



April 2008

City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



What's going on at . . . ?



South Adams Street

Much happened behind the scenes during February and March in the new CED Addition neighborhood. Crews are finishing the installation of underground water and sewer lines in preparation for a new street that will be built this spring. The first house is being built by students, in an effort coordinated between the school district and Dawson Area Development's (DAD) ABLE (Advocating Business Labor Education) program. During the winter the budding builders have been concentrating on interior work. Once the street is in, expect an increase in construction — more than half the 22 Phase I lots have already been spoken for.

Five of the houses will be built under the Credits to Ownership (CROWN) program. Renters who live in CROWN homes have a portion of their rent go into escrow where it's saved as a down payment toward the future purchase of the home. The homes will be 3-bedroom, 2-bath, 2-car garage, and be approximately 1,350 square feet. The CROWN construction is scheduled to start in May and be completed by the end of the year. For more information contact Deb Jensen at DAD, 308-784-3902, or djad@cozadtel.net.



Pioneer Park

City crews have finished installing new playground equipment at the north end of Pioneer Park (15th & Madison). Funding for the project includes grants from the Lexington Community Foundation, and the Peter Kiewit Foundation.



Property Maintenance Code improves safety, aesthetics

Five dilapidated housing units have been demolished and many other properties have been improved, a direct result of Lexington's Property Maintenance Code the City Council approved last year. The demolished properties were condemned as serious health and safety threats.

"We are on track with the level of code enforcement we expected the first year," said City Manager Joe Peplitsch, noting the inspection and improvement activity takes time and allows property owners reasonable due process and time to comply. "It's a good idea to allow new housing to start replacing the removed structures rather than knocking down everything at once," added Peplitsch. Responsible property maintenance is not only the duty of each citizen in Lexington, it enhances property values and the local quality of life. We encourage everyone to take pride in their property and the community.



Property owners can expect citations for allowing weeds and grass to grow too tall. City Code allows a maximum of 12 inches; ideally owners will prevent, remove, kill, or at least trim to turf height. Property owners are responsible not only for vegetation on their property, but also sidewalks and streets adjacent to their property.

Plum Creek Park



City Crews in April will remove the antiquated, non-functional restrooms at the south end of Plum Creek Park. Lexington contractor T.L. Sund Constructors will then erect a new park shelter similar to the one installed at Memorial Park last year (above). The new shelter will be a little smaller than the Memorial Park shelter. Contractor Tim Sund says he hopes to have the new structure completed by Memorial Day 2008.



Subscribe

To subscribe to Lexington City Happenings, fill out the online 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.



Lexington Family Aquatic Center heats more efficiently

Thirteen high-efficiency heat pumps are being installed at the Lexington Family Aquatic Center, 10th & Monroe. The heat pumps replace an aging gas boiler that was consuming more than \$5,000 per month worth of natural gas.

A cost-benefit analysis shows that the heat pumps should pay for themselves in fuel savings in about three years. The Aquatic Center circulates about 350,000 gallons of water.

The photo shows the heat pumps before having the plumbing installed. The pool will open for the season on May 24.



ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

As you and your dog are out walking in your neighborhoods, in the City's parks or on the trails, please remember to clean up after your dog. A simple plastic bag slipped over your hand like a glove makes an efficient and clean pick-up tool. Picking up is just part of having a dog. It may seem silly at first, but people who see you do it will know any mess left behind is NOT from your dog. Picking up shows pride in your community, in yourself, and in your dog. You'll set a great example for others, and will help create a positive image for dogs and their owners.

SMOKING CESSATION WORKSHOP

Freedom From Smoking



The Central Community College & Tri-County Hospital present Smoking Cessation Workshop. 7 weeks (8 sessions) beginning April 7 through May 19 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Community Health & Fitness Center, 1600 W. 13 Street. Total cost \$75 (includes book). To register call Marilynn Hersh at 308-324-4395

Our Water . . . Our Responsibility

Lexington has joined 9 other Nebraska Cities in a coalition of communities working to reduce water pollution caused by toxic chemical runoff into storm sewers. This runoff eventually ends up in our water supply.

NEBRASKA
H₂O

To find out more and discover ways you can help preserve our precious clean water, visit Nebraska H₂O online at www.NebraskaH2O.org.



Nebraska H2O stormwater improvement tips

What you can do to help

Easy tips for keeping our waters clean.

Litter disposal

Dispose of litter by throwing it in a trashcan or recycling it. In addition, do your part by disposing of litter you find in the street or on the sidewalk.



