

# City Happenings

August 2015

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



## Lexington Fieldhouse Construction Starts



Lexington's new 27,000 square foot indoor activity center broke ground in mid-July with footing and foundation work. In early August, structural steel began rising from the ground. The long anticipated facility is planned to be operational by mid-October.

Less than \$98,000 of the fundraising goal for the \$1.4 Million project remains. Please help your community reach its goal and secure your place on the donor "Wall of Fame," for more information on how you can help, [click here](#).

Stay tuned for more Fieldhouse information coming soon!



**ABOVE:** Shot from the southeast of early framework progress at the site of the Lexington Fieldhouse, at the north side of the Optimist Recreation Complex at 1602 Airport Road.

**BELOW:** Slightly earlier shot from the west. The new structure is attached to the existing building that houses concessions, restrooms and changing rooms.



## Downtown Improvements Now in 4th Phase



**ABOVE:** 5th Street from Grant to Lincoln (Phases 1 & 2) are done.

**RIGHT:** Phase 4 started July 27 on 6th Street from Grant to Washington.



The construction in downtown Lexington is nearly complete. Phases 1 & 2 improved parking/curbs/sidewalks/drainage on 5th Street between Grant and Lincoln, and Phases 3 & 4 will do the same on 6th Street.

This is designed to improve accessibility and safety for residents and users of downtown amenities. The most visible feature is the replacement of bricks with concrete in the parking areas. Also drainage and water supply are being improved.

The project is funded by a Comprehensive Investment Stabilization grant. The CIS grant is part of a Community Development Block Grant program administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.



## Lexington Firefighters Awarded for Excellence



Lexington Volunteer Fire Department's Dave Berke and Jim Linch were recognized for their efforts as outstanding firefighters with the Award of Merit for Firemanship. The award was presented at the annual Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association Fire School in May. The awards not only recognize these 2 individuals, they also recognize the LVFD and the City of Lexington in our dedication to the community.

**Left to Right:** LVFD's Dale Holbein, Jim Linch and Dave Berke



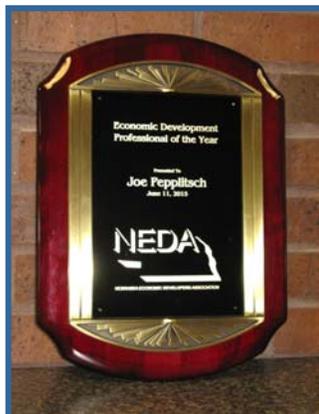
## What's going on at . . . ?



### **Kirkpatrick Memorial Park**

Just east of the Lexington Family Aquatic Center the City has constructed a new activity court to appeal to enthusiasts of multiple sports. Boasting a concrete surface, it also has combined basketball and soccer goals. The surrounding fence helps keep balls from getting away. There will soon be lights added to facilitate night play.

## City Manager Named Economic Developer of the Year



“Joe Peplitsch is a maverick when it comes to economic development,” said Jennifer Wolf, Executive Director of Dawson Area Development. “In the past year alone he has spearheaded several projects, all wildly successful, thanks to his leadership.”

Peplitsch has been in the profession for 21 years. He has a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of South Dakota, and continuing education courses in economic development. Currently Peplitsch is Chair of Dawson County Area Development, a Past President of Nebraska City/County Management Association, and serves on Nebraska League of Municipalities legislative committees.

Lexington City Manager Joe Peplitsch has been named the 2015 Nebraska Economic Developers Association (NEDA) Professional of the Year.

NEDA, the largest association of economic development professionals in Nebraska, presented the award at its Annual Conference in Gering June 11.

“Joe’s leadership, talent and ability to see economic development projects to completion is evident in Lexington,” said NEDA President Nicole Sedlacek. “The City is fortunate to have Joe at the reins, helping to facilitate economic development for the city.”

“In Lexington, we employ an active planning process with the philosophy of consistently removing obstacles that discourage investment and development opportunities,” Peplitsch said. “We maintain an action plan that provides an annual ‘to do’ list of achievable items to drive progress toward community goals on an incremental group focused basis. We strive to set the table for development in the business and housing sectors through community investment in site acquisition, site preparation, and infrastructure expansion, while fostering public/private partnerships with user-friendly development regulations and programs.”

