



# WAUSAU WATERWORKS

FOR YOU!

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## Annual Hydrant Flushing to Begin at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, May 4

Water utility employees will begin flushing fire hydrants at 7:30 a.m. on Monday morning, May 4, 2015, 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.

Unlike previous years, the flushing will be performed during the daytime hours from 7:30 a.m. until about 3:00 p.m. during which time over 1600 hydrants will be flushed. This process takes three weeks to complete. The change to the schedule this year to do all the flushing during daylight hours is to improve safety for our employees as well as being able to ensure that hydrants are being adequately flushed. **A complete schedule of the hydrant flushing is printed on page 3 of this newsletter.**

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.



## Water Rates Increase April 1, 2015

Water rates for City of Wausau residents increased as of April 1, 2015. For the average family of four, based on 2400 cu. ft., water rates will increase from \$56.01 to \$66.00 per quarter, or \$3.33 per month. A family of two that uses 1200 cu. ft. will likely see about a \$1.69 per month increase. Public Fire Protection fees will also increase from \$8.96 to \$9.57 per quarter (based on the smallest residential meter size).

In July, 2014, Wausau Water Works submitted a request to the Public Service Commission (PSC) to review our rates to ensure adequate funds for operations, infrastructure replacements and debt service. The PSC performed a cost of study analysis and determined the rates to be charged each of the customer classes. A full schedule of rates is shown on page 4 of this newsletter.

Although we understand that no one likes to see their water bills increase, we remind customers that the utility does not get any financing through the city tax rolls. Our operating revenues are solely obtained through our rates. Our last full rate increase was put into place in 2006. Water, which is needed to sustain life, continues to be one of the lowest priced commodities available.

## Private Well Permits

With the days getting warmer and longer, it urges us to get out and work on our lawns and gardens. With that in mind, Wausau Water Works reminds property owners that the WDNR requires permits for any property in the City of Wausau that has a private well. The cost of the permit is \$15.00 for five years. In order to obtain a permit, the well must be inspected and pass a bacteriological test. Owners of any property with a well that does not have a current permit should make arrangements to have the well inspected and permitted as soon as possible by a licensed well driller or pump installer. Any well that fails the bacteriological test twice must be abandoned by a licensed well driller or pump installer.

For more information on either permitting or abandoning a private well, please contact Deb Geier at 715-261-7262.

## Deferred Payment Agreements

Residents with past due or large water and sewer bills may request deferred payment agreements to help them pay off balances prior to bills being transferred to the property taxes. Inquiries regarding deferred payment agreements may be made by calling Wausau Water Works at 715-261-6530. Please ask for Terry.

Please note that proof of income and monthly expenses may be required to help set up an equitable payment agreement.

## Testing of Lead Service Lines Still Available

Wausau Water Works is still looking to test properties with lead water service laterals. After the 2014 lead exceedance, staff met with the WDNR who advised that they would allow the utility to test lead water service laterals instead of replacing them. The cost savings is quite significant, with testing costs at approximately \$75.00-\$100.00 each versus approximately \$5,000.00-\$6,000.00 each to replace the City's portion of the lead lateral. While replacements will still be done in areas where there will be road reconstruction projects, we will still need to test approximately 325 homes to meet the requirements of the WDNR/EPA for this year. If you would like to see if your home qualifies to be tested, please contact Wausau Water Works at 715-261-7262.

Properties that should by chance test high will not be required to replace their service laterals at this time. However, it would be encouraged down the road if a road reconstruction project were to be done in your area. What is recommended is that you adequately flush the water line by running 1 to 2 gallons of water to draw fresh water in from the water main, anytime the water has sat unused for 6 hours or longer. This should be done from faucets from which you would normally drink, such as the kitchen or bathroom faucets. Wausau Water Works is working with Clark Dietz 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 715-261-7262.

## Call Diggers Hotline Before You Dig

Construction projects such as installing decks, fences and tree planting are another sign of spring. Homeowners are reminded to contact Diggers Hotline before you dig by simply dialing 811 from any land line or cell phone. Or, you can place an online request at [www.diggershotline.com](http://www.diggershotline.com)

Homeowners are also reminded that they must allow 3 business days (not including the day the request is called in) for all their utilities to be located before they dig, and should plan their projects accordingly. There is no cost to the homeowner to contact Diggers Hotline, who will then inform all utilities with buried facilities, such as water, sewer, gas and electric utilities, telephone and cable companies of your intentions to dig in a specific area.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## Happy Retirement!

Dick Boers, Water Superintendent, retired on April 3, 2015 after almost 39 years with Wausau Water Works. Over those 39 years, he oversaw many changes in the water department including additions of new wells, towers, reservoirs and a multi-million dollar addition to the water treatment plant. We thank Dick for his many years of service and wish him the happiest of retirements!

