

City Happenings

December 2015

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Lexington Fieldhouse Nears Completion



ABOVE: An early December photo of the west side of the Fieldhouse
BELOW: Inside the Fieldhouse

Lexington's new indoor recreational facility is almost ready for public use. The City of Lexington plans on phasing in activities in early January 2016; information on facility use and scheduling will be available in the coming weeks at www.cityoflex.com.

Fund-raising for the project is also getting closer to the goal; just \$16,500 remains. A big thank you to everyone that has supported the project! If you would like to help the community reach this fundraising goal, Go to http://info.cityoflex.com/fieldhousedocs/2015_Dec_Fieldhouse_Special.pdf for details on how to donate; several options are available.

The Lexington Fieldhouse is located at 1502 Airport Road, just north of the Optimist Recreation Complex.



Lake Restoration Project Continues



The first phase of the improvements for the lake area at Plum Creek Park, 13th and Adams Streets will be complete by early Spring 2016. The major portion of the project including dredging and bank stabilization are substantially complete. Work including seeding, mulching, sidewalk repair, sidewalk extensions, and the paving of handicap accessible fishing piers will be completed over the next several months as weather conditions allow. Additional natural landscaping and tree planting around the lake will begin in mid-2016.

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.



We Love Free Trees!



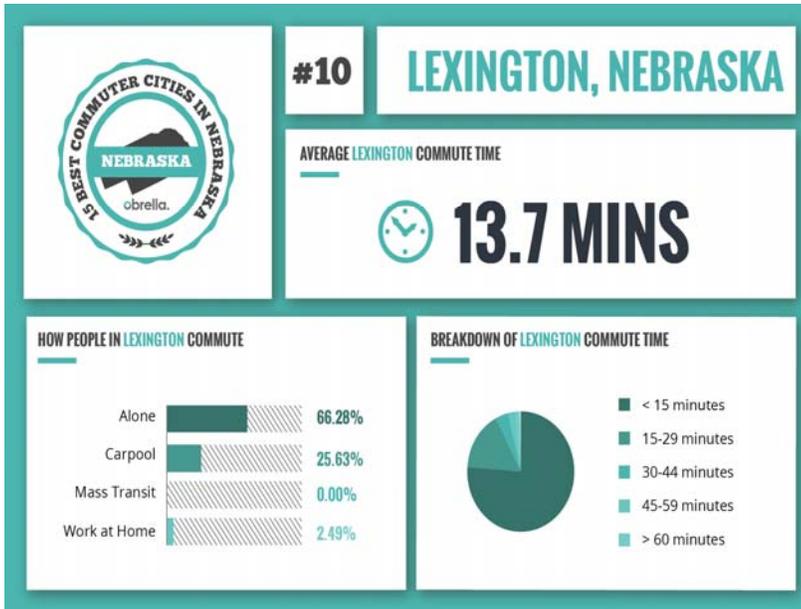
At Kirkpatrick Memorial Park . . . L to R: Parks and Recreation Director Ann Luther; Park workers Don Hoefft, Angel Gomez-Paz, John Vise, Sam Tingelhoff, Lyle Roberts, and Doug Monter; ReTree Nebraska's Jessica Kelling.

Thanks to **ReTree Nebraska**, Lexington has 12 new trees at Kirkpatrick Memorial Park. On October 15, City parks workers, members of Lexington's Tree Board and experts from ReTree Nebraska and the Nebraska Forest Service, helped plant 12 trees at the Park near the new multi-purpose sports court. The trees were brought to town by **Jessica Kelling** of ReTree Nebraska, an organization promoting Nebraskans to plant more trees. Spring and autumn are good times to plant trees. If you plant any trees, remember to go to <http://retreenebraska.unl.edu/> and report it, so they can add your tree(s) to the count. Since 2007 almost 100,000 trees have been reported.

ReTree Nebraska is a partnership between the Nebraska Forest Service, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Nebraska Community Forestry Council, UNL Agronomy & Horticulture, University of Nebraska Rural Initiative, Nebraska Environmental Trust, and Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources.



Lexington in Top 10 Nebraska Commuting Cities



Lexington has the 10th best commuting time in Nebraska cities larger than 3,000, according to the Obrella Insider. An insurance analytic organization, Obrella used 2013 U.S. Census Bureau data. Lexington commuters get to their job 12 minutes faster than most Americans.

