



Waconia Wavelength

A City of Waconia Newsletter Publication

September 2020



Small Business Emergency Assistance

Small businesses are critical to both the City of Waconia and Carver County and we know that many have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the City of Waconia has committed \$600,000 to the Small Business Emergency Assistance Program, which will be administered by Carver County Staff. The committed \$600,000 will stay local and go directly back to Waconia businesses. We encourage you to apply if your business meets the minimum requirements outlined below.

Businesses with fewer than 40 employees, less than \$2,000,000 in annual revenue, and have seen at least a 10% loss of revenue since March 15, 2020 are eligible to apply for up to \$10,000 in funding.

Applications will be accepted online only through September 4th. Approved applicants will be notified by mid-September if they have been accepted. More information and the link to the application can be found at carvercda.org. More information can also be found at www.waconia.org.

Absentee Voting for the General Election

The General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 3, however, the City of Waconia will continue to offer Absentee/Early Voting to Waconia residents. To help eliminate some of the lines on Election Day, we encourage as many people as possible to vote early this year.

Any eligible voter can vote early (with no excuse) by using an absentee ballot, instead of voting in person at the polling place on Election Day. Absentee voting begins on September 18 at 8:00 a.m. and will go through 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2. Waconia residents who wish to vote an absentee ballot in person can do so at Waconia City Hall (201 South Vine Street) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. City Hall will also be open on Saturday, October 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for those who are interested in voting absentee. Additional voting dates and times may be available based on demand. Those will be posted to the City's website, Facebook page, and newsletter.

For those who do vote absentee, please remember that this does require more steps than voting on Election Day, and does require you to fill out an Absentee Ballot Application. These applications are available at the City's website or at City Hall. Absentee voters will also need either the last four digits of their social security number or their MN Driver's License or State Issued Identification number.

Registering to Vote

The last day to pre-register so you are on the Election Day registration logs is October 13. You can still register at the time you vote, but preregistering saves time on Election Day. To register, you will need a photo ID with your correct address, or a photo ID without an updated address and a bill/bank statement with your correct address.

Voting by Mail

Please visit www.waconia.org/votbymail for more information on voting by mail. If you plan on voting by mail, please have your application in to the County by mid-October.

For More Information

For more information on the 2020 General Election, please visit the City's website at www.waconia.org/elections. Here you can find a detailed election calendar, additional information regarding absentee voting, and details on how to register to vote.

Notice Regarding Delinquent Utility Bills

As a municipal entity, the City of Waconia, reserves the right to apply delinquent utility bills and charges for services to property owner's tax bills one time per year through the Carver County Auditor. This process is required if payment is not received through a regular collections process. Regular collections processes include regular monthly billings, mailing of statements, and termination of service or shut-off processes.

Earlier this year, the City Council suspended the City's collection process of water service termination for non-payment of utility bills during the Covid-19 pandemic. During this time period, property owners and

renters have continued to receive monthly billings and notices from the City of unpaid balances due for services provided.

Over the course of the next month, the City will be notifying residents of unpaid and delinquent balances with a Notice of Hearing on Certification. The notice will include the hearing date in which the City Council will review those accounts that are delinquent and need to be certified to the County for collection with property taxes.

To avoid receiving this notice, payments towards delinquent utility bills should be made by the due date provided on your statement. If you have further questions or need to set up a payment plan, please email utilitybill@waconia.org.

Labor Day

City Offices will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.



Offices will reopen on Tuesday, September 8, and a City Council meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. that evening.

Online Permitting

Residents can now send building permits and permitting questions to permits@waconia.org. All you need to do is fill out the permit application and submit that, along with any supporting documents to the above email address. You can visit www.waconia.org/345/Building-Permits for all of the permit applications and details on when permits are required.

Once submitted, a member of the Planning Department will call to take payment and ask any questions they may have. You'll also receive a call when your permit is ready to be picked up.

Waconia Snow Pant & Coat Drive

To help families in our community prepare for winter, the Waconia Fire Department and the Women of Waconia have been collecting new and gently used winter outerwear. Coats and snow pants (in sizes infant through adult) will be available for selection at the Fire Station (26 S. Maple St.) on Thursday, September 24 (4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) and Saturday, September 26 (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.). If you have questions regarding this project, please contact women_of_waconia@yahoo.com.

Infrastructure Improvement Projects being Reviewed for 2021-2023

The City of Waconia Public Services Department obtained permission from the City Council on June 15th, 2020 to authorize survey and geotechnical work for infrastructure improvement projects for 2021-2023. A majority of the proposed improvements are centered around replacement of underground infrastructure, roadway surfaces by mill and overlay, and pedestrian mobility improvements around the community.

Underground infrastructure indicates extensive work guided on full replacement of sewer, water, and storm water infrastructure below the surfaces of the streets. The areas being targeted for full replacement have met their lifecycle and are undersized for today's conditions. Another major objective we look at when preparing for infrastructure improvement projects is protection of the community's water resources, or lakes and streams. The City started these initiatives in 2007 with the installation of storm water treatment structures near Lake Waconia and continue to make improvements guided on the same principles. Most recently, areas near Waconia Parkway and Walnut Street have seen the major changes with new main-line sewer and water main replacement, addition of storm water basins, additional treatment structures, and replacement of the box culvert located on the discharge stream between Lake Waconia and Lake Burandt.

For additional information on these proposed projects, please visit www.waconia.org.