

City Happenings

October 2016

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



City Unveils New Driving Range



Ball dispensing machine



Starting the weekend of Oct. 15, 2016, the City of Lexington will be operating a new golf driving range. It's located southeast of the Lexington Fieldhouse at 1502 Airport Road. The facility will be open to activity this fall as weather permits. It is the City's intent to inform the public of the hours of operation via our Facebook page (see link at right), we encourage you to like the page.

The facility includes 10 hitting stations, restrooms, automated ball dispenser, and range lighting. The costs are set up as follows: \$3 - approx. 40 balls; \$5 - approx. 75 balls; and \$7 - approx. 105 balls. The machine accepts only debit and credit cards.

Please check it out and let us know what you think



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>



Help Light Up Downtown Lexington Over the Holidays

The City of Lexington, through the **Lexington Community Foundation**, is raising funds to purchase and install lighted downtown holiday decorations. These would be displayed each year from Thanksgiving through New Year.

City officials have noted numerous requests for holiday lights. New LED light technology has made this more cost effective.

The proposed decorations are 50-inch wreaths with white lights and red bows (see photo for a rendering of what they will look like).

Over the last decade the City has stepped up measures to improve the aesthetics of downtown, with projects such as historic street lights, new banners, vacant lot

beautification, larger flower planters and other landscaping. This project will continue the efforts to spruce up Lexington's Main Street.



Decoration supporters feel these will increase the attractiveness and inviting nature of downtown, especially at a time shoppers are browsing for gifts. The wreaths will create fresh images to promote Lexington, and provide a bit more illumination during one of the darkest times of the year.

We are featuring the fund-raising for this project during 2016's Give BIG Lexington (see article this page). We're asking you to let

your holiday spirit shine and consider giving to help light up the holidays for years to come!

give
BIG
Lexington
November 10, 2016



Join Lexington Community Foundation for the opportunity to make the sixth annual Give BIG Lexington event on Thursday, November 10, 2016 BIGger! This one-day, online event showcases local causes that make this community a more vital place to live. You're encouraged to give to those that mean the most to you and your family. You can begin scheduling your donations today through the online giving day pages.

Imagine what you could learn about the participating causes!

Go to https://givebiglexington.razoo.com/giving_events/givebiglex16/home to make a donation.

New Phone Notification System



Lexington Utilities System has implemented a telephone call notification system. The system will call customers to inform them of utility outages. Only customers affected by a major outage will be called. The system will not be used for every outage as some outages are emergency in nature and short lived. The system will also be used to inform customers of pending disconnection. Be sure we have your current valid phone number and please remember to listen to the entire message so you get the most current information regarding your utility service.



REWARDS
DAWSONGOSPERCRIMESTOPPERS

UP TO \$1,000

DO THE RIGHT THING
CALLCLICKTEXT
100% ANONYMOUS



Toll Free: 866.652.7383
 Local: 308.784.1234
www.DawsonGosperCrimeStoppers.com
 Text your tip to CRIMES (274637)
 Start with "TIP707"

LHS Students Learn Tree-Planting Skills

Thanks to a Free Trees for Fall Planting Mini Grant from Nebraska tree organizations, Lex High Ag students got a hands-on lesson from Lexington's Tree Board and park staff.

Ten trees were planted September 30 at Plum Creek Park, where a few old and damaged trees had been removed during a recent Lake Restoration project. Tree varieties included Coffeetree, Catalpa, and several kinds of Oak. The students' teacher is **Timothy Potter**, the newest member of Lexington's Tree Board which also includes **Dave Stenberg**, **Marty Smith**, and **Gordon Sellin**.

Free Trees for Fall Planting is funded by: Trees for Nebraska Towns and the Sustainable Schoolyard Partnership programs; the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum; the Nebraska Environmental Trust; The Nebraska Forest Services Community Marketing of Trees; and the US Forest Service.



City's Electric Vehicles Saving Money and the Environment

The City of Lexington purchased two electric vehicles about a year and a half ago, with the assistance of grant funding through the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The NET Grant also paid for two electric vehicle charging stations. Moe Alahmad, Ph.D., P.E., a professor at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, has been a partner



with NET and the network of communities participating in the grant. His role is to measure ways the electric vehicles are saving money and the environment, even with the light errands for which they are mostly used.

According to Dr. Alahmad's numbers through August 2016, the two electric vehicles have saved the City \$1,273.52 in fuel costs and other savings.

