



City Happenings

December 2021 # 92

www.cityoflex.com

NEW! Holiday 'Trail of Lights' at Kirkpatrick Memorial Park



by Jake Saulsbury, City of Lexington Parks & Recreation Manager



The City of Lexington Parks & Recreation Department has created a **Holiday Trail of Lights** around **Kirkpatrick Memorial Park**. The display includes lights and other assorted holiday decorations. Our aim is to provide a safe and festive experience for the community and out-of-town travelers to enjoy. The Trail will be open until 9:30 p.m. daily, December 2 – 29, 2021.

Community Activities Director **Ann Luther**, after seeing similar displays in other communities, suggested bringing this to Lexington, exclaiming, "We can do this!" The Parks & Recreation staff over the past year has worked to plan, design, and create many of the holiday scenes you will see.

The **Lexington Community Foundation** and the Lexington **Chamber of Commerce Convention and Tourism** boards provided vital startup funding for the project. Funding helped put a big dent in the 125+ electrical cords and 200+ light strings that would illuminate nearly 100 trees in the park. FRAE, Inc., also donated equipment and labor to help bring electricity to the project site.

On December 18 we'll have a special event, "**Celebration of Lights**" at the Trail from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. (see flier on page 10.) Complimentary hot

chocolate will be provided by **Plum Creek Market Place**, community Christmas carolers will be positioned on the trail, **First United Methodist Church** will set up a live Nativity scene in the park, and Santa Claus will also be visiting.

We hope this project can grow in future years. Our wish list includes creating new holiday scenes, purchasing larger decorations, and eventually paving the oval to provide a more enhanced walking trail year-round.

We're always looking for volunteers to help with decorating, painting, crafting, etc. Increasing sponsorships will be something we'll continue to explore as we look to grow our resources.

The trail will be foot traffic only where no motor vehicles are allowed to drive around the park. This helps ensure the safety of pedestrians on the trail. We look forward to our community enjoying the Trail of Lights this holiday scene.

Thank you for everyone involved!



Before



YOUR **2014** CITY

New Housing, S Adams & W Walnut

After



2021
PROGRESS!



New Official Population

The U.S. Census Bureau has posted results of the 2020 Census for Lexington. The total population is now officially 10,348, up from 10,200 in the 2010 Census.

We'll be getting new signs at highway entrances to Lexington. These signs are put up by the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation.

You can view Lexington's 2020 Census results at <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?q=&g=1600000US3126910>.





Library News



907 N Washington
(308) 324-2151



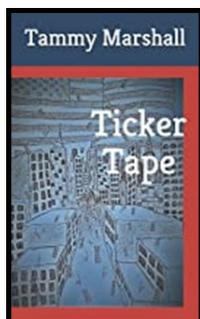
by Jennifer Norton
Library Director

“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . . the man who never reads lives only one.” - George R.R. Martin



Nebraska author, **Tammy Marshall** will be giving a presentation and signing her books at the Lexington Public Library on Monday, December 6, at 3 p.m. Tammy is a life-

long Nebraskan and has published three books of fiction, including: “The Clearwater House,” and “State of Georgia...and Other Writings.” Her latest book, “Ticker Tape,” will be out in December. The novel tells the story of a washed-up Viet Nam War veteran who gets a second chance at life when he grudgingly participates in the New York ticker tape parade honoring Viet Nam veterans, an event that is the catalyst for all that follows. Marshall is a retired high school language teacher and fine arts coach. She devotes her time to writing, travelling, and riding her motorcycle. She is a proud member of the American Legion Riders. She is also a feature writer and “Novel Thoughts” columnist for the Norfolk Daily News. She is an avid reader



with a particular interest in the **Pulitzer Prize for Fiction** winners, which are often the topics of her column. Her writings are incredibly varied as she writes a blog, short stories, plays, essays and novels. Marshall’s books will be available for purchase during her visit to the Lexington Public Library.

