

# City Happenings



February 2022 #93



## Lexington Earns EDCC Recertification

On Dec. 28 Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley visited to present the honor of being recertified as an Economic Development Certified Community.

The award recognizes Lexington's preparedness and record of action to develop and attract new development.

Lexington is one of 40 Nebraska communities to earn EDCC status in the program, sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats and administered by the Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development. Lexington first earned EDCC certification in 2007 and was recertified in 2011, 2016 and, now, 2021.

Lexington officials have worked diligently to boost economic efforts through a \$4 million commitment to develop land and infrastructure for new housing projects. Over the past several years, the City of Lexington has purchased 100 acres of building-ready property for industrial and commercial development projects,



**Left to Right: Andrea McClintic, Lexington City Manager Joe Peplitsch, Lexington Mayor John Fagot, Lexington City Council Member Steve Smith, Nebraska Lt. Governor Mike Foley, Lexington City Council Member Jeremy Roberts, Ashley Rice-Gerlach (Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development), Lexington Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside.**

as well as an additional 215 acres to support conceptual planning for residential and commercial growth. Since 2016, the City has invested more than \$2 million to further develop park, trail and public facilities.

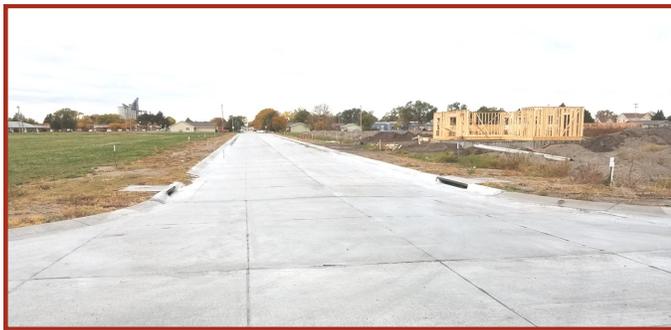


## Lexington Project Wins NCPA Award



**ABOVE: L to R: John Salmer, Director of Nebraska Dept. of Transportation; Logan Geisner, Paulsen, Inc.; Lexington Ass't City Manager Dennis Burnside; Jed Paulsen, Paulsen, Inc.; Tyler Hillmer, Miller & Associates; Rusty Simerl, Federal Highway Administration**

**BELOW: one of the three E-W streets in the project**



The Nebraska Concrete Paving Association recognized a Lexington project at their annual conference January 18.

In the category of "Local Projects of less than 30,000 Square Yards," the winning project was Lexington's East Addition Phase 1 Improvements, just east of North Taft Street.

The Award of Merit named the City of Lexington, owner of the project; Paulsen Inc., contractor and concrete supplier; and Miller & Associates, engineers and designers.



### 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>

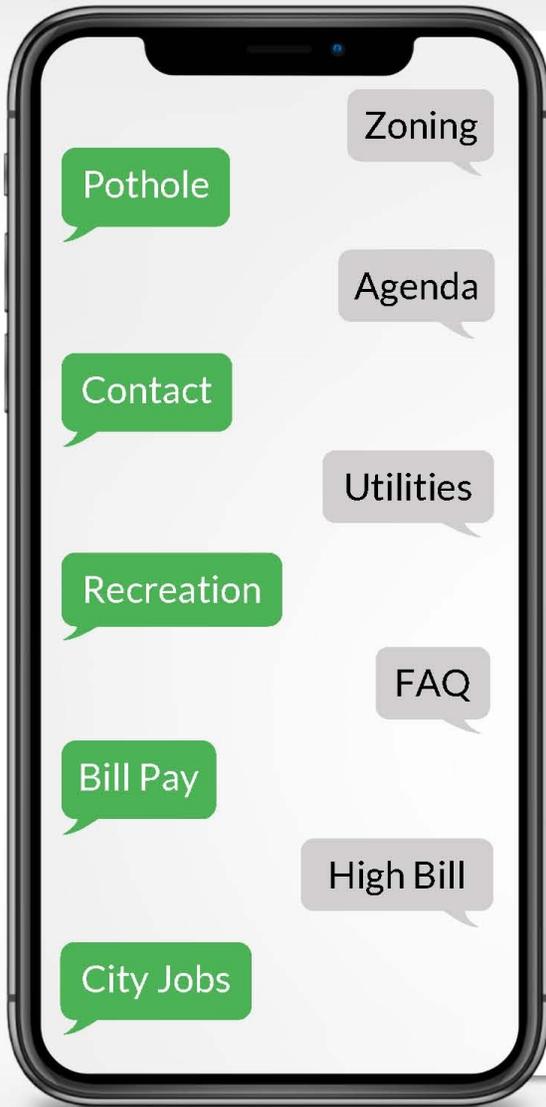




Find city information with a simple text message!



## Text To Find Answers



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### 24 Hour Automated Assistance

Smart texting technology searches keywords to provide assistance anytime, day or night.

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Text **Hi** or any of the other featured keywords to:

**(308)320-5200**

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Msg & Data rates apply. Msg frequency varies. Text STOP at any time to opt-out.  
Text HELP for contact info.

