



# City of Willernie

## Mayor's Letter



April 2021

Dear Residents,

The warm weather and the early spring is a welcome relief from both the long, mild winter and having to stay put due to COVID19. Here is hoping that all of you have been well and have been able to get your vaccine or are on a list to get called into get your vaccine. While we would like to have this pandemic over, we have a way to go so remember to wear a mask, maintain social distance, and continue to wash your hands.

### CITY OFFICE IS CLOSED



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 for the foreseeable future. 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. City council meetings continue to be held on Zoom and are posted on the home page of the city website.

### Proposed CHANGES IN THE RENTAL ORDINANCE

The City Council will be considering amendments to Section 1400 of the Willernie Code, which is the section regulating rental dwellings. Included in the proposed amendments are the following changes:

(1) implementing a 10% cap on rental dwellings in the City; (2) strengthening penalties related to operating a rental without a license or otherwise in violation of the Code; (3) providing additional processes relating to suspension and revocation of licenses; (4) prohibiting retaliation against tenants for certain conduct; and (5) prohibiting certain conduct on leased premises. A version of the proposed amendment will be on file with the City Clerk beginning April 7<sup>th</sup>.



### LEAF VACCUM



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.

### FREE WOODCHIPS

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



### 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, keep your social distance, 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.

### 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 they are able. Support your local dry cleaners, liquor store, flower shop, and other business which are opening as they are able. Check out Roma, for their deli and market are now open.



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### JUNKY YARDS AND EXPIRED TABS



Every spring and fall, members of the city council wander through the town checking yards. If we find yards that need to be cleaned up, or cars that have expired tabs, the city sends a letter out requesting compliance with Willernie ordinances, county ordinances, and state law. Over the last 20 years, the residents of Willernie have, for the most part, really done a good job. I hope that when we head out this year, it will be the same.

## **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. You can download a plumbing, mechanical, building, or demolition permit from the city website: <http://willernie.org/ordinances.html>



## **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. Please keep recycle and trash cans off the road. It makes it difficult for plowing, 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.

## **THE CONTINUING SAGA OF THE LIFT STATION**

Rick has had to clean the lift station recently due to folks flushing multiple items down their toilets that should never be flushed. Our lift station moves the sewage waste from here on to where it can be processed. It became clogged the other day because of folks flushing what are supposed to be disposable wipes and other such items. When that happens, this means climbing 16 feet underground, pulling the 300 lb motor, and then everything has to be unclogged, cleaned, and put back together. It is a terrible waste of time, poor use of taxpayer's money (could cost in the thousands to fix if the pumps break) and could potentially cause sewage backup. Please do not flush disposable wipes, diapers, paper towels, paper rags or cloth, plastic, feminine hygiene products, dental floss, shop rags, cigarette butts, latex gloves, needles, tissues, or grease, fats, cooking oils, and other such items down your toilets. Rule of thumb: **DO NOT FLUSH ANYTHING DOWN YOUR TOILET OTHER THAN WHAT COMES OUT OF YOUR BODY AND TOILET PAPER!!!!**



## **RECREATIONAL FIRES**

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



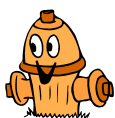
- Fires must be attended at all times.
- Fires must be put out when it is no longer being used.
- Smoke from a fire must not create a problem for your neighbors.
- Must have a fire pit. Pit cannot exceed 3 feet in diameter.
- Fire should be no higher than 3 feet.

## **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.

## **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

We remain hopeful that we might be able to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Willernie Open golf tournament this year on the morning of August 14, 2021.



Please take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Parent, Mayor