

# City Happenings



February 2015

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



## LEXUS unveils online bill paying



Customers of Lexington Utilities System can now pay their utilities bills online. This new, secure and free option can be accessed at

[www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com). You can manage this feature on your computer, smart phone or tablet.

The online utility billing application gives customers access to their account 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Sign up now, you'll need your account number and a copy of your latest billing statement.

In addition to the convenience and saving time, postage and fuel, users will be able to view:

- Real time balances, payment amounts and bill due dates;
- Graphs detailing consumption history



The application is optimized for mobile devices.



### 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>




**STUDENTS!**  
**NOW** is the time to apply for summer City jobs: concessions, lifeguards, & lawn mowers.

Go to [www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=40](http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=40) for more information and to download a blank application form.

Send completed application to address below or email to [pbaruth@cityoflex.com](mailto:pbaruth@cityoflex.com).

**Don't delay — do it today!**

Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn



Find out more at [www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com)

**Fertilize sparingly and carefully**

**Green your lawn, not the lake**

Storm drains found in our streets and yards lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, fertilizer from your lawn can easily end up in our water. This fertilizer can form large algae blooms and use up oxygen fish and other aquatic insects need to survive.


What can you do? Simple.

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks and back onto your lawn.
- Recycle grass clippings by leaving them on your lawn.
- Use fertilizer with no or low phosphorus.
- Select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is water insoluble (check the label).

Keep the green on the lawn and in your pocket



Support provided by NDEQ

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

**Winter Hours**  
**Mon. - Fri.**  
**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

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





## Library News

by Kathy Thomsen  
Library Director



907 North Washington Street



Are you looking for the perfect gift for your Valentine?

### The Friends

**of the Library** have the solution for you. They'll be hosting silent auction – **Chocolate: A Little Bit Decadent and a Whole Lot Delicious.** Stop by the library beginning the week of February 2 to see the fantastic collection of delectable homemade chocolate candies displayed in attractive boxes. Get your bidding number at the front desk, so you can join in the bidding fun. The auction will close at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 12.

In support of the **Lexington Food Pantry**, the Library is offering a **Food for Fines**



**February.** For each can of food or other non-perishable food you bring, we'll take, \$1.00 off your library fine. This does not apply to lost items. So, search your closets, your cars, and under your beds, find those lost books and return them to the library with canned goods during February. Let's see how many cans of food we can donate to the Food Pantry! For those in the community who would like to make a donation to

the Lexington Food Pantry, the library will also have a donation box available near the check-out desk during February.



Plan to clap your hands and stamp your feet.

The library will host a country music program March 8 at 2:00 p.m. **Crab Grass Country** is coming to town for an afternoon of your favorite country tunes. The Crab Grass Country concert is funded by the **Lexington Library Memorial Fund** and the **Lexington Community Foundation.**

**Escape the Ordinary** is the theme of the 2015 adult summer reading program. Think of the possibilities! The library would like to plan some extra-ordinary programs for you this year and you can help. If you hear about a program while watching TV or listening to the radio, or read about a program, speaker, or musician in the newspaper and think *that's a program I would like to see* – tell us.



There are Escape the Ordinary suggestion forms at the check-out desk at the library and on the library's website. <http://www.lexingtonlibrary.org>.



Would you like to have more financial information to help you make good financial decisions? **Smart Investing @ Your Library Builds Nebraska Communities** is coming to Lexington Public Library. Smart Investing @ Your Library will provide access to unbiased financial and investor resources. If you are looking for ways to make your retirement last, register for the Smart Investing @ Your Library program that begins on March 5 at 3:00 p.m. It is a six week online program that provides financial resources, education, and helpful tidbits to help you make wise financial decisions. This program is designed for Seniors, but the ideas will apply to all ages. Smart Investing @ Your Library Builds Nebraska Communities is a grant awarded by the **American Library Association** and the **FINRA Investor Education Foundation** to the **Nebraska Library Commission** and the **Northeast Library System** to provide financial literacy training to 22 libraries across Nebraska.



## EnergyWise Tip: **Benchmarking Homes**



After listening to my brother vent for 20 minutes about his high utility costs, I asked if he had ever benchmarked his home. Looking annoyed with me, he asked, "Why would I care about my patio furniture when I'm frustrated with energy bills?" Realizing again why our parents often lamented that he was about as bright as a burnt-out 20-watt incandescent bulb, I knew I would have to back up and expound on what benchmarking is and how easily it can help determine whether he is doing a good job at managing his energy use or being an energy slob.

First, I explained that home benchmarking is the process of comparing your energy performance to something. That something can be your own home's performance as compared to previous years, or it can compare the performance of other homes in the area over the same time period.

