



Kirkpatrick Memorial Park Lake Project Taking Shape

The project is slightly behind schedule due to supplier delays and weather, but you can see from the photos some of the exciting new features materializing at Kirkpatrick Memorial Park Lake.

One can see lots of paved walking paths, and several fishing pads which, by the way, are handicap accessible. Less visible are erosion control measures, bank stabilization and wildlife habitat improvements.

When the warm weather of 2019 arrives the City will start the multi-year process of landscaping, with new trees, grasses and other plants.

Funding for the project includes grants from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, and the Central Platte Natural Resources District.



New Police Sergeant



Chad Reutlinger, a 12-year veteran of the Lexington Police Department, was promoted to Sergeant October 30. The Lexington native most recently served as one of LPD's two School Resources Officers. He is also a past member of the Lexington Volunteer Fire Department. He is shown here (right) receiving his gold badge and insignia from Police Chief Tracy Wolf (left).



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



Interactive Energy Home



Look for this button at

www.cityoflex.com/departments/utilities

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!





GLENN HAWKS
COMMUNITY
SERVICE
BUILDING



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





HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 23
Library Closed

Monday & Tuesday, December 24 & 25
City Offices closed

Tuesday, January 1
City offices closed

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



LHS Students Learn Tree Planting Techniques

It was a cold and windy 37-degree morning October 10 when 11 Lexington High School students left their comfortable classroom to get some tree-planting pointers from members of Lexington's Tree Board and Park Staff. The students are seen here examining the root bag of a Northern Catalpa with Tree Board member Dave Stenberg. This was one of 10 "Free Fall Trees" given by the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

Following the major Lake Renovation project started in 2015, the City has followed through with numerous projects designed to improve the parks usability, enjoyment and aesthetics. Recent improvements include new trails, an outdoor classroom and, of course, trees and other landscaping. With these additions now in place, the City identified a few fill-in areas for the new trees.

In addition to simply planting more trees, the Free Tree program goals include increasing appreciation and awareness of the value of community forests in Nebraska. Special emphasis is placed on species diversity and higher impact projects.

Free Trees for Fall Planting is supported by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretums Trees for Nebraska Towns Initiative funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and by the Nebraska Forest Services Landscape Scale Restoration grant funded by the U.S. Forest Service.





Tips to Prevent Frozen Pipes



Leave Water Running - Just a small, slow stream/trickle is usually enough to keep the pipes from freezing.



Leave cabinet doors open so house heat can warm the pipes better.



Do not set your thermostat lower than 55°F, even if you plan to be away for an extended time.



Unhook Garden Hoses. You can also install frost-free faucets and insulate outdoor faucets.

Mobile Homes Need Special Pipe Care



Install **Insulated Tape Wrap** or even better **Electric Heat Tape** on pipes under the trailer.



Make sure the **trailer is skirted.**





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



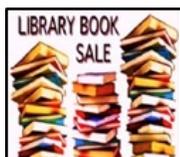
907
North
Washington
Street
(308) 324-2151

Lexington Library has holiday events planned for December.



The Hospice Memorial Tree will be housed at the Library again this year. Ornaments in memory of loved ones, who have passed away, are displayed on the tree.

November 26 was the first day of the **Gently Used Book Sale**. New items are being added weekly, so be sure and check back often to see what's new. This book sale will continue through December 31. Gently Used Books make great holiday gifts!



The Library will be serving **coffee, hot apple cider and cookies** from December 17 to

December 21. Be sure to visit the Library during this time to enjoy these refreshments, while you relax by the fireplace, read the latest best-seller or browse the Gently Used Book Sale.

The **Friends of the Library** will be selling **brownies** the week of December 10. Stop by the Library for a sweet treat.



The Youth Services area at the Library will host a **Christmas Tree Decorating Party** on December 6 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Families are invited to visit the

Youth Services Area to create Christmas decorations, while enjoying cookies and hot chocolate.

The Library will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 21, for the Christmas holiday. The Library will remain closed on Saturday, December 22, Sunday, December 23, Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25. The Library will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 26. The Library will close at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 31 and will be closed on Tuesday, January 1 for the New Year's Holiday.



