



Ditch Liners Improve Water Drainage, Ease of Maintenance

The drainage ditches along Hwy 283 in south Lexington are being improved to help stormwater in the area reach its intended destination as well as improve the ability of the city crews to adequately maintain the ditches for visual appeal. The City of Lexington remains committed to improving the drainage and landscaping of the highway corridor as it continues to develop into the future.

Additional improvements are planned for 2021 and beyond.



This new ditch flow liner is on the east side of south Plum Creek Parkway.



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>



Before



After



YOUR **2019** CITY
Orschelns, Hwy 283 & Prospect

2020
PROGRESS!

CITY OF
Lexington
NEBRASKA

WHERE TO RECYCLE PALLETS

The City is now recycling wood pallets.

Bring your intact wood pallets to the City Service Building,
801 W Vine Street, between 8 – noon; & 1-5 weekdays.
This is the only location pallets are accepted.

- wood only, not plastic
- maximum size 48" x 48"
- please check in at the Service Bldg. office
And we'll tell you where to drop them off

Free Open Tennis 4th Grade - Adult

Mondays
5:00 - 6:45 PM

Saturdays
10:00 PM - 12:00 PM

No Spectators

**Masks must be
worn at all times**

NO tennis Dec. 21, 26, & 28; & Jan. 2

Lexington Fieldhouse 1502 Airport Road



What's going on at . . . ?



Jim Kelly Field (Airport)

The many poles sticking up out of the ground at the northeast corner of the Airport (across from the Lexington Fieldhouse) will soon be an operating 1 megawatt solar farm. The City of Lexington will purchase all electricity generated from the new solar farm to provide additional renewable energy for the community and help reduce total carbon emissions in Nebraska. Together with the existing 3.6 megawatt solar farm completed in 2017 in southeast Lexington near the intersection of E. Commerce Road and S. Taft Street, the City of Lexington will have renewable solar energy capacity to represent just over 10% of the peak energy demand in the community. The City will continue to expand cost effective renewable energy options into the future. Currently in Lexington, the electricity being supplied to your home or business is estimated to be from an energy mix that is 64% carbon-free.

We don't need a miracle on
34th Street. This year we need
miracles on Main Street.
Be someone's miracle.
Support local.



FIELDHOUSE FITNESS

Every Tuesday and Thursday

Time: 12:00 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



EnergyWise Tip: **Induction Cooking**

*by NPPD Energy Efficiency
Program Manager Cory Fuehrer*

Looking for the perfect gift for the chef in your family? Maybe you are the chef. If so, it is time you consider one of the most evolutionary pieces of kitchen equipment since development of the microwave oven. In fact, both the microwave and induction oven were introduced at Chicago's 1933 World's Fair. If you are not familiar with induction cooktops and ranges, get ready to be impressed!

Induction cooking provides the responsiveness and power of natural gas or propane burners combined with the control of electric appliances. Induction cooktops and ranges look very similar to radiant or ceramic cooktops and free-standing ranges with three to six burners or cooking zones. Single-zone countertop models that plug into standard outlets are also available.

Under each cooking zone, an alternating electric current passes through a coil of copper wire. As the control switch is turned "up," an oscillating magnetic field steadily increases an eddy current surrounding the pot or pan. The result is resistive heat that is only created in the pan itself. The cooking surface can only become as hot as the pan sitting on top!

So why else are induction cooktops and ranges superior to traditional electric, propane and natural gas technologies?

Speed – If you think gas is fast, watch induction rival! Since induction works by transferring energy straight to the metal of the pan rather than heating up an element and transferring that heat to the pan, many professional chefs find induction every bit as fast as gas.

Power through efficiency – As much as 84% of the energy delivered through the cooking zone is transferred into the food. The Department of Energy finds that around 40 percent of a burner's heat is transferred using gas. Induction ranges can boil



two quarts of tap water in less than five minutes. A gas stove will take more than eight minutes and an electric range with coils will take nearly 10 minutes.

As with all cooking, exhaust hood ventilation is recommended, if not necessary, especially with gas appliances. Electric cooking technologies do not have the same requirements since they do not rely on the combustion to create heat. Kitchen rangehoods exhaust air containing the heat, smoke, fumes, and other pollutants out of the home. An equivalent amount of outdoor air must be drawn into the home to replace it. That new outdoor air will likely need to be heated or cooled by the HVAC system, which requires more energy. Not only does induction put energy into food more efficiently, it puts less heat in the kitchen!

Cleaning – Induction cooktops and ranges are simple to clean because their flat glass or ceramic surfaces have no gaps or grills to collect spilled food. Since cooking zones can only become as hot as the pan, spilled food seldom becomes baked on the enamel. When spills are caught right away, simply pick up the pan, swipe the cooking zone with a damp dish cloth and return the pan to the cooktop for no delay in cooking.

Control – Changes in temperature setting occur precisely and immediately. Traditional burners take time to cool down or heat up, and chefs must continually adjust the setting to achieve the perfect simmer or sauté. With induction, the perfect cooking level is achieved almost instantly with one setting change.

