



October 2015

City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Lake Restoration Project Starts

Work to restore the lake at Plum Creek Park started September 28. The lake and the area near it will be closed to the public during the restoration, which is expected to take the rest of the year.

The project includes lake dredging and bank shaping and stabilization, affected by years of erosion. This work will lower the ground water levels, improve the fish habitat, help prevent future bank erosion, and improve access to the lake. In addition, several handicap accessible fishing pads will be installed for recreational use.

Funding for the project includes grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's CLEAR program, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, and the Lexington Community Foundation.



ABOVE: Early progress of the Plum Creek Park Lake restoration project.

Prior to the project start, Lexington's Dan Keller used a drone to shoot an aerial view of the lake. You can view the video at the City's Facebook page [here](https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Lexington-Nebraska-157277430966096/timeline/). (<https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Lexington-Nebraska-157277430966096/timeline/>)



Improvements Completed



ABOVE: 6th Street from Grant to Lincoln (Phase 4) completed.

The construction along 5th & 6th Streets from Grant to Lincoln Streets, is nearly complete. All that remains is striping some of the parking stalls. This project improves accessibility and safety for residents and users of downtown amenities. Concrete parking aprons were installed, water main replaced, curbs and sidewalks touched up, and drainage and water supply were improved.

The project is funded by a Comprehensive Investment Stabilization grant. The CIS grant is part of a Community Development Block Grant program administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.



Lexington Fieldhouse Project moving forward



ABOVE: The Lexington Fieldhouse, exterior and interior

Lexington's new indoor recreational facility is on track to be finished by December.

Although construction has started, fund-raising is not complete. Less than \$100,000 of the \$1.4 million fund-raising goal remains. Go to the [City website \(http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=171\)](http://www.cityoflex.com/index.aspx?page=171) for more details and to see how you can help. If you've already donated or pledged, thank you and please consider upgrading or extending your pledge.



Lexington wins Nebraska Diplomat Award



Lexington has been honored as the Outstanding Community of the Year by the Nebraska Diplomats.

The award was presented at their 48th Annual Banquet on September 11 in Lincoln. These prominent Lexington diplomats attended to receive the honor: Tom Fagot, Lexington Family Dentistry; Barry McFarland, Mac's

Creek Winery; Joe Peplitsch, Lexington City Manager; John Salem, Roberts Cattle Company; and David Stenberg, UNL Extension Educator.

With a membership of 286 business executives and community leaders, the Nebraska Diplomats Inc. is the largest economic development organization in Nebraska. The Nebraska Diplomats form alliances with other Nebraska economic development organizations

to promote the state's productive business climate and its unique quality of life.

The Nebraska Diplomats Inc. is a nonprofit corporation. The Diplomats organization provides a connection to Nebraska leaders without political, organizational or geographic restrictions. They produced a video about Lexington, which can be seen at the [City's Facebook page](#).





LEXINGTON GGC FALL GARAGE SALE
Oct. 19-23, 2015
9:00 AM-4:00 PM

You may start bringing items that you want to donate to the center on Monday, Oct. 19. All proceeds go to the GGC Support Fund.
No clothes please!

Grand Generation Center, 407 E 6th Street



EnergyWise Tip: **R-Value**



While you might expect “R-value” to be the level of appreciation a pirate has for buried treasure, with winter coming, you might want to consider your own “R-value.” The “R” refers to the resistance of heat flow and, in particular, is associated with the insulation in your home.

Insulation acts like a blanket on your home. When properly installed, it keeps the heat inside your home during winter, and the cool air inside during the summer. On average, about half of the energy used in Nebraska homes is used to keep the home warm or cool. Unfortunately, many homes either have insufficient or improperly installed insulation.



According to a 2003 study by the Harvard School of Public Health 2003, if your home is as little as five to 10 years old, you likely have one of the 46 million under-insulated homes in the U.S. The good news is that adding insulation is often one of the easiest and lowest cost options for improving the energy efficiency of your home.

All insulation has an R-value – the higher the R-value, the

greater the insulating effectiveness. The R-value will vary depending on the type of insulation, its thickness, and its density. You can increase your R-value in areas by adding insulation, even if there is already insulation in a particular area. Your new R-value is calculated by adding the R-value of the new insulation to the R-value of the existing insulation.

