



Lexington's New Library Director



Kathy Thomsen
Library Director,
Lexington Public
Library

Kathy Thomsen is the new Director for the Lexington Public Library, starting January 22. Thomsen has 12 years of experience working in public and college library settings, including Eustis, Kearney, North Platte, Kimball, Chadron and Lincoln.

Thomsen earned a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Chadron State College. Prior to her library career, Thomsen taught elementary school children for 12 years in Eustis Public Schools.

Thomsen has special interest in and experience in library programming for children, youth and young adults. She was Chair of the Nebraska Library Association School Children's and Young Peoples section for a year, and Youth Services and Young Adult Librarian for the Lincoln Public Libraries for several years.

"We're excited to have Kathleen's experience and leadership at the Library," said Penny Knapp, outgoing Library Board Chair. "We've been working to improve our youth programming, and we expect Kathy's expertise will continue to enhance that."



Grand Generation Center Addition Progressing



Exterior progress of Grand Generation Center on January 23, 2007



Interior progress of Grand Generation Center on January 23, 2007

Through a curtain of plastic one can see work progressing on reconfiguring part of the pre-existing areas. Beyond that, the new addition is already mostly drywalled. The project is expected to be completed around April 1, 2007



Electric Rates to Rise



The cost of wholesale electricity has gone up, and the City will pass some of the increase along to consumers starting in February 2007. The City Council passed a resolution approving the slight increase at their January 9 meeting.

While the cost to Lexington has risen about 3.35%, the increase to consumers will be only about 2.87% on average. The City does not generate electricity, it purchases it wholesale from the Nebraska Public Power District.

Winter Storm Cleanup Update



Winter storm debris clean-up began January 29. Citizens with the ability to do so are asked to take downed branches to the Glenn Hawks Community Service Building, 801 Vine Street. For those unable to transport their own debris, City workers will be picking up tree limbs

around town. Please leave your branches at the curb but not in the streets. Branches in streets may become iced to the concrete, making it difficult to remove completely, and hinders snow plowing. The Service Building is open M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Lexington Grows in Many Ways



Lexington residents may measure community growth any number of ways, and most will reinforce the reality that our City is getting better all the time.

The 16th largest Nebraska city, Lexington's population grew almost 52% between the 1990 and 2000 Censuses. That's a 5.2% per year increase, making us the 6th fastest growing city in Nebraska. The next fastest growing city was Omaha suburb Papillion. The other four had populations under 100, thus a handful of new residents raised their percentages dramatically. Almost half of 531 Nebraska cities stayed the same or lost population during that period.

Unofficial estimates suggest Lexington has continued to grow as much as 3.31% per year, which matches the Census 2000 growth of the 15th fastest growing city.

Tax records offer another insight into growth. Sales taxes reflect the amount of taxable sales made in the City. From 1996 to 2000, sales tax revenue rose an average of 3.76%. That rate almost doubled in the next six-year period, to 6.47%.

The City's property valuation rose \$57.5 million from 1990 - 2000, or about 5.16% per year. From 2000 - 2007, the total valuation rose another \$85.1 million.

Sheer numbers are not the only indicators of healthy growth. Consider these new features introduced during the last few years involving public and private contributions (people working together): new Library; Family Aquatic Center; Optimist Recreation Complex and Hitting Facility; Adams Street viaduct; Madison Street pedestrian overpass; current expansion of the Grand Generation Center, two museums, to name a few.

Construction permit numbers for 2006 also indicate growth (with estimated dollar values):

- 20 new commercial permits (\$13,601,700) - (18 in 2005)
- 16 single family home permits(\$2,014,400) - (9 in 2005)
- 55 misc. residential building permits (\$288,505) - (32 in 2005)
- 32 accessory structure permits (\$93,865) - (30 in 2005)
- 26 mechanical permits (\$29,993 - (49 in 2005)

Spread the word and feel proud - Lexington's a developing city, with the promise of more improvements in 2007 and beyond!

Dates to Remember:

- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 PM - City Council Meetings, City Office
- First Council meeting of February changed to Feb 7 at 5:30 PM, due to scheduling conflicts.
- Feb 11, 5 - 7 PM - "Chocolate Fantasia" at Mac's Creek Winery, a fund-raising event for the Parent-Child Center (\$20 admission).
- Feb 17, 8 AM - City Council Planning & Strategy Session - City Council Chambers
- Mar 3, 10 AM - Red Cross Chili Cook-Off, Holiday Inn Express (admission charged - info: Susan Decker, 324-6186).

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