

2026 Budget & Utility Rates

The City Council adopted the 2026 budgets and levy at their regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 9th. The City tax rate is decreasing by 0.45%. City Council adopted a general fund levy increase of 6.02% which is 2.05% below the preliminary levy average of 8.02% for all Carver County cities and is offset by the increased tax capacity. The impact on the average valued home (\$312,800) in Watertown will be about \$28.88 annually or \$2.41 per month.

Council also approved the 2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Utility Rates. The proposed Utility rate increases are 5.2% for water, 15% for sanitary sewer, and 37.5% for storm water. Additional details can be found in the city council work session agenda from 11/12/25 on the city website.

*Any updates or changes will be posted on the city website.

Garbage & Recycling Containers

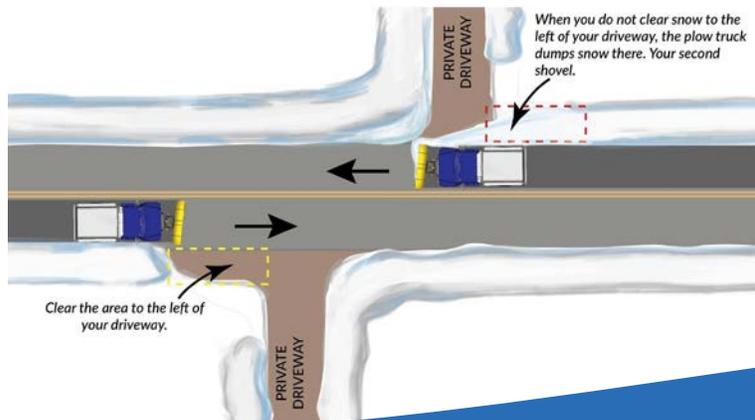
Garbage cans and recycling containers should be placed behind the curb in the boulevard or driveway. They become a plowing and traffic hazard when placed in the street.



Why Do Snow Plows Block My Driveway With Snow When They Clear the Road?

Public Works is sorry for this inconvenience. Unfortunately, this is unavoidable since our first responsibility is to clear the roads for safe passage. While snow plow operators try to minimize the amount of snow that is plowed into driveways, it is the owner's responsibility to clear their driveway opening. To avoid extra shovel work, try to shovel after the snow plow has driven by, and shovel the snow to the right side of your driveway as you face the road.

How to Prevent the "Second Shovel":



Watertown Library

Building Together, Ages 5+

- Saturday, January 3, 9:30-11:30am
We've got the supplies you bring your imagination to this self-guided building time!

Crafty Thursday

- Thursday, January 8, 11:15am – 4:00pm
Drop in self-directed family fun!

Family Story time

- Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 am,
January 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

Watertown Book Club

- Monday, January 26, 6:00-7:00pm

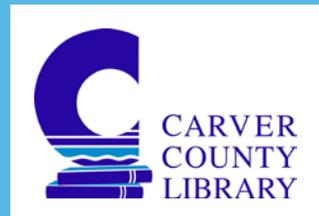
Winter Reads

- January – February

Adults Reads

- Winter Reads for adults (18+) runs January through February 2026. Read or listen to books, do reviews, and enter to win one of our prizes.

*More info in the Library or at carverlib.org





309 Lewis Ave S, PO Box 279
Watertown, MN 55388

Tray Number Bundle Number Sort Position Endorsement Line
Full Name
OR CURRENT OCCUPANT
Address Line 1
Address Line 2
City State ZIP Code

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
WATERTOWN, MN
PERMIT #64

Christmas Tree Recycling Options

🌲 The Watertown-Mayer High School Ecology Club will be doing **FREE** curbside pick-up of real trees on **Saturday, January 10th from 9:00 am to Noon**. **Residents should have their tree at the curb the night before and have all ornaments, tinsel, lights, etc. removed from the tree.** If trees are larger than 8 feet, please cut into sections and ensure the tree is not buried in snow or ice.

🌲 Real trees can also be disposed of for **FREE** at the City's compost site during daylight hours seven days per week at 700 Lewis Ave N. Trees must be free of ornaments, tinsel, lights, etc. when they are dropped off.

🌲 For those who miss the curbside collection date and wish to have their tree picked up, the City's municipal waste hauler, **Republic Services will do a collection of real trees on Friday, January 16th ONLY. Please be advised that customers will see a charge of \$32.00 on their next invoice for this service. Residents should have their tree at the curb the night before and have all ornaments, tinsel, lights, etc. removed from the tree.** If trees are larger than 8 feet, please cut into sections and ensure the tree is not buried in snow or ice.

Ice Rink Update

Due to the warmer temperatures thus far, our ice rink has not been able to maintain enough water to make good ice. Until we have colder temps to retain a normal depth of ice, the rink is unskatable. We will post on the City's Facebook page as soon as the rink is up and running!



City Notifications

Signing up for city notifications is as easy as 1, 2, 3...
Go to www.watertownmn.gov

1. Type your email address in the box & select **Sign In**
2. If you want to receive text messages enter your phone number and select **Save**
3. To subscribe or unsubscribe click  and/or  next to the lists to which you want to subscribe/unsubscribe.

You can get notified about, City Newsletter, Agendas, Alerts, Bid Postings, and Job Openings. Sign up today and stay informed.
You can also like our Facebook Page: City of Watertown—City Government.

Upcoming Events:

Brought to you in partnership with the Watertown Commission on Aging.

Coffee with a HealthCare Professional ADVANCED CARE PLANNING

Join us for our new series, Coffee with a Healthcare Professional. Our February 2026 session will be presented by a Hospice Educator on Advanced Care Planning. It offers an overview of advanced care planning, including advance health care directives, and the role of family, loved ones and healthcare providers in decision-making. Attendees learn to evaluate personal values and wishes, potential healthcare concerns and how treatment may impact quality of life.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026  **10AM - 12PM**



HELD AT WATERTOWN MAYER COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

We are excited to welcome Watertown resident Katelyn Roiland, a St. Croix Hospice Educator, who will be presenting this course.

This event is free, however pre-registration is required. To register, please go to wm.ce.eleyo.com or call Community Education at 952-955-0280

First Annual Winter Frolic

Saturday, Feb. 14th – Feb. 21st

- Murder Mystery Dinner at Leonardo's
- Puzzle Twist (puzzle competition; puzzle swap)
- Cocoa Crawl
- Storytime at Hearthside Books (1:00pm 2/14/26)
- Activities Monday, Feb. 16th for kids (no school)
- More details developing ...



Follow our social media posts for latest updates/events:

- @watertownmnfestivals – Instagram
- @watertownmnfestivals – FaceBook

Purse Bingo is Back!

Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation will be hosting a Purse Bingo Fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026

\$35 in advance/ \$40 at the door. Space limited to 100.

Bingo will be held at the Luce Line Lodge in Watertown, MN.

Includes 10 Bingo games/ Extra cards available for purchase/ Food and drinks available

All proceeds benefit student scholarships and teacher grants in Watertown-Mayer Schools.

Look for registration information on our social media.