



February 2014

City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Lexington Fieldhouse gains momentum



The City's vision of building an indoor soccer/sports building is adding new fans. First announced in the October 2013 *City Happenings*, the proposed project broke records with the Lexington Community Foundation's annual Give Big Lex campaign. Not the most money raised, but more than 500 individual donations for the project were recorded!

The reason is the partnership with the Lexington Soccer League, which has mobilized its members, families and friends. The online Give Big Lex site does not reflect this, since it shows only online donations, and most of the Fieldhouse donations were done in person.

Impressed by the phenomenal show of support, the Foundation has named the Fieldhouse one of the projects to receive proceeds from the annual Key fund-raising event in 2014 and 2015.

The project has an estimated price tag of \$1.4 million, and the partners' goal is to raise \$700,000 of that amount in private donations. As of Dec. 31, more than \$50,000 has been raised.

In light of the groundswell of community support for the Lexington Fieldhouse project, the major fund-raising drive will kick off in March 2014. To donate any time,

contact the Lexington Community Foundation, www.lexfoundation.org/, and watch the fund-raising progress at www.cityoflex.com.



Lexington Receives Tree Planting Funds



The 2014 Trees for Nebraska Towns (TNT) program recently awarded tree planting grants to 19 projects in 17 communities in Nebraska. The City of Lexington is one of the communities that received tree planting funds through this program. The 2013 Lexington TNT project received \$7,649, which will go for 40 good-sized trees, with installation. The City Tree Board applied for the funds and will coordinate the project.

TNT was created as a response to significant tree loss in community forests across Nebraska. The program aids in the planting of high quality, large-growing shade trees while also improving the diversity of tree species in community forests. TNT is coordinated by the Nebraska Forest Service on behalf of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, and is funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, a beneficiary of the Nebraska Lottery. It is part of ReTree Nebraska's efforts to plant a million trees by 2017 (<http://www.retreenebraska.edu>).

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is both a non-profit horticultural organization and a program of the Nebraska Forest Service, part of the University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. NSA achieves its mission of "sustainable landscapes for healthy homes and communities" through initiatives in education, community landscapes and the environment (arboretum.unl.edu). For more information about the TNT program contact NSA at 402-472-2971.



Housing Survey Update

Dawson Area Development (DAD) is preparing a new Housing Study for the region, with the assistance of Hanna:Keelan Associates, P.C., a planning and research consulting firm from Lincoln. The Housing Study, scheduled for completion in March 2014, is being funded by a Housing Study Program Grant provided by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, with matching funds from DAD.

The new Dawson County Area Housing Study will include important population, income and economic data, a housing stock analysis, strategies for affordable housing development, a Five-Year "Housing Action Plan" and funding options for future owner and rental housing development and housing rehabilitation projects. Several survey versions have been distributed. The final one, now underway, is with employers and workforce respondents. All results will be tabulated and compiled by mid-March.

Survey results will be used to demonstrate demand to developers and funding entities.



So long, Edna!



Edna Schultz

The **Lexington Library Board** and the **Friends of the Library** hosted a retirement reception at the library for **Edna Schultz** on Friday, January 24. Edna has worked at the Library for **31 years**. Her library career began in 1982 as a part-time library assistant working three nights a week and every Sunday. Eventually her position became full-time. She has seen a lot of changes over the years. When she started working at the library, books were stamped at checkout and card catalogs had actual cards and drawers. Today, it's all on computers. She has worked with six directors and will be the first to tell you she has enjoyed her career at the library.



Like us on FaceBook!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Lexington-Nebraska/157277430966096>

Remember, you're not just washing your car



Find out more at www.cityoflex.com

Practice good car care

Did you know?

Four quarts of oil can form an 8-acre oil slick if dumped or spilled down a storm drain? That's because storm drains found in our streets and yards lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, oil and dirty water from washing our car that goes into storm drains pollutes our water.