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Induction Cooking

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No hot spots – Because of how previously-mentioned eddy currents create heat, the entire pot or pan heats in an even, uniform pattern when centered over the cooking zone. Cooks do not have to rotate food around the pan to achieve cooking consistency.

Safety – Perhaps one of the most important attributes induction cooking brings is safety. No flames. No extremely hot burners or coils. Most induction cooktops and ranges sense when a pot or pan is on top of them. Auto shut-off features eliminate the chance of “accidentally” leaving the cooking zone on. Others offer additional safety features such as child safety locks, automatic adjustment as food heats up, boil over protection and residual heat indicators. Some can even be controlled from a smart phone. Most are compliant with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Yes, there are some drawbacks with induction cooking. First, the purchase price. Though prices have continued to decrease over the last 20 years, expect to pay a few hundred or more dollars for induction cooktops and ranges when compared to gas or other conventional electric types. Second, magnetic cookware must be used for the induction process to work. That usually means stainless steel or cast-iron cookware. However, you might be able to use an induction plate under your favorite glass, ceramic or aluminum pan to get by. Finally, as with other glass cooktop surfaces, they can be scratched or broken.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you cook efficiently! Contact them or visit www.nppd.com if you would like information on other ways to make the most of the energy that powers your life. In addition, you may be eligible for EnergyWiseSM incentives to reduce the cost of energy-saving improvements.



Remember, it ALL drains to our lakes and rivers



Help keep pollution out of storm drains

Only rain in the drain!

That's because storm drains and roadside ditches lead directly to our lakes and rivers. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, trash, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and rivers. With thousands of people living in and around Lexington, we all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains.

So what can you do? Simple:

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks, back onto your lawn.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, trash, and fertilizers out of storm drains.
- Do not dump motor oil, anti-freeze, chemicals, pet waste, dirty soapy water, or anything else down the storm drains.
- Volunteer to label the storm drains in your neighborhood to inform your neighbors that storm drains flow directly to our lakes and rivers (contact Keep Lexington Beautiful, (308) 324-7986, or keeplexbeautiful@yahoo.com).

KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN!



Support provided by
Nebr. Dept. of
Environment
& Energy





**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.**



Tips to Prevent Frozen Pipes



Leave Water Running - Just a small, slow stream/trickle is usually enough to keep the pipes from freezing.

Leave cabinet doors open so house heat can warm the pipes better.



Do not set your thermostat lower than 55°F, even if you plan to be away for an extended time.

Unhook Garden Hoses. You can also install frost-free faucets and insulate outdoor faucets.



Mobile Homes Need Special Pipe Care



Install **Insulated Tape Wrap** or even better **Electric Heat Tape** on pipes under the trailer.

Make sure the **trailer is skirted**.



**The City's website has tools
to help you save energy and money.**



Look for this button at

www.cityoflex.com/departments/utilities





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



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



The Lexington Library is offering several ways to prepare for the Christmas holiday.

Log into Facebook live on Friday, December 4, at 11:00 a.m., to learn about **essential oils**. Learn how to use essential oils at Christmas and throughout the year. Call the library (324-2151) to register for this class.

The library will be offering an online **Christmas Storytime** on December 16 at 10:30 a.m. This Storytime will give children with the opportunity to make a Christmas ornament at home. A drive-thru Grab & Go activity bag is currently available for children.

On December 7, at 4:30 p.m. the library will decorate the library's **Christmas Tree** virtually on Facebook Live. Be sure to login to be a part of this festive occasion!



Children can make a **Christmas Piñata** from the comfort of their own homes on Tuesday, December 15, at 5:30 p.m. Piñatas available include a candy cane and a Christmas ornament. Call the library to register and find out how

you can receive your piñata materials.

On Friday, December 18, the library will have drive-thru **Grab & Go Cupcakes** from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Enjoy a sweet treat as a thank you from the Lexington Library for your help and support during this difficult year. Daniela from Dani's Cakes will be on Facebook Live at 3:30 p.m. to show children how to decorate their own Christmas cookies.

The Hospice Memorial Tree will be featured at the library again this year. Ornaments in memory of loved ones, who have died, are displayed on the tree and available to family members.

The Lexington Library is partnering with **Micah's House** to provide access to the Micah's House **Ornament Tree**. Each ornament states the needs for a specific family and the list for each child in that family. Stop by the library and select the ornament of your choice. Micah's House would like to have all the gifts along with the original ornament delivered to the library by December 16.



The library will have a special **guest storyteller** for the **Spanish Storytime** on Monday, December 14, at 5:00 p.m. Log in to this Storytime to meet our guest storyteller and hear an amazing Christmas story.



