

City Happenings

June 2016

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Lexington: a Recertified Economic Development Community

Lt. Governor Mike Foley recently recognized the City of Lexington for recertification in the State of Nebraska's Economic Development Certified Community (EDCC) program. Lt. Gov. Foley and Business Development Consultants **Ashley Rice-Gerlach** and **Brittany Hardin** with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) honored the community during a special luncheon on May 26.

Lexington is one of 38 communities to earn certification in the program, which is sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats and administered by DED. State officials established the program in 2005 to recognize communities for preparedness to attract new industries and grow existing businesses. As part of the certification process, a qualifying community must identify a well-defined program that actively engages the existing business community and offers a supportive environment for welcoming new economic development projects. This includes documenting available sites and buildings, local financing and incentive programs, and a strategic plan for economic development, such as implementing a progressive strategy to grow the community's labor market.

"Gaining EDCC certification indicates that Lexington continues to move in a positive direction, and the community is poised to achieve current and long-term development goals," said Lexington City Manager **Joe Peplitsch**. "As we continue to build on our past successes and invest in our future, our message is clear: Lexington is full of opportunity, is development-friendly, and is able to deliver resources that progress requires."

Lexington earned original certification in 2007 and was recertified in 2011.



(L to R: Lexington City Manager Joe Peplitsch, Lt. Gov. Mike Foley, Lexington Mayor John Fagot, and Dawson Area Development Jennifer Wolf, who spearheaded the demanding recertification process)

The community earned its most recent recertification in March 2016 upon the completion of several economic growth efforts, including the addition of more than 24 jobs in a newly developed \$2.5 million strip mall, and a new 21,000- square- foot facility that is home to VOLVO Trucks of Omaha's new Lexington location. A \$1.6 million investment by MRK Truck Wash to relocate its facility within Lexington's city limits grew the company's employee base to 28 jobs.

Recent expansion efforts at several businesses include a \$11 million investment in Orthman Manufacturing's new Lexington location, a \$47 million warehouse expansion at Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc., and Lexington Regional Health Center's \$25 million expansion project. The updated hospital resulted in a new senior housing development near the facility implemented by the city of Lexington.

(continues on next page)



Economic Development Recertification
(continued from previous page)

"I attribute Lexington's ability to further develop successful businesses to the community's progressive leadership," said Lt. Gov. Foley. "Capitalizing on development opportunities through the creation of cohesive projects, such as the addition of new housing near the hospital's expansion, highlights the city's efforts to improve area services and quality of life. These are often cornerstones of EDCC communities across Nebraska."

Local leaders' efforts to draw on resources from the state of Nebraska secured funding from two DED grants in 2015. Dawson Area Development received financing from the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust for a regional Purchase Rehab Resale program, and the city of Lexington earned Community Development Block Grant funding for Owner Occupied Rehab. The city, in partnership with the county, also completed an area-wide housing study in 2015 with assistance from Nebraska Investment Finance Authority Housing Grant Funding, which resulted in several projects planned for the future.

"Participation in Nebraska's EDCC program provides an opportunity for Lexington to serve as an example community for Nebraska cities facing similar challenges, such as a need for additional housing," said Nebraska Diplomats President **Dean Hart**. "Through preparation, innovation and teamwork, Lexington continues to create solutions to ensure the community's growth and success." Lexington Mayor **John Fagot** appreciates city-wide efforts for future economic development.

"The EDCC recertification process reaffirms that Lexington is a prime place for economic development through the city's efforts to acquire land for residential, commercial and industrial projects. By locating industrial sites in a new market tax credit area, our community has added to our ability to recruit new investment," Mayor Fagot said. "The community, as a whole, also supports the future of Lexington, as evidenced by their charitable donations of more than \$14 million for the arts, recreational facilities, and expansion of educational offerings."



City Workers Wear Blue to Celebrate Police Week

Left to Right: Julie McNett, Judy Dukes, Teresa Magana, Barb Hodges, Michelle Rivera, Andrew Martinez, Paul Schwarz, Erik Rowan, Luke Pinkelman, Mark Yung, Dennis Burnside, Bill Brecks, Joe Pepplitsch

(photo courtesy of the Lexington Clipper-Herald)

National Police Week
May 15-21, 2016



President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 to be **National Peace Officers Memorial Day**.

