



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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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 sweat-shirts, 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 dry-wall 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 EnergyWiseSM incentives to help with the cost of efficiency improvements, contact your local electric utility.

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CITY COUNCIL
MEETINGS
February 4th
February 18th

**REMINDER TO
PET OWNERS**
**Remember to pick up
your dog's waste —
don't leave it in parks
where kids play or
other private and
public areas!!**
**It's not only the right
thing to do—it's the
law!!**



Department News ~

Wayne Public Library ~

The Adult New Year Reading Challenge begins! This complete challenge will run January-April; there will be different challenges as well as prizes available at the end of each month! Stop by the WVPL circulation desk to sign up and pick up your February challenge booklet today!

Join us for Toddler Time on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Little ones enjoy stories, music, and busy bags to promote early literacy, writing and math skills. Anyone is welcome at any Toddler Time session! We hope to see you there.

Not up to date on the abilities of your smart phone? **Join Chele Meisenbach for Smart Phone 101 – Just the Basics on Monday, February 10th from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Learn about your phone, from simple tasks to apps, emails and social media! Please bring phone and/or email passwords for downloading items if needed. **Registration is required. Stop by the Library or call 402-375-3135 to register.**

Need something to do after school? Check out **After School Coloring, Friday, February 14th and Friday February 28th from 3:30—4:30 p.m.** Adults will be on hand for conversation. Color pages, crayons, markers and pens, plus a light snack, will be

provided.

Relax at **Adult Coloring Night Sponsored by Pac n' Save on Tuesday, February 11th from 6:00—7:30 p.m.** at the Library. All color pages, crayons, markers and pens, plus a light snack will be available at this FREE event. Coloring Nights are open to persons 18 and older.

The Needle Night group continues to meet on Thursday's from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This is a very informal group and is not limited to knitting. The last meeting of the month is held on the WSC campus, rather than the Library.

Join WSC NAEA Art Education Club students for a lesson in either Watercolor Mixed Media or Fused Glass. The exact workshop activity will be announced at the beginning of February. This workshop will be held on Tuesday, February 18th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. There will be a cost for supplies to participate, as well as limited spots available. (These details will also be announced at the beginning of February.) **To sign-up for Art Night, stop by the WPL or call us at: 402-375-3135.** The club will be accepting donations that night to

help fund their trip to the NAEA National Convention.

Book Club will be delving into a discussion about "Little Bee: A Novel." Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 25th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center. *Little Bee* is a novel by Chris Cleave. Cleave imagines a singular scene on a beach in Nigeria that unites Little Bee, a teenage Nigerian refugee, to the O'Rourke-Summers family. As both Little Bee and Sarah slowly tell and retell their stories of that event and those before and after it, their voices slowly unite. Bridging across countries and blending into a single set of metaphors, the women's stories intermingle into one.

With school closed on this day, join us for a **Movie Day: Friday, February 21st, 1:00-3:00 p.m.** Rated PG. A light snack will be provided.

Weekend Book Club will meet for discussion on Saturday, February 29th at 2:00 p.m. Stay tuned to our Social Media pages for updates at the end of January to see what book we will be reading next!

WISE WORDS

"Don't take life too seriously. You'll never get out of it alive."

~Elbert Hubbard

WAYNE RECYCLING & TRASH CENTER 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 ~ February 2020



Did you know vinegar is used for more than just cooking? It's a great natural cleaner for the home. Besides being effective, vinegar is cheap and widely available. Plus, it's non-toxic, lasts for a long time without losing strength, and is much safer to have under your sink than bleach, ammonia, or other toxic cleaning products. Here are just three green cleaning recipes for you to try out in the home:

- Window cleaner:** mix half cup of vinegar with a half cup of water and put into a spray bottle. Squirt on window, then scrub with newspaper, not paper towels, which cause streaking.
- Laundry:** add ¼ cup of vinegar to your rinse cycle when washing

clothes. It will help make colors brighter, remove smells, and break down detergent build up.

Hard water build up: for stubborn hard water deposits on faucets or shower heads, fill a plastic bag with enough distilled white vinegar to cover the fixture and let it soak overnight.

Join us for our Green Team meeting **Tuesday, February 11th, noon** in the back room of Tacos & More.

For more tips on the Green Path to the Good Life, like the Wayne Green Team on Facebook or visit www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam.



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
wblecke@cityofwayne.org

YOUR CHOICE. YOUR RIGHT. YOUR HOME

