



April 2009

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



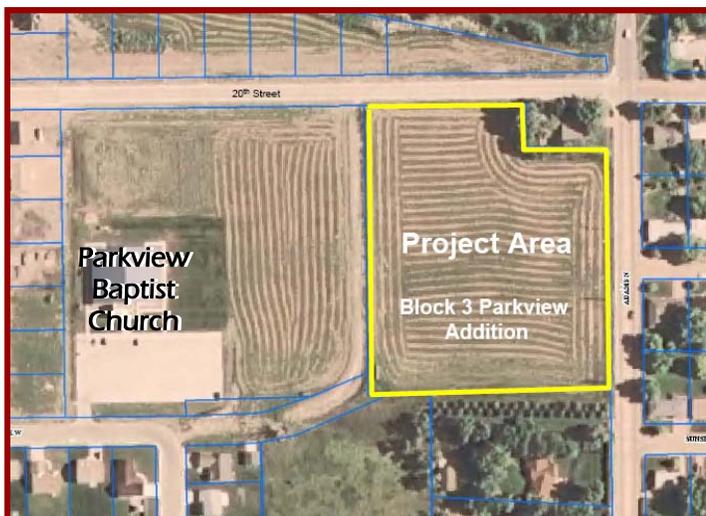
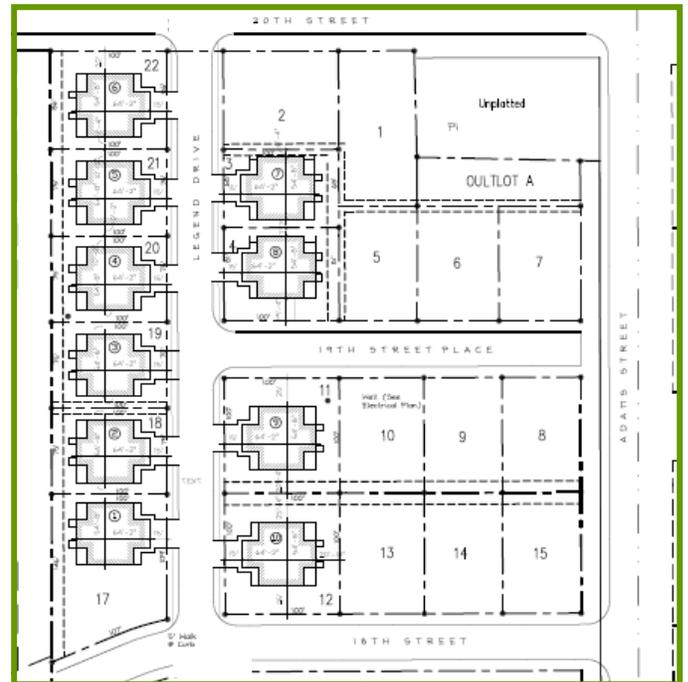
New senior housing proposed for Lexington

Legend Oaks Housing Project

The Lexington Housing Authority, the Community Redevelopment Authority, and the City of Lexington are collaborating on a new planned residential development, "Legend Oaks," just west of North Adams Street, and between West 20th Street and a future West 18th Street.

The Housing Authority has proposed the project, to be built in two phases. Phase one will include 10 two-unit town homes on a new north-south street to be called Legend Drive (see drawing at right).

Each town home unit will have 1,342 sq feet (1,100 sq feet living space), two bedrooms, oversized single-car garage, kitchen, dining, bath, living area, and high-efficiency EnergyStar appliances including range, refrigerator, dishwasher, garbage disposal, microwave, front-loader washer and dryer on pedestals, garage door opener and high speed internet access. There is a storm shelter in each garage rated strong enough to withstand tornado winds.



The LHA will own and manage the properties. Rents are set at \$365 or \$395 per month. There are income guidelines to qualify, 1 person, no more than \$23,100 annual income and 2 people \$26,400 annually; only the head of household must be age 55 or older. For more information contact Diane Adams, Lexington Housing Authority, (308) 324-4633.

ABOVE: a preliminary drawing of possible configuration of lots for the planned Legend Oaks project. Ten two-unit town homes are shown for the first phase, along the new Legend Drive. The rental units will be available for qualifying mixed income tenants 55+.

LEFT: an aerial photograph showing where on North Adams Street the Legend Oaks project is planned (the area boxed in yellow).



Choose ACE during Choice Gas selection period April 17-30

The 2009 Choice Gas program selection period will begin April 17 and run through April 30. Lexington is an associate member ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy. ACE is the only not-for-profit, community-owned natural gas supplier participating in the Choice Gas selection period.

