

City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Lexington Fieldhouse Project Moving Forward!



The Fieldhouse, a proposed 27,000 square-foot indoor sports/activity center planned at the Optimist Recreation Complex is moving forward! The City said it would start the project if 90% of the \$ 1.4 million fundraising goal was met.

(This includes pledges and other promised future contributions.)

We are happy to report that the 90% milestone was reached, and the project has been launched. Project bids were received, and the City Council awarded a contract to the low bidder on March 24. Site work has started, and the completion date is estimated to be the first week of October 2015.



The final push is on! The Community needs you to help reach the 100% fund-raising goal. [Click here](#) for information on how you can help make the project a success. **No donation is too small!**

Thanks to the many individual donors so far who have made this this level of progress possible, and to the Lexington Community Foundation.

Thanks to the many individual donors who have made this this level of progress possible, and those who will help get the project to the finish line. The Fieldhouse will prove to be an asset to the community, and provide additional opportunities for people of all ages into the future!



Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Honors Lexington



(L to R) Kent Forney, NG&PC Chairman, Mayor John Fagot, James Douglas, NG&PC Director.



The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission met in Lexington March 19-20. The Commission has a practice of holding its quarterly meetings in different cities. NG&PC During the meeting, the Commission presented Lexington Mayor John Fagot with a resolution thanking the City for hosting the event. Director Jim Douglas said this is the first time the Commission has held a regular meeting in Lexington.

The resolution reads:

WHEREAS the City of Lexington, Mayor John Fagot, and other personnel of the City of Lexington hosted the Nebraska Game and Parks Commissioners and staff for the March 19-20, 2015, Games and Parks Commission meetings and extended warm and gracious hospitality in every way, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission wishes to express great appreciate to the City of Lexington for the use of the facilities and for the opportunity to spend time in Lexington and enjoy the surroundings and the company of its citizens.





Playground Improvements at Plum Creek Park

In March the City completed assembly of new playground feature at Plum Creek Park, near 11th & Adams. The cost of the equipment was offset in large part thanks to a grant from GameTime, the manufacturer of the unit.

**Lexington
 Family Aquatic
 Center 2013 Season
 May 23 - August 2**
 Hours: 1 :00- 7:30 PM M-TH
 1:00 - 6:00 PM Fri-Sun
 10th & Monroe

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Lexington Receives Tree Planting Funds



The 2014 Trees for Nebraska Towns (TNT) program afforded Lexington funding for 40 new trees last year. The program had some leftover funds and so the City applied for funds to plant nine new big trees at Kirkpatrick Memorial Park in March.

Planting trees at Kirkpatrick Memorial Park (archive photo).

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>).

RETREE'S 15 FOR 2015

Consider these tree species for healthy and diverse community forests:

2015 species
Hackberry,
Celtis occidentalis

2015 species
American sycamore,
Platanus occidentalis

More ReTree species:

Chinkapin Oak	Catalpa	Baldcypress
Bur oak	Miyabe maple	Concolor fir
English oak	Shantung maple	Black Hills Spruce
Gambel oak	Black, sugar or bigtooth maple	Ponderosa pine
Elm cultivars	Japanese treelilac or Pekin lilac	Kentucky coffeetree

Learn more about these species, tree-planting and tree care at retreenebraska.unl.edu





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907 North Washington Street

The Library is working on a new Strategic Plan. Part of this includes gathering information from community members. We've developed a very brief survey (11 questions, English and Spanish) that should take less than five minutes to complete. Please take a moment now and complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DO9W2S3>.



Unlimited Possibilities – is the theme of **National Library Week 2015**. Stop by the library to learn about all that your library has to

offer in programming, services, and materials. The library will be serving coffee, tea and cookies on April 16 to show appreciation for all our great library patrons.

Also on April 16 we'll have a concert at 7:00 p.m. **Dana and Susan Robinson** will be performing songs of rural America and old time mountain music.



Mark the third Monday of each month on your calendar to come to the library at 1:30 p.m. and watch some of the greatest

movies of all times. **Monday Movie Matinee** features a movie, refreshments and a relaxing

afternoon. Upcoming dates are April 20 and May 18.

