



October 2013

City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Legend Oaks II on the way

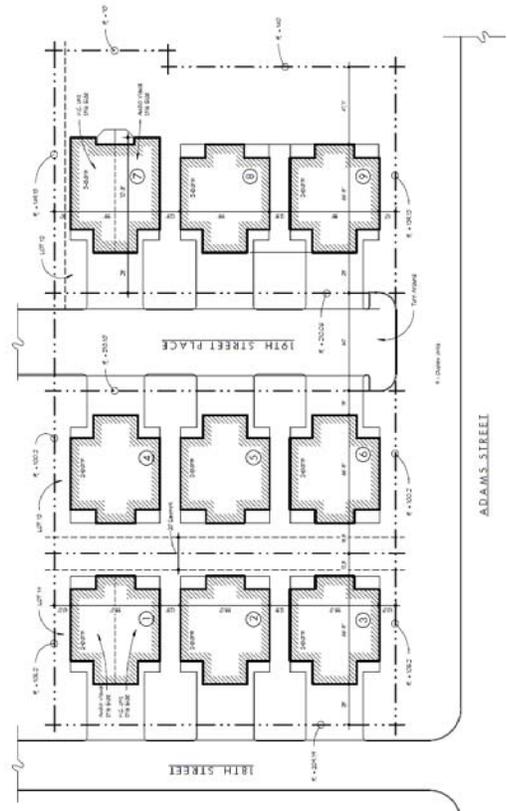


Construction on the second phase of Legend Oaks will start this fall, and will be completed in the summer of 2014. This is an 18 unit (nine duplexes) addition to the existing senior rental housing project near 20th and Adams Streets. The Lexington Housing Authority manages the properties.

The first phase of Legend Oaks was completed in late 2010, creating 21 living units (nine duplexes and one triplex). The development also has a clubhouse available for the Legend Oaks community use.

With Phase II construction,

39 units will be available for rent by persons 55 and older, and meeting certain income guidelines. For more information, contact Diane Adams at LHA, 308-324-4633.



Announcing: The Lexington Fieldhouse



The City of Lexington, in collaboration with the Lexington Soccer League and the Lexington Community Foundation, has a goal to raise funds to construct an indoor activity building at the Optimist Recreation Complex. Pending fund-raising efforts, construction could commence as early as the fall of 2014. Above is an architectural rendering of what the outside may look like. This is primarily designed for indoor soccer, although may accommodate other similar activities.

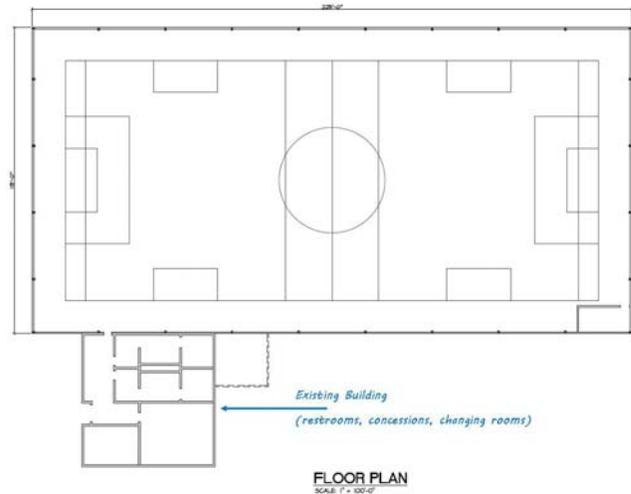
The conceptual project is estimated to cost \$1.1 million. Lexington Fieldhouse partners have a goal of raising at least \$700,000 from private donations.

Gate admission to Lexington Soccer League games are collected by the City and given to the Lexington Community Foundation, to be released when construction begins. All other contributions can be made to the Lexington Community Foundation, Soccer Fund, 607 N Washington Street, PO Box 422, Lexington, NE 68850, 308-324-6704, www.lexfoundation.org.

The Foundation's annual "Give Big Lexington" day in November also contributes to the Fieldhouse via the Lexington Soccer League's account. You can donate online anytime at the Soccer League's Give Big Lexington page. The City will soon post a web page to provide updates, especially fund-raising milestones. As of October 1, almost \$35,000 has been raised!

AT-A-GLANCE

- Indoor Soccer Building
- Next to Soccer Stadium, Recreation Complex
- 26,000 square feet
- One Adult / Two Youth Fields
- Enthusiasm Goal: The sky's the limit!