ACE is offering its new ACE MarketShield fixed pricing option to residents this year. ACE MarketShield eliminates the hassle of checking prices and guarantees customers receive a fair rate. The ACE MarketShield rate will be based on the average fixed price during the selection period and will be the same rate as customers who rollover from the previous year. Last year, ACE had the lowest rollover rate of any supplier, saving the average residential customer as much as \$100 or more last year.

ACE is owned by 70 member communities in Nebraska and participates in the Choice Gas



program so that customers have the opportunity to get a lower natural gas price due to competition between suppliers.

Being a not-for-profit supplier, ACE is different from investor-owned suppliers in that they may return excess revenues above the cost of operation back to member communities. Since ACE was formed in 1998, it has returned more than \$840,000 to member communities, including \$144,774 from the previous gas year.

As an ACE associate member community, we are helping educate local residents on the benefits of having a community-owned, not-for-profit supplier providing competition in the Choice Gas program.

For more on ACE, contact the City Office or go to www.ACEEnergy.org or call 800-454-4759.



Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn



Fertilize sparingly and caringly

Green your lawn, not the lake

Storm drains found in our streets and yards lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, fertilizer from your lawn can easily end up in our water. This fertilizer can form large algae blooms and use up oxygen fish and other aquatic insects need to survive.

What can you do? Simple.

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks and back onto your lawn.
- Recycle grass clippings by leaving them on your lawn.
- Use fertilizer with no or low phosphorus.
- Select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is water insoluble (check the label).

Keep the green on the lawn and in your pocket



Find out more at www.cityoflex.com

Support provided by NDEQ



2009 - good year for energy efficiency upgrades

Homeowners can lower their energy costs and save up to \$500 on their 2009 federal income taxes by making specified energy efficiency upgrades to their homes. The home must be the taxpayer's primary residence. Credits may be earned for upgrading heating, cooling and insulation.

The tax credits are part of national financial rescue package enacted on October 2, 2008. Improvements must be installed in 2009; improvements made in 2008 are not eligible. The legislation extends homeowner tax credits that were first enacted in 2005 but expired at the end of 2007.

Taxpayers who did not use the full \$500 credit in 2006-7 can use the remaining portion in 2009. There is also a new credit of up to 30% of the cost of an EnergyStar qualified geothermal heat pump, up to \$2,000, effective 2009 – 2016.

Vehicles too – Another extension of the 2005 plan



is a credit for some hybrid-electric vehicle models from Ford and General Motors.

There is a new tax credit for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, starting at \$2,500 and capped at \$7,500 for cars and trucks, based on the capacity of the battery. The full tax credit will be given to the first 250,000 vehicles sold; subsequent sales receive progressively lower credits.

Commercial, Industrial, Agricultural, and how to apply

For commercial and industrial customers, NPPD has additional incentives for upgrading to more energy efficient lighting, motors and variable speed drives. There are even incentives to upgrade to more efficient irrigation systems for agricultural customers.

The City of Lexington and NPPD also offer incentives for improving energy efficiency. Added to the federal tax credits, it looks like 2009 is a very good

year to upgrade! The chart on this page outlines just a few of the incentives. For more details and information on the Lexington and NPPD incentives, contact Lexington Utilities System, (308) 324-2343. For more information on making energy efficiency improvements and even more federal tax credits, visit www.energystar.gov.

Improvement	Lexington Rebate	NPPD Rebate	Federal Tax Credit
14 SEER heat pump*	\$700	\$200	up to \$300
15 SEER heat pump*	\$800	\$250	up to \$300
16 SEER heat pump*	\$900	\$300	up to \$300
Any EER water or ground source heat pump*	\$1,400	\$400	30%
High efficiency electric water heater	\$125		up to \$300
Low Interest Loan for high efficiency heat pump ***		2.5%	
Upgrade to EnergyStar window air conditioner		\$30	
Cooling system tune-up		\$30	
Low flow shower heads		\$10	
High-efficiency gas, oil or propane furnace			up to \$150
High-efficiency fans for heat/cool system			up to \$50
Insulation added to walls, ceilings, etc.			up to \$500
Install EnergyStar® windows**			up to \$200
Upgrade to some EnergyStar® roof**			up to \$500
Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle			\$2,500- \$7,500

* upgrade from gas to electric only ** materials only, not installation costs

*** consumer may opt for loan or rebate, but not both



EnergyWise Tip: **tune up your home's cooling system (and get \$30)**



Lexington Utilities System is providing regular "EnergyWise" tips to help electric consumers use energy efficiently.

