



April 2014

www.cityoflex.com

City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



2014 Roads Project Roundup



This aerial photo shows the most visible road construction planned for the summer of 2014. Motorists who travel these routes can expect occasional detours. All projects include improved sidewalks and handicap ramps at intersections, as well as new street lights. Federal funding will pay for the majority of the reconstruction on Jackson Street, 6th Street, and 13th Street. Expect a public information meeting soon to show final timing and detours.

The first project to start will be new **18th Street**, connecting Adams and Lake. This should start in April.

The north half of **West 13th Street**, Park to Adams, will be reconstructed. Eastbound traffic will be open most of the time; westbound traffic will be detoured north to 15th Street. Construction starts in June in order to be finished prior to the new school year in August.

The most central project will include full concrete replacement on **North Jackson Street** from 5th to 8th, and **6th Street** from Grant to Jefferson. East of Jefferson only the intersections will be fully replaced, plus many panels along 6th Street. This project should be done by the end of October.

(not shown)
Construction of **Heartland Road** that connects Frontier with Heartland Drive in the Southeast Business Park.

City Offices:



406 E 7th Street



Lexington, NE 68850



308-324-2341



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Lexington Utilities System
308.324-2343

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Remember, it's not just toxic to you



Find out more at www.cityoflex.com

Remember, it's not just toxic to you

Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals and oil

Did you know that many household products are dangerous to our kids, pets, and the environment? These materials pollute our waterways if washed or dumped into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Household cleaners, pesticides, gasoline, antifreeze, used motor oil, and other hazardous products need to be labeled, stored, and disposed of properly.

What can you do? Simple:

- Be aware of household products that can harm children, pets and the environment. Pay attention to words such as "warning" or "caution" on product labels.
- Reduce waste & save money by purchasing only materials you need.
- Keep unused products in their original containers with labels.
- Never dump hazardous products down storm drains, roadside ditches, sinks, or on the ground - take them to your local community's hazardous waste collection day.

Help keep our homes and the environment safe!



Support provided by NDEQ

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406 E 7th Street



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308-324-2341



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. The plan is to plant some at the Bryan School, some at the Middle School, and some in the Southeast Business Park.

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.



Planting trees at Kirkpatrick Memorial Park, October 2013.

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Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director

The library will be hosting two more programs this spring that are sponsored by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation.



On Sunday, April 6, at 2:00 p.m., **Stephanie Grace Whitson** will be at the library presenting the program **Steamboat!**

During Steamboat! you are invited to step back in time and meet the woman pilot who inspired Stephanie's 2014 novel, *A Captain for Laura Rose*. This program shares the romance and danger of 19th century steamboating on the "Big Muddy," i.e., the Missouri River, called a "steamboat graveyard" by those who plied its treacherous waters. Coffee and cookies will be served following the program.



On May 4 at 2:00 pm the library will welcome classical guitarist **Peter Fletcher**. Peter made his New York Debut at Weill Recital

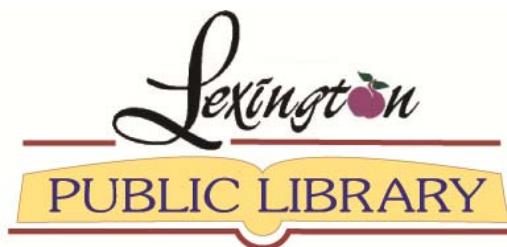
Hall at Carnegie Hall in February 2007, and returned in 2008, 2009 and 2010 to a completely sold-out house. The 2013-14 concert season will be extremely busy with performances in Rockford, IL, Atlanta, GA and Asheville, NC — all part of a nationwide tour.



If you enjoy playing board games, be sure to circle April 28 on your calendar. The library is hosting a **Family Game Night** at the Library at 7:00 p.m. The library will provide the games and snacks; you just need to come join in the fun.

