

2019

OCTOBER

City Happenings



NEBRASKA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CERTIFIED COMMUNITY

New Recreation Coordinator Brings New Activities

In July **Jake Saulsbury** joined the City's Parks and Recreation Staff, and was soon bringing new ideas for recreational activities for all ages.

One example is **Pickleball**, which is now being offered Wednesday nights starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Optimist Hitting Building (see flier, right). This fun sport combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. It was created for all ages and skill levels, and is becoming popular nationwide. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players.

Another innovation involves a partnership with Mac's Creek Vineyards and Brewery. The **Halloween Hustle** will take place Sunday, October 27. Starting at the Optimist Recreation Complex, there will be a run/walk Hitting Building to Mac's Creek. Costumes are encouraged, and there will be prizes in addition to other fun features. A flier and registration form can be found at the end of this newsletter. Finally, see Page 6 for information on **Fieldhouse Fitness**.



Jake Saulsbury

LEARN TO PLAY PICKLEBALL

- FREE PICKLEBALL DRILLS & INSTRUCTION
- LEARN TO PLAY IN MINUTES (NOT HOURS)!
- WE PROVIDE ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT
- WEAR ATHLETIC SHOES
- 6:00 - 6:30 PM INTRODUCTION AND FUN DRILLS
- 6:30 - 8:30 PM OPEN COURTS FOR DROP-IN PLAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

JAKE SAULSBURY (P) 308.746.3543 (E) JSAULSBURY@CITYOFLEX.COM
 ANN LUTHER (P) 308.325.5277 (E) ALUTHER@CITYOFLEX.COM

CHECK OUT THE FASTEST GROWING SPORT IN AMERICA!

PICKLEBALL AT THE LEXINGTON OPTIMIST INDOOR HITTING COMPLEX



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

1601 W. 13th St.
LEXINGTON, NE

(ADULTS ONLY 18+)

STARTS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

6:00 - 8:30 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME! NO CHARGE!

CHECK OUT OUR COURTS!





**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



What Not To Flush

(or put down the drain)

Could clog your drains or sewers!



- ▶ paper, plastic or cardboard
- ▶ feminine hygiene products
- ▶ wipes (baby or personal)
- ▶ prophylactic items
- ▶ cloth or string
- ▶ grease, oil, wax or fats
- ▶ diapers
- ▶ wrappers
- ▶ bottles
- ▶ cat litter
- ▶ medicines



LHS Students Learn Tree Planting Techniques

The recent lake renovation project south of Kirkpatrick Memorial Park unfortunately meant removal of a number of trees. The City wasted little time beginning to restore them. On October 3, 2019, seven Lexington High School students got hands-on experience planting trees on the east side of the lake. The students were enrolled in teacher Tim Potter's Landscaping class. Members of the Lexington Tree Board and Park Staff provided instruction and tips. In all, 13 trees were planted. Most of them were obtained through the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's "Ten Free Fall Trees" program, for which the Tree Board had applied. The other trees (Spruce) were donated by Lexington resident Don E. Price. The NSA tree contribution included varieties of Elm, Oak, Linden and Sycamore.

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 Arboretum's 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.

More trees will be planted on the west side of the lake following construction of anticipated roads, parking, and other park features.



City's DRIVING RANGE Open for the Season



May close briefly if weather is bad . . .
Notices posted on the City's Facebook Page
**Just southeast of the Lexington Fieldhouse
Optimist Recreation Complex
13th & Airport Road**

Small Bucket
about 40 balls
\$3

Medium Bucket
about 75 balls
\$5

Large Bucket
about 105 balls
\$7



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>

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



907
North
Washington
Street
(308) 324-2151



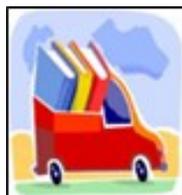
The **Friends of the Library** are planning upcoming events for **Give Big Lexington 2019**. GBL

Goals for the Friends are to continue to improve the landscaping and to purchase new furniture for around the fireplace. Also, a percentage of the funds generated from GBL will go toward funding the Friends of the Library's contribution to the Library Initiative Grant. This grant provides funding for most of library programs (musicians, authors, storytellers, etc.), including an array of summer reading programs, the Sunday afternoon family presentations, and "Booked for Lunch." Events that are being planned at the Library for Give Big Lexington include:

- **Treasure Trove at the Library** – In a flea market style, the Library will have lots of treasures for purchase beginning on October 15 and continuing through November (or until all the treasures are gone).
- **Gently Used Cookbook Sale** – It doesn't matter if you're looking for new ways to prepare veggies, casseroles, steak or chocolate, the Library has a Gently Used Cookbook for you!
- The Friends of the Library will be selling **brownies** and **other**

treats during the week of October 7 and the week of November 4. Stop by the Library anytime during these two weeks to purchase a sweet treat for only 50 cents.

- A **special bake sale** will be held during the election on Tuesday, November 5.
- The Friends of the Library sponsor **Java Junction**, the Library's coffee, tea and hot chocolate station.



The Friends of the Library also provide the **delivery of books** and other materials to shut-ins in Lexington.

Currently more than 100 items are delivered to approximately 20 shut-ins on a monthly basis. If you would like to join this amazing group, you are welcome to attend the next Friends of the Library meeting at 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 21, at the Library.

The **LEGO Club** has resumed meeting on the second Thursday of



each month from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The theme for October 10 is a pumpkin or something scary. The theme for November 14 is houses or barns. The LEGO Club is open to any elementary age youth. The LEGO Club provides the opportunity to create a variety of objects from

the Library's extensive LEGO collection.



