



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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December

Energy Wise Tip ~ Stumpy the Short-Nosed Reindeer

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I know that you know Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and even Rudolph. But did you hear about Rudolph's brother-in-law that had to get an extra job with a second-day air delivery company because he could not afford his energy bills?

I'm talking about Stumpy the Short-nosed Reindeer! Most reindeer agree that a \$600 per month electric bill is a lot for a three stall bungalow occupied by a family of five. What is sad is that Stumpy pays hundreds every month for wasted energy, and his second job does not leave time to try out for pulling Santas' sled!

To start with, Stumpy's kids were huge gamers and sound system freaks. A bunch of their devices such as the video displays, televisions, hard drives, speakers, tuners, ISP equipment, gaming consoles and external drives run continuously. If you add up all that energy used by electronics in Stumpy's home, it comes to over \$50 a month! He should have used his surge protection bars that everything was plugged into and simply shut off (or have the fawns shut off) all the extra load when it was not being used. But, we all know how bad kids are at shutting stuff off when they are done using it.

Unfortunately, Stumpy's excess energy use does not end there. His wife suffers from cold flashes. Rather than setting their thermostat to the recommended winter setpoints of 68°F during the day and 63°F at night or when no one is at home, Stumpy's wife, Crystal (Rudolph's sister), cranks the thermostat to 80°F and leaves it there! Then, once she gets too warm, she opens the windows and leaves for work!

Eventually, Stumpy comes home, lowers the thermostat and closes the windows. But he always forgets to use the window locks to seal the window and reduce outside air from sneaking in.

To make matters worse, Crystal always leaves the bathroom exhaust fan on after showering in the morning. That alone adds \$150 to their electric bill. Installing a timer on that fan would solve that problem. Stumpy should also consider installing a smart thermostat with a wi-fi connection. That way he could remotely program or turn the thermostat down after Crystal leaves for work.

Trust me, Stumpy deserves a bunch of the blame himself for his crazy utility bills! Did you know that last December his outdoor hot tub running continuously cost him over \$150? If anyone plans to maintain an outdoor hot tub during the winter, they should have sufficient insulation around the tub and turn back the thermostat when it is not being used. Better yet, he could have drained it for the winter season or moved his tub indoors if it is important enough to run all year.

Finally, Stumpy needs to do something about Durwood, his deadbeat brother who lives in his basement. Durwood is on medical disability after he claimed his night vision was damaged last year from staring too long at Rudolph's nose when he was in the bar one night. Consequently, Durwood turns on every light in the basement and never switches them off. If Stumpy would change out all those incandescent bulbs and install LED bulbs, he could reduce his use of electricity for lighting by 80 percent. Using

LED Christmas lights as opposed to traditional lighting strings could save over 90 percent!

Unbeknownst to Stumpy, Durwood has also added over 1,400 kilowatt-hours to the electric bill each year by keeping a 1986 beer fridge in his closet. A new energy-efficient model of the same size would only use 350 kilowatt-hours. Better yet, if Durwood is only trying to keep a six-pack or two cold, he should unplug the old unit and find a corner in Stumpy and Crystal's EnergyStar® refrigerator upstairs to keep his beverages chilled.

Don't plan on hearing about Stumpy the Short-nosed Reindeer anytime soon. Until he contacts his local utility to find out how to reduce his electric bill, he is going to be working a lot of overtime. With any luck, he might have Christmas off.

Your local utility wishes you and yours the very best during this holiday season. Part of our commitment to providing you outstanding customer service includes helping you make the most of the energy you use throughout the year. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, contact your local utility.



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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

December 6th
December 20th

VACANCIES

The City of Wayne is looking for people interested in serving on the following Boards and/or Commissions:

- Board of Appeal**
- Library Board**
- Civil Service**
- Planning Commission**
- Recreation –Leisure Services**
- Board of Health**

If you are interested in serving your community by being on one of these boards/commission, please contact Betty McGuire, City Clerk, at (402) 375-1733.



Department News ~

Wayne Public Library ~



Santa Paws Is Coming to Town!! Join us Tuesday, December 6, 2016, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. when Santa Claus visits the Wayne Public Library. We will have stories, crafts, and activities, and a chance for every child to let Santa know their special Christmas wishes. Bring your favorite stuffed animal and an adult with a camera to get a photo with Santa.

The final adult coloring night of 2016 will be Tuesday, December 13th, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Please pre-register at the Library so we have sufficient supplies and snacks. The evening is sponsored by Pac-N-Save grocery and the Endicotts.

Wayne Public Library is offering a chance at a family movie package with Christmas Season Bingo. Complete 7 of 14 activities shown on the bingo sheet to enter your name in the drawing. Some of the fun things you can do to complete the challenge are stopping by the Library on December 23rd for cocoa and cookies, coming to a pajama story time on December 29th, checking out Christmas books or dvd's, or making a donation to the Wayne Food Bank through the Library anytime during December. Stop by the Library for more information or to pick up a Bingo sheet.

Join us at the Library for a "Cookie Walk" on December 20th at 1:00 p.m. Bring a dozen, take a dozen. Co-hosted with the Wayne Senior Center. Get a variety of treats to use during your holiday gatherings.

They Wayne Public Library will be closed December 24, 25, and 26th for the Christmas holiday to allow staff members time with their families. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to one and all from the Library.

WISE WORDS

"Success without honor is an unseasoned dish; it will satisfy your hunger, but it won't taste good."

—Joe Paterno

REMINDER

City Offices will be closed Monday, December 26th, for the Christmas holiday.



Green Notes ~ Green up your Holidays!



Go green this holiday season with 3 easy tips that will save you money and reduce waste.

- Buy something that will last.** Consider the durability of a product before you buy it as a gift. Often, a cheaper item will wear out long before its more durable equivalent, which can be passed down to others. You don't want the holiday toys to end up in the trash before the start of the new year.
- Make it from scratch.** Think about making a card with a hand-written note, a list of 25 reasons your family member is special, or ornaments from recyclable materials, like toilet

paper rolls and egg cartons. Sometimes the best gift is one you can't buy.

- Re-gift.** Have something you no longer want, like a good book you've read, or a nice shirt you don't wear? Don't be shy about re-gifting. You'll extend the life of the item and pass it on to someone who will appreciate it.

Recycle strings of lights. Bring your old strings of holiday lights for recycling to the Wayne Transfer Station or City Hall and place in the bins marked for lights. These are recycled for the copper wire inside. When replacing, consider LED lights, which last longer, use less energy, and save money.

Use the City's brush pile. Don't forget about the City's brush pile at 1810 Industrial Road for disposing of your Christmas tree (without any decorations or tinsel) and greenery at the end of the holiday season.

For more tips on the Green Path to the Good Life, like the Wayne Green Team on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @WayneGreenTeam, email greenteam@cityofwayne.org or visit www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam.

