

# City Happenings

#106



April 2024



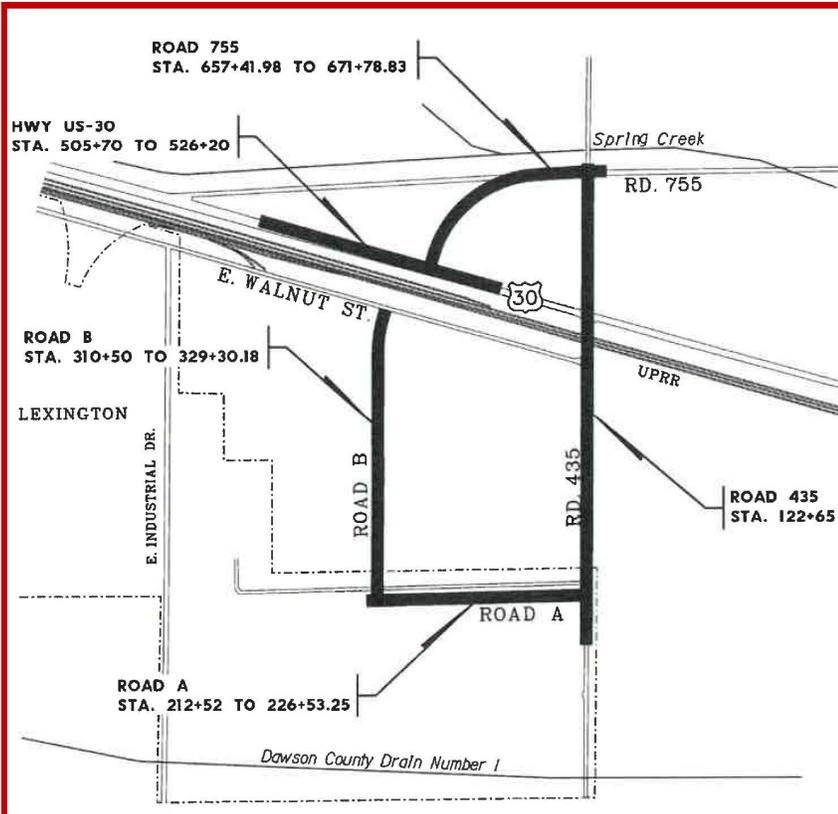
## East Viaduct Project Starts!

The long-anticipated Lexington East Viaduct project is scheduled to start construction April 1. Most motorists will not notice any activity for a few months, as the first couple of phases will be on out-of-the-way side roads. The actual overpass work will not begin until at least late July. That will be the longest-lasting phase, taking through October 2025 to complete.

The project is a joint collaboration with Dawson County, the Nebraska Department of

Transportation, and Union Pacific Railroad. Many years went into the planning and design phase, which is now finished. For the construction phase, we have engaged the engineering firm of Olsson Associates from Grand Island, and United Contractors of Johnston, Iowa, which offered the most competitive bid for the construction contract.

At the end of this newsletter find four-pages of details with special attention to the five planned phases as well as anticipated timing for each phase.



**What's going on at . . . ?**



**East Commerce Road**

**Lexington Self Storage** is a brand new state-of-the-art "smart" self storage facility at 606 Commerce Road in Lexington. They offer several different sized units to accommodate various storage needs. The facility is equipped with full concrete paving, outside lighting, 6' security fence, 18 cameras, digital gate entry and digital door locks. They are focusing on keeping the facility safe and user friendly for the residents. They will be offering outside space and larger units in future planning. Call 308-221-2299 for more information, pricing and leasing. You may also go directly to [www.lexselfstorage.com](http://www.lexselfstorage.com) to lease yourself!



**KEY '24**  
AN EVENT UNLIKE ANY OTHER

**DINNER & AUCTION**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2024

**SAVE THE DATE**

PREVIEW NIGHT OPEN HOUSE  
FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH  
5:00-8:00PM

Prepaid Reservations Accepted  
Beginning Monday, October 2nd, 2023

LEXINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
PO BOX 422 / 607 N WASHINGTON  
LEXINGTON, NE 68850  
(308) 324-6704  
OFFICE@LEXFOUNDATION.ORG

Reserved, Limited Seating Only  
Individual Seats \$150  
Tables Seat Eight  
Credit Cards Accepted  
Semiformal Dress



## Lexington's Yard Waste Site on East Walnut Has Moved

Here's How to Get to the New and Improved Yard Waste Site at 1202 E. Industry Drive.



