

City Happenings

December 2009

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



What's going on at . . . ?

Between N. 3rd and N. 9th, Monroe Street has a new paved surface. Most intersections have been upgraded with handicap ramps, and some sections of curb and sidewalks have been replaced.

Some sections of the street had been sunken and cracked due to unforeseen settling of substructure underneath the pavement.

Most of the cost of this project was paid for with a Community Development Block Grant. A great improvement to this area of town!



before



after



North 17th Street between Jefferson and Monroe is no longer one of the last gravel roads in the Lexington City Limits. In mid-November the City replaced the two blocks of gravel surface with concrete paving. As with all new paving upgrades, the City added handicap ramps at intersections during the project.



More Progress!



◀ Legend Oaks

Dawson County Opportunity Center
▶



Construction will continue through the winter on two development projects. Foundations are laid for the first phase of townhomes at Legend Oaks (above left), including interior concrete storm shelters. The project is just southwest of 20th & Adams, Phase 1 of which will include 10 2-unit townhomes, 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.

The Dawson County Opportunity Center (DCOC) Phase 1 construction (right) is for the Lexington Public Schools. DCOC is on Plum Creek Parkway, the former Wal-mart building. The LPS portion of the project will house their Early Learning Academy and, tentatively, the Parent-Student Resource Center. It is expected to be completed and in operation in February 2010.

Give a Gift



to Give

Alternative Gift Fair
Mac's Creek Vineyard
Saturday, Dec. 12
9 a.m. to Noon

Looking for a gift for the person who has everything? We all have more stuff than we need! Give a gift to local Lexington agencies in someone's name for Christmas! The organizations will send your honoree a Christmas card letting them know of your gift! CASA, Club 180, Haven House, The Maternal Health Clinic, The Parent Child Center and The Welcome Center are hosting an **Alternative Gift Fair** at Mac's Creek with cider, coffee and cookies. Come "shop" for a good cause and even stay for the Mac's Creek's Saturday lunch special!

City of Lexington
Recreation Department
Hitting Facility Program



Tuesday, December 22, 2009

Winter Baseball Clinic

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Ages 13 & up
1:00 to 4:00 p.m. - Ages 9 - 12

Cost: \$15.00

*** To reserve your spot call Ann H. Luther at 324-2498 or 325-5277**

Due to limited space, Lexington Students have first priority.





Library News

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

The Lexington Public Library will be offering a variety of programs during December and January.

The Lexington High School Swing Choir will be performing on Tuesday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m.. Their program is entitled "Music of the Season."



There will be two programs offered in January. On Thursday, January 21, 7:00 p.m., Beth Horner will entertain audiences with her storytelling. Beth's programs is part of the Kearney International



Storytelling Festival, a weeklong celebration held in Kearney each January.



On Sunday, January 24, 2:00 p.m., Karen Land, a three time participant in the Iditarod Sled Dog Race across Alaska will give a dog mushing presentation. She will be accompanied by her sled dog Borage. Join us on Sunday for an icy adventure with Karen and Borage.

All programs are sponsored by the Lexington Public Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation.

Another successful tire recycling event



On September 25, 2009, the City of Lexington hosted what's become an annual tire recycling collection at the Dawson County Fairgrounds. The City collected 157 tons of tires (it was estimated that 125 tons might be collected). After the collection a company takes them away for recycling into other products such as landscape mulch, park tables and benches, and playground fill. Thanks to a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, nearly all the cost of this event is reimbursed.

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COUNTS

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Lexington to get assistance for downtown revitalization

On October 30, 2009, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development announced an award of a \$30,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Phase I of a downtown revitalization program in Lexington. Phase I entails a study, with recommendations for an actual revitalization plan (Phase II). The City will contribute \$9,500 toward Phase I, and will collaborate with Dawson Area Development, The Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce, local business interests and others, as well as a yet-to-be determined consultant. Plattsmouth and Scribner were also named as award winners. Phase II of the award will grant about \$350,000 to complete projects named in the Phase I study. The CDBG Downtown Revitalization Category is open to incorporated Nebraska municipalities of populations 20,000 or less, having earned designations as Economic Development Certified Communities and having already adopted comprehensive plans, zoning and subdivision ordinances, building codes, code enforcement, and building permit processes.



