



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

Volume 15 — Issue 4

April, 2022

ENERGYWISE TIP ~ Smart Thermostats



When was the last time your home's thermostat was adjusted to reduce energy costs? A 2018 survey indicated that only half of Nebraskans living outside metropolitan areas were very likely to adjust their thermostat when leaving home. Considering about 50% of home energy consumption is used for heating and cooling, significant savings could be realized. The U.S. Department of Energy states that energy costs can be reduced up to 10% a year by simply turning your thermostat back by 7° to 10°F for eight hours a day. They recommend settings of 68°F in the heating season and 78°F during the cooling season when someone is home and active. When away or during sleeping hours, they suggest turning the thermostat down to 55°F in the winter and up to 85°F or higher in the summer.

Unfortunately, there are countless explanations why more people do not employ this energy-saving strategy. While some are perfectly reasonable, inconvenience no longer has to be one for homes with a smart thermostat. These energy-efficient devices work in much the same way as a traditional thermostat. However, smart thermostats connect to Wi-Fi and can be controlled via smartphone apps. Some types of smart thermostats can even learn repetitive user behaviors to decide when to heat and cool a home.

Though programmable thermostats allow some of the same automated control by entering a fixed routine of setpoints, users often override and even abandon

their programs when personal schedules fall outside the norm. On the other hand, smart thermostats can change setpoints in real-time so no one has to come home to an overly cold or stifling place.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® program concluded that homes with smart thermostats can save up to \$180 per year on heating and cooling. With quality units ranging from \$60 to a few hundred dollars, they quickly pay for themselves. While installing a smart thermostat may not be the right choice for those who move often, rent or seldom leave their home, most can enjoy this hassle-free way of managing home temperatures and energy use.

When shopping for a smart thermostat, start with the certified models on the ENERGY STAR® website at: <https://www.energystar.gov/productfinder/product/certified-connected-thermostats/>.

While there are various features to look for when choosing a smart thermostat, the importance of each will vary from buyer to buyer. Regardless of preferences, everyone should keep the following concerns in mind:

Compatibility – It's vital to choose a thermostat this is compatible with the current HVAC system. Otherwise, homeowners can expect to spend several hundred dollars on complex compatibility work.

Price – The budget often impacts a buyer's options, and those who do not intend to remain in a particular home for

a long time may not want to invest in a more-expensive model. Fortunately, lower-cost smart thermostats are very common, popular and often just as effective as pricey models.

Ease of Use – Most smart thermostats allow users to adjust parameters and settings via a smartphone app. Others track the behaviors and patterns of tenants to formulate software-generated schedules of heating and cooling. These types of software depend on at least some user interface and interaction. That is why it is important to familiarize yourself with your preferred product's app and system before making a final decision.

Professional Installation – Some HVAC systems cannot be easily connected to certain smart thermostats. Before choosing a product, ensure that your preferred thermostat functions with your heating and cooling system. While professional installation may add significantly to the overall cost of a smart thermostat, it may save tons of frustration and ensures your system operates as expected.

Your local electric utility has information on additional ways to efficiently use the energy they provide while keeping your home comfortable. Visit with your local electric utility for additional ways you can become more EnergyWiseSM!

Inside this issue:

<i>Energywise Tip</i>	1
<i>Department News</i>	
◆ <i>Library</i>	2
◆ <i>Green Notes</i>	2

CITY COUNCIL

MEETINGS

April 5th

April 19th

CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

City Hall office

Hours are:

7:30 a.m.

until 4:30 p.m.

HELP WANTED!

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

Please contact the Community Activity Center for more information at

402-375-4803



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/waynenc>



download our iOS or Android app

MyCivic Utilities



WISE WORDS

“Whatever you do, always give 100% unless you’re donating blood.”

~Bill Murray

Library ~

WE WILL BE CLOSED April 17th in observance of the Easter holiday.

Let’s have fun with Miss Kim at **Toddler Time, Wednesdays or Thursdays at 10:00 am. in the Library.** Take part in stories, music, dancing, busy bags, and more. Meet other parents and kids in the area, and learn about the various services and reading programs our Library offers.

Join us for our **Library Easter Egg hunt Sunday, April 2nd at 10:00 a.m.** Children participating will be divided by age groups, with the youngest going first. This event is generously sponsored by Hasemann Funeral Home.

Join us for **New Adult Book Club! Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Library conference room.** We will be discussing *The Secret Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab. The novel follows protagonist Addie LaRue, a young woman who, in order to escape her marriage in early eighteenth-century France, makes a Faustian bargain with a mysterious god. Addie is given immortality, but in return, everyone she ever meets is bound to forget her. All are welcome to join in! Limited copies are available in-house. The audiobook and ebook are available via Libby. Please visit the circulation desk if you need help accessing a copy of the book to read!

