

City Happenings

December 2012

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



City Council Members Honored



Two newly elected City Council members were sworn in the evening of December 4. Later that night, dozens of well-wishers attended a reception to honor the new, returning, and outgoing City Council members. The outgoing honorees are 12-year member Steve Tomasek (lower left), and Joni Bennett (lower right), who has served eight years. The newly elected Council members are Jeremy Roberts and Dora Vivas. The other three members of the Council are John Fagot, Linda Miller and John Salem.

Following the swearing in, Council members elected John Fagot President (Mayor), and John Salem Vice President.

TOP PHOTO, L to R:
John Salem, Linda Miller, John Fagot, Dora Vivas and Jeremy Roberts.

RIGHT: City Manager Joe Peplitsch gives plaques to Steve Tomasek and Joni Bennett.



think **BIG**
lexington

Attend the "Virtual Town Hall" from your desktop, anytime!

There's still the month of December to go to www.thinkbiglex.org and see what ideas are brewing for the City's long-range Comprehensive Plan. Create a user ID to start a topic or to comment on other people's ideas. There are also occasional micro-surveys that take about 15 seconds to complete. So come back often and make your contribution to Think BIG Lexington!

Street Project Open House

There will be a Public Information Meeting from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 12, to show preliminary plans and gather citizen comments on a proposed road project scheduled for 2014. The project will involve reconstruction of:

- North Jackson Street from 5th to 8th Street (not to be confused with a 2013 project to redo Jackson from 8th to 13th);
- East 6th Street from Grant to Taft; and
- 13th Street from Adams to Park, north half only.

The meeting will be at City Hall, 406 E. 7th St.



STUDENTS!

NOW is the time to apply for summer
City jobs: concessions, lifeguards, & lawn mowing.

Go to 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.

City gets trees from CPNRD

The City of Lexington and the Central Platte Natural Resources District have teamed up on an urban forestry project across the City. Thanks to a CPNRD grant request made by Chief Building Inspector Bill Brecks, the City now has 27 fresh maple, oak and linden trees. Lien Landscaping planted trees at four sites across the community: along a portion of Plum Creek Parkway, the Optimist Rec Complex (see photo, right), City Hall, and the new downtown parking facility (see related article next page).

The project was a result of a \$5,000 grant offered by the CPNRD, plus matching funds from the City. The project totaled \$14,652. Chief Building Inspector Bill Brecks is responsible for applying for the grant.



Downtown Revitalization Wrap-up



(top) One of 20 planters placed at corners and in the new south parking lot. Plants will be added in the spring.

(right) a crane was required to unload the limestone benches to help dress up the vacant corner lot at 5th & Washington. We left several areas to plant low-growing shrubs and flowers in the spring.



(above) 4th Street bricks were salvaged to redo the islands in the south parking lot, as well as around all the historic street lights throughout the downtown. Again, plants will come in the spring.

(right) The new and improved south parking lot. New lights are on order that match the existing historic street lights in the downtown.





EnergyWise Tip: **Holiday Energy at Work and School**

Over the past few years, utilities have provided numerous tips on how to save energy at home during the Christmas season. But did you realize there are other energy saving opportunities out there? It is also a great time to save energy at your place of work or school!

Start with decorating. Cut down on the number of Christmas lights you use. Consider putting up LED lights. If they make your home look beautiful, why not use them at work and school, since they use less energy and last longer? Also consider using fiber optics for illuminated decorations. Fiber optics, in most cases, use a single low-wattage bulb located in the base of the unit to light the entire decoration.

Limit the time lights are on. Wait until school is in session or business hours to turn on Christmas lights. Then, turn them off before you leave at the end of the day. Turning off lights will also inform others that the building is closed. It is also a good idea to turn these off when they're unattended to prevent fires. Do you have trouble remembering to turn lights on and off? Then set a timer and forget about it.

The Carbon Trust, a United Kingdom-based organization helping businesses, governments and the public sector to achieve energy savings estimates that lighting the average office or large classroom overnight wastes enough energy to heat water for 1,000 cups of coffee!

Be sure to turn off or unplug any Christmas decorations that light up (including those on timers) when closing for a day or more to observe the holidays. They may look pretty, but if nobody is there to enjoy them there is no need to pay for the energy to run them.

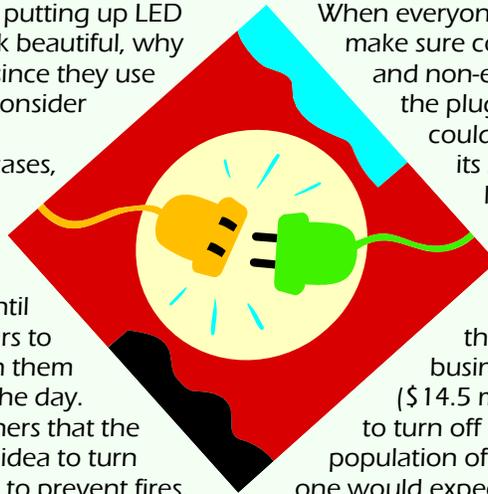
Be on the lookout for space heaters! Most heaters are placed under desks and make little, if any, noise. Thus, they are easy to overlook. Take an extra second to feel whether any space heaters are warm. Determine if their thermostats have been turned down or if they were switched off entirely. To be absolutely certain they not operating, unplug them.

When everyone leaves for the Christmas holidays, make sure computers, photocopiers, printers and non-essential equipment is turned off at the plug and nothing is left on standby – it could still be using up to 90 percent of its standing consumption. If some lights need to be on at a certain time for security reasons, use a timer.