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**Annual Cake Decorating Day!**



Join us for the return of our cake decorating day, on Thursday, February 10th at 1:00 pm. We will have the cakes baked and ready for you to frost. You'll have your choice of white or chocolate, round, square, or heart shaped, as well as 1 or 2 layers for your cakes. We'll also provide different colored frostings and invite you to bring any decorative items you might be keen to use. Teams can be 1-2 people from any group, business or organization. You may keep the Valentine theme or use your own idea. We ask that you don't use anything that may need refrigerated due to space limitations. Cakes will be displayed & up for silent action bid from

3:00 pm on Thursday to 1:00 pm on Friday, February 11th. Proceeds from silent auction go to the GGC Support Group fund. Please call 308-324-2498 to reserve your cake at no cost. We just need to know what flavor, shape, and number of layers you're looking to decorate.

**407 E 6th**

*Lexington Community Foundation*

PRESENTS

*The* Key 2022  
**CASINO  
ROYALE**

*Dinner & Auction*

SAVE THE DATE  
FOR A NIGHT OF HIGH STYLE, COCKTAILS,  
DINNER, SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS AND  
CAMARADERIE

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022  
Prepaid Reservations Accepted

**Reserved, Limited Seating Only**  
Individual Seats: \$125  
Tables Seat Eight  
Credit Cards Accepted

*Formal Dress - Black tie optional*

Lexington Community Foundation  
PO Box 422 | 607 N Washington  
Lexington, NE 68850  
308.324.6704  
office@lexfoundation.org





## Library News



907 N Washington  
(308) 324-2151



by Jennifer Norton  
Library Director

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library."  
— Jorge Luis Borges



Kearney Area  
Storytelling  
Festival  
Storyteller,  
**Megan Hicks**  
will perform at  
the Lexington  
Public Library

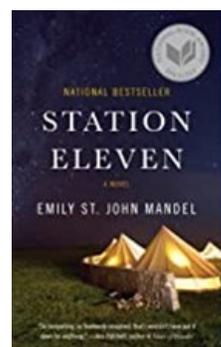
Thursday, February 10 at 7 p.m..  
Enjoy an evening of storytelling  
and light refreshments!

stories that they accompany  
with guitars, bass, and  
mandolin.



A new book club has been  
organized at the Lexington  
Public Library. The **Young  
Women's Book Club (YWBC)**  
will meet the fourth Monday of

the month at 7 p.m. YWBC  
will meet for their first  
discussion on February 28 to  
discuss **Station Eleven** by  
**Emily St. John Mandel**.



Like us  
on  
Facebook

Two  
troubadours  
are coming  
to Lexington  
for a special  
afternoon of  
contem-  
porary folk



and western music at the  
Lexington Public Library on  
Sunday, February 20th, when  
award-winning songwriters  
**Kerry Grombacher** and **Aspen  
Black** will perform their "Songs  
& Stories of the American  
West" concert at 2:00 p.m. They  
are both multi-instrumentalists,  
and their works draw vivid  
portraits and tell fascinating

## PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME

### HEAR STORIES & TALK ABOUT BOOKS

- A FREE EVENING OF FUN, ONE NIGHT A WEEK FOR SIX WEEKS.
- DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 3-5 YEARS OLD.
- PRIME TIME WILL TAKE PLACE AT LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.
  - REGISTRATION WILL BE REQUIRED.



FRIDAYS, 5:00-6:30 PM  
FEBRUARY 25-APRIL 1  
Light Meal will be  
provided

Register at the  
Lexington Public Library  
907 N Washington St  
Lexington, NE  
(308) 324-2151





UTILITIES SYSTEM

## EnergyWise Tip: Incredible Energy Claims



by NPPD Energy Efficiency Program Manager Cory Fuehrer

The Oxford English Dictionary cites the phrase, if it's "too good to be true" was first written in 1580. More than 500 years later, this expression seems to apply to every facet of modern times; powering our daily lives is no exception.

After learning of an incredible energy-saving or producing equipment or gadget, customers have often turned to their local public power utility as a trusted source for an unbiased opinion. Sadly, many manufacturer claims regarding product capabilities or efficiencies are grossly overstated. Furthermore, most customers don't have the personal knowledge or experience to sort through the facts and fallacies by themselves. Below are a few examples utility colleagues have recently seen.

### Windows

Common claims made by less-honorable window sales reps may include, "Their window saves up to 50% in energy." Does that mean 50% of your home's total energy costs? No. They are usually referring to a home's heating and cooling losses through windows alone. Several studies have indicated that approximately 10 to 12% of a home's total heating and cooling loss is through windows. When considering all losses, this calculates to an overall energy savings of 5 to 6%. Considering

the cost of installing each window can range from several hundred dollars to well over \$1,000, the payback from savings extends out many years.

