

# City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



## Lexington Fieldhouse gets Tremendous Boost



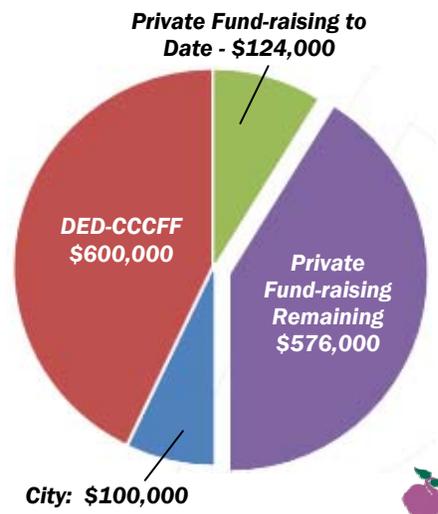
Right on the heels of receiving more than \$68,000 from the **Lexington Community Foundation's** (LCF) 2014 Key event, the planned Lexington Fieldhouse project has been awarded \$600,000 in funding from the **Nebraska Department of Economic Development**, through the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund. The Fund's purpose is to support the development of civic and community centers throughout Nebraska and to support projects that foster maintenance or growth of communities.

The project has an estimated price tag of \$1.4 million, and the local partners' goal is to raise at least \$700,000 of that amount in private donations. As of June 1, more than \$118,000 of that amount has been raised, leaving an additional \$582,000 in funding needed. The **Lexington Soccer League** has been instrumental in raising much of the private funding.

In addition to traditional personal pledges, the City has devised a novel way to make it easy for donors to contribute smaller amounts over longer periods of time. Contributors are encouraged to sign up to pledge a monthly amount for however long they specify, through their utility bill. There's a sign-up form that can be obtained at the Utilities Office, or downloaded and printed from the City website, then brought to the Utilities Office.

The funds will be collected and transferred to the LCF for investment and management, and earmarked for this project. Individuals will receive annual reports from the Foundation showing the amounts of their tax deductible donation, and status of their pledge. To donate any time, contact the LCF, [www.lexfoundation.org](http://www.lexfoundation.org).

Final plans and specifications for the facility are currently being developed. Based upon the levels of private funding realized or pledged in the coming months, the Fieldhouse project may break ground as early as October 2014. All interested parties are encouraged to help make this project a reality.



## Lexington's New Comp Plan Earns Award

### *American Planning Association, Nebraska Chapter*

Lexington's new Comprehensive Plan received Planner Jeff Ray of JEO Consultant Group presents the 2014 Daniel Burnham Award for a

Comprehensive Plan from the American Planning Association, Nebraska Chapter. Daniel Burnham (1846-1912), is acknowledged as the father of city

planning in America. One award per state is given annually for excellence in comprehensive plans. Find the Plan at <http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=35>.

**(far left) Planner Jeff Ray of JEO Consultant Group presents the 2014 Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan to Lexington's Planning Commission Chair Seth McFarland.**



Remember, you're not just walking the dog



### Clean up after your pet

#### Did you know . . .

. . . that pet waste has bacteria that makes our lakes and rivers unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities?

Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yards clean. But there's another important reason to clean up after out pets.

Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or in the yards means that harmful bacteria can get washed into storm drains and roadside ditches that flow directly into our lakes and rivers untreated.

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

Whether you are in your yard or on a walk, dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the trash or toilet to prevent it from entering storm drains and roadside ditches.

**Pick up after your pet - and help keep our water clean!**



Support provided by NDEQ



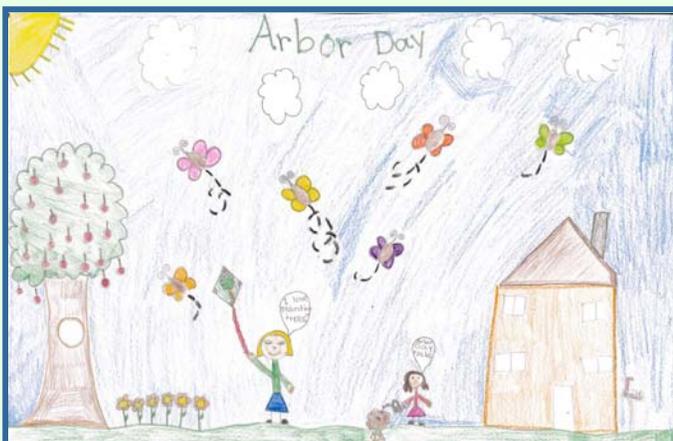
## Arbor Day a hit in Lexington

Pershing School's **Nikki Sonthana** created this year's winning Arbor Day Poster contest, sponsored by Lexington's Tree Board. Nikki was honored on Arbor Day (April 25), 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 Nikki, whose creativity cemented Pershing's winning streak of four years in a row. The Tree Board judged 202 poster entries from Lexington elementary school pupils.