What can you do? Simple:

- Take your car to the carwash where the dirty water is treated before it gets to our water.
- Wash your car on your lawn or direct the dirty water toward the lawn and away from the storm drain, or wash your car at a commercial car wash location.
- Keep your car properly tuned.
- Recycle used fluids and never dump them down the storm drains.

Help keep the oil where it belongs . . . in you car!



Support provided by NDEQ



www.cityoflex.com





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907 North Washington Street



Library programming sponsored by the **Lexington Library Memorial Fund** and the **Lexington Community Foundation**

has resumed. In January the library hosted two programs, one by Carol Birch as part of the **Kearney Area Storytelling Festival** and another by **Cowgirl Peg**.

In March **Jerry Barlow** will be returning to perform both new and old tunes on his Celtic guitar. Jerry's performance will be held on Sunday, March 16, at 2:00 p.m.



On Sunday, March 30, 2:00 p.m., **Roxanne Redd**, a Nebraska singer/

songwriter, will perform popular songs from yesterday and today, as well as some of her own songs. She'll be accompanied by Lexington guitarist **Dennis Burnside**.

Beginning in 2014, the Affordable Care Act makes health care available to an estimated 196,000 Nebraskans who have not been covered by a health plan. Open enrollment in health plans ends March 31, 2014. **Understanding the Affordable Care Act** will be the topic at an upcoming presentation at the Lexington



Public Library. **Chuck Scripter** with

AARP Nebraska will give the public presentation on February 13 at 7:00 p.m. For more information or questions, call (308) 324-2151.

In celebration of National Engineers week, the Lexington Public Library is hosting a Family Night at the Library, **So You Want to be an Engineer!** on Monday, February 24, at 7:00 p.m. The



program is for children who are in grade school and middle school. **So You Want to be an Engineer** will feature several stations that have simple, yet amazing, experiments. You'll wonder how it's related to engineering - explanations at each station will demonstrate that connection. If you are interested in science and how things work, this program is for you! If you have any questions, please call 324-2151.



On January 6 the library welcomed **JoAnn Grove** as the new Assistant Library Director.

JoAnn graduated from Sutherland High School and pursued a Home Economics degree at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. She has worked in libraries in Indiana in technical services, circulation and as a Young Adult Librarian. When you are at the library, be sure to stop by the circulation desk and meet JoAnn and welcome her to Lexington.



**New for 2014:
Rebate for LED bulbs**



Starting January 2014, Lexington Utilities System (LEXUS) customers who buy certain Light-Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs can get rebates from LEXUS.

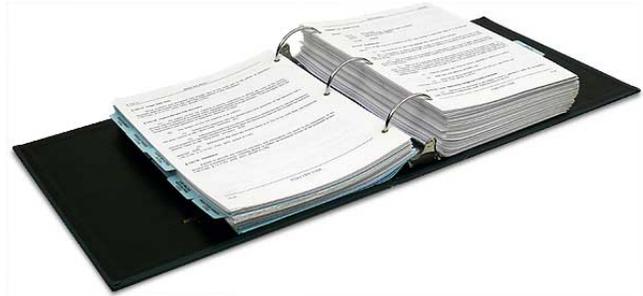
- \$5 incentive per bulb for A19 60 watt, 75 watt, and 100 watt equivalent LEDs
- Must be ENERGY STAR®
- Limit 10 incentives per account annually
- Copy of dated receipt(s) required

For a brochure that contains additional details and an application form, look in the "NEWS" section of www.cityoflex.com.

Brought to you by: Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District.



**City Council approves
updated Zoning Regulations**



Over the last several months the City, with input from consultants, other municipalities, and Lexington's Planning Commission, has developed new zoning regulations.

On January 28, 2014, the City Council considered the new proposal for the second time and voted unanimously to adopt the City's official zoning regulations.

Subsequently the City Council adopted a new Official Zoning Map, which incorporates numerous small changes that have accumulated since the last map was approved in the early 1990s.

