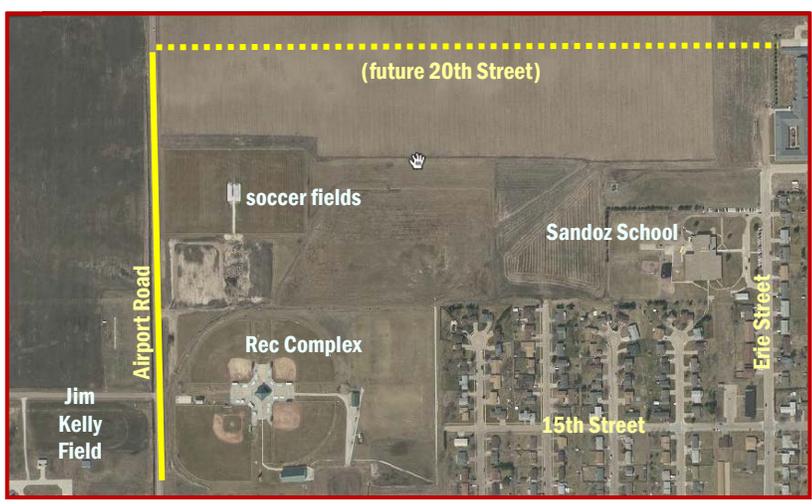


City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Roads Projects Roundup 2012



Here are three major roads projects to expect this season in Lexington:

Airport Road

This project is planned to start the end of April. The solid yellow line shows where gravel road will be replaced with pavement, starting where the now-paved section ends near the main entrance to the airport. The new pavement will extend north to intersect with 20th Street. 20th Street improvements are planned in the future (dashed yellow line).



17th Street - Adams to Polk

This project involves removing and replacing intersections and damaged sections of concrete (about 60%). Handicap ramps will be added at all intersections, along with some sidewalk and storm sewer inlet replacement. This will be paid for 80% with federal funding.



Walnut St. - Madison to Van Buren

Last year the Nebraska Department of Roads rebuilt the intersection of Hwy 283 (Plum Creek Parkway) at Walnut, which extended west to Van Buren. We have secured federal funding to pay 80% of the cost for full depth concrete removal and replacement of Walnut from Van Buren to Madison. The project will also replace sections of sidewalk, storm sewer inlets, and add handicap ramps at intersections.



Community Garden takes root



Lexington's **Community Fitness Initiative** is spearheading the creation of a Community Garden where students can grow vegetables over the summer. In addition to learning about growing a garden, the students and their families will be encouraged to eat more healthy, fresh vegetables.

Cooperating organizations include the **City of Lexington, Lexington Public Schools, Keep Lexington Beautiful, Lexington Regional Health Center, Lexington Community Foundation, and First Presbyterian Church**, which is letting them use a green space west of their campus at 8th & N Madison (see yellow box on the map above).

CFI volunteers will build 38 planter boxes within the space, about 8 x 10 feet each, one for each participating class of students. The City is helping with the sod removal, fence construction, and donating water service.



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.

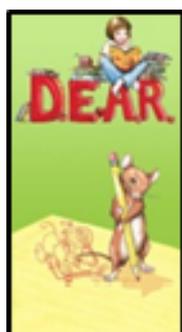




Library News

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

The library will be celebrating **National Library Week** from April 9 through April 14. To celebrate the week the library will be having a **Nearly New Book Sale** during the week and will be serving coffee and cookies. If you have overdue materials sitting around the house or riding in your car, the week of April 9 to April 14 is the week to return them. In celebration of National Library Week, the library is offering a **Fine Free Week** and your fines will be waived. The cost for lost or damaged items cannot be waived, however.



On Thursday, April 12, which is Beverly Cleary's birthday, the library will be celebrating DEAR – Drop Everything and READ for 30 minutes. Everyone is

encouraged to read something they enjoy reading for 30 minutes on that day. Other activities include library trivia, drawings for prizes, and library contests. Be sure to stop by the library during National Library Week and help us celebrate.



The library will be implementing a new automation system on April 9. This will change the look of our online catalog. You will also have more options to personalize your account.



The programs that will be offered by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington

Community Foundation in April and May include entertainer **Drew Nelson**, who will provide folk music for families on Tuesday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Charlotte Endorf will return to Lexington with a program on Sunday, April 15, at 2:00 p.m. This program is entitled, *Bless Their Hearts* and is the story of the North Platte Canteen during World War II.

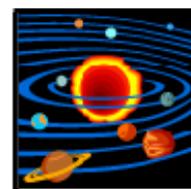


Pat Boilsen, Nebraska's performer of country, traditional western, and gospel music will offer a matinee performance at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 22.



If you like barbershop harmony, you will enjoy the performance on Thursday, May 3, at 7:00 p.m., when the Kearney quartet *Habitat for Harmony* sings.

On April 21 at 10:00 a.m., the library will host the Dawson County Children's Museum's program, *Learn about the Sun*. The Children's Museum's program, *Water Conservation and Bubbles*, will



be held at the library on May 12 at 10:00 a.m.



EnergyWise Tip: **Trees: Even Greener Than Before!**

As energy prices increase, so does the cost to heat and cool our homes. Many people do not realize that the simple act of planting a tree can result in energy savings. How much? Three trees in the right location can save the average household between \$100 and \$250 annually in energy costs. Now, if you'll pardon the pun, that is a lot of green! Read on to learn more.

Deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves each fall) save energy in the summer by shading houses, paved areas, and air conditioners. After the leaves drop, the bare tree allows winter sunlight through to help heat and light the home. Evergreen trees and shrubs save energy by slowing cold winter winds. So, where should your trees be planted?

