

## NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

MAY 20 - 26, 2018

This year will mark the third year that the City's Public Works crew will be celebrating Public Works Awareness Week. This year the dates are May 20-26. Highlights of the week will include a Touch-a-Truck-type program with all 2nd graders in River Falls. A Mayoral Proclamation and an appreciation lunch for all Public Works and Utility employees.



### MAINTAINING BUFFER ZONES

Buffers have been intentionally built into areas abutting parkland and stormwater ponds. Please do not mow; place sheds, playgrounds, and/or other structures; or dump waste or yard material in these buffers. If noxious weeds become a problem in these zones, contact City staff who will assist in the management of these areas.

### DRINKING WATER WEEK

MAY 6 - 12, 2018



For more than 40 years the American Water Works Association and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together in recognizing the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Drinking Water Week is celebrated the first full week in May each year. Please join the River Falls Municipal Utilities Water Department and AWWA as we celebrate drinking water! This year the theme is "Protect the Source."



## RIVER FALLS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

City Hall, 222 Lewis Street

Office Hours: M-F 8a.m. - 5p.m.

www.rfmu.org

715-425-0906

**After Hours utility emergency outage number:**  
715-852-1715

**Pay your bill by phone:**  
877-885-7968

### PUBLIC WORKS

950 Benson Street

Office Hours: M-F 8a.m. - 5p.m.

www.rfcity.org

715-425-0900

**After Hours emergency contact RFPD:**  
715-425-0909

### HOLIDAYS

#### CITY HALL AND ADVANCED DISPOSAL SCHEDULE

- Memorial Day (May 28th)
- Independence Day (July 4th)

City Hall will be closed. Advance Disposal garbage and recycling will have a one-day pickup delay.

### SPRING CLEAN UP WEEK

MAY 14 - 19, 2018

Spring Clean Up is May 14-19 at the City Public Works Garage (950 Benson Street) for Advanced Disposal customers.

Hours of operation:

Monday through Friday, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### CONTACT UPDATE

If we do not have your up-to-date phone number(s), please contact us so that we can contact you about important utility and garbage services information. Submit your updated telephone number via email at [rfmu@rfcity.org](mailto:rfmu@rfcity.org) or call us at 715-425-0906.



## CITY OF RIVER FALLS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS

# NEWSLETTER

*Spring 2018*



### INSIDE:

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## EMERALD ASH BORER SPRING UPDATE

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive insect that attacks and kills all species of ash trees. EAB has been slowly spreading closer to River Falls from many different directions in the past few years and has now been positively identified on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River across from Kinnickinnic State Park to our west, less than seven miles away.



The insect in its larval stage can be transported beneath the bark of infected ash firewood. As of March 30, 2018, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) enacted a statewide quarantine for ash firewood. This new statewide quarantine means that firewood can be transported between counties within the state, making it easier for our area to become infected from an outside source. Careless firewood movement is the number one factor that aids the spread of EAB, so be cautious this summer about moving firewood especially into our city or compost site. Once EAB is here, it isn't leaving.

Fortunately, homeowners with ash trees on their property have options. EAB can be effectively treated if the homeowner wishes for their tree to be preserved. For more information on this invasive threat and how you can help mitigate it, visit the Urban Forestry page at [www.rfcity.org](http://www.rfcity.org).

## RENEWABLE ENERGY OPTIONS

Green energy blocks: The River Falls community ranks #1 in the state and #4 in the nation for the percentage of customers participating in voluntary green energy programs. Get 300 kilowatt hours of clean, renewable electricity for only \$3 a month. As an added bonus, you will receive two LED light bulbs or a home performance test for only \$25, for signing up ([rfmu.org/greenblock](http://rfmu.org/greenblock)).



Community solar: Solar has never been more affordable and available. Community solar allows everyone to participate regardless of shading or roof access. Purchase a share in community solar and receive a monthly credit on your utility bill equivalent to the amount of energy produced by the panel. Your share(s) can be sold, transferred, or gifted at any time.

Renewable Energy grant for Nonprofits: Nonprofits, like churches, sports venues, and schools, have received these generous grants to help install solar on their roofs. Rooftop solar is a great way to reduce costs and your carbon footprint.

For more information on renewable energy options, visit [rfmu.org](http://rfmu.org) or call Mike Noreen at 715-426-3467.

## IRRIGATION

For those City residents who rely on in-ground irrigation during the summer months, a reminder that your system must have a backflow preventer that may need to be tested annually.

For more information, contact Greg Koehler at [gkoehler@rfcity.org](mailto:gkoehler@rfcity.org) (also see information about odd-even watering).



## SPRING YARD SAFETY REMINDER

Contact with electricity can result in serious injury or even death. Follow these tips to stay safe:

- ALWAYS assume that electric lines and equipment are energized, even when overhead lines are lying on the ground and/or equipment is damaged.
- Before working outside, always look up and all around for overhead electric lines.
- Keep yourself and any tool you're using at least 10 feet away from overhead electric lines and carry all tools horizontally, especially ladders.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from a downed power line and any nearby object(s) it may be touching, such as a fence or tree limb(s).
- Never touch a person who is in contact with a downed power line as you could become the next victim. Call 911 immediately.
- If a fallen power line is resting on or near your vehicle, stay in the vehicle until first responders clear the scene.
- Always call 811 or 800-242-8511 to the Diggers Hotline before you start any underground digging project on your property!

## ADOPT-A-POND

Are you looking for a great outdoor activity to share with friends and family - and keep the river healthy? Consider adopting a stormwater pond!

For more information, please contact Zach Regnier at 715-426-3457, [zregnier@rfcity.org](mailto:zregnier@rfcity.org) or check out [www.rfcity.org/adopt](http://www.rfcity.org/adopt)



## ROAD, STREET AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The City of River Falls takes seriously the maintenance of our roadways. As a result, there may be some minor inconvenience at times over the summer. Like taking care of the exterior of your house, we approach our streets in a similar fashion.

Think of crack sealing as a caulking and sealing of the exterior of your home. A chip seal is like applying a coat of paint to your home to preserve the longevity of the surface. Once the surface is beyond repair, a mill and overlay is needed, like replacing the siding on your house. We anticipate several projects around the City again this summer, especially North Main and the west side of town.

While the inconvenience is noted, it is an important part of our stewardship of City assets. We will provide additional information closer to when the projects are expected to begin, via Facebook and / or neighborhood mailers. We also anticipate a few trail projects this summer around the community. Most of it will entail crack sealing and some sealcoating.

## CABLE ACCESS VIEWERSHIP SURVEY

The City of River Falls is currently studying its public access cable program, RFC-TV, which is made available to Comcast customers in the River Falls area on Channel 16. If you watch RFC-TV, City staff would be interested to know how often and what you watch. Online surveys are available via a link at [www.rfcity.org/rfctv](http://www.rfcity.org/rfctv). Paper surveys are available at the Library and City Hall, or by calling Mary Zimmermann at 715-426-3405. The survey deadline is **MAY 15, 2018**.

### NOTE:

City programming was also formerly available on Channel 18; however, all programming has now been consolidated on Channel 16 (including broadcasts of City meetings). WEAU-13 News from Eau Claire will continue to broadcast as usual on Channel 18.

## ODD-EVEN WATERING

A reminder that watering is allowed before 8 a.m. and after 7 p.m. on an odd/even schedule from May 1- Sept. 30. This means that residents and businesses with addresses ending in an even number may water lawns on even-numbered calendar days.

Likewise, those with addresses ending in an odd number may water on odd numbered days. For more information visit, [rfmu.org/watering](http://rfmu.org/watering).