1. McCook (11.4 min.)
2. York (11.8 min.)
3. O'Neill (11.9 min.)
4. Chadron (12 min.)
5. Broken Bow (12.1 min.)
6. West Point (12.9 min.)
7. Scottsbluff (13.1 min.)
8. Alliance (13.5 min.)
9. Gothenburg (13.5 min.)
10. Lexington (13.7 min.)

Other findings include: Nebraska is one of the least expensive places to live, the third best-run state in the nation, and the fourth best state for commuters.

The full Nebraska report is at <https://www.obrella.com/news/best-and-worse-commuter-cities-in-nebraska/>



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[READ OUR STORIES](#)

EnergyWise Tip: **Talkin' Turkey**



Okay, I'm talkin' turkey this holiday season. My therapist told me that this year, I'm not allowed to berate my family members every time they do one of those huge, energy-wasting things that always set me off like they did during holidays past.

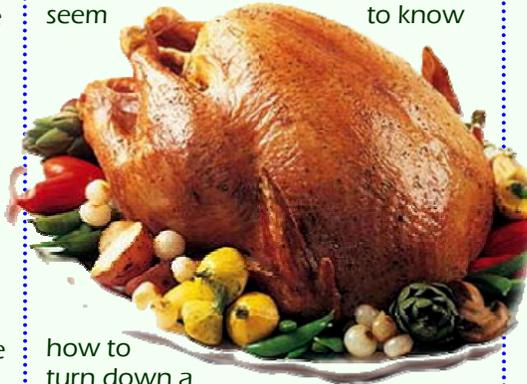
Rather, my psychiatrist advised me to "write-down" the energy-use violation I observe on a piece of paper, tuck the paper in my pocket, and use it to kindle the fireplace. So if you don't mind me practicing my "prescription," here are a few of the major violations from previous family get-togethers.

Like the year when my always-hungry brother kept opening the oven door to take a peek at what was cooking inside. Doesn't he know each time he opens an oven door, the temperature inside drops by as much as 25°? His curiosity increased cooking time, wasted heat, and delayed dinner by over an hour! Why can't he be like normal people and turn on the oven light to check the turkey and sweet potatoes through the oven window?

One year my niece camped out in front of the refrigerator because she couldn't decide which of her 30 bottles of salad dressing to put on the table. She would take two out and put one back. Then open the door again, put one back and take two more out. It went on for five minutes! Can't she comprehend that refrigerators and freezers operate most efficiently and economically by keeping the doors closed as much

as possible? She could have just taken all the bottles out, since leaving the door open for a longer period of time while taking everything she needed is more efficient than opening and closing it several times.

Oh, and I dare not forget the last family feast at my brother-in-law Bill's place. That energy hog thinks BTUs grow in trees! (Okay, they do, but that's not the point.) Even though Bill is hot-blooded, the guy doesn't seem to know



how to turn down a thermostat! Instead, with a 25°F temperature outside, he opened every window on the main floor to cool off. I even suggested the night before that he turn down the thermostat a few degrees before cooking started the next morning. The extra heat from the kitchen appliances would have more than compensated for his furnace.

On top of that, the 40 extra guests provided more than enough body heat for the dining room. To efficiently control the situation, he could have turned on his ceiling fans to circulate air and distribute the heat throughout the house. I tried explaining to him that an average person at rest is equivalent to a 100-watt space heater. With all the

pointless jumping around Bill did, he was more like a 300-watt heater!

And I dare not forget that hot tea craze Granny Johnson went through a few years back. She would stick her tiny tea pot on the biggest burner of her range-top, crank the temperature setting to "high," and walk away, forgetting it altogether after 5 minutes. This drove all of us crazy! She should have matched the size of the pot, pan, or kettle to the heating element. A six-inch pan on an eight-inch burner will waste more than 40 percent of the energy used!

Here's an even better idea. She could have heated her water in the microwave, used only one-quarter of the electricity, and have had her cup of hot tea before it slipped her mind. Granny Johnson also needs to remember to use lids on pots to retain heat. Food cooked on the stove-top will heat faster when lids are used.

Uncle Wally pulled a good one, too. Ever since he contracted food poisoning from a half-eaten container of potato salad he found on the ground at the State Fair, he's been worried about foodborne bacteria. Once, after all of us had no more than put our first servings on our plates, Wally immediately removed all the hot serving bowls and stuck them into the refrigerator. Now, I'm all for

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EnergyWise Tip: **Talkin' Turkey**

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food safety, but Wally just forced his refrigerator to run much longer than necessary by not allowing the hot dishes to cool a little. More importantly, placing all those hot dishes into the refrigerator heated up all the other foods in there to a temperature above their safe-keeping limits. Nice one, Wally! I really enjoyed the warm, runny gelatin mold! Was that salmonella I tasted?