Lexington gets \$10,000 for study

Recently Lexington was one of six Nebraska cities to receive Community Development Block Grant funding to complete a Comprehensive Investment and Stabilization (CIS) pre-development study. Similar to Lexington's recent Downtown Revitalization Grant, the study is Phase 1 of a process that should lead to more investment in the City, and is offered through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED).

The study will be conducted by the JEO consulting firm, and will describe well-defined outcomes, goals and action steps that address neighborhood- or community-wide initiatives benefitting low- and moderate-income citizens. Upon approval by DED of the pre-development



Nebraska

Community Development Block Grant Program

study, communities may be awarded grants ranging from \$150,000-\$250,000 each funding year for three additional years to implement activities. However, this will depend on factors that include the strength and thoroughness of the pre-development studies, number of applicants, and nature of the multi-year proposal within each study. Watch for future surveys, town hall meetings, etc. Good community input enhances Lexington's chances for more CDBG funding.

REWARDS

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Have you checked out the Lexington's **Farmers Market** new location and hours? You'll find it in the south parking lot at Washington and Hwy 30. The market starts runs Saturday mornings from 8-11 and Tuesday evenings from 4-7.

Last Date: October 12, 2013



EnergyWise Tip: **Do I Need New Windows?**



Another window salesman just knocked on my door and told me that switching out my windows can save me 40 percent to 50 percent on my energy bills. Wow! That would be wonderful. Think of the money I would save. But is it true? Regrettably, in almost all situations – no.

There many things about windows that homeowners should be aware of before replacing them. One common misperception is that new windows will provide an excellent return on investment from the energy they save. A close examination of the economics reveals the error in this assumption.

“Replacing old windows with high-performing, energy-efficient ones can save significant amounts of energy,” says Jeffrey F. Lowinski, vice president of technical services for the Window and Door Manufacturers Association (WDMA). He notes that reports published by the U.S. Department of Energy and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory reveal that almost half of the homes in the U.S. still have single-pane windows; if all of those homes would upgrade to Energy Star-certified windows, Lowinski calculates, the energy savings would be approximately 20 million BTUs per house per year.

That may sound like a lot, but depending on how you heat your home, that equates to \$110 to \$600 annually. If you are focused on the bottom line and energy savings, that \$12,000 investment on replacement windows will go a lot farther through other energy-saving measures. For example, an old house with minimal insulation can be air sealed and insulated for much less money than replacing windows, and these steps have the potential to result in three-to-four times more energy savings.

Before pursuing new windows, consider whether tuning up existing windows can yield similar savings at greatly reduced costs. If you have single-pane windows and do not have storm windows on the outside, get them. The energy saved is comparable to installing new double pane windows at a fraction of the cost.

Do the existing windows seem “drafty?” Check around the outside frame of the window, as well as around the panes to see if caulking is cracked, chipped, or is missing. Drafts felt around the window trim inside can often be stopped by removing the trim and filling the gap between the window frame and the wall with low-expansion, insulating foam. Be careful not to use standard expanding foam, as this may put excess pressure on the window frame and hinder your ability to open and close the window.

If you are still convinced that new windows are your best option, know that they will eventually pay for themselves. Common paybacks are in the range of 15 - 30 years, depending on purchase price, installation costs, energy saved, and utility rates. That may provide some solace, since the American Architectural Manufacturers Association states that windows last 50 - 60 years if maintained properly.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. That includes assisting you with the consideration for new or replacement windows and what to look for. For assistance on making your home EnergyWiseSM, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com.

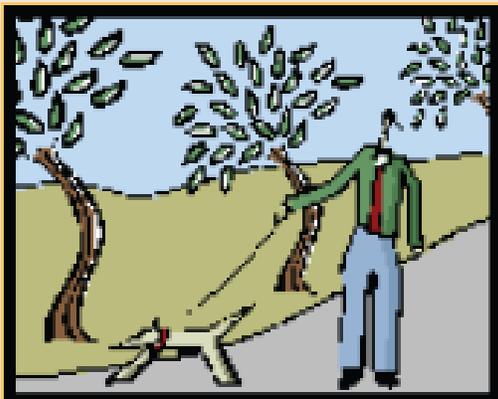


N. Jackson St. road work update



As of the beginning of October, Phase 1 is essentially complete, and is open from 8th Street

to 10th Street. In Phase 2, underground utilities have been installed, and paving activities have commenced. The project should be completed and operational in early November. Find occasional updates posted at the City's website, <http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=154>.



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.

Remember, you're not just getting rid of weeds and pests



Choose Earth-friendly landscaping

Did you know that herbicides and pesticides are harmful to our kids, pets, and the environment?

