



June 2010

City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



LEGEND OAKS



Twenty-one townhome units are in final stages of construction at the Legend Oaks housing project, located on the west side of North Adams between 18th & 20th Streets. Several of the townhomes are complete and residents have moved in. In addition to the residential units, the plan calls for a multipurpose building for Legend Oaks resident use. Designed for senior (55+) rental living, Legend Oaks is administered by the Lexington Housing Authority. For more information, Contact Diane Adams at LHA, 308-324-4633.



Soccer Stadium Progress Continues



Soccer Stadium — 13th & Airport Road

A new building is in the final stages of construction at Lexington's new Soccer Stadium, at the northwest corner of the Optimist Recreation Complex. When finished, the building will provide space for concessions, restrooms, dressing, and maintenance/storage. The photo above shows the building, spectator seating and soccer field perimeter fence.

The next steps toward soccer-readiness include construction of a parking lot (west of the building), and scoreboards and soccer goals within the playing field area. The Stadium should be ready for competition in late summer this year.

The Soccer Stadium project is a joint venture between the City of Lexington and Lexington Public Schools, with assistance from the Adult Soccer League.



City Hall renovation kicks into high gear



Lexington City Offices 406 E. 7th Street

Pardon our progress! Framing is nearing completion for an addition on the north side of the Municipal building, 406 E. 7th Street. Parking and building entry has been re-routed to the south side of the building. North side parking and entry will be returned when the project is completed. The 41-year-old building's makeover will include newly renovated space for police, City administration, finance, utility and building inspection personnel.





PHOTO CONTEST

See your photo on
the City of Lexington
website and
enter to
win \$100!

The City is redesigning its website and offering **\$100** contest prizes each summer month (June, July, August, September).

Contestants must agree to let the City use their photos on the City website and other publications.

Complete details & rules are online at www.cityoflex.com, or contact Dennis Burnside, 308-324-2341.



Hawks marks 60 years



Glenn Hawks

Glenn Hawks celebrated his 60th anniversary as a City employee in May. Hawks began working for the City as a teenage summer worker, mowing lawns in parks and cemeteries. Working his way up to Community Services Director, Hawks now supervises 20 employees and oversees the City's Streets, Water, Parks, and Cemeteries. Congratulations, Glenn!

Somalis meet with Mayor



Mayor John Fagot and Somali community leaders Ibrahim Nur (l) and Abdilahi Mohammed (r). Not shown is Naji Abdi who, citing religious reasons, preferred not to be photographed. The Mayor's retired seeing eye dog, Bailey, looks on.

Mayor John Fagot met with three leaders from the Somali Community May 21. Discussions reinforced everyone's desire to work together to improve understanding and help acculturate the City's growing African refugee population. While everyone agreed there is much work to be done, and several partnerships to forge, Mayor Fagot appreciated learning this Somali saying: "Please don't hate me before you get to know me."



Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn



Find out more at www.cityoflex.com

Fertilize sparingly and carefully

Green your lawn, not the lake

Storm drains found in our streets and yards lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, fertilizer from your lawn can easily end up in our water. This fertilizer can form large algae blooms and use up oxygen fish and other aquatic insects need to survive.

What can you do? Simple.

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks and back onto your lawn.
- Recycle grass clippings by leaving them on your lawn.
- Use fertilizer with no or low phosphorus.
- Select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is water insoluble (check the label).

Keep the green on the lawn and in your pocket



Support provided by NDEQ



Explore Nebraska, Win Prizes

Nebraska travelers who get off the beaten path this summer will have a chance to take home more than memories after their summer vacation. The Nebraska Byways Passport Program by the Department of Economic Development's Travel and Tourism Division encourages travelers to explore one or more of the state's nine scenic byways and possibly win a prize. Twenty-seven attractions are listed on the souvenir passport, and these are also the locations where travelers can pick up the passport and start playing. Tourists traveling to each location will receive a stamp at each stop. If the passport has nine stamps, travelers get a Nebraska byways T-shirt; 18 stamps, a digital photo frame; and all 27 stamps, a flip video camera. All players will be entered into a grand prize drawing for a laptop computer valued at \$1,000, to be drawn in October 2010. Participants will get one entry into the grand prize drawing for every 9 stamps on the passport.



