

#### **Northwest Trail Phase 2 Starts**

This summer the City of Lexington will add about a mile of new hike-bike trail. The Northwest Trail Project Phase 2 construction started in early June.

The project is funded mostly by a grant from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. NGPC's Recreational Trails **Program** (RTP) is backed with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The trail section starts where the Phase 1 Northwest Trail ended (marked in yellow on the aerial photo to the right), near 20th & Independence. The new trail, marked in red, would continue south, turn west just before the existing houses, then south again through The Optimist Recreation Complex until it connects with an existing east-west trail on the north side of 13th Street.

There is also a non-contiguous leg that starts at the west end of the 13th Street trail, going north along the east side of Airport Road, and meets up with the Lexington Fieldhouse parking lot.

The top photo is taken from the end of the Phrase 1 trail, looking south across 20th Street.













## **Lexington Public Library Director Set to Retire**



It's the end of an era for the Lexington Public Library. Longtime Director Kathy Thomsen has announced her retirement, effective July 31, 2021.

Kathy began her tenure in Lexington in January 2007. Starting as a Library Assistant in Chadron in 1971, her library and education career spanned 50 years, she has worked at libraries across the state, including Lincoln, Kimball, North Platte, and Kearney. Along the way she earned a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She also taught elementary school for 12 year in Eustis.



Thomsen's first Library
News appeared in the
October 2007 City
Happenings, and has been
a regular feature ever
since. The photo to the left
is from her first column.
She reinvigorated the
Friends of the Library, and
has booked dozens of

appearances from authors, storytellers, historians, musicians and more. Under her direction the Library has implemented an online "e-books" lending system, upgraded the computer systems several times, oversaw more than a dozen Summer Reading Programs, and shepherded the Library and staff through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working at the Library," said Kathy. "I have had the privilege of working with dedicated employees and have met so many wonderful library patrons. Lexington Public Library will always have a special place in my heart."

The City of
Lexington and the
Lexington Public
Library Board are
planning a
retirement reception
on Friday, July 23,
from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Everyone is invited
to stop by during
that time, enjoy
some refreshments,



and wish our beloved Library Director best wishes for a well-deserved retirement!



June 6, 2016: Kathy received a Leadership Award from City Manager Joe Pepplitsch.









# Fity Happenings





## **Library News**

by Kathy Thomsen Library Director





907 North Washington Street (308) 324-2151



For the first time in several years, the library will have two different themes for **Summer Reading**. The theme for children preschool through Grade 5 is **Tails and Tales**. The theme for Young Adults (Grade 6 and up) and Adults is **Dig Deeper: Read-Investigate-Discover**.

**Summer Reading 2021** will be similar to last year's program in that it will be a virtual program:

The stories will be read on Facebook live and children will be able to pick up that week's activities in a Grab & Go Bag. Animal stories will be offered virtually on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The Grab and Go bags will be available on Mondays each week.

#### **CHILDREN**

The following stories will be included in the summer reading program:

June 2 - Rumble in the Jungle; June 4 - If I Was the Sunshine; June 9 - Mousetronaut by Mark Kelly; June 11 - Ratonauta by Mark Kelly; June 18 - I Love My Daddy (Father's Day Program); June 23 - Little Green Donkey; and June 25 - El Burrito Verde.

The library will also offer a Tails and Tales virtual program by **Super Stolie** from June 16 to June 18. Super



Stolie offers a great bilingual program. She previously performed her program **Super Stolie Guacamole** at the library.

The library will also offer several live performances for the **Tails and Tales Summer Reading Program**. *These programs are free and open to all ages.* 

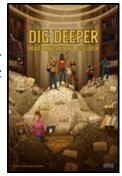
Mad Science Presents: Tales and Tails
June 3 at 2:00 p.m. Kirkpatrick Memorial Park
Adam White's Tales and Tails Magic
June 8 at 10:30 a.m. Kirkpatrick Memorial Park
Crane River Theater presents Cinderella
June 10 at 10:30 a.m. Kirkpatrick Memorial Park
Amazing Magic Balloon Show
June 15 at 6:00 p.m. Middle School Auditorium

Please call or stop by the library to register for these programs.

#### **YOUNG ADULTS**

The **Dig Deeper** reading challenge asks students to set aside 30

minutes each day to read. Students can read whatever interests them: books, magazines, newspapers. When the reading challenge has



been completed, the student can bring their reading trackers to the library for a prize. The registration packet also includes three 15-minute challenges that employ three different forms of technology: the library's online

> catalog, genealogy, and the Access Nebraska databases funded by the Nebraska Library Commission.