In addition, use of the City's electric vehicles has removed the following from the environment:

- 4,562.27 pounds CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide)
- 118.93 pounds CO (Carbon Monoxide)
- 3.92 pounds of SO₂ (Sulphur Dioxide)
- 6.8 pounds NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide)
- .484 pounds NH₄ (Ammonium)
- 2.64 pounds VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds)

The City of Lexington is proud to be a leader in reducing costs and improving the environment!



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS
TO ATTEND

DINNER & AUCTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING
BENEFITTING LEXINGTON
AND THE
SURROUNDING AREA.

**RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED
BEGINNING**
Monday, October 3, 2016
RESERVED, LIMITED SEATING ONLY

**ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE
PAID IN ADVANCE**

INDIVIDUAL SEATS: \$100
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

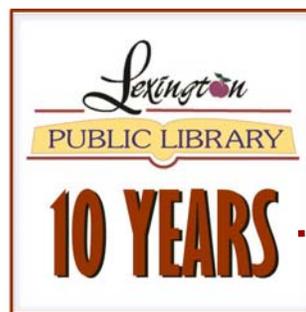
LEXINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
PO Box 422 | 607 N. Washington
Lexington, NE | 308.324.6704
lexfoundation@windstream.net





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



at
907
North
Washington
Street



The **Friends of the Library** will have an **Old World Santa** silent auction. **Sue Kulhanek** has graciously donated a portion of her

Santa collection to be auctioned for the Friends of the Library. You may remember the Library having the privilege of displaying her fantastic collection of Old World Santas last Christmas season. The Old World Santa silent auction will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Oct. 24 and will run through 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Be sure to stop by the Library to get your bidding number and place your bid on your favorite Santa!

The Friends of the Library are also sponsoring a **quilt raffle** through November 8. **Plum Creek Quilt Guild** has



generously donated a beautiful quilt to the Library that will be raffled off with the funds going to the Friends of the Library. Tickets can be purchased at the Library or from a Friend of the Library.



The Friends of the Library are sponsoring for **GiveBIGLexington** a cookbook sale along with the sale of cookies and brownies. A variety of donated

cookbooks will be for sale at the Library from October 24 through November 10. Friends of the Library will be selling a variety of cookies, rice crispie bars and brownies for 50 cents each the week of Nov. 7-10.

Friends of the Library support, promote and advocate for the Library in order to enrich the lives of area residents. They promote the love of reading and life-long learning. If you are interested in becoming a Friends of the Library, join us for the next Friend of the Library meeting in the Library Board Room on Monday, Oct. 17, at 3:00 p.m.



The Library has a new program "**Booked for Lunch.**" The first one was held Oct. 6. Nebraska author **Jo Virden** presented the program, *My Darling Dorothy*, a novel about love

letters and World War II. This fun and interesting program was held in conjunction with a soup and salad lunch. The next "Booked for Lunch" will be held on Nov. 3 at noon at the Library. **Andrea Wenburg** from North Platte will present a program about her book, *Unfrozen: Stop Holding Back and Release the Real You*. A soup and sandwich luncheon will be served. Please register by calling the Library at 324-2151.



At 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20, the country western band **Crab Grass Country** will present a concert of classic country, bluegrass, country swing, and a little Christmas. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Both of these programs are sponsored by the **Lexington Library Memorial Fund** and the **Lexington Community Foundation**.

THE LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

SPEAKERS & STORIES SERIES

OCTOBER TOPIC:
"Generation Social Media: Teens Connected to Technology"



We'll have mostly youths speaking about how social media plays a role in their lives; sharing what they see as opportunities as well as dangers of social media and what parents can watch for. This will be a great session for both parents and students!

"Conversations that inspire!"

Thursday, October 27
7:00 p.m.

Library Classroom
907 N. Washington St.,
Lexington, NE



A day to support small local businesses!



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY NOV 26

You can get a Rebate for LED Bulbs
(Lexington Utilities System customers)



Offer ends Dec. 31, 2016 - Customers who buy certain Light-Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs can get rebates from LEXUS.

- ★ **\$3 incentive per bulb** for A19 (standard shape) 800 lumen or higher LEDs
- ★ **Limit 15 incentives per account annually**
- ★ **Application Form & Copy of dated receipt(s) required**



Find a link on the "UTILITIES" section of www.cityoflex.com.

Brought to you by:



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 our 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





EnergyWise Tip: Older Eyes

As a child, I remember doing homework at the kitchen table around dusk one evening when my father walked in and said, "How can you see? Turn the light on!" I could not believe this came from the same guy who was always telling me, "Turn the lights off when you leave a room!" I could see just fine!