On Thursday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m., the Library will host **Noa Baum**. The award-winning storyteller and author, who presents internationally, brings a different

tone and flavor to the Storytelling Festival. Born and raised in Jerusalem, her stories "draw on diverse cultures, her own Jewish heritage and personal experience" that will "highlight our similarities,

celebrate our differences and encourage curiosity, awareness and acceptance." This program is offered through collaboration with the **Kearney Area Storytelling Festival**.

"Booked for Lunch" in December will feature music by **Job Vigil**. Vigil previously sang and played keyboard in the **Peter, Chuck and Job** trio from North Platte. His program will include Christmas music and other selections. "Booked for Lunch" will begin serving at 11:30 a.m. and the program will begin at noon on Tuesday, December 11. This program is funded by the **Library Initiative Grant** through the **Lexington Community Foundation**.



LEGO Club will meet on December 13 and January 10 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The theme for the December LEGO Club is **Christmas or LEGO**

Snowman. Heads up: the theme for the January event is **LEGO Marble Maze**.



EnergyWise Tip: Incandescent Christmas Light's Last Gleaming

by NPPD Energy Efficiency
Program Manager Cory Fuehrer

If you're still using incandescent Christmas lights for your holiday decorating, I assume you have your reasons. I have mine. For me, it's the nostalgia of Christmases past. So, when I considered switching to LED lights, I did some homework. For those still on the fence, I share some arguments and insight below.

I've heard the "stranded" investment rational. "I've got too much invested in all my lights!" "If they're not broke, why would you pitch 'em?" These sound like two contentions I'm sure my grandpa would make if I could ask his opinion on upgrading to LEDs. Unfortunately, these perspectives don't account for operating and maintain-ing lights into the future.

Truth be told, both incandescent and LED lights will eventually need replacement. Though some may boast their Christmas lights are decades old, most light strands fail long before reaching such an age. While traditional lights have ratings 3,000 hours of use or less, some LED Christmas lights boast a 50,000-hour lifetime. Though light sets used indoors will last much longer than outdoor sets, don't expect anywhere close to 50,000 hours. According to christmasdesigners.com, a company with more than 30 years of experience building and

installing Christmas decorations and lighting, exterior LED and traditional incandescent light sets have about the same lifespan. Professional and commercial grade sets will last six to seven years if stored away after Christmas. If left up throughout the year, they will only last 24 to 30 months. Average retail grade sets, which most homeowners buy, will last about three years when taken out of storage and displayed only during the holiday season. If left up year-round, retail grade sets are fortunate to last six to 12 months.



Second, I've heard cost per strand makes LEDs unaffordable. Let's do some simple math. Assume my Christmas lights operate 12 hours-per-day for 30 days of the season. That's a total of 360 hours-a-year. Currently, a 100-bulb strand of traditional incandescent mini-lights costs about \$3 and requires 40 watts of electricity, while a 100-bulb strand of LED mini-lights costs from \$6 to \$12 and only requires six watts. If



electricity costs \$0.12 per kilowatt-hour, the traditional incandescent mini-light sets each cost about \$1.73 to operate, while LED mini-light sets only cost \$0.26. Energy savings pay for the new LED mini-lights in four to eight years. Not bad.

When I look at the large C9 lights for exterior lighting, a strand of 25 traditional incandescent lights will cost about \$12 to purchase and \$9.72 per season to operate. A new set of 25 LED C9 lights will only cost \$5 to \$10 per 25 lamps. More importantly, electricity to operate them will only cost \$0.09 per season! In other words, energy savings gained by upgrading to LED C9 lights will pay for each new LED replacement strand in about one season or less.

Others have complained LED Christmas lights are not as bright as incandescents. While this may be true when comparing individual bulbs, LEDs produce 10 times or more light than incandescent bulbs given the same amount of electricity. Moreover, multi-color LEDs tend to be more vibrant than incandescent Christmas lights, and they are available in many colors other than the traditional red, orange, yellow, green and blue. Even when

(continues on next page)



EnergyWise Tip: **Christmas Lights**



(continued from previous page)

selecting white lights, LEDs provide a choice of warm or cool white tones.

