



WCLN Community Update
Fayetteville Public Works Commission
December 14, 2023

Announcer (00:00:01) - The Daily Grind Rewind.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:00:04) - Well, as always, it's a joy to sit across from you. Lexi Josephus from Fayetteville's PwC with all sorts of Christmas tips and ways that we can save this year. Lexi, thank you so much for being here.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:00:14) - Thanks for having us. We're so excited. Merry Christmas.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:00:17) - Merry Christmas to you. And there are so many things going on in the community, so many things we can get engaged with and involved with. And I know Fayetteville's PwC is involved with a lot of those things, especially our downtown area this year.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:00:29) - Absolutely. We have beautiful Christmas lights downtown. We have lots of winter escapes downtown, huge human size, um, Christmas lights. It's really fun downtown. And we also have Christmas in the park, which I'm going to today with my dogs. I'm really excited. So they're going to see all the lights in Arnett Park. And then there's also at the Cape Fear Regional um, Botanical Garden. We also have that event too. So there's a lot of light bulbs, a lot of fun stuff to see.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:00:59) - And a lot of those events are free.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:01:00) - Now, the the Arnett Park lights, is that something that your dogs ask for each year or do they.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:01:07) - Well, I saw a couple people last year bring their dogs, and their dogs were just looking out the window and so excited. And one of my coworkers took their dog yesterday and I was like, well, if you don't have children, maybe the dogs would have fun. So we're going to pile up in the car, get some hot cocoa, and we're going to go take the dogs and see if they like it. It is.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:01:24) - Fun. I've only been out there one time personally and we went early, so it wasn't bad, you know, because they do get a line now that they work people through, but they do get a line out there and you can see the other Christmas lights depending on which direction you're going. They're white or they're red.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:01:41) - Absolutely. And the the Cumberland County or Fayetteville, Cumberland County Parks and Rec do an excellent job every single year with that.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:01:48) - Yeah, that's a wonderful event. And and speaking of lights and beautiful displays, you know, lots of people light their homes this time of year. And so they may see a little difference in their bill. But but Fayetteville PwC has gone out of their way to make that a little easier. Right.



Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:02:02) - Absolutely. So if you have some of those old school lights in the attic that you take about 2 or 3 hours to, you know, get on unwound and there are those old incandescent lights, we have a bill credit available if you go and buy new LED lights. And if you go to any store right now, a lot of people have gone and bought lights. So if you've kept your receipts, you can always turn them into PwC. And depending on how much you've purchased, you can get up to \$40 on your bill.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:02:26) - And that's it could be really significant depending on on your bill and how you how you handle the rest of your winter.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:02:33) - Yeah. And those LED lights are safer because they don't get hot because they don't use as much energy.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:02:37) - Now, how long do people have to turn those receipts in, uh, to exchange it for that credit.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:02:42) - Till the end of the year? Okay, so hurry up. Go look for your receipts.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:02:46) - Well, hopefully you do have them. And, you know, there are many stores, some of the bigger stores where if you shop and you're part of their, uh, shopping club or whatever, you can always go online and get your receipts. So that's kind of a bonus if you, if you, if you bought that little card, maybe some places give you a discount and others you can just find your receipt later.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:03:04) - And that's great for people like me because I never keep my receipt.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:03:08) - Now, there are some things that we should and should not do, and a lot of times we get into the holiday season and there are so many other things going on, and we just kind of abandon some of the, well, really common sense do's and don'ts. But in your latest newsletter from Fayetteville, PwC, you actually have a naughty and nice holiday list on there.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:03:28) - Tell us about that.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:03:29) - Absolutely. Check out our website for all of those electrical safety tips. But during this year, what we normally see is people, you know, you're got a lot going on. You're buying gifts, you're also still working. You got family coming into town. You might forget if you have a live Christmas tree to keep that watered again, you have lights. It's a it's attached to electricity there. You need to make sure that that tree is always hydrated. Another thing that we see unfortunately, is people are so excited to put up their Christmas lights and they don't pay attention to where necessarily they put the ladder. And sometimes you'll put it, you know, on a light pole, you could definitely damage that light pole which is attached to not just, uh, electrical lines, which are very dangerous, but also your internet, your phone lines and things like that. So definitely be careful about that. We have a great video on our YouTube channel that has a lot of safety tips from our safety director.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:04:20) - Um, something that she says she sees a lot is, uh, you know, you have a three foot extension cord, but you really need a five foot, so you put two together, and that is not good. That's not how they're intended to work. Um, so if you can just go to the store and get yourself a 6 or 7