To celebrate National Police Week, Monday was "National Wear Purple for Peace" Day.

Thursday was "Turn Lex Blue Day," a day to wear blue in honor of all law enforcement officers.



Arbor Day a hit in Lexington

Sandoz School's **Myia S. Hofaker** created this year's winning poster for the Lexington Tree Board's annual Arbor Day 3rd Grade Poster Contest. Myia was honored on Arbor Day (April 29), with the planting of a Greenspire Linden tree on the grounds of Sandoz School, and the presentation of her winning poster framed for

posterity. The whole school turned out to honor Myia, The Tree Board judged 123 poster entries from Lexington elementary school pupils. Tree Board members are Glenn Hawks, Brad Schott, Gordon Sellin, Marty Smith, and Dave Stenberg.



Below: 2016 Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Myia S. Hofaker (center front) with her class, at the awards ceremony at Sandoz School April 29. Bottom: Myia's winning poster.



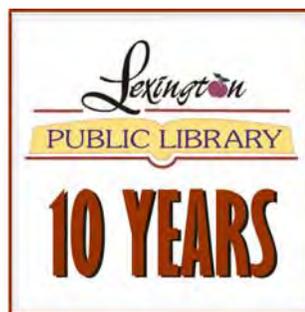
Above: The presentation noting Lexington's 19th consecutive year as a Tree City USA community. Pictured left to right: Lyle Minshull, Nebraska Community Forestry Council; Lexington Tree Board member Dave Stenberg; Nebraska First Lady Susanne Shore; State Senator Matt Williams of Gothenburg; Dr. Scott Josiah, state forester and director of the Nebraska Forest Service.





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



at
907
North
Washington
Street

Best-selling Nebraska author **Stephanie Grace Whitson** will be at the Lexington Public Library on Sunday, June 5, at 2:00 p.m., to present a program about her latest historical novel, **Messenger by Moonlight**, which features an adventurous, young heroine, who joins the Pony Express.



Get your toes tapping and your hands clapping! On Sunday, June 26, at 2:00 p.m. **Julie and Mike Couch** will return for an afternoon of

contagious fun and lively country music.

Both programs are funded by the **Lexington Library Memorial Fund** and the **Lexington Community Foundation**. Refreshments will be served by the **Friends of the Library**.

The program "Riders of the Orphan Train,"



sponsored by **Humanities Nebraska** will be held at the Library on Sunday, July 24, at 2:00 p.m. Presented by author, **Alison Moore**, who has been touring nationally since 1998,



and renowned musician **Phil Lancaster**, the multi-media program, **Riders on the Orphan Train** is currently the official outreach program for the National Orphan Train Complex Museum and Research Center.



Summer Reading 2016 at the Lexington Public Library

Summer Reading participants from preschool to adults can read books, visit the Library, attend programs and complete fun activities to be entered into drawings for cool prizes. Stop by the Library and register today!

On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!

Exciting programs are planned for children age Birth to Grade 5.

- **Crane River** will perform **The Wizard of Oz** in a Page to Stage presentation on Thursday, June 16, at 10:30 a.m.
- **Josh the Otter** and **Water Safety** will be at the **Dawson County Children's Museum's** program, June 21, at 10:30 a.m.
- **Melanie Shubert-Morgan** will present **Kid's Dance** to Grades K-2 at 10:30 a.m. on June 28.
- **On Your Mark, Get Set...Read** with **Jeff Quinn the Magician** will be performed at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29
- On July 12 at 10:30 a.m. **Patricia Luck** from the **Dawson County Extension Office** will offer ideas for great nutrition and healthy eating to children in Grades K-2. A

similar program will be offered to students Grades 3-5 on July 14 at 3:30 p.m.

- **Movie Madness Monday** – Movies for Families is scheduled every Monday at 3:30 p.m. Call the Library (324-2151) for the list of movies scheduled.
- **Mid-Week Matinee** (Books to Movies) will be held every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. This movie is for ages 15 and older. Call the Library (324-2151) for a list of movies scheduled.

It's time again for **Wild and Wacky Wednesday!** On Wednesday mornings at 10:30, kids are invited to listen to fun-filled stories, sing wacky songs and play wild games.

