

# Lexington

# City Happenings

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Aug 2007

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



## What's going on at . . . ?



### Memorial Park Shelter

A new shelter building at Memorial Park (East 10th Street between Tyler and Taft) is nearing completion. The new shelter includes a 40' x 75' picnic area on a concrete pad, and two restrooms.

### Plum Creek Parkway (Hwy 283)

Work is nearly complete for a new **Welcome to Lexington** sign on the east side of Plum Creek Parkway, just to the north of the I-80 interstate exchange. The brick structure is about 20 x 6 feet, standing atop a three-foot retaining wall. The sign will have raised aluminum lettering, be lighted at night, and includes irrigation for the surrounding landscape. This City project was managed by six Lexington participants in the 2006-2007 Dawson Area Development Leadership program.



Artist's Rendering of Lettering to be installed

### Lexington Business Center



The former grocery at 603 N. Lincoln was purchased through combined efforts of Lexington's Council for Economic Development (CED), Dawson Area Development (DAD), and local banks. The first tenant, Custom Response Teleservices, Inc. (CRT), will occupy one quarter of the Center. CRT will employ 50-75 people and, after receiving 150 applications initially, has been hiring and training workers so they can begin call center operations by mid-August. Pictured is CED President Dave Fairbanks at a LBC news conference July 31.

### Grand Generation Center

There will be an open house and ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the new addition on the west side of the Grand Generation Center. The celebration will be 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., September 11, 2007, at the Center, 407 East 6th Street. The public is welcome to participate. The event will include cake, punch, and tours of the new facilities.



City Offices:



406 E 7th Street



Lexington, NE 68850



308-324-2341

## Multicultural Commission

The Lexington City Council is still looking for members to appoint to a new Multicultural commission. Pershing School Principal Jerry Bergstrom has been asked to help identify individuals who could serve on this commission, and represent diverse cultural groups.

Jerry has requested that each interested person submit a short biography of about 50 words describing his or her cultural heritage and reasons for wanting to serve on the commission. Send your note of interest and background information to:

Jerry Bergstrom  
Pershing Elementary School  
1104 N Tyler St.  
Lexington, NE 68850

If you have questions or need more detail, contact Dennis Burnside, City of Lexington, 324-2341.



## Tire Amnesty Date Set

Once again the City of Lexington has applied for and received a grant to pay for a scrap tire collection. Tire Amnesty 2007 has been set for Friday, October 5, at the hayfield just north of the Dawson County Fairgrounds (1000 Plum Creek Parkway).



Disposed tires can be unloaded at the site from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A sign-in form must be completed before tires can be left at the site. Individuals may deliver up to one pickup load of tires. The City of Lexington, sponsor of the event, reserves the right to reject deliveries. The collection event will close at an earlier hour if the tonnage limit of 125 tons is exceeded.

- ⓪ Tire disposal only
- ⓪ No rims allowed
- ⓪ No tire retailers
- ⓪ No dumping before or after October 5, 2007

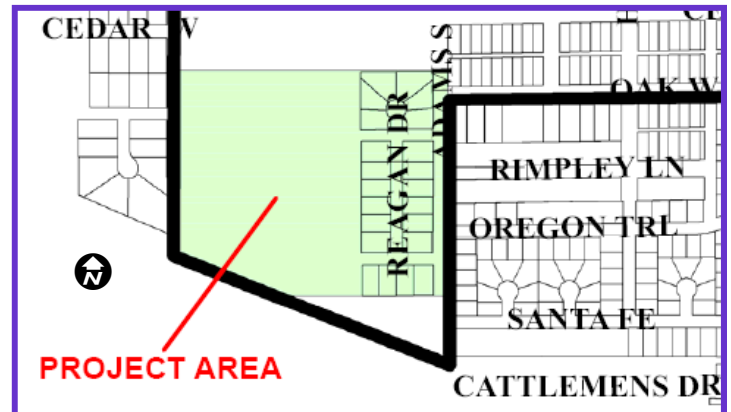
The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality says this may be the last year scrap tire grants will be offered. If you have questions or need more details, contact the City office, 324-2341, or City Service Building at 324-5995.

## New Lexington Subdivision

After a great deal of planning, development of a new neighborhood in southwest Lexington will soon be starting. The new neighborhood will be just west of Adams Street and just south of Cedar Street. Phase one of the project is called the CED Addition, named after Lexington's Council for Economic Development, which spearheaded planning and funding for the project. It will feature 22 residential lots around a new street to be called Reagan Drive. The City will soon start installing preliminary infrastructure such as water, sewer, and electricity.

The City expects the entire residential area to be completed in three phases of about the same size, plus a new City park area near the middle of the development. In addition, a neighborhood commercial area may be added to the north along Adams Street, providing convenient retail services for area residents.

