

City Happenings

December 2014

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



What's Going On At . . . ?

Downtown

The City has installed colorful new holiday banners on many of the historic light poles downtown. Please take time to check them out, as it would be a good time to get some Christmas shopping done at local downtown businesses, or take a break at one of Lexington's fine downtown eateries.



Southeast Business Park

The City has developed and installed the new landscaped area at the southeast corner of Hwy 283 & Frontier street (sod, irrigation, trees, rock gardens and flowering shrubs). The colorful addition is one more step in the long-term plan to make the City's entrance more charming and inviting. Look for more improvements in 2015.



Legend Oaks Phase 2 Completed



An open house on December 2 signaled the completion of the new senior housing project **Legend Oaks**. Located between 18th and 20th Streets on the west side of Adams Street, Phase 1 of the project was completed in late 2010, with 21 townhome units. Phase 2 adds 18 units (nine duplexes). The new project included a new stretch of 18th Street between Adams and Park Streets. A clubhouse was included in Phase 1, at the northeast corner. Designed for senior (55+) rental living, Legend Oaks is administered by the Lexington Housing Authority. For more information, Contact Diane Adams at LHA, 308-324-4633.



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Lexington High School Ag students prior to planting the trees at the Optimist Recreation Complex



Lexington Tree Board member Gordon Sellin holds up an elm tree while ReTree Nebraska's Jessica Kelling looks on as Nebraska Forestry Service's Amy Seiler explains the finer points of tree planting.

Thanks to **ReTree Nebraska**, Lexington has 12 new trees in two parks. Additionally six Agriculture students from Lexington High School got a tree-planting lesson and practical experience helping install the trees. On October 28, students from **Brad Schott's** Ag class, along with members of Lexington's Tree Board and experts from ReTree Nebraska and the Nebraska Forest Service, helped plant 10 trees at the Optimist Recreation Complex. Because the students had another class to attend later, City Parks workers pre-dug 10 holes, and were on hand to offer other assistance. City workers later planted the other two trees at Kirkpatrick Memorial Park. The trees were brought to town by **Jessica Kelling** of ReTree Nebraska, an organization promoting Nebraskans to plant more trees. Spring and autumn are good times to plant trees. If you plant any trees, remember to go to

<http://retreenebraska.unl.edu/> and report it, so they can add your tree(s) to the count. Since 2007 almost 100,000 trees have been reported.

ReTree Nebraska is a partnership between the Nebraska Forest Service, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Nebraska Community Forestry Council, UNL Agronomy & Horticulture, University of Nebraska Rural Initiative, Nebraska Environmental Trust, and Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources.



Grand Generation Center Christmas Dinner Entertainment

December 19

The Grand Generation Center presents "Spiritual Drumming" with Reverend Kelly Karges and the assistance of the United Methodist Church of Overton. This program was presented at Park Avenue Estates and the reviews were outstanding.

During this program you will be able to enjoy the music created by your own hands! Family, friends and the public are welcome to attend. Program will begin at 12:30 p.m. following our Christmas dinner.



Who Do You "Like?"

FaceBook users: "Friend" the City & get the latest scoops about what's going on in Lex!

Be sure to search for correct "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.





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907 North Washington Street



The library is kicking off the holiday season with a **Gently Used Book Sale**. A nice

selection of used books will be available for your browsing and selection throughout December. So start your Christmas shopping at the library and select books for the readers on your holiday list.

Children who visit the library during December can **"Unwrap an Adventure."**



Materials from the Youth Services Area were selected and wrapped by the Friends of the Library. These wrapped materials fill a Christmas sleigh. When children select a wrapped book, they can check the item out, unwrap it, and take it home to read.



Also, while visiting the library, children are invited to help **Decorate the**

Christmas Tree in the Youth Services Area. Paper and decorating materials will be supplied and children can create a variety of decorations for the children's tree.



Coffee, hot cider and cookies will be served at the library on

December 22 and December 23. Be sure to stop by the library on these days, browse the Gently Used Book Sale, sit by the fireplace, and enjoy a cup of hot cider or coffee and a cookie.



