



WAUSAU WATER WORKS

FOR YOU!

Volume 15, No. 2

Spring 2012

Annual Hydrant Flushing Will Begin on May 7

Water utility employees will begin flushing fire hydrants on Monday night, May 7, 2012, as part of our 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 21-24.

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.

WWTP Receives Incentives From Focus on Energy



Representatives from Focus on Energy present Mayor Tipple with a check for \$241,818 for energy incentives for upgrades at the Wausau Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Staff from Wausau Water Works and Becher Hoppe were on hand as representatives from Focus on Energy made a check presentation to Mayor Tipple on Thursday, March 8 in Wausau City Hall. The check, in the amount of \$241,818, was an incentive for major modifications at the Wausau Wastewater Treatment Plant. Modifications included new technology blowers for aeration in the activated sludge process along with new flexible membrane diffusers and dissolved oxygen monitoring and control. The project also included the installation of two 65kW micro-turbines, biogas conditioning equipment and interconnections to allow the generated power to be used by the newly installed blowers.

The combined project cost of \$1,435,800 is expected to save approximately \$180,000 annually in energy costs. The incentives from Focus on Energy also included two studies, one relating to the “best use of biogas” and the other pertaining to “on-site off gas testing”. The utility appreciates the incentives available through Focus on Energy and the ability to upgrade to a higher efficiency treatment process.

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 715-261-7262 if you need to obtain a permit or have questions regarding well abandonment.

Spring Has Sprung!

With the mild winter, everyone is anxious to get out and start their lawn and garden work. Wausau Water Works does offer sprinkler meters for people who use a lot of water during the spring and summer months, and a few residents have taken advantage of installing these irrigation type meters.

There are a few things to remember however, when having an irrigation meter installed.

- You, or your plumber, will need to obtain a plumbing permit from the City of Wausau Inspections Department. No meter will be issued unless a plumbing permit has been obtained.
- The meter needs to be installed correctly to avoid being double billed for usage, therefore it's best to have a professional do the job.
- Along with the charges for water usage, a quarterly meter charge is also assessed.

If you're not sure if your summer usage would warrant an irrigation meter, give us a call at 715-261-6530 and we'll be happy to review your account.

Water System Contamination Can be Avoided

Many people use outside faucets during the summer months. These faucets, or hose bibs, should have a backflow preventer installed to help avoid water system contamination. Many newer homes have back siphon valves on their outside hose bibs.

Why the concern? Contamination could occur if you were using a weed and feed or lawn chemical type sprayer that was attached to your garden hose. If you were to have a service break in your yard, or if the main out in the street were to break, it could cause the chemical to back siphon into your home water system or possibly even the water main which could affect your entire neighborhood. Care should be taken whenever you use a product that attaches to your hose, or whenever a hose is sitting in a bucket, pool, laundry tub, etc. Keeping our water supply safe is easy with a little common sense and a quality backflow preventer or vacuum breaker.



Get the Lead Out

The City of Wausau has many older homes that were constructed when lead plumbing materials were commonly used. Lead pipes are sometimes found in homes built before about 1930, homes built before 1965 had lead service lines between the house and the water main, and lead solder was used with copper pipe up to 1984. Even today lead can be found in some new brass fixtures.

Lead is not found in our groundwater or water in the City's distribution mains but is absorbed from lead

service lines and lead plumbing materials. We recommend that residents with homes built before 1984 flush their water line before using water for cooking or drinking. It takes time for the water to absorb lead so the idea is to use water that has not been in contact with lead plumbing materials for more than a few hours.

Adequately flushing the water line can require running 1 to 2 gallons of water to draw fresh water from the water main. It would not be necessary to run as much water if the home does not have a lead service line or if water has recently been used elsewhere in the house, to flush a toilet or wash clothes for example.

Wausau Water Works continues to monitor the corrosion potential of our drinking water to minimize the amount of lead absorbed from household plumbing.

If you have any questions regarding lead in drinking water, lead plumbing, or flushing requirements, please contact Wausau Water Works at 715-261-6530.

Welcome Aboard

We'd like to extend a hearty welcome to Ryan Fischer who started as a Water Distribution Maintainer Operator on April 2. Ryan comes from a construction background so he is sure to be a great addition to the team. Welcome aboard Ryan!

