



City of Willernie Mayor's Letter



April 2023

Dear Residents,

As I am writing this, I am looking outside at the 9.8 inches of snow that Mother Nature deposited on our city. I wonder if this was her April Fools joke on us. Here's hoping that soon what we see in our yards are signs of spring.

HONORING RICK PAULSON



Many have asked if they could do something to honor Rick Paulson. Several suggestions were made. The one that made the most sense was to name the new maintenance building after him. He was so proud of the building and had worked most of his tenure with us to help it come to fruition. A sign has been designed which will say:

City of Willernie
Rick P Paulson Maintenance Building
30 Warner

If you are interested in contributing to the cost of the sign or for purchase of tools for the building in Rick's name, please send it to or drop it off at City Hall. Time and place for the dedication of the sign will be forthcoming in the White Bear Press.

NEW HIRE



The City Council is happy to announce that we have subcontracted KEJ Enterprises to meet the maintenance superintendent's duties for the city. Ken will be in charge of looking after our streets, infrastructure, snow removal, mowing, maintaining our building, parks and beach, and the multiple other duties to keep our city running. He has already begun to take care of our potholes, is working with Mahtomedi to fix the road on Warner Road where the water main broke, etc. We are most happy that he has joined our staff. Please be patient as he learns all the quirks and ins and outs of maintaining Willernie.

LEAF VACCUM

Once the ground dries up, the leaf vacuum will be out and collecting leaves about mid-April to mowing season 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.

Please be aware of a few of the following ordinances:

1. 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.
2. Vehicles need to have current tabs, be insured, and running.
3. 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.

4. 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.

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. 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.

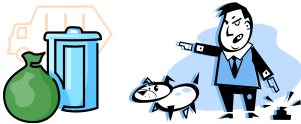
RECYCLE

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 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 to have to navigate around your trash and recycle cans.



you
up

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:



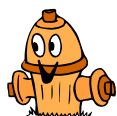
- Fires must be attended at all times.
- Fires must be put out when it is no longer being used.
- Smoke from a fire must not create a problem for your neighbors.
- Must have a fire pit. Pit cannot exceed 3 feet in diameter.
- Fire should be no higher than 3 feet.

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.

Please take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Sincerely,
Barbara Parent, Mayor