## 2024 National Small Business Week

BUILDING ON AMERICA'S  
SMALL BUSINESS BOOM

April 28-May 4, 2024

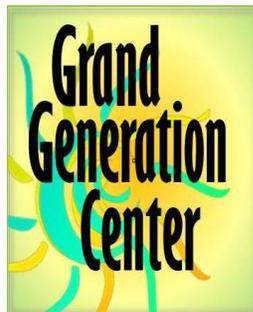


**SBA** U.S. Small Business Administration

**SHOP LOCAL – SHOP SMALL**

[sba.gov/nsbw](https://sba.gov/nsbw)





**Bye  
Bye  
Angie!**



## Shred It Day!

FREE shredding event for age 60 & older on Friday, April 19, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. This event is sponsored & coordinated through the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Program at West Central Area Agency on Aging and hosted by the Lexington Grand Generation Center.

Residents in our community, age 60 & older, are invited to participate. This is a good opportunity to SAFELY & SECURELY destroy any sensitive documents. The large shredder truck can safely handle documents with staples, paperclips, rubber bands, colored paper, file folders, and window envelopes so these items do not have to be removed from the documents. Please consider utilizing this cost free opportunity. It is a chance to safely destroy documents such as old bank statements, old Medicare summary notices, outdated tax documents, items that include your social security number and/or other personal information.

For additional information or any questions, please call Amanda Barkmeier at West Central Area Agency on Aging at (308) 535-8195.

## Retirement Party



Angie is officially retiring after  
15 years of  
service to the  
**Grand Generation Center**  
Join us to celebrate  
April 12th  
9:30-10:30  
At the  
**Grand Generation Center**



## 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/](http://www.cityoflex.com/human-resources/).

Remember, you're not just washing your car



Find out more at [www.cityoflex.com](http://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 Nebr. Dept. of Environment & Energy



[www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com)





## Library News



907 N Washington  
(308) 324-2151



by Jennifer Norton  
Library Director

*"Books are like mirrors: if a fool looks in, you cannot expect a genius to look out." - J.K. Rowling (author of "Harry Potter" series)*



## Humanities Nebraska Series: The Ladies of Nebraska Literature

April 4 @ 7 p.m. - "The Life and Drive of Mari Sandoz" presented by Peg Gilbert



A living history program about Mari's life from infancy and the

experiences that shaped her into a nationally known author.

April 11 @ 7 p.m. - "Bess Streeter Aldrich: In Her Own Words" by Jolene McLaughlin



Stepping back to 1946, McLaughlin portrays Bess Streeter Aldrich in period attire.

Aldrich, born in Iowa, lived her adult life in Elmwood, NE where she wrote and published 160 short stories and 13 books.

April 18 @ 7 p.m. - "Willa Cather's Life in Letters" presented by Andrew Jewell



Drawing on Jewell's experience co-editing the first book of Cather's letters, his talk explores

the way Cather used letters to communicate her ideas, maintain her relationships, and think through her life and experiences.



**Creative Aging Arts Program made possible through a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council.**



**Wednesdays, May 22 - June 26; 2-2:30 pm** - A six-session art class

taught by Nebraska artist **Christy Kosmicki** ending with a culminating showcase of the participants' creations. Kosmicki will lead five hands-on lessons focusing on the mandala. Mandalas are used throughout the world by many cultures. "Mandalas Past and Present: Self-expression, Personal Symbols, and Decorative Design" is FREE, and open to adults 55 and over. Space is limited to 16 participants and registration is required.



Like us on Facebook



*(Library News continues on next page)*



## HONOR A VETERAN WITH THIS LASTING TRIBUTE

Thanks to the Lexington Veterans Memorial Committee, you now have the opportunity to purchase a commemorative brick which can be inscribed in honor or in memory of a veteran. The bricks will be installed on the Veterans Pavilion Memorial Wall at the south end of Kirkpatrick Memorial Park.



The process is simple: fill out the form at <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/lex>, (or use the QR code above) and remit your payment. All the helpful details are at the website.

Thank you for supporting our local heroes!



## Library News

(continued from previous page)



**Family Fun Night:**  
Thursday, April 25  
5:30 p.m.

Families are invited to the final Family Fun Night of the school year. Enjoy a meal and learn about the Somali culture with food, activities and fun.



## Lexington Comp Plan Wins Award for the City

To set this up, every Nebraska city, town or village that wants to administer zoning, must create a Comprehensive Development Plan, and update it every few years. This is usually referred to as a Comp Plan. There are many talented professionals working in this field, and most belong to the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association (NPZA) and the American Planning Association Nebraska Chapter (APA/NE).

