



October 2011

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City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Opportunity Center Phase 3 done; tenants move in



The third phase renovations of the Dawson County Opportunity Center, 1501 Plum Creek Parkway, are complete. It is already occupied by organizations that have relocated, and a new 50-employee **ACCESSNebraska** call center operated by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The Opportunity Center, once a Wal-mart location, was acquired by the City in 2008 and has been renovated in several phases. There is still limited space to be improved; stand by for developing plans for Phase Four!



(above)

Looking north from the Phase 2 lobby, the striking glass store fronts mark the offices of (left to right): Central Community College, Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce, Dawson Area Development, Nebraska Workforce Development, and the Department of Health & Human Services ACCESSNebraska Call Center. (Central Community College occupies space completed in Phase 2)

(right)
The front office of the
Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce



City Offices:



406 E 7th Street



Lexington, NE 68850



308-324-2341



13th Street reconstruction finished



Looking west on 13th Street from Park Street. Note the 10-foot hike/bike trail on the left. The east end of the project (between Park & Erie) took the longest due to extensive upgrades to water and sanitary sewer lines, plus frequent rain events during the phase.

West 13th Street, under construction in several phases since June 6, opened October 19 to through traffic for the entire route from Park Street to Airport Road. The \$1.64 million road project was paid 100% with federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("Stimulus").

Grayek is new Lexington Police Sergeant



Sergeant Monte Grayek

Photo by Danny Gruber
Lexington Clipper-Herald

Monte Grayek, a 16-year veteran of the Lexington Police Department, has been promoted to Sergeant. Grayek fills the vacancy left when Sergeant Tracy Wolf was promoted to Police Chief earlier this year.

After graduating from Lexington High School, the Lexington native enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served for three years and rising to the rank of Corporal. He left the USMC to go to college, and attended Chabot Community College in Hayward, California. After that he then spent about 10 years in loss prevention with Sears and Walmart, the latter bringing him back to Lexington. In 1995 Grayek joined the Lexington Police Department. Recently he has been in charge of overseeing all field training for new recruits.



801 West Vine Street
308-324-5995

Winter Hours

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

- dispose of furniture, appliances, and other large items
- pick up free wood chips, dirt or compost
- dispose of tree limbs.





EnergyWise Tip: Tune up your home's heating system

Though it may not feel like it today, "Old Man Winter" is just around the corner. Probably the last thing on your mind is whether your furnace or other heating systems are ready to keep you warm and toasty without draining your wallet. But it's never too early to start planning for a comfortable winter (and save money in the process).

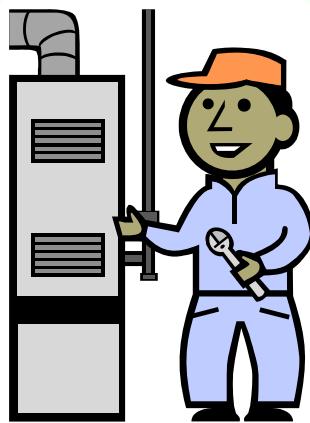
In our neck of the woods, a heating system can run for more than 1,500 hours. That is equal to running your car at 50 mph for 75,000 miles. Would you drive your car that far without changing the oil, rotating tires, or checking other critical systems? Your heating system requires the same kind of scheduled maintenance in order to run efficiently and last its normal lifetime.

So what are benefits of having a certified technician performing a heating system tune up?

- Peace of mind knowing your heating equipment is safe, especially if your home has natural gas. A carbon monoxide leak can be fatal.
- Keep your equipment at peak operating condition. This allows your system to operate less in providing the heat you need.
- Improve heating capacity. On the coldest days, it is good to know your system has the capability to keep you warm.
- Avoid an expensive breakdown by testing for weak components. It never fails that systems fail at the most inconvenient times.
- Extend the life of your equipment. Your heating system cost a lot of money! You want to get as many years of efficient operation out of it as you can.

What sorts of things should you expect a certified technician to do?

- Clean and vacuum the heat exchanger
- Inspect heat exchanger for cracks and holes
- Tighten all wiring connections for safety
- Lubricate all moving parts
- Clean blower housing and remove all debris
- Check and replace furnace filters
- Test fan and furnace limit for proper safety
- Clean outside unit coils (air-source heat pumps only)



If you use natural gas, propane, or heating oil to heat your home, a certified technician may also do the following:

- Inspect thermocouple/igniter for proper burn
- Inspect for dangerous combustible material
- Test gas valve to reduce delayed ignition
- Remove and wash burners for more efficient operation
- Remove and clean vent pipe
- Check for natural gas leaks to prevent fires
- Test for proper gas pressure

Do not let a broken down heating system catch you by surprise this winter! Have your system checked today and enjoy knowing you will not be at the bottom of the list your certified technician has of "no heat" calls!





LEXINGTON
community foundation

give BIG lexington

November 17

Lexington Community Foundation's Give BIG Lexington challenge is a unique, one-day event encouraging donors to be part of the biggest day of giving in this area by making a donation to the local nonprofits of their choosing. The Foundation will match contributions, effectively doubling one's donation.