**Below: 2014 Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Nikki Sontana (right), with last year's winner Diego Orellana (left).**

**Bottom: Nikki's winning 2014 Arbor Day Poster**



### LEADERSHIP - 2014-2015

Learn about our area to become better leaders and citizens in service to our communities.

Class will begin on September 2, 2014, and conclude in May 2015. Class size is limited to 20 participants. Tuition cost is \$225 and covers all costs of the class except transportation to the classes. Please contact Deb Jensen using the information below to get a complete application. Final date to request the application for the class is June 27, 2014.

email:  
deb@dawsonareadevelopment.com



1501 Plum Creek Parkway, Suite 2B  
Lexington, NE 68850

308-217-0005



## Ball Fields get new lights

The ball field lighting system at the Optimist Recreation Complex was completely renovated in May.

During routine inspections over the last year, a large percentage the previous poles were increasingly showing signs of metal fatigue failure at the base welds; which created public safety concerns. The City Council made the decision to install a new system that has superior pole foundations, more energy efficient luminaries, automated operation capability, and a long-term maintenance plan. The dollars saved in maintenance and energy consumption will cover the installation cost over the life of the system.

The City is currently reviewing options to re-use portions of the old equipment to provide lighting to other recreational areas around the community; looking to turn lemons into lemonade.



## Sgt. Reiber retires

The City of Lexington is honored to celebrate the distinguished law enforcement career of Sergeant Diane Reiber. She retired June 6, after 32 1/2 years of service to the City and the Police Department.

A cake and coffee reception was held at the Lexington Grand Generation Center on her last day, June 6. Chief Tracy Wolf praised Sgt. Reiber in his remarks, and presented her with this plaque.



### Like us on FaceBook!

Get the latest scoops about what's going on in Lexington!

Be sure to search for "City of Lexington." The FaceBook folks created a generic "Lexington" page, but that does not give you the news and updates from our official FB page.





## Library News

by Kathy Thomsen  
Library Director



907 North Washington Street

### Fizz, Boom, Read!

Summer reading has arrived at the Lexington Public Library. Children sign-ups have already started. Reading logs may be returned on a weekly basis. There'll be weekly drawings for prizes from the reading logs. The theme for Young Adults grades 6 through 12 is **Spark a Reaction!** The theme for the adult reading program, which will run from July 4 through Labor Day this year, is **Literary Elements**. Summer Reading programs include:

- **Movie Madness Monday** at 3:30 each Monday. Come to the library and watch a family movie. The library will supply the popcorn and the drinks.
- **Wild and Wacky Wednesdays** at 10:30 am each Wednesday. This is a storytime with songs, fingerplays, and lots of stories.
- **Just for Teens** at 3:30 each Wednesday. On June 18 we'll have snacks and a movie; other programs include Wii games and crafts.

Be sure to ask for a calendar for a complete listing of programs. There will be several opportunities for children to join in a variety of programming in connection with the summer reading program during June and July.



On June 10, 10:30 a.m., children of all ages will be entertained by **Professor E's Scilly Science Experiments**. With Professor E and science trickery, great and small observations are made about our character and the world in which we live.



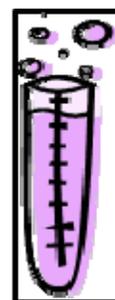
On June 17, 10:30 a.m., **The Sock Rockerz** from Nashville will be performing **Fizz, Boom, Rock**, a dance party that is sure to get kids laughing, singing, making silly faces and doing crazy dance moves!

For fun and action children will want to come to the library on June 26 at 10:30 when **The Crane River Theater** returns for a *Page to Stage* presentation of **Shrek the Musical**. The performances by CRT are always fun and interactive.



**FIZZ, BOOM, READ, Science Exploration Day:** The Library will be hosting a Science Exploration Day. Edgerton Explorit Center will be at Morton School June 23 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. with 25 hands on experiments for kids to enjoy. They will also conduct short programs throughout the day that will focus on key science principles. This is free and open to the public.

On July 1 at 10:30 am the library will welcome **Fizz, Boom...Puppets**. During the program children will meet Wendell the Teddy Bear, who goes on a tour of the library to look at science books for the Fizz, Boom...Puppets program.



