**Mendota News**



**City of Mendota**

P. O. Box 50688

Mendota, MN 55150

Phone: 612-803-0517

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Kathy Krotter, City Clerk

**Council Members:**

Brian Mielke, Mayor: 612-270-9091

Joan Perron: 651-452-9359

Steve Golias: 651-452-1837

Melody Rasmussen: 651-454-6442

Clark Donnelly: 651-785-5790

**Building Permits:**

MNSpect - Building Official:

952-442-7520

Mailing Address: 235 First St. W Waconia, MN 55368

**Police:**

Kelly McCarthy, Chief of Police:

Non-emergency: 651-452-1366

Emergency: 911

**Fire:**

Emergency: 911

**City Attorney:**

Tom Loonan, City Attorney:

715-808-8842

**The City of Mendota holds City Council Meetings at 7:30 on the second Tuesday of every month at the**

**VFW Post 6690**

**1323 Sibley Memorial Hwy.**

**Mendota, MN 55150**

**Fall 2023**

**Organics**

For cities without a new organics drop-off site opening in 2023.

**Wasted food is wasted money (or Save money by saving the food) No one wants to waste food. Yet 40 percent of all food goes uneaten each year in the United States – wasting the water, energy, labor and land used to grow it. That waste adds up at home, too. All the spoiled meat and limp lettuce costs the average family of four $1,500 a year.**

**From farm to fridge, more food is wasted in our homes than any other part of the supply chain. Luckily, that means we have the power to make a difference in our own kitchens. Join the Save the Food Challenge to learn how to make small shifts in how we shop, prepare and store food to help reduce wasted food and save money.**

**Get tools and join the challenge at www.dakotacounty.us, search save the food.**

**And for all the banana peels and chicken bones that we can’t eat, sign up for Dakota County’s free Organics Drop Off program to turn food waste into beneficial compost.**

**For cities with new sites in 2023**

**Food scraps drop-off site coming to Mendota Heights**

**Say ‘hello’ to the newest organics collection location in Dakota County. The Mendota Heights drop-off site located at Mendakota Park, 2171 Dodd Road, open already. Residents can bring food scraps to the site for free — join our community challenge to have 40 residents sign up.**

**Organics collection goes beyond backyard composting by also accepting meat, bones and dairy products. The collected food waste goes to a commercial compost facility near Rosemount where it’s processed at higher temperatures to kill bacteria and break down larger pieces.**

**All participants receive helpful tips and free compostable bags to use at home. Sign up online at www.dakotacounty.us, search organics drop off, call 952-891-7557 or email organics@co.dakota.mn.us.**

**Partially funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Dakota County**

**Autumn Leaves**

Wherever leaves fall, they decompose and restock the soil with nutrients and organic matter.

But when there is no soil to land on—such as on a street or sidewalk—the leaves and all their decomposing bits wash down the street and into the storm drain. They go directly into lakes and rivers where the nutrients will feed unwanted algae growth next summer. In addition to a major "ick" factor, this algae is a problem because when it dies and decomposes at the bottom of the lake it uses up oxygen that fish and native plants need.

Don't "leaf" it up to someone else to solve this problem! Here's what to do with your autumn leaves so that they nourish the soil and not unwanted algae.

Rake the leaves that have accumulated along your curb, sidewalk, and alley. Several times during the fall, rake up the leaves that have accumulated along your curb and sidewalk. Never trash or burn your leaves:

Don't add leaves to the regular trash (its illegal!) and don't burn them. Burning leaves releases large amounts of air pollution. These pollutants can cause breathing problems for sensitive groups and lead to long-term health effects for all of us.

Put leaves in your backyard compost pile:

One of the best ways to use leaves (from the street or the yard) is to compost them in your backyard. Learn how to compost in your backyard.

Tip: If your bin isn't big enough to accommodate all your leaves, put early and late season leaves in the bin, then on your main raking weekend bring the rest to a compost or yard waste drop-site. If you have room, also bag up and store some dry leaves to use a carbon source ("browns") in your compost pile during the coming year.

Use leaves to mulch your garden and lawn

Whole or shredded leaves can be used as mulch. Mulch benefits the soil and reduces weeds. On the lawn, use a mower to break apart the leaves so that they fall between the blades of grass (consider using an electric mower, since two-cycle gas lawn mowers, especially older models, produce large amounts of air pollution). Don't let the leaf layer get too thick! In garden beds, leaves provide a protective layer of insulation for perennial gardens and shrubbery, either bagged or loose.

Drop leaves off at a compost site. Another option is to drop off your leaves and sticks at a compost site near you. Depending on where you live, these may be called “yard waste” or "brush” drop sites. Contact your county for drop-off site locations, items accepted and any fees involved. Consider curbside pick-up if you want a convenient option Your garbage hauler may separately collect yard waste--sometimes for an additional fee--and then bring it to a commercial compost site. Contact your garbage hauler to learn about your pick-up options.

**Snow Removal (Winter is right around the corner)**

The City of Mendota asks residents to be aware of city ordinances in regards to parking and snow removal. There is no parking on the street from November 15th to April 15th. Please do not park in such a manner as to obstruct or interfere with snow plowing or snow removal. Also, it is unlawful for any person to deposit snow/ice into the roadway. All snow and ice should be removed from public sidewalks 12 hours after the snow has ceased to fall.

The city thanks you for your cooperation.