As mentioned, there are many types of insulation. Insulation batts and blankets are made of fiberglass or mineral wool and are most commonly used in new construction or unconfined areas, like unfinished attics, roofs, and under floors. Batts and blankets often have an R-value of 2.9 to 4.0 per inch of thickness.

Blown-in loose fill insulation is one of the easiest forms to install. Commonly made of cellulose, glass fiber, mineral wool, perlite

or vermiculite, it can be blown or spread into areas needing insulation. Equipment for blowing insulation into walls or attics can be rented, or contractors with their own equipment can be hired to do the job. Loose fill insulation usually has an R-value of 2.2 to 3.8 per inch of thickness.

Rigid boards are plastic foams or fibrous materials pressed or extruded into board-like forms. Common materials include polystyrene, urethane or glass fiber. Polystyrene and urethane have superior insulating qualities with R-values of 3.2 to 5.0 per inch of thickness.

Foam insulation, usually urethane, can be injected into wall cavities or sprayed onto roof or floors. Once applied, it expands and sets in about a minute. After it sets, it shrinks slowly for several weeks. Properly applied, shrinkage is less than five percent. Like rigid boards, foam insulation has the advantage of a high R-Value per inch.

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EnergyWise Tip: R-Value

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The Nebraska Energy Office recommends the following R-values in the following home areas:

- Attic – R-45 to R-60
- Exterior walls – R-20 to R-30
- Floors over unheated spaces – R-30
- Basement walls and concrete slabs – R-10

Obviously, attics are places where it can really pay to have the right amount of insulation. If your home has six inches or less, and you use primarily electricity to heat it, there is an EnergyWiseSM program to help you if you add an R-value of at least 19 or six inches of blown-in insulation. By participating in the residential EnergyWiseSM attic insulation program, customers are eligible for an incentive of \$.15 per square foot insulated with a maximum incentive amount of \$300 per existing residential dwelling. New construction and/or additions do not qualify.

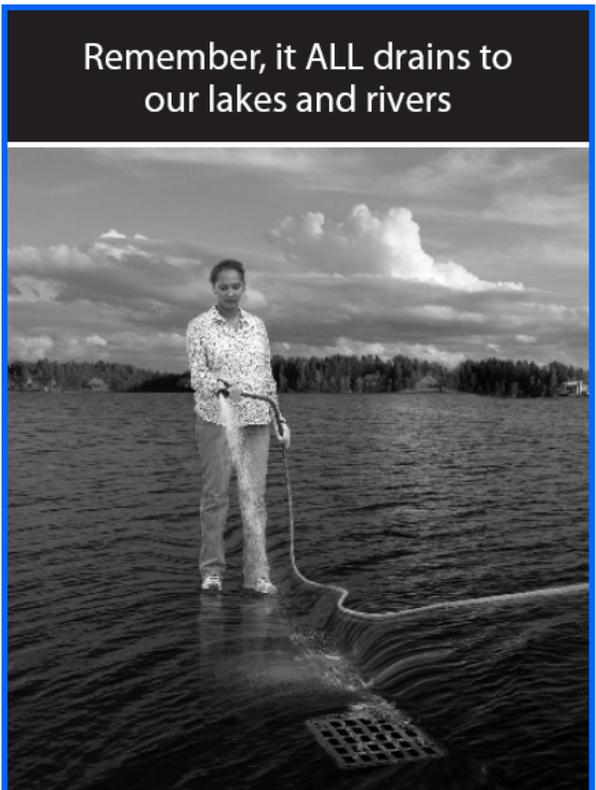
Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of your energy dollar by cutting the cost of heating and cooling your home. For more information on insulation or ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, along with possible energy efficiency financial incentives, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com.



**801 West
Vine Street
308-324-5995
Mon. - Fri.**

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

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



Help keep pollution out of storm drains

Only rain in the drain!

That's because storm drains and roadside ditches lead directly to our lakes and rivers. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, trash, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and rivers. With thousands of people living in and around Lexington, we all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains.