The library also offers **Family Movie Night** is held on one Monday evening each month. So bring the family to watch a fun, family movie, while you munch on a bag of popcorn. Upcoming dates are April 27 and May 18 at 6:30 pm. Call the library (324-2151) for more details.



The library will host Nebraska author **Shannon Baker** on Sunday, May 3, at 2:00 p.m. Baker is the author of the **Nora Abbott Mystery Series** and was the Rocky Mountain Fiction

Writers 2014 Writer of the Year. She will present a program that includes reading from her books and telling about the writing experience.

The library is offering a new opportunity for quilters and other stitchers. On the third Thursday of each month, all those interested in stitching can bring their projects to the Library Board Room for **Stitching at the Library** from 6 to 9 p.m. The stitching is not limited to quilting projects, but can be any type of needlework. So grab your current project, or favorite crafting book or magazine and come join the fun and fellowship. The next meeting for this group will be April 16.



The **2015 Summer Reading** Theme for Pre-school through Grade 5 is **Every Hero Has a Story** and for Grades 6 through Grade 12 the theme is



Unmask! Registration begins May 21. The program kickoff for Summer Reading will be held on June 3 at 10:30 a.m. Heroes of the Library will be presented by **Keith West**. The adult summer reading program, **Escape the Ordinary**, will begin June 1.

On Sunday, May 31, at 2:00 p.m., **Pippa White** will return to Lexington to present **On Our Own Soil**. This Civil War narrative lets America's citizens, both from the North and the South, tell what it was like to live through our country's greatest upheaval, our country's greatest ordeal. Soldiers, nurses, children, generals, townsfolk all weigh in to share their stories and their experiences as war became a way of life for the nation for years. Whether in uniform or not, everyone was touched by war on our own soil. Hear their true stories.



Library programs in April and May are funded by the **Lexington Library Memorial Fund** and the **Lexington Community Foundation**.



EnergyWise Tip: **Earth Day**



Recognized every April 22, Earth Day sprouted in 1970. While some may recognize this 45th birthday party by planting a tree, walking to work, or turning in recyclables, why just celebrate one day each year? Why not every day? When you implement energy efficiency into daily life, you demonstrate your support for making the most of the energy Mother Earth and the sun provide. Here are a few simple items you can do to show your appreciation year round:

Set the Water Heater Temperature

Water heating is usually the second-most user of energy in your home. More often than not, the temperature setting is above the recommended 120° Fahrenheit. If so, you're heating and holding the water temperature above the level that's necessary or safe. Note that most water heaters do not have an accurate thermometer integrated with the thermostat. Rather, you will need to use a thermometer at a water faucet to determine your actual temperature setting.

Install a Programmable Thermostat

When you are not home, or asleep for the night, why would you need to keep your home heated or cooled to the same temperature as when you are at home and active? If you don't have a programmable thermostat, get one and use it!

If you do have one and do not use it, what's your excuse? Programmable thermostats allow you to raise and lower settings according to your regular weekly schedule. If you happen to be home and outside your normal routine, programmable thermostats are easily overridden and revert back to their programmed setpoints when the next program's time comes. Remember, heating and cooling consume half or more of the energy used in your home.



Install LEDs

Let go of the old, inefficient incandescent light bulbs and install LED lamps instead. For the same amount of light, LEDs only require 20 percent of the energy. Plus, they'll last up to 50 times longer. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that over 3 billion screw-based light sockets still contain an inefficient incandescent or halogen bulb. Switching to LEDs would yield more than \$7 billion in savings for U.S. households annually.

Replace older Plasma Televisions

By the late 1990s, plasma television sets were becoming the rage. Unfortunately, this huge leap in picture quality came with a corresponding leap in energy use with larger units consuming as much electricity as some microwave ovens. Though most manufacturers stopped making plasma sets and have moved on to higher quality, energy-efficient LED and LCD units, millions of energy guzzling Plasmas are still in use.

Check your set-top box

The set-top box connected to your television to receive cable or satellite signals could be using more energy than your big screen TV alone. If your unit feels hot, it's probably inefficient. Ask your service provider for an ENERGY STAR™ version 3 box, and if you have multiple TVs, request a whole-home DVR.

