



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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ENERGYWISE TIP ~ Holiday Surprises

Ever rediscover one of those Christmas gifts you intended to give during the holidays but forgot where you hid it until the following February? It can be a pleasant surprise if you can still gift it in the future, return it for a refund or use it yourself. Unfortunately, your January or February electric bill may reflect similar holiday surprises. I'm referring to those things you did or items you used during the festivities that may have negatively impacted your electrical bill. Unfortunately, you can't undo or "re-gift" these holiday surprises, and you will have to pay for the energy they waste regardless of whether they added to your seasonal cheer.

Space heaters

Nobody wants to be cold for Christmas! To chase away the chill, you may find it convenient to plug in a portable space heater in a spare bedroom or other seldomly-used area to accommodate guests. But do you shut off the heater after they leave?

When investigating wintertime "high bill" inquiries, the most common responses residential energy consultants hear about space heaters is, "Oh, that little heater couldn't have added that much to my bill!" Nearly all space heaters have more than one temperature setting. Of those, the highest setting usually operates around 1,500 watts or 1.5 kilowatts (kW). If the heater operates continuously at that level for an entire month (30 days or 720 hours), it will add 1,080 kilowatt-hours (kWh) to your electric bill. At Nebraska's 2019 average residential price of electricity (11.84¢/kWh), that little heater magically adds \$128! Don't open yourself up to this kind of surprise. To ensure the heater does not operate when unneeded, simply unplug it.

Chimney flue

A warm and glowing fire invites

everyone to share in the spirit of the season. But once the embers are extinguished and the fumes vented, heated indoor air continues to escape up the stack. Surprise! As soon as safely possible, tightly close the damper to minimize the amount of conditioned air escaping up the chimney. Check the seals around your damper, then repair or replace dampers that don't tightly seal.

Exhaust fans

Whether it's grandma trying to clear the kitchen of smoke from burning bacon or Uncle Eddie clearing the bathroom from whatever was burning him, somebody's going to turn on an exhaust fan. Chances are, that fan will continue to run long after pollutants are gone. Kitchen exhaust hoods can often draw 250 to 500 cubic feet of air per minute (cfm). Bathroom exhaust fans remove 50 to 150 cfm. When they are ducted to the outdoors, conditioned air pulled out of the house is replaced by cold outdoor air that is sucked in through gaps or tiny cracks around windows, doors, foundations, rooflines or other wall penetrations. All this "new" air must be heated to maintain indoor comfort. To minimize the amount of additional heating required, turn kitchen exhaust hoods off as soon as airborne food contaminants are removed, and install a timer switch on bathroom fans to minimize over-exhausting.

Gaming systems

Inevitably, Santa will bring some lucky child one of newest gaming systems, like the PlayStation 4 Pro, rated at a maximum of 165 watts, or the Xbox One X, rated at 245 watts, or even worse, a dedicated Gaming PC drawing 750 continuous watts. Then, with delight in their heart, that child will skip gleefully to the room with your entertainment center

and connect their new gaming system to your 85-inch big screen television that draws 175 watts, as well as the surround sound system that pulls another 150 watts. For the rest of the holiday vacation, they become affixed to YOUR couch challenging siblings, aunts, uncles, and even the mailman to a video game showdown while your electric meter is spinning. Now ask yourself this – "What is the likelihood of them turning off everything when they finally put down their controller?" Go and check to avoid this surprise. Better yet, if electronics won't be used in the next few hours, unplug them, as most electronics still draw a small amount of power when they are turned "off."

Lights

By now, you know LED Christmas lights can use up to 99% less energy per bulb than conventional incandescent lights. But if your home is filled with family and especially young kids this season, anticipate every light you own will be turned on at some time. According to a survey conducted by Lutron Electronics, 90% of Americans say someone in their household forgets to turn the lights off when they leave a room. Surprised? Don't be. After your last guest leaves, take a thorough tour of your home and outside buildings. You'll likely be glad you did.

Your local public utility wishes you and those closest to you the best of holiday seasons. For additional ideas on how you can make your home comfortable and EnergyWiseSM this winter, contact your local electric utility. 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

December 1st
December 15th

NOTICE TO WAYNE UTILITY CUSTOMERS

City Hall is now open. However, we are still limiting the number of people into the building, as well as keeping the 6 feet of distance between the public.