Another interesting statistic from the Carbon Trust is that UK businesses lose around £9 million (\$14.5 million) over the holidays by failing to turn off lights and equipment. With the population of the United States five times larger, one would expect these types of savings to be commensurately larger.

Finally, if shutting down for Christmas and no staff will be in, turn the primary heating system to the minimum needed for frost protection.

Your local, publicly run electric utility wishes you well during this holiday season and looks forward to helping you make the best use of your energy in the new year. For additional ways to make your business or school can be more EnergyWiseSM, contact Lexington Utilities System (308-324-2343) or visit www.nppd.com.





Library News

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

December is a busy month at the Lexington Public Library with an array of holiday activities. The library will be showing Saturday Movies on December 1 and December 15 at 10:00 am. If you love Christmas and if you love dogs, you won't want to miss these movies.



On December 8 at 10:00 a.m. the **Dawson County Children's Museum** will be

presenting two puppet programs, *The Animal's Christmas* and *Three Wishes*. Children are invited to come watch the puppets and then make puppets of their own.

Help us celebrate the holiday season. Stop by the library December 10 -21 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., to



enjoy coffee, cocoa, hot cider, and cookies. While you're enjoying the refreshments, the library has a wonderful selection of gently used books for sale this holiday season. If you still have gifts to purchase for that reader in your family or would just like to add to your own book collection, visit the library from December 10 - 21 and browse the shelves of our Nearly New Book Sale.



Check your closets, look under the bed, clean out the car and look in all those out of the way places. If you have lost or overdue library books, the library is offering **fine free week** December 17 to 21. Call or stop by the library for details.



The next program sponsored by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation will be

held on Thursday, January 17 at 7:00 pm. Lakota and Kiowa Apache storyteller **Dovie Thomason** adds personal stories and untold histories to the traditional tales of First Nation cultures that she was taught growing up, especially by her Grandpa Dovie and her dad. The result is a contemporary narrative of the Indigenous North American told with elegance, wit and passion.

The library will offer Beginning Computer, Internet, and Facebook classes in January.



Beginning Computers (Jan. 19, 10 a.m. - noon)

This class is meant for users with little to no experience with general computer operations. What a computer is and all of its components will be covered during the first portion while beginning computing will be covered in the second half of the class. Beginning computing will include making, renaming, moving

will include making, renaming, moving and deleting files and folders as well as saving, printing and searching for documents.

Beginning Internet (Jan. 19, 1p.m. - 3 p.m.)

This class will explore menu and toolbars, how to use a search engine to find information or websites, as well as navigating email and attachments. If you have an email account please bring the username and password with you and if you do not have an email account the instructor will be available after the class to assist you in setting one up.

Beginning Facebook (Jan. 26, 10 a.m. - noon)

This class will cover what Facebook is, how you can use it and user and privacy settings. If you want to participate hands-on in this course you must already have a Facebook account or valid email account. If you do not have a Facebook account but would like to set one up for this class please bring your email username and password to class 15 minutes early and the instructor will assist you with setting up a Facebook account.

If you are interested in attending any of these classes please call the library at 324-2151 to pre-register. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.



In past December newsletters . . .

2010

Months of construction came to end when the City unveiled the newly renovated City Hall at 406 E. 6th Street.



2009



City Happenings announced the award of a \$350,000 Nebr. Dept. of Economic Development grant for Downtown Revitalization (see related article, Page 3).

2008

Thanks to a grant from the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the City installed a new playground feature at Oak Park.



2007



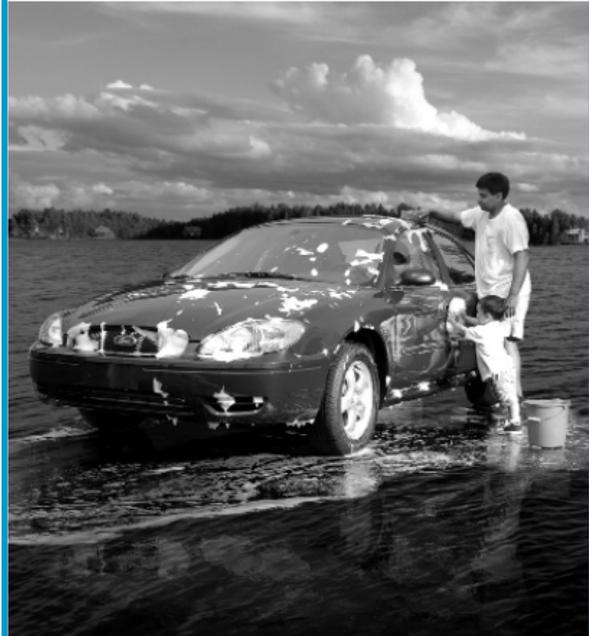
Completion of a new Fire & Rescue Dept. garage at 7th & Tyler, shared by the City and County.

2006

Construction started on a new addition and renovation of the Grand Generation Center, 407 E 6th Street.



Remember, you're not just washing your car



Practice good car care

Did you know . . . 4 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 towards the lawn and away from the storm drain.
- Keep your car properly tuned.
- Recycle used fluids and never dump them down the storm drain.

Help keep the oil where it belongs . . . in your car.



Support provided by NDEQ



REVISED: At the November 13, 2012, City Council meeting, the City Council approved minor changes to the City's Emergency Snow Routes (below). 20th Street was added in the northwest, and a couple blocks of West Walnut was removed west of Adams Street.

