



February 2012

# City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska

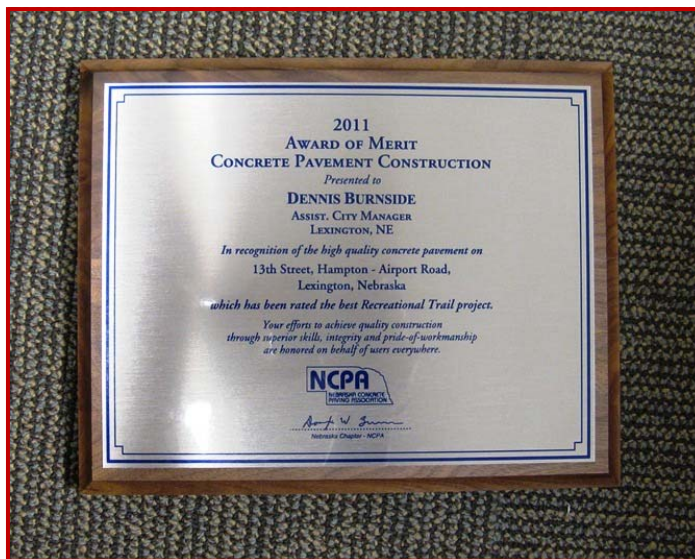


## 13th Street trail project wins award



During the 33rd annual conference of the Nebraska Paving Association January 24, Lexington was honored with an Award of Merit for the 2011 13th Street reconstruction project. The project scored in the category of Recreational Trails, which refers to the 10-foot-wide hike-bike trail that abuts the new street pavement from Park Street to Airport Road. During the presentation, NCPA's Jeremy Montgomery noted the trail connects the high school and Plum Creek Park on the east, to the Fitness Center and Optimist Recreational Complex on the west. It also adds a leg to the City's long-term master trails plan. All projects were judged for their appearance, innovation, smoothness, complexity, and quality control. NCPA's Excellence in Concrete Paving Awards program is intended to encourage high quality workmanship in every concrete pavement project.

(above)  
Award recipients for the 13th Street project include (L to R): Darrell O'Neal & Dave Neill, Paulsen, Inc. (construction); Jeff Palik, Olssen Associates (engineering); Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside; Tim Wetovick, Olsson Associates; Greg Werner, Miller & Associates (design).



## Library Computer Project Complete



Lexington Public Library celebrated completion of new technology installation with a dedication and open house on January 18, 2012. The technology includes 23 new computers and assorted peripherals, fully networked, and added to new fiber-optic cable for high-speed broadband internet connection. The new technology was made possible through several grants that Library Director Kathy Thomsen has been pursuing for two years, including grants from the Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program. Thomsen began the dedication with some brief remarks, and the Nebraska Library Commission's Devra Dragos also spoke.



(above top) Library Director Kathy Thomsen  
(above bottom) Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission  
(right top) newly-equipped computer lab  
(right bottom) children's computer station





**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.

### STUDENTS!

**NOW** is the time to apply for summer City jobs: concessions, lifeguards, & 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 [pberke@cityoflex.com](mailto:pberke@cityoflex.com).

**Don't delay — do it today!**





## EnergyWise Tip: **The Right Night Light**

You probably never give a second thought to a night light until you find yourself in the dark and wished you knew where you were. At that point, just having a light is your number one concern; more important, probably, than your light's energy efficiency. But to save money and help provide electricity for future generations of night light users, energy efficiency should always be a consideration. Let's take a moment to give some thought to your night lights.

Many traditional incandescent lamps require four to seven watts to operate. One 7-watt night light left on all year will cost a little over \$6 in energy at \$0.10 per kilowatt hour (KWh). That may not seem like much, but if you have several night lights, it can add up. As the lamp life ranges from 1,000 to 3,000 hours, those little bulbs may need replacing several times a year.