The October "Booked for Lunch" program will feature **Teri Edeal and her miniature horse, Jet**.

Jet has the ability to charm people of all ages and backgrounds. He has completed Hilltop Canine College's basic dog obedience course. Teri and Jet are a certified animal therapy team. The October "Booked for Lunch" is scheduled for October 17 at noon. A light lunch will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. Please register in advance for this program by calling (324-2151) or stopping by the library.

On Sunday, October 20, at 2:00 p.m., award winning author and performer, **Mike**



Blakely, will be performing at the Lexington Public Library. Mike presents a mix of captivating music and storytelling. He has released 13 CDs, authored 19 books, performed all over the US and made 16 tours to Europe.



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FIELDHOUSE FITNESS

Every Tuesday and Thursday
Starting September 5
Time: 12:15 PM, 30-45 Minutes

Lexington Fieldhouse
1502 Airport Road

- A variety of fitness activities
- All fitness levels are welcome
- Exercises will be modified for each level
- Light to moderate exercise over the lunch hour
- The fieldhouse will also be open for walking at this time

CITY OF
Lexington
NEBRASKA



SHOP SMALL

★ ★ ★

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

NOV 30 2019

November 14, 2019

give
BIG
Lexington

givebiglexington.org





EnergyWise Tip: From Dusk 'Til Dawn

by NPPD Energy Efficiency Program Manager Cory Fuehrer

While the Halloween season and this article's headline may make some horror movie fans wonder if I am going to share an energy-efficient way to rid your place of vampires, this real-life tale might be even scarier if you still use mercury-vapor lights to cut through night's darkness. If you are one of the unsuspecting owners of the thousands I still see during my nocturnal travels throughout Nebraska, the following facts may leave you screaming in horror!

Cost of Operation

Let us "cut" to the chase. Mercury-vapor lights are expensive to operate. The standard 175-watt mercury-vapor lamp requires a fixture with a ballast to operate. Most people do not realize the ballast uses energy too. So in reality, it takes 205 watts to illuminate one bulb. Operating an average of 12 hours per night, over the course of one year, will use 898 kilowatt-hours (kWhs) of electricity. Using Nebraska's average residential rate of 12.4¢/kWh, that costs \$111.35 every year. Judged against light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures, a 50- to 75-watt LED will provide comparable lighting levels for only one-quarter to one-third the energy use.

Longevity of Useful Light

Looking at a mercury-vapor lamp's estimated lifetime, one might think 24,000 hours is a long time, but it's little more than five years when averaging 12 hours per night. After six years, some may think, Hey! This bulb is lasting longer than they said it would! That is because mercury-vapor almost never dies! But, sometimes a DEAD light bulb is better than one that just gets dimmer and dimmer



while devouring the same amount of electricity! After only the first year, mercury-vapor lights have lost nearly 20 percent light output. By comparison, LEDs lose less than 2 percent over the same period.

False Sense of Security

Many feel an exterior light burning "from dusk till dawn" will dissuade criminals from approaching. However, the glare produced by mercury-vapor can create harsh shadows to hide in and, if reflecting off a shiny surface, can "redline" surveillance cameras.

Security experts agree that a motion-sensing LED floodlight in the 100- to 200-watt range is far more effective. Its sudden brightness will startle intruders and produce less-predictable shadow patterns. Not to mention, werewolves hate LEDs.

Attracts Critters

Most insects, including the bloodsucking ones, are photophilic, which means they are attracted to light and especially light in the ultraviolet spectrum. Mercury-vapor bulbs are great at creating ultraviolet (UV) light! Not long after these pests show up, the other creatures that prey on them, like spiders, bats, rodents and snakes show up for the "all-night" buffet you provided. Some outdoor LED fixtures are created to generate no or very little UV. Thus, they attract fewer types of bugs. Simple equation: Less bugs = less buffet = less icky critters.

Light Pollution

"Big City" dwellers often forget what the night sky is supposed to look like until they visit the country. Why can't anyone see the stars in downtown New York? All the man-made light drowns them out. Mercury-vapor, like high-pressure

(continues on next page)



From Dusk 'Til Dawn

(continued from previous page)

sodium and metal-halide bulbs, emit light in nearly all directions. Though fixtures help direct the light to where it is desired, the majority is wasted as it overwhelms the sky, creates driving glare for passers-by or keeps a nearby neighbor up all night as it shines through their window. Since LEDs create directional light, it is easier to focus the light where it is needed most. This is especially beneficial if you live next to a cemetery. No reason to let ghosts and zombies know you live in the neighborhood.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. That includes illuminating your darkest nights and keeping the nocturnal bloodsuckers away. For assistance on making your home EnergyWiseSM, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com.



SHOPPING LOCAL
ISN'T JUST A
TREND, IT'S A
WAY OF LIFE.

SHIFT 10
— keep it local —

SHIFT10 is a national movement to encourage shoppers to shift 10% of their spending to local businesses in communities across the United States.

SHIFT10 day is October 10 (10/10)

For more information:

www.facebook.com/shift10day/



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- ★ Pay by credit or debit card
- ★ View updated billing and consumption history
- ★ Account balances are automatically updated



The Census is Coming!



United States
**Census
2020**

The Next 10-year Census count is coming in 2020 (April and May). It's super-important to get an accurate count because these numbers are used to federal funding for schools, roads, housing, and much more.



Lexington snow and ice removal

Winter will soon be 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 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.



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.





