

City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska

Road Work Update



The mild weather has allowed excellent progress on Lexington's three major road projects this summer. As of early June: The newly paved **Airport Road** between 13th & 20th Streets is nearing completion, with only grading and seeding of shoulders ditches remaining.



Walnut Street work began May 29, between Madison and Van Buren Streets. The first removals began June 4 in the north lane. The project will be built in thirds (north, center, south). This is a total replacement project expected to be completed mid-August.



17th Street between Adams and Polk: the north lane is done, driveways are replaced, with small sections of sidewalk remaining. The south lane is substantially complete. When the south lane is done, work will commence on the center lanes. The lane-by-lane method allows for two-way traffic during construction.



Progress updates can be tracked at the City's website, at <http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=50>. We appreciate your patience as these projects are being finished.

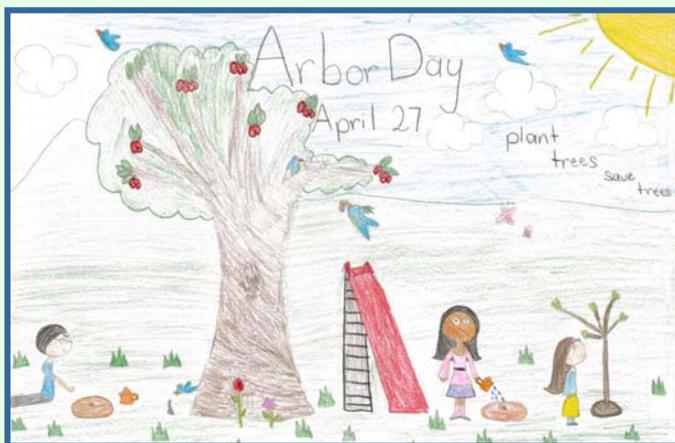


Rain doesn't stop Arbor Day celebration

Pershing School's **Naara Ramirez** created this year's winning Arbor Day Poster contest, sponsored by Lexington's Tree Board. Naara was honored on Arbor Day (April 27), with the planting of an elm tree on the grounds of Pershing School and the presentation of her poster framed for posterity. The whole school turned out to honor Naara in the school gymnasium, instead of gathering outside in a hard rain. The Tree Board received 76 poster entries from Lexington elementary school pupils.

Below: at the Arbor Day (April 27) presentation at Pershing School: Adults, left to right: Tree Board members Whitney Davis, Gordon Sellin, Marty Smith and Dave Stenberg. Pupils: 2012 3rd Grade Poster Contest winner Naara Ramirez, and 2011 3rd Grade Poster Contest Winner Jessica Virgilio-Francisco, also from Pershing School.

Bottom: Naara's winning 2012 Arbor Day Poster



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EnergyWise Tip: Dehumidifiers

Anyone from Nebraska can tell you that our summers can be hot. If they are from the eastern half of the state, they can also tell you that humidity makes those summer days feel even hotter.

In addition to being uncomfortable, high humidity levels can adversely affect your health. Excess moisture can contribute to an unhealthy environment in your home, even in the winter. Dust mites, molds, bacteria and other organisms that can cause respiratory problems thrive in moisture-ridden, high humidity areas. Some signs that excess moisture is present include condensation on windows during colder months, peeling wallpaper and damp patches on walls and ceilings.

Using a dehumidifier decreases the humidity in your home and helps decrease the occurrence of moisture-loving predators – making your home healthier and more comfortable. Running a dehumidifier comes with a cost, however. The monthly expense will often run from \$15 to \$35 in summer, but it can exceed \$50 per month if the dehumidifier runs a lot. Here are some ideas of how you can manage humidity problems and save money at the same time.

- Set the humidistat so the dehumidifier does not run continuously. For basements, 50 percent relative humidity is recommended in summer.
- Help reduce peak electric use. Put your dehumidifier on the night shift! Put a timer on your dehumidifier to turn it on at 9 p.m. and off at 10 a.m.
- Close all windows and doors to the area. This will dramatically reduce the humidity coming from outside air.
- Locate the dehumidifier in the area with the highest humidity but don't create a safety hazard by placing it in water. Dehumidifiers are

not the solution to standing water (or running water) in basements.