## EnergyWise Tip: **Summer Peaks**



Why does your electric bill seem to shoot up during the summer? Most people blame air conditioning as the culprit. While it is true for average homeowner that cooling consumes the largest portion of energy during hot months, there is another reason why you have to reach deeper into your pocket to pay summer electric bills.

To support extra-high electricity usage on very hot days, your electric utility often requires supplemental electricity from additional generating facilities known as “peaker plants.” These plants, which usually do not operate 97 percent to 99 percent of the year, can be switched on quickly to satisfy peak power demand, experienced when homes and businesses are using air conditioning in addition to their regular electrical use. For most utilities in the U.S., these peak periods occur weekdays, between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Unfortunately, electricity from peaker plants is more expensive than from traditional generation resources. Estimates show that 10 percent to 20 percent of the overall annual cost of providing electricity comes from supplying electrical demand during the 100 most-expensive hours of the year. In

Nebraska these “peaks” usually occur during the summer; therefore, most Nebraska utilities bill their customers using a summer rate (June through September) and a winter rate (October through May). Summer rates are often designed 25 percent to 35 percent higher than winter rates to cover additional peaking power costs.



Is there anything you can do to reduce the impact of summer electrical use on your wallet? Absolutely, there is! The wholesale purchase price your utility must pay for the electricity you use is significantly impacted by what time of day you are using it. If it is during the peak period, your utility will pay more for additional energy resources needed. But if you can reduce your usage during these peaks or shift your usage to another time of day, your utility will pay less

Here are easy ways for you to help your electric utility and reduce your “peak” energy use:

- Your microwave uses about two-thirds less energy than your stove. Better yet, grill outside.
- Your dishwasher uses less water and energy than washing dishes by hand. Use the air-dry setting on your dishwasher to save even more.
- Fill your refrigerator. Filling your fridge with lots of food and beverages will keep it from warming up quickly when the door is open – causing it to run for a long time after the door is closed.
- Set your thermostat to 78° F when you are home and 85° F or off when you are away. Using ceiling or room fans allows you to set the thermostat higher because air movement will make the room feel cooler.
- Do your laundry by using the cold water setting on your washer. Line-dry clothes whenever you can.
- When you need to use the clothes dryer, run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting, and clean the lint trap after each use.
- Unplug electronic devices and chargers when they are not in use. Turn computers and printers off at the power strip.

*(continues on next page)*



**EnergyWise Tip: Summer Peaks**

*(continued from previous page)*



- Unplug and recycle that spare refrigerator in the garage if you do not really need it.
- Replace air conditioner filters. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer.
- Install and use window shading to reduce heat gain inside.
- Install patio covers, awnings, and solar window screens to shade your home.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of your energy dollar this summer while keeping you cool. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup>, along with possible energy efficiency financial incentives, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com).



**Dawson County  
Historical Museum**

*presents:*

**TRAINS SONGS AND TALES  
OF THE WESTWARD RAILS**



In honor of the recent renovations made to the Willow Island Depot the Dawson County Historical Museum, 805 N. Taft, is hosting Humanities Nebraska speaker David Seay. "Train

Songs and Tales of the Westward Rails" 2 - 4 p.m. Saturday, September 19, 805 N Taft Street.



Remember, you're not just walking the dog

**Clean up after your pet**

**Did you know . . .**

. . . that pet waste has bacteria that makes our lakes and rivers unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities?

Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yards clean. But there's another important reason to clean up after out pets.

Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or in the yards means that harmful bacteria can get washed into storm drains and roadside ditches that flow directly into our lakes and rivers untreated.

**So what can you do? Simple.**

Whether you are in your yard or on a walk, dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the trash or toilet to prevent it from entering storm drains and roadside ditches.

Pick up after your pet — and help keep our water clean!



Support provided by NDEQ



[www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com)





## Library News

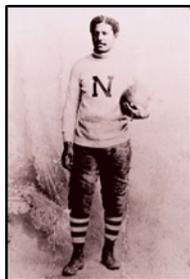
by Kathy Thomsen  
Library Director



907 North Washington Street



The library will host two programs in August that are sponsored by the **Lexington Library Memorial Fund** and the **Lexington Community Foundation**. The **Chord Huskers Barbershop Quartet** already performed at the library on Sunday, August 9. On Sunday, August 23, at 2:00 p.m., Nebraska author **Kathy Nelson**, will be at the library talking about her book *More Than Football; George Flippin's Stromsburg Years.* Flippin, a recent inductee in the Nebraska Black Sports Hall of Fame, has been named one of the Omaha World Herald's Top 100 Greatest Athletes. The Friends of the Library will serve coffee, tea and cookies following these programs.



