

# City Happenings

October 2009

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



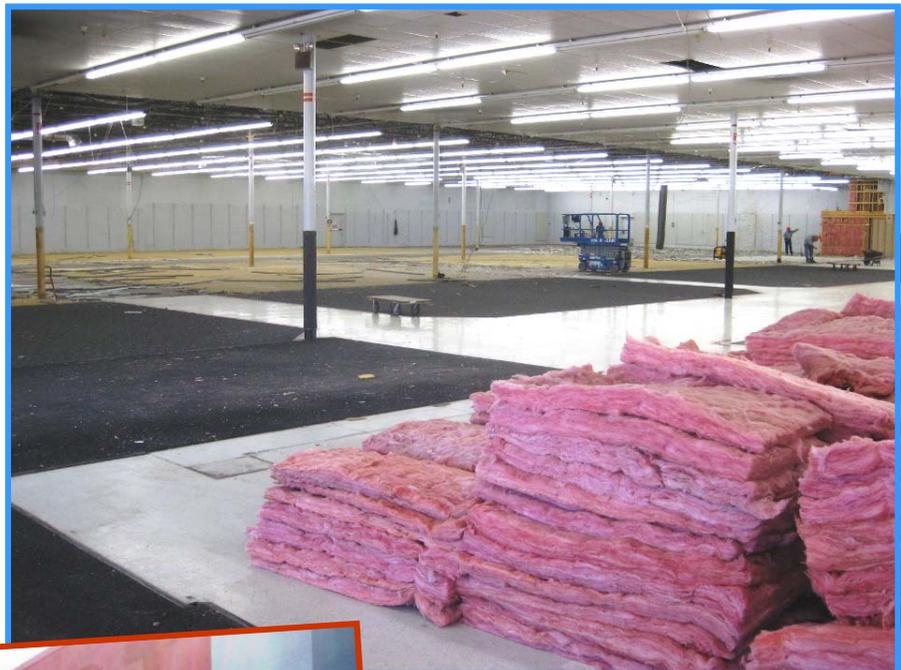
## Dawson County Opportunity Center

**The former Wal-mart building** on Plum Creek Parkway across from Tyson Fresh Meats is abuzz with construction activity.

As reported in the June 2008 City Happenings, the City purchased the 64,000 square foot building in May 2008, using Community Development Block Grant re-use funds.

After numerous county-wide town hall meetings, negotiations, and studies, the concept of the Opportunity Center emerged.

Phase 1 of the project is the renovation of a little more than a quarter of the south end that will become Lexington Public School's Early Learning Academy.



Future Phases should add educational space for Central Community College and other organizations that provide mostly educational and workforce improvement activities. Several grants have already been received to help pay for the renovations, including a \$512,000 Neighborhood Stabilization Grant from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Stay tuned for future developments.



## New Soccer Stadium getting raised spectator area

The fence is up, the grass is coming in very well, and now a raised spectator area has been erected at the new Soccer Stadium at the north end of the Rec Complex, 13th & Airport Road. The stadium will be home to high school as well as adult soccer leagues. It may look small in the photo, but the structure is four feet high with an 80x60-foot concrete pad. It connects to the south gate with a 10-foot wide sidewalk with a handicap-accessible ramp. The City is in the process of soliciting bids to add two sets of bleachers, one facing the east field and one facing the west field, that will provide seating for 400. Future planned improvements around the stadium include a new parking lot and a building with restrooms, concessions, changing areas, and a maintenance/storage area. The stadium is a great addition to City amenities, while adding fitness opportunities for youth and adults.



## Remember, you can save water



### Save water

Did you know that each of us uses 77 gallons of water a day? When we over water our lawns, the excess water carries pollution into storm drains and ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers.

So what can you do? Simple.

- Treat water as a valued resource. Water when necessary, instead of on a fixed schedule.
- Adjust your sprinklers to water only your lawn and plants—not your driveway, sidewalk, or street.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to help retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.
- Use rainwater to water your plants by directing downspouts toward your plants or collecting water with rain barrels.
- Make your lawn cheaper and easier to maintain by mowing high—three inches is the rule. Longer grass has deeper roots and requires less water.

Save water and help keep our environment clean.



Find out more at [www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com)

Support provided by NDEQ



## EnergyWise Tip: weatherize your home and use less energy

Properly sealing and insulating your home is one of the most cost-effective ways to become more energy efficient.

According to ENERGY STAR®, a nationwide energy efficiency program sponsored jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, homeowners can realize a potential savings of up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs (or up to 10 percent on their total annual energy bill) by improving the sealing and insulation of a home.

