

City Happenings

October 2012

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska

S.E. Business Park takes shape



Less than a week after a well-attended ground-breaking ceremony for Orthman Manufacturing on August 22, construction began on the infrastructure that will add streets and utilities to the new Southeast Business Park (SEBP).

Orthman's new facility is the first business to announce their move to the SEBP. When the new plant is completed in mid-2013, the City of Lexington will acquire their current "south" plant at 1502 East Walnut. The City will market that facility as a speculative building to attract additional employment to Lexington.



Before Orthman decided to build the new plant, the City worked more than two years developing the SEBP design and securing federal funding to help pay for the infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, electric, etc.). The SEBP has space for additional industrial development, as well as commercial and retail space adjacent to Plum Creek Parkway (Hwy 283).



Two new road segments will be created: Heartland Drive will be extended east; and Frontier Street will extend east to Taft Street through a reverse curve alignment (see map, right). On the map shown, the Orthman project will be in the green shaded area (right) side, zoned for industrial uses.



City-seeded spec building tenants plan expansion



On East Commerce Drive, east of DesignerCraft Woodworking, is a currently non-descript off-white metal building that is home to one of Lexington's newest and fastest-growing industries: Rayeman Elements Inc. (REI). The company got its start in 2011 when they leased a speculative building in Lexington that was then finished to suit their needs.

REI has developed a new technology that keeps distillers grain-based range cubes from breaking down during shipment. The cubes are in high demand for cattle feed, however, earlier manufacturing methods resulted in significant breakage during shipment, leading to wasted product, according to REI President Samantha Western.

Now . . . here's the rest of the story: in 2009 the City of Lexington worked with Sund Investments, LLC, to plan to erect a 20,000 square foot speculative building. The City provided funding assistance and direction, and Lexington's TL Sund Constructors completed the structure in mid-2010. Dawson Area Development participated in marketing the building.

REI has 60 employees and runs three shifts daily, 350 days per year. They have secured long-term



Samantha Western

contracts and are continuing to ramp up production levels. Currently, REI produces 24 tons of product daily, and the goal for full capacity is 100 tons of product per day. A year after moving in, REI is in the process of purchasing the original building, and adding on it, tripling its size, and hiring more employees.

Western says the new building will incorporate more aesthetics and landscaping to their campus, so don't expect it to be "non-descript" by this time next year! This fall the City will also finish paving East Commerce Road to Taft Street.

The patented new technology REI uses was developed by Mike Thomas, the company's director of technology. Thomas developed a process and method using different machines than traditional cube makers. His method controls the density of the cubes so that the cubes can be bagged and transported with minimal loss. REI produces a variety of products and ultimately sells the machinery and licenses the technology to ethanol plants around the country so they can streamline their yearly pricing and be more profitable.

Nebraska Public Power District Economic Development Department contributed to this story.



Rayeman Elements, Inc. (REI) began operations in 2011 in a speculative building at 605 East Commerce Road.



City Comp Plan progress

Dozens of interested citizens and groups were represented during focus groups and a town hall meeting designed to gather input for the update to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Held at the Dawson County Opportunity Center on September 20 and 21, the meetings were facilitated by representatives from JEO Consulting and HDR, Inc., the professionals who are developing the Plan for the City. In addition to gathering input, the consultants unveiled Think Big Lexington, a website where anyone can learn more and make comments, a "virtual town hall" (see below). There will be more public meetings Oct. 24 & 25, see the City website for more information as it becomes available.



ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

As you and your dog are out walking in your neighborhoods, in the City's parks or on the trails, please remember to clean up after your dog. A simple plastic bag slipped over your hand like a glove makes an efficient and clean pick-up tool. Picking up is just part of having a dog. It may seem silly at first, but people who see you do it will know any mess left behind is NOT from your dog. Picking up shows pride in your community, in yourself, and in your dog. You'll set a great example for others, and will help create a positive image for dogs and their owners.

think BIG
Thursday, October 25, 2012
at the Opportunity Center,
Room 204
1501 Plum Creek Parkway
at 7:00 PM

Envision the future by attending the second Public Townhall Meeting.

Can't attend... Your voice will be heard regarding your thoughts for the community's future at www.thinkbiglex.com

lexington JEO HDR

People arriving for one of the Comprehensive Plan Focus Groups on September 20 at the Opportunity Center.



EnergyWise Tip: **Magic Energy Saving Devices**

Have you heard the news? There are manufacturers of electrical saving devices out there that can save you up to 50 percent on your home's power bill! Just hook the "Black Box" into your electrical service or plug them into a wall socket and start saving! Wow! Really?

Hold on . . . don't call their toll-free phone number just yet.

Pardon the pun but, in the past few years, there has been a huge "surge" in scam "electricity saver" products. While some provide absolutely no benefit at all (and may actually consume energy themselves), most are simply power factor capacitors.

To describe power factor and without getting too technical, sometimes more power goes into a device than you would expect, because of a special kind of inefficiency. The actual energy used by your device is measured in kilowatt hours, and that is what you are charged for. If your device uses only 80 percent of the power going into it, the power factor is 80 percent. The power factor is the real power (the amount your device actually uses) divided by the apparent power (the total going into it). With large commercial and industrial customers, this can create significant expenses in providing electrical service, so utilities often install expensive metering equipment to measure the difference and charge for it. However, since this difference creates such a small amount of cost in a household, residential electric meters only measure the real power used and not the apparent power.

