



February 2010

# City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



## Dawson County Opportunity Center

Phase 1 construction for the Dawson County Opportunity Center is nearing completion. Classrooms, restrooms, a kitchen and offices are materializing in the south end, which will house Lexington Public School's Early Learning Academy, and Parent-Student Resource Center.

The Opportunity Center is the former Wal-mart building, 1501 Plum Creek Parkway, across from Tyson Fresh Meats. The City purchased the 64,000 square foot building in May 2008, using Community Development Block Grant re-use funds.

Future Phases will add space for technical job training and economic development support services.

Renovations will be completed using a mixture of grant money, and public and private funding.



(right)  
Photos of  
classrooms &  
office suite,  
Feb. 11, 2010.

(below)  
Artist's concept  
of exterior  
frontage when  
completed.



## Legend Oaks on schedule



Four townhomes are framed in at the housing project Legend Oaks, located on North Adams between 18th & 20th Streets. This project will eventually include 21 townhome units. The first townhome is scheduled for completion in March 2010. Designed for senior rental living, Legend Oaks is administered by the Lexington Housing Authority. For more information, Contact Diane Adams at LHA, 308-324-4633.



## Property Maintenance Corner



by Bill Brecks  
Chief  
Building  
Inspector

The Building Department for the City of Lexington currently is an office of two employees. One of our duties is to ensure public health, safety and sanitary conditions for the citizens of Lexington. We do this by enforcing the International Property Maintenance Code. The Code spells out the minimum requirements for all existing premises, structures and equipment and the steps to get

violators in compliance. These steps also allow the violators the right to due process.

Perhaps most importantly, properly maintained properties make the community a more enjoyable, safer place for everyone.

Next time in *Property Maintenance Corner* we will talk about junk cars and how to make sure you stay in compliance.



**101.2 Scope.** The provisions of this code shall apply to all existing residential and nonresidential structures and all existing premises and constitute minimum requirements and standards for premises, structures, equipment and facilities for light, ventilation, space, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements, life safety, safety from fire and other hazards, and for safe and sanitary maintenance; the responsibility of owners, operators and occupants; the occupancy of existing structures and premises, and for administration, enforcement and penalties.

If you want to take a look at the Code there is a copy in the reference section at the Lexington Public Library.

## Lexington Downtown Revitalization Plan



Take part in shaping the future of Downtown!  
The Community Survey is NOW open online...

**PROVIDE** insight on the issues faced by Downtown  
**SHARE** your thoughts and ideas

Visit: [www.rdgusa.com/crp/lexington](http://www.rdgusa.com/crp/lexington)  
Or stop by City Hall to pick up a paper copy.

**SURVEY**

**SURVEY**

**SURVEY**



## New Soccer Stadium gets spectator seating

The City, in collaboration with Lexington Public Schools, is nearing completion of the elevated spectator area in the center of the City's new Soccer Stadium. The Stadium is at the north end of the Recreation Complex near 13th and Airport Road. Early in February new bleachers were installed, designed to seat about 600 spectators. A guard rail fence will soon be added.

Future planned improvements around the



Stadium include a new parking lot and a building with restrooms, concessions, changing areas, and a maintenance/storage area. It won't be long before the Stadium will be ready to host high school matches, adult leagues and other soccer opportunities.

## Remember, you're not just walking the dog



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

### Clean up after your pet

Did you know . . .

. . . that pet waste has bacteria that makes our lakes and rivers unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities?

Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yard clean. But there's another important reason to clean up after our pets.

Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or in the yards means that harmful bacteria can get washed into storm drains and roadside ditches that flow directly into our lakes and rivers untreated.

So what can you do? Simple.

Whether you are in your yard or on a walk, dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the trash or toilet to prevent it from entering storm drains and roadside ditches.

Pick up after your pet...and help keep our water clean.



Support provided by NDEQ



## U.S. Census Road Tour to stop in Lexington March 9



On Tuesday, March 9, from about 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., the 2010 Census Portrait of America Road Tour is scheduled to be in Lexington. The exhibit will be at the parking lot of the Dawson County Opportunity Center, 1501 Plum Creek Parkway. In case of bad weather, the exhibit will be in the Dawson County Extension Building at the Fairgrounds, 1000 Plum Creek Parkway.

The Road Tour is an interactive, traveling exhibit that brings census information to visitors including:

- A hands-on look at the specific questions actually on the 2010 Census form
- LCD screens featuring the faces and quotes from people all over America
- Two user-friendly kiosks that allow visitors to tell their stories about why the Census is important to them
- A kiosk that allows visitors to access the 2010 Census website
- Flip cameras to capture the faces that are the portrait of America

Road Tour stops are local events designed to target hard-to-count populations, spotlight active community partnerships, and provide positive educational opportunities.



