



# City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne  
Utilities

Volume 10 —Issue 2  
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## Energy Wise Tip ~ Yard Lights



My grandpa is so proud of the yard light on his farm. Installed in June of 1986, it has operated from dusk-to-dawn for more than 11,000 nights in a row. Grandpa loves bragging to his buddies at the coffee shop how it always has come on at sunset and off at sunrise. Sadly, I need to share news with him about his 175-watt mercury vapor (MV) yard light that he is not going to like.

After operating for over 130,000 hours, his MV light is producing less than 20 percent of its original light output due to lamp lumen depreciation. Even so, it still uses the same amount of electricity as the first day he turned it on. On a dark night, I can stand directly under the fixture and see that it is functioning. But when I pull a book out to read, I cannot even discern the chapter titles. This is simply the nature of MV bulbs or lamps. In fact, most MV lamps that operate from sundown to sunup lose 20 percent or more of their output in their first two years.

The disadvantages of grandpa's MV light do not end there. If he shuts it off or if the power blinks, his light requires a "cool-off" and a "warm-up" period of five to seven minutes before returning to its previous light output. Moreover, MV lamp

ballasts are noisy as his is always loudly buzzing when it is on. If my grandpa needs to replace the ballast in his fixture, he will find that under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, manufacturers cannot make or import ballasts for mercury vapor lights after Jan. 1, 2008. But, alas, his old ballast never fails.

So how am I going to convince Grandpa to send his MV light the way of the Dodo bird and install a new, energy-efficient LED area light? First, I will point out the money he will save by switching to a quality 40-watt LED. His current MV light uses about 880 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity a year. At his average rate of 11¢/kWh, operating his light is adding about \$97 every year to his electric bill. A quality 40-watt LED area light will only use about 175 kWh at a cost under \$20 per year. With the purchase price of the new 40-watt LED area light around \$120, his savings will pay for the new light in fewer than two years!

Next, I will point out how he is no longer getting the amount of light he originally paid for. After 8,000 hours of operation, his old MV light is producing only 80 percent of its original output. After 20,000 hours of operation, the 40-watt LED area light will still provide

more than 90 percent of its original output. This is especially important since we tend to require more light to see as we age. Hopefully, this will appeal to Grandpa's safety aspects.

Finally, if all else fails, I will make a plea to Grandma. Grandma has Entomophobia (fear of bugs). The vast majority of nighttime insects are photophilic (attracted to light). Most LED lights attract fewer insects than conventional MV lamps because they emit very little light in the ultra-violet part of the spectrum. Conversely, MV lights are heavy emitters in the ultra-violet spectrum which readily attracts swarms. If I inform Grandma of this fact, I have a feeling Grandma will be installing a new 40-watt LED area light immediately.

Your local utility wants to help you make the best choices to brighten your nights. This 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 at (402) 375-2866.

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### CITY COUNCIL

#### MEETINGS

February 7th  
February 21st

### VACANCIES

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

#### **Board of Adjustment**

#### **Board of Appeal**

#### **Library Board**

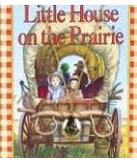
#### **Board of Health**

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 ~



A special celebration event will be held Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, marking the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Laura Ingalls- Wilder! Lots of new twists on some old fashion fun to try your hand at – making butter, using a washboard & tub, grinding coffee, and stringing beautiful beads. Bonnets, candy sticks and so many more activities to try and information stations to find out all about life on the prairie.

Love is in the air! February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. is our Valentine Party for Mother Goose - February 9<sup>th</sup>, an after school Valentine crafting session begins at 3:30-5:00 p.m. and continues at 6:30 p.m. with our Valentine evening story hour.

Coloring Night is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 p.m. to 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 sponsored by Pac-N-Save. Try something new and different this Valentine's Day. Coloring Nights are open to men and women high school grads and older.

The annual Mardi Gras celebration will be on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Snacks and Mardi Gras beads will be available throughout the day, and there will be a kids' crafts after school from 4:00—5:30 p.m.

Join us for the February 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Book Club discussion on the *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by [Gabrielle Zevin](#). A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare

collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But, when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over--and see everything anew.

Tax forms are now available in limited paper copies. Stop in to see if we have what you need. All forms and publications are also available on-line. Library staff can assist with printing what you need for 10 cents per page, per side.

Have you seen the Reader of the Week articles in the Wayne Herald? YOU could be our next featured reader! Call or stop at the Library for details.

### WISE WORDS

*“Let everyone sweep in front of his own door, and the whole world will be clean.”*

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

### HELP WANTED!

Wayne Aquatic Center is now accepting applications for Asst. Pool Manager and Lifeguards.

Wayne CAC is now accepting applications for Outdoor Recreation Workers.

Please contact the Community Activity Center for more information at 402-375-4803

**WE'RE HIRING!**

### Green Notes ~ Give Vinegar a Try!



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:

1. **Window cleaner:** mix a half cup of vinegar with a half cup of water and put into a spray bottle. Squirt on, then scrub with newspaper, not paper towels, which cause streaking.
2. **Laundry:** add a 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 showerheads, fill a plastic bag with enough distilled white vinegar to cover the fixture and let it soak overnight.

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).