Consider joining the **Friends of the Library** and/or the **Mommies Club**. Each group supports the Library and its efforts to be a vital part of the community. From supplying treats and brownies for fund-raising to participation in the Parade of Lights, members take an active role in promoting the Library and sharing ALL that the Library has to offer the community. Stop by for more information and to find out how you can become involved!



Preschool Story Time is every Wednesday morning at

10:30 a.m. Registration is NOT required; just come when you can for stories, crafts and fun.

Family fun Night will be held Monday, December 6, at 6:30 p.m. Families are



invited to come to the Library for a light meal, activities, and fun. Holiday crafts and activities along with a meal of hot dogs, chips and drink are all in store. Take a break from cooking and come to the Library for a fun holiday treat.

The Lexington Public Library hosts two book discussion



groups. The **Monday Afternoon Book Club** meets the first Monday of each month at 3 p.m. **Literary Guild** meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. New members are always welcome. Call the Library at 308-324-2151 for more information and to find out what each group is reading .



Like us on Facebook



High Schoolers Card Up for the Library



lexschools.org — Close to 500 Lexington High School students have access to books at the Lexington Public Library and thousands of eBooks on *Sora* because they now have a Lexington Public Library card! Signing students up for public library cards is just one joint effort that the two libraries are working on together. The public library will also be providing volunteer community service opportunities for LHS students such as mentoring and reading to

elementary students, assisting with crafts, and other activities throughout the library. Books have been purchased by the public library to introduce a book club for high school students. If students are interested in signing up for a volunteer activity or joining a book club contact Mrs. Buck in the high school library.



LEXINGTON LEXUS UTILITIES SYSTEM **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.**



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>





UTILITIES SYSTEM

EnergyWise Tip: Air Fryers



by NPPD Energy Efficiency Program Manager Cory Fuehrer

Think quick: What is the most common side dish to serve with a cheeseburger? Naturally, you said “French fries.” In fact, the United States Department of Agriculture cited during the 2000s, U.S. per capita consumption of frozen potatoes averaged 55 pounds per year. With that kind of eating, you would think we invented deep frying!

In reality, the process of deep-frying foods started in the 5th millennium BC. Having invented deep-frying during that time, Egyptians had no idea it would change the culinary world. During the middle ages, fritters, which are dough batter filled with meats or fruits, became popular throughout Europe. Finally, in the 1830s, fried potatoes or “French Fries” became popular in France and Belgium. Today, people have become very creative and will fry just about anything.

By the late 1800s, cast iron cookware became widely available and people began preparing fried foods in their homes. In 1918, the Pitco Frialator was invented. This piece of equipment quickly became a staple in restaurant

kitchens since it extended the life of cooking oil. Shortly thereafter, National Presto Industries, one of the forerunners in the electric housewares industry, began selling some of the first electric home fryers. In 1976, they introduced “The Fry Baby,” further solidifying our love affair with fried foods.



But the 1980s brought a new focus on the connection between nutrition and health. By the end of the last millennium, studies were underway identifying the correlation between fried food intake and increased risk of heart disease, elevated blood pressure and obesity, among other problems. To date, no study has shown a positive correlation between fried food intake and good health.

Does this mean we must give up our long-lived passion for fried

food? No! Introduced in 2005 for commercial kitchens, air fryers have recently gained popularity for home use as a great alternative to oil fryers. Here are some of the reasons:

Efficiency – Traditional fryers work by flash cooking food. After an oil-filled vat is heated to the necessary temperature, food is placed in a basket and completely submerged. Since oil fryers often produce fumes, ventilation is recommended. But air fryers can cook with just a tablespoon (or no oil at all) using a sealed cooking compartment and circulating hot air around the food. Thus, it emits no fumes and releases less heat. If someone is trying to keep the kitchen cool, this is appreciated. Though air fryer cooking times are slightly longer when compared to traditional fryers, more heat is kept in the fryer.

Safety – Ever notice what happens when frozen food is put into extremely hot oil? Oil splatters everywhere. In addition, potentially harmful fumes can be created during the cooking process. Air fryers dramatically reduce these risks because all the cooking occurs in a locked compartment. When finished, most models

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Air Fryers

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turn off, which reduces the chance of burnt food.