#### **ADULTS**

Summer reading for adults will feature a Grab and Go packet of various puzzle pages, bookmarks, and fun activity sheets.















June 18 - October 9, 2021

1601 Plum Creek Parkway

(Bob's True Value Parking Lot)

Saturday 8:00 am-11:00

am

Tuesday 3:00 pm-6:00 pm



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



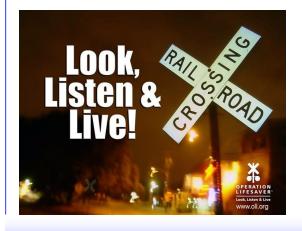
#### **Interactive Energy Home**



Look for this button at

www.cityoflex.com/departments/utilties

















# City Happenings



#### EnergyWise Tip: **Dehumidifiers**

ENERGYWISE Use less. Spend less. Do more.

by NPPD Energy Efficiency Program Manager Cory Fuehrer

Summertime in Nebraska.
Anyone experiencing a few can tell you they can be hot. If they are from eastern
Nebraska, they can also tell you humidity makes those summer days feel even sweltering. While air-conditioning systems are tasked with removing most of this excess indoor humidity, many homes and businesses use stand-alone dehumidifiers to lower levels.

To keep comfortable during the summer, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends a humidity level between 30 and 50%, while the Environmental Protection Agency recommends between 30 and 60%. In addition to eliminating the muggy, clammy feeling indoors, additional dehumidification can provide the following additional benefits:

- Improved air quality
- Lessened allergy and asthma symptoms
- Mold prevention
- Diminished musty odors
- Reduced airborne dust
- Dust mite suppression
- Protection of the home's or building's structural integrity

However, not everyone realizes the impact dehumidifiers can have on summer utility bills. For each dehumidifier used, the monthly expense will often run from \$15 to \$35, but it can exceed \$50 per month if the unit frequently. Here are some ideas of how to manage humidity problems while saving money.

 Set the humidistat so the dehumidifier does not run



continuously. For basements in the summertime, 50% relative humidity is recommended. In colder weather, relative humidity between 25 and 40% is advised to reduce condensation on windows.

 Close all windows and doors to the area being conditioned to dramatically reduce humidity coming from outside air.

- Place the dehumidifier in the area with the highest humidity, but do not create a safety hazard by placing it in or near water.
   Dehumidifiers are not the solution to standing water (or running water) in basements.
- Make sure the dehumidifier is connected to a properly grounded outlet.
- Position the dehumidifier away from the wall or furniture so air can freely circulate through the unit.
- Hook up a hose to drain the dehumidifier if emptying the tank is a chore.
- If frost forms on the coils, turn off the machine until it melts. Frost can form when the room temperature drops below 65°F. Note that automatic defrosting dehumidifiers are a convenient way to address this maintenance issue. The automatic defrost feature is a must-have for anybody who plans to use their device in colder climates.
- Keep the dehumidifier clean. Wipe or vacuum dust and dirt from the coils and
- If you have a choice of fan speeds, higher speeds are more efficient, though lower speeds are quieter.

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# Fity Happenings



#### **Dehumidifiers**

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 Reduce energy use during peak electric use periods. Put your dehumidifier on a timer to turn it on at 9 p.m. and off at 10 a.m.

Finally, when you are shopping for a dehumidifier, purchase an ENERGY STAR®qualified model. A dehumidifier that has earned the ENERGY STAR® label uses more efficient refrigeration coils, compressors and fans to remove the same amount of moisture as a similarly-sized conventional unit, but uses nearly 15% less energy.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you stay cool, comfortable and healthy this summer. Contact them or visit www.nppd.com if you would like more information on ways to improve your energy efficiency, as well as various EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> incentives that may be available to you for implementing energy efficient technologies.





## **Red Cross Swimming Lessons Three Sessions June & July**



**Lexington Family Aquatic Center** (LFAC) 10th & Monroe

**Session 1 - June 7 - 18** Session 2 - July 5 - 16 Session 3 - July 19 - 30

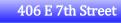
TIMES (all sessions)

9:30 - 10:15 AM - Levels 3 - 6 10:30 - 11:00 AM - Levels Pre, 1 & 2

For more information and to register, contact LFAC, 308-324-2688. Registration forms are available at the LFAC.









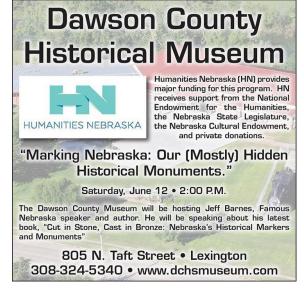




# City Happenings











## Third Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner

On April 30 the City of Lexington celebrated Arbor Day 2021 by recognizing the co-winners of a third-grade Arbor Day poster contest sponsored by the **Lexington Tree Board**.