Snow Many Great Books! – The **Nebraska Regional Library Systems** and the **Nebraska Library Commission** want citizens of Nebraska to stay warm this winter and enjoy the terrific library books available in public libraries across the state. They have developed a list of 20 fun reading challenges to be read between December 1 and February 28. Challenges include: Read a book with snow in the title; read a nonfiction book about a winter sport; and read in your pajamas. Complete at least eight of the 20 challenges to be eligible for a **Grand Prize Drawing** for one of three **\$50 Visa Gift Cards**. Participation in this program is through the **Reader Zone** app on your smart device. Stop by or call the library to find out how to participate in this program, how to access Reader Zone from your device and get the list of all 20 challenges.



Lexington snow and ice removal

Winter weather 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.

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

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.



STUDENTS!

NOW is the time to apply for City summer jobs: concessions, lifeguards, and lawn mowing.

Go to www.cityoflex.com/departments/city/human-resources

for more information and to download a blank application form.

Send completed application to address below or email to pbaruth@cityoflex.com.





JUNIOR TENNIS AT THE LEXINGTON FIELDHOUSE

1601 AIRPORT RD. LEXINGTON, NE

RED BALL (PRE-K—1ST GRADE):

- ♦ LOW COMPRESSION RED BALLS ARE USED. THIS CLASS WILL FOCUS ON A FUN INTRODUCTION TO TENNIS WHERE YOUR CHILD WILL KEEP ON THE MOVE AND HIT A LOT OF TENNIS BALLS THROUGH DRILLS AND GAMES.

Monday, January 4, 11, 18, 25

5:15 - 6:00 pm

ORANGE BALL (2ND—5TH GRADE):

- ♦ LOW COMPRESSION ORANGE BALLS ARE USED. THIS CLASS IS FOR BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS TO LEARN STROKE DEVELOPMENT. MANY GAME-BASED DRILLS WILL BE FEATURED.

Monday, January 4, 11, 18, 25

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Free to Participate!

Due to Covid-19 guidelines, MASKS must be worn at all times and NO Spectators are allowed inside the Fieldhouse.

Participant Name: _____ Age: _____

Parent Name: _____

Phone #: _____ *Deadline: Jan. 3

* SEND A PICTURE OF YOUR REGISTRATION VIA TEXT OR EMAIL TO:

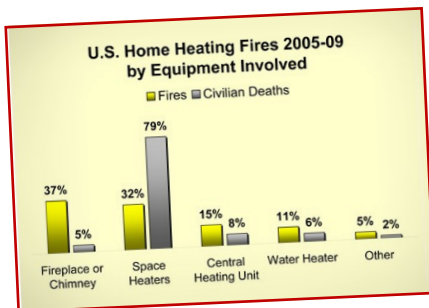
Contact: JAKE SAULSBURY, 308-746-3543

JSAULSBURY@CITYOFLEX.COM



Space Heater Safety

You might be turning on a space heater to keep warm in this cool weather. However, you might not know that thousands of fires are caused every year by space heaters, especially improperly used ones. The National Fire Protection Association says in 2011, space heaters were involved in about 17,850 home fires.



Here are some safety tips from Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and other sources:

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Every level of your home should have a working smoke detector that is tested on a monthly basis.
- Keep all space heaters three feet away from anything that could catch on fire.
- Make sure the space heater includes a tip-over switch to ensure that it shuts off if it accidentally tips over.
- NEVER leave a space heater unattended.
- NEVER use a space heater in the room where you will be sleeping.
- NEVER place heaters on furniture. They are designed to be placed on the floor.
- Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, do not use in damp, wet areas.
- NEVER place heaters where towels or other objects could fall on the heater and start a fire.
- Do not use extension cords with space heaters unless absolutely

necessary. If you have to use an extension cord, make sure it has a power rating as high or higher as that of the heater itself. Keep the cord stretched out and do not allow it to become buried under rugs or carpeting. Don't place anything on top of the cord. If the cord ever feels even slightly warm, discontinue use.

- Inspect the heater's cord periodically to look for frayed wire or damaged insulation. Do not use a space heater with a damaged cord.
- Check periodically for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug becomes very hot, the outlet may need to be replaced by a qualified technician. This could be the sign of a potential home wiring issue.
- Use space heaters only as a supplementary, small-area sources of heat. They are not intended to replace the home's



heating system, and turning the central heating system down too low may result in water pipes bursting.

- Don't use a space heater to dry your wet clothes or pull it closer when you are in a bath tub.
- Keep pets and children away from space heaters.
- Space heaters take a lot of electricity. They can overload the home's wiring, especially if other high-wattage appliance are on at the same time. This may



cause overheating of circuits, which may lead to fires.

- Make sure the space heater you are buying is certified and labeled as such on the box (such as Underwriters Laboratory).
- If you have a **liquid-fueled** space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. The wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment was designed for and cause a serious fire.
- When refueling, turn off the heater and let it cool down completely before adding fuel. Wipe away any spills promptly.
- Before you buy a kerosene heater, check with your local fire department to ensure that it is legal in your area.
- Kerosene heaters have a different type of threat with the potential of carbon monoxide poisoning, so take that into consideration.