

**CITY OF WATKINS**  
**BOX 306**  
**WATKINS, MN 55389**

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**SPRING NEWSLETTER**  
2019



This Newsletter is posted on the City of Watkins' web page at [www.cityofwatkins.com](http://www.cityofwatkins.com) as well as other informational items and the events calendar.

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS MAILED AS A SERVICE TO ALL RESIDENTS TO LET YOU KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE CITY. PLEASE READ IT IN ITS ENTIRETY SO YOU ARE AWARE OF SOME BASIC INFORMATION, RULES AND REGULATIONS. THANK YOU.**

**Watkins 2018 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report** is available online. This report can be viewed at [www.cityofwatkins.com/2018-drinking-water-report.html](http://www.cityofwatkins.com/2018-drinking-water-report.html). A paper copy of this report is available upon request.

Warm weather will soon be upon us. Let's all take some time to clean up and spruce up our property. Let's make our COMMUNITY one to be proud of!

The City is requesting all homeowners to attach house numbers to their residence as a way to identify the proper home in an emergency situation. The numbers should be clearly visible from the street.

**Land Use Permits** \*\* If you plan to do any building or additions to existing structures, erecting fences, moving in a structure, etc., please contact City Hall for information and permits. **Anyone beginning work or moving in a structure without obtaining a Land Use Permit prior to starting will be charged a penalty fee of \$250.00 for Residential/Agricultural zones and \$500.00 for Commercial/Industrial zones.** This fee would be in addition to the Land Use Permit fee.

\*\*If you plan to reside, reroof, install new windows or replace doors in your home, you do not need a permit for that. **The City does allow metal roofing on residential properties, however, be aware that only standing seam metal roofing systems are allowed. If you install anything other than a standing seam metal roofing system, you will have to remove it.** \*\*

**Swimming Pools.** All outdoor swimming pools shall be completely enclosed by a security fence or wall at least 4 ft. but not more than 6 ft. high and be located no less than 4 ft. from the edge of the pool. The bottom of the fence or wall shall be no higher than 4 inches above the surface of the ground. Fence openings or points of entry to the pool area shall be equipped with self-closing/self-latching lockable gates. A **Land Use Permit** is required for all pools & fences. \*\*

**Filling swimming pools** – Anyone wanting a pool filled by the Watkins Fire Department will need to contact City Hall during regular business hours to make arrangements. Please do not contact a member of the Fire Department directly. The cost to fill a pool for a City Resident is \$25.00 plus current cost of water per 1,000 gallons. If the pool doesn't require the estimated and paid for amount, the extra monies will be applied to the resident's utility bill. Payment for the pool fill will be due before it can be filled. Pools will only be filled by the Fire Department on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday evening of the month. If you plan to fill your pool yourself, be aware that your water bill may increase substantially.

**Parking Regulations.** (A) No recreational vehicle, camper, travel trailer, camper top, boat, boat trailer or motor home

shall be stored or parked for more than 48 hours on any city street. Provided, however, that during such 48-hour period, such vehicle shall not be occupied as living quarters. No automobile shall be parked for more than 72 hours on any city street or parking lot.\*\*

**Anyone bringing leaves or brush to the Brush Site MUST take all bags and/or containers back with them. PCA regulations do not allow bags and/or containers to be left at the Brush Site. If the City continues to find bags or containers at the Brush Site, it will discontinue this service or an extra fee will be added to the water bills to cover the additional expense incurred by the Maintenance Department to dispose of these bags or containers.**

**The City is asking all property owners to help keep the City storm sewer system from getting clogged by not blowing any grass clippings, leaves or dirt into the street. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.**

**Grass Clippings and Yard Waste** pick up provided by the City will begin in May on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month until early November. Please have your brush materials and clippings properly bagged or bundled curb side by 7:00 a.m. Grass clippings and leaves must be in bags weighing no more than 30 pounds. Brush, sticks, and small branches must be tied in bundles no longer than 4 feet long and must not weigh more than 30 pounds. No boxes of brush material will be accepted. This is a free service offered to the citizens of Watkins. Brush materials not complying with the above rules will not be picked up. If you have a large quantity of brush to pick up, prior arrangements must be made with the City and a rate of \$100.00 per hour for truck and equipment use will apply. **If you wish to haul your own brush material, arrangements must be made with City Hall AT LEAST ONE DAY IN ADVANCE by calling 764-6400.**

The burning of leaves is only permitted from April 10 through May 15 and September 15 through November 15 of each year. No burning shall take place until a burning permit is issued from designated members of the Watkins Fire Department. Permits shall be for a period of no longer than two weeks. Burning of rubbish, trash, or other material is prohibited. \*\*

