



Waconia Wavelength

A City of Waconia Newsletter Publication

October 2019



Fire Prevention Week



**FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK™**

Fire Prevention Week runs from Sunday, October 6 through Saturday, October 12, 2019. During this week, the Waconia Fire Department will be visiting with students from local schools to provide fire safety tips and strategies. Below, please see some of the fire prevention and safety tips that you can do at home.

Establish an Evacuation Plan

Home fire escape planning and drills are an essential part of fire safety. A home fire escape plan should be developed and practiced. Plan at least two escape routes from every room. Discuss the escape routes with your family and practice these routes as well. Determine a safe meeting place for your family to reconvene once everyone has escaped from the house.

Check Your Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms detect and alert people to a fire in the early stages and cut the risk of death in a house fire in half. Ensure smoke alarms are in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. It is best practice to test smoke alarms monthly to ensure they are in working condition and to replace the batteries once a year, at a minimum.

Kitchen Fires

Did you know that Thanksgiving Day is the leading day for fires involving cooking equipment and that cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries? Never leave your cooking unattended, especially if you are frying something. Make sure your stove and counter surfaces are kept clean and free of clutter, grease, and flammable objects, such as hairspray, bug spray, or air freshener. Finally, be sure to set timers when you are cooking. We all get busy and distracted, and a timer will remind you to check on your cooking!

2020 Census

Once every decade, the federal government conducts a census of the entire population to count everyone in the United States and record basic information about them. Our nation's founders believed this data was so important that they mandated the decennial census in the Constitution.

In 2020, for the first time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online and by phone, but you can still respond by mail if you prefer. Strict federal law protects your census responses. It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish any census information that identifies an individual or business.

Census Bureau employees take a lifelong pledge of confidentiality to handle data responsibly and keep respondents information private. In addition, no law enforcement agency can access or use your personal data at anytime. The data collected can only be used for statistical purposes that help inform important decisions, such as federal funding in your community.

The Census Bureau will never ask for your Social Security number, bank or credit card account numbers, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party. The Census Bureau has a robust cybersecurity program that incorporates industry best practices and federal security standards for encrypting data.

To make sure you (and your community) are counted and to learn more about the 2020 census visit <https://2020census.gov/>.

United States®
**Census
2020**

Compost Collection Schedule

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

Saturday October 5
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Saturday, October 26
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Wednesday, October 30
3:30 pm. to 7:00 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/compost.

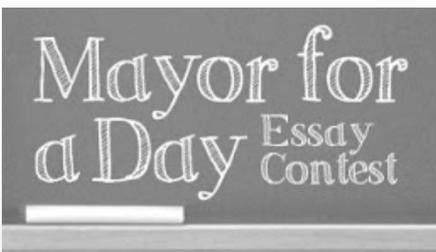
Please remember that November is the last month of compost collection for 2019. Compost collection will resume in April of 2020.

2019 Infrastructure Improvement Project

Continue to visit www.waconia.org/2019project for regular updates on the status of the roadway and utility improvements on Waconia Parkway North and Walnut Street, as well as the stormwater improvements near Lake Waconia. The project is on schedule, with the remaining improvements slated to be completed by late-October, with goals of reopening the roadway by November.

2019 Mayor for a Day Essay Contest

What would our cities look like if kids were in charge? Find out by having your fourth, fifth, or sixth grade student partake in the 2019



Mayor for a Day Essay Contest sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities. Students (and parents and teachers) can download the [essay form on the League of Minnesota Cities website](#). On the form, they'll answer the question: "If you were mayor for a day, what would you do to make one of the services that your city provides even better?"

Handwritten responses must be mailed to the League of MN Cities by October 14, 2019. Three winners will be selected – each winner will receive \$100 and have their essay published in Minnesota Cities magazine!

Fire Department Explorers Post

The Waconia Fire Department is looking into the possibility of opening an Explorers Post for those ages 13-21 who are interested in learning more about the fire service. Before formally creating a post, the Waconia Fire Department wants to ensure there is adequate interest from individuals in Waconia. For more information or to express your interest, reach out to Fire Chief Chris Nelson at cnelson@waconia.org or 952-442-2316.



Waconia Fire Relief Association Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, October 6
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Waconia Fire Station
26 S. Maple Street



\$8 if purchased in advance and \$9 at the door.
Children 5 and 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.

Elder Abuse No More

Thursday, October 10
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Waconia City Hall
Council Chambers
201 South Vine Street

Elder abuse is in the news, in our communities, and is often a silent crime. Carver County Adult Protection explores the definition of Elder Abuse and helps you understand the most common types of abuse which affect our seniors. They will also discuss how you can recognize signs of abuse and what you can do to help someone whom you think may be a victim of abuse.

This event is sponsored by the Waconia Commission on Aging, Carver County Adult Protection, and Carver County TRIAD Senior Safety.