

Lexington

www.cityoflex.com

2020

OCTOBER

City Happenings



NEBRASKA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CERTIFIED COMMUNITY

Lexington's Delayed 2020 Arbor Day Celebration

Nineteen students from Mr. Potter's High School Ag Class got a lesson in tree planting September 30. The Lexington Tree Board and City Parks Staff were on hand to give the students some hands-on training.

Planted on the Northwest Trail path near the Airport, the trees were given to the City by the **Nebraska Forestry Service**. Their **Ten Free Fall Trees** promotion has been providing trees in Lexington and other Nebraska cities for many years. The program underscores the message that autumn is a great time to plant trees.

Due to the pandemic, Lexington's Arbor Day Festivities had been delayed (with permission of the **Arbor Day Foundation**). It would have been April 24, but was moved to September 30 to coincide with the NFS's Free Fall Trees timing. The mayor also signed a proclamation to commemorate the day.



After a brief demonstration by members of the Lexington Tree Board, Lex High students leapt into tree-planting action.

City Offices:



406 E 7th Street



Lexington, NE 68850



308-324-2341



407 East 6th Street

October Painting Activities

The first event is **Painting on Canvas**, October 13 from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. There's a cost for materials of \$15 per painting project. You can come anytime between 2:30 and 5:00, however, it is recommended arriving no later than 4:00 in order to have time to finish.

The second painting activity is **Pumpkin Painting and Pretzels**: Tuesday, October 20, from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. We'll have a bunch of little pumpkins for people to paint. The painted pumpkins will then be used to decorate the Center. You may also bring your own pumpkins if you want to keep your works of art. Food will be provided, including our homemade pretzels.



Call 324-2490 if you have any questions.



Lexington Named a Tree City USA for 23rd Consecutive Year



19 pandemic, there wasn't be a formal presentation this year.

Arbor Day 2020 was also delayed, and celebrated September 30 (see front page story).

Citizens are encouraged to participate by

Lexington has been named a Tree City USA City for the 23rd year in a row. The designation honors Lexington's commitment to nurturing a diverse urban forest. Due to the COVID-

planting trees too. Autumn is an excellent time to plant trees. 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.**





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

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



**SOCIAL DISTANCING AND
OTHER HEALTH MEASURES
ARE NOW BEING OBSERVED.**

DRIVING RANGE NOW OPEN

**Self-Service
Observe Social
Distancing**



May be closed if cold or rainy . . .
Notices posted on the City's Facebook Page
**Just southeast of the Lexington Fieldhouse
Optimist Recreation Complex
13th & Airport Road**

Small Bucket
about 40 balls

\$3

Medium Bucket
about 75 balls

\$5

Large Bucket
about 105 balls

\$7

**SHOPPING LOCAL
ISN'T JUST A
TREND, IT'S A
WAY OF LIFE.**

SHIFT10
— keep it local —

**SHIFT10 is a national movement to encourage
shoppers to shift 10% of their spending to local
businesses in communities across the United States.**

SHIFT10 day is October 10 (10/10)

For more information:

www.facebook.com/shift10day/

**GIVE
BIG
LEXINGTON**

Nov. 12, 2020

**BE
THE
CHANGE**

For ten years, through Give BIG, individuals, businesses and organizations come together to invest in advancing the missions of our local nonprofits, expanding the impact of our programs, and moving our projects forward to completion. This fundraising event culminates with a 24-hour public campaign on November 12.

LEXINGTON
community foundation





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907
North
Washington
Street
(308) 324-2151

The library is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Check with the library for future updates on hours.



Curbside delivery is available. Materials can either be reserved by accessing your

account on the library's website (lexingtonlibrary.org) or by calling the library to request items for curbside pick-up.

The book drop is open. Return materials in the book drop at any time. All library materials will be quarantined for at least 72 hours before being checked in, so there will be a lag between the time you return your items and the time they are removed from your account. No overdue fines are being charged at this time.

Limited room rental to small outside groups is available. Call the library to check on availability.

Computers are available on a limited basis for business purposes.



The library offers Wi-Fi access throughout the building and has extended service to include outside the building.



LEGO Club is back! LEGO Club for ages 8 to 10 will meet on

Tuesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dates for LEGO Club for ages 8 to 10 are Oct. 6, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, and 17. This LEGO Club will not meet on Oct. 13 or Nov. 24. LEGO Club for ages 5 to 7 will meet on Fridays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in October and on Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in November. Registration is required for these programs and space is limited.



A new program for children, **Music and Reading**, will be held remotely on Facebook Live from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. on Thursday mornings in October and on Wednesday mornings in November. Call the library for information about accessing this program.

Another Facebook Live program will be presented on Tuesday afternoons. **Jugemos a Leer** (Let's Play Reading) will be offered in Spanish on October 13 and November 17 from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Call the library to get access information.

Library Zumba for Kids will be presented remotely on Facebook Live from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. on Friday mornings in November. Join us for this fun, interactive program!

Preschool children are invited to sign up for the **1,000**

Books before Kindergarten program. Read your favorite books and receive a prize for every 100 books read. Stop by the library to register and get started on this amazing reading program!

Ask for a calendar of events for children when you visit the library.

Have questions? Call or stop by the library and library staff will be happy to help you.



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>





Save time — pay by phone!

City of Lexington, pay with Credit or Debit card over the Phone! It gives you access to your account 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It's a convenient way to pay your bills on your own time — with no waiting!

