



CITY OF ST. CLAIR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September/October 2017



STORM SEWERS ...

and why you shouldn't rake leaves or mow grass clippings into them!!

City storm sewers are designed to carry rain water (commonly referred to as 'storm water'), surface run-off and snow melt to the river.

Storm sewers are not designed to handle leaves, grass clippings and other yard debris. During rainstorms, grass clippings, leaves and other yard debris can plug storm drains/grates and accumulate in the pipes, contributing to clogs and back-ups. In heavy rain events these clogs and back-ups can cause flooding.

In addition to grass clippings, leaves and debris, storm water often contains materials found on streets and parking lots such as oil, antifreeze, gasoline, soil, litter, pet wastes, fertilizers and pesticides. When even small amounts of these materials enter lakes and streams, they become pollutants that can kill fish and reduce water aesthetics.

Grass clippings, leaves, twigs and other yard debris ... when it rains, grass clippings, leaves and other yard debris can end up in storm drains, causing blockages. Preventing these blockages is easy.

- Compost grass clippings.
- Keep mowed grass off the street by mowing grass into the yard not into the street.
- Do not rake grass or leaves into the street or curb/gutter. It can plug city drainage systems.
- Do not allow soil, leaves or grass clippings to accumulate on driveways, sidewalks, or in streets.



RECREATIONAL CAMPFIRE

SIZE:	3' X 3' in diameter with a flame height not more than 4'
LOCATION:	at least 15' from any structure or property line
WOOD:	clean, dry, untreated wood in lengths of 3' or less
WEATHER:	consider wind and weather conditions prior to lighting a campfire
SMOKE:	minimal detectable smoke, odor or soot should be noticed beyond the property line
SUPERVISION:	campfires should be attended by a person 18 years of age or older
EXTINGUISH:	extinguish the campfire completely before leaving the site

While burning a recreational campfire, every effort should be taken to avoid creating a nuisance or a health or safety hazard.

Recreational campfires are prohibited when the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept. or other authority has issued a burning ban.





HIGHER THAN USUAL WATER BILL?

The water and sewer portion of your City Utility bill is based on your water consumption ... so, if your water bill is higher than usual, you're using more water than usual.

A number of factors can contribute to an increase in water usage ... do some investigating both inside and outside your home.

INSIDE YOUR HOME:

- Do you have a toilet that won't shut-off after flushing? A toilet that keeps 'running' or 'sticks' after you flush, can account for hundreds of gallons of water in just 1 day.
- Do you have a dripping or leaky faucet? Even a slow drip or a small seemingly insignificant leak can add up quickly.
- Is your water softener functioning properly? Make sure your softener (especially if it's an older model) isn't cycling more frequently than necessary.
- Have you had additional people staying with you? More people in the household means more showers, more laundry and more water use in general.

OUTSIDE WATERING:

- Have you been doing extra outdoor watering or sprinkling? Watering your lawn or garden can increase your water consumption substantially.
- Have you filled your pool or washed your vehicle?
- Was an outside faucet or hose left on accidentally?

Any of these factors can drastically increase water consumption.

Still not sure ... CHECK YOUR WATER METER!

When you are sure that no one in your household is using water (make sure the dishwasher, washing machine, etc. aren't running), look at your water meter ... if the center, triangular dial is moving, you have a leak or are using water somewhere!

Contact the City Clerk at 245-3494 if you have questions about your water bill or water consumption.

COMPOST FACILITY

The City of St. Clair does not maintain a compost facility. SMC offers composting services, a per-bag or per-load fee is charged. Finished compost and wood mulch are offered for sale. For current fees, please call SMC at 507-388-3122. The SMC Compost Site is located at 57032 ~ 231 Lane, Mankato (off of 3rd Avenue).

MATERIALS ACCEPTED: leaves, grass clippings, prunings, weeds, sod stripping, vines, limbs, branches and logs.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: animal waste, dirty stumps, plastic lawn edging, flower pots, and plastic leaf bags.

INOPERABLE, UNLICENSED VEHICLES



All vehicles must have current license tabs and must be in working order. Vehicles not licensed and not in working order must be stored in a garage or removed from the property.



CALL 911 FOR ANY POLICE, FIRE or MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Since 1970, the City of St. Clair has contracted with the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept. for police protection.

Call 911 to report any fire, medical emergency, police emergency or when witnessing any unusual or suspicious person, activity or behavior.

If in doubt as to whether to situation warrants a 911 call ... be on the safe side ... **CALL 911!**

