

City Happenings

December 2017

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



South Adams Street Construction Ending This Month



Weekly progress on the South Adams Street box culvert replacement just north of Cattlemen Drive. The photos were taken, left to right, on November 17, November 22, and December 4.



The City of Lexington is improving and replacing a drainage culvert on South Adams Street just north of Cattlemen Drive. The project started November 13, 2017, and is expected to be complete by December 22.

During the construction, South Adams Street will be closed to through traffic at the construction site. Local traffic in the area will not be impacted. South bound traffic on Adams Street will be detoured east on Walnut Street to Plum Creek Parkway (Highway 283). Motorists are advised to avoid using Prospect Road and Adams Street to connect to Highway 21 during this project construction.

The City of Lexington asks for patience and urges everyone to exercise extra caution around the work site and detour routes (see detour map, left).



City Employees Give for Holidays



When the City's Employee Committee promoted a pillow and blanket drive in October, Lexington's Men's and Women's Soccer Leagues rose to the occasion. They collected a large quantity of blankets and pillows, and presented them to City employees October 29 at the Lexington Fieldhouse. While other employees and members of the public made donations, this was by far the biggest single donation.



The Employee Committee is a volunteer organization of City personnel that regularly works on community improvement projects, and contributes to needy causes. For Thanksgiving they also donated money to buy hams which were given to the Parent-Child Center.



The photo, above right, shows Pam Baruth, center in photo, representing the City's Employee Committee, donating hams to Lexington's Parent Child Center staff.

Thank you for your generosity!



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

CITY OF
Lexington
NEBRASKA
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GGC Happenings

407 East 6th Street



Christmas Dinner

Plan to join us on Thursday, December 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., for our Christmas dinner. On the menu is ham or turkey roast, scalloped potatoes, green beans and apple crisp. Yummy for the tummy!



Christmas Brunch

On Friday, December 22, we will serve a Christmas Brunch from 10:00–11:00 a.m. On the menu is sausage or ham, scrambled eggs, hash browns and cinnamon apple sauce. The GGC will close at noon that day to allow staff to begin celebrating Christmas with their families.



Turf Workouts

Lexington Fieldhouse Now through - Jan. 30, 2018
1502 Airport Road Mon - Fri 12 - 1 p.m.
(extended through January)

ABOUT

For all levels of fitness. Come walk, run and workout on the Turf. There will be a 20-30 minute circuit workout using mostly body weight. Join the class or workout on your own.

FIELDHOUSE RULES

- ▶ Wear tennis shoes on turf
- ▶ No food is allowed in the Fieldhouse
- ▶ Water allowed in spill-proof bottles on cement areas

REGISTRATION

There is no fee.
Pre-registration is not required.
But we'd like to have a head count.

CONTACT

Ann H. Luther
308-325-5277

Lexington TURF TOTS

WHERE Lexington Fieldhouse, 1502 Airport Road

WHEN October 24 – January 30, 2018
(extended through January)
Tuesday & Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ABOUT

- ▶ Turf Tots is a drop-in free play program for children 1-5 years old.
- ▶ Kids run & play with equipment provided by the City (e.g., sport balls, crawl tunnels, & hula hoops)
- ▶ Parents are required to play on the field and supervise during the event.
- ▶ Please ensure you and your toddler wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes.
- ▶ An extra layer is advisable in case they get cold.
- ▶ No food is allowed in the Fieldhouse.
- ▶ Water is allowed in spill-proof bottles on concrete areas.

CONTACT Ann H. Luther, 308-325-5277



Your City Progress: Before & After



801 West Vine Street - 308-324-5995
Mon. - Fri. - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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



Curfews Designed to Prevent Crime



While considering solutions to youth vandalism and crime, one may turn to the City's long-standing curfew regulations. This may be helpful for parents trying to keep their children out of trouble. It is also recommended that, since police cannot be everywhere at once, citizens who witness youth out after curfew should notify law enforcement by calling 911.

City Code Section 22.80(c) reads, "Curfew for Juveniles. It shall be unlawful for any person fifteen (15) or less years of age to be or remain in or upon a public place within the city during the period beginning at 10:30 p.m. and ending at 5:00 a.m. on any day of the week, and it shall be unlawful for any person 16 or 17 years of age to be or remain in or upon a public place within the city during the period beginning at 12:00 midnight and ending at 5:00 a.m. on any day of the week.

There are exceptions to this, such as teens walking home following a school activity. To find out more, see the complete City Code at the [City website](#). Under the "Public Records" button, open the "Lexington City Code" link and search for the word "curfew."



No News Here We Just Liked The Picture



Lexington Public Library at Dusk - November 29, 2017

The City's website has tools to help you save energy and money.



Look for this button at

www.cityoflex.com/departments/utilities





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907
North
Washington
Street

The Library has several events planned for December.

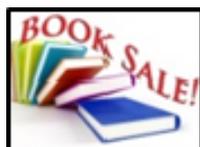
The Library will be the host site for the **Hospice Memorial Tree** again this year. Ornaments in memory of loved ones are on display on the tree. Each family will receive a memory ornament to put on their tree at home.



