



City of Willernie Mayor's Letter



April 2022

Dear Residents,

March seems to be blowing out like a lion this year. I am sure all of us are looking forward to the weather warming up and spring. It will be good to see our neighbors once again.

IF YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM OUR CITY OFFICE



In order to keep our city clerk and the city clerks of Dellwood and Grant, who share our city hall safe, the city hall will continue to be closed. Our city clerk will continue to work and will be available by phone (651-429-2977) and email. Entrance into the building is by appointment only. Please wear a mask. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

LEAF VACCUM

Once the ground dries up, the leaf vacuum will be out and collecting leaves about mid-April to first part of May if, of course, the weather cooperates. Please be considerate and just put leaves at the edge of the road. Please try to make sure that the piles just contain leaves and not sticks, tree branches, rocks, or dirt. Dirt clogs the vacuum up and branches and other brushy material create problems. Rocks punch holes in the machine and create costly repairs.



HELP CLEAN UP YOUR TOWN



Have you just been hoping for an opportunity to serve your community? Now is your chance. Grab a large garbage bag and help pick up the creek bed, and/or the city's green spaces or the parks/beach. After the thaw, they look (pardon the pun) just plain trashy. If you need directions to any of these city spaces, give Vickie at City Hall a call (651-429-2977). Please help us look after for our green spaces by picking up after yourself and treating the equipment with care. **A BIG THANKS** goes out to the people who have already started doing this.

SPEAKING OF CLEANING UP OUR TOWN...

(... or this is a good incentive to do some spring cleaning)

City council members will be out and about now that it is spring checking out yards and vehicles for ordinance violations. Please be aware of a few of the following ordinances:



- Considered a nuisance are any discarded or disused machinery, household appliances or parts thereof, automobile bodies, or parts thereof, trailers that contain refuse and discarded materials, discarded building materials, or other materials in a manor conducive to harboring rats, mice, snakes, or vermin, or rank growth of vegetation among items so accumulated or in a manner creating fire, health, or safety hazards from accumulating. In other words, all this material laying around your yard or stacked along your fences, garages, or sheds should be in your garages or sheds.
- Vehicles need to have current tabs, be insured, and be running.
- Buildings, fences, landscaping, retaining walls, driveways, and other structures that have been so poorly maintained that their physical condition and appearance detract from the surrounding neighborhood are declared to be public nuisances because the (a) are unsightly, (b) decrease adjoining landowners and occupants' enjoyment of their property and neighborhood, and (c) adversely affect property values and neighborhood patterns.
- KUDOS and a big thank you to those of you who have cleaned up your yards during this last year. It makes our city look better.

WARNING FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



There has been a number of instances lately where cars and garages have been the focus of thieves. To prevent that from happening to you, the Sheriff's department strongly suggests that you make sure your cars are locked, that your garage doors are down and locked and you keep your outside lights on and in good repair. Also, the Sheriff's Department would ask for your assistance if you have a surveillance camera, that you share that information incase your camera captures some useful footage concerning a theft.

BUILDING AND DIY PROJECTS

Please note that you need a building permit for anything which has to do with structural building either by yourself or by someone you hire to do the work. The city council is working on revising the building permits, so to be safe, please check with the city clerk as to what you need to do so you do not get a stop order on your project because you have not gone through the right process to get a permit.



WASHINGTON COUNTY NEW FOOD SCRAP RECYCLE PROGRAM



20% of our trash is food waste. When you participate in the food scraps drop-off program, your food waste and non-recyclable paper products are turned into finished compost in just six months at an industrial compost facility. Compost is a valuable resource that improves soil, reduces erosion, and decreases the need for fertilizers. **Step 1** – Sign up online (www.co.washington.mn.us/2969/Food-Scraps) and pick up a free starter kit! Starter kits include a 2-gallon kitchen pail and 10 compostable bags. Kits are available to Washington County residents only. Limit 1 kit per household. Must be picked up at the Environmental Center, Northern Yard Waste Site or Mahtomedi City Hall. **Step 2** – Start collecting food scraps at home. **Step 3** – Bring bagged food scraps to a drop-off site. For our area, the self-serve drop-off site is behind the fire station. Replacement bags are available. To ensure there are enough bags for everyone, please only take the number of bags you drop off.

RECYCLE



Just a reminder that recycling is a good way to try to keep our environment healthy and to try to keep the cost of waste management down. The more you can recycle, the smaller garbage container you need, and that saves you money. When you recycle, **do not put your recycle in plastic bags. Just put the recycle uncontained in your recycle container.** Please keep recycle and trash cans off the road. It makes it difficult street cleaning and leaf pick up to have to navigate around your trash and recycle cans.

PET WASTE

As you begin to clean up your yards, please know that the pet waste left behind by dogs and other critters needs to be disposed of in the trash, and not let to disintegrate and run off into the streets which eventually enters the streams and lakes of the area.



POLLUTION



The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency wants us to make sure that the residents become aware of the pollution in water runoff and try to prevent pollution in Lake Washington. They express concern of pet waste not being picked up and disposed in the trash and using low phosphorus fertilizers which need to soak into the ground and not run off.

RECREATIONAL FIRES

Recreational fires are allowed in Willernie. A reminder of some of the rules and safety reminders governing recreational fires:



- Fires must be attended at all times.
- Fires must be put out when it is no longer being used.
- Smoke from a fire must not create a problem for your neighbors.
- Must have a fire pit. Pit cannot exceed 3 feet in diameter.
- Fire should be no higher than 3 feet.

FREE WOODCHIPS

There are free woodchips available in the Millner park parking lot on Charing Lane. Feel free to take what you need.

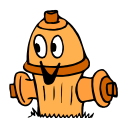


MOSQUITOES

Mosquito season is right around the corner. In order to keep the annoying bug population down, please make sure any buckets, planters, etc. are not left with standing water in them for that provides a great breeding ground for the mosquitoes.



ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT



Please feel free to adopt a fire hydrant this spring or summer. It does take a bit of elbow grease and a few scouring pads to remove the dirt and grime, but the City will be most happy to supply the red paint for you to use and spiff up the fire hydrant on your corner.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

We remain hopeful that we might be able to hold the 9th Annual Willernie Open golf tournament this year on the morning of August 13, 2022.



Please take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Barbara Parent, Mayor