

Sharpsburg News

We are in a heat wave! Yes it is a -8 this morning! That is much better than a -17 and a strong blowing. This is more like the winters I remember as a child. Remember that we need the moisture and it is better now than in the spring when the farmers are trying to get into the fields.

I have not been to Monday Morning Coffee for several weeks! Right after Christmas I went shopping for a few last minute items and did not remember to wipe off the cart handle! Therefore I picked up a "bug" as well! A good old fashioned head cold. It is better than it was but still with me. I am hoping to be back to church to tickle the ivories Sunday! Meantime I am sleeping, drinking, binge watching old TV shows and movies and staying warm!

Our Christmas dinner has been postponed 2X. We got tired of eating ham balls so I put the remainder of them in the freezer. Not sure when we will be celebrating Christmas but it looks as though it might be a picnic sometime in July!

Ha! I know of others that have had to postpone their dinners too!

We had a stray, very large white, long haired cat come to our house. Some of you might remember that when hobos traveled the rails, there were signs on fence posts letting them know where they could get a free meal. I think there must be some sort of a sign that tells cats, Free Meals Here, as this is the 3rd cat who has adopted us. She is very friendly and wants to come into the house so I am thinking she might be someones house cat. I say it is a she, but I guess I really should ask! Ha!

I miss going to coffee this morning and listening to the guys discuss the Chiefs game. I thought they played more like their old selves Saturday! Glad to see the Bills got their game postponed and will be playing under the dome rather than out in the bitter cold!

Until next week, stay warm, stay safe, stay healthy!  
Beverley Bender

Updated USDA Plant Zone Hardiness Map Available for Planting Decisions

Experts discuss the process of developing hardiness map for 2023

AMES, Iowa — A newly updated version of the Plant Zone Hardiness Map, a key resource that informs the planting decisions of gardeners and growers across the country, was recently released by the United States Department of Agriculture. The new map provides a more precise picture of the average annual minimum temperature conditions across the state thanks to GIS technology. According to Aaron Steil, consumer horticulture specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, it shows an average temperature shift of about one-quarter zone (about 2.5 F), placing more of the state in zone 5. In this article, experts with ISU Extension and Outreach discuss the change and provide insight into what it means.

2023 Update

Using data from thousands of monitoring stations across the United States, the map is put to-

gether as a standard reference for a plant's cold tolerance. The map uses data from the past 30 years, which has been reviewed by horticultural, botanical and climatological experts to reflect average coldest winter temperatures and smooth out year-to-year fluctuations. "The map indicates the average lowest temperature for a particular region, which is really helpful in selecting the right kind of plant for your garden," explained Steil. "It's been around for many years and is updated on a regular basis as things change over time." While much of Iowa remains in zone 5, some areas of the state did see a shift in classification between 2012 and 2023. "Previous to the 2023 release, there were still large chunks of the state in northwest and northeast Iowa that were zone 4B. Now, essentially the bulk of the state is either zone 5A or 5B, with only small pockets of northeast and northwest Iowa in zone 4B. In addition, three or four counties in southeast and southwest Iowa are now in zone 6A, which is definitely a change," Steil said. According to the USDA, another big change in the 2023 version is that the updated map includes more precise data, which can better account for complicating factors, such as elevation and large bodies of water, which can influence temperature. While the USDA's Plant Zone Hardiness Map is a reliable and research-backed resource, Steil reminds gardeners that the temperature ranges it lists serve as an average lowest temperature, and it is still possible for temperatures below those listed to occur, especially in more extreme years.

"The map simply tells you what the average lowest temperature for a given area is," explained Steil. "That doesn't mean it can't get below a certain temperature; it just means that in a typical year it won't."

2012 Update

The first major update to the map occurred in 2012, following feedback from researchers, horticulturists and representatives from the nursery industry. Mark Widrelechner, affiliate associate professor of horticulture at Iowa State, was instrumental in the development of the 2012 map, and assisted with the 2023 update. "In my time at the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station, one of my main tasks was to coordinate a regional testing program for new trees and shrubs," said Widrelechner. "The plant introduction station is part of a network of long-term trial sites that plant new trees and shrubs and report on how they perform. As I compiled the data from that program, it was obvious that climate was a really important determinant of plant survival for trees and shrubs, so I ended up working with other researchers to publish scientific papers about what I was seeing." Having published papers on what he was observing with climate, he was known within the USDA Agriculture Research Services as a person who was studying the relationship between climate and tree and shrub performance. "When it was decided that the 1990 map needed to be updated, I was approached by the USDA administration to chair a national technical review team," he said. In addition to assisting with the 2012 map, Widrelechner also served as a resource in the development of the 2023 map.

