



August 2010

City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



What's going on at West 20th/North Erie? (near Park Avenue Estates)



Infrastructure work began the last week of July on Phase 1 of the new Northwest Third addition residential neighborhood. This addition lies generally north and south of 20th street from Erie Street to approximately 1,220 feet to the west. Phase 1 development includes the extension of utilities and paving as shown in the graphic to the left. This project will create 17 ready-to-build single family residential lots, and an 8 acre parcel scheduled as a planned unit development for non-income-restricted owner occupied senior (55+ age) housing. This development is part of the New Neighborhoods Initiative program, a partnership between the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and the City of Lexington. The program provides \$500,000 in grant funding to support land acquisition, preparation, and utility extension costs. For more information on the program, contact Joe Peplitsch, jpepp@cityoflex.com. Watch upcoming *City Happenings* for more information and progress reports.



West Elm & West Spruce Streets



Work began in July on Paving District 09-02, West Spruce and West Elm Streets, just west of South Adams Street, as well as the block-long north/south connecting streets Ontario and Price Drive. The area has endured gravel roads for many years, and been on the City's list of projects to complete. The project includes small portions of water line rehab. Following these improvements toward the end of summer, the nuisance of gravel streets will be a thing of the past. A portion of the costs will be assessed to abutting property owners, in proportion to the benefits received from the improvements.



PHOTO CONTEST

See your photo on the City of Lexington website and enter to win \$100!

The City is redesigning its website and offering **\$100** contest prizes each summer month (June, July, August, September).

Contestants must agree to let the City use their photos on the City website and other publications.

Complete details & rules are online at www.cityoflex.com, or contact Dennis Burnside, 308-324-2341.



Chief Clark Retires after 25 years



Charlie Clark retired from the Lexington Police Force July 30, after having served 25 years as Chief of Police.

The 1963 Lexington High School graduate previously served 15 years in the Lincoln Police Force, and served in the U.S. Navy for six years.

City Employees organized a reception for Clark

on July 29 at the Grand Generation Center. More than 100 people stopped by to wish Charlie the best. City Manager Joe Pepplichtsch presented him with a

service plaque. Charlie said he believes good community policing is best realized in a great community where people work together and help each other.

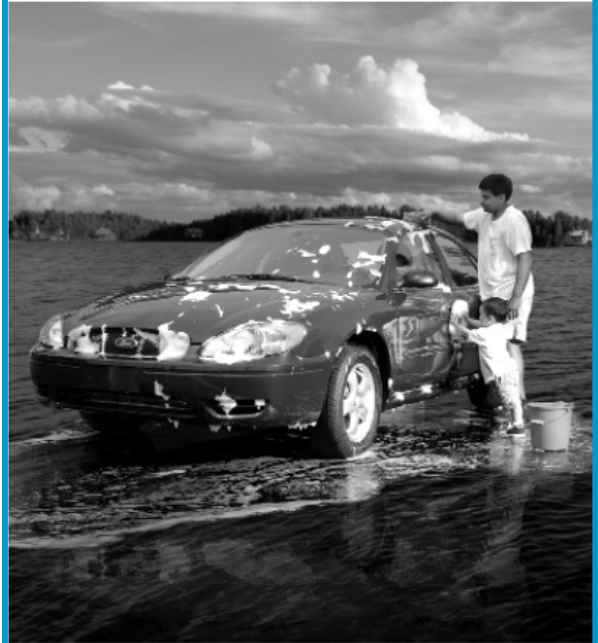


Sign up for youth fall sports!



Registrations are now being accepted for Youth Soccer and Girls Youth Volleyball, starting August 31, 2010. Go to www.cityoflex.com to view and print details and registration forms. Look under RESIDENTS and RECREATION. Time and space are limited, so don't delay!

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



EnergyWise Tip: Reduce “Phantom” Energy Loss

Did you know that even after you push the OFF button on your TV remote, that high-tech, flat screen, although darkened, may continue to draw electric power costing you money unnecessarily? It’s a distinct possibility. Many of today’s electric-powered appliances and electronic components, like televisions and computers, continue to use power after they are shut off. The amount of energy a typical household may lose to these “phantom” loads can range from 4 to 12 percent, according to recent electrical industry studies.

