



# City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne  
Utilities

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February, 2024

## ENERGYWISE TIP ~ Icicles



Can you think back to your childhood and remember the "magic" of icicles? While growing up in a century-old farm house, I remember wintry "No School" days when my mom would bundle me up in so many layers of sweatshirts, coats and overalls that I could barely move. Then, I'd waddle outside and start my polar expedition around the farm to discover the winter wonderland and search for the perfect icicle.

Inevitably, I would find the most beautiful ones hanging from the gutters on the south side of the house. Over the next couple of hours, I would keep checking to see how much they had grown. Then, before they became too long, I would break them off and carefully put them in the deep freezer thinking how refreshing they would taste in July when it's 95°F. Sadly, I never experienced that summertime sensation because mom always threw them out when she defrosted the freezer during spring cleaning.

Unfortunately, not all stories involving icicles are as innocent or benign. It seems every winter, we hear a news of someone injured by falling icicles. More likely, we hear very little about the gutters pulled off homes when the icicles become too heavy or the ice that builds up on the roof behind them, melts and rots wood in attics. Their beauty disguises the warning of other potential damage including loosened or broken shingles, cracked chimney stacks, ruined insulation, damaged drywall or even a roof collapsing.

Icicles form on days when the outdoor air temperature is sub-freezing but heat escaping through the attic melts snow or ice on top. As it drips off the roof, a water droplet freezes as it loses heat to the cold air. Over time, ice gets

thicker and thicker to create an ice dam. Eventually, the water behind the ice dam builds up enough to push under the shingles and into the house.

Roof rakes, heat cables and ice dam removal companies only address the symptoms of ice damming. While you may never completely eliminate icicles, there are two parts to a long-term solution: reducing the heat escaping into the attic and removing the heat that does.

### Attic insulation and air sealing:

Since most of this misplaced heat comes from below the attic, ensure proper insulation and air sealing. According to the Department of Energy, Nebraska homes should have enough insulation to equate to at least an R49 value in attics. This value is equal to about 15 inches of fiberglass batt material assuming an average of R3.25 per inch of thickness. Note that if you have loose-fill insulation in your attic, the R-value of does not change proportionately with thickness. Rather, manufacturers provide coverage charts that specify the amount needed to achieve a particular R-value.

Air leaks transmit a lot of heat into the attic quickly. When trying to seal up sources of these leaks, pay particular attention to the following items that often penetrate into the attic:

- Chimneys
- Plumbing stacks
- Recessed lighting from the ceiling below
- Bathroom and clothes dryer ventilation

Of the four, bathroom and clothes dryer exhausts can be the worst. Not only do they bring heat into the attic area, some are not completely ducted outside and dump warm, moisture-laden air right into the attic. This often

leads to problems similar to ice damming such as rotting rafters, ruined insulation, moisture inside walls, mold, and peeling paint.

### More attic ventilation:

Though secondary to insulation and sealing, ventilation is also important. No matter how much you insulate, some heat will still come through. Proper attic ventilation promptly moves the undesired heat outdoors before it causes melting on your roof.

Many homes built before 1980 have inadequate attic ventilation. When checking your attic's insulation levels, look for these signs of moisture problems:

- Damp insulation
- Unnaturally dark or discolored decking
- Dark streaks on roof boards around nails
- Orange resin beads on rafters signaling sweating wood
- Moisture on roof boards and rafters
- Crumbling, curled roof shingles

Your local public utility is happy to help you make the most of the energy needed to keep you warm, safe and sound this winter. For additional ideas, as well as information on EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> incentives to help with the cost of efficiency improvements, contact your local electric utility for more information.

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### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

February 6th  
February 20th

### 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!!

### CITY OF WAYNE JOB OPENINGS

- ♦ Street Maintenance Worker I
- ♦ Parks & Recreation Summer Help
- ♦ Public Safety Dispatcher
- ♦ Lifeguards

## Department News ~



**DISCOVER A NEW WAY TO PAY!**

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### WISE WORDS

*“A smart man only believes half of what he hears; a wise man knows which half.”*

~Jeff Cooper

## Library ~



Become a member of our Herb Club! Every month a new kit will be available, including one herb sample, recipes and tips for using the herb, and suggested cookbooks that are available for checkout in our collection. Our herb packets will be available on Thursday, February 1. You must sign up to request a Herb Club take-and-make; supplies are limited. If you signed up for Herb Club in January, you will be reached in regards to picking up your reserved packet. Stop by the circulation desk or give us a call to get signed up! A community potluck based around all of our herbs for the year will be planned in 2025! This month's herb is Sage.

