



June 2018

City Happenings



Restoring the Landscaping at Plum Creek Park Lake



Thanks to a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and administered by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Lexington has started to significantly re-tree the area around Plum Creek Park Lake. This is the latest set of improvements the City has made as part of a lake restoration project that began in 2016.



This "Greener Towns Nebraska" project included tall shade trees as well as showy shrubs that will enhance the beauty of the area while maintaining scenic views. They are all planted on or near the lake's peninsula.

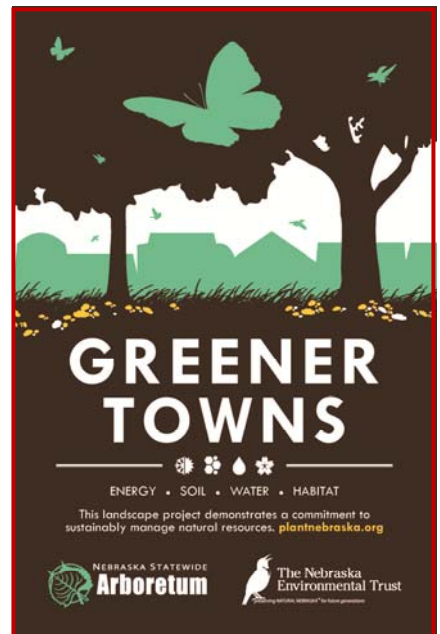


The design was a collaboration of the Lexington Green Team and State Forester Rachel Anderson. The trees, shrubs and planting labor were supplied by Lien Landscaping and Lawn Service.

The project is not quite finished. Late in June, High School Summer School Horticulture students will plant many decorative grasses which the school has donated. Also the Lexington Lions Club is donating a park bench.



Members of the Green Team include Dave Stenberg, Gordon Selling, Marty Smith, Ann Luther, Timothy Potter, Dennis Burnside and Kevin Lien.



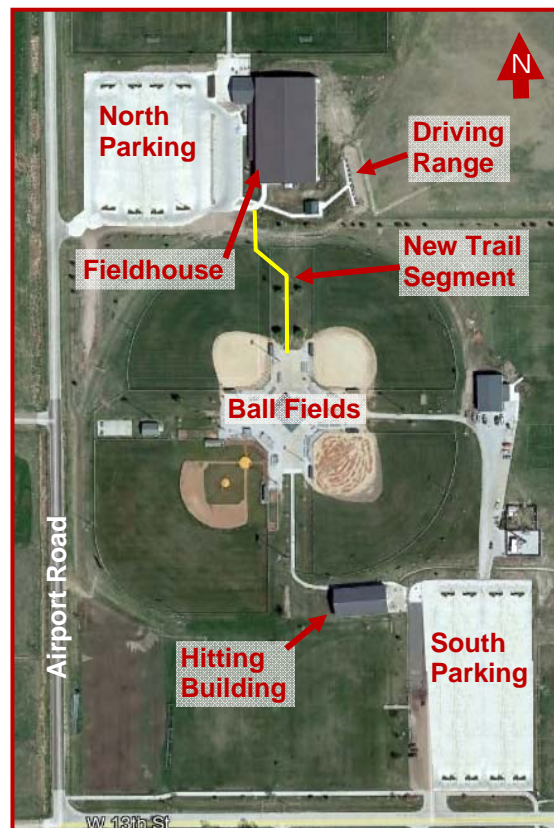
New Trail Links Areas of the Optimist Recreation Complex



With one simple and elegant addition, the City has greatly improved park-goers ability to navigate different areas of the Optimist Recreation Complex near 13th & Airport Road.

A 10-foot-wide concrete trail section now connects the ball field area in the south with the Lexington Fieldhouse in the north.

One major benefit of the new trail is to allow for overflow parking at either of the two recently paved parking lots.



NEW! DRIVING RANGE NOW OPEN!



