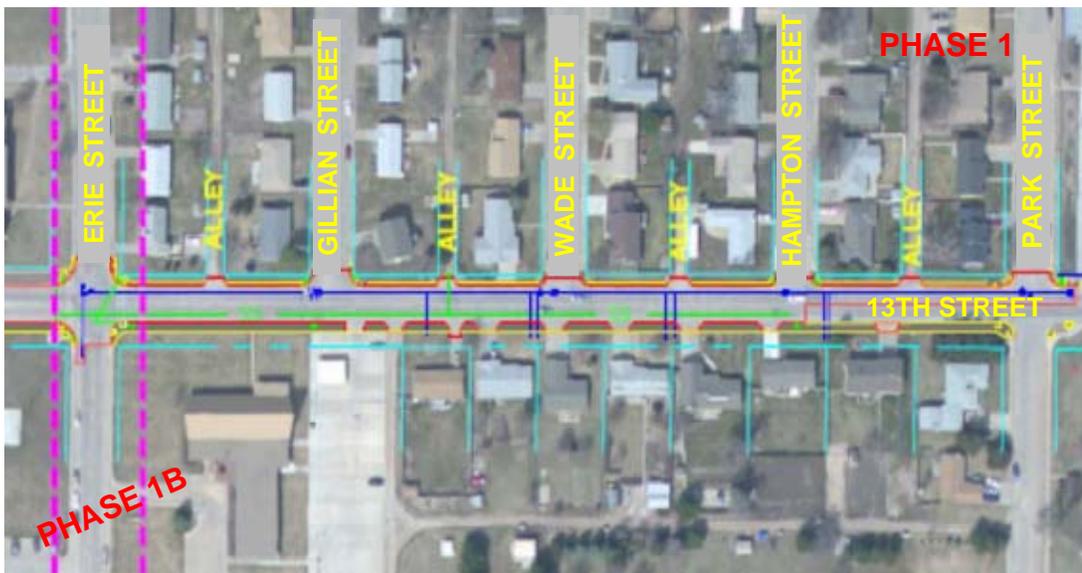


City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



13th Street reconstruction will be in 5 phases



Work begins June 6 on the West 13th Street Reconstruction project. Shown here are the components of Phase 1 – the other four phases can be viewed at the City website.



After years of behind-the-scenes preparation, reconstruction of West 13th Street is scheduled to start June 6. The project spans from Park Street on the east to Airport Road on the west, and is estimated to take until the end of September to complete.

In order to allow continuous access for residents and businesses, the project will be done in five phases. Phase 1, which is actually broken into three sub-phases, will concentrate on the east and west ends of the project: the Airport Road intersection on the west; and a stretch from Park Street to Erie Street on the east. Once those are completed, the phases will progress from east to west.

The City has created a web page that shows all the project phases. Go to <http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=153> for detailed descriptions and maps. The City will update the page if changes occur or new information becomes available. If you have project concerns, you can email them to Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside, dburnside@cityoflex.com.

In addition to widening and paving improvements, underground utilities such as water and sewer will be upgraded, and a 10-foot-wide hike-bike trail will run along the length of the project.

It is also important to note that the paving work will receive 100% funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2008 ("Stimulus").

Motorists are advised to expect delays and shifting detours, and plan accordingly. Everyone's cooperation is appreciated.



Recycle your license plates



courtesy
Keep Lexington Beautiful

2011 is the year all Nebraska license plates are being replaced with new ones. An individual takes their registration and insurance information to the courthouse, pays their fees and is handed two new high-grade aluminum license plates. Where do the used license plates go?

There are the collectors who have their old (or shall we say antique and collectible) license plates decorating their garages and barns, but most people will toss them in the garbage without another thought. Here's an option: **recycle them!**

At the Glenn Hawks Community Building, 801 West Vine Street, there is a container to place them in. They are open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Simply drive in, toss the plates in the marked container/dumpster and drive away.

There are a number of advantages to this.

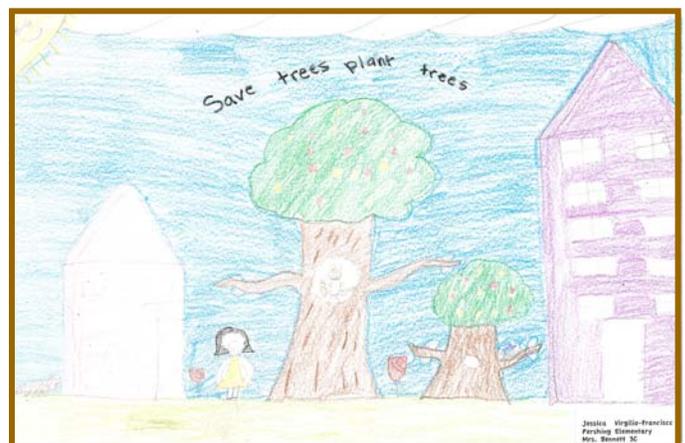
1. The license plates won't swell up the landfill.
2. The license plates are aluminum and can be recycled easily and made into other products.
3. If license plates are tossed in with aluminum cans to be recycled it will cause problems. Aluminum cans (soda cans, beer cans) are a softer, lower grade aluminum and can't be mixed with license plates. At the landfill these will have to be separated which costs more money (which means the landfill doesn't make as much when they sell the recycle materials) than if they are already separate.