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

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

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

### STUDENTS!

**NOW**  
is the time  
to apply for summer  
City jobs: concessions,  
lifeguards, &  
lawn mowing.

Go to  
[www.ci.lexington.ne.us/employment.asp](http://www.ci.lexington.ne.us/employment.asp)  
for more information  
and to download a  
blank application  
form. Send  
completed  
application to address  
below or email to  
[dburnside@cityoflex.com](mailto:dburnside@cityoflex.com).

**Don't delay —  
do it today!**

### Free H1N1 vaccines Feb. 12

Two Rivers Public Health Department announces a FREE H1N1 Vaccine Clinic on Friday, February 12, from 2 to 7 p.m. or until vaccine is gone. Shots will be available for ages 3 years through adult. The clinic will be held at the Holdrege City Auditorium, 423 Grant Street in Holdrege. Vaccinations will be given in the upper arm, so please dress accordingly. For more information, call TRPHD at 308-995-4778 or 888-669-7154.



## EnergyWise Tip: let your computer help you save energy

### Use Our Online Energy Saving Calculator . . .

Are rising energy costs increasing your anxiety level? Have you thought about what steps you might take to offset those rising costs and wondered just how effective those steps may be? For example, have you been curious at how much money you could save by changing your thermostat setting or by adding storm windows to your home?

Now you can determine your cost savings with just as few clicks of your computer mouse.

Give it a try at the new *HomeEnergy* Calculator now on the City of Lexington's website ([www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com)) and available to you 24/7 in the comfort of your home. The calculator's quick, one-screen form asks about a dozen questions about your home.

Simply click to indicate your home's approximate square footage, age, number of occupants, heating/cooling system fuel type, and several other variables. Then hit "Calculate" to get an estimate of the monthly and annual energy use and costs for your "base house."

Now the fun begins. What changes to your home would you like to consider? Learn how some of the more popular energy efficient items/activities can save you money:

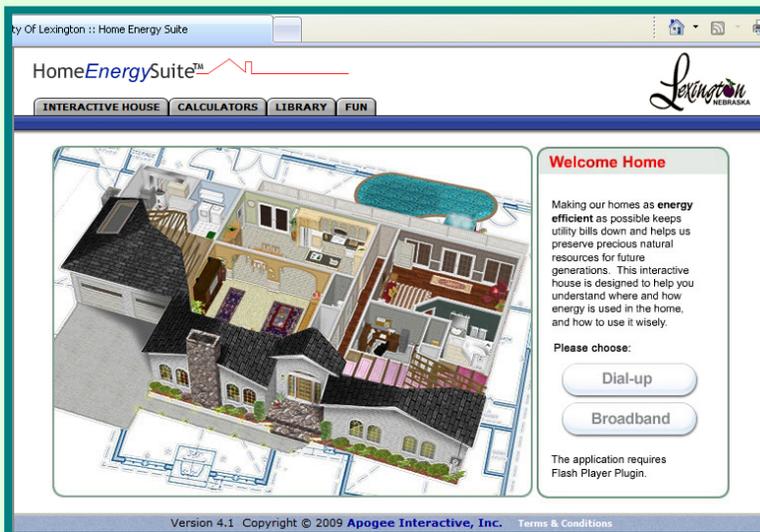
- Programmable thermostats
- Heat pumps
- Insulation
- Weather stripping
- Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)
- Storm windows
- Numerous other options

By clicking on various options you can determine the potential annual energy and cost savings of each measure, based on your current electric rates (or fuel costs) and local weather. Once you have a feel for your home's energy costs and what various changes might save, it's time to take a big-picture look at overall home energy usage. Click the "Chart" button, and you'll see a pie chart with the percentage break-down of total annual energy use by appliance or system type for your home.

Another popular feature is the Library. More than 30,000 pieces of information are located within the Library to help explain all the energy-related things you have ever wondered about – like

technologies, conservation practices, or simply steps to take that will make your home more energy efficient.

So, there you have it. Try this new online tool next time you are surfing the Internet. It's available 24/7, and it is just one more way NPPD and Lexington Utilities System are working together to help you manage your home energy costs. 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.



## 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.

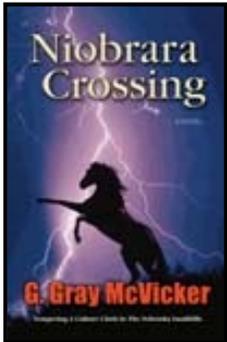




## February Library News

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

February programs sponsored by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation include, on February 25 at 7:00 p.m., **G. Gray McVicker** will present a program about his book *Niobrara Crossing*. Raised in North Bend,



Neb., McVicker reflects on the time of his youth in writing a story about Nebraska. *Niobrara Crossing* is the first in what

has the makings to be a flamboyant entertaining series about the complexities of life in 20<sup>th</sup> century Nebraska Sand Hills. "Part History, Part Romance, "Sometimes Rebellious, Always Reflective..."

