



# City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne  
Utilities

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## Energy Wise Tip ~ Refrigerators



Hosting a big party where your guests are all bringing a dish? It would probably be good if the chilled foods stay chilled. Do you have enough space in your refrigerator to accommodate everyone? If you just had a vigorous workout or a hot day in the sun, wouldn't a cold refreshing beverage sound good? Most people do not consider that after space conditioning, water heating and lighting, refrigerators and freezers are usually the fourth largest consumer of energy in a home.

A 2015 appliance survey revealed that nearly half of the homes in greater Nebraska have more than one refrigerator. In addition, nearly 80% of homes in the same area have one or more separate freezers. Most of these additional units are located outside the kitchen, being found in basements, garages, utility rooms, pantries or other areas. While these extra units are a great convenience, they also take extra energy to run. It is easy to overlook this fact until the electric bill arrives. If this operating period coincides with the higher summer rate period and increased air conditioning use, the cost can leave you wondering if the extra refrigeration is worth it.

What can you do to reduce this cost? Here are some

ideas:

1. To begin with, refrigerators manufactured before 1990 often consume three-to-four times more energy than new energy efficient models. If your second unit is more than 10 years old, try moving all your refrigerated items into one unit; preferably, your newest. Refrigerators are the most efficient when they are kept full. However, confirm that air inside the refrigerator can flow around all items to ensure proper cooling.

2. Only plug-in and operate the second refrigerator when you know it is needed. If you are hosting a large celebration, turn the unit on a few hours before the event and unplug it after it is no longer needed.

3. Consider loading a cooler up with ice if the extra room is needed for a brief period. The cost of running your old refrigerator over a 48 hour period can often be offset by the cost for a bag of ice.

4. Clean the coils! At a minimum, the coils on all of your refrigeration annually. Clean them more frequently if the unit is in a dusty or dirty environment. Do it for your new unit, too!

5. If you really need a second unit, consider purchasing a compact unit that is ENERGYSTAR-qualified. These units will consume only a minor portion of the energy a 30-year old clunker will.

Your local utility wants to help you keep cool this summer! This includes keeping foods and beverages refrigerated in the most efficient way possible. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, as well as financial incentives to help with the cost of your energy-saving upgrades, contact your local utility.

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### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

August 1st  
August 15th

### WAYNE AQUATIC CENTER HOURS

#### ATTENTION

Starting Wednesday, August 16th, the Wayne Aquatic Center will only open for 5-6 p.m. lap swim Monday—Friday and open on the weekends (Saturdays & Sundays) from 1-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

The Aquatic Center will officially close at 8 p.m. on Sunday, September 3rd, until next summer.



## Department News ~

### Wayne Public Library ~



Thank you to the hundreds of people who supported and participated in the Wayne Public Library annual summer reading programs. We are already thinking ahead to the 2018 theme of "Libraries Rock," focusing on music.

We are continuing this summer's theme of "Build a Better World" with programs in August. On Tuesday, August 8, Coloring for Adults will be back, courtesy of Kim Endicott and Pac n Save. On Wednesday, August 9, Chele Meisenbach will be here at 6 p.m. with 100s of rocks to be decorated, and then hopefully placed on the Wayne State College campus as a welcome for new and returning students later in the month. Supplies are provided by Chele and Ameritus.

The Public Health Department will be back with free blood pressure screening on Monday, August 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A new smartphone class will be offered on Monday, August 21 – "Smartphone 1.5: Apps, Maps, and Beyond." Please pre-register (class size limited) and come with your phone and all passwords.

The Library is hosting a Back to School event on Wednesday, August 16, at noon. Crafts and root beer floats will be featured. Scheduled children's programming will return the week of September 4 with Mother Goose at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturday Story Time at 10:30

a.m.

On Saturday, August 26, Junque in the Trunk will be in our parking lot from 8 a.m. to Noon. Join your vendor friends at the Library parking lot and use this fun, non-stressful way to sell your things. Call in to reserve your spot, or stop by the Library circulation desk to sign-up.

Planning ahead? The Library will be closed Monday, September 4, for Labor Day. Winter hours resume Tuesday, September 5, which means the Library will again be open Sunday afternoons from 2-5 p.m., beginning September 10.



### WISE WORDS

*"Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right thing."*

~Peter F. Drucker

### Backflow Prevention ~

**Caution! Your garden water hose may be hazardous to your health.**

**Do you know the dangers of backflow?**

A man sprays commercial weed killer containing an arsenic compound on the lawn using a garden hose attachment. After finishing, he disconnects the applicator. Since it is a hot day, he takes a drink of water from the hose. A short time later, he dies from arsenic poisoning.

**How could this happen?**

While the man was spraying weed killer, the water pressure dropped, which resulted in the chemical being sucked back into the hose. Later, when he drank from the hose, the poison was in the water. He unknowingly poisoned himself.

When water flows backward through the water supply system, it is called "back siphonage" or "backflow." The danger comes when

any hose, including a garden hose, is connected to a harmful substance. If the pressure in a water main drops while the hose is submerged in polluted or contaminated water, then the water (and whatever is in it) could be sucked back into the water pipes inside your home and into the drinking water supply. Water pressure drops are not uncommon. It can happen when firefighters battle a nearby blaze or before an authority crew repairs a broken water main on a nearby street.

Some harmful substances to be wary of are chemicals used to kill weeds, insects or lawn fertilizers. The cleanser used around the kitchen sink could be hazardous if ingested, as could the bacteria in the water from a wading pool or waterbed.

**Keeping your water safe from contaminants is easy.** The following steps

will help protect your drinking water:

- Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs or sinks. Keep the end of the hose clear of possible contaminants.
- Don't use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.

Purchase and install inexpensive backflow prevention devices for all threaded faucets around your home. They are available at hardware stores and home-improvement centers.



### REMINDER TO PET OWNERS

**Please remember to pick up your dog's waste.**

**Don't leave it in parks (where kids play) or other private and public areas!!**



### Green Notes ~ Wayne Grow an Extra Row!



This summer, join gardeners in donating fresh produce from your garden to our local food pantries. While picking your produce, set aside a bag of beans, a few tomatoes, spinach, cucumbers, squash, or anything fresh from the garden. Bring your garden produce to the Wayne Food Pantry at the First Presbyterian Church, Tuesday-Friday, 9am-noon, or to the First United Methodist Church Food Pantry on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning of each month. It doesn't have to be a lot, but if everyone contributes, it will add up fast. Thanks for growing that extra garden row!

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).

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COMING:** Save the date of Saturday, September 23, 8am – 11am (or until the truck is full) on 3<sup>rd</sup> between Lincoln and Pearl Streets again. Details next month.



### FAIR HOUSING—IT'S YOUR RIGHT:

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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306 Pearl Street  
Wayne NE 68787  
(402) 375-1733  
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**YOUR CHOICE. YOUR RIGHT. YOUR HOME.**