Washing your car

You can either take your car to a self-service car wash, which is designed with special drains for proper disposal, or wash your car on your lawn. The dirt below will act as a filter for the soap.

Pet waste

It's best to dispose of pet waste in the trash or, better yet, flush it down the toilet. This water will be properly treated.

Household chemicals

Cleaning products and other household chemicals should never be dumped outside, down the sink – or down a storm drain. Visit www.NebraskaH2O.org and click on our Tips section to find out the location of a facility that will dispose of them properly.

Fertilizer and Pesticides

You'll need to take leftover substances to a designated waste control area.



Visit www.NebraskaH2O.org for more information about stormwater information and related topics!

Community Service Building summer hours

The Glenn Hawks Community Service Building, 801 West Vine Street, will switch to summer hours in April. Starting April 14, hours will be one hour earlier, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays. Saturday hours are 8:00 a.m. - noon on the first Saturday of the month; 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. all other Saturdays.

The Service Building is the place to go to:

- dispose of furniture, appliances, and other large items (small fees may be applied);
- pick up free wood chips or compost for your garden and landscaping needs; and
- dispose of tree limbs.

Non-tree yard waste may be dumped anytime at the City's compost pile on east Walnut (please don't dump lawn bags).

For more information call the Service Building at 324-5995 .

Dates to Remember:

- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 5:30 PM - City Council Meetings, City Office, 406 E. 7th Street
- Wed., April 16, 5:00 PM , Keep Lexington Beautiful (324-7986) Hwy. 283 clean-up. Volunteers should meet at the Dept. of Roads property just south of the new Welcome to Lexington sign.
- Fri, April 25 - Arbor Day. Lexington's Tree Board will kick off the planting of six trees at the Optimist Recreation Complex at 11:15 a.m..
- May 24, Lexington Family Aquatic Center (10th & Monroe) opening weekend. Hours: Mon - Thu: 1 - 7:30 PM; Fri - Sun: 1 - 6 PM.





April / May Library News

907 North Washington St.
by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director

The Lexington Public Library will be hosting three programs sponsored by the Lexington Community Foundation during April and May.

Popular Nebraska author, Stephanie Grace Whitson, will be presenting the program, **Time Travel the Calico Trail** on April 3 at 7:00 p.m. **Time Travel the Calico Trail** includes antique quilts, quilt tops, and quilt blocks that illustrate inspirational anecdotes from pioneer women's lives gleaned from Stephanie's research. What really happened is better than fiction! Stephanie will include readings from her books.



Gregory Franzwa, author of the new book, **The Mormon Trail Revisited**, will present a program on the route of the Mormon Trail at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 20. The slide show will show images of the trail from Nauvoo, Illinois through Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming to the valley of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. The trail passed just south of Lexington on the north bank of the Platte River.



On Thursday May 1 at 7:00 p.m., Pippa White of One's Company will present **Voices from Ellis Island**. Ellis Island has been called the Gateway to America, the front door to freedom, the Island of Tears. From 1890 to 1930 Ellis Island was the first experience of life in America for millions of immigrants. Their stories are amusing, frightening, inspiring, and true.

\$108,600 awarded to Lexington for housing rehab, management and testing



The Nebraska Department of Economic Development has awarded \$108,600 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through its 2007