Easy to Clean – Since most of its parts are removable and dishwasher-safe, cleaning an air fryer is a breeze! Compare that to time spent draining, storing or disposing of oil, disassembling, and then scouring an oil fryer.

Less Cost to Operate – Quality cooking oil costs a significant amount of money. Assuming it is not scorched during use and stored properly, the oil may be usable a couple more times before it becomes too contaminated from previous use and needs to be disposed of. With an air fryer, little or no oil is needed.

Healthier Meals – Using little or no oil when air frying ensures excess oil is not soaked up by your food. That translates to fewer calories and less fat.

Versatility – Deep fryers are strictly for frying foods. With an air fryer, different accessories allow users to grill and roast foods. Air fryers can even bake desserts!

Lexington Utilities System, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, want to help you make the most of the energy and cost of keeping you and your family fed! For additional ways you can become more EnergyWiseSM, visit with Lexington Utilities System or go to www.nppd.com.



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



Interactive Energy Home



Look for this button at

www.cityoflex.com/departments/utilities

STAY ALERT AROUND RAILROAD TRACKS



OPERATION LIFESAVER[®]
Look, Listen & Live



Lexington High School Students Learn Tree Planting Skills

Lexington High School students got hands-on experience planting trees on October 13, 2021. The students, enrolled in LHS Ag teacher Tim Potter's landscaping class, also received tree-planting instruction from members of Lexington's Tree Board, and Lexington's Parks staff.

In all, 10 trees were planted along the trail. All 10 were received through a "Free Trees for Fall Planting" grant offered through the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, and funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Nebraska Forest Service was also instrumental in organizing the program.

Earlier this year the Lexington Tree Board applied for this competitive grant. This is the 10th consecutive year Lexington has received the maximum of 10 trees so, since 2012, that's 100 free trees for Lexington!

One goal of the grant is to remind Nebraskans that fall is an excellent time to plant trees. In addition there are educational goals, and emphasis on planting a variety of tree species, which helps maintain a healthy community forest.

In 2022 and beyond, the City will plant more trees along trails, and in parks, cemeteries, green spaces, and in new developments.



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



Open Tennis Lexington Fieldhouse

Saturday, December 4, 11, 18: **1502 Airport Road**

OPEN COURT TIME (4th Grade—Adult)

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Pre-K—3rd Grade (Must be accompanied by an adult)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Monday, December 6, 13, 20:

