



Underground Petroleum Cleanup Project Ending

It's been so long most people probably don't even remember or think about it. Almost 12 years ago, and published in the February 2008 **City Happenings**, two devices were installed to pull petroleum residue out of the ground along Pacific Street (Hwy 30) between Lincoln and Grant Streets.

The project was initiated by the **Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality**, which last year changed its name to the **Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy**. The Department, in cooperation with the **City of Lexington** and engineering firm **Terracon**, wanted to remediate contamination that was first reported in 1981, the result of leaks from gasoline tanks at various locations.

Terracon installed a fixed structure just west of Uncle Neal's on Highway 30 (top photo), and also used a portable trailer-mounted unit (middle photo) that has been parked at several locations around Lincoln Street during the remediation process. The bottom photo, from 2008, shows workers installing underground extraction infrastructure at the south end of Lincoln Street.

The structures will soon be removed, according to NDEE Groundwater Geologist **Neal Heil**. The well decommissioning paperwork is being finalized and utilities have been disconnected but, at this point, weather will probably be the determining factor on removal timing, said Heil.

The project has been regularly monitored and measured over the years. Heil said testing indicates the contamination has been successfully reduced to acceptable levels. He added that underground tanks are now far superior to the pre-80s tanks, thanks to more stringent federal environmental regulations.



LEXINGTON LEXUS UTILITIES SYSTEM

Tips to Prevent Frozen Pipes



Leave Water Running - Just a small, slow stream/trickle is usually enough to keep the pipes from freezing.



Leave cabinet doors open so house heat can warm the pipes better.



Do not set your thermostat lower than 55°F, even if you plan to be away for an extended time.



Unhook Garden Hoses. You can also install frost-free faucets and insulate outdoor faucets.

Mobile Homes Need Special Pipe Care



Install **Insulated Tape Wrap** or even better **Electric Heat Tape** on pipes under the trailer.

Make sure the **trailer is skirted.**




HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**Tuesday
December 24**
City Offices close noon

**Wednesday
December 25**
City Offices closed

**Tuesday
December 31**
Library closes 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday
January 1**
City Offices closed

Remember, you're not just getting rid of weeds and pests



Choose Earth-friendly landscaping

Did you know that herbicides and pesticides are harmful to our kids, pets, and the environment?

The chemicals in these materials pollute our waterways if washed from our lawns and gardens into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Practicing Earth-friendly landscaping in your yard and garden can help protect kids, pets, and our waterways.

So what can you do? Simple:

- Select plants native to Nebraska. These plants require less fertilizer and water, and are more disease resistant.
- Avoid over-watering your lawn — it needs about one inch of rain/water per week.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to help retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.
- Mow your lawn high — 3 inches is the rule. Follow your community's leaf pick-up guidelines. Try mowing grass clippings and leaves into your lawn — they make good fertilizers.
- Use herbicides and pesticides sparingly and limit application to problem areas only.

Choose Earth-friendly landscaping and help keep our water clean!



Support provided by NDEQ

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Lexington
NEBRASKA
www.cityoflex.com





EnergyWise Tip: Holiday Surprises

by NPPD Energy Efficiency Program Manager Cory Fuehrer

Ever rediscover one of those Christmas gifts you intended to give during the holidays but forgot where you hid it until the following February? It can be a pleasant surprise if you can still gift it in the future, return it for a refund, or use it yourself. Unfortunately, your January or February electric bill may reflect similar holiday surprises. I'm referring to those things you did or items you used during the festivities that may have negatively impacted your electrical bill. Unfortunately, you can't undo or "re-gift" these holiday surprises, and you will have to pay for the energy they waste regardless of whether they added to your seasonal cheer.

Space Heaters

Nobody wants to be cold for Christmas! To chase away the chill, you may find it convenient to plug in a portable space heater in a spare bedroom or other less-used area to accommodate guests. But do you shut off the heater after they leave?