**Water from Sump Pumps.** (Quoted from Watkins City Code of Ordinances §51.37 (B)) It shall be **unlawful to discharge or cause to be discharged into the municipal sewer system**, either directly or indirectly, any roof, storm, surface or ground water, or water from any type of private drainage system, or **discharge from sump pumps**, and all similar kinds of water discharge of whatever kind or nature. Water discharged from a water air conditioning system may not be discharged into the municipal sewer system, unless a permit allowing such discharge is issued by the Council. **The additional cost to treat this water may be passed on in rate increases to all City residents and businesses.**

**Water/Sewer Utility Policy.** The City bills monthly for water/sewer usage and these bills are due on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, (no matter if it is a Holiday, Saturday, or Sunday) or any day prior to this date. PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE PAYMENT STUB WITH YOUR PAYMENT SO YOUR ACCOUNT WILL BE PROPERLY CREDITED. **If the bill is not paid by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, a late fee is added to the bill, so please pay on time. Any delinquent water/sewer bill is subject to disconnection if not paid by the due date. A \$200.00 reconnection fee must be paid before water can be turned on again.** If after hours an additional \$50.00 will be charged.

The City is now able to accept water/sewer utility bill payments using your CREDIT, DEBIT & PRE-PAID DEBIT CARDS in person or online, however, there is a fee charged for this service. Please contact the City for more information or visit our website. Automatic withdrawal from your checking account is also available. Contact the City to complete the authorization form. Any homeowner may pay ahead or pay extra on their water/sewer utility bill at any time.

**If you do not receive a Water/Sewer Utility bill in the mail, please call City Hall to get your current amount that is due on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.** These bills are usually mailed by the first week of the month.

**Another Note:** If you are planning on selling your home, please notify City Hall of the closing date and when it is final so a final reading of the water meter can be done to prepare the final bill for you. Also inform the new occupants that they need to contact City Hall to complete an application for water/sewer service.

**Watkins Swimming Pool** – Swimming lesson sign up will be Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 9 to 10 a.m. at Village Hall. Swim Lesson fees are: Preschool - \$30 and Levels 1 – 5 - \$40.00. Phone and walk-in registrations for swimming lessons will start May 6, 2019. **No early registrations. Payment is due at time of registration.** The pool will probably be opening around the first week in June, weather permitting. Watch the local newspaper and our website for information on schedules as they become available. Season pass prices for 2019 are: Individual pass \$100; 2-member pass \$150 (must reside in same household); 3-5-member pass \$200, each additional member is \$25 (must reside in same household), punch cards \$35.00 for 10 punches, Open Swim \$4.00 per day. Early bird discount of \$25 on season passes available May 4<sup>TH</sup> through May 31<sup>ST</sup>. The pool may close for the season in mid to late August at City Council discretion.

**Animals** – Reminder. All dogs and cats are required to be licensed annually (August 1<sup>st</sup>). License fee is \$5.00. Owners must provide proof of current vaccinations when purchasing a license. As an owner, you are responsible for every aspect of your pet, which includes cleaning up after them whether on your own property, property of others or public property. Please be a responsible and considerate pet owner and abide by the City Ordinance.

The following animals are **NOT** allowed in the City: members of the equestrian family (horses, mules), bovine family (cows, bulls), sheep, poultry (turkeys), fowl (ducks, geese), swine (including Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs), goats, bees and other animals associated with a farm, ranch or stable.

Chickens are now allowed to be kept within the City of Watkins, however, a **Permit Application for Keeping of Chickens** is required before obtaining any chickens and is available at City Hall. There is no fee for this permit.

There is a limited supply of “The First 100 Years” Centennial books available at City Hall at a cost of \$1.00.

**Please** pull your garbage cans back from the sidewalk and street right-of-way once they are emptied as a courtesy to everyone using the sidewalks and streets. Garbage cans also need to be moved off the right-of-way so the snow plows can clear the streets. The city will not be liable for any damage to any garbage cans or damage caused by a garbage can if hit.

\*\* (Quoted from the City of Watkins/Planning and Zoning Ordinances.) \*\*

If you have any questions or comments for the City, office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. City Hall phone number is (320) 764-6400; fax number is (320) 764-6401. Email: [cityofwatkins@gmail.com](mailto:cityofwatkins@gmail.com).

## **ANNUAL NOTICE – For Military Personnel – Minn. Stat. § 325E.028**

Minnesota law requires that customers and utilities make utility payment arrangements for military service personnel in the following situation. If a member of a household has been issued orders into active duty, deployment, or change in duty station and the residential customer meets specific income criteria, the Watkins City utility must not disconnect the utility service of that qualifying residential customer due to nonpayment.

An application for a utility payment agreement must include copies of income statements and proof of military orders as described in the law. The Watkins City utility may shut off utility service for nonpayment if an application does not include the required copies of income statements and proof of military orders as required by Minn. Stat. § 325E.028.

If you would like a copy of this law, please contact the city utility at 320-764-6400.