



**SPRING 2022**

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

## **2022 SPRING CLEANUP**

Starting Monday, May 2nd the City of Waseca will provide free pickup of brush. All materials must be on the curb by 7:00 a.m., May 2nd 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 2nd 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.

## **EMERALD ASH BORER IN WASECA COUNTY**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has officially confirmed emerald ash borer (EAB) in Waseca County for the first time. There are now 32 counties in the state with EAB.

A local Department of Natural Resources (DNR) forester noticed woodpecker damage on several ash trees in Janesville and alerted the MDA. MDA staff were able to find live EAB larvae and collect samples. Federal identification confirmed emerald ash borer.

Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. Often, the trees show several signs of infestation because of this. Woodpeckers like to feed on EAB larvae and woodpecker holes, like the ones spotted by DNR staff, may indicate the presence of emerald ash borer. Also, EAB tunneling can cause the bark to split open, revealing characteristic S-shaped galleries underneath.

Because this is the first time EAB has been identified in Waseca County, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is enacting an emergency quarantine to limit the movement of firewood and ash material out of the county. The MDA issues quarantines for all counties known to have EAB to reduce the risk of further spreading the tree-killing insect. More information can be found at: [www.mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab)

## **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 street sweeper to clean the entire street.
- Please remember to keep your cars off the street so that the street sweeper can pass freely in front of your home.

Thank you!



## UPCOMING 2022 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Below are descriptions of the major construction projects scheduled for this year:

### **8<sup>th</sup> Street SE Reconstruction & Rehabilitation:**

This project will consist of a reconstruction section and a rehabilitation (mill and overlay) section:

- The reconstruction section will be between Elm Ave East and just north of the RR tracks. Work in this area will include complete street reconstruction, sanitary sewer replacement, storm sewer improvements, and new ADA sidewalk and ramps.  
**This section of 8<sup>th</sup> Street SE will be closed to traffic. Access to residences will be available from side streets only.**
- The rehabilitation (mill and overlay) section will be from just south of the RR tracks to Hwy 13. Work in this area will include curb and gutter repairs, new ADA sidewalk ramps, and storm sewer improvements.  
**This section of 8<sup>th</sup> Street SE will be open to local traffic only. Thru traffic is encouraged to use 5<sup>th</sup> Street SE or State Hwy 13 as alternate routes.**
- On March 15<sup>th</sup>, this project was awarded to Heselon Construction LLC of Faribault MN. Once a construction start date has been determined, notices will be mailed to directly impacted property owners and residents.
- A total of 85 working days has been allotted for this project. Construction is expected to begin in May and be completed in September or October, depending on the weather.

### **North State Street Trunk Water Main Improvements:**

With this project, the existing water main along North State Street (Hwy 13) will be replaced with new 16" water main between 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

- On March 15<sup>th</sup>, this project was awarded to Wencl Construction Inc. of Owatonna MN. Once a construction start date has been determined, notices will be mailed to directly impacted property owners and residents.
- North State Street (State Hwy 13) is expected to remain open to traffic during this project. However, side street and driveway closures may be necessary at times.
- Project substantial completion is on, or before, September 30<sup>th</sup> with final completion on, or before, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sanitary Sewer Main & Manhole Rehabilitation:**

This project will consist of sanitary sewer main lining and manhole rehabilitation in various locations in the City's SE quadrant.

- Plans and specifications are currently being finalized with bidding expected to take place in May. Impacts will be minimal; however, temporary street or lane closures may be necessary.
- Project substantial completion is on, or before, November 25<sup>th</sup> with final completion on, or before, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Additional project information, including maps and estimated costs, can be found on the City website at: <https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/engineering/pages/capital-improvement-projects>

## BURNING RULES & REGULATIONS

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

- Fire pit needs to be at least 18" deep and not exceed 3' in diameter.
- The fire is for recreational purposes such as roasting hot dogs. Cannot be used for destroying rubbish.
- No burning of rubber, plastic or painted/treated lumber.
- Fire no larger than 3' in diameter and flames no higher than 3'.
- Fire has to be a minimum of 25' from buildings and other combustible materials.
- Extinguishing equipment needs to be near the recreational fire such as a hose or water filled bucket.
- Competent person constantly attending the fire. Never leave fire unattended.
- Be a good neighbor.

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.



## 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 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 for a total savings of \$32.00 for the year. Commercial participants will receive a \$20.00 monthly credit for the same months for a total savings of \$80.00 for the year.

If you participated in the program last year, you do not need to contact us. 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.

