

# City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne  
Utilities

Volume 14 — Issue 9

September, 2021

## ENERGYWISE TIP ~ Ducts



Pop quiz: What could be wasting up to 20% of your home's energy use each year? Here's a hint. It's not your children's video gaming systems or cell phone chargers. Rather, it's something you rarely see and likely wouldn't consider unless you have heating and/or cooling problems.

Give up? It's your ductwork! About 90% of Nebraska homes have a furnace, air conditioner or heat pump connected to a centralized ductwork system. According to ENERGY STAR®, up to 30% of the heated or cooled air that moves through ducts could be lost to leaks, improperly sealed joints, or a lack of insulation. Leaks and seams are responsible for inefficient heating and cooling, but something called heat conduction also shoulders some of the blame. According to the Department of Energy, this phenomenon, in combination with air leaks and gaps, can reduce the efficiency of heating and cooling systems by as much as 40%. Since about half of the energy used in Nebraska homes is attributed to space conditioning, that equates to an overall annual energy loss of 20%!

Why? Your home's duct system is a branching network of rectangular and/or round tubes in the walls, floors and ceilings that carries heated or cooled air from the home's heat pump, furnace, or central air conditioner to each room. Duct sections are usually made of sheet metal, fiberglass or other construction materials. Duct loss occurs when conditioned air in a home escapes the duct system through holes, loose connections or improperly sealed junctions between sections. Loss also occurs as heat transfers directly through the walls of the duct itself. These losses are usual-

ly from the effects of poor duct installation, insulation and/or design practices.

How would you know if you have duct problems? Here are common symptoms:

Rooms that are hard to heat or cool – Rooms that are not cooling or heating properly usually means that the ducts are not transporting sufficient amounts of conditioned air to and from them.

Dust can be found on flat surfaces after running the furnace or air conditioner – Dust can be drawn into leaky air return ducts, make it passed the filter and blow the dust into conditioned rooms.

Higher utility bills – If ducts cannot transport air properly through a home, the heating and cooling system has to run longer, which requires more energy and costs more money.

Before contacting a certified HVAC technician, there are some simple, inexpensive steps you might try to resolve duct issues:

Step 1. Turn on your furnace or air conditioning system.

Step 2. Locate air ducts (typically found under floors, in ceilings, and in attics and crawl spaces).

Step 3. Feel along the sides of ducts to spot escaping air. Leaks are found at connections to vents and registers where they meet the floor, walls and ceiling. Remember that the s-cleats (where sections of duct connect) are also notorious for leaking.

Step 4. Seal with mastic-type sealant and/or butyl, foil or other heat-approved tapes that are labeled with the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) logo. Mastic sealants are applied with a paint

brush and work great for leaks less than one-quarter inch wide. Heat-approved tapes are great for wider gaps and holes in ductwork.

Step 5. If any of your ductwork runs through areas not heated or cooled, remember it requires proper insulation. When uninsulated ductwork extends through unconditioned attics, basements or crawlspaces, heat can easily transfer directly through the duct wall. Thus, cooled air will heat up during the summer and heated air will be cooled during the winter before it gets to the room being conditioned. Also, uninsulated ductwork running through warm, humid areas will cause moisture problems since humidity will condense into liquid water on the duct's surface.

Finally, if you are unable or prefer not to resolve your system's concerns through the steps above, it is best to contact an HVAC technician certified through an accredited organization such as the North American Technician Excellence (NATE) program. This helps provide assurance your duct problems are appropriately resolved the first time!

To identify more ways to manage your energy costs, visit with your local electric utility. They are committed to helping customers make the most of the energy they use, which includes keeping homes warm in the winter and cool in the summer. You may also qualify for EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> energy efficiency financial incentives to offset the cost of making your home more energy efficient. Contact your local utility to learn details.

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### CITY COUNCIL

#### MEETINGS

September 7th

September 21st

### CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

City Hall office

Hours are:

7:30 a.m.

until 4:30 p.m.

