

City Happenings

#114



August 2025

“Close the Loop” Trail Construction Starts

Construction of a four-segment hike-bike trail (see red lines on the aerial photograph below) began June 23. Two segments are in and around the Optimist Recreation Complex, and one segment connects Patriot Park with existing trails in the northwest.



Looking east on 13th Street at Park.

The fourth segment, the first to start, is on the north side of Plum Creek Park, across 13th Street from Lexington High School, with the intent of substantial completion before school starts. In conjunction with that segment, the City saw an opportunity to create some diagonal parking spaces on the east side of Park Street at 13th.

As announced in the February 2023 issue of *City Happenings* (also where the graphic below comes from), the Nebraska Game and Parks



Soon-to-be diagonal parking spaces on Park Street at W 13th.



Touted as the “Close the Loop Recreational Trail Project,” the proposed project would actually close several loops and create several different-size loops for walkers and bikers to choose; the longest is 3.16 miles. The red lines show the proposed new lengths; the blue lines are existing (or soon-to-be-built) lengths (light blue was funded by the same NGPC grant and completed in 2021).

Commission awarded Lexington \$250,000 to build a 10-foot-wide, 4,368-foot-long concrete trail in four segments to close gaps in existing trails.

The project should be complete by the end of September.



More Ways to Pay Equals Greater Convenience

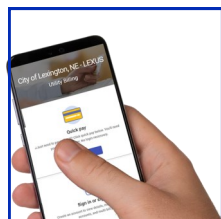


Did you know you have several options for paying your utility bill without having to leave home? This may become more important to you in the near future when LEXUS's lobby hours will be reduced to 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The most popular option is the Lexington Utilities System online portal: <https://lexingtonne.municipalonlinepayments.com/lexingtonne/utilities>. You can also get there from the City's website at www.cityoflex.com/departments/utilities. Follow the instructions to sign up and pay your bill online.



One reason this option is the most popular is that you can view your account history online including payment history and consumption history. You will find an option to have your monthly payment automatically withdrawn from your bank account. The forms for this arrangement can also be found online or by contacting Lexington Utilities System, (308) 324-2343.



You can also opt-in to receive your statement via email. Lexington Utilities System is planning to phase out invoices sent via regular mail. To avoid the possible additional cost of \$5.00 per month assessed to the accounts receiving regular mail invoices please, save money by signing up for email statements online (at the link above) or by contacting Lexington Utilities System, (308) 324-2343.

But wait, there's more! You have one more option and that is to pay by phone, which you can do 24/7. Simply call the automated number 866-279-3203. You'll need your account number, street address and credit/debit card number to make a payment.



Remember, you're not just washing your car



Practice good car care

Did you know . . . 4 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 care 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.
- Keep your car properly tuned.
- Recycle used fluids and never dump them down the storm drain.

Help keep the oil where it belongs . . . in your car.

Support provided by

NEBRASKA
DEPT. OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

CITY OF
Lexington
NEBRASKA



COMMUNITY SOLAR

If you live in a NPPD retail community that offers community solar, you have the opportunity to harness the power of the sun, backed by our 24/7 resources. Ask about the SunWise™ Community Solar program.



ENERGY SAVING INCENTIVES

EnergyWise™ programs offer incentives to homeowners, businesses and agriculture to help cover the cost of some energy-efficient upgrades. Programs are available to NPPD customers and participating wholesale electric utilities.

ENERGYWISE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NPPD's economic development team prepares and strengthens communities by focusing on community development, business retention, expansion and attraction activities. Quality properties can be found at sites.nppd.com.



Powering your every day



Nebraska Public Power District

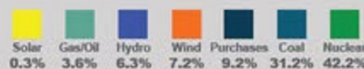


A regional leader in CARBON-FREE GENERATION

*Reliable, Affordable,
Sustainable & Resilient*



We continue to incorporate new technologies into our diverse generation mix that allow us to further lessen our carbon intensity.



*Qualifying Local Generation (QLG) includes renewable energy facilities installed by our wholesale customers and in NPPD retail communities.

MOBILE-FRIENDLY VIEW

NPPD's new mobile application and web portal is one of the many ways we are here for you. With a single click of a button, customers have access to bill and payment information, notification of power outages/restoration times, hourly meter data and much more!



ENERGY ASSESSMENTS

We provide technical assistance to large commercial and industrial customers, by understanding their energy needs and assisting with walk-through energy assessments.