**Story Time** for children under the age of six will begin for the 2015-2016 school year at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19. At Story Time children can learn from stories, songs, finger plays, and other literary activities. Story Time teaches social and listening skills, gives children a foundation of reading through letters, numbers and vocabulary, and offers the pure enjoyment found in listening to a story being read aloud.



The library will have extra die cut machines and sets of dies from the Central Plains Library System available in August and September. In August the library will have the **Mark IV Accu-Cut Machine** with 124 extra dies available including the set of Extra Large Dies. In September the library will have the **Prestige Space Saver Accu-Cut Machine** with 120 different dies.



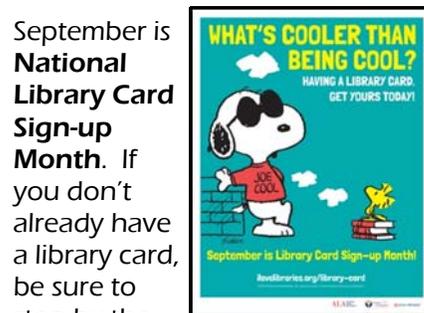
**Teen Activities @ the Library** will resume after the 2015-2016 school year begins. Check with the library for more details.

**Movie Matinee for Adults** will be held at the library on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm. Dates to circle on your calendar for August and September are August 19 and September 16.



**Family Movie Night at the Library** in August will be held at 6:30 p.m. on

Monday, August 31. Call or stop by the library for details about any of these movies.



September is **National Library Card Sign-up Month**. If you don't already have a library card, be sure to stop by the

library during the month of September and register for one. If you live with the city limits of Lexington, library cards are free. Anyone signing up for a new library card in September will be eligible for prize drawings.





801 West  
Vine Street  
308-324-5995

### Summer Hours

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

**OPEN 3rd SATURDAYS**  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

June 20 • July 18  
August 15 • Sept. 19

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

## YARD WASTE ONLY!

At the yard waste site on East Walnut



Other large items may be disposed of at  
the City Service Building, 801 W Vine.



### 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>

A colorful logo for the Lexington Farmers Market. It features a central illustration of various fresh vegetables including carrots, an onion, a green bell pepper, a red bell pepper, and peas. The text "LEXINGTON" is written in a yellow banner above the vegetables, and "FARMERS MARKET" is written in a larger yellow banner below. The entire logo is set against a green background with a red scalloped border.

ends Oct. 10  
South Downtown Parking Lot  
(near Washington & Hwy 30)  
Saturdays 8-11 a.m.  
Tuesdays 4-7 p.m.



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



**Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce  
Annual Labor Day Event**

Antiques & Crafts  
**EXTRAVAGANZA**

*Plan to spend the entire Labor Day weekend in Lexington, NE*

**29th Annual EXTRAVAGANZA!**

Antique, Flea Market, Craft, Collectibles,  
Refurbished Items & Gun Show

**September 5 & 6, 2015**

**Saturday, September 5 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Sunday, September 6 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Dawson County Fairgrounds, Lexington, NE  
Fairgrounds located 1 mile north of I-80 Exit 237

Parking is Free

Admission is \$3 per person each day. Kids under 10 are FREE!

The EXTRAVAGANZA features 180 vendors from five states displaying:  
**ANTIQUES, CRAFTS, & FLEA MARKET ITEMS**

**FOOD VENDORS ON THE GROUNDS!**

Several vendors to choose from with with a nice variety of food!



**A Gun Show will take place in  
the North Commercial Building  
at the fairgrounds.**

**Sept. 5 & 6, 2015**

**Same hours as the EXTRAVAGANZA.**

**There will be  
an additional  
\$2 admission for the Gun Show.**



**Antique &  
Classic Car Show  
Sunday, Sept. 6  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Sponsored by Platte Valley Auto Mart  
If interested in participating in this show, please call  
Todd Booth - 308-324-5619 or  
Julie at 308-324-5504

**Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce**  
P.O. Box 97 - Lexington, NE 68850

**308-324-5504**