Lexington's last major update was in 2013. The City worked with the JEO Consulting Group, which dubbed it "Lex-Plan 2013." Now, some 10 years later, JEO took a look at City's progress, and saw that we had done an above-average job at using the Comp Plan to propel progress in Lexington. So they nominated the Plan for APA/NE's "Implementation Award." We won that award and, on March 7, Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside attended the organization's annual meeting to accept the award.

The following is the introduction speech given by APA/NE President Stephanie Rouse, AICP, of Lincoln:

Between 1990 and 2013, the City of Lexington, Nebraska, underwent a major transformation. In the early nineties, the establishment of a meatpacking facility reshaped the community, triggering an influx of diverse populations and sparking a housing crisis spanning the next two decades. Struggling with a private market unable to meet the evolving housing demands, Lexington initiated both a comprehensive plan and long-range transportation plan in 2013. Collaborating with JEO Consulting Group and HDR, the city engaged in a comprehensive,



(above) Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside and APA/NE Vice President Cale Broderson

(below) the glass trophy for the Lex-Plan 2013 Implementation Award



bilingual community outreach, setting the stage for strategic projects that aimed to reshape Lexington's housing landscape and rejuvenate its community identity.

The city has made significant progress in bringing about the changes outlined in the 2013 comprehensive plan and documented in the 2024 update. Notable achievements in implementation include: the Lexington Field House, Plum Creek Park Improvements and Racquet Center, and a 26,000 panel solar array.



(left) APA/NE's Facebook notice of Lexington's Award. Left to right: JEO's Jeff Ray, Lexington Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside, and APA/NE President Stephanie Rouse.





## EnergyWise Tip: Wind Washing



by NPPD Energy Efficiency Program Manager Cory Fuehrer

Wind washing: It's not a new, evolutionary way of laundering clothes. It's not a water-conserving approach to personal hygiene. It's not even a technique for cleaning dirty windows. Rather, wind washing is the movement of unconditioned air around or through buildings in such a way that diminishes or nullifies the intended thermal performance. More simply put, wind washing may be eroding the benefits of your home's insulation, especially in the attic.

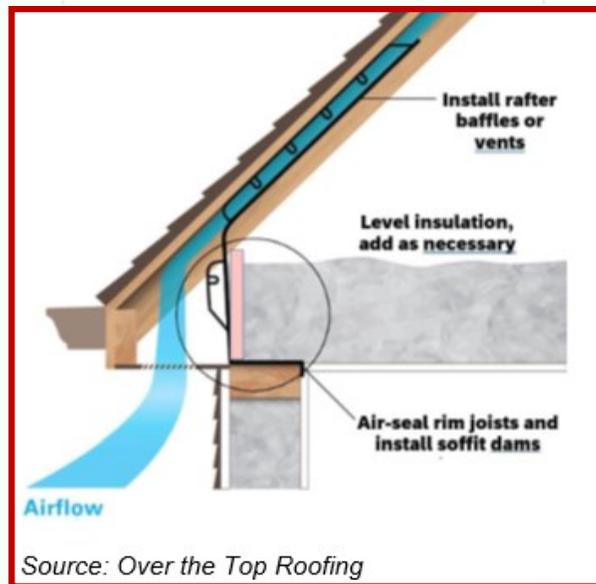
Therefore, it could be causing your home to use more energy during heating and cooling seasons.

Most often, wind washing is caused by airflow coming through the soffits or roof vents into unconditioned attic spaces. While air movement is necessary for proper ventilation, it shouldn't move through insulation. When it does, gusts can push loose-fill insulation out of place, causing bare spots and uneven insulation. Blown-in fiberglass and rockwool insulation are most vulnerable to its effects. Typically the problem starts in

open, vented soffit areas where roof trusses set on the top plate of exterior walls.

The solution is to direct air flow within the attic while eliminating its opportunity to pass through insulation as illustrated below.

Start by raking loose-fill insulation away or pulling blanket insulation back from vented soffit areas. Air



seal rim joists and drywall seams with spray foam insulation. Also seal floor cavities below attic knee walls and cantilevered floors, if necessary. Install rafter baffles or vents at each rafter bay to direct air flow above rather than through attic insulation. Cut foam board to snugly fit between ceiling joists and install them to serve as soffit dams. These should

extend four inches above the final level of insulation where possible. Remember, the US Department of Energy recommends insulating attics in Nebraska to an R-value of 49. This will likely require an insulation depth of 16 to 18-inches. Redistribute existing insulation back evenly into affected areas and add new insulation as necessary. If wind washing continues in problem areas, consider installing a roll of batt insulation over the top to confine loose-fill insulation. As part of home maintenance, remember to inspect attic spaces annually for the effects of wind washing and settling insulation.