### The Black Box

Manufacturers of these small devices claim you simply plug their unit into an electrical outlet to potentially save hundreds to thousands of dollars per year. They often lead their sales pitch by saying "This is the device your power



company doesn't want you to know about." They might provide a lengthy explanation about how after a few weeks, their gadget learns how to optimize your appliance's electricity use that will save an extraordinary percentage of energy. While the theory behind their device often yields savings for industrial customers with large

motor loads, residential customers seldom see any difference on their electric bill.

### Go Solar

With claims like "The International Energy Agency declares solar power is the "cheapest electricity in history," homeowners are thrilled with the prospects of not only eliminating their electric bill but making an income from the extra energy produced. Usually, a company's solar consultant schedules a time to meet with homeowners to individually "right-size" a system while discussing current incentives and tax credits, potential savings, decreasing equipment costs, and sustainability, as well as future energy costs and increasing property values. At the same time, they may not elaborate on electric utility interconnection, maintenance, unforeseen installation costs, battery storage requirements and more. Though most sales representatives recognize their company's future relies on customers being satisfied with the installation, they also know their personal income is based on the customer saying "Yes." Consequently, some claims have been misrepresented leading to consumer disappointment.

### Space Heaters

Imagine saving "50% or more on home heating costs" using "the most-efficient space heater

*(continues on next page)*



## Incredible Energy Claims

*(continued from previous page)*

ever made.” Such declarations are used to justify a 1,500-watt space heater that may cost several hundred dollars or more. Regrettably, some customers don’t understand the draconian measures they must take to achieve that level of savings such as lowering their whole home thermostat setting by 15°F or more and isolating in one room for the heating season. To add insult to injury, they are further perturbed after discovering other 1,500-watt space heaters costing as little as \$20 produce the exact amount of heat just as efficiently as their expensive one.

Numerous other claims have been made by manufacturers of insulations/heat barriers, air conditioner refrigerant additives and whole house fans to name a few. While most energy efficiency and energy producing products are fairly represented in the market, some are just “too good to be true.”

If you’re looking at a significant investment, thoroughly research the promoting company through the Better Business Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission. The Department of Energy through Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has developed a web-based evaluation tool to help consumers evaluate window energy savings. And the Environmental Protection Agency through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory offers a photovoltaic energy system evaluator to assist with evaluating solar projects.

As always, trust Lexington Utilities System to help provide unbiased, objective information regarding any energy efficiency or energy producing products you are considering. In partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, LEXUS wants to help you make the most of the energy needed in daily life including how energy is used and can be saved. For additional ways you can become more EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup>, visit with Lexington Utilities System or go to [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com).



## 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

## WE ASK OUR CUSTOMERS

### DO NOT DEPOSIT IN TRASH DUMPSTERS:

yard waste • tree branches • wood • cement • iron • batteries and tires . . .

. . . as the landfill will not accept these items.

### YOUR DUMPSTER IS FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD TRASH ONLY

If you have a curbside trash container, DO NOT place trash in large alley dumpsters. These are for alley customers only.

If your curbside trash container fills before the weekly pickup, please call for additional containers.

DO NOT under any circumstances put hot BBQ coals or fireplace ashes in your dumpster. If you are caught doing this you will have to pay to replace the dumpster if fire occurs.

If you see someone using alley containers for construction materials, yard waste, or other unaccepted items, please call us right away and we will take care of it.

**Dan’s Sanitation**

324-6693 • Lexington



CITY OF  
*Lexington* HONORS



**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

*February 1 - February 28*

Celebrating African-American Heritage

**SUMMER JOBS** - Temporary Seasonal Workers, Part-time



**APPLY NOW!**

Positions available include:

- Concession Workers (age 14+)
- Lifeguards (age 15+)
- City Park and Cemetery Maintenance (age 16+)

The City of Lexington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Download an application from the city website,  
[www.cityoflex.com/human-resources/](http://www.cityoflex.com/human-resources/).





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  
Nebr. Dept. of  
Environment  
& Energy



[www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com)



## Housing Lots Available in East Lexington



**Contact  
Lexington City  
Manager  
308-324-2341**

- **Dozens of sites to choose from**
- **\$5,000 each**
- **Lots sizes: approx. 11,000 - 15,000 sq. ft.**
- **Utilities on site (Electric, Sewer, Water)**
- **Protective covenants in place**
- **Lots can be or have been removed from floodplain**
- **Sewer depths accommodate basements**
- **Close to Kirkpatrick Memorial Park**
- **Close to Morton Elementary School**

 Indicates houses under construction or complete (since this aerial photo was taken)

## Housing Lots Available in Northwest Lexington



**Contact  
Lexington  
City Manager  
308-324-2341**

- **Dozens of sites to choose from**
- **Protective covenants in place**
- **Utilities on site (Electric, Sewer, Water)**
- **Sewer depths accommodate basements**
- **Close to Optimist Recreation Complex & Sandoz Elementary School**
- **Lots sizes: approx. 12,000 - 25,000 square feet**
- **\$0-\$5,000 each**
- **Are not located in floodplain;**

 Indicates houses under construction or complete (since this aerial photo was taken)



## Lexington snow and ice removal

**W**inter 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.

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

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.



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



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



