

~ things happening at City Hall ~

RECAP OF CLEAN UP DAY

Thanks to a community effort, we collected a total of 27 carloads that were hauled away — 17 on the day of the cleanup and 10 pre-event pickups! All of that added up to one very full dumpster and half a truckload of donations sent to the Salvation Army. A huge shoutout to the National Honor Society volunteers, who made unloading each vehicle smooth and efficient—and even fun! Thank you to everyone who participated and made a difference.

PICKLE BALL COURTS ARE NOT DOG PARKS

We have had some complaints about dogs being allowed onto the pickleball courts to run free, using it as a dog park. As the sign says, that is posted by the door, **NO ANIMALS ALLOWED ON THE COURT**. Dogs on pickleball court surfaces are a problem because their claws can scratch and damage the court surface, and their bodily fluids like urine can cause chemical damage over time, leading to discoloration and erosion. In addition, the abrasive surface can injure a dog's paws.

GRASS CLIPPINGS ON THE STREET IS ILLEGAL

Mowing towards the street or highway is not only unsafe, but also illegal.

In Minnesota, discharging grass clippings onto a public street is illegal and considered a misdemeanor under Minnesota Statute 169.42, which prohibits objects on a highway. This action creates unsafe conditions for drivers and cyclists by causing slippery conditions, particularly when the clippings are wet. Additionally, clippings can clog storm drains, contributing to water-quality issues like algae blooms.

ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

You may wonder about our procedures for handling ordinance violations. We operate primarily on a complaint-based system, which remains confidential. Complaints can be submitted in various ways—in person, by phone, email, or through our website—and may come from both citizens and staff.

Once a complaint is received, it is researched, logged, and a formal notice is issued if necessary. Not all complaints are violations. We send written notices to ensure we have clear documentation of the date, the nature of the violation, and the steps taken. This allows us to track cases effectively and conduct necessary follow-ups.

This written notification process is outlined in our ordinances, so it is the procedure we are required to follow. Verbal notifications are not used, as they cannot be reliably documented and may lead to misunderstandings or disputes about what was said. Using written communication helps us avoid these issues and ensures consistency and accountability.

RECYCLE WHEN YOU CAN

Did you know that your monthly utility payment includes garbage and recycling service? The city pays Waste Management for pickup, and the cost of picking up recycling is significantly lower than the cost of disposing it in your regular garbage. A listing of comingled recyclable items should be on your recycling can lid. If not, it is available on the city website, or we can send you a list.

To help keep our garbage costs down, we encourage everyone to recycle as much as possible each week. Recycling helps reduce the amount going into the regular garbage bins, which directly lowers our expenses. Only recyclable materials should be placed in the recycling bin. Contaminated recycling bins may not be collected by Waste Management. If you have a large volume of recyclable materials, you're welcome to use the Goodhue County recycling bins located on Broadway South.

Every effort counts — recycle more and keep our community cleaner and costs lower.

THAT TIME OF YEAR.... FALLING LEAVES

Soon, you may be clearing your yard of leaves. Please remember that leaves should not be raked onto the streets. Raking leaves onto the street in Minnesota is illegal and harmful to the environment.

The crunchy red, gold, and brown leaves fluttering to the ground this autumn might not look all that formidable, but they contain a wallop of nutrients that can hurt Minnesota's lakes.

In a natural setting, leaves decompose on the ground where they fall and help restock the soil with nutrients and organic matter. The small amounts of leaves that naturally drop into lakes from surrounding trees don't have much of an effect.

Storm sewer systems are designed to funnel rain to lakes and rivers, but they also deliver pollution that gets swept up by stormwater.

But when leaves fall on streets, sidewalks, and other hardscapes, they wash into municipal stormwater systems and end up in lakes and rivers where the leaves' nutrients feed algae growth. The algae then decompose and use up oxygen that fish and native plants need. When leaves from whole cities or neighborhoods wash into a lake, river, or stream through a storm sewer system, the volume of organic matter can overwhelm that body of water.

Empowering you with information that matters