

City Happenings

August 2014

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Road Construction Update

The featured road project for the summer of 2014 is on track. The project started June 16 and has a schedule of 95 working days. That puts the final completion time around the end of October. The federally-funded project has four phases, including a stretch of 13th Street that is several blocks away from the majority of the work. Here's a snapshot of the phases:

Phase 1 - Jackson Street from 5th to 8th. The road portion is mainly done, including new underground storm sewer pipes. This phase is scheduled to be open to traffic August 18. Street lighting will be completed by mid-September.

Phase 2 - the north half of 13th Street, between Adams and Park Streets. This phase is also nearly done and open to traffic. A supplier's delay in delivering new light poles has delayed final completion, but lighting installation is expected in mid-September.

Phase 3 - 6th Street from Grant to Jefferson. Following the opening of Jackson Street to traffic, removal and reconstruction work will begin on 6th Street from Grant to Jefferson Streets. This phase will be divided into two



sections that will facilitate continued access to abutting businesses and residents. Paving and lighting improvements on this phase should be complete by the end of September.

Phase 4 - 6th Street from Jefferson to Taft. Includes

intersection reconstruction, panel replacements, and street lighting improvements along 6th Street from Jefferson Street to Taft Street. This phase is also anticipated to be complete by the end of September.





Legend Oaks Phase 2

The first phase of Lexington's Legend Oaks senior living neighborhood near 18th & Adams was finished in the fall of 2010. Phase 2 of the project will soon be completed. In fact, a number of the new duplexes are already occupied. To facilitate the project, the City extended 18th Street from Adams to Lake, and built a new 19th Street Place (see photo above).

The development also boasts 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.



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





DAWSON COUNTY HOUSING STUDY

Recently Dawson Area Development (DAD) commissioned a housing study, and the results are in. The Dawson County Area Housing Study is showing a need to produce up to 360+ new housing units in Area Communities, during the next five years. "This reflects a stable population base, good local economy and the desire of Area residents to live in new owner and rental housing," according to Jennifer Wolf, DAD Executive Director. "New and modern housing stock in the Area will match, perfectly, with the future economic initiatives of DAD. New housing stock will stimulate the building industry, while providing business and industry with an inventory of housing for the local workforce."

DAD prepared the Housing Study with help from Hanna:Keelan Associates, P.C., a Nebraska based community planning and research consulting firm.

The communities of Cozad, Gothenburg and Lexington have been identified as needing up to 64, 66 and 185 new housing units, respectively, by 2019. The smaller Communities, such as Elwood, Eustis and Overton, also show a need for new housing stock, targeted, primarily, to working families and elderly households.

"The preservation of the existing Dawson County Area housing stock has also been a topic of special interest during the development of the Housing Study," states Wolf. "The study has shown a strong need to rehabilitate or repair the existing housing stock in the area."

Hanna:Keelan has also identified a housing potential for the downtowns in Lexington, Cozad and Gothenburg. "An estimated 22 new units could be targeted for Lexington, 14 for Cozad and 10 units for Gothenburg, during the next several years," states community planner Tim Keelan. "Upper story housing, both owner and rental, would be a good fit with each Community's Downtown Revitalization Project."

The City's website (www.cityoflex.com) has PDFs of the full study as well the an executive summary, see the "City Public Records" under "About Lexington."

Any questions and/or comments regarding the new Housing Study can be directed to Jennifer Wolf, 308-217-0004, jen@dawsonareadevelopment.com.





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907 North Washington Street

Lexington Public Library is part of a statewide grant awarded by the **American Library Association** and the **FINRA Investor Education Foundation** to the **Nebraska Library Commission** and the **Northeast Library System** to provide financial literacy training at 22 libraries across Nebraska. Better financial and investor information resources and educational programs will be coming to the library.



Lexington Public Library was chosen through a competitive process to participate in this program. This prestigious grant is helping to build the capacity of the library to provide effective, unbiased financial education to the community. New books and DVDs to help our residents make informed decisions about budgeting, money management, saving for college, buying a home, retirement planning, and more are in the library, and via downloadable audiobooks and e-books. The library currently has a book display of all the new

materials; so stop by and see all the items available for your use! This program is made possible by a grant from the **Smart Investing @ Your Library® Builds Nebraska Communities** project, a partnership with the American Library Association.