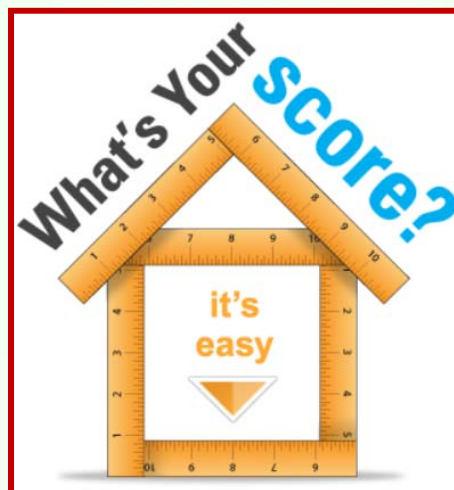
Next, I pointed my brother to a website that makes benchmarking a home easy. The EPA's Home Energy Yardstick, found at [https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?](https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=home_energy_yardstick.showgetstarted)

[fuseaction=home\\_energy\\_yardstick.showgetstarted](https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=home_energy_yardstick.showgetstarted), is one of the simplest online tools to use. All a person needs to perform a quick marking is the following:

- Your ZIP code
- Your home's conditioned square footage
- The number of full time home occupants

- Your home's last 12 months of energy bills

Note that conditioned floor area includes rooms inside your home that are heated and/or cooled. This will generally include the main living space, and it could include a finished basement area. It should not include a garage, attic, unfinished basement or storage space. To determine your home's conditioned floor area, you may need to do some measuring.



The Home Energy Yardstick compares a household's actual energy use to similar homes and assigns a score from 0 to 10 (10 being the most energy efficient). Average households score a 5. The Home Energy Yardstick looks at the actual energy use (based on the last 12 months of utility bills) and compares usage to that of similar homes. To ensure homes across the country can be properly compared, the Yardstick uses a statistical algorithm to take into account effects of local weather, home size,

and number of occupants on your home's energy use.

You can increase your Yardstick score by improving the energy efficiency of the features and/or equipment of your home or by making changes in the way you operate your home to use less energy. You can revisit the Yardstick each month (when your bills arrive) to see the impacts of the energy efficient improvements you make to your home or changes in the way you operate it.

Lexington Utilities System has some additional resources on its webpage to help identify ways to reduce your home's energy usage. One of these online tools, The Home Energy Calculator™, can be found at <http://c03.apogee.net/clients/?hostheader=cityoflex&utilityid=cityoflex>.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you (and even my brother) make the most from the energy they provide. That includes improving the way your home uses energy throughout the year. For more ideas on how you can make your home, business or farming operation more EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup>, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com).





# At the GGC

407 East 6th Street

## Grand Generation Center Happenings

by Susan Bennett  
Center Manager

### GGC Business After Hours February 12, 2015



Do you think you know all there is to know about the Lexington Grand Generation Center? Oh, but there is so much more!

We'd like to tell you more about what the GGC has to offer you and the community as a whole.

**WHAT:** Lexington Grand Generation Center BAH (Business After Hours)

**WHERE:** 407 East 6th Street

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 12, 2015

**TIME:** 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Come join us for an evening of food, fun, friendship and information and find out what the Lexington Grand Generation Center can do for you!



### Annual Cake Decorating & Auction

February 11, 2015

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Join us again this year for cake decorating fun. We will have the cakes baked and ready for you to frost on Wednesday, February 11. There will be white, red, green and yellow frosting for

you to use. If you have other decorating ideas, you'll have to bring those supplies.

The teams can be two people from any group, business or organization. You may keep with the Valentine's Day theme or use your own ideas.

The cakes will be on display for a silent auction from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. the following day, at the conclusion of our Business After Hours (see other article this page). Bidding will be allowed the whole time. All proceeds go to benefit the Lexington Grand Generation Center.

Contact Susan or Deb at 324-2498 to reserve your cake at no cost.



# City Of Lexington Youth Baseball

Ages 9 & 10 and  
11 & 12  
(age on January 1, 2015)

SIGN-UP MONDAY & WEDNESDAY  
JANUARY 26 & 28 AND FEBRUARY 2 & 4

6:30 - 8:00 PM  
@ THE HITTING COMPLEX  
1601 W. 13TH ST.

Instruction will begin February 9, 2015.  
Includes: Instruction, League  
and Tournament play, with  
uniform included. Cost \$30<sup>00</sup>

## Lexington Hitting Complex

1601 W. 13th Street  
Any Questions Call  
Ann H. Luther  
308-325-5277

## 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



# Watt's up? A kilowatt-hour defined

## 1 kWh = 1,000 watt-hours

1 kilowatt-hour (kWh) of energy is equal to 1,000 watt-hours and will power a 100-watt light bulb for 10 hours (100 watts x 10 hours = 1,000 watt-hours = 1 kWh).

## 1,000 kWh

Average monthly kWh used by Nebraska homeowners. Total usage often increases in the summer and winter months due to home heating and cooling.

# 9.8¢

How much, on average, Lexington homeowners pay for **1 kWh** of electricity.

Here's a quick guide to what 1 kWh or 9.8¢ of electricity is capable of:



**400**  
blended margaritas

**13**  
meals microwaved



**276**  
charges  
for your cell phone



**18 hrs.**  
of refrigerator use

**67**



hairstyles

**13 hrs.**



of fan use

**20 hrs.**



on your laptop

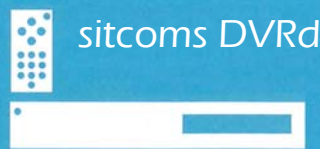


**1 hour**  
of cooling



**36**  
pieces of toast

**61**



sitcoms DVRd



**14**  
hours of freezing

**3 loads**



in the washer