When investigating wintertime "high bill" inquiries, the most common responses residential energy consultants hear about space heaters is, "Oh, that little heater couldn't have added that much to my bill!" Nearly all space heaters have more than

one temperature setting. Of those, the highest setting usually operates around 1,500 watts or 1.5 kilowatts (kW). If the heater operates continuously at that level for an entire month (30 days or 720 hours), it will add 1,080 kilowatt-hours (kWh) to your electric bill. At Nebraska's 2019 average residential price of electricity (11.84¢/kWh), that little heater magically adds \$128! Don't open yourself up to this kind of surprise. To ensure the heater does not operate when unneeded, simply unplug it.



Chimney Flue

A warm and glowing fire invites everyone to share in the spirit of the season. But once the embers are extinguished and the fumes vented, heated indoor air continues to escape up the stack. Surprise! As soon as safely possible, tightly close the damper to minimize the amount of conditioned air escaping up the chimney. Check the seals around

your damper, then repair or replace dampers that don't tightly seal.

Exhaust Fans

Whether it's grandma trying to clear the kitchen of smoke from burning bacon or Uncle Eddie clearing the bathroom from whatever was burning him, somebody's going to turn on an exhaust fan. Chances are, that fan will continue to run long after bad air is gone. Kitchen exhaust hoods can often draw 250 to 500 cubic feet of air per minute (cfm). Bathroom exhaust fans remove 50 to 150 cfm. When they are ducted to the outdoors, conditioned air pulled out of the house is replaced by cold outdoor air that is sucked in through gaps or tiny cracks around windows, doors, foundations, rooflines or other wall penetrations. All this "new" air must be heated to maintain indoor comfort. To minimize the amount of additional heating required, turn kitchen exhaust hoods off as soon as airborne food contaminants are removed, and install a timer switch on bathroom fans to minimize over-exhausting.

Gaming Systems

Inevitably, Santa will bring some lucky child one of newest gaming systems, like the

(continues on next page)



Holiday Surprises

(continued from previous page)

PlayStation 4 Pro, rated at a maximum of 165 watts, or the Xbox One X, rated at 245 watts, or even worse, a dedicated Gaming PC drawing 750 continuous watts. Then, with delight in their heart, that child will skip gleefully to the room with your entertainment center and connect their new gaming system to your 85-inch big screen television that draws 175 watts, as well as the surround sound system that pulls another 150 watts. For the rest of the holiday vacation, they become affixed to your couch, challenging siblings, aunts, uncles, and even the mailman to a video game showdown while your electric meter is spinning. Now ask yourself this: "What is the likelihood of them turning off everything when they finally put down their controller?" Go and check to avoid this surprise. Better yet, if electronics won't be used in the next few hours, unplug them, as most electronics still draw a small amount of power when they are turned "off."

Lights

By now, you know LED Christmas lights can use up to 99% less energy per bulb than conventional incandescent lights. But if your home is filled with family and especially young kids this season, anticipate every light you own

will be turned on at some time. According to a survey conducted by Lutron Electronics, 90% of Americans say someone in their household forgets to turn the lights off when they leave a room. Surprised? Don't be. After your last guest leaves, take a thorough tour of your home and outside buildings. You'll likely be glad you did.

Lexington Utilities System, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, wishes you and those closest to you the best of holiday seasons. For additional ideas on how you can make your home comfortable and EnergyWiseSM this winter, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com. You may even find you are eligible for incentives to help with the cost of energy-saving home improvements.



The 2020 Census: So much money at stake.

United States
**Census
2020**

Based on Census numbers, Nebraska gets about \$4 billion per year. Not counting one person means the loss of more than \$2,000 per year. Even a 1% undercount can add up to \$450 million in lost federal funds. That's each year for the next 10 years!





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907
North
Washington
Street
(308) 324-2151

Lexington Library has several festive holiday events planned for the month of December.



The **Hospice Memorial Tree** will be housed at the Library again this year. Ornaments in memory of loved ones, who have passed away, are displayed on the tree.

The **Gently Used Book Sale** is now open. New items are being added weekly, so be sure and check back often to see what's new. This book sale will continue through December 31. Gently Used Books make great holiday gifts!