The **Dawson County Children's Museum** will present a summer reading program **Volcanoes and Things that go FIZZ** at the library on July 10 at 10:30 am. Children will have the opportunity to build a volcano, watch dancing raisins, and create a genie in a bottle.

The final program for summer reading will be held July 14 at 7:00 p.m. **Mr. Billy** will entertain with original and classic rock for kids. Mr. Billy provides a fun and energetic evening of entertainment for young and old alike.



The library is also offering a selection entertainment for adults in June as part of the **Plum Creek Days** celebration.

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## Landscaping upgrades



Following the recent expansion of the south downtown parking lot, the City of Lexington has installed new sod and landscaping plants.

Most of the ornamental improvements are under the flagpoles, intended to enhance their stature in the area's aesthetic scheme.

Watch for similar and more expansive landscaping improvements on Plum Creek Parkway near the Welcome to Lexington sign and the new strip mall.

## Library News

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From the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming, "V" the Gypsy Cowbelle, will provide genuine Cowbilly Music

on Thursday, June 19 at 7:00 pm. With her unique and timeless style, "V" entertains with good old-fashioned country and western music. You will reminisce with unforgettable classics and discover refreshing originals with a true American troubadour.



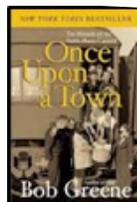
On June 22, 2:00 p.m., the library will host Sue McLain portraying A

**Century of Fashion 1870-1970.** So come, step back in time, discover. This is a Humanities Nebraska program.



The library is excited to be offering a new program to adults on Fridays at 9:30 am. It is **Coffee and Cards at the**

**Library.** The library will provide the cards, board games or puzzles, and the coffee and treats, you just need to come and enjoy the fun. We will finish by 11:00 so you will have time for lunch. No registration is required.



The **Monday Afternoon Book Club** selected the 2014 One Book One Nebraska title, **Once upon a Town**, for their June book

discussion. The book generated a lot of interest in the North Platte Canteen, which existed in North Platte during World War II. Jim Griffin, curator of the Lincoln County Historical Museum, will present a program about the

North Platte Canteen on July 21 at 7:00 p.m.



An inspiring program **Called Again: An Evening with 2012 National Geographic**

**Adventurer of the Year Jennifer Pharr Davis** will be presented at the library on July 31 at 7:00 p.m. In 2011, two-time Appalachian Trail thru-hiker Jennifer Pharr Davis wanted to test her limits. With the support of her husband Brew and a dedicated group of volunteers dubbed the "Pit Crew," Jen hiked, stumbled, and sometimes crawled the 2,181 mile A.T. in 46 days (an average of 47 miles per day), becoming the fastest person to hike the trail and the first woman to ever set the mark. But Jen's story is not about records or numbers; it's about endurance, faith, and most



## EnergyWise Tip: **Summertime Windows**



Unless you are trying to rid your home of unwanted, daytime vampires, there is not an energy-efficient reason for letting sunlight pour into your home on hot, summer days. When outdoor temperatures exceed your thermostat setting for cooling, energy savings from the sun's "free lighting" begins to be rapidly offset by air conditioning costs. How can you regulate the unwanted heat?



When completely closed and lowered on a sunny window, highly reflective blinds can reduce heat gain by around 45 percent. They can also be adjusted to block and reflect direct sunlight onto a light-colored ceiling to provide some lighting.

may benefit somewhat and north-facing windows gain no benefit from application of window films.

Window films have some disadvantages, too. They can significantly reduce the level of interior light or visible transmittance, and impair outside visibility. Some films require extra care when cleaning and exterior reflections could pose a problem.

### Shades



When properly installed, window shades can be a simple and effective window treatment for saving energy. Shades should

be mounted as close to the glass as possible with the sides of the shade held close to the wall to establish a sealed air space.

Quilted roller shades, some types of Roman shades, and pleated shades feature several layers of material and sealed edges. These shades act as both an insulator and an air barrier to control air infiltration more effectively than other soft window treatments. For even more efficiency, use dual-sided shades that are reflective (white) on one side and heat absorbing (dark) on the other. These can be reversed with the seasons. The reflective surface should always face the warmest side – outward during the cooling season and inward during the heating season.

### Blinds

Because of their operating slats, blinds offer flexibility in the summer. Unlike shades, you can adjust the slats to control light and ventilation.

