

City Happenings



October 2014

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



2014 Road Project

The featured road project for the summer of 2014 is substantially complete; with a few finish up items remaining. The project started June 16 and was completely open to traffic the first week of October. The federally-funded project consisted four phases, the following is a snapshot of the improvements:

Phase 1—Jackson Street from 5th to 8th. Involved the complete removal and reconstruction of the roadway. This street section now operates as a three-lane facility with two lanes of traffic and a common turn lane (no parking). Be advised that north/south traffic no longer stops at the intersection of 6th and Jackson, to improve the flow of peak traffic volumes.

Phase 2 - the north half of 13th Street from Adams Street to Park Street. This phase involved the complete removal and reconstruction of the roadway.

Phase 3 - 6th Street from Grant to Jefferson. This phase involved the complete removal and reconstruction of the roadway. Turn lanes were included on the east and west legs of the 6th and Jackson intersection to improve traffic flow.

Phase 4 - 6th Street from Jefferson to Taft. Involved the complete removal and reconstruction of intersections and various panel replacements to improve the driving profile of the roadway.

Additional benefits of throughout the project



include: wider intersections, updated sidewalks and handicap ramps, improved storm sewer facilities, and energy efficient street lighting.



Longtime Grand Generation Center Manager retires



City Manager Joe Peplitsch (right) congratulates Marcia Holtz on her retirement.

Marcia Holtz always loved to cook, which first led her to be the Grand Generation Center's Kitchen Manager, where she started April 1993 – 21 ½ years ago. Ten years ago she was promoted to Center Manager.

"In addition to helping create the welcoming family atmosphere here at the Center, she's been involved with many vast improvements the Center's undergone in those 21 years," said City Manager Joe Peplitsch at her retirement reception October 3 at the GGC.

Thank you, Marcia, enjoy your retirement!



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



www.cityoflex.com





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907 North Washington Street



On Sunday, October 19, at 2:00 p.m., the library will welcome

Storyteller **Indiana Bones**. Indiana Bones, "Keeper of Legends" is an Emmy award winning writer, producer, and performing artist. Combining archeology, action, adventure, ancient legends, mythology, and folklore, Indy thrills and educates audiences with his unique storytelling ability. Indy weaves stories for students, families, sci-fi lovers and museum lovers alike. "Open a Book. Open Your Mind. Open Your Imagination."

On Sunday, November 2, **Sue McLain** will return to Lexington to help us step back in time to a **Victorian Christmas**. With



authentic costuming, Sue, owner of Yesterday's Lady, a vintage fashion museum/store in Beatrice, shares her extensive clothing collection to make the world of fashion in the Victorian era come alive for a Victorian Christmas. The program will be



followed by a Victorian Tea. This program is sponsored by **Humanities Nebraska**.



All of this programming is made possible through funding from the **Lexington Library Memorial Fund** and the **Lexington Community Foundation**.

Do you enjoy popcorn and movie matinees? The library will begin offering a **Monday Movie Matinee** on the third Monday of each month beginning on Monday, October 20, at 1:30 p.m. So circle the date on your calendar and come enjoy popcorn and a movie. Call the library (324-2151) for more information.

The library has been offering **Coffee and Cards at the Library** on Fridays at 9:30



a.m. The last coffee and cards for the fall season will be October 17. We'll begin offering Coffee and Cards again in January. If you are interested, please let JoAnn know what day and time would work the best for you.



Friends of the Library are people who promote the library and are involved in ways to make it a better place to visit. The Friends of the Library are asking your support this year with **Give BIG Lexington**



on November 12. Statistics show that there were 23,110 computer usages in 2013. The computer

chairs are beginning to show a lot of wear and the Friends of the Library are hoping to replace those chairs with new chairs that are ergonomic, adjustable and comfortable. Please help them reach this goal by donating to the **Friends of the Library** at **Give BIG Lexington** on November 12.

The library will be **closed** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on October 23 due to a planned power outage. Computer access may not be immediately available when the library opens at noon.



If you are a shut-in and would like to have library materials delivered to you on a regular

basis, please call the library at 324-2151 and ask for Karen. The sign up is easy and you will never have overdue materials. Library materials will be delivered to your door by a member of the Friends of the Library.



EnergyWise Tip: **Energy Myths**



Electric utility companies hear quite a few well meaning, but often incorrect, energy-related “beliefs” that reveal a basic misunderstanding regarding energy use and savings. While some may seem logical, the majority yield little, if any, energy savings and often end up costing customers additional time, effort and money. Here is a quick list of the more common erroneous energy “untruisms”:

Turning the thermostat down/up beyond your intended final setting warms/ cools your home faster.

