

City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

Volume 16 — Issue 1
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ENERGYWISE TIP ~ Air-Source Heat Pump Optimization



Many Nebraska homes use an air-source heat pump (ASHP) to provide indoor comfort during the winter season. Considering 40% of average annual residential energy is used to keep homes warm, ASHPs provide higher energy efficiency than any furnace. As a result, owners reduce the impact of increased energy needs during the three coldest months of December through February.

But much like any appliance, how ASHPs are used and maintained will effect how much energy they save. If your home or business is heated by an ASHP, consider the following recommendations to get the most from your system.

Properly Install an ASHP

Optimal performance starts with proper installation of the right heat pump. Oversized heat pumps can cycle on and off more often than they ought to, which often leads to premature breakdowns. This can also lead to unbalanced temperature and humidity levels throughout the home causing possible comfort and health concerns. A variable capacity heat pump (i.e., one where the compressor's speed can vary), will alleviate those concerns. Be sure the HVAC professional you select performs a load calculation on your home to determine the right size of ASHP is installed. The load calculation identifies the amounts of heating and cooling your home will require throughout the year. For accuracy, the contractor measures windows, doors,

walls, ceiling height, etc. and uses a computer program to assess all values.

Change Air Filters Regularly

Changing air filters every one to three months helps your system move air more easily and ensures better indoor air quality. Electrostatic and reusable filters should be washed quarterly. The frequency of cleaning can range from weeks to months depending on use and dust volume. After a couple of times, you should have an idea of how often your system requires this maintenance.

Use a Smart Thermostat

A smart thermostat can help you take advantage of energy savings by setting the thermostat back during nighttime and unoccupied hours, then preventing auxiliary or emergency heat from engaging while returning to the previous setting. Many smart thermostats program themselves by learning your household's routines and can easily be adjusted via a mobile device on days that are not routine. Consult your HVAC technician to identify which smart thermostats are compatible with your heat pump.

Keep Outdoor Units Clear

The key to an ASHP's winter efficiency comes from its ability to capture heat from outdoors and transfer it into the home. For that to happen, the outdoor unit must have adequate space around it for proper airflow. Clear any debris or obstructions that may

hinder the heat pump's performance. Know that when an ASHP goes through its defrost cycle, the moisture driven off the outdoor coils can pool and refreeze under the outdoor unit. During extended cold periods, the refrozen ice can continue to build up and restrict airflow under the unit. Most ASHP outdoor units are installed on extended legs to prevent this from being a problem. Otherwise, excess ice must be removed.

Perform Routine Inspection, Maintenance and Cleaning

Since ASHPs provide heating and cooling to your home, they likely operate for more hours than other residential HVAC systems. At a minimum, have a professional HVAC technician perform a system tune-up to clean outdoor coils, check refrigerant levels, inspect critical components and advise how to get the best performance from your particular ASHP system.

Your local utility wants to help you keep your home or business comfortably warm this winter. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, contact your local utility for more information.

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CITY COUNCIL

MEETINGS

January 2nd

January 16th

CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

City Hall office

Hours are:

7:30 a.m.

until 4:30 p.m.

RESIDENTIAL WINTER SEWER AVERAGING REMINDER

From November 15th until February 15th, the water usage for that time period is what will be used for averaging your sewer usage for one year — Use water wisely during this time!!

NOTICE

City Offices will be closed Monday, January 1st in observance of the New Year's Day Holiday and Monday, January 15th for the Martin Luther King Holiday



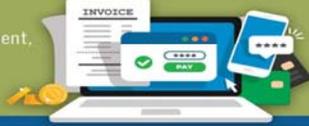
Department News ~



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WISE WORDS

“Weak people revenge; strong people forgive; and intelligent people ignore.”

~Albert Einstein

Library ~

WE WILL CLOSE: December 31st and January 1st-2nd in observance of the New Year holiday; January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and January 26th for maintenance and cleaning.

Embark on a fun and educational journey with our **Adult Alphabet Reading Challenge** for the year starting on **January 1st**. You will focus on a different letter of the alphabet and challenge yourself to read books, articles, or other written materials that start with that letter. This challenge is a great way to expand our vocabulary, improve our reading skills, and discover new authors and genres.

Unleash your creativity and have some fun with Nicole at our upcoming "Bad Art Night" on January 9th at 6:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to experiment with different art materials and techniques in a relaxed and supportive environment. No artistic skills required! Just bring your sense of humor and a willingness to get messy.

Toddler Time is back on January 11th! Hang out with Miss Aleisha on Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Library for stories, music, dancing, busy bags, and more. Meet other parents and kids in the area, and learn about our Library's various services and reading programs.

