

City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

Volume 16 —Issue 4

April, 2023

SEWER BACKUP COVERAGE



You have homeowners' insurance coverage, but don't forget to **add a sewer backup rider** to your policy.

Who is responsible:

A reliable infrastructure system is a priority for the City of Wayne. However, a sewer is not a closed system and many things (tree roots, disposable diapers, vandalism, etc.) can clog the system. When a sewer backup occurs, the City of Wayne makes every effort to assist its customers. Since each situation has its own unique set of circumstances, the following information will help you understand responsibility and liability for damage from sewer backups:

- ◆ If the stoppage is in the City main, we will fix it as soon as possible. In most cases, the City's cleaning equipment can be used to restore the flow without digging to the sewer line. If the stoppage is in the private line connecting to the City main, we'll let you know so you can contact your plumber to fix it.
- ◆ Don't assume you are covered. Check your policy to make sure you are covered for damages due to sewer backups. You may need a special option for coverage, so talk to your insurance agent.
- ◆ Wayne is only responsible for its own property, not your line or the connection to the main. According to the law, the City cannot work on private property and public funds cannot be spent for private purposes.
- ◆ The City of Wayne's insurance carrier can only reimburse you for damages if the backup is in the City main and we had advanced knowledge that there was a problem and we did not respond in a reasonable manner and time.

Steps to avoid a sewer backup:

- ◆ The best protection against sewer backup is a backflow valve or a check valve. They are required on all new sewer lines. If your home does not have a backflow valve, you can have your plumber add one to your line. The valve works by closing when water comes into it from the wrong direction, so it prevents sewage from backing up into your house. Once installed, clean the valve periodically to ensure it continues to work properly.
- ◆ Plant trees and large shrubs a minimum of ten feet away from sewer lines. Roots grow toward breaks or cracks in the line. When roots get inside the pipe, they clog it.
- ◆ Don't connect sump pumps, French drains, other flood control systems or roof gutters and downspouts to your sanitary sewer. The debris and silt will clog your line. These connections are illegal, so you will want to contact your plumber to undo them.
- ◆ Dispose of grease and fats with your trash, not down the drain.
- ◆ Sometimes a blockage is sudden and caused by an

object or material in the sewer main like a rug, bed sheet, plastic tarp, small boards, etc., that someone has forced into the system through a toilet or large floor drain with the clean-out cover open. City insurers seldom pay for these acts because the blockage was not the fault of the city but is a type of vandalism.

- ◆ Sometimes a blockage is caused by a city utility action or failure to act. We have a regularly scheduled sewer jetting program for areas of the sewer system that prevent most problems. However, no underground sewer system or maintenance program can be perfect. In cases where city fault has been determined insurance companies have paid damage claims.

Homeowners always have the option to file suit for damages. Many times the cost and time delay are more than the original damage.

The cost of additional household coverage for sewer backups is usually modest. And, you may already have it. But, again, contact your insurance agent to verify you do have this additional coverage or obtain more information on adding this coverage to your policy.



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CITY COUNCIL
MEETINGS

April 4th
April 18th

CITY HALL
OFFICE HOURS

City Hall office
Hours are:
7:30 a.m.
until 4:30 p.m.

CITY OF
WAYNE
JOB OPENINGS

- ◆ Public Safety Dispatcher
- ◆ Asst. Pool Manager
- ◆ Lifeguards



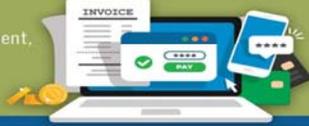
Department News ~



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WISE WORDS

“Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you are a mile away from them and you have their shoes.”

~Jack Handey

Library ~



The Library will be closed on April 9th in observance of the Easter holiday.

- ◆ Spice Club Continues! Membership to the Spice Club is full at the moment, but you may call or stop by the Library to be put on the waiting list for any unclaimed packets. A community potluck based around all of our spices for the year will be planned in 2024! This month's spice is paprika!
- ◆ In celebration of National Poetry Month, we will have Poetry Survival to-go kits available for pickup on Monday, April 3rd. Suggested for adults or high school youth. Kits will include information on poetry, artistic poetic activities such as kids' book poems and collage poems, information on local poetry outlets, and more! Kits are first come, first serve, and supplies are limited! Stop in or give us a call to reserve your kit today.
- ◆ Head to the back of the Library on Tuesday, April 11th at 6:00 p.m. for Adult Coloring. Stop in for a relaxing night and good company. Colors, col-

oring sheets, and snacks are provided. Adult Coloring Night is sponsored by Pac N' Save.

- ◆ After School coloring will take place on Friday, April 14th, and Friday, April 28th, 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.
- ◆ Join in on Reads and Reels: A movie book club! Each month, join us in watching a film and reading the literature it is based on. This club will have two meetings per month: one showing the film, and the other discussing the film's literature. Join us on Tuesday, April 4th, in the conference room for a showing of the film *Where the Crawdads Sing* at 5:45 p.m. Join us on Wednesday, April 19th, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room to discuss the book, *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.
- ◆ We are hosting a Bad Art Night on Tuesday, April 18th, from 6-7:00

p.m. Hop in for a dreadful night of awful, terrible, no-good art! Skills will be highly frowned upon. Prizes will be awarded for the worst possible things created. All ages are welcome. Adults must accompany children under 12. No pre-registration is necessary for this program. Free admission and all supplies will be provided.

- ◆ Book Club will be returning for discussion Tuesday, April 25th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library conference room. This month's discussion book will either be *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle or *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel, with the month's theme being science fiction.
- ◆ Celebrate all of our helping hands with our Volunteer Appreciation open house Tuesday, April 25th (all day). Coffee and treats will be available!

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 ~ Celebrate Earth Day Every Day!!



Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970 on April 22nd to focus a national day on the environment. This annual event is recognized around the world, with the goal to protect and sustain our Earth and its resources. Join us this month at our special events celebrating the Earth.

Attend our Zero Waste Chamber Coffee on Friday, April 21st, at 10:00 a.m. Bring your own mug to the Wayne Public Library as you hear the latest on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle in Wayne with our hands-on demos and local green living experts. We'll also announce the recipient of this year's Zero Hero award.

Watch our free Earth Day movie, *Kiss the Ground*, at the Majestic Theatre, Sunday, April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Join us at the Majestic for a free screening of the moving documentary, *Kiss the Ground*. The film provides a solution to heal our planet and keep our species away from the extinction list by using our Earth's soil. Through regenerative agriculture, we can help balance our climate, replenish our freshwater supplies, and feed the world. *Kiss*

the Ground unveils a game changer to our climate crisis. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with demos and zero waste living tips, and the 84-minute film begins at 7:00 p.m. This free event is hosted by the City of Wayne Green Team, the WSC Green Team, and the A. Jewell Schock Natural History Museum, with funding from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.

Visit the Haskell Ag Lab in Concord for an Arbor Day/Earth Day Spring Fling on Saturday, April 29th, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Free events include an arboretum tour, tree planting demo, butterfly program, pollinator garden presentation, kid activities, and more. For details, visit <https://go.unl.edu/arborearthdayspringfling2023>.

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

wblecke@cityofwayne.org

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

