

# City Happenings



October 2008

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



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



### Skate Park (Arbor Park)

(Maple Street & Plum Creek Parkway)  
- A new concrete slab was poured by local Contractor T.L. Sund Constructors on September 3. The addition doubles the size to 100' x 90'. The Lexington Foundation will help pay for the new slab. The skate park is at the southeast corner of Arbor Park, near the intersection of Maple Street and Plum Creek Parkway. In 2009 the City plans to add another large ramp.

### Plum Creek Parkway



A relatively dry September allowed crews to complete much paving on Lexington's new 2.4-mile hike-bike trail. Most of the construction is on the west side of Plum Creek Parkway (Hwy 283) and the east end of Cattlemens Drive.

Pedestrians have already started taking advantage of the new walkway.

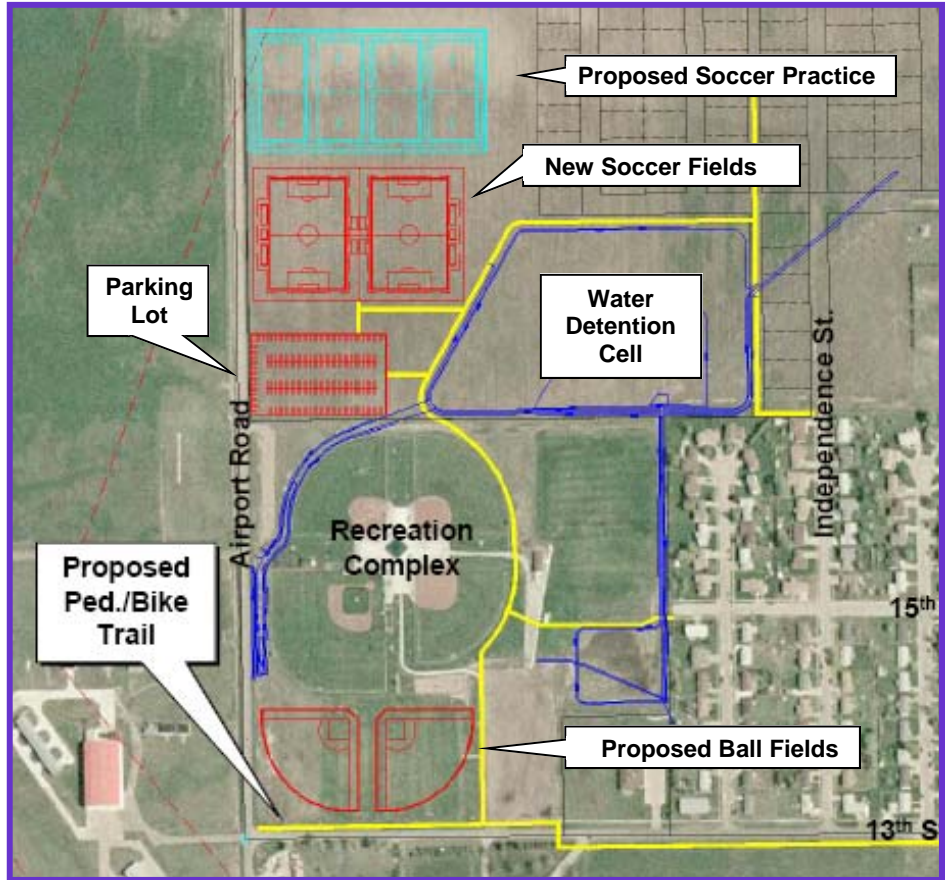


## Optimist Recreation Complex Improvements

Work is underway to improve amenities and infrastructure around the Optimist Recreation Complex in northwest Lexington.

First, the City is close to completion of a stormwater detention cell that will greatly improve drainage in the area. The improvement will benefit the recreation complex, abutting neighborhoods, and future planned residential and recreational uses.

Also underway is the construction of two competition soccer fields north of the current softball fields. The fields have been graded and seeded, with underground irrigation installed. Fencing is currently being installed with volunteer help from experienced installers who are members of the Hispanic Soccer League.



Planned future improvements will include a parking lot between the soccer and ball fields; two additional softball/baseball fields in the south; extensions of Lexington's hike/bike trail; and practice soccer fields to the north, as indicated in the exhibit on this page.

Several groups are collaborating on various aspects of the projects, including the City, the Lexington School District, the Lexington Community Foundation, the Optimist Club, and the Hispanic Soccer League.



**ELECTION DAY  
NOV. 4, 2008**

### Subscribe

To subscribe to Lexington City Happenings, fill out the online 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 at [www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com).





## City, NPPD offer energy-saving incentives

The City of Lexington and Nebraska Public Power District are working together to encourage residents to save energy and money.



### CFLs

Compact Fluorescent Lamps provide the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs, at a fraction of the energy cost. While quantities last, the City is giving one CFL per person to anyone who comes to the City office (406 E. 7th Street) and:

- says he or she read about the CFL giveaway in *City Happenings*; or
- signs up to become a new subscriber to City Happenings email newsletter; or
- signs up for utilities payment through automatic bank draft withdrawal.

*CFLs are available (while they last) in the following sizes:*

- ⊗ 15-watt (as bright as 60-watt incandescent)
- ⊗ 20-watt (as bright as 75-watt incandescent)
- ⊗ 26-watt (as bright as 100-watt incandescent)



### Upgrade to High Efficiency Heat Pump (HEHP)

Not only will an electric heat pump save you money for both heating and air conditioning, we'll give you a rebate for converting to a HEHP.

