

# City Happenings

December 2010

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



## New Overnight Parking Restrictions Downtown



The Lexington City Council recently passed an ordinance that restricts downtown parking between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. The

ordinance is in response to downtown business requests for a solution that will enable City workers to sweep the streets, as well as for snow removal.

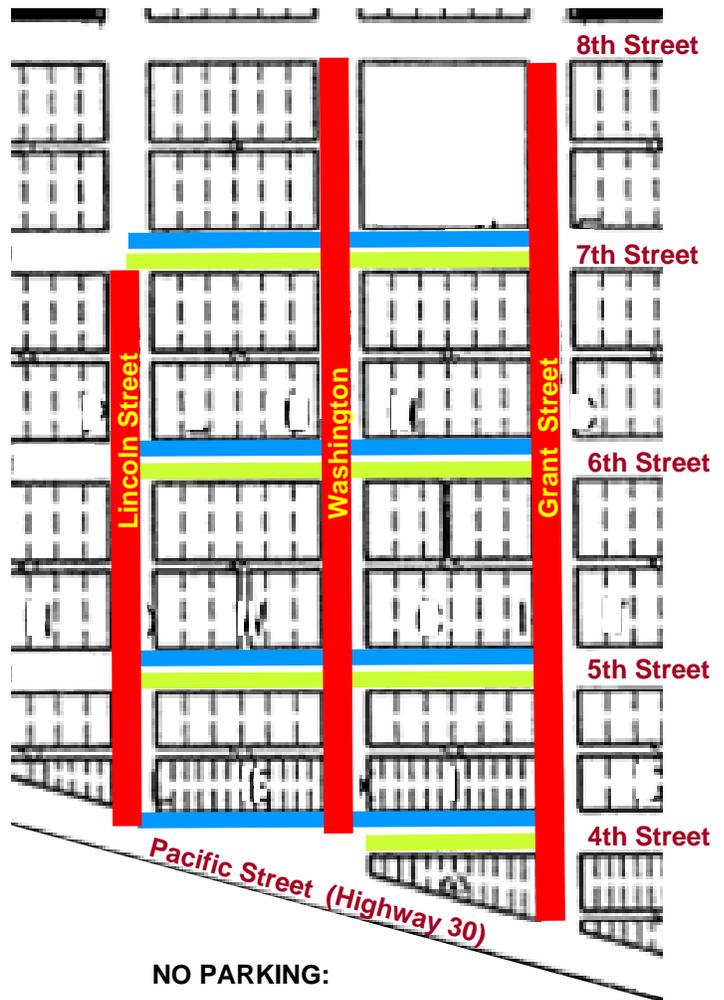
North-South routes Washington and Grant between Highway 30 and 8th Street are closed for parking every day between 2 and 5 a.m., as is Lincoln Street between Highway 30 and 7th Street.

East-West routes (4th, 5th, 6th and 7th between Lincoln and Grant), NORTH side, are closed Tuesdays from 2 to 5 a.m.

East-West routes (4th, 5th, 6th and 7th between Lincoln and Grant), SOUTH side, are closed Fridays from 2 to 5 a.m.

Violators will be towed.

Parking in this area and other Snow Routes is prohibited whenever a Snow Emergency is declared. See the last page of this newsletter for Lexington's Snow Route map.



**NO PARKING:**

- 2-5 a.m., every day
- 2-5 a.m., Tuesdays
- 2-5 a.m., Fridays

**OFFICE CLOSING:** In honor of the holidays, City Offices will close at 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 23, and all day December 24 and 31. Have a Happy Christmas & New Year!



## City Hall Renovation



Just a few finishing touches remain on the City Hall renovation/addition project that began in Feb 2010. Visitors/Customers will find two new public entries on the northwest and northeast ends of the building along 7<sup>th</sup> Street. For Administrative, Building Inspection, and Utility services, use the northwest entry. For Police Services and access to the City Council Chamber, use the northwest entrance. The south entrance to the building is now employee only access.

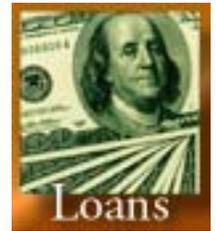


An open house will be scheduled early in 2011, offering public viewing of the improvements inside the building. Stay tuned for more information.

