

City Happenings

February 2016

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Lexington Fieldhouse Open for Business

The Lexington Fieldhouse, located at 1502 North Airport Road just north of the Optimist Recreation Complex, officially opened its doors to activities on Saturday, January 16, 2016. The City and several local partners first envisioned the Fieldhouse project approximately eight years ago, as drainage improvements and the competition soccer stadium were being developed at the Optimist Complex. The original maintenance/restroom building at the location was designed and built to serve the outdoor fields as well as a future indoor activity facility. That future is now here with the new Fieldhouse.



More than 2,000 people utilized the Fieldhouse during the opening weekend, and subsequent usage numbers remain strong. City staff is continuing to learn how to best operate the facility and manage activities and events. The goal is to use the facility to its fullest and provide the most public benefit possible. Great results are anticipated! For activity scheduling or general information on the Fieldhouse, please contact Ann Luther, aluther@cityoflex.com, or call 308-325-5277.

Although operational, minor items remain to complete the project, including donor recognition displays honoring the many donors who helped make the Fieldhouse a reality. Project fundraising stands just \$16,500 shy of the \$1.4 million goal. It is

ABOVE: The morning of day one of opening day at the 27,000 square foot Lexington Fieldhouse. A drop-down net bisects the space, allowing for two separate activities at once.

not too late to make or extend a contribution to help the community meet the goal. Thank you to those that have given support for the project, and those who will in the future. For more information on how to contribute, visit www.cityoflex.com.

A ribbon-cutting event will be scheduled in the spring of 2016 to formally dedicate the facility. Stay tuned for further updates.



Police Chief Answers Governor's Call



ABOVE: Lexington Police
Chief Tracy Wolf

Lexington Police Chief Tracy Wolf has been appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts to serve on the Police Standards Advisory Council (PSAC). Wolf will represent all Nebraska First Class (5,000 population and larger) Cities on the council. The PSAC is a standing committee of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, commonly known as the Crime Commission, and is responsible for establishing the standards, rules and training governing the certification of law enforcement officers in Nebraska. The Council is also responsible for the revocation of law enforcement certificates of officers who have failed to meet such requirements.

Council members are appointed by the Governor to four year terms, and consists of seven voting members.



Jerry Barlow
Sunday, February 21
2:00 p.m.

907 N Washington



presents:

Jerry Barlow

On Sunday, February 21, at 2 PM, the library will welcome back Celtic finger-style guitarist Jerry Barlow. A virtuoso musician and Lexington fan favorite, Jerry is a warm and accessible performer, and a world-class storyteller. His repertoire is composed of a synthesis of traditional music from the British Isles and his own original Celtic-inspired compositions.

Funded by the Lexington Library
Memorial Fund and the Lexington
Community Foundation.





Grand Adventures

GGC Happenings

407 East 6th Street

by Susan Bennett
Center Manager



Annual Health Screens Offered at the GGC Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:00 - 9:00 a.m., cost \$20

Lexington Regional Health Center will offer low-cost health screenings at the Grand Generation Center, 407 E 6th Street.



This test will provide a complete blood count, Lipid panel (includes cholesterol), and complete metabolic panel. Other tests available include: TSH (\$10), PSA (\$15) and HgbA1C (\$15).

Important:

- Fast for 10 hours before your screening
- Drink 2 glasses of water prior to screening
- Refreshments will be available

Annual Cake Decorating & Auction February 11, 2016, 1:00 p.m.



Join us for our annual cake decorating day! We will have cakes baked and ready for you to frost. White, red, green and yellow frosting will be available for you to use. You will need to bring anything else you think you might need for your cake.

Teams can be one or two people. Your theme may be Valentines Day or use your own ideas.

Cakes will be displayed and up for auction through Friday, Feb. 12, at 1:00 p.m. All proceeds go to the GGC Support Fund.

Contact Susan or Deb at 324-2498 to reserve our cake at no cost. Shape choices are round, square or heart, and flavors are chocolate or white.



**801 West
Vine Street
308-324-5995
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.





Curfews Designed to Prevent Crime

While considering solutions to youth vandalism and crime, one may turn to the City's long-standing curfew regulations. This may be helpful for parents trying to keep their children out of trouble. It is also recommended that, since police cannot be

everywhere at once, citizens who witness youth out after curfew should notify law enforcement by calling 911.

City Code Section 22.80(c) reads, "Curfew for Juveniles. It shall be unlawful for any person fifteen (15) or less years of age to be or remain in or upon a public place within the city during the period beginning at 10:30 p.m. and ending at 5:00 a.m. on any day of the week, and it shall be unlawful for any person 16 or 17 years of age to be or remain in or upon a public place within the city during the period beginning at 12:00 midnight and ending at 5:00 a.m. on any day of the week.

There are exceptions to this, such as teens walking home following a school activity. To find out more, see the complete City Code at the City website (www.cityoflex.com). Open the Code page and search for the word "curfew."



RYDE
Transit

RYDE Transit is your public transportation service available to all residents of Lexington.



