



City Clerk Pam Baruth Retires After 25 Years

She didn't begin her career with the City of Lexington as City Clerk - she worked her way up to it. Pam Baruth started in 2000 as Accounts Payable Clerk, and was tapped two years later to become an Administrative Assistant. In 2006 she was promoted to Deputy City Clerk, then to City Clerk in 2012. Along the way she also assumed the duties of Personnel Director.

The Lexington native graduated from Lexington High School in 1983, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in social work from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Among her City Clerk duties she was named Secretary to various Boards and Commissions. She attended and kept minutes for meetings of the Planning Commission, Civil Service Commission, Community Development Agency, Board of Adjustment, and of course, the City Council.

She took a keen interest in her co-workers as if they were family and, for many years, led a committee that organized employee activities and recognition.

Pam Baruth was a valued friend whom all her co-workers depended on, and she will be greatly missed. Her final day was October 24, 2025.



Pam Baruth (center) at her retirement reception October 23, 2025



Barb Hodges, Former City Finance Director, Passes



It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Barbara A. Hodges on October 22, 2025.

Barb started working for the City of Lexington in 1978. She worked some part-time, some full-time years while learning the operations of the business office and attending the University of Nebraska at Kearney earning her BS degree in Business Administration and Accounting. Soon after graduating, she became the City Treasurer / Finance Director for the City of Lexington. a position she was proud to hold until her retirement in September 2023.

In all she served Lexington with distinction for 38 years.

Rest in peace, Barb, you are missed.



The new Lexington East Viaduct is now open and ready for traffic. Drive Safe!
Road 435 at Highway 30





EnergyWise Tip: **Keep Jack Frost Out**



*by NPPD Energy Efficiency
Program Manager
Cory Fuehrer*

If you've ever lived through a few Nebraska winters in an old house with single-pane windows, you've likely observed the exquisite and ornate artwork by "Jack Frost." Painted overnight, this left-behind artistry of frosty, fern-like patterns seemed to magically appear on the interior side of windows on the coldest of winter mornings. Window frost has become far less prevalent in current times due to the advancement of double-glazing. These designs may be pretty, but they're not something you should be happy to see!

Rather, it's a warning that your home is literally losing heat right out the window. While window replacement may be the best solution in the long run, it's usually the most expensive. If new windows aren't in the budget, here are a few suggestions that come with lower price tags:

Storm Windows

If you're still in a home that only has single-pane windows, give strong consideration to installing storm windows. This will cut the transfer of heat through your single panes in half. While acrylic or plexiglass units may cost as little as \$80 per window, expect to pay \$125 to \$415 per replacement, plus \$30 to \$80 per hour for professional installation.



Window Insulation Kits

If storm windows are still outside of your budget or if your double-pane windows seem drafty on cold, windy days, install window insulation kits. Mounted on the interior or exterior, per window costs start around \$6 and can usually be self-installed. Though you won't be able to open your

window until it's removed, it effectively seals the window and stops air leaks.

Insulated Shades

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, insulated cellular shades are typically considered to have the highest R-values of all window coverings. The air pockets in the honeycomb cross-sections act as insulators, increasing the R-value and reducing the conduction of heat through the window. During the heating season, tightly installed cellular shades can reduce heat loss through windows by 40% or more. While high-end models may cost as much as \$250 per window, less-expensive models that are just as efficient start around \$25.

Caulking/Sealing

Collectively, air leaks from and around windows can contribute up to 30% of a home's heating needs. Obviously, sealing these leaks provides huge energy

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Keep Jack Frost Out

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savings! Homeowners generally pay about \$50 per average-size, double-hung window to be professionally caulked. However, many find this project easy enough to do themselves. In that case, the average window will require a little less than a tube of silicone-based caulk at a cost starting around \$9.

Especially in older homes, the gaps between the window frame and window cavity were not properly sealed during installation. While “retro sealing” requires removal of the interior trim, low expansion foam does not distort or bow window and door frames when applied properly and provides an exceptional seal. Costs range from \$1.25 to \$4 per linear foot when hiring a professional, while a Do-It-Yourself project could cost as little as \$0.05 to \$0.20 per linear foot.