Several decades later, I have aged past that point in my father's lifetime and finally realize why he would question my ability to see. He could not. And now, I cannot either.

As everyone ages, a number of things occur in our eyes that degrade vision. From the day we are born, the lens of our eyes yellow with age. Usually after age 40, hardening of the lens capsule and often, atrophy of the ciliary muscles that focus the lens create a condition known as "presbyopia" which is the loss of being able to focus on things close up.

Shape and clarity changes in the cornea (clear outer covering of the eye) cause light to refract which decreases the amount reaching the retina. One's iris's ability to regulate pupil size decreases and limits the amount of light entering the eye as well as the ability to quickly adjust sight to different lighting levels.

As if these symptoms of aging are not enough, our lenses cloud (cataracts) and the vitreous fluid inside the eye takes away our abilities to discern contrast and colors. To top it off, increased

scattering of light inside the eye makes us more susceptible to glare.

What is an old set of eyes supposed to do? Best answer: Accommodate for these natural changes. Start by providing more light. The Lighting Research Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute estimates that for the same light level, a typical 60-year old receives about one-third the retinal illuminance of a 20-year old. Consider some remodeling using light-colored surfaces (ceiling, walls, floor, furniture, etc.) in order to maximize the amount of light in a room.



Improve the uniformity of light distribution to reduce shadows. Try to maintain uniform lighting within a room, as well as from one room to another. Since older eyes take longer to adjust to changes in light levels, this will increase safety while moving about.

Select glare-free light fixtures as glare reduces the ability to see subtle details at lower light levels. Avoid fixtures with bare or exposed light bulbs or tubes as these notoriously produce glare.

At night, use several in-wall and/or plug-in night lights in bedrooms,

bathrooms and kitchens to safely navigate through your home. Look for night lights that provide an amber-reddish light rather than a bluish-white light to avoid interrupting natural human circadian rhythms.

Finally, start by looking at LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs, tubes and fixtures for providing solutions to the abovementioned concerns. Why? Because LEDs tend to be more directional in dispersing light so that it can be focused on what is being lit rather than scattering light around as other lighting technologies do. LEDs are often twice as energy efficient as fluorescent and four times more efficient than incandescent lights. Plus, LEDs come in options varying from very cool white to warm white with a reddish glow to correlate with time-of-day lighting recommendations. LEDs also tend to have a much longer-rated life than other lighting technologies which means a replacement may not be needed in the future.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help customers illuminate the dark corners of their world and make the most of every dollar spent on energy. They also offer EnergyWiseSM energy efficiency financial incentives to offset the cost of installing LED technology. Contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com to find out more.



Own pieces of Lexington History!

We have tons of brick pavers left over from street projects.

ON SALE NOW: 5 for \$1
(lots of 5 only)

Purchase and get the pavers at the Glenn Hawks Community Service Building

801 West Vine Street 324-5995 **Monday - Friday 8 AM - 5 PM**



801 West Vine Street
308-324-5995
Mon. - Fri.
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- dispose of furniture, appliances, pallets, and other large items
- recycle paper, plastic and corrugated cardboard
- pick up free wood chips or compost
- dispose of tree limbs.

Recycle Bins have Moved!

Find them at the Glenn Hawks Community Service Building

One for plastic, one for paper, one for cardboard.

801 West Vine Street 324-5995 **Monday - Friday 8 AM - 5 PM**

Slight Delay on Road Projects

The August issue of *City Happenings* told about upcoming asphalt street resurfacing at several locations. These were scheduled to start in September. Since then a way was found to make the project more effective and less costly, but delayed the projects for about month. They should all be started by the end of October. The three locations are: (1) **Adams St., Walnut to Cattlemen Drive**; (2) **Airport Road from Highway 30 north to the Airport entry**, and (3) **East Walnut Street** from the east side of the Sale Barn to the railroad crossing.

Winter Clothing Drive



The **City of Lexington Employee Committee** is sponsoring a **Winter Clothing Drive** all October. Please bring new or gently used clothes to City Hall (406 E 7th St.), Lexington Public Library (907 N Washington), or the Glenn Hawks Community Service Bldg. (801 W Vine St.). We're looking for coats, hats, mittens, gloves, and snow boots. Donations will go directly to students in Lexington Public Schools.

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.