Show off your artistic talents in our mini-exhibition this March! Stop by the library to sign up and receive a mini-artist kit. Once you've painted your mini canvas and/or made your sculptures with our kits, return them to the library to become pieces in our community exhibit. Kits will be available for pick-up throughout February and will be due back to the library by the end of the month. Free, first-come, first-serve, all ages are welcome to participate. You can also use materials outside of our kits to create, but we ask you to keep the completed piece to 4 inches or smaller. Give the library a call at 402-375-3135 to get signed up and to pick up your kit!

Hang out with Miss Aleisha on Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the library at Toddler Time. Join Aleisha for sticker art on February 1st, a Valentine's activity with a snack on February 8th, Skee Ball on the 15th, Motor Movement Dice game on February 22nd, and follow the leader on February 29th.

Join us for after-school story times on Wednesdays! The first Wednesday will have after-school story times at 2:15 p.m. After that, it will be every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.. Ms. Aleisha has planned activities for each day. They are as follows: February 7th is a story, February 14th is Valentine's Bingo and a Craft, the 21st is a story and coloring, and the 28th is a story and a craft!

Attend a creative evening on February 6th at 6:00 p.m. with Nicole to make a beautiful and unique piece of decor using faux flowers. No crafting experience is required. Learn to create a stunning hanging flower heart, perfect for adding a touch of spring to your home all year round. Ideal for individuals who enjoy crafting and DIY projects.

Get ready to put your superhero knowledge to the test! Join us for a family-friendly trivia game on February 10th at 2:00 p.m. and show off your skills. Bring the whole family along for a fun-filled afternoon. Don't forget to dress up as your favorite superhero for the occasion!

Head to the back of the library on Tuesday, February 14th at 6 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 the Endicott Family.

Teens and Tweens can join Aleisha for Lo-fi Friday on February 16th at 3:30 p.m. This month's theme will be Anti-Valentine's Day which includes snacks, juice, charades, and more!!

After-school coloring will take place on Friday, February 9th, and Friday, February 23rd, at 3:30 p.m. Relax and get creative after a busy school week! We will be doing miniature art!

Join Nicole for Basic Tech help—Stop in between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on February 20th. If you have questions about your devices or basic computer skills, please stop in.

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 handicrafts are welcome.

Book Club will be returning for discussion on Tuesday, February 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the library conference room. This month's discussion book will be *Breaking Creed* by Alex Kava. Ryder Creed and his drug-detecting dogs are in the limelight for uncovering several drug stashes at Atlanta's airport. They are called to search a fishing vessel where they find a secret compartment containing humans rather than drugs. FBI agent Maggie O'Dell is investigating a series of murders by a suspected assassin who has Creed's name on their hit list.

The 2023 Adult Year Long Alphabet Challenge continues! Dive into different letters throughout the year. Earn prize tickets by reading books and completing bonus challenges via our paper log booklets. Book kits fitting each alphabet theme will be available for check-out each month. Stop by the circulation desk for more information or to get signed up.

### 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 ~ Love Food, Hate Waste



Food waste continues to be a problem in the U.S. The FDA estimates 30-40% of all food is wasted in America. Wasting food means wasting resources and money, too. Here are five easy ways to reduce your food waste and increase your bottom line.

- (1) **Buy only what you need.** Plan ahead and make a list before grocery shopping. Be smart about sales. It's not a bargain if you won't eat it.
- (2) **Eat what you buy.** Sounds simple, yet few people manage to do this effectively. Make a conscious effort to keep track of the food you have – and then remember to eat it, especially those yummy leftovers.
- (3) **Keep food fresh.** Store foods properly to keep them fresh as long as possible.
- (4) **Don't toss food before it**

**spoils.** Expiration dates don't always mean the food has gone bad. It often means the food just can't be sold at a store. (5) **Avoid the trash.** If you have extra food, share it with others, like family, neighbors, coworkers, or our local food pantry. For the food scraps you can't eat, consider backyard composting

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). Thank you for recycling right and supporting our Zero Waste efforts in Wayne!

**Green Team Meeting February 13:** Join us at our monthly meeting at noon in the conference room of the SNBuilding at 1010 Main Street.

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:

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