For this month's EnergyWiseSM Tip, it's always good to remember that old adage: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This

saying works well for home heating and cooling systems, too!

Whatever type of system you use to heat and cool your home, maintenance is a critical factor in its performance and longevity. Regular maintenance is often overlooked, but it can be key to saving money on heating and air conditioning costs.

The easiest approach to a home heating and cooling system tune-up is to have a licensed HVAC contractor inspect, clean and (if necessary) make improvements to your system.

These inspections aren't without cost, but fortunately there is a \$30 EnergyWiseSM Cooling System Tune-Up incentive payment available to homeowners this year who take that first step in preparing their cooling system for this summer's heat and humidity. End-use customers of NPPD and Lexington Utilities System are eligible to apply for this \$30 incentive every three years. The incentive will help pay a share of the tune-up cost.

Maintenance should include:

- Clean Condenser Coil
- Check Indoor Coil
- Check Refrigerant Charge
- Check Belt/Lube Motor, if needed
- Blow Out Drain Line
- Discuss Proper Operation
- Perform Visual Inspection of System
- Filter Change Out Schedule
- Discuss/Review Proper Temperature Set-Back

To find out more:

If you are interested in knowing about the steps you need to take to schedule a heating and cooling system tune-up (improve your home's heating and cooling efficiency and get \$30), contact Lexington Utilities System, 308-324-2343. Lots of useful energy efficiency information is also available at www.nppd.com.

Lexington Utilities System wants you to get the most energy value for your money. It costs far less to save energy than it does to build a new power plant to generate additional power.



801 West Vine Street
308-324-5995

Summer Hours

Mon. - Fri.
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FIRST Saturday
of each month:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

All OTHER Saturdays:
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Service Building is the place to go to:

- dispose of furniture, appliances, and other large items (small fees may be applied);
- pick up free wood chips or compost for your garden and landscaping needs; and
- dispose of tree limbs.

Non-tree yard waste may be dumped anytime at the City's compost pile on east Walnut (please don't dump lawn bags).





April/May Library News

Lexington Public Library
907 North Washington St.
by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director

The upcoming programming sponsored by the Library Initiative Program of the Lexington Community Foundation includes two author visits and two nostalgic programs about fabrics and fabric creations.



On April 23 at 7:00 pm **Nancy Klammer** of Johnstown, Neb., will present the program *"Ties to the Past."* This program is a fun and informative celebration of the humble apron. She will share ten decades of apron fashions from her collection dating back to the 1890s.

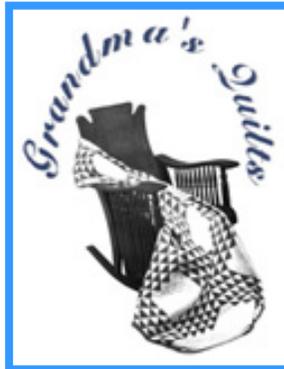
On May 13 at noon **Terrye Robins**, author of the fun mystery novels *Trouble in Paradise* and *Revenge in Paradise* will present the program *"Books Sandwiched In."* Terrye's program includes a lively presentation based on her books and a book signing, while her audience enjoys a delightful lunch.



The following day, May 14, at 7:00 p.m., **Beki Propst** will present the program *"Absent Memories."* As stated in an article in the *Denver Post*, "When Beki went to bed in her Sterling apartment on Halloween night in 1997; she had a job, an admirable resume, a black belt in karate, hobbies, friends, family. She had a 47-year-old life." When she woke up the next day, every memory of her entire life was gone. Her family, her childhood, her name, her work experience, her history; all erased. She had no long term memories. Beki will tell us what it's like to live a life without a past.



Gloria Hall will be at the library on May 21 with her program *"Grandma Is a Bag Lady."* Feed sacks have a prominent place in the history of rural America. Gloria will bring her extensive collection of feed sacks to display. She will also tell the history of each unique feed sack and show a variety of items made from the array of feed sacks.



ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

As you and your dog are out walking in your neighborhoods, in the City's parks or on the trails, please remember to clean up after your dog. A simple plastic bag slipped over your hand like a glove makes an efficient and clean pick-up tool. Picking up is just part of having a dog. It may seem silly at first, but people who see you do it will know any mess left behind is NOT from your dog. Picking up shows pride in your community, in yourself, and in your dog. You'll set a great example for others, and will help create a positive image for dogs and their owners.