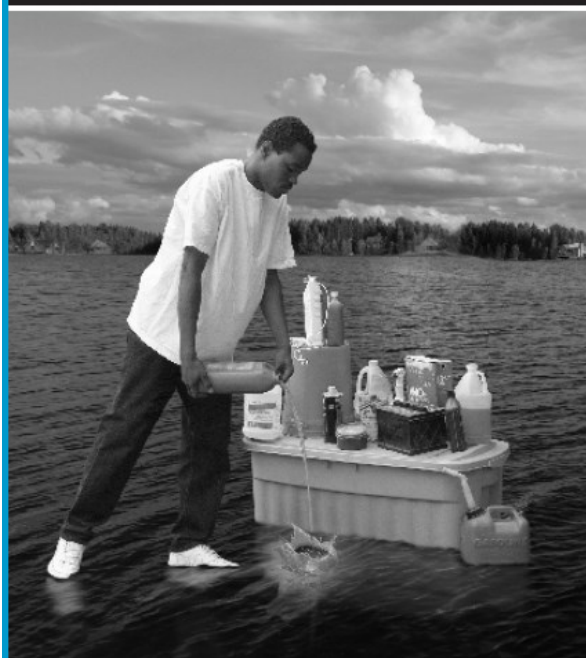
Locks and Latches

Here’s the simplest, least expensive way to increase window efficiency: use the sash locks or latches. For double-hung and sliding windows, this tightens the sashes together. With casement windows, the sash is tightened into the frame. Either way, air leakage is reduced or eliminated. If your windows don’t have sash locks, most hardware stores offer them at prices starting around \$15.

Lexington Utilities System, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, wants to help you keep warm this winter season as effectively and efficiently as possible. To find additional ways to save energy every day, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.energywisenebraska.com.



Remember, it’s not just
toxic to you



Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals and oil.

Did you know that many household products are dangerous to our kids, pets, and the environment?

These materials pollute our waterways if washed or dumped into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Household cleaners, pesticides, gasoline, antifreeze, used motor oil, and other hazardous products need to be labeled, stored, and disposed of properly.

So what can you do? Simple.

- Be aware of household products that can harm children, pets, and the environment. Pay attention to words such as “warning” or “caution” on product labels.
- Reduce waste and save money by purchasing only the materials you need.
- Keep unused products in their original containers with labels.
- Never dump hazardous products down storm drains, roadside ditches, sinks, or on the ground—take them to your local community’s hazardous waste collection day.

Help keep our homes and the environment safe!

Support provided by

NEBRASKA
DEPT. OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

CITY OF
Lexington
NEBRASKA



HONOR TWO VETS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

Announcing

GIVE
BRICK
LEXINGTON

To encourage our mission of completing the Veterans Pavilion Memorial Brick Wall, the City of Lexington is offering a new promotion. The City has gone through records of three Lexington area cemeteries, and found hundreds of veterans who do not already have bricks in their honor. In this promotion, buy a brick for someone you know at the regular price of \$100, and the City will buy a brick in the name of one of these deceased heroes. If you have already purchased a brick, don't worry, we are already adding another brick – doubling your gift!

Call or email
Assistant City Manager
Dennis Burnside
308-324-2341 x 1113
dburnside@cityoflex.cm

JOHN Q. VETERAN
Staff Sergeant
USMC 11/1942-12/1945





Library News



907 N Washington
(308) 324-2151



by Jennifer Norton
Library Director

*"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination."
- Sidney Sheldon, writer, playwright, television producer*



Teen & Tween Events @ the Lexington Public Library

New at the library are monthly (or bi-monthly) events for kids in middle and high school. December will host two Teen events. Registration is required as space is limited.



December 10, 4 p.m., come learn about recycling with **Keep Lexington Beautiful**. Fun crafts and activities using recycled materials along with great snacks will be the focus.

On December 17 at 4 pm. **Sarah Fanning** with **Dawson County 4-H** will be at the Library for the Teen Event.



Sarah will have lots of information and great activities for teens and tweens. And as always, SNACKS! Please register by contacting the Library at 308-324-2151

The **January Teen Event** is tentatively scheduled for January 7 at 4 p.m. More details to come later in December.