Heating and cooling (HVAC) systems operate with a maximum capacity. When the thermostat is cranked up or down, they operate at that capacity until the thermostat’s setpoint is reached. If the thermostat is turned beyond the reasonable or comfortable temperature, energy waste will likely occur. In fact, many heat pump systems will revert to their more-expensive auxiliary heat if the warmer setpoint temperature is not achieved in a given amount of time.

Turning down/up thermostat farther makes unit work harder. Again, HVAC systems operate with a limited capacity. The further the new setpoint is from the actual temperature, rather than working “harder,” the system simply will operate longer and use more energy.

Turning lights “off” when you leave the room and back “on” when returning takes more energy than just leaving them on. The small surge of power created when fluorescent lights are turned on is vastly smaller than the energy used by leaving them on when they are not needed. Leaving an incandescent light on actually uses more energy than turning it off and on as needed.



However, If you are using compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), they should be left on if light will be needed again within five minutes. Turning CFLs on and off frequently can shorten the life of the bulb.

Closing off rooms saves lots of energy. If your home has a central HVAC system, most rooms that would be closed off will still have space conditioning running into them if the ductwork to that room is not sealed off. Even without central HVAC, walls and doorways outside the closed off room will

now become colder or warmer, which will offset some of the energy savings you are trying to achieve.

Doubling insulation will cut heating or cooling costs in half. Though adding insulation to your home is often the most economical improvement you could make, there is a point beyond which you can spend more on materials than you will recover in lower energy bills. The tipping point varies depending on where you live.

New windows will quickly pay for themselves with energy savings. New windows can save energy, but they are quite expensive in comparison to the energy costs they save. Recouping the investment through lower bills could take up to 40 years. Less expensive options are caulking, window film or screen, and drapes, blinds and awnings.

Washing dishes by hand uses less energy than running a dishwasher. Compared to hand washing, an ENERGY STAR® dishwasher can save \$430 in water and energy costs over its life. To maximize dishwasher savings, scrape plates instead of rinsing them and turn off the heat-dry feature.

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EnergyWise Tip: **Energy Myths**



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Ceiling fans keep rooms cooler when you are not there. Fans do not chill air. They merely circulate it, producing greater comfort for occupants. That takes energy. If no one is there, what is the point? Turn your ceiling fans off when you leave a room.

Buying an efficient air conditioner or furnace will automatically reduce your utility bill. This is true to some extent, but you will not realize all the possible savings if the equipment is not sized or installed properly. Studies have shown that typical air conditioner and duct systems are improperly installed and waste up to one third energy used for space conditioning.

Duct tape is good for sealing ducts. Duct tape has very low durability when used to seal ducts. Tape may fall off due to poor surface preparation, because ducts are often installed in dirty and dusty locations. As it ages, the tape's adhesive dries out and no longer seals, sometimes within a few months. Use mastic or aluminum foil tape instead.

A furnace filter is a furnace filter. Type and quality can vary significantly. The cheapest are usually inch-thick fiberglass pads with so much space between fibers that you can almost see through to the other side. These filters do virtually nothing to stop tiny particles, but they are effective at blocking larger particles that could harm the furnace. Over time, little particles will slip through and deposit on the air conditioning coil. Cleaning them off will usually require hiring an HVAC technician to perform the task. Instead, buy a better filter, such as the pleated types, look at it monthly, and plan to change it at least every season if you have a system that runs year-round.

A few air leaks and drafts do not cost much in energy dollars. Air infiltration can account for 30 percent or more of a home's heating and cooling costs. Seal around windows, doors, skylights, electrical outlets, walls, floors and the roof. In fact, caulking around leaky windows is often the quickest, easiest, and least expensive way to achieve energy savings in your home.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. That includes dispelling some of the misperceptions of how energy is used and can be saved. For more ideas on how you can make your home EnergyWiseSM, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com.



Like us on FaceBook!

Get the latest scoops about what's going on in Lexington!

Be sure to search for "City of Lexington." The FaceBook folks created a generic "Lexington" page, but that does not give you the news and updates from our official FB page.



SMALL BUSINESS
SATURDAY
NOV 29



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 (including online) 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.