The chemicals in these materials pollute our waterways if washed from our lawns and gardens into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Practicing Earth-friendly landscaping in your yard and garden can help protect kids, pets, and our waterways.

So what can you do? Simple:

- Select plants native to Nebraska. These plants require less fertilizer and water, and are more disease resistant.
- Avoid over-watering your lawn — it needs about one inch of rain/water per week.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to help retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.
- Mow your lawn high — 3 inches is the rule. Follow your community's leaf pick-up guidelines. Try mowing grass clippings and leaves into your lawn — they make good fertilizers.
- Use herbicides and pesticides sparingly and limit application to problem areas only.

Choose Earth-friendly landscaping and help keep our water clean!



Support provided by NDEQ

CITY OF **Lexington** NEBRASKA
www.cityoflex.com





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907 North Washington Street

The library will be participating in **Masquerade on Main Street** in October as part of their **Family Night at the Library** activities. We



about different engineering concepts after the program. Don't miss this fun evening of challenging family activities

will be hosting a carnival on October 31 from 4-6 p.m. in the Benthack Room at the library. Come and play carnival games, win prizes and receive a Halloween treat. This activity is in collaboration with the **Friends of the Library** and **Multiple Choices**.

If there are any questions about either program, you can call the Lexington Public Library at 324-2151.



Family Night at the Library in November will be held on the November 19 and will focus on **Engineering**.

Domino diving boards, tumbling towers, and against the wind are just a few of the activities planned. Families can visit individual tables with activities, perform experiments and learn about engineering. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar as it will be a night of exploration, fun and learning. There will be books available to check out



The Friends of the Library currently have several exciting projects that they are supporting including:

- Coordinate the Books for Babies Program – The Books for Babies Program delivers a tote bag with a new board book, a hand knitted cap, a receiving blanket, booties, a developmental chart and information about the library and getting a library card to every new baby born at the Lexington Regional Health Center.

- Deliver materials to Shut-ins through the Books on Wheels Program.

- Purchased an AWE Early Learning Station so that children up to the age of 8 can experience learning through

a variety of fun activities that are Kid Friendly



– Kid Safe. The Friends of the Library are currently raising funds for a second AWE Early Learning Station.

The Friends of the Library welcomes new members. Friends of the Library meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in the Library Board Room. Won't you join us?



DAD's Wolf Elected NEDA President



Jennifer Wolf, Executive Director of Dawson Area Development (DAD) is the new President of

the Nebraska Economic Developers Association (NEDA). NEDA, with 350 members, is the largest association of economic development professionals in Nebraska. DAD, a county-wide economic development organization, has its offices in Lexington.

Wolf has been on the NEDA board of directors for several years. In 2013 she was named NEDA's Professional of the Year. Her dedicated work with Lexington and other Dawson County communities led to four of the

area towns receiving Certified Economic Development Community status.

Wolf also serves on the Nebraska Enterprise Fund Board.

A focus of her term as president will be to freely give of her time to educate the members on legislation that affects economic development and assist in the programming of two conferences held each year.



Public Information Meeting: East Viaduct

Proposed overpass near Hwy 30 and Road 435

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers

(406 E 7th Street – enter through northeast doors)



Public Information Meeting as the design starts for the proposed East Viaduct, near Highway 30 and Road 435. There is no formal presentation - come when you can see to the plans and for one-on-one and small group discussions with engineers and city officials.

Everyone's getting new meters



Installers will be at your property changing out new electric and water meters. They can be identified by wearing shirts marked City of Lexington or NPPD (Nebraska Public Power District). The City is upgrading all the electric and water meters to residents and businesses, for the purpose of efficiency and improved operations. The new meters remotely report utility usage, as well as detect problems such as service outages or possible water leaks. More than one-fifth of meters have already been upgraded.



Lexington snow and ice removal

Winter 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 the next page, and is also found on the Maps link at the City's website.

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. Someone 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 as we work to remove snow and ice from the streets.

Citizens are encouraged to listen to local radio stations or read the local newspaper (including online) for announcements of possible Snow Emergency situations where substantial snowfall is experienced or



anticipated.

In times of a declared Snow Emergency, parking along streets in the designated Snow Emergency Route is prohibited. Commercial Areas may also be

included (see Snow Route map).

Citizens living along these routes are encouraged to comply with 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. Information 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.



801 West
Vine Street
308-324-5995

Winter Hours

begin Sept. 30, 2012
Mon. - Fri.
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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