The Library will be serving **coffee, tea, hot cider and cookies** from December 18

to December 20. Be sure to stop by the Library, relax with a book by the fireplace and enjoy a hot beverage and a cookie.

The Library will have its annual **Nearly New Book Sale** from December 11



through December 31. New items are added as we have room on the tables, so be sure to check back regularly for more selections. We have lots of gently used books that make great gifts for the holidays.

The **Friends of the Library** will be selling **brownies and other treats** the week of December 11. Stop by the Library to purchase your favorite Christmas treat!



At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, and Thursday, January 25, the Library

will host **Family Movie Night**. To learn more about Family Movie Night, contact the Library at 324-2151.

The Library will close at noon on Friday, December 22, for the Christmas holiday. The



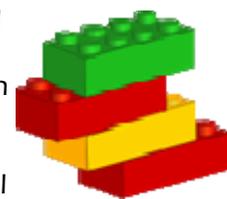
Library will remain closed on Saturday, December 23, Sunday, December 24, and Monday, December 25. The Library will close at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 30 and will be closed Sunday, December 31, and Monday, January 1, for the New Year's holiday.

On Thursday, January 18, the Library will host storyteller **Antonio Rocha**.



Antonio Rocha, who has performed in 16 countries on 6 continents, will be performing stories and mime. This program is offered through collaboration with the Kearney Area Storytelling Festival. Funding for the program is provided by the **Lexington Library Memorial Fund**, the **Lexington Community Foundation**, the **Emerson Fund** and the **Friends of the Library**.

The Library will be hosting a **Legos Party** on January 11 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. All Lego lovers mark this date on your calendar and come explore the world of Legos at the Library.





EnergyWise Tip: **Holiday Contest**

It's happening again! Just as the Yuletide spirit starts to gear up, so does the battle between the Grizwatts and the Schneevolts. Each family refuses to be outdone by the other for having the best family Christmas celebration. Without realizing, each family has also engaged in the competition of who can be the least energy-efficient during the Christmas season for the last 10 years! The prize? The highest utility bills in the neighborhood this December!

Over the last decade, here's what each family did and didn't do to manage energy costs:

Grizwatt losses:

- Papa Clark loves the look of the old nostalgic Christmas lights with the C9 bulbs. He usually puts up 15 to 20 strands.
- Aunt Edna loves a good Christmas-time soaking in the hot tub to soften her toenails. (Don't ask!) So she wouldn't complain, the family turned the outdoor hot tub up to 110°F and didn't bother to cover it when she wasn't "marinating."
- After the family feast, Uncle Lewis got a hot flash, so he opened four windows in the living room. They were never shut until Ruby Sue got chilled at Valentine's Day.
- Mama Ellen continuously ran the kitchen range exhaust fan, claiming it was necessary to remove the burnt figgy pudding smell, but her mom suspects it was to cover up her closet smoking habit.

- Daughter Audrey turned up the water heater to 150°F so she wouldn't run out of hot water, even if Grandma Frances left it on continuously while rinsing dishes.
- Cousin Eddie plugs in the extra refrigerator in the furnace room to "cool" his night crawlers and holiday beverages.
- Cousin Catherine discovered the house became warmer more quickly by switching the heat



pump thermostat to "emergency/backup." Why use the heat pump mode when the furnace does fine by itself, she thought!

Schneevolt losses:

- Ampy Schneevolt wanted gift opening around a roaring fire. Unfortunately, he left the fireplace flue open until his St. Patrick's Day fire.
- Cousin Wyedy's diesel pickup didn't like winter, so he plugged in his engine block heater for the duration of his three-week stay, during which it was very cold.
- Uncle Shorty had a problem with the master blower for his "Christmas Inflatables" display. Therefore, he jiffy-rigged Grandpa

Ohmer's air compressor to run continuously.

- Though Aunt Thermen worked 40 years for the natural gas industry, the family wired the sunroom with electric radiant heat and figured 78°F was a comfortable setting for the month.
- Due to Cousin Ether's video gaming addiction, the Y-box and other electronics were left on and battery chargers were plugged in continuously when not in use.
- Zap, the family dog, had a bowel infection. Grandpa Hertz figured penning him into the master bathroom and leaving the exhaust fan "on" was the best way to deal with that.
- The entire Schneevolt family knew how to turn a light switch "on" when they needed it, but never could figure out how to shut lights off when they left a room.

While the Grizwatts and the Schneevolts willingly pay for their annual holiday energy oversights, you gotta ask yourself, "Am I trying to compete with these guys?" Some of their issues may sound all too familiar! Here're some tips to keep you out of the competition:

- Decorate with LED lighting. A string of LEDs often uses 90 percent less electricity than traditional incandescent light strings.