The first house project has been claimed by a partnership between Dawson Area Development's ABLE program and Lexington Public Schools. Most of the house will be built by high school students as practical experience for a construction curriculum. They will then sell the home and use proceeds to help finance next year's house project, hopefully becoming a regular class offering. As with most of the homes in the new neighborhood, the house is expected to have a value in the low \$100,000's.



## Safe disposal of compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)



Energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) have been widely promoted as a great way to conserve energy. Yet little has been publicized about special precautions that should be used in disposal of CFLs.

Unlike incandescent light bulbs that can be simply thrown in the garbage when burned out, CFLs contain a small amount of mercury inside the glass tubing and are considered a household hazardous waste. Mercury is an essential element in the bulbs and is what allows the bulb to be a more efficient light source, although toxic to humans even in small amounts. Simply tossing them into the trash creates potential safety hazard to sanitation workers and the environment.

Ideally there would be an ongoing hazardous waste collection site in the area that can help recycle CFLs and other dangerous materials. In lieu of that, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends sealing the CFL in two plastic bags and putting it into the outside trash. The EPA says it is working with CFL manufacturers and major U.S. retailers to expand disposal options.

### EPA's recommendations on cleanup of a broken CFL:

1. Open a window and leave the room (restrict access) for at least 15 minutes.
2. Remove all materials you can without using a vacuum cleaner;
  - a. Wear rubber gloves;
  - b. Carefully scoop up fragments and powder with stiff paper/cardboard;
  - c. Wipe area clean with damp paper towel or disposable wet wipe;

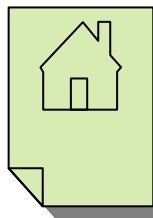
- d. Use sticky tape to pick up small shards and powder.
3. Place cleanup materials in plastic bag and seal it;
  - a. Seal broken parts in two plastic bags and put into the outside trash, if no other recycling options are available;
  - b. Wash your hands after disposal of bag;
4. The first time you vacuum the area where the bulb was broken, remove the vacuum bag and put the bag and/or vacuum debris, as well as cleaning materials in two sealed plastic bags in the outdoor trash for normal disposal.

Reprinted from *Essent*, the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool newsletter, July 2007.

### Dates to Remember:

- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 5:30 PM - City Council Meetings, City Office
- August 14 - 19 - Dawson County Fair, Fairgrounds, 1000 Plum Creek Pkwy.
- August 18 - Food, Fun & Fitness Festival, Middle School, 4:00 - 8:00
- September 1-3 - 21st Annual Antique & Craft Extravaganza, Fairgrounds, 1000 Plum Creek Pkwy.
- September 3 - Labor Day holiday - City offices closed.
- September 11 - Grand Generation Center new addition open house, 1:30 - 3:30, 407 East 6th Street.

## Building Permits Online



The City has added a convenient new feature on its website: building permits. When you go to [www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com), click on the link for "City Public Records." There you will find links to portable document format (PDF) documents that you can print and prepare at home before bringing them to the City office.

While we don't yet have the technology to accommodate online data entry, this convenience should save citizens a trip to the Building Inspector's office to get blank forms.

## Subscribe

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



## Lexington earns Nebraska ED Certification

### Becomes 11th community to earn designation

LINCOLN, NEB. (July 10, 2007)—Lexington has earned the Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community designation.

The state's other certified communities are Auburn, Fremont, Grand Island, Holdrege, Nebraska City, Norfolk, North Platte, Ogallala, Ord, and South Sioux City.

Lexington's (pop. 10,000-plus) economic and cultural growth has helped Dawson County become one of the state's fastest growing counties during the past 10 years. The city's objective is to define its own future, rather than have the future define it. Economic development accomplishments include construction of an ethanol facility, call center, commercial strip mall and Wal-Mart Supercenter; creation of entrepreneur programs; improvements to Main Street; establishment of a modern industrial tract and upgrades to its utilities to accommodate and attract private investment leading to industrial, commercial and residential growth.

"This designation is another step in Lexington's progression toward ongoing, sustainable growth through a proactive and fully supportive approach to economic development," said Joe Peplitsch, Lexington city manager.

The Nebraska Diplomats sponsor the Economic Development Certified Community program along with a number of other development partners. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development administers the program, which provides technical assistance to communities throughout the application process. The program is one of only a few in the nation that recognize communities for economic development preparedness.

"Attainment of the Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community designation spotlights that Lexington and other communities are prepared for business growth and ready, today, to meet the needs of companies seeking new business and industrial locations. The designation sets them apart as communities that have the leadership and commitment to take the necessary steps to allow them to compete successfully for new jobs and new investment", said Roger Christianson, Nebraska Diplomats president.

To qualify for certification, communities must meet certain criteria set out in the application form. The certification process is ongoing and noncompetitive. Communities that exhibit the required documented economic development readiness as specified in the program and approved by a review committee will earn certification. Each applicant is judged against standards that include organization, local industry target identification and workforce issues, infrastructure, local financing and business assistance, building and site availability, and other program parameters.

Information about the Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community program is available at: <http://www.neded.org/content/view/380/669/>