Lexington Utilities System, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, wants to help you gain the most value from the energy required to heat and cool your home. Qualified customers may

be eligible for EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> attic insulation incentives to help with improvement costs. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup>, contact Lexington Utilities System, or visit [www.energywisenebraska.com](http://www.energywisenebraska.com) for more information.





## Electric Yard Tool Incentive

Electric lawnmower technology has improved. Now if you buy a new electric lawnmower, get a rebate of about 20% the purchase cost. Also electric chainsaws, tillers and snowblowers.

## Maybe it's time to go electric



Gasless, but not gutless. Quiet, but not shy. This is not your grandfather's battery-powered mower. Advances in battery technology have come a long way in recent years. More power is now being packed into batteries so your mower can speedily deliver a knock-out punch to your lawn.

Maybe it is time to consider upgrading your conventional, gas-burning mower with a new electric or battery-powered option. Consider the following advantages:

- Lower energy costs – depending on how often you mow, electric-powered mowers will cost about \$15 per year in electricity. Gas mowers use approximately \$30 of gasoline.
- Less maintenance – no sparkplugs, air filters, fuel filters, or oil change.
- Quieter operation – electric mowers create up to 75 decibels of sound, which is similar to a washing machine. Gasoline mowers can exceed 95 decibels, which is comparable to a motorcycle on the highway.
- Eco-friendly – no toxic gas emissions from nitrogen oxides, airborne particulates, carbon monoxide, or carbon dioxide.

### Follow these easy steps

- Obtain an EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> Lawn and Garden Program application form from Lexington Utilities System (also at [www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com)—under “Utilities” tab, scroll to bottom of page).
- Purchase your choice of a new (not used, previously owned or factory reconditioned) battery-powered or corded electric riding, walk-behind, or robotic mower on or after January 1, 2023. Chargers and additional battery purchases are available for the incentive at time of initial mower purchase. However, taxes, delivery/shipping and set-up costs are not.
- Complete the application and return it to Lexington Utilities System with a copy of proof of purchase identifying the selected mower, batteries, etc.
- Rebate also applies to electric chainsaws, tillers and snowblowers.



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

**Go NE Where**  
PUBLIC TRANSIT WEEK

**Public Transit Week**  
**April 7-13, 2024**

**RYDE Transit** Please call (308) 865-5677 to schedule your RYDE today!



### 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>



# FAIR HOUSING: THE 'ACT' IN ACTION

FAIR HOUSING  
MONTH 2024

HUD.GOV/FHM



⚠ If you feel you have experienced **housing discrimination** based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex (incl. sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, and familial status, contact HUD at **1-800-669-9777**, online at **www.hud.gov/fairhousing**, or your local fair housing organization.



REPORT DISCRIMINATION

## 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.



## Four Promotions on the Lexington Police Department

Last year's retirement of Police Chief Tracy Wolf precipitated a series of promotions in the department.

In addition to Wolf's successor Paul Schwarz (formerly Captain), former Sergeant **Phil Lauby** was named Captain.

There are also three new Sergeants. Here they are in order of their longevity with the force, shown with Police Chief Schwarz:



◀ **Iain McDiarmid**,  
a 10-year veteran of the force.

◀ **Edwin Perdomo**,  
6 years on the force.

◀ **Jose Torres**,  
5 years on the force.



**National Police Week**  
**May 15-21, 2024**

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



## DRIVING RANGE OPENS APRIL 1

Self-Service



May be closed if cold or stormy . . .  
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



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

### SUMMER SATURDAYS

(May - October):

The Service Building is open  
the **third Saturday** of the month

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.