## CLEAR LAKE PARK

The City of Waseca has determined a need and desire for renovations of the Johnson Pavilion and Beach House at Clear Lake Park. The renovations of the two facilities include, but are not limited to: restroom repairs, structural improvements, and exterior preservation. Construction is planned to begin in the Spring 2022 with a planned substantial completion in the Fall of 2022.

The City of Waseca was also selected to receive grant funding through the MN DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program in 2022. The grant projects include replacing the Clear Lake Park playground equipment and installing a fishing pier on Clear Lake. Construction is planned to begin in the Spring 2022 with a planned substantial completion in August 2022.

There is a rich history within Clear Lake Park and the City of Waseca recognizes the importance of keeping those traditions alive for years to come. We understand things may look a little different at the park this coming summer and know many of our citizens utilize the facilities within Clear Lake Park. We believe this is an appropriate time to complete the necessary projects and provide the community with updated facilities.

We thank you for your understanding and believe the other park shelters within the Waseca Park system can provide appropriate space for your gatherings in 2022. Park shelter reservations are currently being accepted; those inquiries should be directed through Waseca City Hall 507-835-9700. If you have any questions regarding the projects at Clear Lake Park, please contact the Parks Superintendent 507-835-9727. Thank you!

## WASECA WATERPARK ANNOUNCEMENT

Purchase your 2022 Season Pass, Punch Cards and Pool

Reservations online this year!

It's Easy!

- \* Go to the City of Waseca Water park Website
- \* On the left side of the page click on "Seasonal Purchases"
- \* This will take you to the online catalog for your seasonal purchases
- \* If you created an account in 2021, click "log in/create an account"
- \* Click "forgot password" You will use the email that you provided to us last season
- \* If you did not create an account with us in 2021, click on "log in/create an account" and click on "create your WMN" Account Tab.



If you have questions, please email:

[waterpark@ci.waseca.mn.us](mailto:waterpark@ci.waseca.mn.us) <<mailto:waterpark@ci.waseca.mn.us>>

## WATER UTILITY ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The 2021 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.

## AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (ACP)

### ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a new program designed to help more Americans lower the monthly cost of home internet service.

The ACP is administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Qualifying households can receive a credit of up to \$30 off their monthly internet service bill. Eligibility is defined by the FCC and targets households with income less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or that participate in government programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, WIC, lifeline or participates in the Free/Reduced National School Lunch Program.

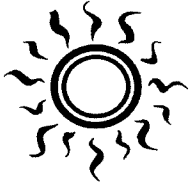
Households interested in participating in the ACP must confirm eligibility through the Affordable Connectivity Website at <https://www.fcc.gov/acp> where they can also enroll in the program. Questions and enrolling can also be done by calling the ACP Support Center at (877) 384-2575 (toll-free).

### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Protect yourself 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](http://gopherstateonecall.org).

# BULLETIN BOARD

## 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 Debbie Carlson at (507)835-9718 or [debc@ci.waseca.mn.us](mailto:debc@ci.waseca.mn.us) or visit the City's website at [www.ci.waseca.mn.us](http://www.ci.waseca.mn.us).

## PREVENT STORM WATER POLLUTION

The storm sewer system consists of curbs, drain pipes, tile and catch basins in the streets which are intended to carry large amounts of surface runoff (rain or melting snow). Storm water flows untreated into regional wetlands, ponds, lakes and streams. Therefore, any debris (grass, leaves, fertilizer, pet waste, chemicals, etc.) that makes it into the storm drains ends up polluting our water resources. Phosphorus from these items promotes algae growth in our lakes. Do what you can to eliminate any of the above listed debris from street gutters and storm water grates. Pollution prevention by the general public can make a big difference in keeping Waseca's water resources clean and healthy.

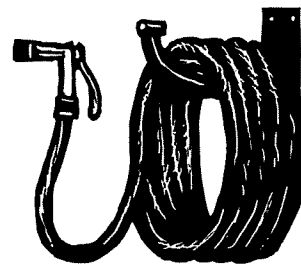
## SUMP PUMP REMINDER

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.

## ELECTRIC PEAK ALERT

You have the power to help keep electricity costs down. A Peak Alert means Waseca Utilities is nearing our peak electrical demand for the year. This peak usually occurs on very hot days during the months of June through September between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. Waseca Utilities will announce a Peak Alert by radio announcements, social media posts, and via the City's website.

By helping to reduce our peak electrical demand, you can help keep electricity rates low. Energy saving suggestions include: set air conditioner to 78 degrees, delay running the dishwasher and clothes washer/dryer until after 7:00 p.m., turn off excess lights, and close curtains and drapes. Please conserve energy and keep your electrical usage to a minimum by using major electrical appliances before 11:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. on Peak Alert days.



## 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.**