Just southeast of the Lexington Fieldhouse
Optimist Recreation Complex
13th & Airport Road

Small Bucket about 40 balls	Medium Bucket about 75 balls	Large Bucket about 105 balls
\$3	\$5	\$7



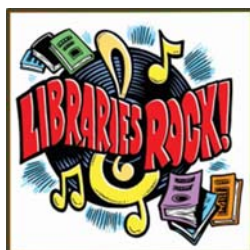


Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



**907
North
Washington
Street
(308) 324-2151**



Libraries Rock! – Summer Reading 2018 has arrived at the Lexington Public Library! Children from

Preschool through Grade 5 could begin registering for summer reading on May 23. When children register for the reading portion of summer reading, they will be given a reading log to track the number of books they read. Successful summer readers in the children's program will receive a certificate and will be entered in the drawing for various prizes, which will be awarded at the **Summer Reading Finale on July 11**.

Children's programs that are scheduled for Libraries Rock! include:

Keith West and Miss Kitty with Reading Takes You Everywhere!
– June 7 at 10:30 a.m.



Rhythm & Sticks with the Dawson County Children's Museum – June 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Crane River Theater presents "Madagascar!" – June 14 at 10:30 a.m.



Rockin' Puppets with Randy Schwarz – June 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Kindermusik with Trish Murrish – June 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Steady as a Rock Virtual Tour with UNO – June 28 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Summer Reading Finale featuring **"Let It Rock! The Science of Sound"** by the **Edgerton Explorit Center** – July 11 at 10:30 a.m.

On Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. the Library will host a **"Drop-In Storytime."** Children and their families are invited to "Drop-in" at the library at this time to listen to a variety of fun stories. The final Wednesday "Drop-In Storytime" scheduled for July 4 will be held on Tuesday, July 3. The theme of this storytime will be Celebrating the 4th of July.

Registration for **Summer Reading** for **young adults** and **adults** has begun. Young adults who register will receive a packet that includes the summer reading criteria, games, and activities. Young adults who reach his or her summer reading goals will receive a sweet treat. Adults will receive a book bag with information about a reading challenge, a pen, a bookmark and a set of musically related activities. Adults, who turn in reviews for items read or items listened to, will be entered in a drawing for **Chamber Bucks** in September.



The Library will be hosting three Library Initiative Grant programs in June and July.



On Sunday, June 10, historian **David Wells** will be performing **America and the Great War: 1914-1918**. In this



program, sponsored by Humanities Nebraska, Wells features a special section of patriotic songs written by Nebraskans from Chadron to Omaha that show the changing attitude of the American public from neutrality to the ultimate defeat of Germany.

On Sunday, July 8, **Peter, Job and Chuck** will be performing songs from the '60s and '70s. Voted North Platte's most popular musical group, The band always offer a lively and entertaining musical program.



On Sunday, July 22, the Library will welcome blues guitar player and music historian **Joey Leone**. Leone's program, **"Shades of Blue in America - a History of the American Blues,"** includes musical performances, historical facts, and personal stories from Joey from his days playing and touring with blues legends like Etta James, Otis Rush, Wilson Picket and The Coasters.





May 11, 2018, was **Sgt. Ken Skiles's** last day on the Lexington Police Department. After 33 years with the Department, Ken has retired. He started in 1985 as a patrol officer, and was promoted to Sergeant in 1994. On May 9 he was honored at a celebration that included present and past fellow officers, City employees, other local law enforcement personnel, and family. In the photo Ken is on the left, receiving a plaque from **Police Chief Tracy Wolf**. Enjoy your retirement Ken!



Before



After



EnergyWise Tip: **Cooling System Tune-Up**



When is the worst time for your air conditioning system to fail? Some may suggest it's 5:01 p.m. on a Friday, when outdoor temperatures are soaring greater than 95 degrees and clear skies are forecasted all weekend long. At that time, you are faced with a choice: Do you call a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractor and pay overtime and additional charges to be cool, or do you suffer through the never-ending weekend to get next week's standard rates after being placed on a waiting list for the next available technician?

Here's another idea. How about minimizing chances you will ever be in this position? Has your air conditioning system had a cooling system tune-up in the last three years? Maybe you're wondering what a cooling system tune-up even is?

