

# City Happenings

December 2013

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



## Jackson Street project completed!

The project started June 17 and finished November 9. Jackson Street now has a consistent 40 foot width, where previously it tapered to 32 feet wide from 11th to 13th. Eighty percent of the reconstruction costs were paid for with funding from the Federal Highway Administration.

The project was completed in two phases, to minimize inconvenience to individual residents on the route. Phase one started June 17, closing three blocks of Jackson from 8th to 11th Streets. Phase two, from 11th to 13th, started September 3, although some overlap was required to tie the two phases together.

In addition to the reconstruction, a new water main was installed along the east side of the entire project, and new storm sewer was placed between 10th and 11th Streets. Sidewalks were widened from four feet to five feet, and handicap ramps were installed at all intersection corners. New LED street lights were installed, which will require less energy and maintenance than the old high pressure sodium lights.

Along most of the new sidewalks that are close to the curb, mostly on the west side, a two-foot buffer of red concrete was installed, stamped to resemble bricks. This follows the pattern established further south when the Nebraska Department of Roads reconstructed portions of Highway 283 just north of the Jackson Street overpass. The City plans to continue this theme in next year's road projects, which includes the reconstruction of Jackson Street from 5th to 8th Streets.

For a recap of the entire project with pictures, go to <http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=154>.

## JACKSON ST



(above) by the end of the first week nothing remained of the old pavement between 8th and 11th (Phase 1)  
(below) Jackson Street was fully opened to traffic on November 9 - this photo shows 11th to 13th (Phase 2)



## Lexington leads Nebraska in global event

Regular visitors to [www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com) may remember this summer's article about the Lexington Family Aquatic Center's participation in the "The World's Largest Swimming Lesson." According to TWLSL organizers, the worldwide event was created "to build awareness about the vital importance of teaching children to swim to help prevent drowning." On this day, waterparks, pools and other aquatic facilities around the globe hosted local WLSL lessons simultaneously at 10:00 a.m. [central time] in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record.

Lexington joined this event on June 18 and hosted more than 200 young swimmers. In November TWLSL contacted City of Lexington Community Activities Director Ann Luther with the news that our group swim lesson had the greatest number of participants of any single event in Nebraska. According to TWLSL, 432 locations across the world hosted 32,450 participants. That's an average of 75 swimmers per location, which means Lexington also hosted more than double the world-wide average.



**What's going on at . . . ?**

**The Majestic Theater**



In the June 2013 City Happenings, we wrote about the City helping the School District obtain a \$225,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to help renovate the almost 100-year-old cinema. During the recent Give BIG Lexington (GBL) event, 154 donors contributed \$17,691, a portion of which will be matched with funds pledged by the Lexington Community Foundation. Plus, the activity earned an extra \$2,500 for having the most individual online contributions to GBL.



Artist's concept of a possible renovation look for the Majestic Theater

All the contributions are greatly appreciated and will be put into action soon. An architect has been working on designs, and the final plan is near completion. Upon approval of the final

plan, bids will be solicited for the construction of the new design. Expect this to happen in early 2014.



**STUDENTS!**  
**NOW** is the time to apply for summer City jobs: concessions, lifeguards, & lawn mowers.  
 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 [pbaruth@cityoflex.com](mailto:pbaruth@cityoflex.com).  
**Don't delay — do it today!**

**Housing study coming**



Dawson County Development has received funding to conduct a new housing study. The professional planning firm of Hanna-Keelan

has been engaged to help conduct the study. H-K has done previous studies for this area, which includes all of Dawson County, plus Eustis and Elwood. At least three versions of the study will be created to help facilitate and focus on various demographics. Expect some of these may be completed online and, if you receive an invitation to take the survey, please do. The results of the study may influence in the interest of funding entities and developers.



## EnergyWise Tip: **No White Christmas?**



### Lack of Green: **Santa in the Red, Elves are Blue**

Reliable sources have just confirmed that this year, Santa Claus will be limiting his visits to children who are deemed "Extremely Nice," due to colossal energy costs incurred with transportation, production, and employee accommodations. According to Santa's accountant, Miss L. Toe, CPA, most of Kringle Holdings, LLC, assets have been frozen until Santa makes restitution of his outstanding energy bills.

In the last couple days, energy auditors from North Pole Public Power District (NP<sup>3</sup>D) released findings from a recent energy assessment of Claus's compound. The written report identified the following items and issues as primary contributors to the excessive energy use:

- ❑ Traditional incandescent Christmas lights were strung and illuminated 24 hours-a-day for the entire past year, costing Kringle more than \$200 per string. New energy efficient LED lights would have cost less than \$1 per string if St. Nick would have operated them for only 18 hours per day between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.
- ❑ Thermostats in the elves' dormitories were left set at 80°F all winter instead of the recommended 68°F during when occupied and 60°F during unoccupied and nighttime periods. Such thermostat setbacks could have saved up to 20 percent in heating costs.
- ❑ Mrs. Claus ran an old, energy-guzzling plasma TV for 16 hours each day while baking cookies. New LED-LCD televisions of comparable size only use about 20 percent of the electricity consumed by old plasma sets.
- ❑ Jack Frost kept his eggnog chilled in a 1940s refrigerator with dirty coils. That antique ice box sat next to the reindeer barn's furnace room. A new ENERGY STAR® refrigerator with clean coils would have used less than one third the energy. To make matters worse, the old fridge had cracked seals that allowed cold air to leak out and, against his parents'



heartfelt pleas, the irresponsible Mr. Frost seldom closed the refrigerator door all the way.