- Save postage by paying your bill by phone.
- Access your updated account instantly.
- Hear real-time balances, payment amounts, and due dates.
- Enter your information securely through an automated system.

Call 866-279-3203 today to make your payment over the phone!



EnergyWise Tip: HVAC Filters

ENERGYWISE™
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

by NPPD Energy Efficiency
Program Manager Cory Fuehrer

The end of the year is a busy time. In addition to several holidays squeezed into the final sixty days, we have winter to worry about. Of course, I always forget to prepare the snow blower for its first use of the season until at least three inches have fallen and the thermometer is way south of 32 degrees Fahrenheit. But when this season rolls around, I always remember to check and change the furnace filter in my **heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) system**. Those who forget both the filter and the snow blower may find the snow-packed driveway is the least of their problems.

How important could a filter be? Consider the following potential impacts:

Inefficient heating and cooling

The whole reason you have an HVAC system is to keep comfortable inside. Dirty filters reduce airflow and the system's ability to condition the air in your home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a furnace or air conditioner with a clogged filter can use 15 percent more energy than one operating with a clean one.

Higher cost of utility bills

Every year, energy efficiency professionals like me start hearing concerns about the high cost of utilities after homeowners and renters receive their January or December bills. Incidentally, these two months have the highest heating requirements respectively and on a historical average. An inefficient HVAC system only makes these bills higher.



Uneven temperatures inside

Most duct systems are designed with the assumption that, with a clean filter, the furnace or air handler will move an adequate volume of air to keep temperatures balanced throughout your home. Diminished air flows due to a dirty filter often result in a room or rooms not receiving the same amount of conditioned air as others.

Short cycling or equipment failure

Reduced air flow due to a dirty filter can cause your heat exchanger to overheat and shut off before your thermostat's setpoint is reached. In a relatively short period of time, it will continue to cycle on and off. If this happens too often, the electronic "limit switch" safeguard can fail, and the furnace won't fire up at all. Now, you'll have a bill from a HVAC technician for parts and labor. Of course, Murphy's Law states this will occur on the coldest day of the year — outside of normal business hours — to optimize the technician's fees.

A similar problem can occur in the middle of summer. A clogged filter can cause the evaporator coil to freeze up because not enough air is moving through it to remove

the condensation produced during the cooling process. If I had to predict, this will inevitably occur to filter abusers over the Fourth of July weekend in order to — once again — optimize the HVAC technician's fees.

(By the way, the dirt that gets past a filter can also make its way into the fan motor and other parts, causing damage to those components.)

(continues on next page)



HVAC Filters

(continued from previous page)

Puts the pressure on your lungs

Relying on your lungs to filter out all the contaminants that can potentially be in indoor air could mean you find yourself sick or feeling ill more often. Those contaminants might include: dust, mites, spores, mold, ash, pollen, pet dander, bug parts, hair, lint, tobacco smoke, food particles, pesticides, paint vapors or fumes from cleaning products. A clean filter removes portions of most of these contaminants to create a healthier home.

Is once a year often enough to change your filter? No, probably not. However, if you're not currently changing your filter at all, this is a start. Some heating and cooling experts recommend changing your filter every month. While this practice may ensure you never operate your system with a dirty filter, you may be throwing a good filter away prematurely. If you're serious about addressing the issues discussed above, I recommend checking filters monthly for one year until you understand how often and after how much use changes are needed. Some filters may require replacement each month, but if your system runs very little, such as during mild months, you may get additional use from the same filter. Also note that some filters are designed to last multiple months. Only through observation and following manufacturers' recommendations can you best gauge optimal replacement frequency.

Not sure which filter to select? Visit with your HVAC technician or retail expert to assure your selection provides the best filtration possible without negatively impacting your system's performance.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. That includes helping you keep your home's heating and cooling systems running efficiently. For assistance on making your home EnergyWiseSM, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com.



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 our 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
Nebr. Dept. of
Environment
& Energy



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY® NOV 28

WHEN YOU
SHOP SMALL
YOU HAVE A
BIG IMPACT



FIELDHOUSE FITNESS

Every Tuesday and Thursday

Time: 12:15 PM

30-45 Minutes

Lexington Fieldhouse
1502 Airport Road

- A variety of fitness activities
- All fitness levels are welcome
- Exercises will be modified for each level
- Light to moderate exercise over the lunch hour
- The fieldhouse will also be open for walking at this time



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Fri., Oct. 9, 2020 - 10:00 - 11:00 AM

**Lexington City Service Building
801 West Vine Street**



Sponsored by:



Made possible by a grant from
the Nebraska Department of
Environment and Energy



Items accepted include: yard and garden chemicals (pesticides & herbicides), flammables; paints and thinners, auto products (e.g., used oil & antifreeze), household products and cleaning chemicals, mercury, fluorescent light bulbs and batteries (auto, lead acid, rechargeable, titanium, cadmium and nickel halide).

NO Computers and monitors, infectious waste and needles, radioactive waste, asbestos, oil or paint containing PCBs, high school labs, appliances, construction waste and tires.

Materials should be delivered to collection sites in sturdy, disposable containers labeled according to contents and no larger than 5 gallon or 50 lbs. The HHW program reserves the right to reject any materials.



Lexington snow and ice removal

Winter will soon be here and the City would like to remind citizens of the following points related to snow removal. There is also an Emergency Snow Route map on the next page, and is also found on the Maps link at the City's website.

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

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 Tom Nelson 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. The City of Lexington thanks everyone for their cooperation and prompt attention to this issue.



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.



