

## Department News ~

### Utility Scams ~

 Type the words “utility scams” into an online search and you’ll get a slew of headlines from around the country, many of them indicating these scams are on the rise.

Nebraska City was one community recently hit with an apparent scam after the utility received numerous calls from customers. According to local radio station, several of the utilities’ customers received calls from someone claiming to be a utility employee and threatening to shut off services until paid. The calls were placed to local businesses and restaurants. The caller sought payment through email.

Other scam attempts have occurred in the region as well. Some scam artists can be quite savvy and convincing. In a recent

case in Wisconsin, a caller posing as a utility employee called a local grocery owner requesting payment of more than \$400 to install a new water meter or his power would be shut off. Upon questioning, the caller said the utility sent a notice in the mail months ago, claiming the customer must have misplaced it. The caller’s phone ID even indicated the call was from the “utility”.

#### Elderly are most susceptible to scam



Scam artists typically target the elderly, who may be more trusting of an anonymous caller posing as their local utility. Fear can also play a major part of a successful scam — after all, no one wants their power shut off, especially if you’re operating a business that

could lose significant money during an outage.

If you receive a suspicious call, please call the City offices and the Police Department so other customers can be alerted and the possible scam be investigated.

Never give out your credit card or social security number to a caller telling them they are an employee with the utility.

We do hire contractors to maintain rights of way and do pole inspection work. These contractors should carry photo IDs. If you are still wary, a quick call to the utility can confirm the contractor is legitimate and work is planned in the area.

#### WISE WORDS

*“Much of the stress that people feel doesn’t come from having too much to do. It comes from not finishing what they started.”*

~David Allen

#### Did you know that:

**The average faucet flows at a rate of 2 gallons per minute. You can save up to 4 gallons of water every morning by turning off the faucet while you brush your teeth!!**



### Buried in Leaves ~



Is your yard buried with leaves this fall? Instead of putting them in your garbage, take them to Garden Perennials where they’ll be turned into compost for plants. Just dump your leaves, but not your bags. Call or visit Gail Korn at Garden Perennials with any questions, 85261 Highway 15, Wayne, (402) 375-3615.

#### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event a Success!

Thank you to Northeast Nebraska RC&D for sponsoring a successful collection event on September 13th. At least 56 households were served from eight communities. Under the direction of the Red Willow County Hazardous Waste Team, our community properly disposed of the following:

- o 480 pounds of pesti-

cides

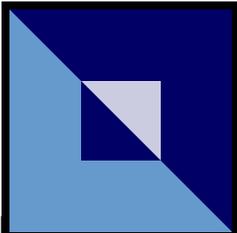
- o 2,380 pounds of paint
- o 6 pounds of acids
- o 31 pounds of bases
- o 15 gallons of oil
- o 20 gallons of antifreeze
- o 120 batteries
- o 138 fluorescent bulbs
- o 4 gallons of 2-4D
- o 6 gallons of Roundup



#### Did you also know that:

**If you’re a residential customer and have an irrigation meter, you could SAVE \$156 per year by having that meter taken out!! Winter averaging sewer usage eliminates the need to have that irrigation meter for lawn watering, etc.!!**





# City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne  
Utilities

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## Energy-Wise Tip - Light Bulbs ~



When we used to shop for light bulbs, most of us related the amount of light a bulb produced to its wattage size. We expected a standard 100-watt incandescent bulb to be about twice as bright as a standard 60-watt incandescent bulb and chose accordingly.

These days, our choices are not that simple. With the phase-out of most standard incandescent bulbs and a store's lighting section being taken over by halogen bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light emitting diode (LED) lamps, the world of light bulbs became a lot more complex.

**What are Lumens?** Instead of thinking "watts," we need to consider lumens. Watts measure the amount of energy required to produce light, whereas lumens measure the amount of light produced. The more lumens in a light bulb, the brighter the light. The following is a list of light output ranges of traditional incandescent

lamps:

- 40-watt bulb = 350 – 749 lumens
- 60-watt bulb = 750 – 1,049 lumens
- 75-watt bulb = 1,050 – 1,489 lumens
- 100-watt bulb = 1,490 – 2,600 lumens

The Federal Trade Commission has worked with manufacturers to develop a new label to help consumers purchasing energy-saving bulbs. It looks similar to nutrition labels on food and will have more concise information about the bulb's output and energy savings.

### The labels will include:

- Brightness (in lumens)
- Estimated Yearly Energy Cost
- Life-expectancy of the bulb
- Light appearance
- Energy used

Contrary to energy-efficient lamps' past appearance, today's options do not come only in bluish hues. We can choose a light bulb based on whether the light looks "cool," bluish, "warm,"

yellowish, or somewhere in between.

Finally, remember not all of today's energy efficient lamps can be dimmed. While halogen incandescents dim in the same way as their inefficient incandescent counterparts, CFLs and LEDs specifically designed to be dimmed are necessary in fixtures or lamps with dimmer switches. The bulb's packaging should specifically say whether the lamp can be dimmed or not.

Your local utility and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. That includes assisting you with selecting the appropriate energy efficient lamps to meet your lighting needs. For more ideas on how you can make your home EnergyWise, contact your local utility or visit [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com).

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**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

October 1st  
October 15th

### FACEBOOK & TWITTER

The City of Wayne has launched a Facebook page and Twitter account to help keep you informed of what's happening in your City.

Follow us on Facebook at:

[facebook.com/CityofWayneNE](http://facebook.com/CityofWayneNE)

and on Twitter at

[twitter.com/CityofWayne](http://twitter.com/CityofWayne).