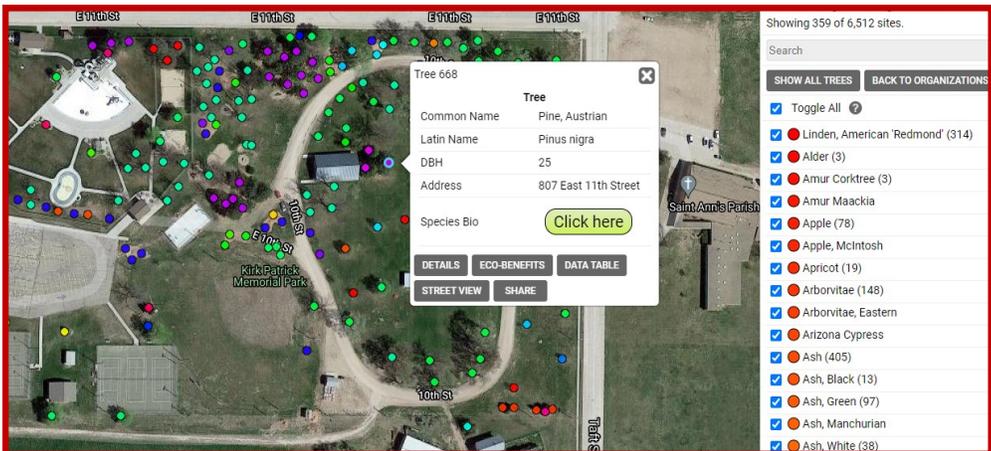
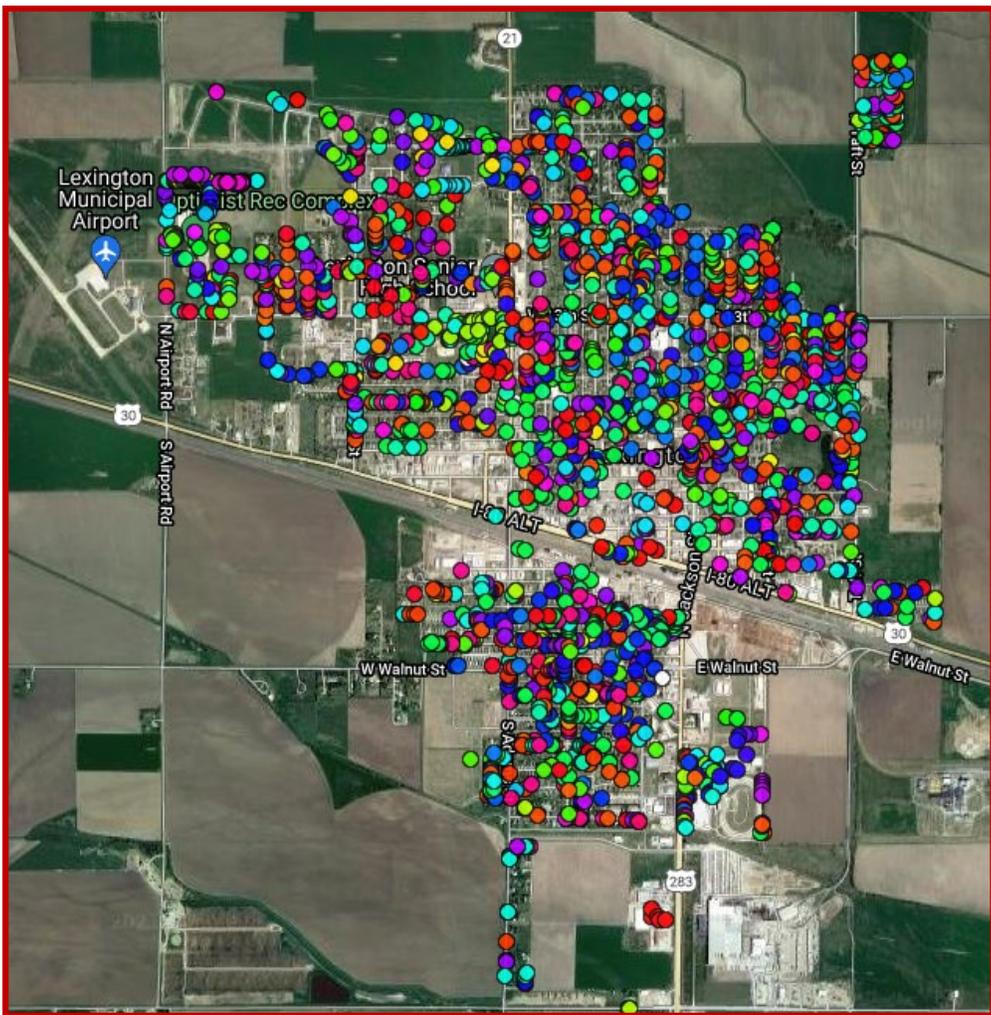
OPEN COURT TIME (4th Grade—Adult)

5:00 - 6:30 PM

For Questions, Contact: Jake Saulsbury
jsaulsbury@cityoflex.com, 308-746-3543



Lexington's New Tree Inventory



Over the summer the Lexington Tree Board and City staff canvassed the city to complete a comprehensive Tree Inventory. Results were charted on the TreePlotter website provided through the Nebraska Forest Service. NFS requests an inventory be done every 10 years. The last Lexington inventory was in 2010. Canvassers identified trees by location, species, height and width. They focused only on trees in parks, cemeteries, schools, and public places such as the Library and County Building. They also counted "street trees," which are in public right-of-way, within 20 feet of the curb. The website assigns each species a different color dot on the map, and about 6,500 trees were counted. NFS will analyze this data to help provide guidance for maintaining and improving the City's urban forest. Anyone can access this by going to <https://pg-cloud.com/Nebraska/>. Select Lexington either on the map or the right-hand menu. Zoom in and click on any individual dot to find information about a tree (see the bottom screen shot). ("DBH" is trunk Diameter at Breast Height.) We think the inventory is close to perfect but, if you think we made a mistake, let us know and we can correct it.





