



WAUSAU WATER WORKS

FOR YOU!

Volume 14, No. 2

Spring 2011

Annual Hydrant Flushing Will Begin on May 9



Water utility employees will begin flushing fire hydrants on Monday night, May 9, 2011, as part of an annual maintenance program.

Flushing accomplishes two tasks; first, it cleans the mains of mineral buildup, and secondly, it ensures that all hydrants are in good operating order.

The majority of the flushing is performed during the evening hours from 9:00 p.m.

until about 4:00 a.m., during which time approximately 1600 hydrants will be flushed. This process takes three weeks to complete. **A complete schedule is printed on page 3 of this newsletter.** Flushing in the Riverview, Highway U, Industrial Park areas, and the high pressure zone around 28th Avenue reservoir will take place during the day, the week of May 23-26.

Residents are urged to avoid water use when the flushing occurs near their neighborhood, especially for laundry purposes, as it may stain clothing. Water softeners should also be bypassed during this time. Some homeowners may experience very low pressure during the flushing process. As flushing occurs in your neighborhood, businesses and homes may experience dirty water for a short period of time.

Residents are also cautioned about driving in the area where the flushing is occurring. Water from hydrants is under extreme pressure, with approximately 1,000 gallons

per minute being discharged. Although our employees use caution, damage to your vehicle can result if you drive through an area where hydrants are being flushed and slippery roads may exist depending on nighttime temperatures.

Wausau Water Works Wins State Award



The Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) recently held its' Annual Technical Conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin where over 1,200 water and wastewater industry personnel met for four days exchanging ideas and technology through technical sessions and exhibits.

At this conference every year, WRWA holds a competition to pick the best newsletter and the best Consumer Confidence Report for all water utilities in the state. Wausau Water Works won first place in both the newsletter and Consumer Confidence Report categories for communities over 10,000 people.

“As the industry evolves and the regulations of water quality and quantity increase each year, the job of keeping the public informed on responsibilities and activities of the water utility becomes more and more important”, said Ken M. Blomberg, WRWA Executive Director. “Customers served by Wausau Water Works, who go above and beyond the federal requirements, should be proud of the extra effort their utility makes to keep them informed about the quality of the water they are drinking”.

Wausau Water Works is very honored to have received these awards and will make every effort to continue to provide quality newsletters and Consumer Confidence Reports to our residents.

WWTP Updates Underway

The Wausau Wastewater Treatment Plant treats 4 million gallons of raw sewage every day. The plant operates around the clock to clean up the wastewater before it is discharged to the river. We have an on-site staff of five mechanics and a supervisor who rely heavily on technology, energy and equipment to get the job done.

The first treatment process is to run the wastewater through a set of bar screens that remove debris for disposal in the landfill. The existing machinery was installed in 1991 and has performed well, but after 20 years of continuous operation in a corrosive environment it is due for replacement. The utility will be installing replacement “micro” screens that will remove even more material and help avoid problems with subsequent processes.



Our most exciting project is a complete reconstruction of the aeration process. The aeration basins are where the dissolved organic material is removed. The wastewater in the tanks is constantly mixed with air to provide oxygen and keep everything in suspension. Friendly bacteria and other microbes thrive as they eat the organic material and consume the oxygen. The bacteria clumps together so it can be settled out in the final clarifiers and leave the cleaned water behind.

The aeration process is the biggest energy user in the plant. The existing blowers will be replaced with more

efficient units that have variable speed drives so the air supplied can be automatically matched to what is required by the bacteria. Each of the three aeration basins has a thousand ceramic diffusers spaced to provide adequate mixing and even oxygen distribution. These will be replaced with flexible rubber diffusers that help reduce energy use and also require less maintenance.

The greatest energy savings will come from our use of methane. Methane is generated when we process the sludge and we need to make efficient use of it to control our energy costs. The old system used two engines that burned the methane to directly power the aeration blowers. Those engines were high maintenance and expensive to replace. The new system will burn

the methane in micro turbine powered generators and feed electricity back to the new electric blower motors.

The plant has three final clarifiers that separate the

friendly bacteria from the wastewater by allowing it to settle. Two of these have been in service since 1968. These two clarifiers will be rehabbed by reconstructing the mechanical equipment and patching deteriorating concrete.