And even if electric utilities billed home users for bad power factor, modern appliances already have this kind of power-correction built in. Consumer Reports says the average American home already has a power factor of 90 percent, which would make the maximum savings close to only 10 percent (if the utility actually

charged for the power factor penalty, which they do not).

The electric utility industry often refers to these products as "Black Box Devices." They include a range of products that tout some new proprietary technology to save energy. Often, these devices target motors and may claim to condition, filter or control an appliance motor to reduce energy consumption. Be aware that some of these devices could damage your appliances and may void the appliance warranty.

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) recently tested one product claiming to provide 30 percent energy savings. EPRI found it saved 0.23 percent. At the University of Texas at Austin, the best researchers could get was a 0.06 percent reduction in electric use for an average home with the same product.

As a final comment, consider that if these devices actually saved power, then major electrical goods outlets, electrical wholesalers and big department stores would be selling them. However, you can't buy one from any of the major retailers – anywhere. There must be a reason.

The old adage of "If it sounds too good to be true . . .," can be just as true with energy saving devices as other things. For unbiased information whether a product's claims will truly save you energy, or other ideas on how you can become more EnergyWiseSM, visit with Lexington Utilities Service or go to www.nppd.com/save-energy.





Library News

Lexington Public Library
907 North Washington St.

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director

The **Friends of the Library** are currently busy with two exciting projects.

(1) The Friends are developing a *Books for Babies* program that will offer a tote bag to the family of each baby born at the **Lexington Regional Health Center**. Each bag will include:

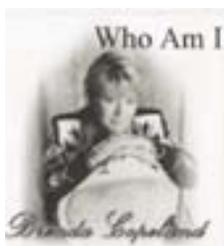
- baby's first board book,
- information about the library and how to get baby's first library card,
- information from other agencies in Lexington that provide services to children,
- a developmental chart and information from Child Find,
- a hand knitted/ crocheted hat,
- booties,
- a receiving blanket.

The first bags will be delivered to the Lexington Regional Health Center the first week of October.



(2) The second program the Friends of the Library is sponsoring is *Books on Wheels*, which delivers books or other library materials to shut-ins. Flyers will be

distributed through the Meals on Wheels program and at the Grand Generation Center. If you know of anyone who would like to use this service, please call the library at 324-2151.



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

October 14, at 2:00 p.m. **Brenda Copeland**, a recording artist from Bastrop, Louisiana will entertain us with a mixture of country, gospel and comedy. Coffee, tea, and cookies will be served. Watch for a Friends of the Library sponsored program in November.

Children's author, **Clark Spivey** will entertain the children attending storytime on October 9 at 10:30 am, when he reads his book, *Danger in the Nest*, and talks about writing the story. Clark, who is from Elwood, Nebraska, will also be giving a program for the Home School group on Thursday, November 1.



The library will be the place to go for games, fun, food and prizes on October 31 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm when the Benthack Meeting Room becomes a location for **Masquerade on Main Street**. So, put on your costume and stop by the library to join in the fun fall festivities.

The library will be offering an **Introduction to Computers** class on Thursday, October 25,



from 4:00 to 6:00 in the Computer Lab. In this fun, basic computer class, you will be introduced to the computer, the mouse and the keyboard, learn what they are and how to use them. If you have never used a computer before or have limited use of a computer, this is the class to take before taking more advanced classes. Pre-registration is required for this class. You can register by calling the library at 324-2151.



In past October newsletters . . .



2011

Phase 3 of the Dawson County Opportunity Center was completed, new tenants moved in: Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska Dept. of Labor, Dawson Area Development, and a new call center for Nebraska Health & Human Services.

2010

Phase one of the Legend Oaks (18th & Adams) housing project was finished, all 21 townhome units were occupied as soon as each was completed.



2008

The main stretch of the 2.4-mile hike/bike trail along the west side of Plum Creek Parkway was completed.

2007



A ground-breaking ceremony was held for the CED Addition, a new housing

development on west side of South Adams Street.

2006

The City's Skate Park was moved from a former concrete basketball pad at Oak Park, to a new concrete skate pad at the southeast corner of Arbor Park (Maple & Plum Creek Pkwy).



Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn

Find out more at www.cityoflex.com

Fertilize sparingly and carefully

Green your lawn, not the lake

Storm drains found in our streets and yards lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, fertilizer from your lawn can easily end up in our water. This fertilizer can form large algae blooms and use up oxygen fish and other aquatic insects need to survive.

What can you do? Simple.

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks and back onto your lawn.
- Recycle grass clippings by leaving them on your lawn.
- Use fertilizer with no or low phosphorus.
- Select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is water insoluble (check the label).

Keep the green on the lawn and in your pocket



Support provided by NDEQ



Lexington snow and ice removal

Winter 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.

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.



801 West
Vine Street
308-324-5995

Winter Hours

begin Oct. 22, 2012
Mon. - Fri.
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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



