The Resource

City of Warrenville

SMART METERS

Smart Meters, which send WiFi signals, are coming to Warrenville because they save utilities money and enable people to optimize energy savings by using real-time pricing.

There has been controversy over the non-ionizing RF-EMF radiation they give off. Some concern may be warranted, though the risk is likely less than that of a cell phone. People should be aware of the risk and not, for instance, station a baby crib directly near where the meter is operating.

While the WEAC would like to make a true opt-out possible, the City does not have regulatory authority to do so.

For more information on the potential risks of Smart Meters, visit California Council on Science and Technology, http://www.ccst.us/publications/2011/2011smart-final.pdf. Most people will find the level of risk acceptable; for those who do not, call ComEd to ask to delay installation at (866) 368-8326, or visit ComEd's website at: https://www.comed.com/technology/smart-meter-smart-grid/Pages/smart-meter.aspx

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

All DuPage County residents can bring unwanted electronics to the Naperville Public Works Service Center Recycling Drop-Off Center at 180 Fort Hill Drive in Naperville from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Please note: this is a self-service electronics drop-off location. Please enter the center off of the one-way drive via Fort Hill Drive. Accepted items include personal computers, laptops, all-in-ones, monitors, televisions, large peripherals, copiers, computer cables, keyboards, mice, fax machines, VCR and DVD players, CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, video game consoles and more. For more information, call the Naperville Public Works Facility at (630) 420-6095 or visit their webpage at http://naperville.il.us/electronicsrecycle.aspx"

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE!

The Environmental Advisory Commission has four pages on the City's website dedicated to our efforts. These pages include a general information page about the Commission along with the current Commissioners' names.

More information about our programs and projects can be found at: www.warrenville.il.us/index.aspx?nid=316.

GET SMART ABOUT ENERGY USE

"Get Smart about Energy Use with Elevate Energy"

We all want our homes to be comfortable and affordable. However, most homes waste too much energy, resulting in discomfort, high bills, and unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions. Right now through the Energy Impact Illinois program, residents can find out where their homes are losing energy and what they can do to fix these issues. Schedule a $99 home energy assessment, or host an energy house party and get a Building Performance Institute-quality assessment for free. Our qualified contractors will find the most cost-effective approaches, and Elevate Energy will ensure the work gets done right. Join the 4000+ homeowners who have made improvements and are reducing their energy bills by 15% or more.

To learn more about your options for energy efficiency and home energy savings, contact your local Elevate Energy advisor Liz Lyon at (773) 299-7651 or elizabeth.lyon@elevateenergy.org.

Elevate Energy is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization that designs and implements energy efficiency programs that lower costs, protect the environment, and ensure that the benefits of energy efficiency reach those who need them most. For more information, you can visit our website at elevateenergy.org.

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"It shall be the intent and purpose of the Environmental Advisory Commission to act as a resource and advocate to the City Council and the community at large to help develop educational and informational programs and materials that promote environmental awareness and behavior, as well as to promote and coordinate the City's beautification efforts and to conduct an annual Arbor Day activity in Warrenville."

PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS

By: Jean-Marie Kauth

Many of us grew up loving certain insects: brilliant monarch butterflies hovering over the milkweed, bees whose lazy buzzing around the flower bed heralded the coming of summer. But these gorgeous insects are not just for decoration: bees and butterflies perform an essential ecological function. They pollinate our food crops. Without them, the total world agricultural output would be reduced 3-8%, and it is doubtful that humans could compensate for that loss, particularly in the developing world (Aizen 2009). The economic value of their ecological services is estimated at $57 billion in the U.S. alone (Losey 2006).

The loss of pollinators is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to species loss. Many scientists believe we are at the beginning of the sixth major extinction event. But this time, the comet is us.

Here are some ideas for being a good neighbor to bees and butterflies:

1) Grow native plants.   Native plants are beautiful as well as environmentally sound choices. According to entomologist Doug Tallamy, non-native plants are like a food desert for native insects and birds (http://www.plantanative.com/what-should-i-plant.html). This Chicago Wilderness Habitat Project document lists "Host Plants and Habitat for Butterfly Species of Concern": http://www.habitatproject.org/webdocs/misc/ButterflyHostSpecies.pdf   The Wild Ones have a local chapter and provide wonderful information on their website about using native plants in the typical yard (http://www.wildones.org).

2) Don't use pesticides. Pesticides cause broad and massive diversity loss, even at levels thought to be safe (Oosthoek 2013). Round-up and other herbicides have been chiefly responsible for destroying the milkweed on which monarchs depend across the entire United States. Imidacloprid and pesticides like it, in the class called neonicotinoids, are highly toxic to bees and other valuable pollinators. Neonicotinoids result in both immediate death and sub-lethal effects in bees, and lead to bee colony collapse, where whole hives of bees simply disappear without explanation, dead hives without dead bodies (Cox 2001; Koshlukova et al. 2006). Neonicotinoids are routinely found in the hives of honeybees and persist in soil and water. Unlike the United States, Europe has temporarily banned neonicotinoids while research continues.

3) Put up bee nests, or create areas for nests. You can find information about how to do this at http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/pollinator_friendly_parks_21ed_xerces_society.pdf

4) Join BeeSpotter to help researchers learn about bees at http://beespotter.mste.illinois.edu/

Bees and butterflies face diminishing habitat, pesticide attack, and the completely novel environmental conditions caused by climate change. Any help we can give them will be richly repaid in fruit, flowers, and food, as well as the fleeting grace of their presence. Visit the EAC pollinators page on the City's website at: http://www.warrenville.il.us/index.aspx?nid=566

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