We are still encouraging utility payments be made by using the City's on-line bill pay services or by calling (402) 375-1733 to pay by debit/credit card. Checks and cash (to closest dollar amount) can still be dropped off in the two drop boxes located in the front and back of City Hall.

Thank you!!

Department News ~

Library ~

Wayne Public Library has planned a month full of virtual programming and activities for all ages.

Santa's elves surprised the Library with a special mailbox for Santa letters at their entrance. Since Santa will be unable to visit Wayne Public Library, he is accepting letters from children with their wishes for the coming year. He will do his best to get a reply back to them, so make sure letters include a full name and address - but no postage is necessary! Also, the Library is excited to announce Santa will be making a virtual visit to you all via the Library's Facebook page in the beginning of December! Some Santa letters will be shared throughout December on the Library's social media pages.

We are working with the Wayne Area Economic Development office, so along with to-go activities already planned by the Library, we will be sharing coloring pages and coloring contest information specific to WAED. A combination of our activities and WAED's activities will be available from the Library as a to-go packet following Santa's virtual visit.

Other Library fun planned for the month includes two different contests: A Design a Santa Contest and an ama-

teur photography contest. Design a Santa encourages everyone to get creative by using non-perishable objects, paper, or craft materials to decorate a print-out Santa provided by the Library in the to-go packet following Santa's visit. The design must be turned in by December 17th at 6:00 p.m. to be judged by a local panel. An amateur photo contest is to begin December 19th. There will be 4 prompts for photographers to try and capture. Photographs can be submitted to scarr@cityofwayne.org, or via a Google form that will be linked on the Library's city website and Facebook page. Keep an eye out for photography advice presentations to be shared on Facebook prior to the contest as well as our social media pages and library websites for more information about both contests.

Other to-go activities provided by the Library will include coloring packets for adults and youth, origami/kirigami packets, Winter STEM fun packets, and craft packets. We will post updates via social media when these packets are available for pick up. Cooking videos, book talks, board game talks, town-wide

scavenger hunt are also in the plans for December.

Fall into Winter Reading Challenges are also ongoing. The adult challenge began November 1st and will go to January 1st and the Youth Challenge began November 25th and will go to January 4th. For each book read that meets a challenge, that person will enter an entry towards a prize. The challenge is available on our app "Beanstack" which is available on the Apple store and Google play for free. Otherwise, contact the Library to pick up a paper version.

Contact the Library with any questions, and remember, we are open for browsing and computer use by calling [402-375-3135](tel:402-375-3135). Curbside pickup is also still available, and if you aren't sure about what you'd like, a librarian will be happy to pick a selection for you based on other titles, or authors you have enjoyed.

Our wish for our community family is that all have a happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in 2021!

WISE WORDS

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

~John F. Kennedy

NOTICE

City Offices will close Thursday, December 24th at 11:30 a.m. and be closed all day Friday, December 25th for the Holidays!



Green Notes ~ Make Your Holidays Green

Save money and the environment this holiday season with 3 easy tips on being green.

1. Re-gift. Have something you no longer want, like a good book you've read, or a nice shirt you don't wear? Don't be shy about re-gifting. You'll extend the life of the item and pass it on to someone who will appreciate it.

2. Shop local. Our community has wonderful stores that offer creative gifts and services. Shop in town before spending dollars outside of our community and on extra fuel to drive there and back, and save the gift of extra time for yourself.

Wrap it with care. Save paper and money when wrapping presents this year. Try reusing gift bags and ribbon, wrapping with newspaper or paper grocery bags you can decorate yourself and later recycle, or using cloth such as a scarf or dish towel to wrap a gift. You'll generate less waste and save tons of paper.

Recycle Strings of Holiday Lights. Deco-

rating for the holidays only to discover your holiday lights no longer work? Don't throw them out when you can recycle them instead. The Wayne Recycling & Trash Center has specially marked bins for light strings during its regular hours of operation: Mon and Fri, 9am-1:30pm; Tue 11am-2pm; Sat 8am-noon. The strings will be recycled for copper wire by Retrofit in Minneapolis. When buying new holiday lights, consider LED ones, which last longer, use less energy, and save you more money in the long run. Now that's a bright idea!

Use the City's Brush Pile. Located at 1810 Industrial Road, you can dispose of your Christmas tree (without any decorations or tinsel) and greenery at the end of the holiday season.

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

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:

Wes Blecke
306 Pearl Street
Wayne NE 68787
(402) 375-1733