Dick's retirement opened up a promotion opportunity for Scott Boers who was promoted to the position of Water Superintendent. Congrats Scott and good luck on your new assignment!

# Spring Watermain Flushing Schedule

Utility crews will flush watermains through the operation of hydrants during **daytime hours from 7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.** Please note that this is a change from prior years when the hydrant flushing was performed overnight. You may want to draw a supply of water prior to your area being flushed. Please be aware that adjacent neighborhoods to the area being flushed may experience dirty water for short periods of time.

**Avoid water use during the scheduled flush, especially for laundry purposes.** 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, May 4** - West Wausau Avenue north to City limits

**Tuesday, May 5** - Wausau Avenue south to Bridge Street and Pinecrest area to Stettin Drive, west to 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and north to Hilltop Avenue.

**Wednesday May 6** - Oak Street south to Sherman Street

**Thursday, May 7** - Rosecrans Street south to City limits

### East Side

**Monday, May 11** - Steuben Street north to Sylvan Street; 6<sup>th</sup> Street to City limits (Evergreen Road), Riverview Court and Riverview Drive

**Tuesday, May 12** - Hamilton Street south to Forest Street

**Wednesday, May 13** - Kickbusch Street south to Town Line Road and Northwestern Avenue

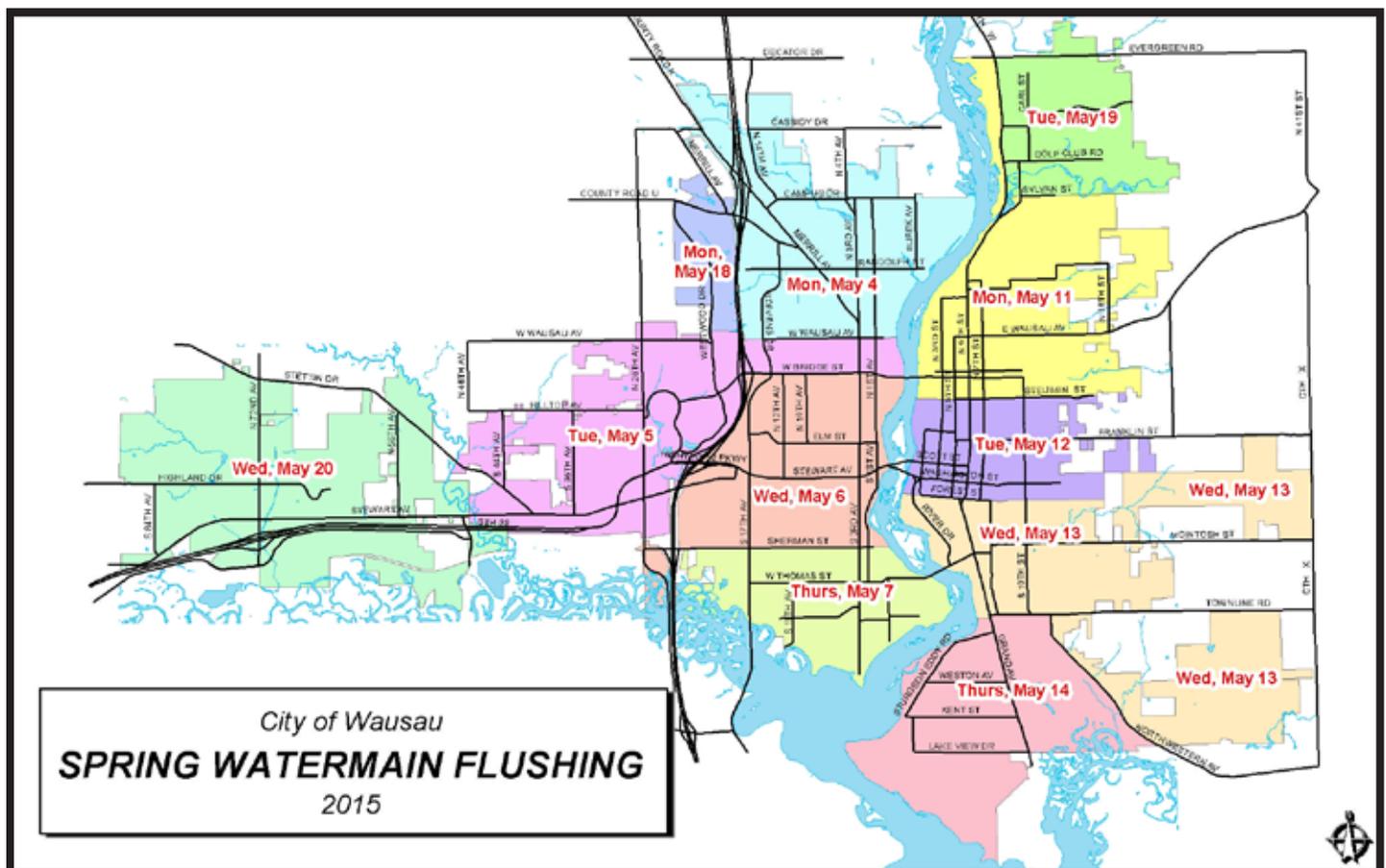
**Thursday, May 14** - Town Line Road south to City limits