"I've been retired from the USDA for 12 years now, but when they decided that they were going to update the map for 2023, they asked me if I was interested in participating in a new review team, so I provided some insight based on my experiences working on the 2012 map," added Widrelechner.

Developing a Protocol

As Widrelechner explained, because an outside contractor was hired for the development of the 1990 map, the 2012 team had very little insight into how the 1990 map had been created. "It was clear that no one knew the protocol that was used to make the map, so in developing the 2012 map, we decided to create something more scientific and repeatable," he said. As Widrelechner and the other researchers worked on the 2012 map, they discovered that they were lacking some of the sophisticated mapping methods that would be needed for the updated map. This led to collaboration with a team at Oregon State University, who also partnered with the USDA in producing the 2023 version. "We were attempting to do all of the work in house, but what we were putting together didn't seem good enough," explained Widrelechner. "So we decided to consult with some experts, which turned into a really good relationship with Oregon State University. I had a wonderful experience working with them the first time I was involved, so I was happy to work with them again in developing the 2023 map." To access the USDA Plant Zone Hardiness Map, visit the USDA website. For more information on the USDA Plant Zone Hardiness Map, visit the Home and Horticulture Pest News Website.

ORDINANCE NO. 394

An Ordinance Providing for the Division of Taxes Levied on Taxable Property in the 2024 Lenox Commercial Urban Renewal Area, Pursuant to Section 403.19 of the Code of Iowa.

BE IT ENACTED by the members of the City Council of the City of Lenox, Iowa:

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the division of taxes levied on the taxable property in the 2024 Lenox Commercial Urban Renewal Area, each year by and for the benefit of the state, city, county, school districts or other taxing districts after the effective date of this ordinance in order to create a special fund to pay the principal of and interest on loans, moneys advanced to or indebtedness, including bonds proposed to be issued by the City to finance projects in such area.

Section 2. Definitions. For use within this ordinance the following terms shall have the following meanings:

"City" shall mean the City of Lenox, Iowa.

"County" shall mean Taylor County, Iowa.

"Urban Renewal Area" shall mean the real property situated in the 2024 Lenox Commercial Urban Renewal Area, more particularly described as follows, such property having been identified in the Urban Renewal Plan approved by the City Council by resolution adopted on January 8, 2024:

Parcel "C" being a part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 5, Township 70 North, Range 32 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., City of Lenox, Taylor County, Iowa, described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Section 5, thence N00°59'30"E, along the West line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 5, a distance of 288.91 feet; thence S87°33'58"E, 79.38 Feet, to the Southwest Corner of Parcel B as filed in the office of the Recorder, Taylor County, Iowa in Book 5, Page 185, also being the point of beginning; thence N01°58'39"E, along the West line of said Parcel B, 447.53 feet, to the Northwest Corner of said Parcel B, thence S88°39'55"E, 422.38 Feet; thence S62°21'49"E, 168.53 feet, to the East line of said Parcel B; thence S02°00'24"W, 383.87 feet to the Southeast Corner of said Parcel B; thence N 87°33'58"W, along the South line of said Parcel B, 574.08 feet, to the point of beginning.

Described parcel contains 5.84 Acres.

Section 3. Provisions for the Division of Taxes Levied on Taxable Property in the Urban Renewal Area. After the effective date of this ordinance, the taxes levied on the taxable property in the Urban Renewal Area each year by and for the benefit of the State of Iowa, the City, the County and any school district or other taxing district in which the Urban Renewal Area is located, shall be divided as follows:

(a) that portion of the taxes which would be produced by the rate at which the tax is levied each year by or for each of the taxing districts upon the total sum of the assessed value of the taxable property in the Urban Renewal Area, as shown on the assessment roll as of January 1 of the calendar year preceding the first calendar year in which the City certifies to the County Auditor the amount of loans, advances, indebtedness, or bonds payable from the special fund referred to in paragraph (b) below, shall be allocated to and when collected be paid into the fund for the respective taxing district as taxes by or for said taxing district into which all other property taxes are paid. For the purpose of allocating taxes levied by or for any taxing district which did not include the territory in the Urban Renewal Area on the effective date of this ordinance, but to which the territory has been annexed or otherwise included after the effective date, the assessment roll applicable to property in the annexed territory as of January 1 of the calendar year preceding the effective date of the ordinance which amends the plan for the Urban Renewal Area to include the annexed area, shall be used in determining the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the annexed area.