So what can you do? Simple:

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks, back onto your lawn.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, trash, and fertilizers out of storm drains.
- Do not dump motor oil, anti-freeze, chemicals, pet waste, dirty soapy water, or anything else down the storm drains.
- Volunteer to label the storm drains in your neighborhood to inform your neighbors that storm drains flow directly to our lakes and rivers (contact Keep Lexington Beautiful, (308) 324-7986, or keeplexbeautiful@yahoo.com).

KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN!



Support provided by NDEQ



www.cityoflex.com





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907 North Washington Street

The Library is offering an opportunity to get your Christmas shopping done early. We will be having a **Gently Used Book Sale** beginning November 3. Stop by the Library to browse through our gently used books and make your selection.



Movies at the Library

Movies for Adults will be shown on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. So mark October 21 and November 18 on your calendars and plan to come watch a great movie at the Library.

Family Movie Night at the Library

will be held on Monday, October 19 and November 16. This event provides an opportunity for families to enjoy a movie together. The library will provide the snacks.



The **Teen Only Movie** will be shown on Thursday, October

15, and on Thursday, November 19, at 3:30 p.m.

Due to copyright, the titles of the movies are only available by contacting the Library at 324-2151.

Another activity available For Teens Only will be the **Super Smash Brothers Brawl**, which will be held in the Benthack Room at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 22.



The first library program of the year sponsored by the

Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation will be held on Wednesday, October 21, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Storyteller **Indiana Bones** will be entertaining with stories of adventure. "Open a Book, Open your Mind, Open your Imagination" – Indiana Bones

The Library will be hosting a **Halloween Party** on October 31 from 2 to 4 p.m. Children who are in Pre-school through Grade 5 are invited to stop by the



Library anytime during this time period for games, activities and

treats. Everyone is encouraged to come dressed in their Halloween costumes.

The **Friends of the Library** are planning for **Give BIG Lexington** on Thursday, November 12. The goal this year is to help purchase items for the new **Family Place at the Library**. The Family Place will be a bright, colorful, welcoming area for families of young children birth to age 5. It will house books, some of which are bi-lingual, toys, manipulatives and music for babies, toddlers, and their parents. Access to resources that emphasize emergent literacy, reading readiness and parent education will also be available. Remember the Friends of the Library at Give BIG Lexington on November 12 and help us create a center for Lexington's youngest readers.





Plan now to attend the
Walkable City Summit
Public Input Meeting
November 14, 2015
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (lunch included)
Lexington Middle School / YMCA
1100 N Washington



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>



Lexington snow and ice removal

Winter will soon be here once again. Before the first winter storm of the season, the City would like to remind citizens of the following points related to snow removal. There is also an Emergency Snow Route map on the next page, and is also found on the Maps link at the City's website.

Property owners are required to remove snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property, within 48 hours of the snowfall. Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks not only ensures safe passage for pedestrians (including school children), but also limits liability. Someone who sustains injuries from slipping on ice might claim their injuries resulted from property owner neglect.

Please remember that snow and ice removed from your property is not to be placed into the street. Instead move it to non-paved areas.

The City needs the cooperation of all citizens as we work to remove

snow and ice from the streets. Citizens are encouraged to listen to local radio stations or read the local newspaper (including online) for announcements of possible Snow Emergency situations where substantial snowfall is experienced or



anticipated.

In times of a declared Snow Emergency, parking along streets in the designated Snow Emergency Route is prohibited. Commercial Areas may also be included (see Snow Route map).

Citizens living along these routes are encouraged to comply with the prohibition and move their vehicles from the street.

In addition, during a Snow Emergency, parking in the Downtown area is prohibited. In non-emergency times, citizens are still encouraged to move their parked vehicles off of the street in a reasonable period of time after snowfall to allow City crews access to remove the snow and ice. Information regarding the removal of snow in your area of the City can be obtained by contacting Glenn Hawks, Community Services Director, at 308-324-5995.

The City of Lexington would like to reiterate that snow and ice removal is important for vehicular traffic as well as pedestrian traffic.

Please take the time to do your part to keep our streets and sidewalks safe.



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.