### Other Areas

**Monday, May 18** - high pressure zone by 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue Reservoir, Highway U

**Tuesday, May 19** - Riverview area

**Wednesday, May 20** - 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue west to City limits



# Water Works Rate Schedule

## Water Rates: Effective 4/1/15

**Quarterly Service Charge** (based on meter size)

5/8 Inch Meter . . . . .	\$ 15.60
3/4 Inch Meter . . . . .	15.60
1 Inch Meter . . . . .	25.50
1-1/4 Inch Meter . . . . .	37.20
1-1/2 Inch Meter . . . . .	45.00
2 Inch Meter . . . . .	66.00
3 Inch Meter . . . . .	118.50
4 Inch Meter . . . . .	171.00
6 Inch Meter . . . . .	318.00
8 Inch Meter . . . . .	486.00
10 Inch Meter . . . . .	711.00
12 Inch Meter . . . . .	936.00

**Plus Volume Charge:**

**Residential Customers**

All water used - \$2.10 per 100 cu. ft.

**Non-Residential Customers**

First 6,000 cu. ft. \$2.10 per 100 cu. ft.  
 Next 54,000 cu. ft. used - \$1.95 per 100 cu. ft.  
 Over 60,000 cu. ft. used - \$1.65 per 100 cu. ft.

**Irrigation Class**

All water used - \$3.00 per 100 cu. ft.

Bills for water and sewer service are issued quarterly and due the 20th of the month. A 1% late payment charge is added to the outstanding balance after the 20th of each month and is applicable to all customers. To avoid late payment charges, all bills must be received in the office of the City Treasurer by the due date printed on the front of the bill. Customers who pay at remote collection sites (grocery stores) are recommended to make payments prior to due dates to ensure timely receipt by the City Treasurer.

## Public Fire Protection Fees: Effective 4/1/15

**Quarterly Service Charge** (based on meter size)

5/8 Inch Meter . . . . .	\$ 9.57
3/4 Inch Meter . . . . .	9.57
1 Inch Meter . . . . .	23.94
1-1/4 Inch Meter . . . . .	35.43
1-1/2 Inch Meter . . . . .	47.88
2 Inch Meter . . . . .	76.62
3 Inch Meter . . . . .	144.00
4 Inch Meter . . . . .	240.00
6 Inch Meter . . . . .	480.00
8 Inch Meter . . . . .	765.00
10 Inch Meter . . . . .	1,149.00
12 Inch Meter . . . . .	1,533.00

## Sewer Rates: Effective 1/1/11

**Quarterly Service Charge** (based on water meter size)

5/8 Inch Meter . . . . .	\$ 17.00
3/4 Inch Meter . . . . .	17.00
1 Inch Meter . . . . .	23.00
1-1/4 Inch Meter . . . . .	32.00
1-1/2 Inch Meter . . . . .	37.00
2 Inch Meter . . . . .	62.00
3 Inch Meter . . . . .	112.00
4 Inch Meter . . . . .	183.00
6 Inch Meter . . . . .	361.00
8 Inch Meter . . . . .	568.00

**Plus Volume Charge:**

All volume, as recorded by the water meter each quarter shall be charged at the rate of \$2.59 per 100 cubic ft.

All customers are billed for sewer based on the amount of water used each quarter. Unmetered sewer rate is \$68.80 per quarter in the City and \$85.85 per quarter outside the City.

## Private Fire Protection Charges: Effective 4/1/15

This service is for unmetered connections to the main for the purpose of supplying water to private fire protection systems such as automatic sprinkler systems, standpipes, (where same are connected permanently or continuously to the mains) and private hydrants.

2 Inch or Smaller Connection . . . . .	\$ 12.00
3 Inch Connection . . . . .	22.50
4 Inch Connection . . . . .	37.50
6 Inch Connection . . . . .	75.00
8 Inch Connection . . . . .	120.00
10 Inch Connection . . . . .	180.00
12 Inch Connection . . . . .	240.00

## Charges For Turning On Service

Turn on valve at curb (includes meter installation if needed)

During Normal Business Hours . . . . .	\$ 60.00
After Hours . . . . .	100.00

## Lateral Connections

1" Water Lateral Connection . . . . .	Based on Time and Materials
1-1/2" or Larger Water Lateral . . . . .	Based on Time and Materials

## Missed Appointment Fees

During Normal Business Hours . . . . .	\$ 60.00
After Hours . . . . .	100.00

## Miscellaneous

Payments Not Honored by Financial Institution . .	\$ 40.00
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