



# City of Highland Weekly Report

December 4, 2014

## Repete's Wisdom of the Week - 10 Tips to Reduce your Heating Bill

### Public Services



**Repete's Wisdom of the Week - Melt Away Heating Bill Shock This Winter - 10 Hot Tips.** As the fall chill begins to set in, many of us are already cranking up our heaters. Unfortunately when you crank up the heat it can also crank up your bill.

Many people don't have the option of heating their homes with a wood burning stove or fireplace and must rely on a heating system. In addition, most of our homes are not as energy efficient as they could be.

Fortunately, there are simple, affordable things you can do to reduce your consumption. Here are 10 helpful tips for melting away your heating bill shock this winter.

**Door Draft Stoppers:** Cold, drafty air often sneaks in underneath doors. You can purchase simple door draft stoppers to cover up these cracks. You can even roll up a rug to improvise.

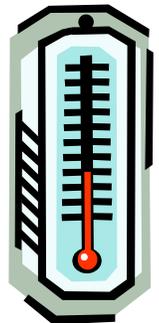
**Window Insulator Kits:** As houses settle, cracks tend to form around windows. If there are drafts sneaking in through your windows, it could cost a lot more to heat your home. You

can buy a window insulator kit to cover your windows in a thin plastic film in the winter months to keep the chill out.

**Check Your Heating Vents:** Double check to make sure all of the vents for your central heating system are open. Contrary to popular belief, closing the vents does not save energy. If they are all open, your system won't have to work so hard to keep your home warm.

**Replace Your Air Filters:** For your heating system to work optimally, the air filters need to be clean and free of dust and debris. Most systems will need the filters to be changed each month for full efficiency.

**Install a Programmable Thermostat:** To make it easier to ensure the heat is turned off when you're away from the home, you can install a programmable thermostat. Set the heat to only go on during the hours when you'll be home.



**Set Your Water Heater at 120:** The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that by setting your water heater at 120, you can lower your water heating expenses by 6-

10%. You can further improve your water heater's efficiency by insulating it.

**Cook with Your Oven:** Ovens can pull double duty in the winter. While you're cooking a casserole in the oven, you get the side benefit of heating up your home at the same time.

**Add Extra Blankets to Your Bed:** Instead of turning up the heat at night, add an extra blanket or down comforter to your bed to keep toasty warm. Then you can turn the heat on in the morning to take the chill out of the air. For more great tips visit [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com)

## Volunteer Services

**Prepare Your Home for Winter Weather.** Although periods of extreme cold cannot always be predicted far in advance, weather forecasts can sometimes provide you with several days' notice. Listen to weather forecasts regularly, and check your emergency supplies whenever a period of extreme cold is predicted.

If you plan to use a fireplace or wood stove for emergency heating, have your chimney or flue inspected each year. An inspector can be found in the yellow pages of your telephone directory under "chimney cleaning."



Also, if you'll be using a fireplace, wood stove, or kerosene heater, install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector near the area to be heated. Test them monthly, and replace batteries twice a year.

Your ability to feel a change in temperature decreases with age, and older people are more susceptible to health problems caused by cold. If you are over 65 years old, place an easy-to-read thermometer in an indoor location where

you will see it frequently, and check the temperature of your home often during the winter months.

Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls so your water supply will be less likely to freeze. To the extent possible, weatherproof your home by adding weatherstripping, insulation, insulated doors and storm windows, or thermal-pane windows.

If you have pets, bring them indoors. If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate shelter to keep them warm and make sure that they have access to unfrozen water.

### Checklist

- Insulate walls and attic.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
- Insulate any water lines that run along outer walls (water will be less likely to freeze).
- Service snow-removal equipment.
- Have chimney and flue inspected.
- Install easy-to-read outdoor thermometer.

For more information, please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

## Community Development

**Planning Commission:** At the December 2, 2014, regular meeting, the Planning Commission considered the following item:

1. Accessory Sign Review (ASR 014-024) - A Request to Install a 17 Square Foot Monument Sign at an Existing Assisted Living Facility Known as Highland Palms Healthcare Center  
Location: 7534 Palm Avenue APN: 1192-461-74

The Planning Commission:

1. Approved Accessory Sign Review Application (ASR-14-024) for a new monument sign, subject to the Project Conditions of Approval; and
2. Adopted the Findings of Fact

## Finance

**Commercial Business License Applications** - There were no new commercial business license for the week of 12/1 to 12/4/14.

## Mark Your Calendar



### December 9, 2014

3pm - Finance Subcommittee Meeting, Upright Conference Room

6pm - City Council Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

6pm - Housing Authority Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### December 11, 2014

5pm - Community Trails Committee, Donahue Council Chambers

### December 16, 2014

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### December 23, 2014

6pm - City Council Regular Meeting - **Dark**

### December 30, 2014

11am - Finance Subcommittee Meeting,

### January 6, 2015

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### January 7, 2015

4pm - Tentative Public Nuisance Hearing Board Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### January 8, 2015

5pm - Community Trails Committee, Donahue Council Chambers

### January 13, 2015

6pm - City Council Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### January 20, 2015

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

### January 27, 2015

6pm - City Council Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

*Assembled by: Elena Rodrigues*



*City of Highland  
27215 Base Line  
Highland, Ca 92346  
(909) 864-6861  
[www.cityofhighland.org](http://www.cityofhighland.org)*