LEXINGTON GGC
Christmas Dinner
December 17, 2021
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

(308) 324-2498



407 E 6th Street

MENU

- Oven Fried Chicken
- Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
- Green Bean Casserole
- Dinner Roll
- Fresh Oranges
- Dessert

11:30 - 12:45

COST: \$6.50

(under age 60)

\$4.00 (60+)

Please pre-register for take-out.

Remember, it's not just toxic to you



Find out more at www.cityoflex.com

Remember, it's not just toxic to you

Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals and oil

Did you know that many household proAir Fryers are dangerous to our kids, pets, and the environment? These materials pollute our waterways if washed or dumped into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Household cleaners, pesticides, gasoline, antifreeze, used motor oil, and other hazardous proAir Fryers need to be labeled, stored, and disposed of properly.

What can you do? Simple:

- Be aware of household proAir Fryers that can harm children, pets and the environment. Pay attention to words such as "warning" or "caution" on product labels.
- Reduce waste & save money by purchasing only materials you need.
- Keep unused proAir Fryers in their original containers with labels.
- Never dump hazardous proAir Fryers down storm drains, roadside ditches, sinks, or on the ground - take them to your local community's hazardous waste collection day.

Help keep our homes and the environment safe!



Support provided by
Nebr. Dept. of
Environment
& Energy



www.cityoflex.com



TRAIL OF LIGHTS

KIRKPATRICK MEMORIAL PARK

SPECIAL EVENT NIGHT:
CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS
DECEMBER 18
6:00 - 7:30 PM

Hot Chocolate provided by Plum Creek Market Place
Santa Claus is Coming to Town
Christmas Caroling
Live Nativity Scene in the Park

Trail of Lights will be open until 9:30 pm daily to walk through from December 2 - 29

A SPECIAL THANK YOU:

Lexington Chamber of Commerce
Convention & Tourism
Lexington Community Foundation
FRAE, INC.
Plum Creek Market Place
Black Diamond Auto
Shotkoski Hay
TL Sund
First United Methodist Church
Community Carolers
United by Culture
Volunteers & Donors

SUMMER JOBS - Temporary Seasonal Workers, Part-time

APPLY NOW!

Positions available include:

- Concession Workers (age 14+)
- Lifeguards (age 15+)
- City Park and Cemetery Maintenance (age 16+)

The City of Lexington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Download an application from the city website,
www.cityoflex.com/human-resources/.



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.



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

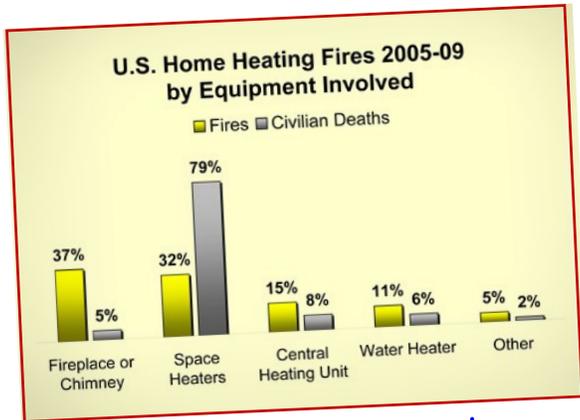
- dispose of furniture, appliances, pallets, and other large items (small fee may apply)
- recycle paper, plastic, and cardboard
- pick up free wood chips or compost





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, and can overload a 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 UL - 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.