### Draperies



A drapery's ability to reduce heat loss and gain depends on several factors, including fabric type (closed or open weave) and color. With such a wide variety of draperies available, it is difficult to generalize

about their energy performance. During summer days, you should close draperies on windows receiving direct sunlight to prevent heat gain. Studies demonstrate that medium-colored draperies with white-plastic backings can reduce heat gains by 33 percent. To reduce heat exchange or convection, draperies should be hung as close to windows as possible.

### High-Reflectivity Films



High-reflectivity window films help block summer heat. They're best used in climates with long cooling seasons, because they also block the sun's heat in winter.

Silver, mirror-like films typically are more effective as a heat gain deterrent than colored, more transparent films. Covering east- and west-facing windows can produce the greatest benefit, while south-facing windows

### Panels – Insulated & Reflective



An insulating window panel or pop-in shutter typically consists of a core of rigid foam board insulation. You can push or clip it into the interior of a window.

Panels are made so that their edges seal tightly against the window frame. Seals can be made from magnetic tape or Velcro. No hardware, such as hinges or latches, is required. The photo shows a 2/3 panel.

### Mesh Window Screens



Mesh window screens can diffuse solar radiation, reducing heat gain in

the summer. Screens should be mounted in an exterior frame and should cover entire windows. They are particularly effective on east- and west-facing windows.

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## EnergyWise Tip: **Summertime Windows (continued)**

### Overhangs



Properly sized and installed roof overhangs can most effectively shade south-facing windows from summer heat. If oriented properly, overhangs will allow sunlight through the windows during winter, providing more warmth to a house.

It is easy to incorporate overhangs into a home design before or while it's under construction. Adding an overhang to an existing home, however, can be quite difficult and sometimes impossible. Window awnings, louvered patio covers, or lattice-type panels can be considered as alternatives for existing homes.

### Shutters



Both interior and exterior, can help reduce summertime heat gain in your home. Remember that interior shutters need a clear space to the side of the window when they are opened. They also require hardware that is fastened to the window jams or trim. Properly designed exterior shutters may provide the best possible window insulation system. They also offer advantages of weather protection, added security, and no use of interior space.

Like window blinds, louvered shutters work best for summer shading. Movable or fixed louvers allow ventilation and natural daylight to enter a room while blocking some direct radiation. However, they do not provide much insulation against heat loss in the winter. If desired, combine shutters with other window treatments such as draperies for greater insulating ability.

### Awnings



With their recent rise in popularity, the U.S. Department of Energy calculates that window awnings can reduce solar heat gain in the summer by up to 65 percent on south-facing windows and 77 percent on west-facing windows. Today, awnings are made from synthetic fabrics that are water-repellent and treated to resist mildew and fading. You should choose one that is opaque and tightly woven. And be aware that light-colored awning will reflect more sunlight than a darker awning.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. That includes keeping your home cool this summer. For more ideas on how you can make your home EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup>, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com).



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

### Summer Hours

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

**Open the third Saturday  
of each summer month**

**(June 21, July 19, Aug 16)**

**8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

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

**NOTE:** do not discard appliances, furniture, lumber, etc., at the East Walnut compost site. That's for recently-growing yard waste only.



**NOW OPEN!**

**Lexington  
Family Aquatic  
Center 2013 Season**  
May 24 - August 10  
Hours: 1:00- 7:30 PM M-TH  
1:00 - 6:00 PM Fri-Sun  
10th & Monroe



**LEXINGTON**

**FARMERS MARKET**

Starts June 28, 2014  
South Downtown Parking Lot  
(near Washington & Hwy 30)  
Saturdays 8-11 a.m.  
Tuesdays 4-7 p.m.

## Lexington joins Great Park Pursuit



Nebraska Recreation and Park Association and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission partnered in 2008 to develop the Great Park Pursuit (GPP). The goal is to help promote active lifestyles while increasing awareness of the nature rich outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Nebraska. The challenge is to visit as many of the selected park areas as you wish between May 1 and September 17, 2014.

Twenty parks have become part of the GPP network, including Lexington's Plum Creek Park near 13th & Adams. The complete list and other details can be found at [negpp.org](http://negpp.org), where you also register.

### Here's how it works:

Forming teams is encouraged. When you visit the parks, find the GPP post (when you register you'll get clues). Make a pencil rubbing of the nature impression on the post. Mail your entries in for chances to win valuable prizes.

### Prizes include:

- ✿ 2015 Nebraska park entry permit
- ✿ Backyard bird package
- ✿ Backyard game package
- ✿ Two-night cabin stay at a state park
- ✿ iPad
- ✿ Other outdoor packages
- ✿ Grand Prize: \$1,500 outdoor recreation package