The library hosted a **Back to School Movie Night** on Monday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m.



Thanks to everyone who came to enjoy popcorn and a movie before school begins. For more information call the library at 324-2151. Movie nights will be held the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Calling all teens grades 6-12!

The library will also be offering the movie version of a popular novel for teens at the library on Wednesday, August 20, at 3:30 p.m. For more information call the library at 324-2151.

A **Fifth Friday Pitch Party** will be held at the library on Friday, August 29th at 9:30 am. This is the kick-off event for Coffee and Cards at the library, which will resume after Labor Day.

The adult summer reading

program, **Literary Elements**, will continue through Labor Day. If you haven't already registered, be sure to stop by the check-out desk and register for this program. You will get a cool blue tote bag with lots of goodies inside. Then as you read/listen to your favorite authors, all you have to do is rate what you read and turn in the reviews. We'll have weekly prize drawings and after Labor Day.



Like us on FaceBook!

Get the latest scoops about what's going on in Lexington!

Be sure to search for "City of Lexington." The FaceBook folks created a generic "Lexington" page, but that does not give you the news and updates from our official FB page.



EnergyWise Tip: **Outside Lighting**



As we slowly progress toward our winter solstice, daytime becomes shorter, nighttime becomes longer and exterior lighting becomes more important. Accord to the Department of Energy, 22 percent of all energy generated in the U.S. is used for lighting.

Even with that, the last thing home owners typically consider is how efficient their yard or area lights are. In fact, if you still are using one of those 175-watt mercury vapor yard lights from dusk until dawn, it is costing you around \$100 a year.

Although many incandescent, fluorescent and mercury vapor outdoor lighting systems have been replaced with metal halide or high-pressure sodium systems, new light-emitting diode (LED) technology provides even greater savings. A comparable 65-watt LED fixture provides superior quality to that old 175-watt mercury vapor light and uses less than a third of the energy.

LED lighting provides several potential advantages over metal halide and high-pressure sodium sources. Well-designed LED outdoor luminaires provide the required surface illumination using less energy and with improved uniformity. LED luminaires usually have significantly longer life (50,000 hours or more, compared to 15,000 to 35,000 hours for metal halide and high-pressure sodium lights) and maintain

their lighting level output better over the course of their life. Another LED advantage is that they contain no mercury, lead, or other known disposal hazards. And unlike mercury vapor, metal halide and high-pressure sodium lights, LEDs come on instantly without a warm up time or relighting delay. Lexington Public Library recently switched its exterior lighting to LED (see photo below).



When shopping for a new LED light, note that product quality can vary significantly among manufacturers, so due diligence is required in their selection and use. Here are a few things to consider:

Durability

Outdoor lights often become perches for birds and the debris that comes with them. The luminaire should not collect and retain dirt or water on its top side, and the optical chamber should remain clean. Ask about the long-

term reliability of gaskets and seals relative to the expected useful life of the LED. Many manufacturers will warrant their fixtures if it fails in fewer than five years.

Color

The most efficient white LEDs at this time emit a cool white light, which makes them bright-white to bluish-white in appearance. This also corresponds to the type of light that the human eye sees with more visually acuity. Also, LEDs are better than high pressure sodium and standard metal halide lights in making the color of things appear as they would in natural daylight.

Life and lumen maintenance
Most LED manufacturers define useful life based on the estimated time at which LED light output will depreciate to 80 percent of its initial rating, and they often target 50,000 hours of useful life. However, some outdoor luminaires are designed for much longer useful lives of 100,000 to 150,000 hours.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. This includes illuminating your nights! For more ideas on how you can make your home EnergyWiseSM, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com.





801 West
Vine Street
308-324-5995

Summer Hours

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

Open the third Saturday
of each summer month

(last one: Aug 16)

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

NOTE: do not discard appliances, furniture, lumber, etc., at the East Walnut compost site. That's for recently-growing yard waste only.

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



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.



Emergency warning system tests of one minute in duration are conducted the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Sirens are designed for outdoors warning only. For optimal safety, citizens are encouraged to get weather radios using the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and/or SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) standards.

CLIP AND SAVE

