



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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Energy Wise Tip ~ Which Tip



Here's a simple energy-saving strategy: When a light is no longer needed, switch it "off." Unfortunately, it is one of the most overlooked efficiency opportunities in our daily lives. Since I had a father who was always shouting, "Mach die Licht ab!" (turn the light off in German), I am extra vigilant for lights, appliances or other things left "on" after they are no longer needed.

A U.S. Department of Energy study found the average U.S. household has more than 45 sockets for light bulbs, ranging from table lamps to ceiling fixtures. Combined with our active lifestyles and desire for convenience, it is easy to overlook an unnecessary light here and there. In fact, the International Dark-Sky Association, an environmental group, estimates that one-third of all lighting in the U.S. is wasted, at an annual cost of about \$2 billion.

To address this problem, here's another strategy: Change the switch! Rather than relying on you or your family members to remember to turn lights off by flipping the toggle switch on the wall, install a switch that automatically turns lights, fans, or other electrical loads off when they are no longer needed.

In the bathrooms, change

out the standard switch to the fan with a timer switch. While bathroom fans are essential for removing excess humidity, they often run long after bathing is complete. A timer switch ensures enough run-time but stops the unnecessary removal of conditioned air that your furnace or air conditioner will need to make more of.

Occupancy sensor switches are a great way to illuminate a room without flicking the switch. Occupancy sensors use passive infrared (PIR) and/or ultrasonic sensors to detect the presence or absence of occupants in a space. PIR detects occupants' presence by sensing the difference between heat emitted by moving people and background heat. Ultrasonic sensors detect the presence of people by sending ultrasonic sound waves into a space and measuring the speed at which they return. They look for frequency changes caused by a moving person. If no one is detected in a room after a pre-set period of time, the switch automatically turns the lights off.

A relative of the occupancy sensor switch is the vacancy sensor switch. Unlike an occupancy sensor, a person must manually turn the lights on. But when no one in the room is detected, a

vacancy sensor switches the lights off just like an occupancy sensor. These work especially well in teenagers' bedrooms as I have found my daughters very capable of turning these lights "on" but seldom "off."

A third option you may consider would be a smart switch. Most smart switch options use either Wi-Fi or ZigBee communications and pair directly with your home computer network or smartphone. Many smart switches offer built-in smart dimming capabilities, operation scheduling and can be paired with motion-, occupancy- and photo-sensors. As home automation becomes ever-more desired, smart switches are becoming popular in newly constructed homes.

Your local utility and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the best choices to shine a light on the subject! This includes helping you make the most of the energy you use throughout the year. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, contact your local utility.

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CITY COUNCIL
MEETINGS
March 7th
March 21st

VACANCIES

The City of Wayne is looking for people interested in serving on the following Boards and/or Commissions:

Board of Adjustment
Board of Appeal

If you are interested in serving your community by being on one of these boards/commission, please contact Betty McGuire, City Clerk, at (402) 375-1733.



Department News ~

Wayne Public Library ~



Weekly story hours are still going strong through the month of March. Mother Goose meets Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am; Evening story hour is Thursdays at 6:30 pm; and Saturday story hour begins at 10:30 a.m. Thursday and Saturday story hours meet through the last week of March, but you can still put the annual Easter Egg hunt on your calendar for Saturday, April 8th.

The Library has basic federal tax forms available. If you need forms that we don't have, the library staff can assist you with downloading forms or instructions from IRS.GOV. Staff members cannot provide any advice on identifying which forms you might need.

SCORE training for non-profit groups on Facebook will be held Tuesday, March 14th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room. The class is FREE, but registration must be made by calling 402-371-7786 or emailing,

juans@cfra.org

Adult Coloring Night, sponsored

by Pac-N-Save, will be held Tuesday, March 14th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Library. Give us a call at 402-375-3135 if you want to participate. Your call gives us an idea on what to plan for refreshments and materials. This is a FREE event, with all supplies furnished and open to high school graduates and older. This event is held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Try it for a change of pace.

The popular (and FREE) SmartPhone 101 class will be repeated Monday, March 20th, at 6:00 p.m. Some of the many things you can learn are: how to load Apps, using search engines on your phone, using SIRI (iphones), using maps, setting up vehicles with smart phones, and facebook on your smartphone. PLEASE bring your passwords for your phone (especially itunes). A SmartPhone 102 class is being developed for April. Class size is limited, so please register at the Library or by calling 402-375-3135.

The Library Book Club meets on Tuesday, March 28th, at 6:30 p.m. We will be reading a Nebraska author and setting true life crime book—*Evil Obsession* by Nellie Snyder Yost. The story takes place in the 1920s and tells the history of Annie Cook and the Poor Farm she managed in Lincoln County in the North Platte area. Newcomers are always welcome. The Library has multiple copies of this book for checkout.

The Friends of the Library are gearing up for their annual book sale, scheduled this year for April 6-7-8 at the city auditorium. Donations of books in good condition are still being accepted at the Library. Please call ahead if you have more than one or two boxes or sacks to donate. See you at the sale!



WISE WORDS

“Great leaders are not defined by the absence of weakness, but rather by the presence of clear strengths.”

~John Zenger

HELP WANTED!

Wayne Aquatic Center is now accepting applications for Asst. Pool Manager and Lifeguards.

Wayne CAC is now accepting applications for Outdoor Recreation Workers.

Please contact the Community Activity Center for more information at

402-375-4803

WE'RE HIRING!

Green Notes ~ Say Hello to Blossoms, Butterflies, Birds & Bees



We are all looking forward to spring, and there are many signs that it is approaching. One is the numerous seed and plant catalogs that many of us get in the mail. As you look through these catalogs and start to plan how to make your home look more colorful for the summer months, consider an important part of the system that makes those flowers and our fruits, vegetables, and many other crops possible – the pollinators. “Pollinators” refer not only to bees, but also to butterflies, some birds (like humming-

birds), and many insects.

Catalogs will often tell you which plants are most attractive to these busy little creatures. UNL Extension (www.extension.unl.edu/) also has information on-line to help in selection. The Xerces Society (www.xerces.org/) is another excellent source of pollinator information. If you want to be really eco-conscious you can start including native plants in your landscape. They not only support the pollinators but are better adapted to our climate, requiring less

water and less work once established.

Welcome summer and our helpful pollinators with beautiful blossoms this year.

For more tips on the Green Path to the Good Life, like the Wayne Green Team on Facebook or visit www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam.