First, help make your house weather tight. Many air leaks and drafts in the home are easy to find

because they are easy to feel—like those around windows and doors.

Other leaks may take some hunting to find – like holes hidden in attics, basements and crawlspaces. Sealing any of these leaks with caulk, spray foam or weather stripping will have a great impact on improving your comfort and reducing utility bills.

Second, after any home sealing project, have a heating and cooling technician check to make sure your combustion appliances (gas- or oil-fired furnace, water heater and clothes dryer) are venting properly.

Third, here's a good EnergyWiseSM rule of thumb: Don't scrimp on the insulation! Insulation helps keep your home warm in winter and cool in summer. There are several common types of insulation – fiberglass (in both batt and blown forms), cellulose, rigid foam board and spray foam. When correctly installed with air sealing, each type of insulation can deliver comfort and lower energy bills throughout the majority of the year.

To get the biggest savings, the easiest place to add insulation is usually the attic. A quick way to see if you need more insulation is to look across your uncovered attic floor. If your insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you probably need to add more insulation.

For more information on steps homeowners can take to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, contact your local electric public power utility or visit the ENERGY STAR® Home Advisor at <http://www.energystar.gov/homeadvisor>. Lots of useful energy efficiency information is also available at <http://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.



### Sign up for youth basketball!

Registrations are now being accepted for Youth basketball starting October 25, 2009. The programs runs Sunday afternoons through December 20, at the High School. Go to [www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com) (navigate to "recreation") to view and print details and registration forms. Time and space are limited, so don't delay!

### Subscribe

To subscribe to Lexington City Happenings, fill out the form at [www.ci.lexington.ne.us/aboutus.asp](http://www.ci.lexington.ne.us/aboutus.asp). If you have comments or suggestions, contact Dennis Burnside, [dburnside@cityoflex.com](mailto:dburnside@cityoflex.com), 308-324-2341. You are encouraged to forward this to others you think may be interested. Archives available online.





## October Library News

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

The Lexington Public Library is pleased to announce a continuation of the cultural programs sponsored by the Lexington Community Foundation. For the 2009-2010 season the programs will be sponsored jointly by the Lexington Public Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation.

**Jerry Barlow** will be giving an encore performance on October 13 at 7:00 pm. Jerry is a Celtic finger-style guitarist and an Indie Award Winner who can be heard on NPR and PBS. He is as skilled at performing on his guitar as he is at entertaining his audiences.



On November 19 at 7:00 pm **Nancy Klammer** will put all of us in the mood for Thanksgiving pie baking with her program, "Oh, My, It's Time for Pie!"



This is an entertaining presentation on the history of the humble pie from ancient Egypt until today with a lot of "pie fun facts" thrown in along the way. Nancy will also bring along a display of vintage and unusual pie-making utensils.

Everyone's welcome to join us as we kick off a new season of entertainment!



## Monthly Workshop



## Deer Threat Highest Now

We are heading into the time of year when most vehicle-deer accidents occur. While November is the month with the highest risk of hitting a deer, remember such accidents can occur any time of year. Some interesting statistics:



- In 2005, 275,000 vehicle-animal collisions were reported in the U.S.
- About 200 people die each year from collisions with deer.
- Deer-vehicle collisions cost Americans more than \$1 billion a year

The Department of Transportation offers the following tips to help avoid vehicle-deer collisions:

- Slow down and prepare to stop as soon as you see a deer. Stopping your vehicle is safer than taking evasive action.
- When you spot a deer, watch for more. Deer frequently travel in groups.
- Know that deer are nocturnal and often travel at dawn and at dusk. Many deer-vehicle crashes occur between 6 p.m. and 12 a.m.
- When driving at night, watch for reflections from your headlights. Deer eyes may reflect the light, and spotting the reflection could give you more reaction time.
- For maximum safety, assume deer will cross your path.
- Do not swerve into another lane to avoid striking a deer. It is better to strike a deer than another vehicle or a fixed object.
- If you hit a deer, call 911 and wait for assistance from law enforcement personnel.