EV ADVANCEMENTS

Electric vehicles are low-maintenance and fueling is much cheaper than gas. With EnergyWise™ and federal incentives, more high-performance models hitting the market, and charging infrastructure buildout underway, now is the time to consider your first EV.



Learn more at nppd.com



Please Take the Backflow Survey

Here's how you can help us keep your water supply uncontaminated! The City has created an online survey, short and simple to complete. All water customers – please help with this state requirement!

The survey can be found at the City website: www.cityoflex.com. Just click on the Backflow article in the "News" section.

If you have questions
please call 308-324-5995





EnergyWise Tip: Refrigerants



*by NPPD Energy Efficiency
Program Manager
Cory Fuehrer*

As summer heats up, it's great to know your home's air conditioning system can provide relief. It's also good to know you can find a cold beverage in your refrigerator to cool down with. That wouldn't be possible without the refrigeration process pioneered in 1834 by Jacob Perkins, who introduced the first commercially successful vapor-compression refrigeration system using ether.

For air conditioning systems, a refrigerant evaporates inside a coil and changes from a liquid to a gas. As it does, the refrigerant absorbs heat from inside your home and the system transfers it out. The amount of heat removed and how efficiently it is done depends in large part on the type of refrigerant used.

For nearly 200 years, the refrigeration industry sought to develop the perfect refrigerant that would be efficient, non-corrosive, non-toxic, and non-flammable,

with no ozone depletion and global warming potential. However, the first air conditioners and refrigerators employed toxic or flammable gases, such as ammonia, sulfur dioxide, methyl chloride or propane that often resulted in fatal accidents when they leaked. Then, in 1928, Thomas Midgley Jr. created the first non-flammable, non-toxic chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gas: Freon® (R-12).



However, by the mid-1970s, scientists discovered CFCs such as R-12, were causing major damage to the ozone layer that protects the earth from ultraviolet radiation. In

the 1980s, this led to the adoption of hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) refrigerants like R-22. Compared to CFCs, HCFCs have a significantly lower potential to deplete ozone.

But in the 2000s, climatologists began to correlate the use of HCFCs to climate change. To address this concern, the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020 required transitioning to new refrigerants like R-32 and R-454B. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers classifies these refrigerants as "A2Ls."

Starting this year, newly manufactured refrigeration and air conditioning systems must employ A2Ls. When compared to older refrigerants, they provide environmental benefits, improved efficiency, faster thermal recovery and regulatory compliance. They also help homeowners avoid the

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Refrigerants

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increasing costs of retiring refrigerants.

Even still, don't feel you need to rush out to replace all of heat pumps, air conditioners, refrigerators and freezers. Existing equipment and the parts, including refrigerant, used for servicing and repairing them are not subject to the new regulations and can continue to be used through equipment end-of-life. The supply of R-410a and R-134a will still be available, as was the case in prior refrigerant transitions in the 1990s and early 2000s.

However, when you do find yourself in the market for a new refrigeration appliance, heat pump or air conditioning system, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit

www.energywisenebraska.com.

They may have EnergyWiseSM incentives available to reduce the cost.

Lexington Utilities System, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, wants to help you get the most value from the energy they provide.



GGC Happenings



407 East 6th Street



LIVING WELL WITH HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

Join a FREE 4-week series aimed to improve self-management.

Grand Generation Center
407 East 6th - Lexington
9:30 - 11:30 AM

REGISTER WITH WHITNEY
308-324-2498

August 19
9:30 - 11:30 AM

August 26
9:30 - 11:30 AM

September 2
9:30 - 11:30 AM

September 23
9:30 - 11:30 AM



Topics include:
hypertension control,
nutrition, physical
activity, medication
management, stress.
Participants will receive
handouts at each class.



Attend all 4 sessions
and be in a drawing
for a FREE blood
pressure monitor.

HAVE
QUESTIONS,
CALL

308-324-2498

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.



We Want to Give You a Great Deal on Housing Lots

LOT FOR SALE

YOU BUILD

CITY OF Lexington NEBRASKA

- Ready to build!
- Open lots in East, Northeast, South and Northwest Neighborhoods
- \$0-\$5,000 each
- Dozens of sites to choose from
- Protective covenants in place
- Utilities on site (Electric, Sewer, Water)
- Sewer depths accommodate basements
- Lots sizes: approx. 11,000 - 25,000 square feet

Contact
Lexington
City Manager
308-324-2341





Before



YOUR **2024** CITY

Airport Road, North of 20th Street

After



2025
PROGRESS!



YARD WASTE ONLY!

