

## Newsletter for June 2007

### Front page

Left column

### Holiday Office Closings:

Remove dates and add July 4 – Independence Day

### Front page

### **Wyandotte Municipal Services will be moving to City Hall 3131 Biddle Ave.**

In order to consolidate Wyandotte City Services, the Customer Assistance Departments will be moving to City Hall. All Wyandotte Municipal bills will be paid at 3131 Biddle Avenue.

### **Water Conservation**

#### **Watering Your Lawn: Easy tips for saving water in your yard.**

Most of us tend to over-water our lawns. For most lawns with a sprinkler system, watering three times per week for 10-15 minutes per day is adequate. Also remember that your lawn doesn't need as much water in the spring and fall as it does in the hot months of summer.

#### **Avoid water runoff:**

If you have an adjustable time on your sprinkler, system, divide your watering times into three short cycles one hour apart. For example, time your sprinkler to water your lawn for 5 minutes at 5 am, 5 minutes at 6 am and 7 minutes at 7am for a total of 15 minutes. This allows the water to seep deeper into the soil to reach plant roots and helps to prevent runoff.

### **PURCHASE GREEN ENERGY THROUGH - NATURES' ENERGY: BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION**

Nature's Energy is a program, in partnership with AMP-OHIO, to supply renewable energy that is more "earth-friendly" than our current resources. Renewable energy sources include water and wind generated production of electricity as well as utilizing land fill gasses to produce electricity. Nature's Energy members purchase renewable energy equal to your annual electricity usage to be delivered to our regional power grids.

The cost is just \$0.015 per kilowatt hour for residential customers or about \$8 per month on average. Commercial customers can buy blocks of electricity for \$15 per block.

Please take a minute to consider being part of this important program. If you have any questions, please call (734) 324-7190 Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00pm.

### **Wyandotte Municipal Services Hosts 'Bring Your Child to Work Day'**

On April 26, 2007, Wyandotte Municipal Services held its annual 'Bring Your Child to Work Day'. Employees were able to share their 'work life' with their children and grandchildren. The day began with an overview of the utility operations and employees sharing their work responsibilities. Children were able to tour the Cable Television Distribution Center and Studio, the Customer Assistance Departments, the Electric Department and the Water Department. They also were able to see the Power Plant, the Black Start Diesel Generators and the Wind Turbine Monitoring Tower. At each location, students were given an overview of the operations. Students came away with an understanding of how electricity works and how that electricity is distributed to our residents; how our drinking water is processed for residential consumption and how our cable television is broadcast to homes and the work involved in these television production. The students spent the remainder of the work day with their parents. A great time was had by the entire workforce in meeting and interacting with the students.

### **Lights, Camera, Action!!!!**

Wyandotte Municipal Services offers a three-week training program for residents interested in learning about Local Access Programming. If you'd like to learn how to put together a local television show, enroll in this training that meets weekly. For more information or to enroll, contact Studio Director Steve Colwell at (734) 324-7138.

### **Wyandotte Municipal Services Wind Monitoring Tower Dedication**

To celebrate Earth Day, the Wyandotte Municipal Services' Wind Monitoring Tower located at 8th and Central was dedicated. The tower is 180' in height, and will measure the wind speed for the next year to determine if Wind Turbines can be installed in Wyandotte. The second monitoring tower is installed on the BASF Site.

### **Protect Your Computer From Power Surges... Most Surges Are Generated Within The Home.**

Temporary power surges can wreak havoc on home office equipment, even if there's no thunder or lightning in the forecast. That's because 80% of all temporary power surges are generated from within the home. Some of the common sources of these surges include household appliances such as air conditioners, washing machines, clothes dryers,

and refrigerators. But the culprit could also be part of your home office setup – a laser printer or photocopier, for example. Whatever the source, temporary power spikes can damage sensitive microprocessors inside computers and peripheral office equipment.

One way to protect your home office equipment is to install a “plug-in” surge protector. These devices come in an array of options and prices – but most models fall into three basic categories: the familiar multi-outlet power strip; the multitasking surge station that can handle phone and cable jacks as well as power cords; and the UPS (uninterruptible power supply), which completely cleanses electric power of random fluctuations and provides a short-term battery backup in case the voltage dips or power goes out entirely.

Expect to pay between \$20 and \$70 for a quality power strip or surge station and from \$100 to \$250 for a UPS. Remember that even the best surge suppressor can't do its job if your house wiring isn't properly sized and grounded.

### **Keep Your Cool This Summer. How To Save \$\$ When Buying and Using Air Conditioners and Dehumidifiers.**

Now that the weather is warming up and many people are plugging in air conditioners and dehumidifiers, making informed decisions about buying and using these appliances can help you stay comfortable and save on costs.

**Size matters** – The first step is buying properly-sized equipment, usually rated in BTU's for air conditioners and pints-per-hour of water removal for dehumidifiers. Always use the smallest unit necessary for the job. Oversized equipment will not only cost more to buy and operate, but, in the case of air conditioners, won't dehumidify effectively.

**Operating costs vary** – The operating costs of most major appliances, including air conditioning (A/C) units and dehumidifiers, can be determined by reading the energy efficiency label. Yellow “buyers guide” stickers compare energy use for appliances similar in size and features. Air conditioners and heat pumps carry Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) labels. The higher the number, the more efficient the product. The most efficient models of many appliances earn the Energy Star rating from the EPA.

**How you use the equipment is important, too** – This summer, close off specific areas to be air conditioned to avoid paying to cool or dehumidify additional space. If you have central air conditioning, set the thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature. Using fans instead of your A/C system can save up to 50% on your cooling costs.

Whenever possible, minimize adding heat to your house: keep out direct sunlight with shades, drapes, or awnings; cook outside on the grill; turn off unnecessary lights; save heat-producing activities like ironing or laundry for early morning or late evening.

## **Coming Soon.... Phone Service from Wyandotte Municipal Services**

Wyandotte Municipal Service is pleased to announce the upcoming availability of VoIP Phone Service. VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) is the newest technology in phone service delivery sending your phone calls via your internet connection. You can connect to any other phone in the world with amazing clarity.

Wyandotte Municipal Service will offer an Unlimited Local and Long Distance Phone Service plan to anywhere in the United States and Canada for one low monthly rate. Eliminate another monthly bill when you switch to our service. Our plan will be charged on a single bundled bill along with your Electric, Cable TV, Internet and Water/Sewer services. The new Phone Service Plan will be available later in 2007.

### **Utility Pole Safety**

In order to keep everyone safe, please remember not to place signs on streetlight poles or electric service poles. During regular maintenance a lineman may have to climb a utility pole. Nails and signs interfere with the ability to climb the pole safely.