Remember, it ALL drains to our lakes and rivers



Help keep pollution out of storm drains

Only rain in the drain!

That's because storm drains and roadside ditches lead directly to our lakes and rivers. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, trash, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and rivers. With thousands of people living in the Kearney area, we all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains.

What can you do? Simple. These tips will help prevent pollutants from entering our lakes and rivers

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks, back onto your lawn.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, trash, and fertilizers out of storm drains.
- Do not dump motor oil, chemicals, pet waste, dirty, soapy water, or anything else down the storm drain.
- Volunteer to label the storm drains in your neighborhood to inform your neighbors that storm drains flow directly to our lakes and rivers.

Keep our water clean!



EnergyWise Tip: beware of space heater promises

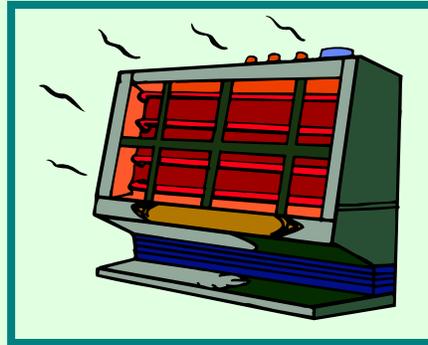
“It’s a miracle ...”

You may have seen advertisements in the magazine section of your newspaper for “miracle heaters” that claim you can save up to 50 percent on your heating bill! Just purchase one (or more) of these technological marvels, the advertisement trumpets, and you will never be cold again.

Before you rush to buy, however, you should look a little closer at the miracle heater’s claim. The ad’s fine print clearly states the way to reduce your heating bill is to set the thermostat in your house to as low as 50 degrees and move the space heater from room to room. In this case, savings do not come from operating the heater, but because you turned down the thermostat to 50 degrees.

Customers who don’t lower their thermostats can actually spend more heating their homes!

The practice of using space heaters to warm individual rooms is known as zone heating. If used correctly, it can provide one of two benefits. From a cost savings standpoint, if you are consistent in turning down your main system’s thermostat and use the space heater to heat just the room(s) you use, you can save money. The



second benefit is from a comfort standpoint; if you have areas of your home that are hard to heat, using a space heater will make them more comfortable, but this will cost you a little more for the additional heat.

Bottom line: heating parts of your home with a portable heater is seldom the cure-all the catchy advertisements would have you believe. A portable heater can improve comfort for hard to heat areas, but using one doesn’t guarantee you will save in heating costs. Instead, most homes will receive greater

benefit from money spent on insulation, weather stripping, servicing your heating and cooling equipment, changing filters, installing compact fluorescent lamps, using programmable thermostats, purchasing ENERGY STAR appliances or setting back the temperature setting on your thermostat when you’re not at home.

These common things will help reduce the amount of heat or cooling your home needs, or consume less energy performing the same work. For more energy saving tips, visit www.cityoflex.com or Consumer Reports Home and Garden Blog at [http://blogs.consumerreports.org/home/space_heaters/.](http://blogs.consumerreports.org/home/space_heaters/))

For more information on steps homeowners can take to improve the efficiency of their homes, contact your Lexington Utilities System, or visit the ENERGY STAR® Home Advisor at <http://www.energystar.gov/homeadvisor>. Lots of useful energy efficiency information is also available at <http://www.nppd.com>.

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. If you have comments or suggestions, contact Dennis Burnside, dburnside@cityoflex.com, 308-324-2341. You are encouraged to forward this to others you think may be interested. Archives available online.



Lexington snow and ice removal

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.

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.



News Cars, New Look for Lexington Police Department



The Lexington Police Department will soon roll out two new police cruisers. Unlike previous white police cars, the new cruisers are painted black and white, with full police package accessories. The 2010 model Chevrolet Impalas boast upgraded transmissions, suspensions, and other tweaks designed to improve performance and safety during demanding police work.

