



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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Energy Wise Tip ~ Weatherization



It doesn't take more than one winter of living in Nebraska to know it gets cold here! While about half the energy used in your home goes toward keeping you comfortable, roughly six times more energy is needed to keep your home warm during the heating season compared to the amount of cooling needed in the summer. How can you reduce these costs without emptying your bank account? Weatherize!

According to ENER-GYSTAR®, many homeowners can realize savings of 20 percent or more on heating and cooling costs by improving the sealing and insulation of their home. Fortunately, many of these improvements can be completed by yourself at a small cost. Here's how to start.

First, identify air leaks and drafts in your home that are easy to find by "feeling" around. Frames around windows and doors are common sources of air leaks and are easy to pinpoint on cooler, windy days. Note that special, low-expansion foam is recommended for sealing around doorways and windows so frames are not squeezed to a point where the window or door will not close. Other leaks may take some hunting to find, such as holes hidden in attics, basements and crawlspaces.

Check around penetration areas that go through the outside of your home to see if they are sealed. These include entrances for utilities, air conditioner line sets, dryer vents, etc. When a potential leaky spot is found, seal it up with caulk, spray foam or weather stripping. Install foam gaskets behind outlets and switch plates located on exterior walls. Replace worn door sweeps and thresholds. If you can see daylight under a door leading outside, you have air leaks!

Next, take a look at your insulation. Usually, the easiest places to check are where it makes the biggest difference, such as in the attic. If your insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you definitely need to add more. It is recommended that attics in our area have an R-value of at least 38 or more. If your home has fiberglass batt or blown-in attic insulation, it should be at least one foot thick. If not, adding insulation is relatively easy to do and provides excellent energy savings when compared to cost. Wall cavities are more difficult to investigate, but should be insulated to have an R-value of at least 13. Adding insulation to walls can be difficult, but often contractors can blow in insulation from the exterior of your home without

disturbing the finished interior.

If you have ductwork in your home that runs through unheated areas such as the attic, crawlspaces or an unconditioned basement, they should be insulated and properly sealed. Leaks are often easily identified by operating your furnace or air-conditioning system and feeling around the ductwork for any escaping air. Most hardware stores carry aluminum foil tape or HVAC mastic that are specifically intended for sealing these types of air leaks.

While projects described above often take some effort to complete, their return of energy cost savings pays for itself very quickly. In some cases, such as caulking around leaky windows, material costs are covered in less than a couple winter months.

For additional ideas on how you can make your home comfortable and EnergyWiseSM this winter, contact your local electric utility or visit www.nppd.com. You may even find you are eligible for incentives to help with the cost of energy-saving home improvements.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 3rd
October 17th

Cross-Connection Control Survey Form

In the upcoming months, City of Wayne customers will receive a "Cross-Connection Control Survey Form" in the mail that needs to be completed and returned to the City Offices. This form will help prevent the accidental contamination of the City's drinking water.

The City of Wayne is required to do this not less than once every five years, and will greatly appreciate your cooperation.



Department News ~

Wayne Public Library ~

Fall children's programs begin the week of September 4th. Mother Goose meets Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m., beginning September 7th and Fall Story Time meets Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.



September is "Library Card" month. This would be a great time to switch out your old card for a new one that allows access to the Library's online and downloadable services. It's also the perfect time to get that first library card and see what all the Library has to offer.

Northeast Nebraska Public Health will return on September 5th from 11:00

a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with blood pressure checks and colon cancer kits. Stop by the Library/Senior Center Conference Room to visit with a representative.

Adult Coloring Night sponsored by PAC-N-SAVE meets Tuesday, September 12th, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Coloring pages & colors provided. Light refreshments. Open to high school grads and older.

The Library Book Club discussions resume for the fall months. We will be reading *Unmentionable: The Victorian lady's guide to sex, marriage, and manners* by Therese Oneill. Join us for a lively discussion on

Tuesday, September 27th, at 6:30 p.m. The book club is open to high school graduates and older. New members are always welcome.



The last "Junque in the Trunk" of the year will be September 30th from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Call to reserve your spot in the Library parking lot to sell your treasures.

The Library will be closed Monday, September 4th, to observe Labor Day. Sunday hours of 2:00 -5:00 p.m. will resume on September 10th.

WISE WORDS

"Train people well enough so they can leave; treat them well enough so they don't want to!!"

~Sir Richard Branson

The Air you Breathe ~

For some, the furnaces will soon release their first warm blast of air. For others, the air-conditioning continues to run. Whatever the case may be, the quality of the air you are breathing is worth considering. There are some ways to improve the quality of the air in your home:

- Cultivate your green thumb. Indoor plants are capable of removing pollutants such as formaldehyde and benzene from indoor air. Some plants that are particularly adept include peace lilies, Boston

ferns, and English ivy.

- Use gentle cleaning products. Simply switching to cleaners that are free of toxic chemicals and allergens can make a difference in your indoor air quality.
- Get rid of mold. Damp, poorly ventilated spaces are a breeding ground for mold. Use dehumidifiers to reduce the moisture level in areas of your home that are prone to mold.

- Remove dust. HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filters can remove a tremendous amount of airborne particles. A vacuum cleaner or air purifier with a HEPA filter will help.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

- ◆ Plan a route in advance
- ◆ Wear comfy shoes
- ◆ Stay well-lit
- ◆ Make sure all costumes are short
- ◆ Avoid masks
- ◆ Use flexible props
- ◆ Check your child's candy



Green Notes ~ A New Home for Old Clothes & Shoes



Have an old shirt or pair of shoes you never wear but are still in good shape? You can find it a new home at several places in Wayne:

- ◆ **Micah's Closet** is a local thrift shop run by the United Methodist Church. Clothes may be donated here or purchased for low prices.
- ◆ **Thrift Warehouse** takes adult clothing for consignment resale.
- ◆ The community has a Facebook page called **Wayne, NE Online Sales** that has frequent users posting items for sale or looking to buy.
- ◆ **Providence Wellness Center** has a drop off box for gently used athletic shoes, both adult and kid sizes.

Give good clothes and shoes a new home in Wayne to keep them out of the landfill and in the cycle of being used!

Special Green Team Meeting in October. Join us at our monthly meeting on Monday, October 9, 7:00 p.m., for a Climate Science 101 talk led by Dr. Barbara Hayford, Professor of Life Science at Wayne State College. Come learn what a changing climate means for farming, ranching, and life in small town Nebraska, and what we can do to help make things better. This special meeting will be held in the back room of Tacos N More in Wayne.

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

YOUR RIGHT:

The Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting, buying, or securing financing for any housing. The prohibitions specifically cover discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and the presence of children.

If you believe you may be a victim of housing discrimination, contact HUD 1-800-669-9777 or your local Fair Housing representative:

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YOUR CHOICE. YOUR RIGHT. YOUR HOME.