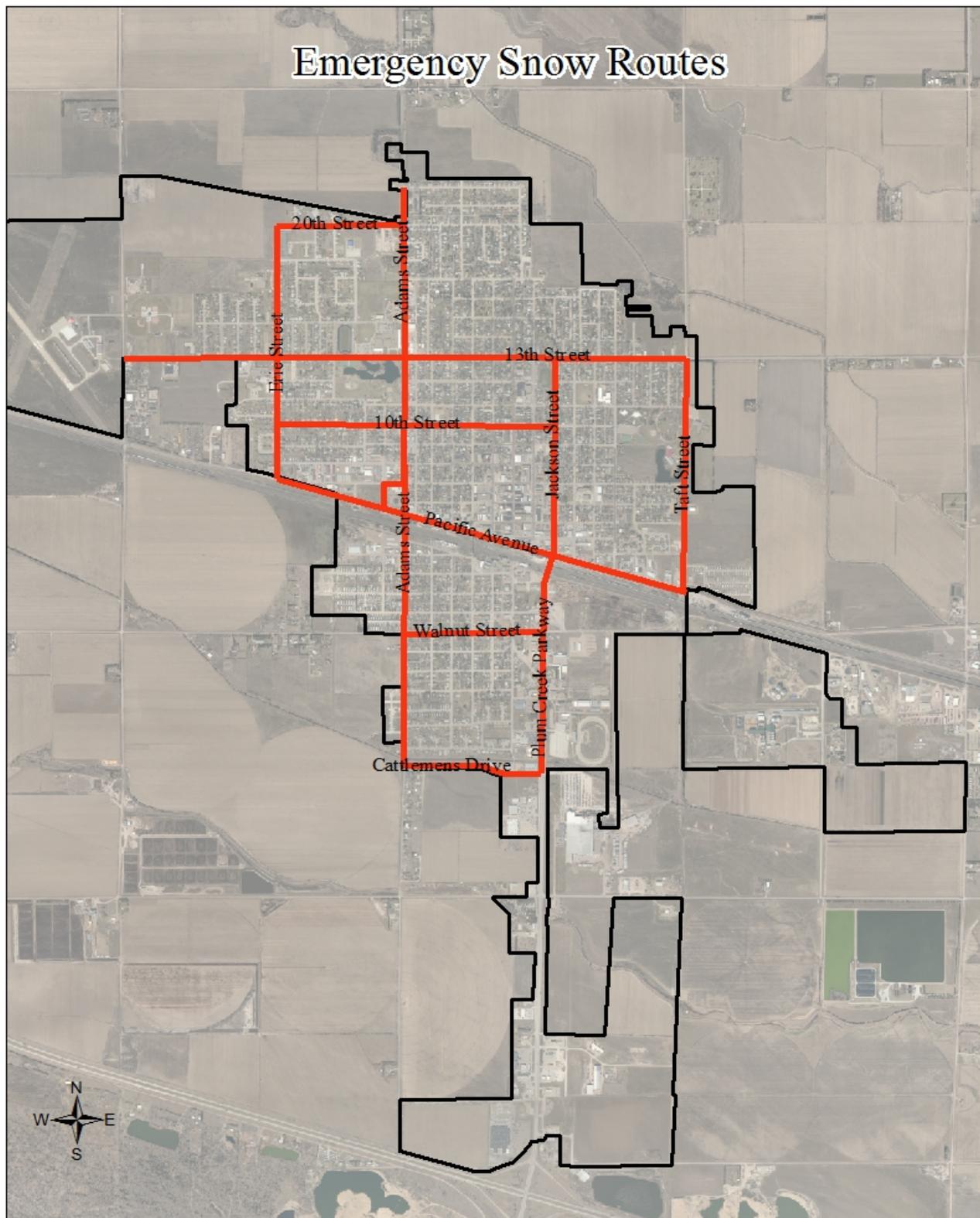
801 West
Vine Street
308-324-5995

Winter Hours

begin Oct. 6, 2012
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.





Trout Fishing 2014 Family Fishing Event

Sponsored by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

**Plum Creek City Pond
Lexington, NE**

Saturday, October 25, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fall stocking of rainbow trout will have just occurred
Perfect opportunity to learn about trout and trout fishing
Loaner rods and reels, bait and fishing instruction
free to participants

For people of all ages; all participants ages
16 or older need a 2014 fishing license
(visit OutdoorNebraska.org for permits)

For the calendar of additional events
and detailed information visit:
OutdoorNebraska.org/FamilyFishing



NEBRASKA
— GAME & PARKS —
See You Out There



Visit us at **OutdoorNebraska.org/FamilyFishing**
to find us on Facebook and stay updated on additional events!

