

# City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



## 2011 Road Projects

All or most of the cost for these projects will be paid through State or Federal funding.

### 1. Highway 283

This is a State Dept. of Roads project to improve parts of Hwy 283 — mostly intersections — between Ash Street on the south, and N 5th Street on the north. Work has already begun at Walnut Street and Grant Street, the two most affected areas. We have limited space to describe this project here so, if you want more detail, see the NDOR information at <http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?recordid=64&page=23>.



Walnut Street from Hwy 283 to Van Buren: complete removal & replacement

### 2. Frontier Street

The intersection of Frontier Street and Highway 283 (near Wal-Mart SuperCenter) will be reconstructed to widen driving and turn lanes to better accommodate car and truck traffic in this area. The project is anticipated to begin in that later part of April; and be completed within a 45-60 day period. The project will be built under traffic conditions in several short phases, please expect delays and plan accordingly when traveling through this area during construction.



Workers begin to remove concrete at N 5th & Jackson. N 5th from Jackson to Grant will be replaced, as will Grant from N 5th to Hwy 30.

The project will be divided into several phases to limit the amount of disruption to local traffic patterns in the area and ensure access to services in the area. The project is anticipated to start in June 2011 and be completed by October 2011. A public open house will be

scheduled prior to the start of construction, and appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that area business and residential needs and concerns are addressed. The project is being funded through the Nebraska Department of Roads using ARRA ("Stimulus") funds at 100%; the utility upgrades are a local cost.



## Wolf is new Lexington Police Chief



Photo courtesy Lexington Clipper Herald  
Photographer: Danny Gruber

Lexington City Manager Joe Pepplichtsch has appointed Tracy Wolf as the new Chief of Police, effective February 25. He succeeds Charlie Clark who retired last summer after 25 years.

Wolf has served on the Lexington Police Department for 28 years, most of which he was in supervisory positions. In recent years he held the Sergeant's rank, and has been Acting Police Chief since Clark's retirement in July 2010.

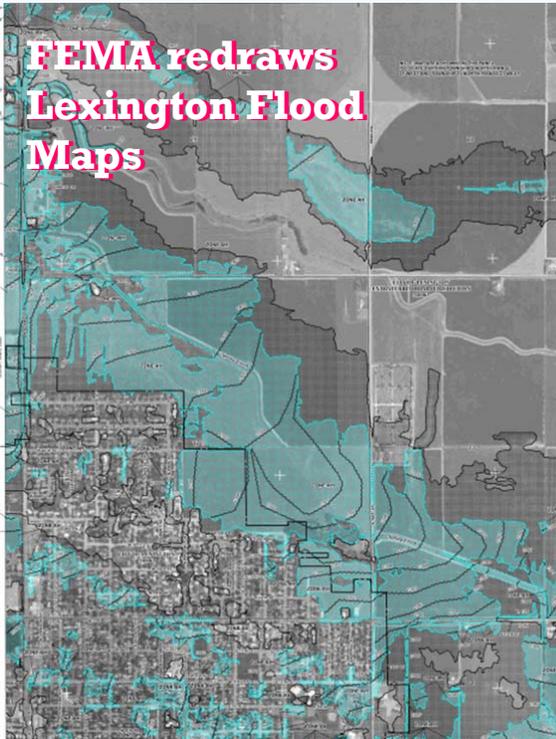
Wolf was born in Eustis, Nebraska, but most of his life he and his wife, Brenda, have called Lexington home, and have raised two daughters here.

Prior to becoming a police officer, Wolf worked at Sperry New Holland in Lexington, and served in the U.S. Army.

Wolf believes in protecting the residents of Lexington. He's been a certified Firearms and Defensive Tactics Instructor for more than 25 years and a nationally certified Taser Instructor for 10 years. Chief Wolf plans to enhance the department's training, education and technology to ensure a progressive organization that will benefit the citizens of Lexington.



## FEMA redraws Lexington Flood Maps



Flood maps for the community are changing. This is the result of a multi-year project by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to re-examine flood zones and develop detailed, digital flood hazard maps. The new maps, effective May 3, 2011, reflect current flood risks and areas of recent growth, replacing the old maps that became effective May 15, 1984.

As a result, property owners throughout Lexington will have up-to-date, reliable, Internet-accessible information about their flood risk on a property-by-property basis.

Property owners, residential and business owners alike need to be aware of how the maps are changing. Many will learn that their risk is higher, or lower, than they thought based upon their understanding of the old flood maps. Options are available for property owners to make better financial decisions about protecting their property. To learn more, please visit [www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com), and follow the "In the Spotlight" news link in the upper right-hand corner.