Finally, Aunt Alice took the prize for "Biggest Waster" one holiday, which I hosted in my home. Being a neat freak, she felt the need to hand wash everything twice. In doing so, she used up three bottles of dishwashing soap in two days! I tried politely telling her that a load of dishes cleaned in a dishwasher requires 37 percent less water than washing dishes by hand. I continued by pointing out that additional savings of up to 10 percent can be realized with dishwashers that feature air power or overnight dry settings. Even if she felt only handwashing was appropriate, she could have filled the wash and rinse basins instead of letting the water run continuously and she would have used half as much water.

I elaborated on the dishwasher's opportunity to save even more energy and water by washing only full loads. Finally, I told her she should scrape off dishes rather than rinsing them, since my dishwasher has a disposal unit for food residues. Aunt Alice told me she still felt she had to rinse the dishes before loading them, she should use only cold water so she didn't run up my energy bill by heating water unnecessarily. Even after I explained all of this to her, she did her own thing and I found myself running to the store Saturday morning to replenish my dish soap!

By the end of this Thanksgiving weekend, I should have plenty of paper to light the kindling! (I think this therapy is already starting to work!) Remember, Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of your energy dollar by helping you save energy during the holidays. For more information on saving energy over the holidays or other 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.



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



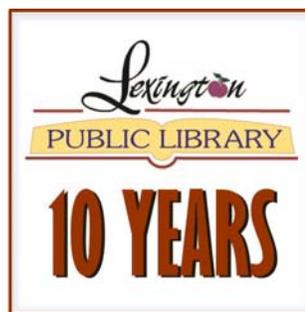
www.cityoflex.com





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



at
907
North
Washington
Street



Happy 10th Anniversary to the Lexington Public Library! The **current library building** was dedicated on Dec.

16, 2005. We have been privileged to utilize this beautiful building for 10 years! On December 16 we honored the day with coffee, tea and cookies.

The Library's **official celebration of its 10th anniversary will be January 10, 2016**, with an open house between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. History will be revisited, programming will be provided and refreshments served. Be sure to come help us celebrate.

The Lexington Public Library's **Nearly New Book Sale** will continue through the month of December. New items are added as we have room on the tables, so check back regularly for more great deals. We have lots of gently used books that make great gifts for the holidays.



The **Novel Stitchers** have donated a gorgeous **quilt to be raffled off**

for the Friends of the Library. Tickets can be purchased at the Library or from a Friend of the Library. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be at the January 31 library program. All proceeds will be used to help create the Family Place at the Library.



The Library will be serving **coffee, tea, hot cider and cookies** from

December 21 through December 24. Take a break from the winter chills and shopping to relax in front of the fireplace with cookies and beverage.

The library will close at noon on Dec. 24 and will remain closed Dec. 25 and 26 for the Christmas



holiday. The library will reopen on Sunday, December 27 at 1:00 p.m. The library will close at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 31, for the New Year's holiday and will remain closed on Friday, January 1, 2016. The library will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on January 2.

Sue Kulhanek has generously offered her collection of **Old World Santas** to be displayed in



the Library. **Jose Antonio Mascareno** has created the exhibit in the display case for December with the theme,

Navidad en Latino America. It is amazing in its content and detail. Stop by the Library during the month of December to view these wonderful displays.

The **Adult Movie Matinee** will be held at 1:30 p.m. on the third



Wednesday of each month - December 16 and January 21. **Family Movie Night at the Library** will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, December 14, 2015, and January 18, 2016.

The Library will host the **Lexington Regional Health Center Hospice Memorial Christmas Tree** again this year. Ornaments in memory of loved ones, who have passed away, may be purchased at the Home Health/Hospice Office. An ornament card honoring the loved one will be placed on the tree.





ADRIAN SMITH
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
THIRD DISTRICT, NEBRASKA

September 30, 2015

Mr. Joe P. Peplitsch
City Manager
PO Box 70
Lexington, NE 68850-0070

Dear City of Lexington:

Congratulations to the City of Lexington on receiving the Community of the Year award presented by Nebraska Diplomats Inc. Such an accomplishment illustrates a strong commitment and dedication to economic development and the strength of the community of Lexington.

This honor is testament that Nebraska represents the very best. Your efforts and leadership have provided a great benefit to the community and truly merit the highest praise. I commend your efforts and wish the city continued success.

Thank you and again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress

AMS/lb

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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.



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.