The library is pleased to again be the host of the Lexington Regional Health

Center **Hospice Memorial Tree**. Memorial ornaments can be purchased and a replica of the ornament will be displayed on the tree in memory of the loved one. Information about the ornaments and purchasing of the ornaments is available at the check-out desk at the library. Ornaments can be purchased the Lexington Regional Health Center Hospice office.



Three movies will be shown at the library during December. On Monday,

Dec. 15, 1:30 p.m., a **Christmas Movie** will be shown for the **Monday Movie Matinee**. A Christmas Movie will also be shown at **Family Movie Night** on December 15 at 6:30 p.m. Take a break and enjoy a Christmas movie at the library!

A movie that is **Just for Teens** will be shown on Wednesday,

December 17, at 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. See JoAnn to find out more about this movie. A Monday Movie Matinee will also be held on January 19 at 1:30 p.m.

If you have any questions about the movies at the library, call the library at 324-2151.



The last **Lapsit/Storytime** for 2014 will be held on December 17 at 10:30 a.m. The next Lapsit/Storytime will be January 7, 2015.



On January 22, at 7:00 p.m., storyteller **Michael Reno Harrell**, who is part of the Kearney Area

Storytelling Festival, will be presenting a program at the library. Hailing from the Southern Appalachian Mountains, Harrell is a veteran storyteller and entertainer, and an award winning songwriter. This program is sponsored by the **Lexington Library Memorial Fund** and the **Lexington Community Foundation**.



EnergyWise Tip: **Holiday Heat**



“Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful.” That is, unless your festivities and habits are driving your heating bills through the roof. Then, it’s not so pleasant when you get your utility bills after the holidays.

It’s common to blame holiday lighting for an increase in your electric bill during the winter months, but many other factors, including heating your home, affect your monthly bill. As you probably intend to keep toasty this holiday season, you should keep energy efficiency in mind. Here are a few efficiency tips during the holidays and throughout the winter season:

Sun Heat – It’s Free!

Open curtains on south-facing windows during sunny days to allow sunlight to heat your home naturally. Be sure to close them at night to reduce heat loss back through the windows.

Drafty Windows + Plastic Film = Comfort

Ensure windows are tightly closed, locked, and then secure clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the winter. Be sure the plastic is tightly sealed around the entire perimeter of frame to help reduce infiltration. Most hardware stores carry inexpensive kits for this purpose.

Blankets for Windows

Install insulating drapes or shades on all windows to further reduce heat loss.

Dial Up the Right Number

Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable, when you are home and awake. At most, 68°F is recommended. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat down. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to adjust your home’s temperature to its most efficient range.



Furnace Tune Up

Schedule service for your heating system, if necessary. Find out what maintenance is required to keep your heating system operating efficiently. Replace your furnace filter once a month or as needed.

Old Flames

If you have a wood or pellet stove, or fireplace, clean the flue regularly to ensure your home is heated safely and efficiently. After holiday festivities, do not burn used wrapping paper as it produces little heat but may possibly release toxic fumes. Close the flue tightly when not in use.

Cold Duct

Un-insulated and leaky ducts in unconditioned spaces such as attics and crawl spaces can lose 10-30% of the energy used to heat your home. Fortunately, sealing and insulating is fairly easy and does not require any special carpentry skills.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District wish you and yours the very best during the holidays. Part of our commitment to providing you outstanding customer service includes helping you make the most of the energy you use throughout the year. For more ideas on how you can make your home, business or farming operation more EnergyWiseSM, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com.



STUDENTS!
NOW is the time to apply for summer City jobs: concessions, lifeguards, & 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!

Does this look like an easy shortcut?

Last year **427** people agreed with you.

...may they rest in peace



Stay off. Stay away. Stay Alive



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

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www.cityoflex.com

Lexington snow and ice removal

Winter has already reared its frosty head. 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 moved onto 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

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.