## EnergyWise Tip: **Second Refrigerator Costs More Than You Think**

What price can you put on a cold refreshing beverage after a vigorous workout or a hot day in the sun? How about having the extra refrigerator space for Aunt B's monster-sized batch of potato salad for the family cookout? What's the true value of knowing you can accommodate the "Buy Three, Get One Free" sale on gallon buckets of ice cream? If these are the occasional reasons why you have a second refrigerator, they may not be worth it. That second refrigerator may be costing you more than you think!

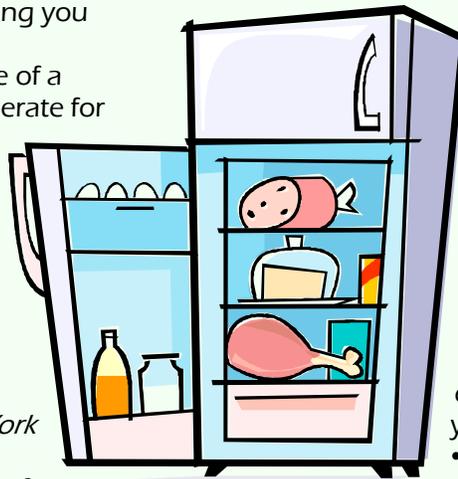
Even though the average life of a refrigerator is 12 years, many operate for years beyond that. "The number of U.S. households with two or more refrigerators has increased, and the secondary refrigerators are typically older and less efficient than the primary models," says the Energy Vision Update 2010 report by the World Economic Forum, according to *The New York Times*.

More than one-fourth (26%) of U.S. households have a second refrigerator, and that share is steadily increasing, according to a study released in December 2010 by the U.S. Department of Energy. This investigation also found that about 10 percent of households that buy new refrigerators keep their old ones. Another 32 percent sell or donate their old units. If all 30 million of the energy-wasting units were unplugged, the U. S. would save 25 million megawatt hours of electricity, or about \$2.8 billion dollars.

According to ENERGYSTAR®, 27 million inefficient units manufactured before 1993 are still in use. If you are one of the Nebraskans who has a top freezer model around 22 cubic feet in size, plan on an additional 2,347 kilowatt-hours of electricity on your bill a year. At eight cents per kilowatt-hour, that is more than \$180!

What can you do to reduce this cost? Here are some ideas:

- Move all your refrigerated items into one unit, preferably, your newest. Refrigerators are most efficient when kept full; however, be sure air inside the refrigerator can flow around all items to ensure proper cooling.
- Only plug in and operate the second refrigerator when you know it is needed. If you are hosting a large celebration, turn the unit on a few hours before the event and unplug it after it is no longer needed.
  - Consider loading a cooler with ice if the extra room is needed for a brief period. The cost for a bag of ice is equal to running your old refrigerator over only a 48-hour period.
  - Clean the coils! If you must keep your old unit, clean the coils, at a minimum, annually. Clean them more frequently if the unit is in a dusty or dirty environment. Do it for your new unit, too!
  - If you really need a second refrigerator, consider purchasing a compact unit that is ENERGYSTAR-qualified. These units consume less than a third of the energy when compared to larger units manufactured before 1980.



### Get cash for your old fridge!

Another idea is to participate in the EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> Refrigerator Recycling Program. If you are an electric customer of Nebraska Public Power District or any of its wholesale utility partners, you can take advantage of the program by calling 866-444-9160 or visiting [www.jacoinc.net](http://www.jacoinc.net) to schedule a free pick up. Customers should be sure to have their utility bill in hand when scheduling. Refrigerators or freezers must be between 10 and 30 cubic feet in size and be operational at the time of pick-up. Not only will you be saving money on your electric bill and helping recycle valuable materials, you are eligible to receive \$35 for your old refrigerator or freezer!



## Lexington Downtown Revitalization Plan Wins Award



Lexington was honored with an Excellence in Planning Best Practice award for its Downtown Revitalization study. The study was completed in 2010 by Omaha consulting firm RDG Planning and Design. The award was given by the Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association, presented March 31 at their

annual conference in Grand Island. Several members of Lexington's Planning Commission were on hand to receive the award. The full study can be found at this web page: <http://www.cityoflex.com/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?>



Accepting the N-APA Excellence in Planning Best Practice award (l to r): Ellie Vazquez and Dora Vivas, Lexington Planning Commission, Keith Marvin, APA-NE President, Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside, and Planning Commissioner Cathy Fagot.