If it has been of few years, now is the time to have your HVAC contractor inspect, service and clean it. Typically, tune-ups on cooling systems that have been neglected can provide 5 to 15 percent energy savings or more. Not to mention your unit can better perform from a comfort and equipment longevity standpoint. At a minimum, a tune-up should include the following:

1. Clean Condenser Coil – Outdoor condenser coils can become very dirty if outdoor environment is dusty or if there is foliage nearby. You can easily see the condenser coil and notice if dirt is collecting on its fins. These coils are also easily bent and can block airflow

through the coil. An HVAC technician will use a tool called a "fin comb" to align fins into nearly original condition. The technician also has access to commercial-grade cleaning products to best remove dirt and other contaminants.

2. Check Refrigerant Charge – Performance and efficiency of your air conditioner is greatest when the refrigerant charge exactly matches the manufacturer's specification. In the event your system is low, the HVAC technician will add



just the right amount to optimize performance.

3. Clean Indoor Coil – Your indoor coil is inside your furnace or ductwork. Even though you may be faithful about changing out filters, dust, allergens and airborne particles can accumulate on its fins and dramatically reduce efficiency. Even worse, dirty coils can become a source for mold and other bacteria to thrive. If you think your cooling system runs longer than it used to, has reduced capacity or the evaporator coil is freezing up, it needs to be cleaned.

4. Check Belt / Lube Motor – Over time, belts crack and signal their impending failure. Some fan motors require occasional oiling to lubricate moving parts and reduce premature motor failure.

5. Blow Out Drain Line – Condensate drain lines are a continuous source of moisture during the cooling season. If water does not flow through the drain line properly, mold, mildew and fungus can develop and create a situation detrimental to your health. In addition, if mold, algae growth or other debris obstruct or block the condensate drain line, the condensate pan can become filled with water and eventually overflow.

6. Perform Visual Inspection of System – to the HVAC technician's trained eye, problems with your system you may consider as normal can be readily recognized and rectified.

7. Discuss Proper Operation – The HVAC technician can clarify whether that "sound" you might hear is normal. They can discuss proper control sequences to assure heating and cooling systems do not operate simultaneously, and also how to optimize operation for efficiency and comfort.

8. Discuss/Review Proper Temperature Set-Back – Not sure how to program your thermostat to automatically

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EnergyWise Tip: **Cooling System Tune-Up**

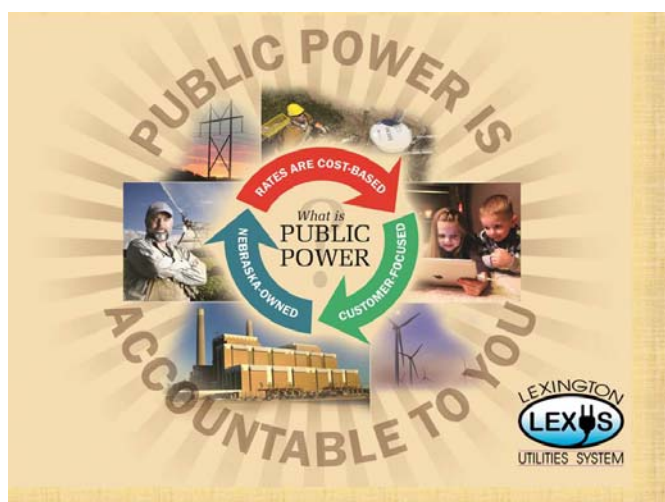
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adjust your setting while you are away? The HVAC technician knows how!

9. **Filter Service Schedule** – In addition to discussing the quality and effectiveness of various filters, the technician can help identify how often you should be changing your filter. Some homes need to do this monthly, while others may get by with the same filter for six months or longer. According to the Department of Energy, replacing a dirty, clogged filter with a clean one can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.



Finally, check with Lexington Utilities System to see if you are eligible for an EnergyWiseSM Cooling System Tune-Up incentive of \$30. They also have additional ideas on other energy-saving improvements that can help you beat the red-hot summer heat while saving some cool green!