4. Keep Lexington Beautiful will receive a little money. Each year for more than 14 years KLB was awarded grant money from Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality for public education, litter removal and recycling programs. The amount of money available has been shrinking and this year NDEQ denied their request altogether. To continue the Community Cleanup Program, 3rd Grade Litter Deputy Program and many others KLB needs to raise funds and this will assist in that.



L to R: Tree Board members Bubba Racek, Dave Stenberg, Marty Smith, Gordon Sellin, poster contest winner Jessica Francisco and her teacher Mrs. Bennett, and Pershing Principal Jerry Bergstrom

Lexington's Tree Board put out its annual call for a third-grade Arbor Day Poster Contest, and received 77 entries from Pershing and Sandoz elementary schools. The Tree Board selected a poster by Jessica Virgilio-Francisco from Pershing School. She and her school were honored on Arbor Day, April 29, with the planting of a flowering crabapple tree on the school grounds. The whole school turned out for the ceremony, and the Tree Board presented Jessica with her poster professionally framed for posterity. Next to the tree is a permanent in-ground plaque commemorating her achievement.



EnergyWise Tip: Take steps to conserve energy and save money

Homeowners generally take a cool attitude toward higher summer energy bills. While air conditioning is critical to the comfort of you and your family, the added costs can sometimes strain the family budget. This is compounded when you consider that most electric utilities have higher rates in the summer to offset their higher costs for generating and delivering electricity.

Before you get hot under the collar, there are actions you can take to conserve energy and improve the efficiency of your home. By following these steps, your home will be in better shape to handle those hot, humid days while helping to trim those summer energy costs.

- Raise your thermostat to 78°F. This is the number one way to conserve energy in the summer. Do not set your thermostat colder than normal when you turn on your air conditioning system. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling.

- Consider installing a programmable thermostat. This is an excellent way to match the cooling needs of your home to your personal schedule. They typically offer savings of 10 percent to 15 percent without compromising personal comfort.

- Have a professional, reputable contractor clean and inspect your air conditioning system before every cooling season begins. Check with Lexington Utilities Service to see if you qualify for an EnergyWiseSM incentive to help pay for this service.

- Replace your furnace air filter. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer increasing energy use. Check your filter every time you receive your utility bill and replace it, if necessary.

- Keep the outside portion of your central air conditioning system clear of dried mud, debris, and grass clippings. Especially after an intense rain, mud can splatter onto the unit and block the air after the mud dries.

- Make sure ceiling fans are blowing down. Most fans have a switch to change the fan direction.

- Use the dishwasher and clothes washer later in the evening. When used during the day, these appliances produce additional heat causing your home's air conditioning system to run longer.

- Consider taking advantage of the season's warmer air and dry your laundry outside. Did you know that your dishwasher uses less water than washing dishes by hand? Turn off your dishwasher's heat-dry setting to allow your dishes to air-dry and save even more!

- Whenever possible, use your microwave or countertop appliances for cooking. They too produce less heat than your oven or stove. Better yet, fire up the outdoor grill for cooking. What says summer better than burgers and hot dogs?

- Fill up the refrigerator. Having lots of food and drinks in your refrigerator can help slow its interior from warming up when the door is open.

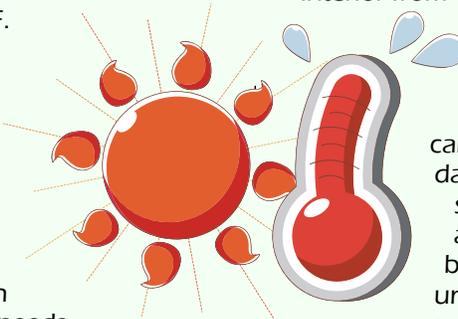
- Use energy-efficient landscaping. Leafy trees and shrubs properly placed on the south and west side of your home can provide shade during the peak daytime heat. Plant trees or shrubs to shade the outdoor portion of your air-conditioning system but do not block the airflow around the unit. A unit operating in the shade uses as much as 10 percent less electricity than the same one operating in the sun.

- Reduce heat buildup by keeping blinds and curtains closed on windows facing the sun. Unshaded windows can account for up to 40 percent of unwanted heat in your home.

- Unplug or recycle that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't really need it. This will save you up to \$150 per year! Check with your electric utility to see if you qualify for the EnergyWiseSM Refrigerator Recycling Program that pays you \$35 for your old unit and provides free removal.

- If you have a pool, turn off your filter overnight when the pool is not in use. Better yet, use a timer to cycle the pump and reduce its energy usage by 50 percent.