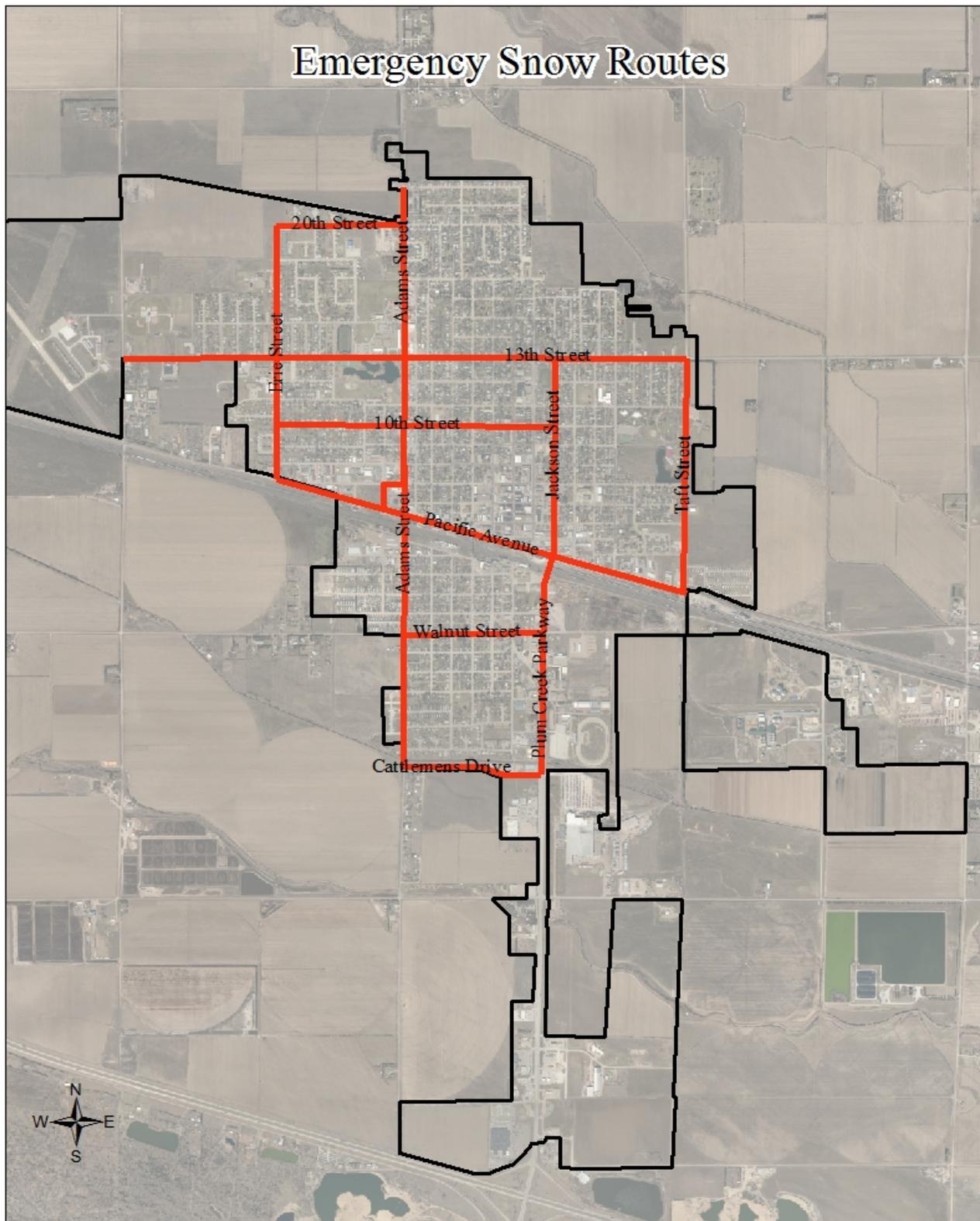
Please take the time to do your part to keep our streets and sidewalks safe.



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.







“Trick or Treat Street!”

Monday, October 31
3:30-5:30 p.m.

Dress up your children in Halloween costumes

& visit the participating businesses
With this flyer in their window!



Happy Halloween!!!





Community Walking Event

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

Everyone in the Lexington Community is encouraged to *join the movement* and **walk** for at least 15 minutes at any time on this day!

Sign up using the link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetXM19LKqDThZevemhpOEIwALS2iFLFHB_wQOREOLMNPXWVQ/viewform

and/or post a picture to the **Walk Lex** Facebook page of you, your co-workers, family, and or friends

WALKING

to enter for a chance to win prizes!

#WALKNE