Source: National Safety Council



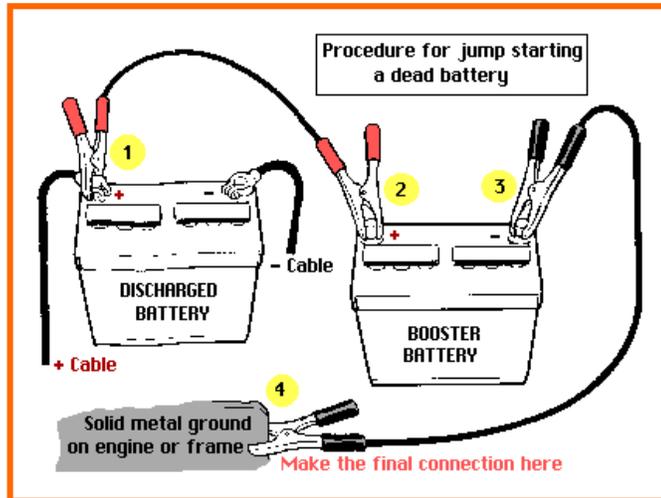
Lexington's Community Fitness Initiative's monthly workshop for October 29 features chef Shawn Engberg from the Alley Rose restaurant in Kearney. Chef Engberg will show how to make healthy, economic and delicious meals and snacks. The program starts at 6:00 p.m. at Morton Elementary, 505 S. Lincoln. Adults and kids are invited to this free event, but seating is limited, so please register with Maria Reyes at 324-2336 by October 26.



## Jump-starting a weak or dead automobile battery safely

When a motor vehicle battery fails, a jump start often is the best short term way to get the motor going. Because it is important that jump starting be connected properly, the National Safety Council recommends the following procedure:

- Position another vehicle with a healthy battery and your car so they do not touch each other. Be sure both batteries are of the same voltage.
- Read the owners manuals for both vehicles for any special directions.
- Turn off the ignitions of both vehicles and set the parking brake. Place automatic transmissions in "park" and standards transmissions in neutral.
- Turn off all headlights, blinkers, car radios and air conditioners. Unplug all accessories from cigarette lighters and other power sockets from both cars.
- Wear safety glasses and gloves while using cables.
- Clamp/connect one end of the positive ( + ) booster cable to the positive ( + ) post of the dead battery.
- Connect the other end of the same cable to the



same marked post ( + ) of the booster battery.

- Connect the negative ( - ) booster cable to the other post of the booster battery.
- Make the final negative ( - ) booster cable connection on the engine block of the stalled vehicle, away from the battery.
- Start the booster vehicle and let it run for a few minutes. Then start the disabled vehicle.
- Remove the cables in the reverse order of connection, being very careful not to let the booster cable clamps touch each other or come in contact with car parts. Also, avoid the fans of the engine. Some electric fans may run without the engine being on.

**Caution!** It is important that the last clamp you connect (and disconnect) is the ground to the dead battery. Any arcing or spark could lead to an explosion. Adequate ventilation is important when jump-starting a battery. An ample supply of water should be nearby in the event of battery explosion. Water should be used immediately to wash acid from eyes, face, and clothing.



United States  
**Census**  
**2010**

2010 CENSUS: **IT'S IN OUR HANDS**

It's Safe!  
It's Easy!  
It's Important to Our Community!



## Lexington snow and ice removal

**W**inter will soon be here once again. Before the first winter storm of the season, the City would like to remind citizens of the following points related to snow removal. There is also an Emergency Snow Route map on the next page, and is also found on the Maps link at the City's website.

Property owners are required to remove snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property, within 48 hours of the snowfall.

Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks not only ensures safe passage for pedestrians (including school children), but also limits

liability. Someone who sustains injuries from slipping on ice might claim their injuries resulted from property owner neglect.

Please remember that snow and ice removed from your property is not to be placed into the street, instead move it to non-paved areas.

The City needs the cooperation of all citizens as we work to remove snow and ice from the streets. Citizens are encouraged to listen to local radio stations or read the local newspaper for announcements of possible Snow Emergency situations where substantial snowfall is experienced or anticipated.



In times of a declared Snow Emergency, parking along streets in the designated Snow Emergency Route is prohibited. Commercial Areas may also be included (see Snow Route map).

Citizens living along these routes are encouraged to comply with the prohibition and move their vehicles from the street.

In addition, during a Snow Emergency, parking in the Downtown area is prohibited. In

non-emergency times, citizens are still encouraged to move their parked vehicles off of the street in a reasonable period of time after

snowfall to allow City crews access to remove the snow and ice. Information regarding the removal of snow in your area of the City can be obtained by contacting Glenn Hawks, Community Services Director, at 308-324-5995.

The City of Lexington would like to reiterate that snow and ice removal is important for vehicular traffic as well as pedestrian traffic.

Please take the time to do your part to keep our streets and sidewalks safe.

The City of Lexington thanks everyone for their cooperation and prompt attention to this issue.



(801 West Vine Street)

### Fall/Winter Hours

**Mon. - Fri.**  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

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

## Police get radar trailer



Sgt. Tracy Wolf stands by Lexington Police Department's new radar trailer. The solar-power unit will soon be deployed to remind motorists how fast they're driving. Grant money paid for all the \$10,000 cost of the unit.