The Library will be serving **coffee, hot apple cider and cookies** on December 19,



December 20 and December 23. Be sure to visit the Library during this time to enjoy these refreshments, while you relax by the fireplace, read the latest best-seller or browse the Gently Used Book Sale.

The **Friends of the Library** will be selling brownies the week of December 4. Stop by the Library for a sweet treat.

The Youth Services area at the Library will host a **Christmas Tree Decorating Party** on December 5 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Families are invited to visit the Youth Services Area to create Christmas decorations, while enjoying cookies and hot chocolate.



The Library will close at noon on Tuesday, December 24 for the **Christmas holiday**.

The Library will remain closed on Wednesday, December 25. The Library will close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31, and will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, for the **New Year's Holiday**.

On Thursday, January 23, 7:00 p.m., the Library will host **storyteller Adam Booth**. The award-winning storyteller, musician, and educator was born and raised in West Virginia, The study of Appalachia and its culture lies at the heart of his work. This program is offered through collaboration with the Kearney Area Storytelling Festival.



"Booked for Lunch" in

December will feature music by **Job Vigil**. Vigil previously sang and played keyboard in the Peter, Chuck and Job trio from North Platte. His program will include Christmas music and other selections. "Booked for Lunch" will begin serving at 11:30 a.m. and the program will begin at noon on Tuesday, December 12. This program is funded by the **Library Initiative Grant** through the **Lexington Community Foundation**.



LEGO Club will meet on December 12 and January 9 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The theme for the December LEGO Club is Christmas Tree or Snowman. The theme for January is Free Build!

With thanks and much help from the **Lexington Library Board**, the **Strategic Planning Committee**, and everyone who filled out the survey, Lexington Public Library has been **re-accredited** through 2022 by the **Nebraska Library Commission**. See the NLC's accreditation seal at the top of this page.



Recreation Roundup



TENNIS AT THE FIELDHOUSE

MONDAY'S IN DECEMBER:

OPEN COURT TIME (ALL AGES)
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

ADULT TENNIS LEAGUE PLAY
6:30 - 8:30 PM

OPEN COURT (ALL AGES)
8:30 - 9:30 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 14, 21:

OPEN COURT TIME (ALL AGES)
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

CITY OF
Lexington
NEBRASKA

The City's website has tools to help you save energy and money.

Interactive Energy Home

Look for this button at
www.cityoflex.com/departments/utilities

CONTACT INFO: JAKE SAULSBURY, JSAULSBURY@CITYOFLEX.COM
308-746-3543

YOUTH TENNIS MINI CAMP

DATES OF INSTRUCTION: MONDAY JANUARY 6, 13, 20, 27

COST: FREE! ALL CLASSES WILL BE FREE FOR ALL YOUTH THAT ATTEND!

** WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARENT VOLUNTEER HELP. PLEASE CONTACT JAKE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING

RED BALL BEGINNER TENNIS:

AGES 4-7 YEARS OLD
MINI TENNIS COURTS ARE USED WITH LOW COMPRESSION RED BALLS. THIS CLASS WILL FOCUS ON A FUN INTRODUCTION TO TENNIS WHERE YOUR CHILD WILL KEEP ON THE MOVE AND HIT A LOT OF TENNIS BALLS THROUGH DRILLS AND GAMES.
Time: 4:30 PM - 5:15 PM
Location: LEXINGTON FIELDHOUSE, 1502 AIRPORT RD.

ORANGE BALL BEGINNER TENNIS:

AGES 8 - 12 YEARS OLD
LOW COMPRESSION ORANGE BALLS ARE USED. THIS CLASS IS FOR BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE 10 & UNDER PLAYERS TO LEARN STROKE DEVELOPMENT. MANY GAME-BASED DRILLS WILL BE FEATURED.
Time: 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM
Location: LEXINGTON FIELDHOUSE, 1502 AIRPORT RD.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL - INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED LEVEL:

THIS CLASS WILL INCLUDE INSTRUCTION AND OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK ON MATCH PLAY.
Time: 6:15 PM - 8:00 PM
Location: LEXINGTON FIELDHOUSE, 1502 AIRPORT RD.

