



Waconia Wavelength

A City of Waconia Newsletter Publication

September 2020



2020 General Election

The General Election will take place on **Tuesday, November 3**, with the polls open between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. If you are in line at your polling place at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, you are eligible to vote. Ward I residents vote at the Waconia Ice Arena (1250 Oak Avenue) and Ward II residents vote at the Trinity school gym (601 2nd Street East). If you are unsure of your voting location, please visit www.waconia.org/elections for an interactive polling place finder or call 952-442-3103. The City of Waconia also continues to offer Absentee/Early Voting at Waconia City Hall (201 South Vine Street). In person absentee voting at Waconia City Hall is only available to City of Waconia residents during this time. Residents of other cities and townships in Carver County must go to the Carver County Government Center to cast an in-person absentee ballot.



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 runs the entire month of October, **Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** The City will also be open **extended hours** for voting at the following dates and times:

- **Saturday, October 24: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
- **Monday, October 26 through Thursday, October 29: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, October 31: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
- **Monday, November 2: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

For those who do vote absentee, please remember that this does require more steps than voting on election day. Prior to receiving your ballot, you fill out the Absentee Ballot Application. These applications are available on the City's website or at City Hall at the time of voting. 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. Beginning on Tuesday, October 27, those who vote early at Waconia City Hall are able to put their ballot directly into the ballot tabulator. Prior to that, ballots are kept in a locked ballot box.

For more information, please visit 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. If you have any questions about voting in the 2020 Election, please contact Jackie Schulze, Assistant City Administrator at 952-442-3103 or jschulze@waconia.org.

Invoice Cloud

We have made some changes to our online payment portal. An account number is no longer required when searching for your invoice for one-time payments or invoice viewing. You can now search by *Name and Address* or *Account Number*. An Account Number is still required to register for an online account but you can locate the account number by using this search feature.



For more information and to check out these new features, please visit www.invoicecloud.com/waconiamn then click on "Utility Bill."

Hard Water

What exactly does it mean to have hard water? Water described as "hard" is high in dissolved minerals, specifically calcium and magnesium. Water hardness varies throughout the United States, but in Minnesota it is three to five times harder than the national average. Hard water is not a health risk, but can be a nuisance because it can cause mineral build up on household fixtures and causes soaps and detergents to be less effective. Water is a great solvent, so if minerals are present in the soil around water supply wells, water delivered to homes could be hard water.

The solution to hard water is removing the calcium and magnesium. The most common

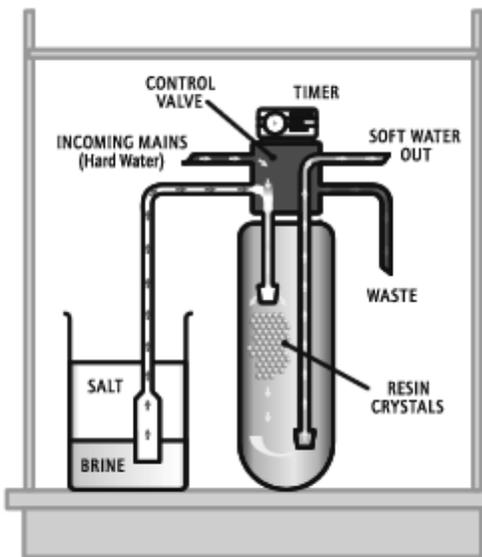
Measurement of Water Hardness

- Water hardness is measured by grains per gallon (GPG)
- 1 grain is equal to 17.1 parts per million (PPM)

According to the Water Quality Association:

Soft: 0-3.5 GPG
Moderate: 3.5-7.0 GPG
Hard: 7.0-10.5 GPG
Very Hard: <10.5 GPG

**City of Waconia
Water Hardness
Level:
27 GPG**



treatment is using a water softener. Water softeners use an ion exchange process. Resin beads in the softener attract and hold the calcium and magnesium particles. Then the salt brine solution flushes over the resin beads to flush and discharge the calcium and magnesium particles off of the resin beads.

While hard water poses no health hazard, sodium that remains in softened water may be a problem for those on sodium restricted diets. Other people simply may wish to avoid the slightly salty taste of treated water. In either case, you can install a separate water dispenser that bypasses the softener. You can also use potassium chloride instead of salt, although salt is much more cost effective.

Avoid Salt Brides

A salt bridge is when the softener salt forms a hard crust and creates an empty space between the water and salt which prevents the salt from dissolving into the water and creating a brine. Without the brine, the resin beads that soften the water cannot do their job.

Yard Waste

Public Services will be open for yard waste drop off the following dates and times in October:



Saturday, October 10

Saturday, October 24

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Residents can bring grass clippings, garden waste, and brush (shrubs and branches no larger than 3" in diameter and 4' in length) to Public Services at 310 East 10th Street. The cost is \$1.00 per bag or \$10.00 per pick-up or trailer load.

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. Once submitted, a member of the Planning Department will call to take payment and ask any questions they may have.