## Did You Know?

Regular readers of City Happenings have seen frequent articles about saving energy (and money), as well as dollar incentives for making energy efficiency improvements.

Did you know that the Nebraska Energy Office also offers loans as low as 2.5% for up to 15 years for property owners to make energy efficiency improvements?



The loans are processed through the NEO, using local lenders. Some of the loan rates may increase in 2011, so you are encouraged to make application by December 31 to lock in a low rate. Visit <http://www.neo.ne.gov/loan/index.html> for requirements, forms, and more information.

As you will see at the website, there are far too many options to list on this page. However some typical improvements you can finance include:

- ★ Refrigerator, Freezer, Dishwasher, Dehumidifier or Clothes Washer Replacements
- ★ Certain Commercial Appliance Replacements
- ★ Room Air Conditioner and Room Heat Pump
- ★ Insulation added to walls, floors, ceilings, attics and other building envelope surfaces
- ★ Windows, Glass Doors and Exterior Doors
- ★ Skylight Replacements
- ★ Replacing windows and doors with solid walls
- ★ Reflective Window Film
- ★ High Efficiency Space Heating Equipment
- ★ Forced air gas furnace or Central Air Conditioner
- ★ Steam or hot water boiler
- ★ Combination water and space heater
- ★ Radiant heating
- ★ High Efficiency Space Cooling Equipment
- ★ High efficiency heat pump (air, water or ground)
- ★ Programmable Thermostats and other controls
- ★ High Efficiency Water Heating Equipment
- ★ Duct, Pipe and Water Heater Insulation
- ★ Whole House Fans, Heat or Energy Recovery Ventilator
- ★ Fireplace Inserts
- ★ High Efficiency Lighting and Controls
- ★ Renewable Wind, Solar and Fuel Cell Projects
- ★ More at [www.neo.ne.gov/loan/index.html](http://www.neo.ne.gov/loan/index.html)



## City Council Names 2011 Mayor



At its annual Organizational Meeting, the City Council voted to keep **John Fagot** Mayor of Lexington. John Fagot and **John Salem** (pictured) were both up for re-election in 2010, and both were re-elected.

The Council held its annual organizational meeting at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 7, 2010. Both Fagot and Salem were sworn in by City Manager **Joe Peplitsch**. Then the Council made nominations and voted. Fagot was elected President of the Council (Mayor) for 2011, and Councilmember **Steve Tomasek** was re-elected Vice-President of the Council. Other Council members are **Linda Miller** and **Joni Bennett**.



## Holbein is New Fire Chief

Members of the Lexington Volunteer Fire Department met November 11, 2010, to elect 2011 officers. The main change is that **Dahlas Holbein** and **Bo Berry** will trade positions in the upcoming year. Other positions remain unchanged. The terms start January 1, 2011. Below is a roster of the officers. LVFD has 40 fire and rescue volunteers, and respond to more than 600 calls per year, as well as participate in numerous training programs.



Dahlas Holbein

**Fire Chief:** Dahlas Holbein  
**Ass't Fire Chief:** Bo Berry  
**Rescue Chief:** Doug Glaze  
**Ass't Rescue Chief:** Dave Berke  
**Training Officer:** Al Copper



Remember, you're not just walking the dog



### 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 yards 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

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## EnergyWise Tip: Don't Invite Old Man Winter Into Your Home

The weather outside might be frightful, but inside, you can still keep things delightful. This winter, save money and stay warm. Considering that nearly half the energy you use in the home goes toward keeping things comfortable, often there are huge energy-saving opportunities you may not have considered. Keep your energy bills low this winter by taking a whole-house approach to heating.

### Seal it up!



Weatherstrip and caulk windows. Check window frames for cracks and fill them with caulk that contains silicon. Putty-like "rope caulk" can help seal large cracks.

- Replace any broken window panes and repair any large holes in attics, crawlspaces or basements.
- Close the fireplace damper and seal the opening shut when not in use.
- Keep doors and windows closed as much as possible. That includes overhead doors on attached garages. Install foam insulation gaskets behind electric outlets and switch plate covers.
- Seal exposed ductwork. Sealing helps your heating system run more efficiently and also ensures that heated air gets to where it should go.