CHILD NAME: _____ PARENT NAME: _____
CELL #: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
CHILD AGE: _____ CLASS ATTENDING: RED ORANGE MS/HS
*REGISTRATIONS CAN BE EMAILED OR TEXTED TO JAKE SAULSBURY
OR DROPPED OFF AT THE GRAND GENERATION CENTER

CITY OF
Lexington
NEBRASKA





GLENN HAWKS
COMMUNITY
SERVICE
BUILDING



801 West Vine Street - 308-324-5995
Mon. - Fri. - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



- dispose of furniture, appliances, pallets, and other large items
- recycle paper, plastic, cardboard and pallets
- pick up free wood chips or compost



WHERE TO RECYCLE PALLETS

The City is now recycling wood pallets.

Bring your intact wood pallets to the City Service Building,
801 W Vine Street, between 8 – noon; & 1-5 weekdays.
This is the only location pallets are accepted.

- wood only, not plastic
- maximum size 48" x 48"
- please check in at the Service Bldg. office
And we'll tell you where to drop them off



Lexington snow and ice removal

Winter storms weather is here and 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).

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 Tom Nelson 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. The City of Lexington thanks everyone for their cooperation and prompt attention to this issue.



A train can take a mile to stop.



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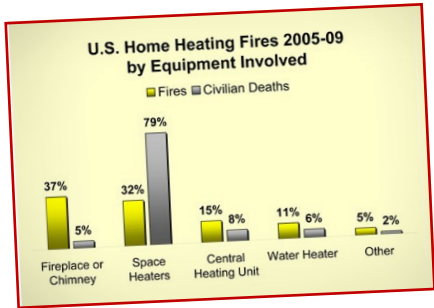
ibrakefortrains.com





Space Heater Safety

You might be turning on a space heater to keep warm in this cool weather. However, you might not know that thousands of fires are caused every year by space heaters, especially improperly used ones. The National Fire Protection Association says in 2011, space heaters were involved in about 17,850 home fires.



Here are some safety tips from Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and other sources:

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Every level of your home should have a working smoke detector that is tested on a monthly basis.
- Keep all space heaters three feet away from anything that could catch on fire.
- Make sure the space heater includes a tip-over switch to ensure that it shuts off if it accidentally tips over.
- NEVER leave a space heater unattended.
- NEVER use a space heater in the room where you will be sleeping.
- NEVER place heaters on furniture. They are designed to be placed on the floor.
- Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, do not use in damp, wet areas.
- NEVER place heaters where towels or other objects could fall on the heater and start a fire.
- Do not use extension cords with space heaters unless absolutely

necessary. If you have to use an extension cord, make sure it has a power rating as high or higher as that of the heater itself. Keep the cord stretched out and do not allow it to become buried under rugs or carpeting. Don't place anything on top of the cord. If the cord ever feels even slightly warm, discontinue use.

- Inspect the heater's cord periodically to look for frayed wire or damaged insulation. Do not use a space heater with a damaged cord.
- Check periodically for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug becomes very hot, the outlet may need to be replaced by a qualified technician. This could be the sign of a potential home wiring issue.
- Use space heaters only as a supplementary, small-area sources of heat. They are not intended to replace the home's



heating system, and turning the central heating system down too low may result in water pipes bursting.

- Don't use a space heater to dry your wet clothes or pull it closer when you are in a bath tub.
- Keep pets and children away from space heaters.
- Space heaters take a lot of electricity. They can overload the home's wiring, especially if other high-wattage appliance are on at the same time. This may



- cause overheating of circuits, which may lead to fires.
- Make sure the space heater you are buying is certified and labeled as such on the box (such as Underwriters Laboratory).
- If you have a **liquid-fueled** space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. The wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment was designed for and cause a serious fire.
- When refueling, turn off the heater and let it cool down completely before adding fuel. Wipe away any spills promptly.
- Before you buy a kerosene heater, check with your local fire department to ensure that it is legal in your area.
- Kerosene heaters have a different type of threat with the potential of carbon monoxide poisoning, so take that into consideration.