The Tree Board sponsored its annual poster contest, and received 142 entries from Lexington 3rd graders. After judging the entries, Tree Board members liked two of them equally. They decided to declare two co-winners, **Amelia Ford** and **Elena McFarland**, both from Mrs. Smith's class at Sandoz Elementary School.



The Tree Board honored Elena and Amelia – and their school – by planting three trees on the grounds of Sandoz School. The whole school turned out for the event, held near the newly-planted trees. The artists were presented with their winning posters framed for posterity. The third tree was for **Fernanda Prado-Segura**, the Sandoz pupil who won in 2019 and was honored, however, due to construction the planting had been delayed. No contest was held in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Earlier in April Lexington was officially named a **Tree City USA** city for the 24th consecutive year. On April 13 **Mayor John Fagot** signed a proclamation declaring April 30 Arbor Day 2021 in Lexington.

America's Arbor Day, always the last Friday in April, originated in Nebraska and is observed internationally as a day to celebrate trees.

Lexington Tree Board members are: Dave Stenberg, Chris Salem, Marty Smith, Ann Luther, and Tom Nelson.



(left to right, top to bottom) Tree Board members Dave Stenberg and Marty Smith, Amelia Ford and Elena McFarland holding their posters, along with two unidentified volunteers to hold the City's Tree City USA banner. One of the three trees planted, which had not yet leafed out, is in the upper right hand side (right behind Marty).







Elena McFarland's 2021 Winning Poster









# ly Happenings







#### 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/Cityof-Lexington-Nebraska/157277430966096



**201 West Vine St.** 308-324-5995 Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### SUMMER SATURDAYS

(May - October):

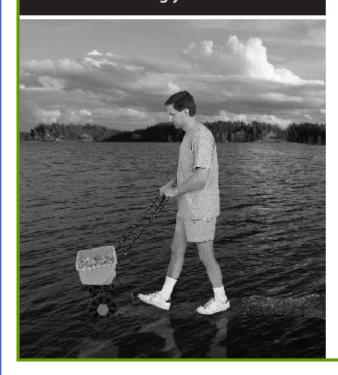




- dispose of furniture, appliances, and other large items (small fee may apply)
- recycle paper, plastic, and cardboard
- pick up free wood chips or compost



#### Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn



#### Fertilize sparingly and caringly

#### Green your lawn, not the river

Storm drains found in our streets and yards lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, fertilizer from your lawn can easily end up in our water. This fertilizer can form large algae blooms and use up oxygen that fish and other aquatic insects need to survive.

#### What can you do? Simple:

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks and back onto your lawn.
- Recycle grass clippings by leaving them on your lawn.
- Use fertilizer with low phosphorus.
- Select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is water insoluble (check the label).

Keep the green on the lawn and in your pocket!



Support provided by Nebr. Dept. of Environment & Energy









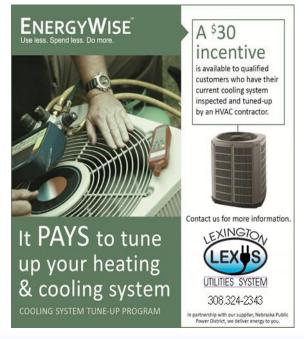




























## EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

HELPING HOUSEHOLDS CONNECT DURING THE PANDEMIC

#### What is it?

A temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic.

#### The benefit provides:

- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands: and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.



#### Who is eligible?

A household is eligible if one member of the household:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain government assistance programs;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch or breakfast program;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

#### THREE WAYS TO APPLY



**Contact your Preferred Participating Provider Directly** 

Ask your provider if they participate in the EBB, or use our online tool to find a participating company near you.







Online

Use the online application at **GetEmergencyBroadband.org** 



By Mai

Print an application in English or Spanish. Complete the application and send with proof of eligibility to:



or additional information, Call 833-511-0311, or visit fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit

## BENEFICIO DE EMERGENCIA PARA INTERNET (EBB)

AYUDANDO A LOS HOGARES A MANTENERSE CONECTADOS

DURANTE LA PANDEMIA

#### ¿QUÉ ES?

Es un programa temporal de la FCC que ofrece ayuda a los hogares con problemas para pagar sus servicios de Internet durante la pandemia.

#### Este beneficio te proporciona:

- Máximo \$50 de descuento al mes para tu servicio de Internet.
- Máximo \$75 de descuento al mes para hogares elegibles en Territorios Tribales.
- Un descuento único de hasta \$100 por una computadora portátil, computadora de escritorio o una tableta electrónica a través de un proveedor participante.