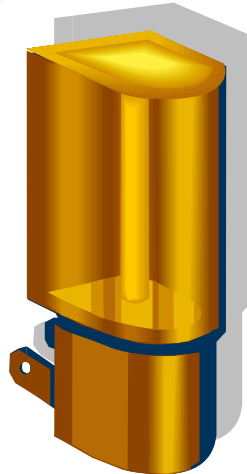
If you are faithfully turning off your night lights every morning, you can cut costs roughly in half. Photosensors in some models sense "daylight" and turn off automatically. In addition to this neat convenience, you may want to think about energy-efficient light bulbs for even greater savings.

Start by considering what you need the light to do. Does it simply serve as a location mark in a room or hallway? Or does it have to provide enough illumination to complete small tasks without turning on brighter lights? Do you need one night light or several? As the level of illumination and/or the number of lights increase, so does your opportunity to save energy while providing the safety, security, and capability you desire.

If you want to keep your existing night light fixture but wish to make it more efficient, change out your incandescent bulbs with light-emitting diodes (LEDs). LEDs come in both standard and candelabra bases. Some use as little as a third of a

watt, which could reduce your energy usage by more than 95. An LED lamp lives 12,000 to 100,000 hours, so at the very least, they last four times longer than incandescents.

Electroluminescent night lights emit a uniform blue, green, or orange glow from a flat panel. Also known as "limelights" or "indiglos," if you leave it plugged in 24-hours-a-day for an entire year, it will use less than 0.3 kWh of electricity and cost only pennies. While not overly bright, electroluminescent night lights provide a soft glow at night that help children feel safe and often provide enough light to guide someone through a hallway.



Need a little more light? Miniature fluorescent night lights use 1.5 to 6 watts and last much longer than incandescents. More importantly, they produce seven-to-ten times more light, watt-for-watt, than incandescents. Fluorescent night lights can easily cast a glow through an entire medium-sized room enabling you to write a short note, get a drink of water, or deal with a frightened child in the middle of the night.

You might want to also look for a night light that uses a photo and motion sensor. These night lights only switch on when it is dark and movement is detected. Unless both sensors are activated, the light uses virtually no energy! Most people do not consider night lights when it comes to energy saving opportunities. However, now that you see how traditional night lights can add to your electricity costs, you also know how to make some EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> choices!



## Chief Building Inspector receives award



(above): UNO's Dr. Mary Hamilton presents Lexington Chief Building Inspector Bill Brecks with the George C. Askew Award (medallion and certificate).  
(below right): both sides of the 3-inch bronze award medallion

Chief Building Inspector **Bill Brecks** has been honored by receiving the George C. Askew Award. The award recognizes Brecks's class project he created during his two years working toward his Certified Public Manager (CPM) certificate. **Dr. Mary Hamilton**, Director of UNO's CPM program, came to Lexington to personally present the award during the City's annual employee awards banquet January 14.

Brecks called his project "¿Que es servicio a la publico? (What is public service?)." The project, which has been implemented at City offices, provides employees access to software that teaches Spanish, in order to better communicate with the many Spanish-speaking residents. Brecks graduated from the CPM program in December 2010.

The Askew Award is presented annually by the American Academy of Certified Public Managers to the best project in each CPM program. Brecks is the third Nebraska recipient of the honor.

Award criteria for projects that are judged: innovative; result in improvements in quality within the work unit; show cost savings and be outstanding demonstrations of CPM principals.

Speaking on behalf of the Academy, Hamilton told Brecks, "We feel very good about the City of Lexington and its commitment to all of its citizens - and you've provided some good leadership in that area."



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.

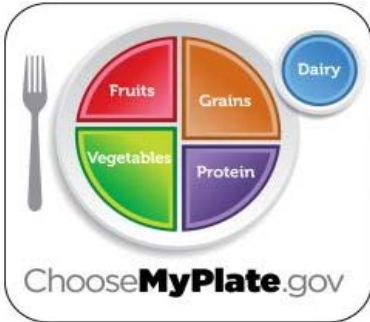
#### So what can you do? Simple:

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



### 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





## 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."



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.



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.



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

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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!**