The most unusual rationalization I've heard for not upgrading to LED Christmas lights is safety. The person arguing this opinion pointed out some LEDs contain lead and other heavy metals which are toxic to humans. After listening to them, I pointed out most Christmas light manufacturers use lead in PVC insulation that insulates Christmas light wiring regardless of the lighting technology, albeit in trace amounts. That being said, LEDs and traditional incandescent Christmas lights are currently not considered toxic by law and can be disposed of in regular landfills.

If anything, LEDs provide greater safety than incandescent Christmas lights. Because of the heat they generate, incandescent bulbs must be made from glass, which can break and easily cut someone mishandling them. LEDs use plastic, which reduces accidental cutting hazards. As incandescent bulbs become hot, they can also become a fire hazard if operated too close to flammable substances. To the contrary, LEDs remain cool enough to touch even after hours of operation. The high operating temperature of incandescent lights is a direct result of the inefficient conversion of electricity to light. Consequently, incandescent Christmas lights can easily overload electrical circuits and must carry warnings and advise no more than five strands per circuit. By comparison, some LED sets state you can connect up to 50 strings without concern.

That brings me to my final justification for using incandescent Christmas lights: nostalgia. They bring back memories of being three years old, then four the following year. I traveled

with my parents for what seemed like hours as we made our way to grandpa and grandma's farm for the holidays. As we drove into the evening and came to the last mile, our car would crest the final hill. At that point, I would be overwhelmed at the glowing incandescent splendor of grandpa's luminary creations. Though still so far away, their brilliance cut through the night and made promise of the food, family and fun to be shared over the next few days. Their warm radiance assured security and love.

But today, as I approach grandpa's age of when those magic memories occurred, I'm realizing it's not that I want to go back in time to grandpa and grandma's. Instead, I'm hoping my children, and someday, grandchildren, will have many of the same feelings I had when they come back for the holidays. As they gaze on our beautifully illuminated home, it won't be the lighting technology that creates those sentimental memories they will cherish for years to come. Rather, it will be the special time we share together at this most-special time of year.

Looks like I need to go to a hardware store and get some LED Christmas lights. Merry Christmas.

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 or visit www.nppd.com. You may even find you are eligible for incentives to help with the cost of energy-saving home improvements.



Remember, you're not just washing your car



Find out more at www.cityoflex.com

Practice good car care

Did you know?

Four quarts of oil can form an 8-acre oil slick if dumped or spilled down a storm drain? That's because storm drains found in our streets and yards lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, oil and dirty water from washing our car that goes into storm drains pollutes our water.

What can you do? Simple:

- Take your car to the carwash where the dirty water is treated before it gets to our water.
- Wash your car on your lawn or direct the dirty water toward the lawn and away from the storm drain, or wash your car at a commercial car wash location.
- Keep your car properly tuned.
- Recycle used fluids and never dump them down the storm drains.

Help keep the oil where it belongs . . . in you car!



Support provided by NDEQ



www.cityoflex.com

WHERE TO RECYCLE PALLETS

The City is now recycling wood pallets.

Bring your intact wood pallets to the City Service Building, 801 W Vine Street, between 8 – noon; & 1-5 weekdays.

This is the only location pallets are accepted.

- wood only, not plastic
- maximum size 48" x 48"
- please check in at the Service Bldg. office
And we'll tell you where to drop them off



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 weather is upon us 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 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

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.



AT 80 TONS, A TRAIN HITTING YOUR CAR IS LIKE

STOMPING ON A SODA CAN.



Before you drive beyond the safety line. Before you decide to take that shortcut across the tracks.



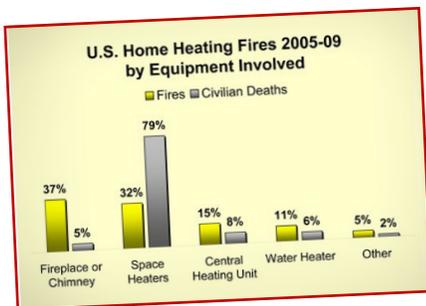
CONSIDER THE IMPACT





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.

CITY OF
Lexington
NEBRASKA



UTILITIES SYSTEM