Individual rates of loss will vary depending upon the number and efficiency of a home’s electric and electronic appliances and equipment, and on a home owner’s individual usage patterns. But, for the average household, the cost is approximately \$70 per year paying for electricity to run household components that are supposedly turned off.



With that in mind, May’s EnergyWiseSM tip offers you ways to reduce phantom energy loss in your homes.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, NPPD and your local electric utility, here are some things you can do to reduce phantom loads and become more energy efficient.

- In the average home, 75 percent of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off. This loss of energy can be avoided by unplugging the appliance or using a power strip to cut all power to the appliance.

- Unplug battery chargers when the batteries are fully charged or the chargers are not in use.
- Look for energy-saving ENERGY STAR[®] home electronics and appliances when shopping for these items.
- According to the U.S. Department of Energy, an ENERGY STAR[®] computer uses 70 percent less electric energy than computers without this designation. If left inactive, ENERGY STAR[®] computers enter a low-power mode. Spending a large portion of time in low-power mode saves energy and helps equipment run cooler and last longer.

A common misconception is that equipment lasts longer if it is never turned off. This is not true. If you are not using your electric-powered equipment, turning it completely off is always the better energy-saving strategy.

Lexington Utilities System wants you to get the most value for your money, each and every time you turn on a switch. It costs far less to save a kilowatt-hour than it does to build a new power plant to generate one.

Subscribe

To subscribe to Lexington *City Happenings*, fill out the form at www.ci.lexington.ne.us/aboutus.asp. If you have comments or suggestions, contact Dennis Burnside, dburnside@cityoflex.com, 308-324-2341. You are encouraged to forward this to others you think may be interested.

Archives available online.





Pick up some cold cash.

When we pick up your old fridge.

Everyone likes getting their hands on a little cold cash. And one of the best ways to do it is to recycle your old fridge or freezer. You'll get a \$35 incentive, and you'll save up to \$100 a year in lower energy costs. We'll even haul your old unit away free of charge. If you're ready to start counting up some cold cash, contact us today to schedule your free pickup.

For a pickup, call 1-866-444-9160 or visit www.jacoinc.net

\$35 INCENTIVE | **SAVE UP TO \$100** A YEAR IN ENERGY COSTS

ENERGYWISE™
Use less, Spend less, Do more.
Sponsored by your local participating public power utility

JACO Environmental, an appliance recycler, will pick up and recycle refrigerators and freezers that are in working condition. This program is seasonal and available to residential electric customers of Nebraska Public Power District and its wholesale utility customers on a first-come, first-served basis. The program is partially funded through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Program, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Customers must own the unit(s) being recycled. Limit two units per residential address.

Tree News

Christina Hoyt and Jessica Kelling of the Nebraska Forest Service inspect the 14 new trees planted in April at Kirkpatrick Memorial Park. Much of the cost will be reimbursed by a Shade Our Streets grant administered by NFS.



The last full week of September (Sept. 19-25) has been designated ReTree Nebraska week. The Nebraska Forest Service reminds us that fall is a great time to plant trees. More info: www.nfs.unl.edu/retreenebraska.asp



No Tire Collection in 2010



Lexington did not receive a grant this year to conduct a scrap tire collection. According to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the requests for funding exceeded

the year's allocation of grant money. Priority was given to communities that did not have tire collections the previous year. The City will apply again next year, so don't dump those tires! The collection event is usually in late September.





Library News

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

Story Time and Lap Sit for the 2010-2011 school year will begin on Monday, August 23.



Story Time for children ages three and older will be held on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m., and on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Lap Sit for babies and toddlers age birth to three will be held on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am. The themes for the first two weeks of programming are "School Days" and "Mother Goose Is on the Loose." For more information you can call Ms. Brenda at 324-2151.



Kim Brown will be presenting the program, "A Visit from the Real D. W."

September 9 at 7:00 p.m. D.W. is a character in the popular childrens book series "Arthur" by Kim's real-life brother, Marc Brown. This is the first program of the 2010-2011 year sponsored by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation.

Kim's program will show how most of the characters in the Arthur books are based on real people from Marc's family and neighborhood. She will show family photos and tell how Marc writes and illustrates a book. Everyone then will be able to draw Arthur as a group using an 8 step formula.