Replacing all of this equipment will be expensive with a total price tag of \$3.2 million. The choices we have made are based on controlling expenses by balancing maintenance, energy, and capital costs. We have been successful in obtaining two grants for a total \$232,578 from Focus on Energy because of the energy savings.

Reminder on Private Well Abandonment

We want to remind property owners that private wells that are no longer in use must be properly sealed. Licensed pump installers and well drillers can do this work.

Wells that are in compliance with state codes can be used for watering lawns and gardens only if a permit is obtained from Wausau Water Works. Please contact the utility at 715-261-6536 if you need to obtain a permit or have questions regarding well abandonment.

What's the Scoop on Fluoride and Chromium 6??

Both fluoride and Chromium 6 also known as Hexavalent Chromium have been topics of conversation lately, which often spur telephone calls questioning what's in Wausau's drinking water.

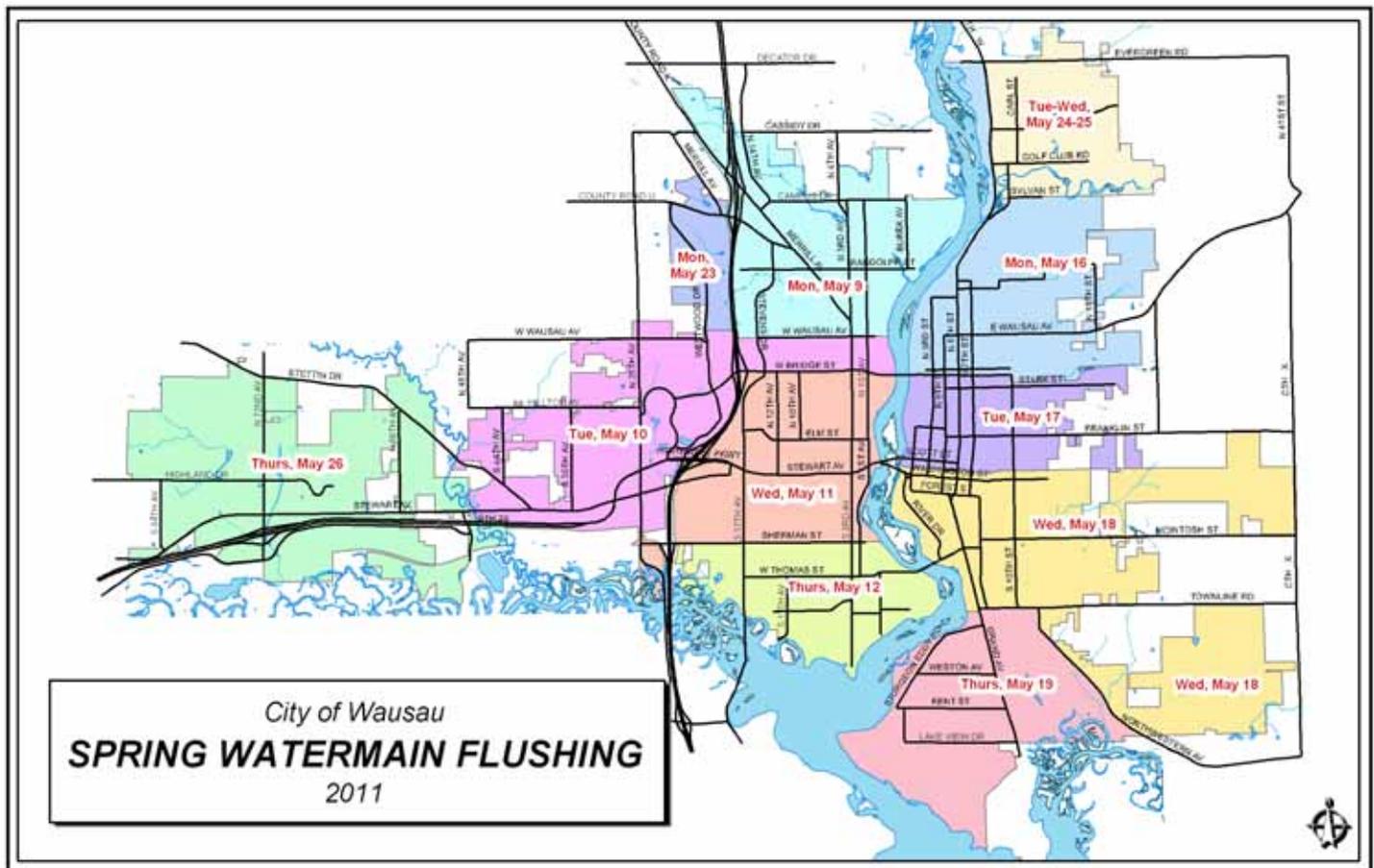
Fluoride - recent studies have questioned the safety of adding fluoride to the drinking water. The EPA is still reviewing the data, and once a determination is made, we will follow their recommendation. At this time we continue to add fluoride which has been found to improve dental health. Our water typically has 1.3 parts per million of fluoride, which is below the maximum allowed amount of 4 parts per million.