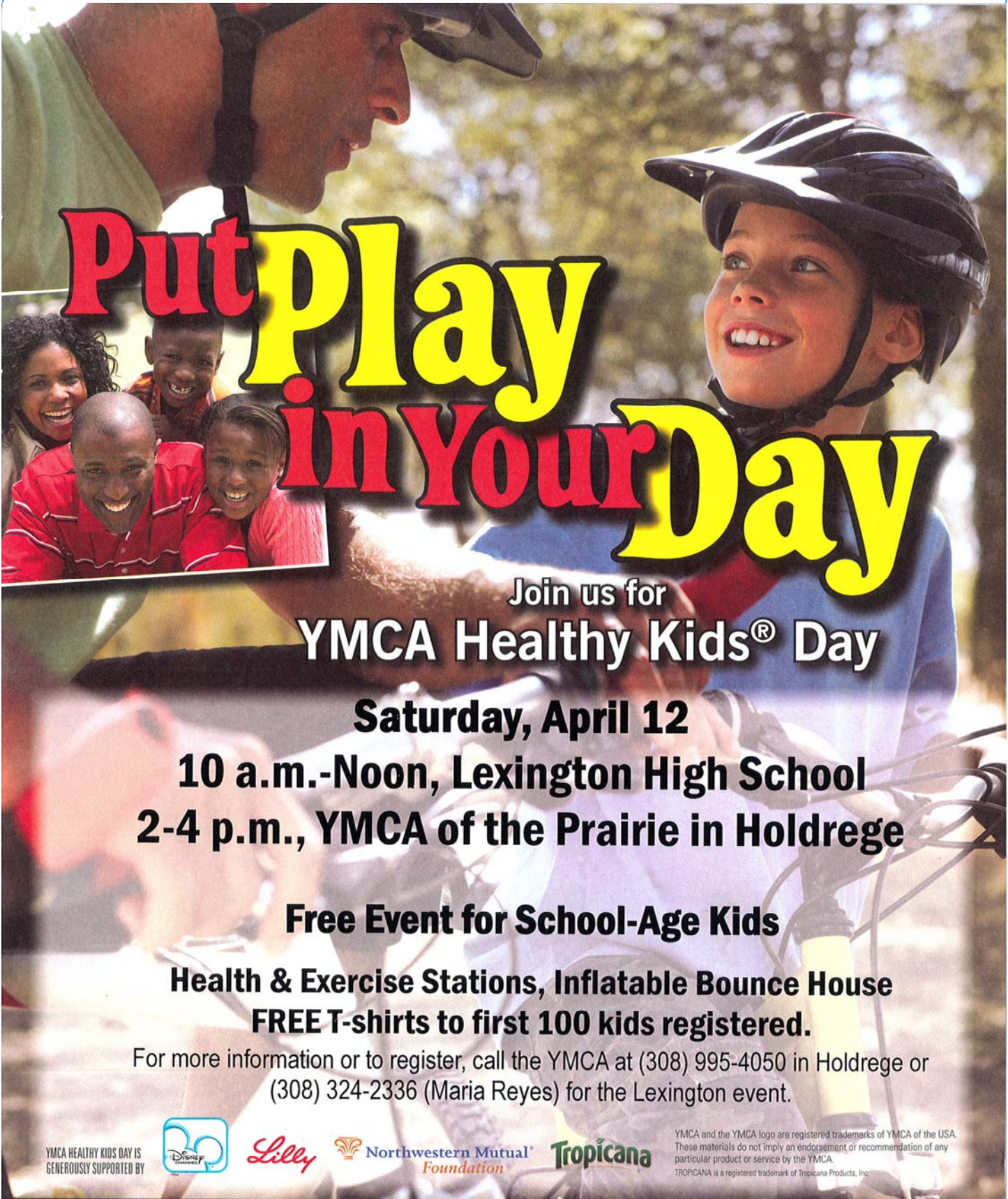
Nebraska Affordable Housing Program to rehabilitate six owner-occupied homes of low and low-moderate income families in Lexington.

Grants are made available to fund housing projects statewide through the CDBG, HOME Investment Partnership, and Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund programs. All projects here benefit low- and moderate-income households.

Lexington officials will conduct risk assessments on all homes built before 1978 for potential lead-based paint hazards. Each homeowner will receive a report of the assessment to keep and share with the contractor they select to complete the rehabilitation. When the projects are completed, the homes will be tested for final clearance approval.

The homes also qualify for matching funds through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development's 502 or 504 housing repair and loan program, the weatherization program, or assistive technology partnership program. Awardees that met guidelines for weatherization funds also were required to apply to the Community Partnership of Mid-Nebraska in Lexington for assistance.

For project information, contact Joe Peplitsch, Lexington city manager, at 308-324-2341, or email: jpepp@cityoflex.com, or Deb Jensen, Dawson Area Development, at 308-784-3902, or email: djadad@cozadtel.net



Put Play in Your Day

Join us for
YMCA Healthy Kids® Day

Saturday, April 12

10 a.m.-Noon, Lexington High School

2-4 p.m., YMCA of the Prairie in Holdrege

Free Event for School-Age Kids

Health & Exercise Stations, Inflatable Bounce House

FREE T-shirts to first 100 kids registered.

For more information or to register, call the YMCA at (308) 995-4050 in Holdrege or (308) 324-2336 (Maria Reyes) for the Lexington event.

YMCA HEALTHY KIDS DAY IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY



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Y We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

Sponsored locally by the YMCA of the Prairie, Phelps Memorial Health Center, Two Rivers Public Health Department, Holdrege Public Schools, Lexington Public Schools, Tri-County Hospital, Buffalo County Extension, Lexington Community Fitness Initiative.

Y **ACTIVATE AMERICA**

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