



# City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne  
Utilities

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November, 2021

## ENERGYWISE TIP ~ Bathroom Fans



While it's still dark outside, do you ever sneak into the kitchen or bathroom before everyone else wakes up and notice how cold the floors are? Worse yet, are you the last person up in the morning and still find your floorboard, tile or linoleum is just as cold as it was for the first person who got up? Since the overwhelming majority of Nebraskans don't live in igloos, you may wonder why. Ask yourself, "Is my rim joist sealed and insulated?" If your home was built prior to the 1990s, you might want to find out.

Now, you may be asking, "Where do I find my home's rim joist?" If you have a basement or crawl space, you need to look directly underneath the exterior perimeter of your main floor. If your basement is finished, it may be difficult to check because of a drop-in ceiling, paneling or drywall. On most homes, the rim joists, in combination with the sill plate, are the first pieces of wood that set on your home's masonry or concrete walls or foundation.

Prior to the 1970s, many builders assumed the weight of the house would put enough downward pressure on these boards and the home's foundation to keep the elements out. A decade later, most contractors installed a felt or rubber gasket between the two surfaces to reduce drafts and cut down on the number of bugs slipping through any gaps. In the end-cavity spaces between floor joists, they installed fiberglass

insulation in an attempt to reduce heat loss. Unfortunately, outside air and humidity still infiltrated past these materials, causing heating and air conditioning systems to run longer.

Today, many older homes have huge energy-saving and indoor air quality opportunities associated with properly sealing and insulating rim joists. A Department of Energy case study revealed that the test group of older homes with rim joists later sealed and insulated had a 11.4% reduction of outside air infiltration. This translated to average annual heating and cooling cost savings of approximately 19.3%.

The "retrofit" practice of simply insulating rim joists with fiberglass batts is no longer recommended. Because fiberglass batts are air permeable, they do nothing to prevent warm, humid interior air from contacting the colder rim joists in winter. When this warm, moist air comes in contact with the joists, water vapor condenses. As the problem continues, this condensation can eventually cause mold and/or rot in the rim joist area.

To prevent these problems, this area must be properly sealed and insulated. The entire job can be done with spray polyurethane foam or impermeable rigid foamboard in combination with an expanding foam sealant.

For the best results, a two-part insulation/sealant foam can be professionally installed or Do-It-Yourself kits are available at most hardware or home project stores. A two-inch coating will provide at least an R12 insulation value. At the same time, these products provide a vapor-proof seal between the wood and masonry. This approach is the most convenient as it combines sealing and insulating into one step. Unfortunately, this approach also tends to be the most expensive.

To reduce costs for this improvement, rigid foam board can be cut into rectangles slightly smaller than the space between floor joists. Once inserted into the cavity, expanding spray foam is applied around the foam board's perimeter to hold it in place while providing an air-tight seal. As with the previous method, a minimum of two inches of insulating material should be applied.

Your local utility wants to help you make the most of the energy that heats and cools your home. Contact them if you would like information on other ways to keep warm this winter. In addition, you may be eligible for EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> incentives to reduce the cost of energy efficiency improvements.

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### CITY COUNCIL

#### MEETINGS

November 2nd  
November 16th

### CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

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

City Offices will be closed Thursday, November 11th, in observance of Veteran's Day and also Thursday and Friday, November 25th and 26th, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



## Department News ~



**DISCOVER A  
NEW WAY TO  
PAY!**

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### WISE WORDS

*“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”*

—William Arthur Ward

## Library ~

**WE WILL BE CLOSING EARLY** Friday, November 19th, at 4 p.m., and Wednesday, November 24th, at 4 p.m.

**WE WILL BE CLOSED** November 25th and 26th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will reopen with our regularly scheduled hours the following Saturday.

Join us for **Toddler Time!** Hang out with Miss Kim Wednesdays or Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Library for stories, music, dancing, busy bags, and more. Meet other parents and kids in the area, and learn about the various services and reading programs our Library offers. Our November 18th Toddler Time will be the last of the season!

**After School coloring will take place on Friday, November 12th, at 3:30 p.m.** Relax and get creative after a busy school week. Adults will be on hand for conversation. Coloring pages, art utensils of all kinds, and a light snack will be provided.



**Head to the back of the Library on Tuesday, November 9th, at 6 p.m. for Adult Coloring.** Stop in for a relaxing night and good company. Colors, coloring sheets, and snacks are provided. Adult Coloring Night is sponsored by Pac N' Save.

**Work on your creative projects with our Needle Night group, Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. at the Library.** Enjoy conversation and good company while working on your personal needlework projects. All kinds of decorative sewing and textile arts handicrafts are welcome.

**Book Club will be meeting for discussion Tuesday, November 30th, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Library conference room. This month's discussion book will be ***Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano.** This book tells the story of a 12-year-old boy who is the sole survivor of a plane crash that kills all of the other 191 passengers, including the protagonist's family. Dear Edward is at once a transcendent coming-of-age story, a multidimensional

portrait of an unforgettable cast of characters, and a breathtaking illustration of all the ways a broken heart learns to love again.

**Stop by the Library in November to pick up a take-and-make Recycled Book Craft: Fall Crafts with Book Pages.** Stop in or call the Library at [402-375-3135](tel:402-375-3135) to reserve this fall-themed take-and-make craft. The craft will include an instructional book on how to create book leaf garland and other festive book crafts, as well as a recycled book to make your creations out of. Supplies such as scissors, glue, etc., will not be provided in the kit. This is a free craft! Supplies are limited, first come, first serve.

**Youth Winter Reading Challenge begins November 23rd and will end January 3rd, 2022.** This challenge will only be available via a paper copy that can be obtained from the circulation desk. Reach reading goals and gain entry into our prize drawings.

### 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 ~ Nearly 24,000 Pounds of Electronic Recycled



Congratulations to our community for recycling nearly 25,000 pounds of electronics and raising over \$4,300 to support our Zero Waste programs at our collection event in September. Since 2013, we have now recycled over 145,000 pounds of electronics! Your efforts help keep harmful materials out of our landfill. Thank you!

Special thanks to the many people who helped make this event a success, including volunteers from the Wayne Green Team, and Wayne State College Men's Basketball and Women's Soccer teams; City of Wayne staff and police; our vendor the Retrofit Companies; and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy for financial support.

**Recycle Strings of Holiday Lights.** As you decorate for the holidays, remember you can recycle light strings that no longer work. Collection bins are at the Wayne Recycling & Trash Center during regular hours: Monday and Friday, 9am-1:30pm; Tuesday 11am-2pm; Saturday 8am-noon. The light strings will be recycled for its copper wire by Retrofit. When buying new holiday lights, consider LED ones, which last longer, use less energy, and save you more money in the long run. Now that's a bright idea!

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**  
306 Pearl Street  
Wayne NE 68787

wblecke@cityofwayne.org

**YOUR CHOICE. YOUR RIGHT.**

**YOUR HOME**