Chromium 6 or Hexavalent Chromium, is a cancer causing substance that can contaminate water supplies. This contaminant was recently found in small amounts in water supplies in a number of southern Wisconsin cities. Wausau Water Works tested for the element and we're happy to say that the test results came back as “non-detect” meaning that it was not found in Wausau's drinking water supply.

SPRING WATERMAIN FLUSHING SCHEDULE

Utility crews will flush watermains through the operation of hydrants from 9 p.m. until about 4 a.m. (except as noted below). You may want to draw a supply of water prior to your area being flushed. Please be aware adjacent neighborhoods to the area being flushed may experience dirty water for short periods of time.

Avoid water use during the scheduled flush, for laundry purposes especially. It is particularly important not to use bleach in your laundry as it may stain your clothing. It is also suggested that you bypass water softeners during this time. Please also be aware that some homeowners may experience very low pressure during the flushing process.



FLUSHING SCHEDULE

WEST SIDE

Monday night, May 9 - West Wausau Avenue north to City limits.
Tuesday night, May 10 - Wausau Avenue south to Bridge Street and Pinecrest area to Stettin Drive, west to 48th Avenue and north to Hilltop Avenue.
Wednesday night, May 11 - Oak Street south to Sherman Street.
Thursday night, May 12 - Rosecrans Street south to City limits.

EAST SIDE

Monday night, May 16 - Bridge Street north to Sylvan Street; 6th Street to City Limits (Evergreen Road), Riverview Court and Riverview Drive
Tuesday night, May 17 - Bridge Street south to Jefferson Street
Wednesday night, May 18 - Jefferson Street south to Town Line Road and Northwestern Avenue
Thursday night, May 19 - Town Line Road south to City limits.

OTHER AREAS

(Flushing performed during the day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Monday, May 23 - High Pressure Zone by 28th Avenue Reservoir, Highway U.
Tuesday and Wednesday, May 24-25 - Riverview Area
Thursday, May 26 - 56th Avenue west to City limits

Wausau Water Works Accepts Electronic Payments

Are you tired of writing out checks each quarter for your water and sewer bill? If so, Wausau Water Works has just the answer. You can pay your Wausau Water Works bill via electronic payments. To sign up for this service complete the shaded portion of the form below and return to Wausau Water Works, 407 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403-4783 along with a VOIDED CHECK. Payments are deducted on the 20th of the month that the bill is due. You will still receive a copy of your quarterly bill showing the usage and billing amount. If you have any questions, please call our office at 715-261-6530.

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL	
COMPANY NAME WAUSAU WATER WORKS	COMPANY ID NUMBER
I (we) hereby authorize WAUSAU WATER WORKS hereinafter called COMPANY, to initiate entries and to initiate, if necessary, entries and adjustments for any entries in error to my/our account indicated below and the depository name below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, to credit and/or debit the same to such account.	
DEPOSITORY NAME	BRANCH
TRANSIT/ABA NUMBER	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
ACCOUNT NUMBER	
TYPE OF ENTRY (select only one) <input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEBIT	TYPE OF ACCOUNT (select only one) <input type="checkbox"/> CHECKING <input type="checkbox"/> SAVINGS
This authority is to remain in full force and effect until COMPANY has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford COMPANY and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.	
NAME (please print)	
SIGNATURE	DATE
NAME (please print)	
SIGNATURE	DATE