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



LEXINGTON  
**150**  
YEARS

1874 - 2024





APRIL 18

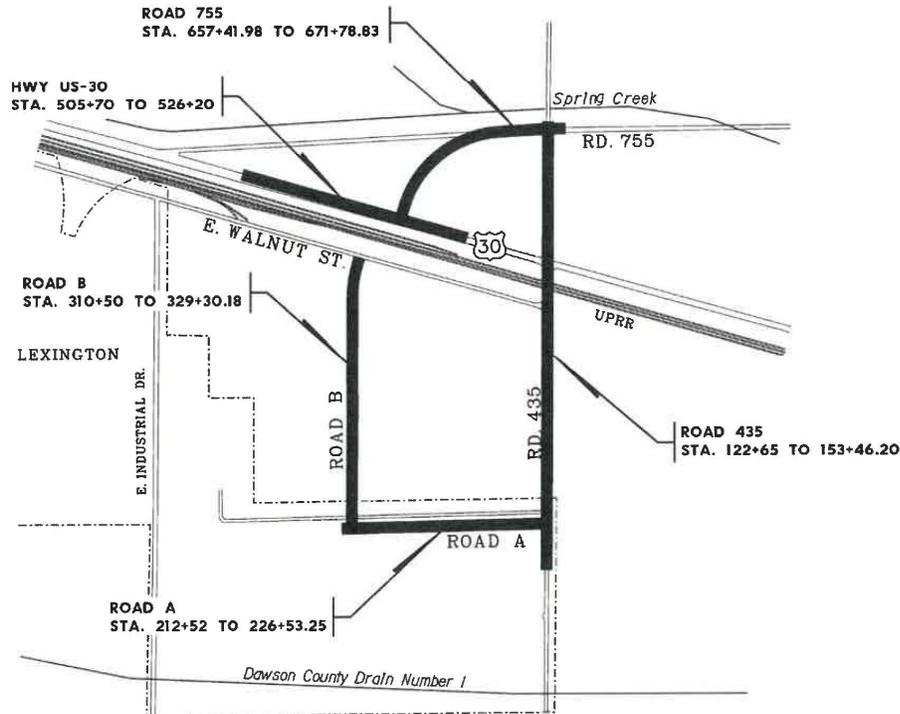


NATIONAL  
**LINEMAN**  
APPRECIATION DAY

National Lineman Appreciation Day is a time to express our appreciation to the great men and women that work so hard for us every day. It's our honor to celebrate the hard work, innovation, and dedication of Electrical Lineworkers. #thankalineman



**Lexington East Viaduct**  
**Dawson County, NE**  
**RRZ-TMT-1705(3), CN 61457**



**City of Lexington**  
406 East 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lexington, NE 68805  
(308) 324-2341

**Construction Engineer**  
Olsson  
201 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
(308)384-8750

**Prime Contractor**  
United Contractors Inc.  
6678 NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Johnston, Iowa 50131  
(515)577-2350

**City Manager**  
Joe Peplitsch

**Project Manager**  
Steve Hancock

**Contractor's Project Supt.**  
Chuck Kadlecek

**Assistant City Manager**  
Dennis Burnside

**Project Inspector**  
Aaron Van Luchene



# Roadway Improvement Information

## Lexington East Viaduct

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**Phase 1-** Scheduled to begin April 1, 2024. Work to be completed in this phase includes storm sewer, grading, and paving of Road A and Road B. During this first phase of construction only Road A and B will be closed to traffic, and access to businesses and thru traffic will remain along Road 435 and Walnut Street. New private driveways will be constructed along Hwy 30 Road 755 to provide access to businesses and residents during future phases. Construction is anticipated to last approximately 35 days.

**Phase 2-** This phase will be constructed in three parts, A, B, and C to ensure access to businesses can be maintained. Work will begin for Phase 2A along the south portion of Road 435 starting approximately 300 feet south of Road A and extending approximately 200 feet north of Road A. Construction will consist of removing the existing pavement, installing storm sewer, grading, and constructing the new pavement. Work on Phase 2A will require closure of the intersection of Road 435 and Road A and is expected to start late April. During this closure local traffic only will be allowed on Road 435, and all thru traffic will be detoured. Once 2A is complete, the intersection will be opened to traffic, and work will progress into Phases 2B and 2C with continued closure of Road 435 for thru traffic. Roads A and B will be open to traffic before work begins on Phase 2B and 2C. All work in Phase 2 is expected to be complete by mid June.

**Phase 3-** Towards the end of but concurrent with Phase 2, work will begin along Highway 30. This work will include removal of the shoulder, grading,

and widening of the paving to allow for a future turn lane. Highway 30 will remain open to thru traffic during this time. This work will begin early June and should be completed toward the end of the month.

**Phase 4-** This work will likely overlap with Phase 3, and consists of removal and closure of Road 755. Work will include grading, storm sewer and paving. Work will begin mid June and will last until mid July. Towards the end of this phase, the intersection of Road 435/755 will be closed down and reconstructed. New accesses to the residences and businesses off of Hwy 30 and Road 755 will have already been constructed. Road 755 will be permanently closed during this phase and the intersection of Road 435/755 will be temporarily closed. During this closure, traffic will be detoured away from this intersection.

