

Dear Residents,

Sadly, the COVID-19 virus has not gone away, and in many places it is on the rise. It is easy to forget the directions that will keep you and your neighbors safe. Just remember the three **Ws**: **W**ear a mask, **W**ash your hands often, and **W**atch your distance by staying at least 6 feet apart.



**It is important that you VOTE**

November 3, 2020 local, state, and national election



I realize many of you may have concerns about going to City Hall to vote due to the pandemic. Please know that you can absentee vote. You can request an absentee ballot in one of the following ways:

1. Online at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)
2. Calling Washington County Elections at 651 430-6790 and request an absentee ballot application.
3. In person absentee ballot voting at the Washington County Government Center in Stillwater from September 18 to October 26, 2020. You must wear a mask to enter and vote.
4. In person early voting at the Washington County Government Center in Stillwater from October 27 to November 2, 2020. You must wear a mask to enter and vote.
5. Willernie City Hall on Primary Election Day (November 3, 2020). You must wear a mask and follow the guidelines for social distancing.

Washington County Government Center hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday plus Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup>, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**County Road 12 Project Completed (Stillwater Rd)**

There was a ribbon cutting ceremony this month to mark the completion of the County Road 12 project. Through this project the City of Willernie gained:



- a new water main, sidewalk and retaining wall that will connect the downtown all the way to McGregor on the south, (which connects with a Mahtomedi sidewalk to the new library and beyond)
- a new storm drain system at the post office that will fix the flooding there
- a hookup to the storm drain system off Dartmoor.
- a number of new fire hydrants on Co Rd 12
- New street lighting (which was not included in our cost, but was covered by generous donations by area individuals spearheaded by Mahtomedi.

The total cost of the project to the City of Willernie was \$785,000. Due to the cooperative work and grant writing between the city council and Washington County, the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MDOT), Rice Creek Watershed, and budgetary planning, we were able to reduce the direct cost to you by \$500,000. To reduce the remaining amount due (\$284,786) to be paid by Willernie property owners, we arranged with Washington County to pay that amount back at 3% interest over 5 years.

**New Sidewalk on South Side of Stillwater Road**



I have been hearing a lot of good feedback about the new sidewalk that now can take you safely to the new library. I have also discovered that it will take you safely to the crosswalks at Forest Ave. (By Roma) Warner Ave., and East Ave., that will then connect you to the walking trails that wander through Mahtomedi or head toward Stillwater.

**City Hall**

The Willernie City Hall will remain closed. Our city clerk continues to work and can be reached by email, fax, or phone (651 429-2977) Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If you need to transact business with the city inside the city hall for any reason, it is by appointment only, and you are required to wear a mask.



### Support Local Businesses



The COVID-19 virus pandemic has really hurt local businesses, so please support them if you can. The restaurants have take-out and some indoor and outdoor seating, as do the bars. The flower shop is open several days a week, and other business are opening as they are able.



### Leaf Vacuum

As it is now officially fall, it is time for the leaf vacuum to appear. Rick will have the leaf vacuum out from mid-October to mid-November, weather pending. In order to continue to have a leaf vacuum, it is important to only put leaves on the edge of the road for pick up. Please do not put yard waste, rocks, branches and other objects for they can damage the leaf vacuum.



### Yard Waste

Washington County has open its first county-sponsored yard waste collection site in Hugo. This site will be at 5527 170<sup>th</sup> St. N. in Hugo, near the intersection of 170<sup>th</sup> Street North and Fenway Ave. North. The Northern County Yard Waste site will accept leaves, grass, and brush from residents at no charge.



### Winter Guidelines

All too soon, winter will be upon us so it is important to

- All vehicles cannot be parked on the roads when it snows to allow the roads to
- When you shovel or snow blow your driveways, snow cannot be put back on the your neighbor's yard.



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### Keep Fire Hydrants Clear of Snow

If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please make sure it is shoveled out so it can be located quickly in case of fire.



### Caution Concerning Recent Break Ins

Over the summer there have been reports of items being stolen out of cars and garages. The Sheriff's Department recommends to home owners that:

- you keep your car doors locked
- that you do not keep your garage door opener in plain view
- that you do not leave valuables in your car
- that you keep your house doors locked
- that we trim our hedges back so we have better visibility
- have motion sensitive lights on our houses and garages, have our porch lights on
- They recommend that you keep your outside lights on after 10:00 on Halloween.
- If you see any suspicious activities call 911 as soon as possible.



### Trying to Keep the City Cleaned up

Most folks in town take great pride in our community and keep their yards well-kept and cleaned up. Now that fall has arrived, it is time to pick up those items that have been left out during the summer months and store them away for the winter. Check around your yard and house, put things away, or move on to recycle or disposal.



### Cat and dog Licenses and Leash Laws

I appreciate that I sound like a broken record concerning cat and dog licenses, but \$3.00 for two years is not a huge amount to pay considering what getting your animal back from the "Pound" costs without a license.



The City of Willernie ordinances state that all dogs and cats need to be contained in their own yard and are not allowed to run free in the city. Please be a courteous pet owner and contain your pet. Also, if you walk your dog, please clean up after them.

I am still getting complaints about cats roaming and spraying on houses and gardens, killing song birds, and doing other damage. Please keep your cats in your own yard.

Have a safe fall and winter. Please look out for your neighbors as we head into the colder months.

Sincerely,  
Barb Parent, Mayor