## Recycle Trailers Moved



A State Roads project closing N Grant and E 5th (see page 1) necessitates the move of two large recycle trailers formerly at the parking lot at 5th & Grant. Until the project is completed later this summer, residents may take their recyclable paper and plastic to the temporary location on E 4th Street between Grant and Washington.

## Remember, you can save water



### Save Water

Did you know that each of us uses 77 gallons of water a day?

When we over-water our lawns, the excess water carries pollution into storm drains and ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers.

#### So what can you do? Simple:

- Treat water as a valued resource. Water when necessary, instead of on a fixed schedule.
- Adjust your sprinklers to water only your lawn and plants — not your driveway, sidewalk or street.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to help retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.
- Use rainwater to water your plants by directing downspouts toward your plants, or by collecting water with rain barrels.
- Make your lawn cheaper and easier to maintain by mowing high — three inches is the rule. Longer grass has deeper roots and requires less water.

Save water and help keep our environment clean!



Support provided by NDEQ

CITY OF **Lexington** NEBRASKA  
[www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com)





## Library News

**Lexington Public Library**  
907 North Washington St.  
by Kathy Thomsen  
Library Director



The Lexington Public Library will have two programs in April that are sponsored by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation.

On April 12, Celtic fingerstyle guitarist Jerry Barlow will return to the Lexington Public Library to offer an evening of musical entertainment.



Barlow is an Indie Award winner, who can be heard on NPR and PBS. The program will begin at 7:00 pm.



David March will help introduce the 2011 Summer Reading Program on April 28, at

7:00 p.m., when he presents a musical concert, *Music from Around the World*. With over a dozen instruments and stories about each, David entertains with music from around the world. This program is also sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council.



Lexington Public Library will be celebrating National Library Week the week of April 10 to April 16. Many activities and events will be taking place at the library during that week.



The library will be having a fine free week the week of April 10 to April 16. If you have overdue materials, you can return them to the library during that week and the fines will be waived. You can also request that previous fines be waived. However, the fees for lost items cannot be waived as

the library uses that money to replace items that were lost.

- On Monday, April 11, the library will host a Family Movie Night featuring an animated movie about a super villain, Gru, who plans to use three girls as pawns for a grand scheme, only to find their innocent love is profoundly changing him. Popcorn and drinks will be served.
- During National Library Week the library will have trivia contests, drawings for prizes, and "Get Caught Reading" awards. Coffee, tea, and cookies will be served during the week and library scrapbooks will be on display for browsing.

## Sign up for Summer Reading

Registration for summer reading will begin on May 25 at the library. Programming for summer reading will begin on June 6. The summer reading kick-off will be Adam White's Comedy Magic - *One World Many Stories* on June 1 at 10:00 am. The themes for summer reading 2011 are:



- Preschool to Grade 5 – **One World, Many Stories**
- Grades 6 to Grade 12 – **You Are Here**
- Adults – **Novel Destinations.**



## Lexington Named a Tree City USA for 14th Consecutive Year



**TREE CITY USA®**

Lexington has been named a Tree City USA City for the 14th year in a row. The designation honors Lexington's commitment to nurturing a diverse "urban forest." Tree Board member **Dave Stenberg** will represent Lexington at the annual award ceremony in

Lincoln April 13.

Arbor Day 2011 is April 29. The Tree Board and the City are planning tree-planting and awareness activities. Citizens are encouraged to participate by planting trees too. The Tree Board recommends the following trees as best 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, Lacebark Elm, Discovery Elm, Goldenraintree, Honeylocust, Littleleaf Linden, Sugar Maple, Chinkapin Oak, Japanese Pagodatree, and Walnut.

## Crossing Guards Needed



Community Fitness Initiative is asking for volunteers to help school children cross busy streets in the afternoons, 3:20 to 3:40. This easy volunteer opportunity starts the week of

April 18, through the end of the school year (May 24). For more information and to volunteer, contact Tiffany Carlson at CFI, (308) 233-1162 or [trcarlson5@gmail.com](mailto:trcarlson5@gmail.com).



## 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.



**801 West Vine Street**  
**308-324-5995**

### Summer Hours

**Mon. - Fri.**  
**7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**CLOSED**  
**WEEKENDS**

The Service Building is the place to go to:

- dispose of furniture, appliances, and other large items (small fees may be applied);
- pick up free wood chips, dirt or compost for your garden and landscaping needs; and
- dispose of tree limbs.

Non-tree yard waste may be dumped anytime at the City's compost pile on east Walnut (please don't dump lawn bags).



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