Rebates depend on the HEHP's energy efficiency rating. The **City and NPPD combined rebates are:**

- \$ 900 14 SEER & 8.2 HSPF air source HP
- \$1,050 15 SEER & 8.2 HSPF air source HP
- \$1,200 16+ SEER & 8.2 HSPF air source HP
- \$1,800 Any EER Water or Ground Source HP
- \$125 Convert from gas to electric water heater

Visit Lexington Utilities System, 406 E. 7th Street, for more information .

## EnergyWise Tip: October is built around CFLs



Three letters – CFL – have the potential to change significantly the way America uses energy.

The CFL - Compact Fluorescent Light bulb - is an energy efficient product that can replace many situations where incandescent light bulbs have been used in the past. A CFL can last up to 10 times longer and use about 75 percent less energy while producing a comparable amount of illumination as a standard light bulb.

CFLs have been in the news a lot lately. Some of the news may be misleading. Here are some facts about CFLs:

- CFLs are safe to use and are energy efficient. Each bulb contains about 5 milligrams of mercury, but this does not pose a health risk when the bulbs are properly used, handled and disposed of.
- If a CFL breaks, it is safe for you to clean it yourself. Follow these recommended Environmental Protection Agency guidelines:
  - Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes
  - Scoop up the fragments and powder with stiff paper or cardboard
  - Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel
  - Place broken bulb and cleaning materials into a plastic bag and seal
  - Wash your hands
  - Dispose of broken bulb and cleaning materials properly (landfill)

When buying a CFL, select one with an ENERGY STAR® on the label. This indicates the bulb has met strict federal specifications for energy savings, long life, color and brightness.

Although a bit more expensive, a CFL bulb will often pay for itself in energy savings and low electric bills in less than eight months, depending upon your local electric rate. And the energy/cost savings don't end there; a CFL will save you money throughout its long life.

For more information on steps homeowners can take to improve the efficiency of their homes, contact Lexington Utilities System (308-324-2343), or visit the ENERGY STAR® Home Advisor at <http://www.energystar.gov/homeadvisor>. Lots of useful energy efficiency information is also available at <http://www.nppd.com>.



## October Library News

**907 North Washington St.**  
by Kathy Thomsen  
Library Director

The Lexington Public Library began the Lexington Foundation sponsored programming this fall with a poetry reading by Matt Mason, who was the winner of the 2007 Nebraska Book Award for Poetry. There was a special program in the afternoon for Middle School students and an evening program for adults.

There will be three programs sponsored by the Lexington Community Foundation during October.

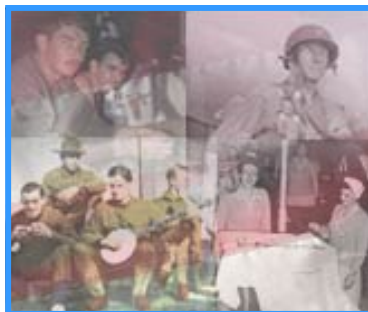
Acclaimed Celtic guitarist **Jerry Barlow** will be performing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6. Barlow's expressive arrangements of lively jigs, spirited reels, and hauntingly beautiful airs have been described as music to sooth the soul, warm the heart, and lift the spirit.



On Tuesday, October 7, the **Traces Buseum**, "Held in the Heartland, German POWs in the Midwest 1943-46" will be parked at the Lexington Public Library for visitors to tour. Housed in a school bus converted into a mobile museum with its own 21-seat theatre, "Held in the Heartland" illustrates the unknown story of the German POWs in the Midwest through narrative texts, artifacts, and multimedia. The



Buseum brings Midwest World War II to life. The Buseum will be at the Lexington Public Library from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. on October 7.



Bob Sankey will present a program "The Veteran's History Project" on Thursday, October 23, at 7:00 p.m. Veterans of any war whether it be World War I or II, Vietnam, or Afghanistan and Iraq have stories to tell. The Veteran's History Project collects and preserves these remembrances of American War Veterans and the civilian workers who supported them.

On Tuesday, November 18, classical guitarist **Peter Fletcher**, who began studying guitar at the age of 7 and made his formal debut at the age of 15, will entertain his audience with a variety of well-known pieces. He has performed throughout the country and in March 2009 will again be performing at Carnegie Hall.



### Dates to Remember:

- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 5:30 PM - City Council Meetings, City Office, 406 E. 7th Street
- October 21, 10:00 AM - Ribbon cutting and open house at new location for Lutheran Family Services and The Welcome Center - 200 W. 7th Street (Lexington Business Center).
- Nov. 4 - Election Day
- .Nov. 11 & Nov. 27-28 (Veterans Day & Thanksgiving) - Holidays - City offices closed.



## Lexington snow and ice removal

**W**inter will soon be here once again. Before the first winter storm of the season, the City would like to remind citizens of the following points related to snow removal. There is also an Emergency Snow Route map on Page 6.

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. Anyone 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 in its efforts of snow and ice removal from the streets. Citizens are encouraged to listen to local radio stations or read the local newspaper for announcements of possible Snow Emergency situations where substantial snowfall is experienced or anticipated.

In times of a declared Snow Emergency, parking along the



street in the designated Snow Emergency Route is prohibited. Commercial Areas may also be included. (See map on Page 6 for Route description).

Citizens living along this Route are encouraged to obey the prohibition and move their vehicles from the street.

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. In-

formation regarding the removal of snow in your area of the City can be obtained by contacting Glenn Hawks, Community Services Director, 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.



**(801 West Vine Street)**

**Fall/Winter Hours**

**Mon. - Fri.**  
**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**FIRST Saturday**  
**of each month:**  
**8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**All OTHER Saturdays:**  
**1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**



### Youth Basketball Sign-ups

**Boys & Girls**  
**Grades 3-6**

go to [www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com) to  
download and print a  
registration form.

**The program starts Sunday,**  
**October 26, 2008.**