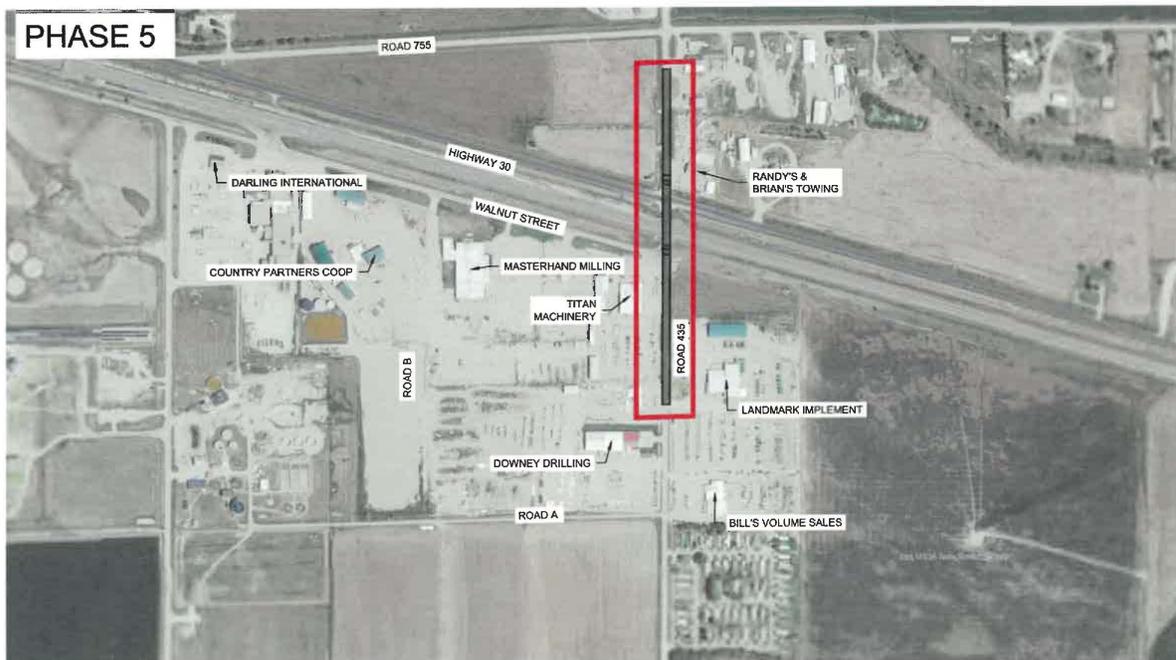
**Phase 5-** Work on Phase 5 is expected to begin towards the end of July 2024 and will last until October 2025. During this phase work will be completed along Road 435 from approximately 600' north of Road A up to Road 755. Work includes pavement removal, storm sewer, grading, bridge construction, roadway lighting and paving. During this closure businesses will obtain access from the newly constructed portions of Road 435 or from Walnut Street. Road 435 will be closed and thru traffic will be detoured along Roads 754 and 756 west to Highway 283 and Taft Street. There will also be intermittent interruptions along Highway 30 during this time and traffic will be detoured accordingly.



## Lexington East Viaduct Construction Phasing Plan 2024-2025



## Lexington East Viaduct Construction Phasing Plan 2024-2025



CLIP & 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 a local radio or television station for information and 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 are urged to notify the Dawson County Emergency Center at 911.**

### ALL-CLEAR

The 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 a local radio or TV station 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 safe in a low, flat location. Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.

Emergency warning system tests of one minute in duration are conducted the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. **Sirens are designed for outdoors warning only.** For optimal safety, citizens are encouraged to get weather radios using the **NOAA** (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and/or **SAME** (Specific Area Message Encoding) standards.



KEEP LEXINGTON BEAUTIFUL

# FREE COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT!



DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARDS RECYCLING PROJECTS!

**APRIL 25TH 3-5PM &  
OCTOBER 12TH 12-2PM**

**H&R BLOCK \* 617 N. Grant St. Lexington**

Shredding available to anyone in the Lexington area, residential and commercial. No cardboard boxes accepted. Document drop off available 1 day in advance.

For more information contact us @ [k1bnebraska@gmail.com](mailto:k1bnebraska@gmail.com) or  
308-325-5701

