



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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ENERGYWISE TIP ~ Dust Bunnies



Whoever in the middle ages coined the term, “Out of sight, out of mind,” must have said it right after discovering one of the favorite hangouts for an elusive and energy-stealing beast well known in the refrigeration world: the Dust Bunny. Okay, maybe they didn’t have modern refrigeration appliances in the 1500s, but dust bunnies are definitely energy-stealing pests that can shorten the life of refrigerators and freezers today. Fortunately, you can rid yourself of their effects with a little extra effort once a year (or twice if you have pets).

Before discussing how to perform this simple maintenance task, answer this important question: “Where are my condenser coils?”

If your fridge or freezer doesn’t have a toe-grill on the front, you will find condenser coils attached to the back of the unit or behind a panel held in place by a few screws. If this is the case, you will need to pull the unit away from the wall for access. The coils will look like metal tubes wound in a U-shaped grid pattern. These coils transfer heat from your unit’s refrigerant into the room’s air. If you have never cleaned them before, don’t be alarmed if you find yours surrounded by a dense colony of dust bunnies!

For the heat transfer to occur, air must pass over the coils. That air often contains dust, dirt, pollen, pet hair and moisture which builds up over time to create a great environment for dust bunnies to flourish.

Before starting, you will need the following tools: a flashlight, coil condenser brush and dust mask. As you should before working on any appliance, start by unplugging the unit. Don’t worry about spoilage. The coil-cleaning process will only take 15 minutes or less, and the doors will remain closed the whole time.

Next, don the dust mask. Though most of the dust/debris will get vacuumed up, some will likely become airborne. Start by vacuuming the loose dust and debris along the inside of the toe grill or from the backside of the fridge. If your condenser coils are underneath the unit, the flashlight will come in handy to help spot them.

Next, brush away the dust clinging to the coil with a coil condenser brush. These brushes are available at most DIY stores for around \$10. Measuring approximately 27 inches long with short bristles on the top one-third, the brush’s cylindrical design lets you easily slip it between the spaces in the coil grid. Work it back

and forth to remove dust while keeping the vacuum running to remove loosened dust. Once the coils and surrounding area are clean, replace any toe grills or plates previously removed, plug the electrical cord back in and push your unit back against the wall if necessary.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a dirty condenser coil can increase compressor energy consumption up to 30%. While the total energy saved of 100 to 300 kilowatt-hours per year may only save \$12 to \$36, dirty condenser coils can shorten your refrigerator or freezer’s lifetime by up to five years. Considering the cost for repairing or replacing a broken or worn-out unit, even greater savings are realized.

Your local utility wants to help you make the most from the energy needed to keep your food cold! Contact them if you would like more information on other low-cost/no-cost energy-saving measures, as well as various EnergyWiseSM incentives that may be available to you.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

May 4th
May 18th

CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

City Hall office
Hours are:
7:30 a.m.
until 4:30 p.m.

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City offices will be closed  
Monday, May 31st, in observance of Memorial Day.



### **CITY SIREN SIGNALS**

**Fire Alarm Siren:** This is a high/low tone and will operate in daytime hours

**Tornado Siren:** This will be a single high tone siren for 3 minutes.

**Tornado Shelters:** City Auditorium at 3rd & Pearl Street & East Park Restroom

## Department News ~



**DISCOVER A  
NEW WAY TO  
PAY!**

**Paying your bill has never been easier and you've never had more options!**

- Access real-time account information and consumption history
- Pay via phone, text, website, or mobile app
- Make a one-time payment, schedule a payment, or sign up for auto pay
- Receive payment reminders



Learn More

<https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/waynenc>



download our iOS or Android app

MyCivic Utilities



### WISE WORDS

*“Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.”*

~Lou Holtz

## Library ~

Book club will be returning in May. Book club’s discussion pick will be “This Tender Land” by William Kent Krueger. Stop by the Library to check out your copy. Book club will be held at the back of the Library on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for discussion and conversation.

Summer is almost here, which means our annual Summer Reading Program is in the works! Sign up for our reading challenges via our virtual platform, Beanstack: [cityofwayne.beanstack.org](http://cityofwayne.beanstack.org). Visit the Library for more information about how to get started with the Beanstack Tracker app. Readers of all ages can register in seconds with individual or family accounts. Beanstack makes it easy for you to earn virtual badges, tickets for drawings, and real-world prizes by keeping track of reading. Post book reviews and keep track of activities they complete along the way. Not a fan of technology? We have you covered! Paper versions of our challenges will be available at the Library as well. Paper copies must be turned in at the end of the challenge dates to be eligible for prize drawings and par-

icipation.

Adult Summer Reading will begin May 26<sup>th</sup> and go through August 6<sup>th</sup>, with prizes being awarded August 11<sup>th</sup>. Keep track of each book read during this time and complete a variety of activities for entries.

Youth Reading Challenge begins May 26<sup>th</sup> and will go through June 30<sup>th</sup> with prizes being awarded July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Read a book that meets one of the hundred challenges for entries towards 6 grand prizes.

Youth Summer Reading will begin July 6<sup>th</sup>, with programs on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week. The special kickoff event this year is “Wildlife Encounters” on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. This event will be held at the Wayne High School gym, and is open to all! Join us to meet 6 Animal Ambassadors during a 40-45 minute exciting, interactive, educational program. Animal adaptations, history, geography, and cool facts will be highlighted, while encouraging kids and

adults to read more about each of these amazing animals.

Keep an eye out for Library pop-ups this summer by following us on social media: @waynepubliclibrary1902. We invite you to join us for 10 minutes at various locations around town and read. Bring your own seat and book to the events to take a communal reading break with us! Librarians will be available to help register new patrons for Library cards (bring a photo ID and proof of address, parents/guardians will have to be present with a child to register), provide information about our Libby app (to access ebooks and online audiobooks), and answer any and all of your questions about the Library.

Stop by Wayne Public Library or give us a call to learn more about all of these events.

**WAYNE  
RECYCLING &  
TRASH  
CENTER (RTC)  
HOURS**

Monday & Friday  
9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Tuesday  
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Saturday  
8:00 am.—Noon

Or by appointment  
Tuesday, Wednesday  
and Thursday

## Green Notes ~ Get Charged To Recycle Your Batteries!



The Wayne Green Team presented the Wayne Boy Scouts, Troop 174, with our Zero Hero award last month, recognizing their outstanding work in reducing, reusing, and recycling within the community of Wayne.

The Wayne Boy Scouts recycle paper and aluminum cans in the community, picking up items the third Saturday of every month for free from residential curbsides. They also accept paper and cans at the Wayne Recycling & Trash Center (RTC) in separate containers. Last year, the community helped our local Boy Scouts recycle 4 semi-trailers full of paper and one trailer full of baled aluminum cans. These materials are turned into home insulation and aluminum cans.

The recycling program raises funds for the Scouts for youth camps and activities. Over 20 Boy Scouts and their families participate in picking up cans and paper from Wayne homes each month, all as a free service. We are proud to recognize the Wayne Boy Scouts for their impact at reducing waste in our community and being this year’s Zero Heroes. For more info about Boy Scouts’ recycling program, contact their Recycling Coordinator, Mike Schlickbernd, at (402) 375-3700.

**Save the date for electronics recycling!** Our annual electronics recycling event returns on Saturday, September 18, 8:00 – 10:00 am, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Lincoln and Pearl. 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).

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:

**Wes Blecke**  
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Wayne NE 68787

[wblecke@cityofwayne.org](mailto:wblecke@cityofwayne.org)

**YOUR CHOICE. YOUR RIGHT.  
YOUR HOME**

