

City Happenings

August 2013

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Three City playgrounds get crumb rubber

Thanks to a generous \$19,460 grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the City of Lexington has installed about 75 tons of recycled shredded rubber to use as a bedding material in three City parks. Most of the rubber came from recycled tires collected in Nebraska. The three parks - Pioneer, Oak and Plum Creek - were selected because their playgrounds already have concrete retaining structures to hold in the material. Previously the bedding material was sand or wood chips.

City workers began with Pioneer Park on July 19, and have now upgraded all three parks.



Pioneer Park



Oak Park



Plum Creek Park



N. Jackson St. road work



As of the first of August the underground water and sewer improvements are

essentially done on Phase 1 (8th to 11th). The next step is to finish the 8th Street intersection, which is already started (see photo below) 8th Street will be open for east-west traffic first. The final grading and paving are expected to take the rest of the month, before moving on to Phase 2 (11th to 13th). Find occasional updates posted at the City's website, <http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=154>.



Have you checked out the Lexington's **Farmers Market** new location and hours? You'll find it in the south parking lot at Washington and Hwy 30. The market starts Saturday mornings from 8-11 and Tuesday evenings from 4-7.

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 by 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!



Support provided by NDEQ

CITY OF *Lexington* NEBRASKA
www.cityoflex.com



TNT funds trees for Lexington

Thanks to a generous \$10,500 “grant from “Trees for Nebraska Towns,” the City of Lexington has installed 65 big trees around Lexington. Thirty-five trees were planted in the Southeast Industrial Park, which is east of Highway 283, along Commerce Drive and Frontier/Heartland Streets. Twenty-three trees were planted at Greenwood Cemetery, and seven trees planted at Oak Park. A wide variety of trees were selected, because the grant funders require a good diversity of species. The plan for the trees was jointly developed by Lexington’s Tree Board and City administration.

Trees for Nebraska Towns is a program offered through a consortium of agencies that includes the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, the Nebraska Forest Service, ReTree Nebraska, with funding provided by the Nebraska Environmental Trust.



ABOVE: Some of the 23 new trees at Greenwood Cemetery on N Taft, these are in a newly developed addition.

RIGHT: 3 of 7 new trees planted at Oak Park (Oak & Madison)

BELOW: 35 trees were planted in the SE Industrial Park, including these on Commerce Drive.



New Comp Plan Approved

Following a long process of research, surveys, town hall meetings interviews and design work, the City's new Comprehensive Development Plan was introduced to the City Council at their July 23 regular meeting. Making the presentation were Jeff Ray from JEO Consulting, and Brian Ray from HDR Inc., the professional planners who collaborated with the City's Planning Commission to steer the plan toward completion. The final step is to port the Plan into an online interactive format, which will be accessible through the City's website.

By state statute cities are required to have a Comp Plan. The general rule is to revise it to keep it current every 5-10 years. Lexington's last update was 2005. The Plan helps identify areas to grow toward and, more importantly, guides the Commission and Council on zoning and development issues. Funding for this project came in part from the Nebraska Department of Roads, with the condition that the Plan include an enhanced transportation component.

Below: Brian Ray of JEO Consulting Group speaking at one of the Town Hall meetings held during the last year, collecting input for "Lex-Plan 2013."



801 West
Vine Street
308-324-5995

Summer Hours

Mon. - Fri.
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907 North Washington Street

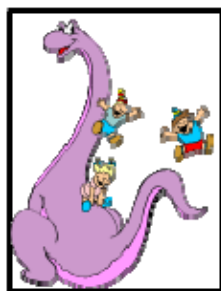
You soon will be able to enjoy a cup of coffee, while you read the newspaper, browse through magazines, or surf the net at the library. Java Junction, the library's new coffee bar, will be opening the week of August 5. Java Junction will offer a variety of regular, decaf, and flavored coffees for \$1.00 a cup. Teas and hot chocolate will be available in the fall.



The third Family Night at the Library will be held on at 7:00 p.m. August 27. The theme for Family Night at the Library in August is Engineering. *Domino diving boards, tumbling towers, and against the wind* are just a few of the activities planned. Don't miss this fun evening of challenging family activities.



Storytime 2013-2014 for children age three to six will begin on Tuesday, August 20, at 10:30 a.m. Lap Sit 2013-2014 for babies and toddlers birth to age three will begin on Wednesday, August 21, at 10:30 a.m. Join us for an exciting year of stories, songs and activities. If you have any questions, call at the library at 324-2151 and ask for Brenda.



The first program of the 2013-2014 school year sponsored by the Lexington Early Childhood Connection

will be held at the Lexington Public Library on Tuesday, August 27 at 4:00 p.m. Preschool and kindergarten age children and their parents are invited to the library for a dinosaur themed program and a library tour. Parents are encouraged to bring picture identification and a piece of mail addressed to them, so that their child may sign up for a library card. Refreshments will be served.



EnergyWise Tip: **Radiant Barriers**



Have you received a postcard in the mail lately with one of the following marketing lines?:

- Did you enjoy paying your utility bills this month?
- Did you know you may be paying up to 40 percent too much every month?
- See what the Utility Companies may not want you to know!!!
- Free Roast Beef Dinner!
- This technology was developed by NASA and is now being introduced to the general public!!!

Lately, a few companies have been using these lines to convince you to consider installing a **radiant barrier** or radiation control coating. But will these actions provide significant energy savings in your home?

On a sunny summer day, solar energy is absorbed by the roof, heating the roof sheathing and causing the underside of the sheathing and the roof framing to become hot. These surfaces then radiate heat downward toward the home. Radiant barriers reduce that energy flow. Because the amount of heat radiation striking the top of the home's attic insulation is less than it would have been, the insulation surface temperature is lower and the heat flow through the insulation is reduced. By reducing the heat energy reaching the attic floor, radiant barriers also reduce the attic's ambient air temperature.

In the winter, radiant barriers can reduce indoor heat losses through the ceiling, especially during winter nights when the roof surface is coldest. However, radiant barriers also reduce beneficial daytime heat gains due to solar heating of the roof. Depending on your climate, level of attic insulation, and other factors, the net winter effect can be positive or negative.

So what kind of savings can you expect in Nebraska? Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is a multi-program science and technology national laboratory managed for the U.S. Department of Energy. ORNL's calculations in Nebraska's weather zone (Zone 5) shows savings varies from \$0.00 to \$0.03 per square foot. For the typical 1,540 square foot attic in a Nebraska home, the first year's savings would vary from \$0.00 to \$61.60. Considering installation could cost more than \$2,000, it may be more than 30 years for your energy savings to pay for the improvement.

Detailed results of ORNL's findings can be found at <http://www.ornl.gov/sci/ees/etsd/btrc/RadiantBarrier/RBFactSheet2010.pdf>.



Even so, if you determine that a radiant barrier is appropriate for your attic, make sure the product you install has an appropriate permeability rating to allow any moisture to "travel" through the barrier into the attic where it can be vented out of the home. In Nebraska, barriers are often laid atop the home's existing attic insulation, with the reflective side up. Although this is the simplest installation method, there are several disadvantages:

- Dust will settle on the reflective side of the barrier, decreasing its effectiveness.
- Traffic (if the attic is used for storage) will damage it.
- Moisture can be trapped where it will soak the insulation and potentially lead to mold problems.
- Kitchen and bathroom vents and recessed lights should not be covered with the radiant barrier.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. For assistance on making your home EnergyWiseSM, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com