Summer should be a time for fun-in-the-sun and not a time spent worrying about high utility bills. Taking action now helps ensure that your enjoyment lasts right into autumn!





Library News

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



Lexington Public Library, PO Box 778, Lexington, NE 68850.

One World, Many Stories

Summer Readers – Can you read your weight in books? Can summer readers from pre-school through grade 12 read a ton of books during the six weeks of the summer reading program? That is the challenge for the participants of the 2011 summer reading program. The themes for 2011 are *One World Many Stories* for pre-school through grade 5 and *You are Here* for middle school. As each participant reads books during the summer and returns them to the library, they will be weighed and the weight recorded on our chart. The goal is to reach 2000 pounds by July 14, when the library hosts the summer reading finale. The summer reading finale will be Magical Paradise. Animals from Magical Paradise will visit the library to help children learn about animals around the world.

Magician **Adam White** was at the Lexington Public Library on June 1 with a special magic program – *The World of Magic*.



Adam's show kicked off the summer reading program which starts June 6.

Adults are invited to participate in a summer reading program *Novel Destinations*. It's easy, it's fun, and it's rewarding! Simply register at the library beginning June 1. When you read a book, write the author, title, your name and phone number on a book review card. Then circle one to five suitcases to tell us how well you like the book. Drop the card in our "Book Review Suitcase" at the library. The library will have a drawing on August 1 for prizes and Chamber Bucks.

Are you traveling this summer?

Send us a postcard from your vacation or bring one to the library when you return and we will put it in on our *Novel Destinations* display. The library's address is



The **Friends of the Library** will be hosting a Silent Auction during the month of June at the library.



They will be auctioning off a variety of gift baskets made by the Friends of the Library. Stop by the library to view the baskets and bid on the basket of your choice. All proceeds will go to support the Friends of the Library. **Reggie Shaw** will perform at 7:00 p.m. on July 7 at the library. The winners of the baskets will be announced during the intermission. Coffee and cookies will also be served during the intermission.

The Lexington Public Library would like to express our appreciation to the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the **Lexington Community Foundation** for sponsoring the variety of educational and entertaining programs that were held at the library during the 2010/2011 year including the Adam White Magical Show, the Magical Paradise, and the Reggie Shaw performance.



Lexington Family Aquatic Center Hours:
 Mon - Thu: 1 - 7:30 PM;
 Fri - Sun: 1 - 6 PM.
 10th & Monroe

**Stay Focused.
 Stay Alive
 Around
 Railroad Tracks.**



Visit www.OLNebraska.org

For a FREE

Rail Safety Presentation

or call:

Carol Daley (402) 885-8572



Remember, you're not just getting rid of weeds and pests

Choose Earth-friendly landscaping

Did you know that herbicides and pesticides are harmful to our kids, pets, and the environment?

The chemicals in these materials pollute our waterways if washed from our lawns and gardens into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Practicing Earth-friendly landscaping in your yard and garden can help protect kids, pets, and our waterways.

So what can you do? Simple:

- Select plants native to Nebraska. These plants require less fertilizer and water, and are more disease resistant.
- Avoid over-watering your lawn — it needs about one inch of rain/water per week.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to help retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.
- Mow your lawn high — 3 inches is the rule. Follow your community's leaf pick-up guidelines. Try mowing grass clippings and leaves into your lawn — they make good fertilizers.
- Use herbicides and pesticides sparingly and limit application to problem areas only.

Choose Earth-friendly landscaping and help keep our water clean!



Support provided by NDEQ

CITY OF **Lexington** NEBRASKA
www.cityoflex.com





REASONS TO SHOP LOCAL!

- Spend \$100 locally,
\$62 stays right in your community
- Spend that same \$100 in a national chain,
only \$42 stays in your community
- Spend that same \$100 on-line,
\$0 is returned to your community



801 West Vine Street
308-324-5995

Summer Hours

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

THIRD Saturday
of the month:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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).

WE ASK OUR CUSTOMERS

DO NOT DEPOSIT IN TRASH DUMPSTERS:

- yard waste ● tree branches ● wood
- cement ● iron ● batteries and tires . . .
- . . . as the landfill will not accept these items.

YOUR DUMPSTER IS FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD TRASH ONLY

If you have a curbside trash container, DO NOT
place
trash in large alley dumpsters. These are for alley
customers only.

If your curbside trash container fills before the
weekly pickup, please call for additional containers.

DO NOT under any circumstances put hot BBQ
coals or fireplace ashes in your dumpster. If you
are caught doing this you will have to pay to
replace the dumpster if fire occurs.

If you see someone using alley containers for
construction materials, yard waste, or other
unaccepted items please call us right away and
we will take care of it.



Dan's Sanitation

324-6693 ●
Lexington

Downtown Revitalization funds available

If you have a
business in the
downtown area
(Hwy 30 to 8th,
Madison to
Jackson), you can
apply for grant
money for building
rehab and other
improvements.
Contact
Dennis Burnside,
308-324-2341, or
dburnside@
cityoflex.com.



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.