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EnergyWise Tip: **Holiday Contest**



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- Once all the embers and fumes are out, tightly close fire place dampers when not in use. Repair or replace dampers that don't tightly seal.
- Turn off any supplemental heat in spare bedrooms, garages or other temporary areas when it's no longer needed.
- In winter, set thermostats to 68°F during occupied periods and 60°F during unoccupied and nighttime periods to manage heating costs. If you have a heat pump, use caution when returning the temperature to 68°F, so as not to cause the back-up heat to kick on unnecessarily.
- If you open a window for ventilation, close it as soon as the air has cleared.
- Turn off and/or unplug all unnecessary appliances, electronics and lights. Good luck with this if you have a lot of kids in your home!

Don't wait until your utility bills start showing up in January to find out if you're competing against the Grizwatts and Schneevolts. Make the most of the energy flowing into your home and eliminate unnecessary usage. It might be the best gift you get this season!

Lexington Utilities System, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, wishes you and those closest to you the best of holiday seasons. For additional ideas on how you can make your home comfortable and EnergyWiseSM this winter, contact [Lexington Utilities System](http://www.lexingtonutilities.com) or visit www.nppd.com. You may even find you are eligible for incentives to help with the cost of energy-saving home improvements.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 22
City offices close at **noon**
(The Grand Generation Center will serve a "Christmas Brunch" from 10:00 - 11:00 AM)

Saturday & Sunday, December 23 & 24
Library closed

Monday, Dec. 25
City offices closed

Monday, Jan. 1
City offices closed

See [Page 6](#) for more on [Library Holiday Hours](#)



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>

KNOW THE SIGNS

The Advance Warning Sign warns drivers the road crosses railroad tracks ahead. This means you should **SLOW DOWN, LOOK & LISTEN** for the sound of a train and **BE PREPARED TO STOP**.



Lexington snow and ice removal

Winter is here and 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 check

the City website or Facebook page, listen to local radio stations or read the local newspaper 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).

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 Tom Nelson 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. The City of Lexington thanks everyone for their cooperation and prompt attention to this issue.



STUDENTS!

NOW is the time to apply for City summer jobs: concessions, lifeguards, & lawn mowing.

Go to www.cityoflex.com/departments/city/human-resources for more information and to download a blank application form. Send completed application to address below or email to pbaruth@cityoflex.com.

Don't delay — do it today!



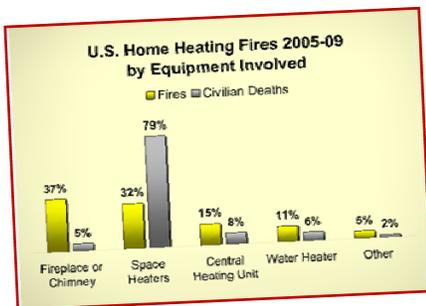


**Lexington
Emergency
Snow
Routes**



Space Heater Safety

You might be turning on a space heater to keep warm in this cool weather. However, you might not know that thousands of fires are caused every year by space heaters, especially improperly used ones. The National Fire Protection Association says in 2011, space heaters were involved in about 17,850 home fires.



Here are some safety tips from Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and other sources:

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Every level of your home should have a working smoke detector that is tested on a monthly basis.
- Keep all space heaters three feet away from anything that could catch on fire.
- Make sure the space heater includes a tip-over switch to ensure that it shuts off if it accidentally tips over.
- NEVER leave a space heater unattended.
- NEVER use a space heater in the room where you will be sleeping.
- NEVER place heaters on furniture. They are designed to be placed on the floor.
- Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, do not use in damp, wet areas.
- NEVER place heaters where towels or other objects could fall on the heater and start a fire.

- Do not use extension cords with space heaters unless absolutely necessary. If you have to use an extension cord, make sure it has a power rating as high or higher as that of the heater itself. Keep the cord stretched out and do not allow it to become buried under rugs or carpeting. Don't place anything on top of the cord. If the cord ever feels even slightly warm, discontinue use.
- Inspect the heater's cord periodically to look for frayed wire or damaged insulation. Do not use a space heater with a damaged cord.
- Check periodically for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug becomes very hot, the outlet may need to be replaced by a qualified technician. This could be the sign of a potential home wiring issue.



- Use space heaters only as a supplementary, small-area sources of heat. They are not intended to replace the home's heating system, and turning the central heating system down too low may result in water pipes bursting.
- Don't use a space heater to dry your wet clothes or pull it closer when you are in a bath tub.
- Keep pets and children away from space heaters.



- Space heaters take a lot of electricity. They can overload the home's wiring, especially if other high-wattage appliance are on at the same time. This may cause overheating of circuits, which may lead to fires.
- Make sure the space heater you are buying is certified and labeled as such on the box (such as Underwriters Laboratory).
- If you have a **liquid-fueled** space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. The wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment was designed for and cause a serious fire.
- When refueling, turn off the heater and let it cool down completely before adding fuel. Wipe away any spills promptly.
- Before you buy a kerosene heater, check with your local fire department to ensure that it is legal in your area.
- Kerosene heaters have a different type of threat with the potential of carbon monoxide poisoning, so take that into consideration.