foot extension cord to be a little bit, uh, more safe or, you know, people don't like to look at extension cords, so they run them under the carpet or things like that, but they can also get worn down from people stepping on them. And if they get frayed, you could start a fire. Um, so we really want people to not just save on the usage, um, during the holidays, but also keep yourself safe because we don't want any kind of accidents while you're enjoying your your beautiful Christmas lights. Yeah.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:04:58) - And if you. Think of what you should and shouldn't do, and you don't have a copy of the newsletter handy.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:05:03) - Just watch National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation and don't do everything that they did.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:05:09) - Yeah, although that was funny. Yes. If those things happen for real, it's.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:05:13) - Funnier to watch this experience. You know, several years ago, I met one of my new neighbors as a result of me not doing something as safety consciously as I could have when I was climbing on the roof and the ladder fell. I'm like, oh, come on, man. And you know. So my neighbor wanders across the street and from the ground he says, you need help. Yes.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:05:34) - Thank you. Yeah. Unfortunately, we're just all busy during the holidays. And sometimes you just forget these very simple things, like you said. And we just want to keep all of our customers and the listening audience as safe as possible.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:05:44) - Yeah. And, you know, moving beyond the Christmas season, I know typically the coldest time of the year, at least since I have been here has that those times have come in January and February, and there are a lot of people near where I live who have irrigation systems, who have, you know, in-ground sprinkler systems.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:06:02) - Are there some things that we can do specifically to prepare for that? What can we do now to prepare for that time that's coming?

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:06:08) - Absolutely. Actually, this week we've had some below freezing temperatures. And if you have any water in your back flows, even if you're a small business and you have a backflow prevention device and there's water in there and water can expand and it can actually break your pipes, your water could be running and you don't even know about it. So you can check out our website for some specific tips, but you can insulate it, whether it's a blanket, whether it's just some fabric or some pool noodles, whatever it might be, you can actually get the water taken out. You could there's like a little hose on there. You can drain that just just like you would in your home. You'd want to keep those pipes as warm as possible so that water doesn't freeze. And same thing goes for inside. Open up your kitchen cabinets, your bathroom cabinets when it's below freezing to let the heat that you're already using in your home keep those pipes from freezing.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:06:55) - You know, you mentioned pool noodles and I discovered those several years ago. Um, they slice really easy and they are great for for covering the, the valve on, you know, the spigot on, on your house and things like that to keep those pipes from freezing because it's amazing how



quickly that happens. You know, once it's once the icing starts, it just kind of keeps traveling up the line. Next thing you know, you got you're visiting with a plumber.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:07:19) - Yeah. Thank you to whoever invented pool noodles. We've been using them in all kinds of creative ways.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:07:24) - Well, again, you know, we are in a time of year when we use a little bit more energy, you know, because we didn't, uh, take advantage of the PwC incentive and get all new, um, uh, LED lights. So what are some of the things that we can do to conserve at this time of the year? Because you know it, we're going to have more people over.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:07:43) - The door's going to swing open and close, maybe a little bit more. And as it gets cooler, we're heating it more. What are some things that we can do to to help us save?

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:07:50) - Absolutely. Well, if you don't want to spend any money and you want to try to save, then I would suggest doing things like keeping your window blinds open during the day so the sun can get into your house, closing them at night to keep the heat in, um, and thinking about, you know, weatherstripping or, you know, you could just go for \$10 and get some weatherstripping and put it around your door. Very inexpensive type things. Um, you know, I like before I go to bed, my house to be toasty, but you don't need to do five, six, seven, ten degrees at a time. Two degrees at a time is reasonable. Um, if, unfortunately, if you have a heat pump and it is below 32 degrees, you're going to be using auxiliary heat.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:08:26) - So just knowing that ahead of time, auxiliary heat and emergency heat use three times as much electricity. So you're going to be using it anyway. So really try maybe during the day put that the temperature down just a little bit. So maybe you can conserve a little bit during the day. So at night when that three times energy auxiliary heat you know ramps up your, you know trying to at least you know, use less during the day. So there's just a lot unfortunately during the summer, I mean during the winter that is going to increase your usage.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:08:57) - Now, you know, I have talked about um, uh, the keeping the blinds open. We've talked about that before, and we're at that time of the year now where the afternoon sun warms, uh, the studios where we're sitting and warms most of our office areas further into the building, um, as opposed to in the summer when we wish we could get away.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:09:17) - Absolutely. You can always tell my dog is wherever the the warmth is in the house.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:09:20) - So, uh, that definitely does help. And, you know, you could turn your thermostat down just a little bit.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:09:26) - Well, whatever you do, I hope that you find a way to save energy in your home and and take those practices into wherever you work and, and help make good conscious decisions there and conserve energy. And it's not just a conserve on your bill, it's because it causes the price to come down for everyone. When when we use less collectively, we're able to have to pay less, uh, collectively as well and individually.



Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:09:51) - Absolutely. And just FYI, if you have a real Christmas tree and you're keeping it hydrated, even if you're not keeping it hydrated, uh, and you live in the city limits. Curb your Christmas tree, put it on the curb by January 7th, and it can be part of our grinding of the greens, where we grind it all up with the city of Fayetteville, and they use it as free mulch instead of putting it in the landfill.

Dan DeBruler (WCLN) (00:10:10) - Well, again, Merry Christmas to you and I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and holiday season with your family. And you see all the people that you know and love and have a chance to hug their neck and maybe share a cup of cocoa with them this year.

Lexi Hasapis (PWC) (00:10:22) - Absolutely. Merry Christmas.