(b) that portion of the taxes each year in excess of such amounts shall be allocated to and when collected be paid into a special fund of the City to pay the principal of and interest on loans, moneys advanced to or indebtedness, whether funded, refunded, assumed or otherwise, including bonds issued under the authority of Section 403.9(1), of the Code of Iowa, incurred by the City to finance or refinance, in whole or in part, projects in the Urban Renewal Area, and to provide assistance for low and moderate-income family housing as provided in Section 403.22, except that taxes for the regular and voter-approved physical plant and equipment levy of a school district imposed pursuant to Section 298.2 of the Code of Iowa, taxes for the instructional support levy program of a school district imposed pursuant to Section 257.19 of the Code of Iowa, and taxes for the payment of bonds and interest of each taxing district shall be collected against all taxable property within the taxing district without limitation by the provisions of this ordinance. Unless and until the total assessed valuation of the taxable property in the Urban Renewal Area exceeds the total assessed value of the taxable property in such area as shown by the assessment roll referred to in subsection (a) of this section, all of the taxes levied and collected upon the taxable property in the Urban Renewal Area shall be paid into the funds for the respective taxing districts as taxes by or for said taxing districts in the same manner as all other property taxes. When such loans, advances, indebtedness, and bonds, if any, and interest thereon, have been paid, all money thereafter received from taxes upon the taxable property in the Urban Renewal Area shall be paid into the funds for the respective taxing districts in the same manner as taxes on all other property.

(c) the portion of taxes mentioned in subsection (b) of this section and the special fund into which that portion shall be paid may be irrevocably pledged by the City for the payment of the principal and interest on loans, advances, bonds issued under the authority of Section 403.9(1) of the Code of Iowa, or indebtedness incurred by the City to finance or refinance in whole or in part projects in the Urban Renewal Area.

(d) as used in this section, the word "taxes" includes, but is not limited to, all levies on an ad valorem basis upon land or real property.

Section 4. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 5. Saving Clause. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

Passed and approved by the City Council of the City of Lenox, Iowa, on January 8, 2024.

Melissa Douglas  
Mayor

Attest:

Dawne Bowman  
City Clerk

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was upon motion adjourned.

Melissa Douglas  
Mayor

Dawne Bowman  
City Clerk

COFFEE TALK

Well, I guess winter is here. Snowed Tuesday-we did have coffee with the girls on Thursday, had to shovel out to get there, 6" to 7". We did have school and we could get around on Thursday and it wasn't too cold. But, we have got more snow Thursday night and Friday, plus winds. Then turned cold, -10 over the next several days. Gordy got out with the snow plow and did his best. Then Saturday afternoon, Bill Larsen and some other guys got

out some big machines and pushed a lot of the snow on the side of the street and people's driveways off to the side out of the way. Thanks a lot, guys.

Most of the churches were closed on Sunday too.

Steve and Becky Kerns left Tuesday to go their son's, Karl, wedding. It was in some tropical place. What an escape!

Sunday evening around 7:30 my carbon dioxide detector went off-I got it down and put

new batteries in it. It still was sounding the alarm. I called 911 and pretty soon four of our firemen were here checking things out. They thought maybe the detector was defective. It was 10 years old. Then Lynn from Lenox Gas got here with a gadget that can smell and he couldn't find any emissions anywhere. So, I felt safe and am so thankful for these guys. I will get a new one first chance I get and also a new smoke detector.


Closing this week with: Waste no time arguing what a good mom should be. Be one.

From the coffee table,  
Linda Bell

Yard and Garden: Building and Caring for a Terrarium

Snowy afternoons make an ideal time to construct a terrarium

By Aaron J. Steil                      ing a terrarium is easy and AMES, Iowa -- Construct-                      inexpensive and can be ac-

DaltonAG PRODUCTS

Production Manager

- Bachelor's degree in business, management or related field, preferred
- Strong computer skills with familiarity of ERP Systems (Epicor)
- Production scheduling including customer priority, material availability, workflow efficiency
- Ability to multi-task and adapt to work processes (design changes, material shortages, etc)
- Coordinate with cross-functional teams to support production planning & customer demand
- Responsible for accurate inventory counts, ability to identify discrepancies
- Working knowledge of BOM's and MOM's.
- Manufacturing experience in materials management
- Excellent communication skills
- Good analytical problem solving skills
- Strong attention to detail

02/01/2024

Your subscrip-  
tion can be  
renewed Now!  
In-county &  
Adjoining Coun-  
ties \$31.00

All Others  
\$37.00  
Subscriptions  
can be mailed  
to The Lenox  
Time Table  
PO Box 99,

Lenox, Iowa  
50851  
E-edition -  
\$28.00  
www.timeta-  
ble@lenoxia.  
com