Children and adults will have an opportunity to meet children's author **Julia Cook** the evening of March 18 at 7:00 p.m.



when she presents an entertaining and educational program. Come listen to her talk about the books she has written, many of which deal with everyday problems such as tattling, bullying, and personal safety. These book titles give a hint of the fun that waits inside each book: *Bully B.E.A.N.S.*, *My Mouth Is a Volcano*, *Scoop*, and *A Bad Case of Tattle Tongue*. Julia also will include hints about writing stories and having your book published.

**Job, Peter and Chuck**, the most popular coffee house musical group in the North Platte area, will be performing at the Library at 7:00 p.m. on March 11. Be sure to save this date on your calendar for an entertaining evening.



## Qualities for an "alive city"

- Alive cities always have parking problems, dead cities don't.
- Alive cities are constantly innovating new methods, dead cities don't have to.
- Alive cities have lots of "noisy" youth, dead cities are fairly quiet.
- Alive cities seem to find the money to do what is needed, in dead cities' money becomes a big issue.
- Alive cities grow so fast you forget people's names; in dead cities everybody knows everybody's name.
- Alive cities support community projects enthusiastically, dead cities don't.
- Alive cities focus on people, dead cities focus on problems.
- Alive cities are filled with givers; dead cities are filled with takers.

*From Nebraska Municipal Power Pool newsletter **Esselte**, which cites the source as a November 2008 Chamber of Commerce "Pacesetter" issue.*



**Municipal Building to be renovated**

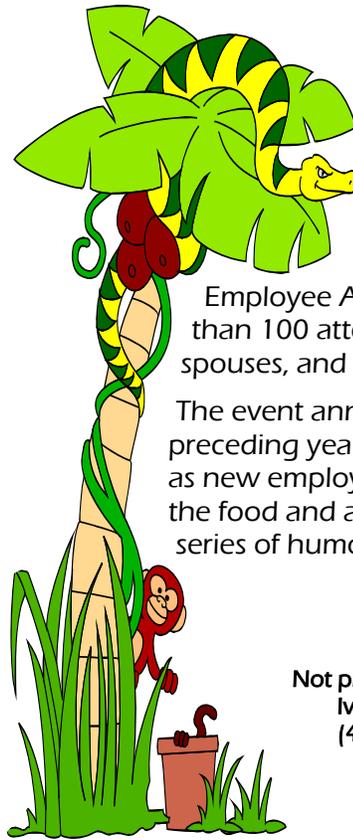
**406 East 7th Street**

Over the next few months the City Offices, which includes Police Headquarters and Lexington Utilities Service, will be undergoing extensive renovation. Visitors should be aware of possible changes to parking and entry to the building, as well as noise and dust normally associated with construction. The project is expected to be finished by late fall 2010.

Except for the City Council Chambers, the building has not been upgraded since it was built in 1969.

The Lexington Police Department, which has nearly doubled in size in 40 years, will enjoy the most space gain. Police offices will move into part of the current garage, which no longer houses fire department vehicles. They will also get a new row of office additions on the north east side. A twin addition on the northwest end will provide additional administrative office space.

After receiving four bids on the project, the City Council on December 22, 2009, awarded the renovation contract to the lowest bidder, Paulsen, Inc., of Cozad, Nebraska.



**City Celebrates Employee Milestones**

With the theme, "It's a Jungle Out There," the City of Lexington held its annual Employee Awards Banquet January 16, 2010. More than 100 attended at the Vet's Club, including employees, spouses, and City Council members.

The event annually recognizes employees who, in the preceding year, have reached five-year milestones, as well as new employees and retired employees. In addition to the food and awards, employee volunteers performed a series of humorous skits for entertainment.

(right) recently retired employees include Tom Nelson, Sr. (22 years); and Clark Dangler (17 years).

Not pictured is Ivan Riege (40 years).



(left) among the service year awards recipients were Barb Mills (25 years); Bernita Brin (15 years); Doug Monter (15 years); and Marilyn Hueftle (5 years). Not shown are Ann Luther (25 years); Tom Nelson, Jr. (15 years); and Carol Meyer (5 years).



(right) City Manager Joe Pepplictsch and Mayor John Fagot draw names for door prizes which had been donated.



(left) The City's Employee Committee organized the banquet (L to R): Lola VerMaas, Pam Berke, Marilyn Hueftle, Judy Ferguson, Edna Schultz, Jo Keim, Dennis Burnside and Marcia Holtz.