#### ¿Quién es elegible?

Podrás participar en este programa si un miembro de tu hogar:

- Tiene un ingreso igual o menor al 135% del nivel federal de pobreza o participa en ciertos programas de asistencia social.
- en ciertos programas de asistencia social.

  Recibe beneficios en la escuela bajo el programa de almuerzo o desayuno gratuito o reducido.
- Recibió una beca Federal Pell Grant para la Universidad durante el año en curso.
   Experimentó una pérdida sustancial de ingresos debido a la pérdida de su
- Experimentó una pérdida sustancial de ingresos debido a la pérdida de su empleo o a la suspensión de su trabajo, sin sueldo, desde el 29 de febrero de 2020.
   Cumple con los criterios de elegibilidad exigidos por un proveedor participante en un programa de bajos ingresos o en un programa COVID-19 ya existente.



#### TRES FORMAS DE SOLICITAR EL BENEFICIO:



Contacta a tu proveedor de Internet preferido directamente

Pregunta si participa en el programa EBB o utiliza nuestros servicios en línea para encontrar una empresa participante en tu localidad.





En línea

Usa la solicitud en el sitio web: GetEmergencyBroadband.org



Por correo

Imprime la solicitud en inglés o español. Complétala y envíala con tu comprobante de elegibilidad a:



Emergency Broadband Support Center P.O. Box 7081

ara obtener más información. Ilama al 833-511-0311 o visita fcc.gov/bandaanchaprestacion







REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 13  CITYOFLEXPAR  UNGTON FAM	RKSANDREC
LEXINGCENTER	ILY AQUATTO
CITY OF LEXINGTON	NON
	me:
SWIN 12 MILL II FS	ian Signature if 17 yrs and younger
28 DAYS TO COMPETED Guard	T-shii Co
>Swimming Complete >Swimming Complete >Bike/Run/Walk on your Description >Bike/Run/Walk on your own  >Bike/Run/Walk on your own  >Track your progress at LFAC  >Track your progress at LFA	m - FAC) :csion
Kickoff Lelp log Mile Bike, in (Meet to help 13 Mile Bike, in (Meet 13 10:00 am (Meet	the mover
Track your F  Tr	City of Lexington, NE City of Lexington, NE City of Lexington, NE City of Lexington, NE City of Lexington City of Lexington Contact: Ann Luther, 308-325-5277, aluther@cityoflex.com
Mail Checks Drop C	Contact: Ann Luther, 308-325-5277, aluther@cityoflex.com



# City Happenings





# TORNADO

Now that "tornado season" is here, Emergency Management Warning Sirens will sound to alert residents of an impending tornado in our area.

# TORNADO NATURAL DISASTER TECHNICAL HAZARD

#### **3 MINUTE STEADY SIGNAL**

This signal indicates that a tornado, natural disaster, or technical hazard is pending. Persons should take cover or move to a place of safety and listen to a local radio or television station for information and further instructions. This siren may sound more than once if deemed necessary by Emergency Management.

Do not call the police or radio station to ask for information. People SIGHTING a tornado or funnel in this are urged to notify the Dawson County Emergency Center at 911.

#### **ALL-CLEAR**

The all-clear bulletin will be issued by the local radio and TV stations in cooperation with the National Weather Service.

Local Emergency Management WILL NOT issue an all-clear statement.

During unusual threatening weather or emergency conditions, listen to a local radio or TV station for further information.

## SAFETY GUIDELINES The following are general safety guidelines for seeking shelter:

- Move to a lower level or basement
- If no lower level is available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
  - Stay away from windows.
- Flying debris from tornadoes causes most deaths and injuries.
   Cover your head and make yourself the smallest target possible.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, get out of the vehicle and seek safe shelter in a nearby building.
- If you are outside and there is no shelter immediately available, avoid trees and vehicles. Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safe in a low, flat location. Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.



Emergency warning system tests of one minute in duration are conducted the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Sirens are designed for outdoors warning only. For optimal safety, citizens are encouraged to get weather radios using the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and/or SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) standards.







# EMERGENCY Rental & Utility Assistance

## Available for Nebraska Households

The Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program provides funds to assist Nebraska low-income households outside of Lancaster and Douglas Counties who are struggling to pay rent and utilities because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Households seeking financial support can apply by visiting the state's Coronavirus website page at **Coronavirus.Nebraska.gov**. Eligible households can obtain assistance for rent or utilities due from April 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021.

Proof of financial need is required, and applicants must provide all required documents. Only applicants who meet all eligibility guidelines will be considered.