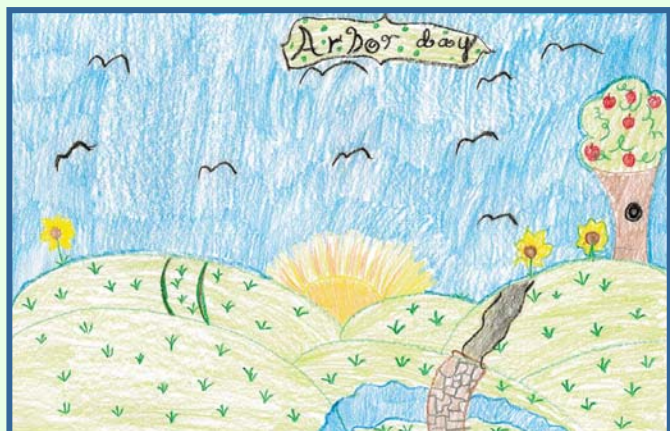
Red Cross Swimming Lessons will be offered at the Aquatic Center June 18-29 and July 9-20. Registration forms can be picked up at the swimming pool, which is located at 10th & Monroe. For more information and to register, contact Ann Luther, 308-325-5277.



Third Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner

For their annual 3rd grade Arbor Day poster contest, the Lexington Tree Board named **Luz Lopez** from **Sandoz Elementary School** as this year's winner. (pictures below)

Luz was honored Monday, April 30, at Sandoz School. A linden tree had been planted on school grounds, and members of the Tree Board spoke and presented Luz (pronounced Looz) with her poster framed for posterity.



(top) Luz Lopez holding her poster in front of her newly planted linden tree at Sandoz School. Tree Board members shown are, left to right, Marty Smith, Ann Luther and Dave Stenberg. (bottom), Luz's poster.

The Tree Board judged 196 poster entries from Lexington third grade pupils, but has no knowledge of the artist or school until the judging is over. Every year there are many talented artists and creative posters, which makes the judging challenging but rewarding. The purpose of the contest is to build appreciation at an early age for trees and the many benefits they give us.

Arbor Day was originated in Nebraska and has become a national day that celebrates trees, and is always the last Friday in April. The National Arbor Foundation is headquartered in Nebraska City.

Lexington Tree Board members are: Ann Luther, Timothy Potter, Gordon Sellin, Marty Smith and Dave Stenberg.



GETTING **HIT** IS NEVER FUN.

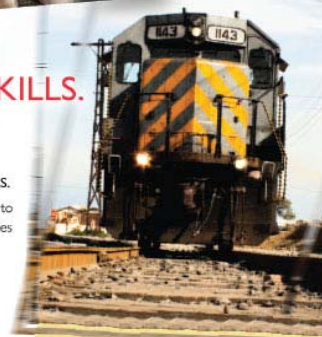


THIS ONE **HURTS...**

THIS ONE **KILLS.**

IN AMERICA, A PERSON OR VEHICLE IS HIT BY A TRAIN ROUGHLY EVERY THREE HOURS.

Visit www.OLI.org to learn how to prevent collisions, injuries and fatalities on and around railroad tracks and highway-rail grade crossings.





**801 West Vine St.
308-324-5995
Mon. - Fri.
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

SUMMER SATURDAYS:

The Service Building is open the third Saturday of the month 8 a.m. - 12 p.m

- dispose of furniture, appliances, pallets, and other large items
- recycle paper, plastic, cardboard and pallets
- pick up free wood chips or compost



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>

YARD WASTE ONLY! **At the yard waste site on East Walnut**



Violators subject to fines
Other large items may be disposed of at
The City Service Building, 801 W Vine.



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



Bike
112 miles



Run/Walk

26.2 miles



Swim
2.4 miles



LEXINGTON **TRIATHLON**

You have the month of June to do a Triathlon.

Biking and running/walking can be done either inside or outside, on your own.

We will have a chart at the LFAC to keep track of your progress.

All swimming will be done at the Lexington Family Aquatic Center (LFAC).

SPONSORED BY



Cost: \$40...

... which includes swimming pool lap use for the month of June.

Each participant will receive a light pull-over jacket.

LEXINGTON TRIATHLON REGISTRATION - \$40

Name

Jacket Size

Address

City, State, ZIP

email

Phone

Remit with your check for \$40 to City of Lexington, PO Box 70, 407 E 6th Street, Lexington, NE 68850.
Contact Ann Luther with questions: 308-325-5277