- ❑ Because of poor maintenance, fuel efficiency for the Big Red Man's sled has taken a huge nosedive. Compounding the problem, due to lack of exercise and over-indulgence, the nine reindeer that pull the sleigh have become fat on premium alfalfa. Those factors, combined with last year's rise in alfalfa costs, tripled Santa's fuel bill. Had Santa considered a Plug-in Hybrid Electric Sled (PHES), he could have cut his transportation costs tenfold.
- ❑ On his vacation to Jamaica during the entire month of August, Frosty the Snowman charged the utilities at his beachfront bungalow to Kringle Holdings. Unfortunately, the bungalow was not equipped with an ENERGY STAR® window air conditioner. Non-ENERGY STAR® air conditioners can use up to double the amount of energy.

❑ Water heaters at the Claus compound ran nearly continuously due to uninsulated hot water pipes, leaky faucets, nonuse of low flow shower heads and aerators, and sugar plum fairies taking hour-long showers twice a day.

When asked to comment on his mismanagement of energy at the North Pole (and by his often naughty subordinates), Santa told reporters, "I promise to do better with energy efficiency next year and perhaps, I can expand deliveries again. In the meantime, you'd better be good, for goodness sake!"

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District wish you and yours the very best during the holidays this year. Part of our commitment to providing you outstanding customer service includes helping you make the most of the energy you use throughout the year. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup>, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com).



## Lexington gets free fall trees

For the second year in a row, the City of Lexington received "Free Trees for Fall Planting." Ten trees of different varieties were planted October 18 at Kirkpatrick Memorial Park. Earlier this year City staff and the Lexington Tree Board made application for the grant. "Free Trees" is sponsored by the Nebraska Community Forestry Council (NCFC) and ReTree Nebraska, and funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The purpose is to help enable the planting of trees in conjunction with ReTree Nebraska Week (September 22-28, 2013) and other fall planting events. It is also meant to encourage all Nebraskans to plant more trees. The trees were brought personally to Lexington by Jessica Koelling of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, who also helped install the trees, and gave tree-planting tips to City Parks workers and Tree Board members.



Trees, ready to plant: L to R: Ben Nelson (City of Lexington), Brad Schott (Lexington Tree Board), Jessica Koelling (NSA), Sam Tingelhoff and Matt Van Pelt (City of Lexington)



Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn



### Fertilize sparingly and caringly

#### Green your lawn, not the river

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 that 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 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!

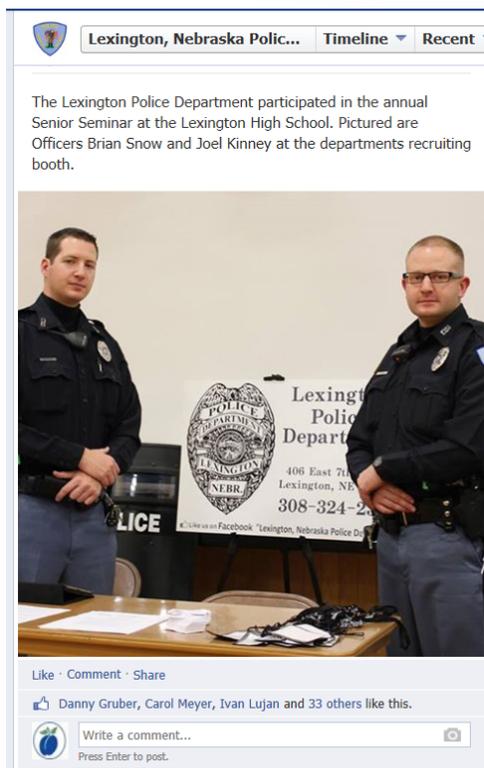


Support provided by NDEQ

CITY OF *Lexington* NEBRASKA  
www.cityoflex.com



## Lexington Police Department debuts on FaceBook



On October 24, 2013, the Lexington Police Department took its mission online by creating its own FaceBook Page. The page already has almost 750 "likes." Among other features, the page offers Department news, and crime prevention and public safety tips. Visitors will also find preliminary details on crimes, and ways they can confidentially submit information that may help solve the crimes. FaceBook users: simply search for Lexington Nebraska Police Department, and be sure to "Like" them.



## Lexington snow and ice removal

**W**inter 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

tune in to local media (including the newspaper online) for announcements of possible Snow Emergency situations. Also check the City website and FaceBook page. FaceBook users who "like" the City receive immediate emails when something like this is posted.

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

Mon. - Fri.  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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