NEBRASKA OVERDRIVE LIBRARIES

Beginning July 13, library patrons, who have a library card from the Lexington Public Library, will be able to check out e-Books by accessing **Overdrive** on the library's website. Compatible eBook devices include most Windows desktop, laptop, or notebook computers and Mac desktop or laptop computers. Barnes and Nobles Nook, Kobo eReader, and the Sony Reader are also compatible. Check the Overdrive Device Resource Center for more compatibility information. Audio books are still available by accessing Overdrive on the library's website www.lexingtonlibrary.org. Checking out either audio books or eBooks using Overdrive is a free service of the Lexington Public Library. Lexington partners with the OverDrive, Inc., and the Nebraska Library Commission, to offer the download services.



If you have not already signed up to be reminded of upcoming Lexington

Library Memorial Fund / Lexington Community Foundation programs be sure to stop by the library and fill out a registration card. You can also call the library at 324-2151 to register or go online at www.lexingtonlibrary.org. The registration link can be found on the bottom left hand side of the web page.

The library will have the **AccuCut** from the Meridian Library System available during the month of August. The Meridian System's traveling collection provides two more cutting machines and more than 175 additional dies.



Applications Available for Disaster Relief in Dawson County

If you own and live in your home, reside in Dawson County, and are a victim of the June 2010 storms, you may be eligible for disaster relief assistance from the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund, granted by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

The maximum amount of funding per household is \$7,500, which is in the form of a grant. To be eligible homeowners must have annual gross incomes no greater than \$62,000, no matter

what household size. Items generally covered by disaster relief funds are hot water heaters, furnaces, dry wall repair, septic tanks, and decontamination of wells. No mobile homes or personal property items are eligible to the program. Any costs experienced by the homeowner and paid out prior to approval to the program are not eligible for reimbursement. Homeowners insurance must have been in place at the time of loss; Insurance deductibles are eligible for

reimbursement if the work is completed after receiving approval to the program.

Application packets are available at the Gothenburg City Administration Office, the Cozad City Administration Office, and at the Dawson County Courthouse in the County Clerk's office. With questions or inquiries please call West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) at 308-284-6077. WCNDD is administering the program on behalf of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The application process will close August 31, 2010 and applicants will be notified in writing if they are accepted to the program. Completed applications should be sent to WCNDD, PO Box 599, Ogallala, NE 69153.

Keep Lexington Beautiful gets \$25,000 from Walmart

At its July 16 Grand Re-opening ceremony, Walmart Super Center awarded Keep Lexington Beautiful (KLB) with \$25,000. The money is earmarked for two recycle trailers, similar to one parked by Sandoz Elementary School. The two new trailers will be parked by Pershing and Morton Elementary Schools, bringing recycling convenience to more Lexington neighborhoods. The new trailers are expected to arrive before Labor Day.



Left to Right: Walmart Manager Mike Millican, KLB Director Heidi Revelo; KLB President Neal Kohl, and Walmart Good Works Coordinator Cheryl Richardson. Inset: the trailer currently at Sandoz School.



Central Platte Natural Resources District

215 N Kaufman Avenue Grand Island Nebraska 68803-4915

Tel: 308.385.6282
www.cpnrd.org

NEW! Invasive Species Cost Share Program

Central Platte NRD's Phragmites Control Cost Share Program



*75% cost share up to \$2,000
per landowner/operator per contract.*

This program will be used for the landowners/entities/etc. that do not qualify for EQIP/WHIP or were unable to get funding due to lack of funds from the NRCS.

Applications

► Can be in the landowner or operators name. If the application is in the operator's name, a form must be signed by the landowner for the operator to pursue practice on their ground.

► Applications will be approved as received each month.

Reason for Program

This program is designed for chemical control of hydrophytic herbaceous (not trees) noxious weed species (Ex. phragmites, purple loosestrife) on riparian areas adjacent to the Platte River, tributaries, and water bodies district wide (ex. road ditches).

Acres that were treated by the state/weed management associations in the last 2 years are not eligible, as the contractor that treated those acres issued a 3-year guarantee.

Contracts

► Contracts last for 3 years. Spraying will be done in year 1, leave it alone in year 2 and then any necessary treatment in year 3. Follow-up treatment may or may not be required or eligible for cost share, depending upon the herbicide used and guarantees associated with the initial treatment.

Funding is available immediately!

Please visit your local NRCS office to apply for this program.