The Library will be **Closed** from 9-5 on December 18 for staff training. We will open at 5 pm and be ready for the **December Family Fun Night** at 5:30!



Follow
us on
Facebook



A special "Christmas by the Book" book club will be held Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 9:30 a.m. Clubbers will be reading and discussing the book Christmas by the Book by **Anne Marie Ryan**.





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



Look for this button at

www.cityoflex.com/departments/utilities





NEBRASKA STATEWIDE
Arboretum



PLANTNEBRASKA

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is Now PlantNebraska!

For many years the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum has supported Lexington's Urban Forest, with tree planting and tree care advice, and helping fund hundreds of new trees for our City. In October came the big announcement of a name change. Here's what PlantNebraska leadership had to say about it:

For the last 47 years, it has been an honor and a privilege to partner with Nebraskans statewide to plant Nebraska. From offering horticultural expertise to planting trees and sustainable landscapes to creating a network of more than 100 arboreta and public gardens across the state, we have helped Nebraskans create purposeful beauty in their communities and in their backyards.

Today marks the beginning of a new season as we launch our brand-new name, PlantNebraska, which reflects who we are today—rooted in Nebraska and growing for generations to come—and makes our mission clearer, more welcoming and easier for new people to discover.

We love that PlantNebraska is both a name and a call to action, celebrating our roots while inviting everyone to participate in growing healthier communities, more resilient landscapes and a greener future.

For more information go here: <https://plantnebraska.org/>.



Tips to Prevent Frozen Pipes



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



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

→ **Learn where your main water shutoff valve is.** If pipes burst, it could prevent a lot of damage.

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**.



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



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



Follow 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>



Buy a New Electric Snow Blower, Get a Rebate



- ❄️ 20% incentive on any NEW battery powered or corded snow 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

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/.



Flu Season

Nothing to Sneeze At

200 million flu shot doses
made for US 2022 - 23



Get the flu shot!

*It's your best defense
against the virus.*



Wear a mask!

*If you must go out, even
to the doctor's office,
wear a mask that
covers your nose and
mouth.*



Don't touch your face.

*Germs spread quickly and
easily. Avoid touching your
eyes, nose, or mouth.*



Use your sleeve.

*Cough or sneeze into a
tissue or sleeve, not your
hands, and away from
other people.*



Wash your hands!

*Throw used tissues in the
garbage immediately
and wash your hands
with soap and running
water.*



Carry hand sanitizer!

*When soap and water
are not accessible, carry
alcohol-based hand
sanitizer.*



Call your doctor.

*If you think you have the flu,
your doctor may be able to
prescribe medicine to
reduce flu symptoms and
help you feel better faster.*



Stay put for 24 hours.

*Do not go out until you have
no signs of fever (without
medication) for at least
24 hours.*

To learn more about the flu, and ways to keep you and your family safe this season, visit www.cdc.gov/flu.



Lexington snow and ice removal

Winter weather season is here and the City would like to remind citizens of the following points related to snow removal. There is also the 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 their vehicles from the street.

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 (small fee may apply)
- recycle paper, plastic, and cardboard
- pick up free wood chips or compost

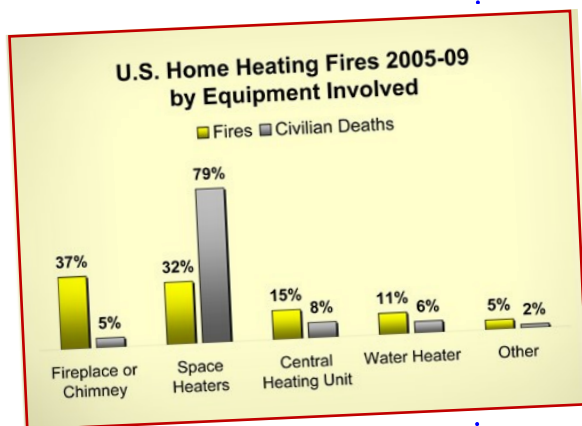




E·L·E·C·T·R·I·C · S·A·F·E·T·Y · B·U·L·L·E·T·I·N

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.