When Finished, Unplug the Game

About half of U.S. households have a video-game console. Though the newest models significantly reduce using power when idle, they could still consume each month as much electricity as your refrigerator. If available, set the menu to power down the unit after one hour of inactivity

(continues on next page)



EnergyWise Tip: Earth Day (continued)

or less. If your system does not have this feature, unplug it when you are finished.



Naps and Sleep are for Computers Too

An average desktop computer, monitor, and printer left on continuously will waste \$50 or more a year in electricity. Adjust your control-panel settings for the screen to turn off after 15 minutes of inactivity and for the computer to “power down” after 30 minutes of no use. Remember to set the screen to turn off, rather than continuously running a screen saver. Finally, turn off your computer and all peripherals if you are not going to use them for an extended time.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District wish you an enjoyable Earth Day this year and hope you appreciate the value Public Power in Nebraska brings every day. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, along with possible energy efficiency financial incentives, contact your local utility or visit www.nppd.com.



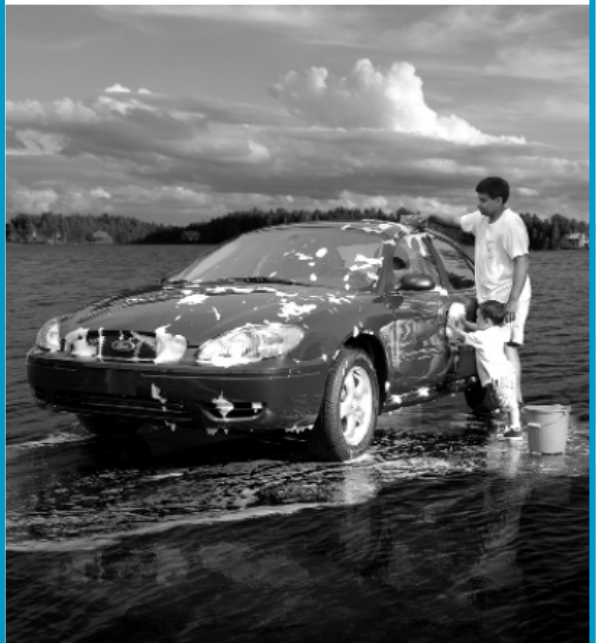
Like us on FaceBook!

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

FaceBook users: be sure to search for “City of Lexington, Nebraska” (not to be confused with the generic page the FaceBook folks created). Only our official page gives you the latest news and updates.

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

Remember, you’re not just washing your car



Practice good car care

Did you know . . . 4 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 towards the lawn and away from the storm drain.
- Keep your car properly tuned.
- Recycle used fluids and never dump them down the storm drain.

Help keep the oil where it belongs . . . in your car.



Support provided by NDEQ



Lexington Named a Tree City USA for 18th Consecutive Year



Lexington has been named a Tree City USA City for the 18th year in a row. The designation honors Lexington's commitment to nurturing a diverse urban forest.

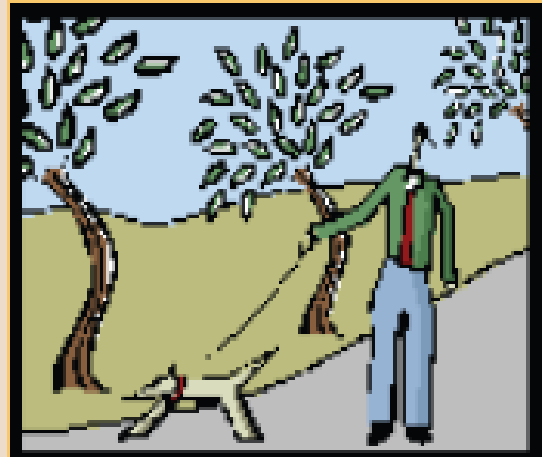
Arbor Day 2015 is April 24. The Tree Board and the City are planning tree-planting and awareness activities. Let us know if you plan something. Citizens are encouraged to participate by planting trees too. The Tree Board

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

(Started March 16)