Help us celebrate our volunteers at our open house, **April 8th, all day.** We love and appreciate our volunteers! Treats and coffee available. (while supplies last!)

Head to the back of the Library on **Tuesday, April 12th, at 6:00 p.m. for Adult Coloring.** Stop in for a relaxing night and good company. Colors, coloring sheets, and snacks are provided. Adult Coloring Night is sponsored by Pac N’ Save. Join us for an author talk and reading in the back of the Library **Tuesday, April 19th, from**

6:30-7:30 p.m. with Lin M. Brummels. Lin Brummels is a writer, counselor, and organic gardener. Her life focuses on poetry, prose, prairies, pollinators. With help of her family, she provides a haven for horses. Find more of Lin’s work via Linktree: https://linktr.ee/Lin_Brummels

After School coloring will take place on Friday, April 8th, and Friday, April 22nd at 3:30 p.m. Relax and get creative after a busy school week. Adults will be on hand for conversation. Coloring pages, art utensils of all kinds, and a light snack will be provided.

In celebration of **Earth Day, stop by the Library from April 18th through the rest of the month to pick up our take-and-make craft, Recycled Planters/ Terrariums!** Kits will include an instruction book, a surprise item to make a recycled terrarium/planter out of, dirt, accessories, and a packet of herbs. **Kits are free! 20 kits will be available, first-come, first-serve. Stop by the Library or give us a call for more info.** Work on your creative projects with our **Needle Night group, Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. at the Library** Enjoy conversation and good company while working on your personal needlework projects. All kinds of decorative sewing and textile art handicrafts are welcome.

Book Club will be returning for discussion Tuesday, April 26th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library conference room. This month’s discussion book will be **142 Ostriches** by **April Davila.** An unusual ranching tale set in the Mojave Desert, where the herd is a flock of eight-foot-tall birds and their wrangler a young

woman raised by her gruff grandmother who dreams of another kind of life. A twisty, warmhearted story of family, community, and fate, a thoroughgoing delight. **Dress in your best 70’s garb and be ready for a groovy time! Join us Friday, April 29th, at 7:00 p.m. for our 70’s decade-themed trivia night!** The event will be held at **Johnnie Byrd’s.** Costumes and themed costume groups are highly encouraged! Please stop in or call the Library to register your team of four. Space is limited, first-come, first-serve. Awards will be given to trivia winners and best costumes.

Want to do a garage sale but don’t have a garage? Do you sell crafts or art pieces? Do you have something else you’d like to sell? **Our Thrifts & Gifts sale is an outdoor parking lot thrift, craft, art, and wares sale open to the public. We are currently open to vendor sign-up!** **DATES: Fridays: May 20, June 10, August 5, and September 16th. Time of the sale: 5:30-7:30 p.m.** Call **402-375-3135** to reserve your spot. Sign up for all or just one of the events. Each seller will be responsible for their car, wares & treasures, transactions, & clean-up. The selection site for cars will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Sign-up is free! Space is limited. There is no admission fee for shoppers. Food, animal, guns, & ammo sales are not allowed. You will need to bring any display items/signage/shade for your space.

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 a.m.—Noon

Or by appointment
Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday

Green Notes ~ It’s time to celebrate Earth Day!



Every April 22 on Earth Day, we are reminded how valuable our planet is and how important it is to protect our limited natural resources. Let’s act this month (and always!) to show our commitment to reducing waste and living a sustainable life.

Attend our **Zero Waste Chamber Coffee on Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 10am.** Bring your own mug and join us for coffee and homemade pastries at the Wayne Public Library. You’ll learn the latest on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle in Wayne with our hands-on demos.

Watch our free **Earth Day movie, My Octopus Teacher, at the Majestic Theatre, Sunday, April 24, 7pm.** Join us at the Majestic for a free screening of the uplifting documentary, *My Octopus Teacher*. The film follows the story of an unusual friendship between a filmmaker and an

octopus living in a South African kelp forest. *My Octopus Teacher* helps us discover the fragility of life and humanity’s connection to nature. [This film won an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature in 2021.](#) Doors open at 6:30pm for recycling demos, and the 85-minute film begins at 7 pm. This free event is hosted by the City of Wayne Green Team, the WSC Green Team, and the A. Jewell Schock Museum of Natural History.

Visit the **Haskell Ag Lab in Concord for a Roots to Leaves Earth Day Celebration Saturday, April 30, 1-4pm.** Free events include an arboretum tour, kid activities, and demos on tree planting, tree and shrub pruning, plants and pollinators, how to begin a vegetable garden, and more. For details, visit hal.unl.edu/earthday2022.

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

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

