



City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



What's going on at . . . ?



South Adams Street

Street paving in the new CED Addition began in June. Frequent rain has delayed progress on this stage of development. The contractor believes the paving will be mostly completed by the end of July.



Plum Creek Park

The new park shelter at Plum Creek Park (11th & Adams) is completed and the City has already booked group events there. New sod will be added after the July 4th holiday.

Various Locations

Handicap Ramp project wrapping up: The construction of handicap ramps at 39 Lexington intersections will soon be complete. Eventually, nearly all City intersections will sport the new ramps. To reduce cost, future ramp construction will coincide with other street repairs.



City buys former Wal-Mart building

The City Council approved purchase of the former Wal-Mart building, 1501 Plum Creek Parkway, in May, using existing Community Development Block Grant re-use funds. The building has not housed a major tenant in several years after Wal-Mart moved to its larger Super Center near I-80.

The City of Lexington plans to use the building for economic and community development



purposes. It is anticipated that the project will result in the elimination of slum and blight in Lexington, and add to the economic opportunity base of the community.



Federal flood relief available

Residents of Dawson or other counties are now eligible to receive small business and home loans, if they were affected by recent flooding and tornadoes.

The City of Lexington has contributed use of the former Wal-Mart building, 1501 Plum Creek Parkway. Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the IRS are now accepting applications from homeowners, renters, and small business owners to claim loans and tax relief.

The City also expects to allow the location to be used by Lutheran Family Services, which is trying to bring in used furniture and appliances to help victims of the severe weather.

FEMA and SBA are accepting applications for physical damage until August 19, 2008, and economic injury until March 20, 2009. Those looking for tax relief must also file by the August 19 deadline.

SBA is making loans available to those who either rent or own homes, or own a small agricultural cooperative in the affected areas with three types of loans.

Homeowners, renters, and business owners who

think they have a claim, will need to register with FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA, and also the IRS at 1-866-562-5227, to try and obtain tax relief.

When you apply for disaster assistance, please have the following available:

- Social Security number
- Daytime telephone number
- Current mailing address where you are staying
- Address and ZIP code of the damaged property
- Directions to the damaged property
- Private insurance information, if available.

For more questions pertaining to FEMA, SBA, or IRS assistance, offices are located at the former Wal-Mart building for each agency.



NEMA



Arbor Day, Tree City USA, and Re-tree Nebraska

Members of Lexington's Tree Board marked Arbor Day 2008 by planting six 12-foot Accolade Elm trees at the Optimist Recreation Complex. Mayor John Fagot signed a proclamation declaring April 25, 2008, as Arbor Day in Lexington.

About the same time, Lexington was named a Tree City USA city for the 11th consecutive year.

On April 8 the City Council passed a resolution in support of Re-Tree Nebraska, a 10-year initiative sponsored by several Nebraska agencies including the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, the Nebraska Forest Service and the Univer-

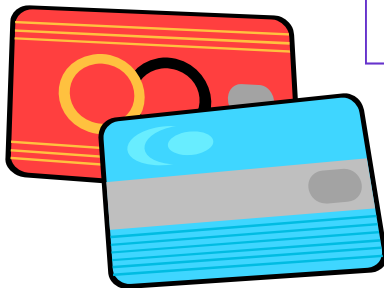


Nebraska. The resolution is hoped to encourage Lexington residents to plant more trees. For more information on trees, planting tips, and ReTree Nebraska, go to www.nfs.unl.edu/retreenebraska.asp.

The Tree Board recommends the following trees as best fits for Lexington's needs, climate, and soils: Manchurian Ash, Japanese Elm, Coffeetree, Accolade Elm, Triumph Elm, Ginkgo, Hackberry, American Linden, American Elm ("Valley Forge" cultivar), Miyabe Maple, Orange Osage, London Planetree, Lacebark Elm, Discovery Elm, Goldenrain tree, Honeylocust, Littleleaf Linden, Sugar Maple, Chinkapin Oak, Japanese Pagodatree, Walnut.



(l to r): Glenn Hawks (Tree Board); Doug Monter (Park Foreman); Tony Sigler, Dave Stenberg & Marty Smith (Tree Board); and Kevin Lien (Lien Lawn Service).



City expands Credit/Debit Card acceptance

A growing number of Lexington residents have been paying utility bills by credit or debit cards.

The City recently expanded this convenience and is now accepting payment by "card" for other fees such as building permits, pool passes, and traffic fines.

Currently this service is at the City Municipal Building, 406 East 7th Street, during regular business hours - Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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.

City Council adds "Kirkpatrick" to Memorial Park



Memorial Park in northeast Lexington is now officially Kirkpatrick Memorial Park. A dedication ceremony was held Friday, June 6. Mayor John Fagot gave a brief welcome, and the Grand Generation Center donated cookies & lemonade. The park is named in honor of Harold Kirkpatrick and his family, who recently donated the land to the south of the park for park expansion. The family originally donated the land for Memorial Park.

Dates to Remember:

- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 5:30 PM - City Council Meetings, City Office, 406 E. 7th Street
- July 4 (Independence Day) and Sept 1 (Labor Day) - Legal holidays - City offices closed.
- July 11 - 20 - Dawson County Fair, Dawson County Fairgrounds, 1000 Plum Creek Parkway.
- August 30 & 31 (all day) - Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce annual Antique and Craft Extravaganza, Dawson County Fairgrounds, 1000 Plum Creek Parkway. Sneak Preview Friday, Aug. 29, 7-9 p.m.



On Storms and Sirens

The City of Lexington has recently added to its array of outdoor sirens, which provide complete coverage of the City.

Please note the sirens are designed for outdoors warning only. Unless you are very near a siren, the sound may not be heard indoors. For optimum safety, citizens are encouraged to get weather radios using the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and/or SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) standards.

See page 5 for a handy tip sheet regarding tornado safety.



CLIP AND SAVE

TORNADO

Now that tornado season is here, Emergency Management Warning Sirens will sound to alert residents of an impending tornado in our area.

TORNADO NATURAL DISASTER TECHNICAL HAZARD

3 MINUTE STEADY SIGNAL

This signal indicates that a tornado, natural disaster, or technical hazard is pending. Persons should take cover or move to a place of safety and listen to the local radio or TV station for information on further instructions. This siren may sound more than once if deemed necessary by Emergency Management.

Do not call the police or radio station to ask for information.
People SIGHTING a tornado or funnel in this area are urged to notify the Dawson County Emergency Center at 911.

ALL-CLEAR

An all-clear bulletin will be issued by the Local Radio and TV Stations in cooperation with the National Weather Service.

Local Emergency Management will not issue an all-clear statement.

During unusual threatening weather or emergency conditions listen to the Local Radio or TV Stations for further information.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

The following are general safety guidelines for seeking shelter:

- Move to a lower level or basement.
- If no lower level is available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- Stay away from windows.
- Flying debris from tornadoes causes most deaths and injuries. Cover your head and make yourself the smallest target possible.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, get out of the vehicle and seek safe shelter in a nearby building.
- If you are outside and there is no shelter immediately available, avoid trees and vehicles. Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location. Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.



Emergency warning system tests of one minute in duration are conducted the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

CLIP AND SAVE