Property Maintenance Corner



by **Bill Brecks**
Chief
Building
Inspector

A common misconception about sidewalks is that the City is responsible for their year-round maintenance. Although most sidewalks exist in the City's right-of-way, the responsibility to maintain them rests with the property owner. This includes snow removal as well as weed control (City Code, Chapter 24).

Section 302.4 of the International Property Maintenance Code, which the City has adopted, reinforces the weed language, whether it be sidewalks, curbs, driveways, lawns or abutting fences or alleys.

There is more to Section 302.4, which states that for property owners who do not correct violations, the City may hire a contractor to abate the nuisance, then charge the homeowner the cost of the abatement.

All the weeds in the photo

below are an eyesore. The City, neighbors, and pedestrians hope homeowners will voluntarily remove all these unsightly weeds. Expect more weed nuisance notices from the Building Inspection Department this year. And please do your part to make our community look clean and maintained!



Section of the day:

Weeds.

All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of six inches. All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds in sidewalk cracks are prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens.



EnergyWise Tip: Tune up your home cooling system, get a rebate!

For this month's EnergyWiseSM Tip, it's always good to remember that old adage: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

This saying works well for home heating and cooling systems, too!

Whatever type of system you use to heat and cool your home, maintenance is a critical factor in its performance and longevity. Regular maintenance is often overlooked, but it can be key to saving money on heating and air conditioning costs. The easiest approach to a home heating and cooling system tune-up is to have a licensed HVAC contractor inspect, clean and (if necessary) make improvements to your system.

These inspections aren't without cost, but fortunately you may be eligible for a \$30 EnergyWiseSM Cooling System Tune-Up incentive (if you didn't apply for the incentive last year), to prepare your cooling system for this summer's



heat and humidity. Customers of Lexington Utilities System are eligible to apply for this \$30 incentive every three years. The incentive will help pay a share of the tune-up cost.

Maintenance should include:

- Clean Condenser Coil
- Check Indoor Coil
- Check Refrigerant Charge
 - Clean Drain Line
 - Discuss Proper Operation
 - Filter Change Out Schedule
 - Check Belt/Lube Motor, if needed
- Perform Visual Inspection of System
- Discuss/Review Proper Temperature Set-Back

To find out more:

If you are interested in knowing about the steps you need to take to schedule a heating and cooling system tune-up (improve your home's heating and cooling efficiency and get \$30), contact Lexington Utilities System, 308-324-2323. Lots of useful energy efficiency information is also available at www.nppd.com. Lexington Utilities System wants you to get the most energy value for your money. It costs far less to save energy than it does to build a new power plant to generate additional power.



Subscribe

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



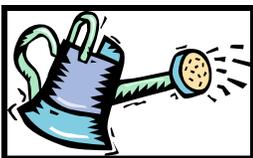
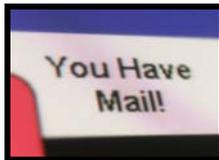


June Library News

Lexington Public Library
907 North Washington St.
by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



Do you sometimes miss library programs because you didn't hear about them in time? Or do you sometimes forget the programs and wish you had a reminder? The library has the solution for you! If you sign up for library programming alerts at the circulation desk, we will e-mail information to you about the library programming sponsored by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation. We will also send you a friendly reminder before the program to help you remember to attend. So be sure to either stop by the library or give us a call at 324-2151 and ask to be added to our e-mail program alert list.



Water Your Mind – READ!
Don't let your mind dry up this summer. Whether you want to know more about creating a great butterfly garden, a good canoeing river, or some great summer reads for the beach, the library's the place to go.

You're invited to join us at the Lexington Public Library for our adult summer reading program – *Water Your Mind – READ!* It's so easy and lots of fun! Stop by the library and register. Enter a review card for each book you read. You can even win prizes! Registration begins on June 1. For more information contact the library at 324-2151 or check our library website at www.lexingtonlibrary.org. All programs are free and open to the public.