### Open it!

- During the heating season, keep the draperies and shades on south facing windows open during the day to allow sunlight to enter the home and closed at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.



### Tune it up!

- Get your furnace inspected and tuned up by a heating professional.
- Install a programmable thermostat and set it to lower the temperature at night and whenever the house is unoccupied. Lowering your



thermostat by 10 degrees at night and whenever the house is unoccupied. Lowering your thermostat by 10 degrees at night and unoccupied times can reduce heating bills by 10 to 20 percent. Remember, a programmable thermostat only saves energy when it is programmed!

- Get a humidifier to add moisture to the air. Moister air feels warmer, so a humidifier can help you feel comfortable even though your thermostat is set at a lower temperature.

### Check it!

- Check all exterior doors for air leaks. A one-eighth-inch gap around a door is equivalent to a 6-inch-square hole in the side of your house and causes a lot of energy loss. Have someone stand on the other side of the door and shine a flashlight around the door's perimeter. If you can see light through the cracks, your door needs sealing.
- If you have a forced air furnace, inspect filters at the beginning of the heating season and monthly during the season. Clean or replace them if there is significant dust build up.
- Measure attic insulation. If it is less than 7 inches deep or if it is less than R-38, consider upgrading with spray-foam or batt insulation.
- Don't block radiators or heating vents with furniture or draperies.
- Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable when home.



Doing these tasks now will help ensure Old Man Winter does not scrooge you this heating season. Not only will you help keep the heat inside your home, you will feel more comfortable, too. Before you know it, spring will be just around the corner!





## Library News

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

During the month of December the Lexington Public Library is celebrating its fifth anniversary of being in its new location. The dedication ceremony for the new library was held on Friday, December 16, 2005, with an Open House following on December 17. To celebrate its fifth anniversary the library is serving coffee, cider, and cookies the week of December 12 through December 18. The collection of scrapbooks, depicting the library's history, is available for viewing. Each scrapbook offers visitors a "stroll down memory lane."



The next program sponsored by the **Lexington Library Memorial Fund** and the **Lexington Community Foundation** will be

on January 20, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., when storyteller **Rosie Cutrer** comes to Lexington as part of the Kearney Storytelling Festival. Cutrer, who developed the company *Cottonwood Tales*, has been a professional story teller for 12 years, performing all over the midwest. Her programs always include music, often with her accompanying herself on the banjo.

The Lexington Library will begin collaborating with the **YMCA** in



by offering a new storytime, *Storytime with the YMCA*. This Storytime will be held at the library from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. *Storytime with the Y* is also open to the public. The programs are for ages three and older and will be similar to the Children's Storytime programs that are currently offered. Each program will offer a variety of thematic stories, activities, and crafts. The library will continue to offer Storytimes on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for ages three and



older. LapSit for ages birth to three is offered on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

The newly reorganized **Friends of the Library** will meet on January 27, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at the library. What is a Friend of the Library? A Friend is someone who wants to help the library plan new ways to have fun activities at the library. (Which often may involve food!) The Friends group will be discussing goals, future



projects, and ways Friends can be advocates for the library. Suggestions for future projects include a jigsaw puzzle tournament, a board game day, movie nights, Books for Babies or early literacy for children, creating book gift baskets and more. If anyone is interested in learning more about becoming a Friend of the Library, bring your ideas and join us at this meeting. Discover the fun in becoming a Friend of the Library.

**STUDENTS!**  
**NOW** is the time to apply for summer City jobs: concessions, life-guards, & lawn mowing. Go to [www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=40](http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=40) 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!**



## 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.

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.

## Meet Officer Jesse Evans

Lexington Police Department's newest officer is **Jesse Evans**. A native of North Platte, Evans grew up in Lexington and graduated from Lexington High School. Evans graduated December 9 from the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center basic training. For the next few months Evans will be in Lexington Police Department's rigorous Field Training. Before entering law enforcement, Evans served eight years in the U.S. Army, where he rose to the rank of Sergeant. He has also worked in retail loss prevention.



Jesse and his wife Lacie have four children.