During National Library Week, April 13 to 19, communities across the country celebrate and take time to remind the public about the contributions libraries, librarians and library workers make to their communities.

"**Lives Change @ Your Library**" is the perfect theme for this year's National Library Week celebration. Libraries serve as catalysts in their communities, offering opportunities for children and adults alike to learn, grow and



907 North Washington Street

achieve their dreams. In addition to providing access to books, e-books, computers and other resources, public libraries offer expert teaching and guidance to aid library users in their quest to open new worlds and change their lives.

Libraries have historically served as our nation's great equalizers of knowledge, providing free access to information for all people. Today's libraries continue this tradition, helping level the playing field by making both print and digital information affordable, available and accessible to all people. The range of information and services available to library users is unlimited — resources for job seekers, cultural heritage, genealogical collections and much more. We will have several things happening at Lexington Public Library during that week including trivia contests, prize drawings, and a nearly new book sale. We will also be serving coffee and cookies on Thursday and Friday, April 17 and April 18.

National Library Week is the perfect time to remember, when it is time to make a change and improve your life, the place to be is @ your library.





Lexington Named a Tree City USA for 17th Consecutive Year



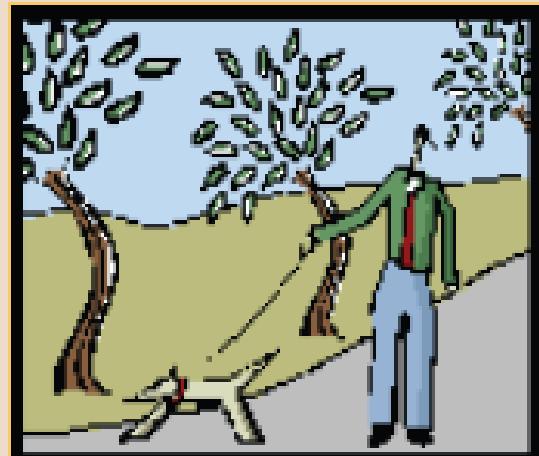
Lexington has been named a Tree City USA City for the 17th year in a row. The designation honors Lexington's commitment to nurturing a diverse urban forest.

Arbor Day 2014 is April 25. 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 to be good 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.**

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.



801 West
Vine Street
308-324-5995

Summer Hours

(Starting April 7)

Mon. - Fri.

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

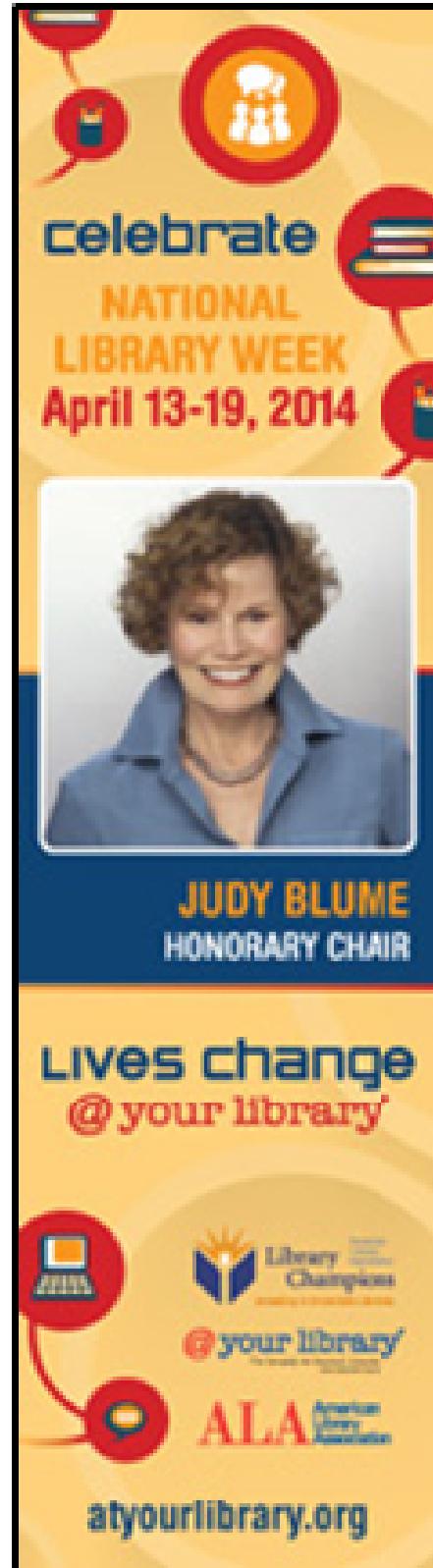
- dispose of furniture, appliances, and other large items
- pick up free wood chips, dirt or compost
- dispose of tree limbs.