We are pleased to announce that there will be one more musical program sponsored by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation. On Saturday, July 10, at 2:00 p.m., **Adam Miller**, a folksinger, storyteller, and autoharp virtuoso will be performing at the library. His program, *Cowboy Songs and Ballads*, is a musical introduction to Western folksongs: the stories, songs and attitudes of the real hard-working American cowboy.



The finale for the summer reading program, *Make a Splash, READ!* will be a Lexington Library Memorial Fund / Lexington Community Foundation sponsored program on Thursday, July 15, at 7:00 pm. **Cody Landstrom**, an award winning entertainer, will present a program of incredible magic and amazing juggling for the entire family. Summer reading prizes and certificates will be presented at the program. Refreshments will be served after the presentations.

**GLENN HAWKS
COMMUNITY
SERVICE
BUILDING**

**801 West Vine Street
308-324-5995**

Summer Hours

**Mon. - Fri.
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

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

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



City Council Honors Yung

At its May 10 bi-monthly meeting, Lexington's City Council took time to honor Mark Yung for his many years of service to the City's Planning Commission. Yung served on the Commission from 1995 until recently, when he took a job in the City's Building Inspection Department. Yung also has many years of experience in building construction.



Left to Right: Councilmember Steve Tomasek, Councilmember Joni Bennett, Mayor John Fagot, seeing eye dog Isabelle, Mark Yung, City Manager Joe Peplitsch, and Councilmember John Salem.

Keep Lexington Beautiful Holds Successful Medicine/Mercury Collection



Sarah Sewell, Nebraska Dept. of Health and Human Environmental Health Analyst of Lincoln, State Patrol Investigator Mike Dowling, Corey Beavers (LASWA), Don Walker (LASWA) and Doug Lynn, Keep Lexington Beautiful treasurer and volunteer.

More than 50 pounds of medication were collected in Dawson County on April 24. Co-sponsored by Keep Lexington Beautiful, the collection included prescription and over-the-counter medication from county residents.

About nine pounds of mercury was also collected during the event. For comparison, a thermometer contains about one gram of mercury.

The State Patrol was central to this event. The State Patrol has to be present when controlled substances are being handled and they also volunteered to destroy/burn the medication in their lab.

Consumers are advised not to flush leftover pharmaceuticals, because they may add harmful chemicals to the water supply.

WE ASK OUR CUSTOMERS

DO NOT DEPOSIT IN TRASH DUMPSTERS:

yard waste • tree branches • wood
 cement • iron • batteries and tires . . .
 . . . as the landfill will not accept these items.

YOUR DUMPSTER IS FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD TRASH ONLY

If you have a curbside trash container, DO NOT place trash in large alley dumpsters. These are for alley customers only.

If your curbside trash container fills before the weekly pickup, please call for additional containers.

DO NOT under any circumstances put hot BBQ coals or fireplace ashes in your dumpster. If you are caught doing this you will have to pay to replace the dumpster if fire occurs.

If you see someone using alley containers for construction materials, yard waste, or other unaccepted items please call us right away and we will take care of it.



Dan's Sanitation
 324-6693 • Lexington



Arbor Day 2010 Highlights

Lexington marked Arbor Day 2010 April 30 with several tree-related activities. We'll let the pictures tell the story. TOP LEFT: Lexington Tree Board's third grade poster contest winner Jasmine Cardenas is presented with a framed copy of her winning poster at an assembly of pupils at Morton School. Jasmine stands with Principal Barry McFarland.



Holding Lexington's Tree City USA banner are Tree Board members Marty Smith, Gordon Sellin and Dave Stenberg. Workers from the City and Lien Lawn Service prepare to plant the Accolade Elm.



LEFT: Jasmine's winning poster. LOWER LEFT: the in-ground plaque that marks Jasmine's tree. UPPER RIGHT: Workers from Lien Lawn Service finish planting one of 14 trees added to Kirkpatrick Memorial Park, funded mostly by a Shade Our Streets grant through the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and the Nebraska Forest Service.



RIGHT: Daisy Scouts from Girl Scout Troop 10 burst into the Girl Scout Song after helping the Tree Board plant the Flowering Crabapple the troop donated in Pioneer Park.



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.

