

January 2024 Newsletter



Recycling Dates: January 4th & 18th

Trash: Every Wednesday

Recycling: Every other Thursday

*For a regularly updated recyclable and non-recyclable items list, visit: www.nwialandfill.com/recycle



On-Call Numbers

Just a reminder that if you need to contact the City outside of normal working hours please use the following numbers:

(712) 930-5444 – Gas, Water & Sewer

(712) 930-5222 – Electric



Important Reminder!

Every year we receive multiple complaints regarding properties that have not scooped their sidewalks in a timely manner, or at all during the winter season. It is important to keep your sidewalks clear for pedestrians, especially children, trying to use them on their way to and from school. Chapter 136.03 in the City Code of Ordinances states: “It is the responsibility of the abutting property owners to remove snow, ice, or accumulations promptly from sidewalks. If a property owner does not remove snow, ice, or accumulations within a reasonable time, the City may do so and assess the costs against the property owner for collection in the same manner as a property tax.”

PLEASE remember to clear the snow AND ice from your gas meters this winter season. Not only will this allow workers to do their jobs more effectively, but it is also a safety precaution for you. Accumulated snow and ice places stress on the regulator and meter piping and could cause gas to leak into your home. Excessive snow cover may result in abnormal pressure, affect appliance operation, and interrupt your service. If there is an emergency, response crews will need clear access to your meter. Please be sure to take the time to clear yours.



UPDATE

LIHEAP UPDATE

If you have applied for and been approved for heat assistance (LIHEAP), but do not see this reflected on your utility bill – do not worry. Upper Des Moines Opportunity releases the funds to our office once they are available to them. This often can take a few months from the time LIHEAP season begins in November. Please remember, the funds do not appear as one lump-sum credit on your utility account. If you have further questions about your LIHEAP account or the process for applying, feel free to contact our office or Upper Des Moines in Primghar.



Q: How much does the New Year's Eve ball in Times Square weigh?

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1. Check Your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Test and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors at least once per year. CO detectors have a life expectancy of 3-5 years, smoke detectors every 8 to 10 years.

2. Warm Your Car Outside

Never warm up your vehicle in the garage, even if the garage door is open. Letting a car idle in a confined area can expose you to carbon monoxide and other harmful gases.

3. Prevent Water Pipes from Freezing

Pipes located on exterior walls or in unheated interior spaces have the greatest freezing potential. For long-term protection, invest in pipe insulation for plumbing that borders an exterior wall. If you don't have frost-proof spigots, make sure you close the interior shut-off valves that lead to outdoor faucets. In extreme cold weather, you can let cold water drip from your indoor faucets. The flow of water makes freezing pipes less likely to occur. It also helps to open cabinet and closet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around exterior wall plumbing.

4. Ensure Proper Ventilation

Cleaning of your return and supply vents, dryer vent, and bathroom/kitchen exhaust fans are especially important in winter. When families spend more time indoors it leads to more dust accumulation as well as more airborne particles & contaminants, all of which can cause indoor air quality issues in the absence of adequate ventilation.

5. Filter Replacements

Routine replacement of filters keeps your furnace operating at its best, improves air quality and saves energy usage.

6. Schedule a Furnace Inspection

Getting a furnace inspection not only ensures that your heating system is functioning properly and efficiently, but it also prevents untimely system breakdowns.

7. Monitor Outdoor Utility Equipment

Keep your outside meters and vents clear of ice and snow. You can use a broom or brush to gently clear the area around the meter. Never use a heat source to melt snow or ice and take caution when shoveling or plowing around utility equipment.

8. Routinely Check Outdoor Exhaust Vents

High efficiency natural gas appliances require an outdoor exhaust vent. Most vents are plastic pipes exiting your home at the foundation. It's critical that these vents be cleared of snow, ice, and other debris.

9. Ward Off Germs & Illness

Viruses run rampant during the winter months and being cooped up indoors makes everyone more susceptible to getting sick. Encourage everyone in your household to use antibacterial soap and hand sanitizer regularly. If you want to take extra precautions, invest in an electronic air cleaner. A whole-home air cleaner can capture and kill up to 99% of harmful airborne contaminants.

10. Avoid Icy Gutters

Before snow falls clear your gutters of leaves and other debris. Clean gutters help to prevent water and ice buildup that can cause damage to your roof or home. If at any point during winter you spot large icicles hanging from your gutters, it's the first indication of a potential problem.



Customer Contribution Fund

Project Share, as it is called, is a plan to assist needy households in paying their wintertime energy bills. You can help by adding a regular contribution to your monthly utility payments, or by making a direct donation to Project Share. These funds will then be distributed to neighbors in need for wintertime energy costs. Those qualifying for help will be carefully identified by an area social service agency. A local committee will oversee Project Share to guarantee all contributions will be handled equitably and efficiently. Please consider a donation. It is a simple way to share some warmth with those who need it. Contact City Hall if you are interested.



A: 11,875 lbs, It contains 32,256 LED bulbs and is also capable of displaying a palette of more than 16 million vibrant colors.