Hours – 8 AM to 5 PM – Monday thru Friday.

Please schedule rides 24 hours in advance by calling 308-324-3670 or stopping at the office located at 407 E 6th St.

Public Transportation is easy to ride, and open to everyone.

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

Go to www.cityoflex.com/tools/applications-permits/job-opportunities-applications

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!



ENERGYWISE™
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

EnergyWise Tip: **Motion Sensors**

The lights are on, but no one is home. It's probably just me but my teen-agers always leave lights and fans on long after they leave a room. If it's not just me, read on!

To remedy this problem an inattentive teenager creates, consider installing an occupancy or vacancy sensor on the electrical light circuit that's left "ON" most often. Let's consider points for both types.

First, consider what occupancy and vacancy sensors are and how they differ from each other. While both are considered "motion" sensors, occupancy sensors turn lights ON automatically upon detection of someone in the room and turn lights OFF automatically soon after an area is vacated. In comparison, vacancy sensors require manual activation of the lighting by the occupant; then, they turn lights OFF automatically after no one is detected in an area.

Now consider how they work. Typically, these sensors employ one of two technologies (or both) in the same controller. One such technology is passive infrared (PIR). PIR sensors are designed to detect motion from a heat-emitting source (such as a person entering a room) within its field-of-view. These sensors have segmented lenses. For units to see motion, the person must cross between two segments or bands. The distance between the segments

or bands increases the farther a person is from the sensor, so motion has to be larger the farther it is from the unit. PIR sensors are considered line-of-sight sensors, meaning that the sensor must be able to have a direct line-of-sight to the person making the motion. The second is ultrasonic technology. Ultrasonic sensors use



the Doppler principle. These sensors produce low intensity, inaudible sound and detect changes in the sound waves it produces that are caused by motion, such as walking into the room, reaching for a telephone, or turning in a chair. They are volumetric in nature and are not line-of-sight dependent. Since they fill the space with these sound waves, they are excellent in bathrooms with stalls, enclosed hallways, or other oddly shaped

rooms. In addition, they are much more sensitive to smaller motions.

What if PIR and Ultrasonic technology are combined into one sensor? They provide the best sensing solution available today. This pairing helps eliminate false activations (both ON and OFF) thus avoiding additional, unnecessary energy use.

Yes, both types of sensors cost more than standard wall switches. But depending on how often lights are being left on when no one is in a room, energy savings could make up that extra cost in less than a couple of months. Though a wall switch to replace a standard toggle switch using either technology was initially somewhat expensive, many models are now available for less than \$20.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most from the energy they provide. That includes helping to control unnecessary energy use when you are not home to monitor who is leaving the lights on. 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.



City Happenings Historic Headlines



2007
The Welcome to Lexington sign on Plum Creek Parkway near Interstate 80 was completed.

2009
Phase 1 of Lexington's Trail Plan was completed with 2.4 mile stretch mostly along the west side of Plum Creek Parkway.

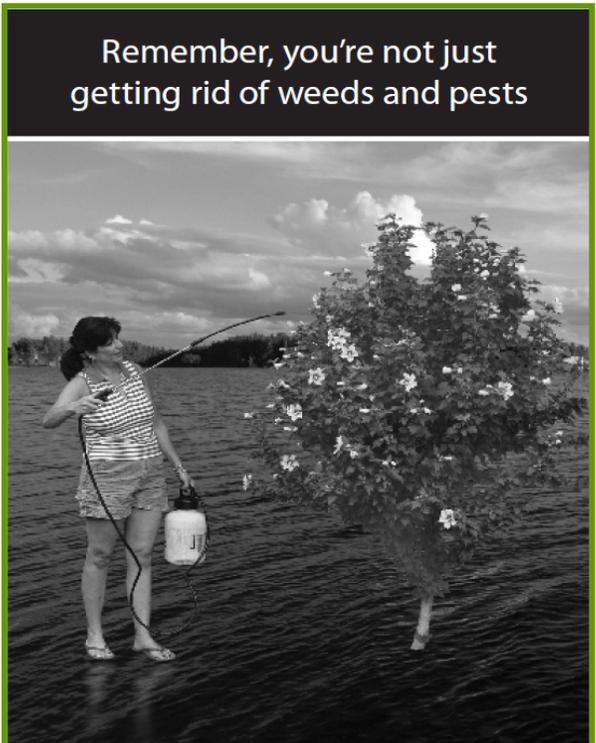


2011
13th Street from Park Street to Airport Road was completely repaved, including Phase 2 of Lexington's Trail Plan.

2012
A two-year Downtown Revitalization Grant was completed with installation of a new parking lot, aesthetic improvements at 5th & Washington, and some landscaping features.



2013
Lexington Mayor John Fagot (shown with wife Marge) was named the Outstanding Elected Official by the Nebraska Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.



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

CITY OF *Lexington* NEBRASKA
www.cityoflex.com



Lexington snow and ice removal

Winter is here once again. The City would like to remind citizens of the following points related to snow removal. There is also an Emergency Snow Route map.

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 placed into 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.



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.