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City offices will be closed  
Monday, September 6th in

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

**INFORMATION FOR A  
HOUSING STUDY  
SURVEY IS LOCATED  
ON THE  
BACK PAGE OF THIS  
NEWSLETTER.  
PLEASE TAKE THE  
TIME TO READ AND  
LOG ONTO THE CITY  
WEBSITE:**

**([www.cityofwayne.org/housing-surveys2021](http://www.cityofwayne.org/housing-surveys2021))**

**TO TAKE THE SURVEY.**

**THANK YOU!**

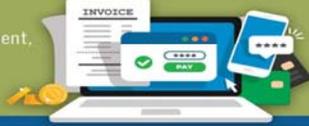
## Department News ~



**DISCOVER A NEW WAY TO PAY!**

**Paying your bill has never been easier and you've never had more options!**

- Access real-time account information and consumption history
- Pay via phone, text, website, or mobile app
- Make a one-time payment, schedule a payment, or sign up for auto pay
- Receive payment reminders



Learn More

<https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/waynene>



download our iOS or Android app

MyCivic Utilities



**WISE WORDS**

*“The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don’t tell you what to see.”*

~Alexandra K. Trenfor

## Housing Survey ~



The City of Wayne has hired the consultants Hanna:Keelan to update its most recent (2016) housing study. The purpose for an up-to-date study encourages developers to building housing units as they know the community’s need and reduces their risks, but it also allows the City funding avenues that would not be available with older or no housing studies. This also comes at a very good time when the 2020 Census data is slowly being released. Great news for the City of Wayne is that population data for 2020 shows that the City’s population is now 5973, a

5.5% increase since the 2010 census. Better and additional housing can only enhance this growth pattern over the next ten years in and around Wayne. But we need your help! Please go to the City website ([www.cityofwayne.org/housingsurveys2021](http://www.cityofwayne.org/housingsurveys2021)) and take a housing survey. There are 3 different ones (you can take more than one): housing, student housing, and workforce. The surveys will also be available in paper copies at City Hall, the Wayne Public Library, and the Wayne Community Activity

Center. These surveys are critical to better understand the needs of the residents, students, and workforce in Wayne. At the end of each survey, if you choose, you can identify yourself for a chance to win 1 of 10 gift certificates for \$50 each. An accurate housing study can only happen with your help. If you have any questions about filling out the survey(s), don’t hesitate to contact City Hall at 402-375-1733. Thank you in advance for your participation!

**WAYNE**  
**RECYCLING & TRASH**  
**CENTER (RTC)**  
**HOURS**

Monday & Friday  
9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Tuesday  
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Saturday  
8:00 am.—Noon

Or by appointment  
Tuesday, Wednesday  
and Thursday

## Green Notes ~ Electronics Recycling Event



For the 8<sup>th</sup> time, the City of Wayne Green Team is hosting an electronics recycling collection event on **Saturday, September 18th from 8 am – 10 am** (ends earlier if the truck fills up). Drive eastbound on 3<sup>rd</sup> street between Lincoln and Pearl in front of the City Hall parking lot to responsibly dispose of your e-waste. Bring your old TVs, computers, cell phones, printers, cords and more to recycle right and keep electronics out of the landfill, where they can become hazardous to our soil and groundwater. This year, you can even bring VHS tapes, vacuums, blenders, toasters (but no toaster ovens), and kitchen mixers. See our website for a full list of items accepted by our vendor, the

Retrofit Companies.

**Note, this block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street will be closed to traffic. Enter from Lincoln Street to unload your electronics and exit onto Pearl Street.**

**FEES:** Suggested donation of \$10 per carload or \$50 per business load of reasonable size. Fees for CRTs (tube) of \$5/monitor and \$10/TV (no charge for flatscreens); \$15/microwave, \$15/air conditioner. Sorry, no large appliances, toaster ovens, dehumidifiers/humidifiers, or batteries.

For more tips on the Green Path to the Good Life, like the Wayne Green Team on Facebook or visit [www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam](http://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**

wblecke@cityofwayne.org

**YOUR CHOICE. YOUR RIGHT. YOUR HOME**

