



Waconia Wavelength

A City of Waconia Newsletter Publication

September 2017



Talking 'Bout My Generation Survey Results

The Waconia Commission on Aging, along with the City of Waconia, recently received the results of the Talking 'Bout My Generation Survey, which was delivered to residents in early June. Over 900 completed surveys were returned to City Hall, resulting in over a 20% response rate. Some interesting facts from the survey include:

- 58% of survey respondents have lived in Waconia 11 or more years; a third of respondents have lived in Waconia for 20 or more years.
- 80% of survey respondents anticipate staying in the City of Waconia during retirement.
- 83% of survey respondents feel connected to and part of the community in Waconia.
- 43% of survey respondents feel more community festivals and events would help increase their households' connections to the community.
- 73% of respondents would support building or renovating a building to serve as a gathering space for residents. Ideas for the spaces' use include: weddings, party rentals, senior activities, kids activities, senior center, adult education, birthday parties, cards and games, computer classes, cooking classes, exercise classes, arts and crafts, teen center, book clubs, and BINGO.
- 40% of respondents say that strengthening or maintaining downtown is important.
- Waconia is an active community, with many residents looking for more sidewalks, walking paths, parks, bike trails, etc.
- Residents would like to see a larger variety of restaurants in town.
- Residents love Waconia and appreciate the small town feel and charm of the City, while also understanding that it is a growing community.

More detailed survey results and survey results broken out by generation can be found at www.waconia.org under the "news" category.

Talking 'Bout My Generation Focus Groups

The Commission on Aging will be conducting three focus groups over the next month. The goal is to learn more from Waconia residents and businesses by focusing on six themes that came from the survey:

- Communication & Inclusion
- Community Involvement & Events
- Activities and Gathering Spaces
- Downtown
- Community Character
- Transportation

These focus groups will take place on:

- Wednesday August 30 at Freshwater Church at 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 19 at City Hall at 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, September 26 at the Waconia Middle School cafeteria at 6:00 p.m.

Please contact Jackie Schwerm, Assistant City Administrator, at jschwerm@waconia.org or 952-442-3103 if you have questions or are interested in attending any of the focus groups.

Help Us Plan for the Future!

44% of residents state maintaining community character is important when planning for Waconia's growth over the next ten years. We want to know what else is important to our residents!

Stop by the City's Nickle Dickle Day booth near the playground at City Square Park on Saturday, September 16 to talk with City staff and elected officials about the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Talking 'Bout My Generation Survey. We look forward to your input as we plan for the future!



Art Wander

Friday, September 22
(1 p.m. to 6 p.m.)
Saturday, September 23
(9 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
Sunday, September 24
(11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Wander through Carver County on a self-guided tour and visit many talented artists in their studios and homes! Visit www.artwander.com for more information on each artist, a downloadable brochure, and a destination map.

Labor Day



City Offices and the Ice Arena will be closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.

Safari Island will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Boot Camp will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The Safari Island pools will be open from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and the slide will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Safari Island Open House



Safari Island will be hosting an open house from September 4 – 10, featuring free exercise classes all week and fun activities for all ages!

Tuesday, September 5: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Free Batting Cages

Wednesday, September 6: 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Water Obstacle Course

Saturday, September 9: 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Giant Inflatable Obstacle Course

Anyone who joins Safari Island this week will receive the rest of September free and \$25 in "Safari Island Bucks."

Waconia Fire Relief Association Fall Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, October 8
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fire Station
26 South Maple Street



\$7 if purchased prior to the event and
\$8 at the door. Children 5 & under are free!

The Waconia Fire Relief Association invites you to the fall Pancake, Sausage, and French Toast Breakfast at the Fire Station. Tickets are available from firefighters or at the door.

Compost Collection Schedule

Residents can bring grass clippings, garden waste, shrubs, and branches no longer than 3" in diameter and 4' in length to Public Services at 310 E. 10th St.

Saturday, September 9
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 23
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Cost is \$1.00 per bag or \$10.00 per pick-up or trailer. A copy of the full schedule is available at www.waconia.org.

Hot Topics!

Did You Know....that a toilet can leak silently? This kind of leak occurs because of an ineffective flush valve system or a broken fill valve inside the water tank. This means water will continuously flow. Both lead to a large waste of water but because neither of these are obvious, often times they go unnoticed until the water bill is received.



Follow the code for more information on this month's Hot Topic or visit the Utility Billing section of www.waconia.org.