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EnergyWise Tip: Spring Cleaning for Air Conditioners



Many escape the summertime heat by enjoying the "cool" their central air conditioning and heat pump systems provide. According to the Air Conditioning Contractors of America Association, the average system loses 5 percent efficiency a year as it becomes dirty and requires maintenance. By making a small investment in effort and/or money, a simple cleaning can yield dividends in assured comfort and lower cooling bills. You will also help prolong the life of your system.

Most central air conditioner and air-source heat pump systems have two basic parts: an outdoor unit (often referred to as the condenser) that sits next to your home, and an indoor unit that is part of your furnace and ductwork. Two copper tubes connect an outdoor coil to an indoor coil located inside your furnace or air handler. For central air conditioners, one tube is covered with foam insulation. If you have a heat pump, both tubes will be insulated.

Start at the coil in the outdoor unit. The fan inside the unit draws air through the coil fins, and as a result, pulls dirt and debris with it. Dust, leaves, dead grass and paper can collect on and between the coil fins. Eventually, this blocks airflow and reduces your unit's efficiency.

First and most importantly, before starting any work, shut off power to your system! Having the unit switch on while cleaning is not only extremely dangerous, it could be fatal!

Next, trim any plants, grass or foliage at least two feet away from the outdoor unit. Then, remove the outer case with a screwdriver or nut driver and vacuum the fins with a soft-bristle brush attachment. Note that metal fins are delicate so avoid bending them.

Using a water hose with a spray nozzle, carefully flush away trapped dirt and debris from the coils by spraying from the inside out. This will prevent pushing dirt further into the coil. Take care so that the pressurized water does not bend the metal fins.

After rinsing, inspect the coil fins inside and out for any damage. If quite a few of the coil fins appear bent, they

can be combed straight with a special "fin comb," available from an air conditioning supply store.

Allow the outdoor unit to completely dry before reassembling it. While waiting, you will want to go inside and check the furnace filter to see if it requires replacement. When opening the filter compartment, vacuum up any dust that has collected and replace the filter as appropriate.

Once everything is put back together as it should be, you are ready to turn the power to the system back "on" and operate as desired.

A more-thorough and convenient way to assure improved cooling efficiency would be to contact a professional HVAC technician to perform a tune-up. What does a tune-up service include?

- A comprehensive system inspection
- Cleaning all coils
- Lubricating moving mechanical parts
- Replacing air filter (if necessary)
- Checking coolant, fluid, and pressure levels
- Cleaning and draining condensate line
- Checking system wiring and thermostat controls



Professional tune-ups go into greater detail than what most homeowners can do to assure proper system operation. If it has been three or more years since your system has had a professional cooling system tune-up, Lexington Utilities System has a \$30 EnergyWiseSM incentive available to homeowners who have their cooling system tuned-up, regardless of what type or age of cooling system it is (air conditioner, air or water source heat pump).

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. That includes making the most efficient use of your cooling system this summer. For more ideas on how you can make your home EnergyWiseSM, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com.





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

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.**

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

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.



Emergency warning system tests of one minute in duration are conducted the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

CLIP AND SAVE