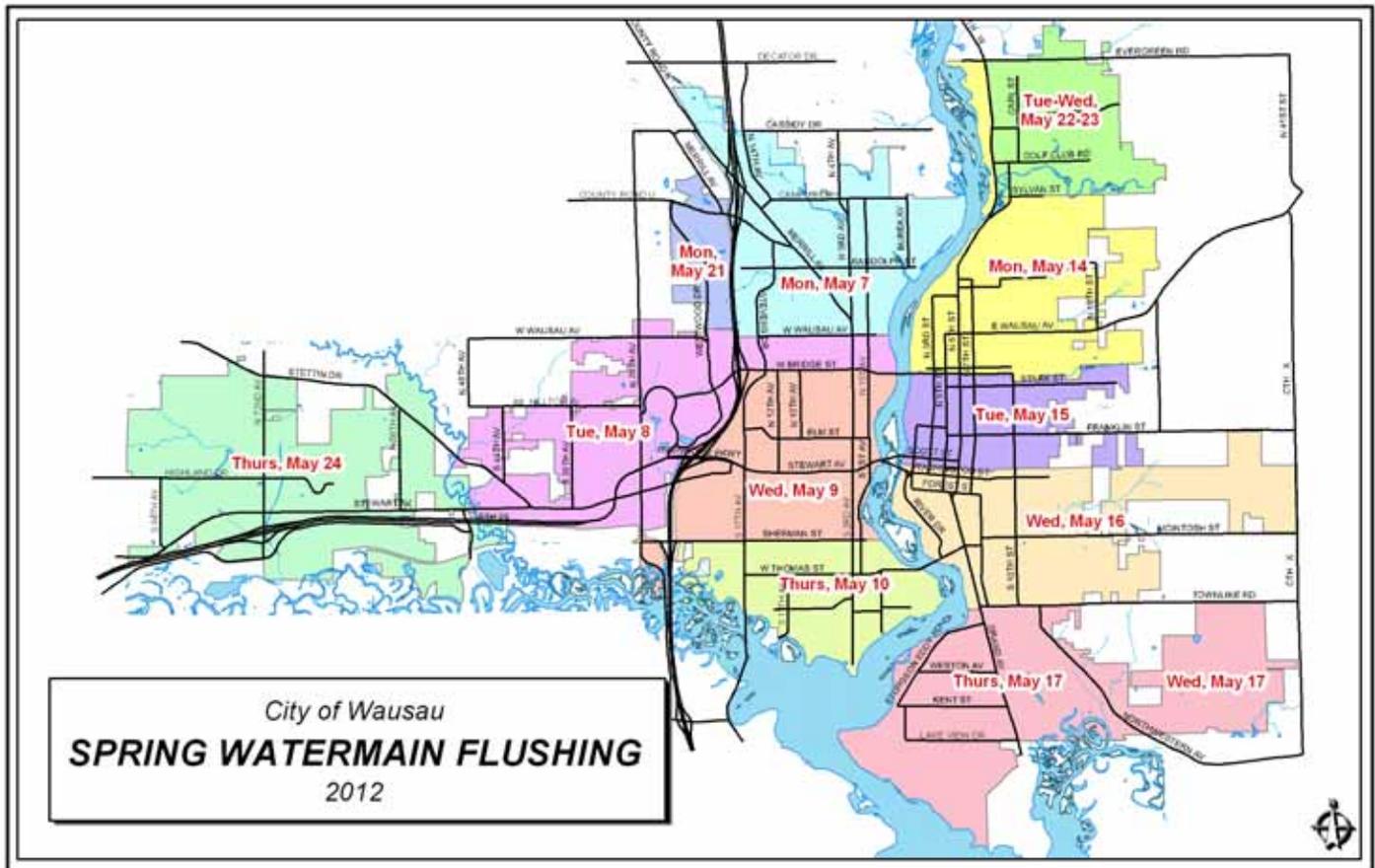
Call Diggers Hotline Before You Dig

Homeowners are reminded to call Diggers Hotline at 811 prior to digging to avoid the possibility of hitting buried utility lines such as water, sewer, electric, gas, etc. Wausau Water Works only marks the mains in the street and the water lateral to the boulevard.

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 7 - West Wausau Avenue north to City limits.
Tuesday night, May 8 - Wausau Avenue south to Bridge Street and Pinecrest area to Stettin Drive, west to 48th Avenue and north to Hilltop Avenue.
Wednesday night, May 9 - Oak Street south to Sherman Street.
Thursday night, May 10 - Rosecrans Street south to City limits.

EAST SIDE

Monday night, May 14 - Bridge Street north to Sylvan Street; 6th Street to City Limits (Evergreen Road), Riverview Court and Riverview Drive
Tuesday night, May 15 - Bridge Street south to Jefferson Street
Wednesday night, May 16 - Jefferson Street south to Town Line Road and Northwestern Avenue
Thursday night, May 17 - Town Line Road south to City limits.

OTHER AREAS

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

Monday, May 21 - High Pressure Zone by 28th Avenue Reservoir, Highway U.
Tuesday and Wednesday, May 22-23 - Riverview Area
Thursday, May 24 - 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