Give BIG Lexington will raise money for the community, bring awareness about our local causes and help make our region a more vital place to live.

For 17 hours on November 17, Give BIG credit and debit card donations can be made online through Lexington Community Foundation's Give BIG Lexington site: givebiglexington.razoo.com.

Online donations made through givebiglexington.razoo.com can be made to multiple causes easiest by creating a log on. You will need to complete each transaction separately, but your information will be securely retained so you don't have to re-enter it each time.

Cash and check donations delivered to the Lexington Community Foundation office on the 17th between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. will qualify for the match funds and will count toward the bonus grant challenge.

Give BIG Lexington is set up so that nonprofit organizations receive the maximum benefit.

What's going on with the overpass?



Looking south on the Highway 283 viaduct:
both lanes were opened to traffic on October 19

Although not a project managed by the City, we sensed readers would appreciate learning more about the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) project that included the Highway 283 overpass.

NDOR is wrapping up this street improvement project that begins at Ash Street on the south, and goes north across the overpass to 5th Street, then east and west to Grant and Jefferson Streets, and then south to Highway 30.

Motorists may notice uneven surfacing "bumps" near each end of the bridge. This is due to unexpected issues that arose during construction. Additional work may be required in the next few months to resolve the issues.

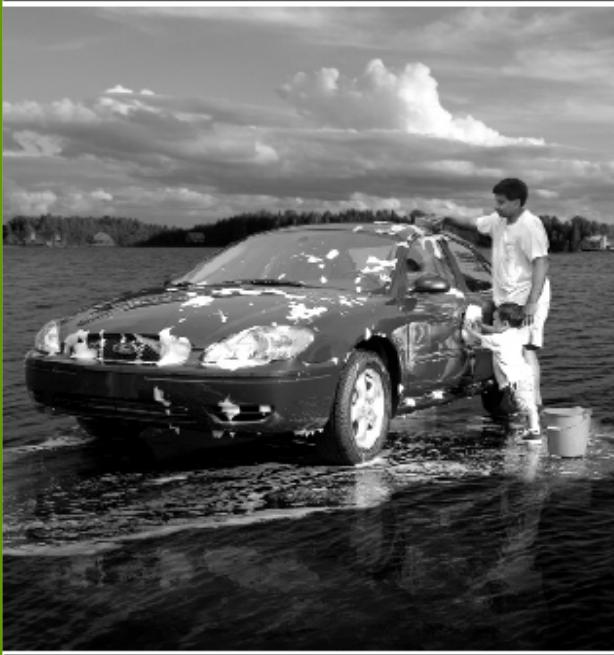
According to an NDOR spokesperson, the Department plans to make a temporary fix before winter, most likely overlaying it with an asphalt/patching material.

Additional delays may be expected during this process. NDOR plans to review the situation in the spring, collect new data and evaluate it, and come up with a long-term solution. City Happenings will publish more information as it becomes available.





Remember, you're not just washing your car



Find out more at www.cityoflex.com

Practice good car care

Did you know?

Four quarts of oil can form an 8-acre oil slick if dumped or spilled down a storm drain? That's because storm drains found in our streets and yards lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, oil and dirty water from washing our car that goes into storm drains pollutes our water.

What can you do? Simple:

- Take your car to the carwash where the dirty water is treated before it gets to our water.
- Wash your car on your lawn or direct the dirty water toward the lawn and away from the storm drain, or wash your car at a commercial car wash location.
- Keep your care properly tuned.
- Recycle used fluids and never dump them down the storm drains.

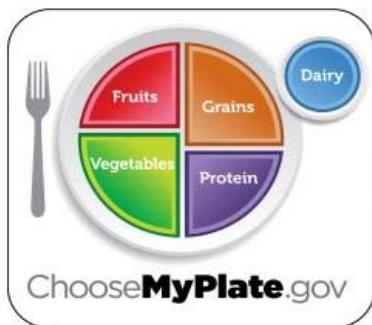
Help keep the oil where it belongs . . . in you car!



Support
provided
by
NDEQ



www.cityoflex.com



WE ASK OUR CUSTOMERS

DO NOT DEPOSIT IN TRASH DUMPSTERS:

yard waste • tree branches • wood
cement • iron • batteries and tires . . .
. . . as the landfill will not accept these items.

YOUR DUMPSTER IS FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD TRASH ONLY

If you have a curbside trash container, DO NOT place trash in large alley dumpsters. These are for alley customers only.

If your curbside trash container fills before the weekly pickup, please call for additional containers.

DO NOT under any circumstances put hot BBQ coals or fireplace ashes in your dumpster. If you are caught doing this you will have to pay to replace the dumpster if fire occurs.

If you see someone using alley containers for construction materials, yard waste, or other unaccepted items please call us right away and we will take care of it.



Dan's Sanitation
324-6693 • Lexington