- Position the dehumidifier away from the wall or furniture so air can circulate through the unit.
- Hook up a hose to drain the dehumidifier if emptying the tank is a chore.
- Frost can form on the coils and reduce dehumidification when the room temperature drops below 65°F. Frost can also form when the dew point is low. If frost forms, turn off the machine until the frost melts.
- Keep the dehumidifier clean. Wipe or vacuum dust and dirt from the coils and fan.



- If you have a choice of fan speeds, higher speeds are more efficient while lower speeds are quieter.

During winter, relative humidity between 25 percent and 40 percent is recommended. In colder weather, humidity toward the lower end of this range is better for reducing condensation and mold growth. Cold outdoor temperatures often require indoor humidity lower than 40 percent to prevent condensation on windows. Finally, when you

are shopping for a dehumidifier, purchase one of the ENERGY STAR® qualified models that have more efficient refrigeration coils, compressors, and fans than conventional models. An ENERGY STAR qualified model removes the same amount of moisture as a similarly-sized conventional unit, but uses 15 percent less energy.

For other ideas on how you can become more EnergyWiseSM, visit Lexington Utilities Service, or visit www.nppd.com/save-energy.





Library News

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



Summer Reading has arrived. Children and Young Adults could begin registering for Summer Reading on May 23. The Children's/YA program will conclude on July 19. Summer Reading for adults began on June 1 and will end on August 1. To participate in the Summer Reading Program, you can read books checked out from the library or books from your own library; you can read books on your Kindle or your Nook or any other electronic device; or you can listen to an audiobook. Be sure to stop by the library and register for Summer Reading – It's easy, it's fun, and you may win a prize.

Here are four programs offered in June & July that are funded by the **Lexington Library Memorial Fund** and the **Lexington Community Foundation**.

On June 14 the **Crane River Theater** group from Kearney will present **Frog and Toad** at 4:00 p.m. The members of the theater group will read *Frog and Toad* stories and perform songs from their upcoming performance of **A Year with Frog and Toad**, which



will be held in Kearney's Yanney Park July 3 – 7. During the final portion of the program the choreographer will teach dance moves to audience participants.



On June 26 at 7:00 pm, folk singer, storyteller, and autoharp virtuoso, **Adam Miller**, will be presenting the program *Tall Tales* at the Lexington Public Library. This program is for all ages.

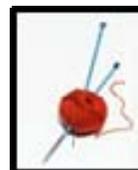
On July 17 at 7:00 pm, **Dave Ehlert** will be performing as Mark Twain. Ehlert is based in Branson, Mo., and is touring Nebraska in July.



The Summer Reading finale will be held at 7:00 pm on July 19 when **Cody Landstrom** performs an evening of comedy, magic, and fun for all ages. During this program summer reading certificates and prizes will be awarded.



The **Dawson County Children's Museum** will have two programs at the library that support the Summer Reading program. On Saturday, June 16, at 10:00 a.m., children will be able to learn about the stars, visit the Star Lab, and create star crafts. On Saturday, July 21, 10:00 a.m., children can learn about **Bats and Owls** while participating in a variety of activities.



As part of the Summer Reading Program, the library will host afternoons of crocheting and knitting. **Novels for Knitters and Other Stitches** will meet Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. Bring your knitting, needlework, or crocheting projects to the library on Tuesday afternoons, and enjoy our refreshments and book displays. The **Friends of the Library** will have patterns for caps for their Books for Babies project.

Are you in a pickle about what to do with that new device? The next **eReader Sandbox Class for Nooks and Kindles** will be held at the library on Wednesday, June 20, at 3:00 p.m. You can register by calling the library at 308-324-2151.



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



801 West Vine Street
308-324-5995

Winter Hours

(through April 13)
Mon. - Fri.
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Summer Hours

(starting April 16)
Mon. - Fri.
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- dispose of furniture, appliances, and other large items
- pick up free wood chips, dirt or compost
- dispose of tree limbs.



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.