Shade trees reduce air conditioning needs by blocking and absorbing some of the sun's radiant energy. Therefore, plant deciduous trees in two general areas: 1) so they will protect the eastern side of the house during the morning hours and 2) to shade the west side in the afternoon during the months of June, July, and August.

Trees with mature heights of at least 25 feet should be planted 10 to 20 feet east and west of the house. Plant smaller deciduous or evergreen trees with lower limbs northwest and northeast of the home to provide late afternoon and early morning shade.

Trees planted to the southeast, south, or southwest will shade a building in the summer only if they extend out over the roof. But in the winter, when maximum sun is desired, such trees will provide too much shade. Even deciduous trees that have dropped their leaves cast quite a bit of shade in the winter. To avoid over shading in the winter, locate trees no closer than 2-1/2 times their mature height to the south of a building. Trees planted to the southeast or southwest should be about four times their mature height from the building.

Trees should also be planted to shade paved or asphalted areas. Light energy striking dark asphalt is absorbed, causing the air above to be heated. Light colored pavement absorbs less energy, but can reflect it toward the home. Tree leaves absorb light energy and use it to evaporate water, reducing both heat absorption and reflection below the tree.

Air conditioners should also be shaded from mid-morning through evening. Shrubs and trees should not be planted near the air conditioner or they will reduce and the unit's cooling efficiency. Prune branches to allow at least several feet clearance around air conditioning equipment to encourage air flow.

Trees can be very effective at reducing energy use for heating by blocking cold winter winds. These winds infiltrate homes through small openings and also carry heat away from the building's outer surfaces. Effective windbreak trees have crowns that extend to the ground and branches that keep their foliage in winter (evergreens). Junipers, spruces, firs,

Douglas fir, and evergreen shrubs are good choices for wind protection. Trees for winter wind protection should be planted upwind of the area to be protected. This will often mean planting on the west, northwest, and north sides of a home. However, local conditions like hills or other tree lines may cause prevailing winter winds to be from other directions.

Plant trees far enough away from sidewalks, driveways, and buildings so the crown has room to develop. Full-crowned trees that naturally keep their branches

all the way to the ground should be planted at least one-half of their mature crown width from any obstruction. Trees that can readily be pruned as they grow, like most deciduous trees, can be planted closer and allowed to overhang low obstructions.

Finally, consider the location of power lines when planting a tree. Trees that grow into power lines are dangerous, and they can cause electrical outages and increased line maintenance costs. They also can end up in poor health, themselves, because of severe pruning that is sometimes necessary.

For other ideas on how you can become more EnergyWiseSM, visit Lexington Utilities Service or visit www.nppd.com/save-energy.



City Employees Compete in



About 20 City employees are participating in Live Healthy Nebraska's 100 Day Wellness Challenge. The challenge began in late January and ends May 1 and has hundreds of teams across the state. City employees formed two teams that compete with each other to meet their members' health goals. Through the process, the employees are eating more nutritiously, exercising more, and making other healthy lifestyle choices. The employees record their progress by logging on the LHN website, which also provides motivational tips, healthy recipes, even exercise videos.

100 DAY WELLNESS CHALLENGE 2012

Lexington Named a Tree City USA for 15th Consecutive Year



Lexington has been named a Tree City USA City for the 15th year in a row. The designation honors Lexington's commitment to nurturing a diverse urban forest. Tree Board member **Dave Stenberg** will represent Lexington at the annual award ceremony in

Lincoln April 20.

Arbor Day 2012 is April 27. The Tree Board and the City are planning tree-planting and awareness activities. Let us know if you plan something. Citizens are encouraged to participate by planting trees too. 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, Gingko, Hackberry, American Linden, American Elm ("Valley Forge" cultivar), Miyabe Maple, Orange Osage, London Planetree (Sycamore), Lacebark Elm, Discovery Elm, Goldenraintree, Honeylocust, Littleleaf Linden, Sugar Maple, Chinkapin Oak, Japanese Pagodatree, and Walnut.



Got a tip on a crime?
www.dawsoncounty.crimestoppers.com
 No name . . . just your info

CASH REWARD
 Dawson & Gosper Co. crimes
 308-784-1234



STUDENTS!
NOW is the time to apply for summer City jobs: concessions, lifeguards, & lawn mowing.
 Go to www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=40 for more information and to download a blank application form. Send completed application to address below or email to pberke@cityoflex.com.

Don't delay — do it today!



Remember, it ALL drains to our lakes and rivers



Help keep pollution out of storm drains

Only rain in the drain!

That's because storm drains and roadside ditches lead directly to our lakes and rivers. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, trash, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and rivers. With thousands of people living in and around Lexington, we all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains.

So what can you do? Simple:

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks, back onto your lawn.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, trash, and fertilizers out of storm drains.
- Do not dump motor oil, anti-freeze, chemicals, pet waste, dirty soapy water, or anything else down the storm drains.
- Volunteer to label the storm drains in your neighborhood to inform your neighbors that storm drains flow directly to our lakes and rivers (contact Keep Lexington Beautiful, (308) 324-7986, or keeplexbeautiful@yahoo.com).

KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN!



Support provided by NDEQ



801 West Vine Street
308-324-5995

Winter Hours

(through April 13)
Mon. - Fri.
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Summer Hours

(starting April 16)
Mon. - Fri.
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- dispose of furniture, appliances, and other large items
- pick up free wood chips, dirt or compost
- dispose of tree limbs.