At the Yard Waste Site at 1201 E Industry Drive



Violators subject to fines.

Other large items may be disposed of at The City Service Building, 801 W Vine.





Library News



907 N Washington
(308) 324-2151



by Jennifer Norton
Library Director

"The buying of more books than one can read is nothing less than the soul reaching toward infinity." - Israel Regardie (British-American writer)

All ages are welcome on Friday, August 1, at the library as we celebrate **National Coloring Book Day**. Come anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Color, have some refreshments, and register for prize drawings.

Head over to the library on Friday, August 8, for the **4th Annual End-of-Summer Party & Street Dance**. Enjoy music by DJ Pitás, food by local vendors, El Sazon Taquizas, Pupusas Pole Yoli's, and Frutas Jiquilpan, as well as brownies for sale by the Friends of the Library. Come ready to dance, play games and have a great time with family and friends. Everyone is welcome as we see the summer out and get ready to usher in a new school year. The event begins at 5 p.m.



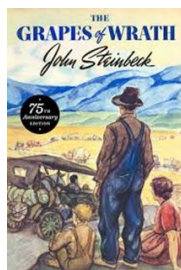
As we head into fall, be watching for the library's **Lunch & Learn** series coming in September,

October and November. Join us for lunch and stay to learn. This year's theme is **financial and physical wellness**. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. with the program to follow. Space is limited so please register by calling the library at 308-324-2151.



The Lexington Public Library was recently awarded a **National Endowment for the Arts-Big Read Grant** for

\$10,000. Starting in October the library will be hosting **smartphone photography classes**, introducing the Big Read title, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, and rolling out plans for a community art project. Nearly a year of programming, events, book discussions, and a community art project are all on tap with this wonderful opportunity for the community. Stay tuned and get involved.



Learn more by visiting <https://artsmidwest.org/about/updates/announcing-the-2025-26-nea-big-read-grantees/>



Details are being finalized for after-school programs at the library beginning in October. With no after-school programs held at Lexington Public Schools, the public library will be introducing activities for elementary and middle school students. Along with standard programs like **LEGO Club** and monthly **Family Fun Nights**, After-School Programs will be an addition to the slate of activities offered by YOUR Lexington Public Library: a place to belong, connect, explore, learn and grow. Check out our website and find us on Facebook for more information in the coming weeks.

Like
us on
Facebook



National Coloring Book Day Event

Friday, August 1
10 am - 4 pm

Color for FUN! Lexington Public Library
Color for PRIZES!

- Coloring Pages & materials provided
- Refreshments
- ALL Ages Welcome!

Lexington Public Library
401 N. Washington St.
Lexington, NE 68850
308.324.2171

LEXINGTON FARMERS MARKET

June 21 - September 27

Every Saturday
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Every Tuesday
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Located @
Bob's True Value Parking Lot
1601 Plum Creek Parkway

SEE YOU THERE!

DJ Pitass

4th Annual BACK TO SCHOOL STREET DANCE

Fun activities
Sensory activities,
water balloons and
fun family games

Delicious Food
El Saxon Taquizas,
Pupusas Pole Yoli's,
Frutas Jiquilpan

Music by DJ Pitass

Community Volunteers
Lex Antecas Soccer Team
Providers podcast

Lexington Public Library
Friday, August 8th
5-8pm

Give BIG Lexington

MISSION POSSIBLE
November 6, 2025



DRIVING RANGE OPEN FOR THE SEASON

Self-Service



May be closed if cold or stormy . . .

**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

Buy a New Electric Lawn & Garden Tool, Get a Rebate



20% incentive on any NEW battery powered or corded lawn mower, chain saw, tiller, edger, trimmer, pruner, or leaf blower

Must be new and purchased on or after Jan. 1, 2025

Costs NOT eligible: installation, taxes, shipping/delivery, and setup costs

Chargers and additional battery purchases are eligible for the incentive at the time of initial snow blower purchase.

Proof of purchase required.



Nebraska Public Power District

Find the application form at www.EnergyWiseNebraska.com

Return paperwork to LEXUS, 406 E 7th, PO Box 70, Lexington, NE 68850





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



**SUMMER SATURDAYS
(May - October):**
**The Service Building is open
the third Saturday of the month
8 a.m. - 12 p.m**



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



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/profile.php?id=100064541806134>



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



CLIP & SAVE

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.

