



Waconia Wavelength

A City of Waconia Newsletter Publication

November 2017



Snowbird Tips

If you are heading south this winter to escape the cold, contact the Utility Billing Department at 952-442-3107 and we will notate your account to expect zero use during these months. Don't forget to consider these additional tips before you go:

Keep your home and plumbing warm

If you keep your water on, the best defense against freezing pipes is to keep the furnace running. Set the heat at 55 degrees or higher to ensure the interior of the wall cavities, where the water piping is located, does not drop below freezing. Keeping room and cabinet doors open also helps heat to circulate and warm the outside walls. If you decide to shut off the heat, consider turning off your water supply completely. Drain your pipes of all water by opening the faucets and don't forget to flush your toilet to clear the water from the bowl. To help ensure that the pipes have been drained, consider having a plumber blow compressed air through the pipes. Please note, to turn water off at the curb, the City charges \$25. There is an additional \$25 cost to turn water back on.



Be ready for emergencies

Ask a trusted friend, neighbor or relative to keep an eye on your home and be available in emergency situations. Have them regularly check your home for heating, electrical or water issues. If the weather turns frigid, have them also check the roof for ice dams, and inspect for leaks inside. Make sure they have your contact information and a list with numbers of local people they can reach if repairs or service are needed.

Your home should look like someone is still living in it

Forward your mail and stop newspaper delivery. Ask a neighbor, friend or relative to collect flyers or other items that may be left at your door. Arrange to have someone remove snow that may accumulate on the driveway and walkways. Please note that City ordinance requires sidewalk snow removal within 24 hours after a snow event.

Social Host Ordinance

The City of Waconia recently implemented a social host ordinance. A social host ordinance is an ordinance that adds restrictions and regulations to the sale and possession of alcoholic beverages. Waconia's ordinance specifically makes it unlawful for any person to knowingly host an event where alcohol is present and underage persons are consuming it.

Although state law sets the drinking age at 21 and makes it a crime to provide alcohol to minors, it does not prohibit adults from giving kids a place to drink in their homes. This gap in the law was the basis of the need for the social host ordinance.

Waconia's social host ordinance does not change rules allowing parents to serve their underage children alcohol in their home. It also does not cover legally protected religious observances, or situations of employment. The ordinance is now in effect, and the penalty for violation is a misdemeanor.





Veteran's Gratitude Week Yoga

Sunday, November 5

Safari Island

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Come honor our nation's veterans by attending a yoga class with Kathi Reeves. This is a donation based class, with all donations going to the Veterans Yoga Project, a non-profit that empowers veterans to heal through yoga, meditation, and connect to a larger community.

Hot Topics!

Check out this month's Hot Topic which is all about reading and using your new water meter!

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

www.waconia.org



2040 Comprehensive Plan

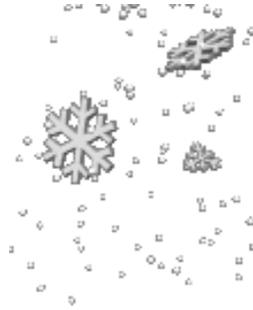
The City of Waconia is currently working on our 2040 Comprehensive Plan. This process involves work from the City Council, Planning



Commission, Park Board, the County, local stakeholders, the school district, and neighboring jurisdictions. As Waconia plans for the next twenty years, the City will be looking for input from the community. We will host multiple meetings and community conversations in late 2017 and early 2018, as well as a forum for online comment opportunities during this time. The City of Waconia will also be providing updates on a new 2040 Comprehensive Planning page on the City website throughout the process. Check back in December for more details on these meetings and comment opportunities!

Winter is on its Way!

After a beautiful summer and fall, it is hard to believe that winter is just around the corner. City Staff are hard at work preparing for the change of season. To assist our staff in providing consistent service this winter, we ask you to:



- Keep trash receptacles off the street and on trash day place them at the end of your driveway
- Make sure your mailbox can withstand the discharge of snow from plows
- Keep your mailbox area accessible for the mail carrier
- Do not blow or plow snow from your property across or into the street (violation of City ordinance)

While the City's goal is to have all maintenance activities complete within 24 hours of a snow event, sometimes the weather conditions are beyond our control and take extra time. Our Winter Maintenance Policy provides details on how winter maintenance operations are provided to the public. You can find this policy on the City's website. If you have questions regarding winter maintenance, please contact the Public Services Department at 952-442-2615.

Veteran's Day

The City of Waconia will be closed on Friday, November 10th in honor of Veteran's Day.



Thanksgiving

The City of Waconia will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



Safari Island will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. There will be no open or lap swim. There will be a "Turkey Burn Boot Camp" at 8:30 a.m. but all other regular classes will be cancelled.

The Waconia Ice Arena will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

Old Fashioned Tree Lighting

Friday, November 24
City Square Park
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Join in on the fun with cocoa, warm fires, and caroling as City Square Park lights up for the holidays! Bring a new, unopened toy for the Waconia Toy Drive to put in the back of the Grinch's sleigh. You won't want to miss this fun family event!