All codes adopted by the City Council can be found at the City's website, Development Services Department, <http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=47>. There are also links to downloadable forms, such as building permits and subdivision applications.



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

Winter Hours

**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.



EnergyWise Tip: Icicles

ENERGYWISE™
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

Icicles put the finishing touch on many of Thomas Kinkadee's paintings of nostalgic-looking homes locked in time and surrounded by a winter wonderland. Perhaps you have quietly passed the time watching an icicle form, becoming longer and longer with each drop that trickles downward. Or maybe as a child, you energetically jumped to pull icicles off the sides of your home to use as a toy sword. Icicles may seem beautiful, magical or picturesque, but they can also signal big troubles for you and your home.

Icicles are the result of "ice dams," which are a buildup of ice on the roof along the overhang or eave. Eaves are the parts of the roof that extend beyond the exterior wall, and to which gutters are attached. Ice dams form when the upper part of the roof is warm enough to melt snow but the eaves and gutters are cold enough to freeze the runoff into icicles. As the ice gets thicker and thicker, it stops water as it comes down the roof, making an ice dam. Eventually, water coming down the roof is backed up enough that it does not refreeze because it continues to be warmed by the house and its attic. Finally, as the water gets deep enough behind the ice dam, it is pushed up under the shingles and into the house, causing water damage.

The best way to prevent this from happening is to keep your attic cold in the first place. The majority of heat in the attic comes from heat inside the house leaking into the attic. If your house has big, beautiful icicles, you are probably using way more energy than you need to keep your home warm. So what can you do?

Attic insulation and air sealing - This is the primary way of stopping ice dams. Since most of the heat comes from the below the attic, ensure the attic is properly insulated and air sealed. In Nebraska, your attic should have enough insulation to equate to an R38 value. If you are not sure, contact your local

hardware store or utility company to learn more. If more insulation is needed, you may qualify for an EnergyWiseSM energy efficiency incentive from Lexington Utilities System to help offset the cost of the additional insulation.

Air leaks transmit a lot of heat into the attic quickly, so they are important to stop as well. Pay particular attention to sealing up and insulating the following major sources of heat in the attic:

- Chimneys
- Plumbing stacks
- Recessed lighting from the ceiling below
- Bathroom and clothes dryer ventilation



Bathroom and clothes dryer exhausts can be the worst of the four. Not only are they bringing heat into the attic area, some are vented right into the attic. This will bring additional moisture into the cooler area and can lead to problems like rotted roofs and rafters, ruined insulation, moisture inside the walls, mold, and peeling paint.

More attic ventilation - Though secondary to insulation, ventilation is also important. No matter how much insulation is in your attic, some heat will still come through. Insulation and sealing only slows down heat transfer. The purpose of attic ventilation is to give that heat somewhere to go. Note that most homes built before 1980 have substandard ventilation. Again, if you are not sure, visit with your utility company, local hardware store, or home contractors in the area.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want you to stay comfortably warm this winter. Part of our commitment to delivering low-cost, reliable energy is helping you make the most of the energy you use throughout the year. For more ideas on how you can make your home EnergyWiseSM, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com.



New for 2014: Rebate for LED bulbs

STUDENTS!

NOW is the time to apply for summer City jobs: concessions, life-guards, & lawn mowers.

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 pbaruth@cityoflex.com.

Don't delay — do it today!



2014 CAREER/COLLEGE EXPLORATION DAY!!

WHEN: MARCH 19, 2014 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

WHERE: DAWSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS LEXINGTON, NE



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP PLEASE CONTACT STEPH NICHOLS
steph@dawsonareadevelopment.com or 308.217.0006 Office 308.325.1826 Cell

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



Lexington snow and ice removal

According to the calendar, it's winter again. In the event of a serious winter storm, 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 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.



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Vine Street
308-324-5995

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