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

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



CITY OF LEXINGTON YOUTH TENNIS CLINIC

Please pre-register by **May 20, 2015**, To The City of Lexington at the Grand Generation Center located at 407 East 6th Street, Lexington, Nebraska. For more information call: Ann H. Luther 308-325-5277.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Sex F or M Date of Birth _____

Age on January 1, 2015 _____ School _____ Grade _____

Parents Name _____ Work Telephone # _____

Cell # _____ Emergency Contact _____ Telephone # _____

T-Shirt Size *(Circle One)* Youth: M or L Adult: S M L XL

I give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the City Recreation Program. I release the City of Lexington, Lexington Public Schools, Coaches, Sponsors, etc., for any and all injuries which my son/daughter might suffer in connection with this program. I also understand that no medical insurance is provided by the City of Lexington.

Parents Signature _____ Date _____

Cost: \$20.00

Instructor: Jake Saulsbury, Tennis Coach at UNK

Class Descriptions:

Quickstart: (6-7 years old): A 36 foot court used with this age group. Hand and eye coordination and technique are the main focus with the use of softer tennis balls. Children will be able to experience fun and success immediately because of the Quickstart model.

Orange Ball/Green Ball (ages 8-11): A 60 foot court is used with low compression balls. Stroke development and strategy introduction is the main focus of this clinic. Many game-based drills are featured in this clinic.

Middle School/High School: Players should have experience in playing tennis and/or be part of the high school team. This clinic will be an opportunity to improve strategy, technique and match skills and will consist of competitive drills and point play.

CLINIC DATES

Wednesday **May 27** and Thursday **May 28**

Middle School/High School: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Orange Ball/Green Ball (ages 8-11): 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Quick Start (ages 6 & 7): 11:00 am – 11:45 am

THEN: On Wednesday Afternoons, June 3, 10, 17, and 24

Quick Start (ages 6 & 7): 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Orange Ball/Green Ball: 4:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Middle school/High School: 4:45 pm – 5:45 pm



The clinics will be held at the Tennis Courts in Plum Creek Park.



NEBRASKA'S MOST

WANTED

INVASIVE INSECTS

These insects are not currently found in Nebraska.



Walnut Twig Beetle *Origin- North America*

The walnut twig beetle is native to Arizona, California, New Mexico, and northern Mexico but was linked to black walnut tree mortality in the front range of Colorado in 2004. The beetle is the vector of a fungus (*Geosmithia morbida*) that causes Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD), an accumulation of many small branch and stem cankers that girdle and kill branches or the whole tree by halting the normal flow of nutrients. TCD is now found in 16 states including those in the native black walnut region.



Emerald Ash Borer *Origin- Asia*

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a small woodboring beetle that aggressively attacks and kills all varieties of Ash trees (*Fraxinus* sp.). EAB was first identified in Michigan as the cause of widespread ash tree decline and mortality. It was thought to be transported to the United States in wood packing material from Asia. Since its initial infestation in 2002, EAB has spread to 23 states.



Gypsy Moth *Origin- Europe and Asia*

The gypsy moth has been one of the most destructive pests of hardwood trees in the Northeastern United States since its introduction in 1869. Although oaks are the preferred host species, larvae consume the leaves of over 500 species of trees, shrubs and plants. Established gypsy moth populations exist in all or parts of 19 states.



Asian Longhorned Beetle *Origin- Asia*

Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is a large wood boring beetle that attacks a variety of healthy, hardwood trees, primarily maple, elm, willow, birch, and Horsechestnut. ALB was accidentally introduced from Asia and has been discovered in 5 states since 1996.



YOU CAN HELP STOP THESE INVADERS!

- BUY LOCAL, BURN LOCAL**
Invasive insects and diseases can hitchhike long distances in firewood. Don't give them a free ride to start a new infestation - buy firewood where you burn it.
- LEARN TO IDENTIFY**
If you see signs of an invasive insect or disease, report what you see to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2351 or agr.plant@nebraska.gov.
- PLANT CAREFULLY**
Buy your plants from a reputable source. Make sure the nursery is licensed and the nursery stock has been certified.

Nebraska Department of Agriculture | 402-471-2351 | www.nda.nebraska.gov



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.

CLIP AND SAVE