The **finale** for the **Children's Summer Reading** will be held on Wednesday, July 20 at 10:00 a.m. when **Keith West and Miss Kitty, the Library Lady**, will entertain with **On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!**



Another event for children of all ages including senior citizens will be the **Lego Guy**

program on July 28 at 10:30 a.m. and at 2:00 p.m. **Curtis Mork**, the **Lego Guy**, will provide fun and interactive exhibits. His presentations encourage children to use their imagination and get involved. He has over 360 Lego sets in the collection, mostly **Star Wars** and **Lego City**.



EnergyWise Tip: **SEERing Summer**



Cooling efficiency of air conditioners and air-source heat pumps is often rated by the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio or "SEER" rating. The SEER rating of a unit is the cooling output during a typical cooling-season, divided by total electric energy input during the same period. The higher the unit's SEER rating, the more energy efficient it is. Another way to think of it is the lower the unit's SEER rating, the more you will be paying to cool your home.

Typically, older cooling systems will be less efficient than newer models. Much of that has to do with improvements in compressor technologies, variable speed air handlers, and refrigerants. Also, successive federal energy codes have mandated increases in efficiency over recent years. In 1992, central air conditioners and heat pumps were required to have a minimum 10 SEER rating. In 2006, that minimum jumped to 13 SEER. As of January 1, 2015, those requirements went up one more point to 14 SEER.

If you're one of those people who has an air conditioner or heat pump that has outlasted the national average of 15 years, your system is likely rated at less than 13 SEER. Moreover, the Air Conditioner Contractors of America (ACCA) states that most systems degrade about 5 percent per year due to wear,

dust collecting on the coils, unbalanced or leaky ducts, etc. In reality, that old unit is probably performing at 10 SEER or less.

So maybe you are wondering if a new unit would provide some "cool" savings this summer. Assuming your current system's efficiency is 10 SEER, this is the percentage of energy you can expect to save depending on the efficiency of your new system:



SEER 14: 28%
SEER 15: 35%
SEER 16: 42%
SEER 17: 49%
SEER 18: 56%

If your existing system is in worse shape (8 SEER), the savings are even more impressive:

SEER 14: 42%
SEER 15: 49%
SEER 16: 56%
SEER 17: 62%
SEER 18: 69%

Today, new units are available that offer a SEER rating up to 26! So, does all this mean that you should get the air conditioner with the highest SEER possible? Not necessarily. SEER ratings only represent potential efficiency of the system under perfect conditions. More than half of the system's efficiency depends on correct equipment sizing for your home and proper installation. While looking for a system with the [EnergyStar](#)® label is a great way to right start, what you really want and need is the right sized equipment operating at its optimal ratings within varying conditions in order to provide optimal comfort and savings.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help customers keep their homes and businesses comfortable this summer. That help includes providing EnergyWiseSM energy efficiency financial incentives to help with the cost of purchasing and installing a new heat pump system. Contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com to find more details.





"To leave the world better than you found it, sometimes you have to pick up other people's trash."

LEXINGTON FARMERS MARKET

South Downtown Parking Lot
(near Washington & Hwy 30)
Saturdays 8-11 a.m.
Tuesdays 4-7 p.m.
June 25 - October 8

Remember, you're not just washing your car



Find out more at www.cityoflex.com

Practice good car care

Did you know?

Four 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 toward the lawn and away from the storm drain, or wash your car at a commercial car wash location.
- Keep your car properly tuned.
- Recycle used fluids and never dump them down the storm drains.

Help keep the oil where it belongs . . . in you car!



Support provided by NDEQ



www.cityoflex.com

So Long, Kathy Metzger!



City Manager Joe Peplitsch (right) congratulates Kathy Metzger on her retirement.

Eighteen-year employee and City family member Kathy Metzger retired from the City April 22. A retirement reception was held at the Grand Generation Center. Kathy worked in the business office, working with payroll, insurance and other accounting functions. You'll be missed, Kathy!

Thank you, Kathy, enjoy your retirement!



Dawson County Museum's Latest Art Exhibit

dance into the unknown

My scrolls represent this year of 2016.
 This is a year of revealings and new beginnings.
 I apply printer's inks and pastels to polyester cellulose.
 The paintings are abstracts 2 by 5 feet.
 I enjoy the non-objective style, because the colors mix,
 and always surprise me.

Carolyn Fairbanks

805 Taft Street



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>



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.

CLIP AND SAVE

