, so a second or third activation means that the threat is still imminent and finding or staying in a safe shelter area is strongly encouraged.

BULLETIN BOARD

CONSIDERING A HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT? DON'T FORGET A BUILDING PERMIT!

Your project may require a 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.



SOLAR POWER

In compliance with the City of Waseca's Solar and Small Power Generation Policy relating to electric power production, the City of Waseca is required to work with small electric power producers, such as a residential solar installation. The City of Waseca must provide information regarding rates and installation requirements free of charge to all interested customers upon request. All installations require an application, review, and approval from the City. Interested customers should contact Waseca Utilities at (507)835-9718.

PLANNING TO BUILD A SHED? BE SURE TO KNOW THE GUIDELINES!

To put up an accessory structure (shed) on your property, it will need to go through a zoning review, regardless of the size. If your shed is 120 square feet or greater it will require a building permit and shall have exterior color and roof pitch compatible with the principle building (house). Additional guidelines include; size, height, setbacks, and number of structures allowed.

Questions can be directed to Bill Green – 835-9738 or e-mail billg@ci.waseca.mn.us

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!

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.

WASECA PEG CHANNEL 8

The local PEG (Public, Education, and Government) access television channel is operated by the City of Waseca and available to all Mediacom and Consolidated Communications cable subscribers. It is a free community resource that can be used by individuals and non-profit organizations to display both informative slides and video programming. It is also where you can view the most current City Council meetings. The channel can be seen on channel 8, as well as, other digital channels depending on your cable package. If you would like more information on Waseca PEG Channel 8, stop by City Hall or call 835-9728.

SUMMER IS COMING!

Waseca Utilities would like to answer two of the commonly asked questions that we receive during this time of year regarding swimming pools.

How much does it cost to fill my pool?

At the current City of Waseca water rates, the cost of a gallon of water is .002 cents. (Yes, that is less than a penny!) If you have a pool that holds 12,000 gallons, the cost of the water to fill your pool would be less than \$30.00.

Do I need to notify Waseca Utilities if I fill a pool so that I don't have to pay sewer charges on my pool fill water?

No, this is not necessary. For the utility bills due June 15th through December 15th, the City of Waseca uses an average to determine your sewer billing. This average is determined by your water usage on your utility bills due January 15th through May 15th, which covers consumption from mid-November through mid-April. If you fill your pool after mid-April, you will pay for all of the fill water, but you will only pay sewer charges based on your average referenced above.

Still have questions? Please contact Waseca Utilities at (507)835-9718.