

## Property Owner Responsibility for Water and Sewer Service Lines

**Water and sewer customers are often unaware that they are responsible for sewer and water service lines which go from the utility connections at the street to their homes.**

The lines are located underground and often enter homes from beneath the basement floor. If these lines collapse, break or leak, repairs can necessitate ground excavation, basement floor removal/replacement and sometimes street repair/replacement. Repair and replacement of service lines can be expensive.



Due to the location of these service lines, most property owners are not in a position to know the condition of their service lines or even their composition. Service lines which were installed by builders have evolved in recent years. Depending on their age, buildings in the area may have Orangeburg, cast iron, clay, tile, PVC or service lines comprised of other material. The composition of these lines can impact their longevity. In addition, the lines can be damaged in various ways including but not limited to root damage, settling, rust, decomposition and/or intrusion by surrounding soil content. While no service line is immune from the need for repair or replacement, older homes of course have older lines.

While service line failures are not widespread in Waukeee, some residents may be interested in options available to mitigate potential costs should they experience the need for a service line repair or replacement. The City of Waukeee is aware that warranties are offered in the private marketplace which may provide warranty coverage for water and sewer service lines. One such company is Service Line Warranties of America (SLWA) which has been recommended by the National League of Cities and has been offering service line warranties nationally since 2003. SLWA currently provides warranties to residents in more than 50 cities in Iowa.

Residents interested in such warranty programs are encouraged to investigate and read any Service Line Warranty Program's information carefully to determine the applicable coverage and exclusions and whether a warranty program is the right choice for you and your property. The City of Waukeee would like to reiterate that **participation in any such service line warranty is completely voluntary**. The City is not affiliated, partnered or otherwise endorsing any service line warranty or company.

**Questions can be directed to the Waukeee Public Works Department at 515-978-7920.**

## Empty Your Pool and Spa with Care

This is it - the end of the summer and time to empty the pool until next year. Chlorine and other chemicals used to keep your pool or spa clean cause BIG problems for fish and other aquatic life. Follow these steps to avoid compromising water downstream.



- Allow the pool or spa to sit for at least 7 days without adding chlorine or other chemicals; the chlorine content should be 0.1 milligrams per liter.
- Ensure the pH of the pool / spa water is between 7 and 8.
- Drain water through at least 15 feet of a grassy landscape first (i.e. not directly onto concrete) to allow remaining chemicals to dissipate before reaching the storm drain.
- Keep the flow of water low (aim for 700 gallons per hour = 12 gallons per minute or so) in order to prevent erosion and having to fix the landscaped area later.

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## City Offices Closed for Labor Day; Trash Delays Planned

All City of Waukee offices, including the Waukee Public Library, will be closed Monday, Sept. 7 in observance of Labor Day. There will be no garbage, recycling or yard waste collection on Labor Day. Yard waste will be collected on Tuesday, Sept. 8; garbage and recycling collection will run on a Tuesday through Saturday schedule.