Join us for after-school story times on Wednesdays at 2:15 p.m.! We will continue to read intermediate stories together. Coloring supplies and snacks will also be available over the hour!

Get ready to experience the thrill of the escape room with our three exciting themes. Make sure you call to sign up! Here's what you can expect from each:

Holiday Express (January 3rd, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., & 2 p.m.) - Perfect for pre-K to 3rd grade, this escape room will transport you into a magical world of holiday cheer and winter wonder. This is Santa and I have a mission for you! I have a surprise for you, but I have kept it safe in a wooden box that I left with your teacher. You will need to work together and use your knowledge from *The Polar Express* to solve the clues I've left for you!

Good luck! I can't wait for you to get your surprise!

A Day at the Zoo (January 4th, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 & 2 p.m.) - Designed for 4th to 7th graders, this escape room will take you on a wild adventure through the animal kingdom. It's time for a nice, calm day at the zoo. Wait a minute--where are the customers? Someone has shut the entrance gate, and no one can get in! Let me just get my key out and I'll open the gate...oh no! I've lost my key. Now we are really in trouble! Can you help me find my key so we can open the gate and let the customers in?! But don't forget to keep taking care of the animals. We have to keep this zoo running!

An Apple a Day (January 5th, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 & 2 p.m.) - This escape room is specifically designed for 8th graders and up. An old saying is, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Unfortunately, someone has been eating too many apples, and the world-famous doctor E. R. Smith has been away from her office and no one has been able to find her. One of her patients is ill and only Dr. Smith will be able to cure him. The only clue to her whereabouts is a locked box and some papers in a patient's file. It is your job to unlock the box and discover where she went before it is too late.

The Recycled read will be open on January 6, 2024, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.! Find them at 10 S Logan Street, Wayne, NE 68787 (in the former Final Touch location downtown). We will accept donations at The Recycled Read during store hours. Donations (preferably of less than six boxes) will still be accepted during regular business hours at the Library. No textbooks or encyclopedias will be taken for donation. We may refuse to accept donations if the condition of the items are too poor. (E.G. dirty, moldy, pest-ridden, etc.)

Head to the back of the Library on Tuesday, January 10th at 6 p.m. for Adult Coloring. Stop in for a relaxing night and good company. Colors, coloring sheets, and snacks are provided. The Endicott Family sponsors Adult Coloring Night

After-school coloring will take place on Friday, January 12th, and Thursday, January 25th 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 Ms. Aleisha on January 19th at 3:30 p.m. for an exciting edition of LoFi Fridays! LoFi Fridays is a program designed for teens and teens who want to take a break from their phones and engage in fun activities with their peers. This week, we will be exploring our creative side with a canvas art session.

Work on your creative projects with our Needle Night group, on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. at the Library Enjoy conversation and good company while working on your needlework projects. All kinds of decorative sewing and textile arts and handicrafts are welcome.

Book Club will be returning for discussion on Tuesday, January 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the Library conference room. This month's discussion books will be *The Night Tiger* by Yangsze Choo or *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West* by Gregory Maguire. *The Night Tiger* is a novel about Ji Lin, a dressmaker's apprentice, and Ren, an eleven-year-old houseboy, as they navigate through their district dealing with unexplained deaths and men who turn into tigers. *Wicked* is the novel that inspired the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical and presents a radical new evaluation of the much-maligned *Wicked Witch of the West*.

A new club will begin at the Library in February: become a member of our Herb Club! February's herb is Sage! Every month a new take-and-make kit will be available, including one herb sample, recipes and tips for using the herb, and suggested cookbooks for using the spice that are available for checkout in our collection!

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 ~ Ready for a Green New Year?



We are kicking off 2024 by adding a new recycling program to our list. Thanks to a company called Terracycle, you can now recycle markers, highlighters, pens, mechanical pencils, permanent markers, and caps at four different locations in Wayne. Look for the Terracycle box at the Wayne Public Library, Wayne High School, Wayne Elementary School, and Carhart Science Building at Wayne State College. No wooden pencils or paint brushes are accepted.

Use the City's Brush Pile. Bring your Christmas tree free of any decorations or tinsel to the City's brush pile at 1810 Industrial Road.

Green Team Meeting January 9: We invite you to attend our Green Team meetings the 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon in the conference room of the SNBuilding at 1010 Main Street in Wayne (with the exception of no meetings in June, August, and December). We are already planning our Earth Day events in April and welcome your input.

For more tips on the Green Path to the Good Life, like the Wayne Green Team on Facebook or visit www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam. Thank you for recycling right and supporting our Zero Waste efforts in Wayne!

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