The Nebraska ERA Program is now open for all areas outside of Lancaster and Douglas counties. Applications will be accepted through at least August of 2021. Additional funds are subject to availability after August of 2021.

#### **DOCUMENTS NEEDED**

- · Current lease or rental agreement
- Identification (Driver's license or other government issued photo ID)
- Proof of income for all household members who file income taxes
- Proof of financial loss or hardship due to Covid-19 (paystubs, unemployment, W-2s, medical bills, etc)

\*Douglas County, Lancaster County and certain Native American tribal entities have a separate application process. Information will be released soon!

#### **RENTER ELIGIBILITY**

- Nebraska Resident (NOT including Lancaster or Douglas County residents)\*
- Current household income at or below 80% area median income. Get more information here: www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html#2020\_query
- Assistance for up to 12 months of past due or future rent. An additional 3 months of assistance (for a total of 15) may be approved if the household is still experiencing housing instability.
- No more than \$20,000 total assistance for any household

Learn more & apply online at Coronavirus.Nebraska.gov

Questions? Call the ERA Program Contact Center at 833-500-8810 (available 8am – 7pm Monday – Friday)





## Waiver

I know that running/walking road race is a hazardous activity. I should not enter and run/walk unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of an official, relative to my ability to safely complete the race/walk. I assume all risks associated with running/walking in this event including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, traffic, the effect of the weather, including high heat or humidity, and the conditions of the road. All such risks being know and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing those facts and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release all sponsors, their relatives, their representatives, race volunteers and race directors, from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event.

Signature of Adults Participating:

Parent/Guardian must sign for children under 18

Date





## **Support Us! Make a Donation!**

Above all, the Plum Creek 5K is about helping the City of Lexington Parks & Trails. Whether you are participating in the run, or if you just want to contribute, every dollar counts. We appreciate gifts of any amount.

For more information, contact Ann Luther at (308) 325-5277 or **Jake Saulsbury at (308) 746-3543.** 



## PLUM CREEK 5K

Friday, July 2 - Monday, July 5

With Obstacles 5K Run/Walk

The 5K run/obstacle course will start at the Lexington Hitting Complex, 1601 W. 13th. You have from Friday, July 2 at 6:00pm - Monday July 5 at 8:00pm to finish the race. A map of the course will be provided before the event.





## 5K Fun Run of Walk (with obstacles)

#### Date:

Friday, July 2 - Monday, July 5, 2021

Register for the Race by Thursday, June 24.

#### Parking:

Parking lot is on the east side of the Hitting Complex, 1601 W. 13th St.

#### Distance:

5K Run / Walk (3.1 miles) with obstacles

#### **Run Information:**

- ★ Park & Rec Staff will be running/walking the 5K on Friday, July 2 at 6:00 pm if you want people to enjoy the course with; come join us!
- ★ The Course/Obstacles will be available from Friday, July 2 at 6:00 pm - Monday, July 5 at 8:00 pm
- ★ The start and finish line is at the Lexington Hitting Complex 1601 W. 13th St.
- ★ 5K course includes pavement, cross country, and obstacles.
- ★ Participants will receive an event t-shirt that will be available for pickup at:
  - Lexington Family Aquatic Center, 1002 N. Monroe St. on Thursday, July 1 and Friday, July 2.



## Race Entry

#### **Entry Fee:**

- \* \$25.00 per entry, includes a T-shirt
- ★ If more than one person in an immediate family is running or walking, the fee is \$20.00 for each additional person.
- ★ Entries must be received or postmarked by or before Thursday, June 24.

\*

Registration after June 24 is \$25.00 per entry, T-shirt Not Guaranteed.

#### **Mail Entry Form to:**

Lexington City Office, Attn: Ann H. Luther PO Box 70, Lexington, NE 68850

#### Or drop it off at one of these locations:

- ★ Lexington Grand Generation Center, 407 E. 6th St.
- ★ Lexington Family Aquatic Center, 1002 N. Monroe

#### Make Checks Payable to:

City of Lexington



This is a fun run/walk wherekeveryone is welcome!

COME JOIN THE FUN!

#### **Contact for Questions Regarding Event:**

Ann Luther, aluther@cityoflex.com, 308-324-2498

Jake Saulsbury, jsaulsbury@cityoflex.com, 308-746-3543

# MAKE SPARKS! Registration Information

Adult Name		
Male		
Female	Birth Date	
Address		
City, State, ZIP		
email		
( )		
Phone #		

For every immediate family member participating in the 5K Run/Walk, please fill out the table below.

#### Available Shirt Sizes: YM, YL, AS, AM, AL, AXL, XXL

Name	Gender	Birth Date	Shirt
	M/F		
	M/F		