



City Happenings

#119



June 2026



Paving a Pathway to Recovery

The City of Lexington is pleased to announce that Tyson Foods is collaborating with the City on strategic initiatives aimed at attracting private investment, fostering job creation, and driving long-term economic development. Tyson and the City are working to position key assets for redevelopment and economic opportunity.

Under this collaborative framework, the City of Lexington will acquire and manage certain Tyson-owned assets to facilitate future development aligned with State and regional growth objectives. The proposed transaction includes the transfer of Tyson's wastewater treatment facility and ancillary farmland to the City. In addition, both parties will continue to collaborate in identifying potential redevelopment pathways and end users for the processing plant.

This effort represents a significant step toward recovery and long-term revitalization in Lexington and the surrounding area. While redevelopment will take time to be realized, these actions



Aerial map showing Tyson properties the City will initially acquire. Control of these lands positions the City to more aggressively develop and market for future industry and employment opportunities as Tyson markets the main building.

establish a strong foundation for future growth. The City of Lexington values its partnership with Tyson Foods and appreciates the continued support and engagement provided by elected officials.

Please direct questions to City Manager Joe Peplitsch, 208-324-2341, or jpepp@cityoflex.com.



Longtime Assistant City Manager Retires



For 20 years Dennis Burnside helped shape the future of Lexington. As Assistant City Manager, Dennis played key roles in projects and initiatives that improved infrastructure, supported economic development, expanded housing opportunities, strengthened public services, and helped move our community forward.

Throughout his career, Dennis helped secure millions of dollars in grants and development funding benefiting the Lexington community. His work touched nearly every part of city government, including support for the Lexington Public Library, community improvement projects, and public infrastructure initiatives.

Dennis was instrumental in the creation of the Veterans Wall, a lasting tribute honoring those who served our country, and also helped secure grants resulting in the planting of more than 500 trees throughout the community, leaving a legacy future generations will continue to enjoy.

He also brought energy and personality to City events over the years, often serving as the entertainment at employee banquets, retirement parties, and community gatherings with his acting, humor, and performing talents that many employees and friends will long remember.

Dennis served during a period of tremendous growth and progress for Lexington, including the community being recognized as Nebraska’s 2015 Showcase Community.

He was also editor and designer for City Happenings for its entire run of 119 issues to date.

Beyond the projects and accomplishments, Dennis has been a steady, thoughtful, and dedicated public servant committed to improving the quality of life for the people of Lexington.

Thank you, Dennis Burnside, for 20 years of leadership, professionalism, humor, and service to the City of Lexington. Congratulations on your retirement!

The poster features logos for the City of Lexington Nebraska, Lexington Utilities System (LEXUS), and Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce. The main text reads: "A BUSINESS AFTER HOURS TO HONOR DENNIS BURNSIDE ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE". The event is scheduled for Thursday, May 28th, 2026, from 5:00 - 7:00 PM at The Well, 402 N. Grant Street, Lexington, Nebraska. It is sponsored by Lexus Utilities System and Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce.



Lexington Family Aquatic Center

Adult Daily \$4.00
Youth/Senior Daily \$3.00
Family Daily \$12.00
Individual Season Pass \$50.00
Family Season Pass \$120.00
(No punch passes in 2026)

10th & Monroe
Lexington, Nebraska

Hours:
1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Daily
(weather permitting)

FAMILY SWIM Night!

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

AT THE
LEXINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

6:30 - 8 PM

BEGINS TUESDAY, JUNE 9

- ADULT FAMILY MEMBER MUST BE PRESENT.**
- POOL CLOSES AT 6 PM TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND WILL REOPEN AT 6:30 PM ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY EVENINGS.**
- TIMES AND CONTINUATION WILL BE BASED ON ATTENDANCE AND AVAILABILITY OF LIFEGUARD STAFF.**

Thank You!



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

NEBRASKA
DEPT. OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

CITY OF
Lexington
NEBRASKA





Library News



907 N Washington
(308) 324-2151



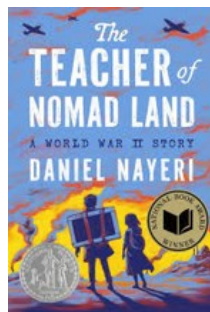
by Jennifer Norton
Library Director

"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation." - Walter Cronkite, former anchorman, CBS Evening News



Come be amazed June 11 at the Lexington Middle School auditorium as the Library partners with

Lexington Public Schools to bring you two performances of the **Magic of Reading** with master of magic, **Curtis Hed**. Shows will be at 12:45 and 1:45 p.m., and are FREE and Open to the Public.

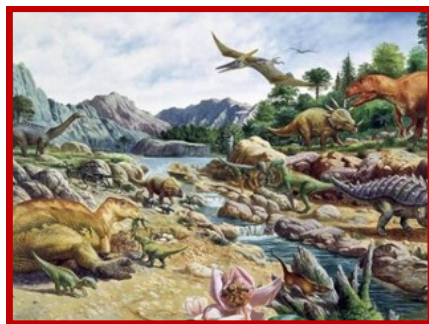


A **Summer Book Club** for middle school students will meet on Thursday afternoons at 4 pm during June. Each student will

receive a copy of the book **The Teacher of Nomad Land** by **Daniel Nayeri**. We will discuss a section of the book each week. Space is limited, so stop by soon to get your copy of the book and start reading!



Reading Challenges are ready for ALL ages. Whether child or adult the Lexington Public Library has a challenge (and PRIZES) for you. Stop by to pick up your **Reading Challenge** today.



Elementary students are invited to register for **Unearthing the Mesozoic Era** programs to be held Fridays in June at 10:00 a.m. Call or stop by the Library to register.



Art Classes are scheduled for upper elementary students on Saturday June 20 and June 27. Again, space is limited so please register.



Don't miss **Crane River Theater's** Page to Stage production of **Frozen** on July 9. Free and open to the public, this show will be held at the Lexington Middle School auditorium at 10 a.m.



Follow us on Facebook







EnergyWise Tip: **In the Hood**



by NPPD Energy Efficiency
Program Manager
Cory Fuehrer

Have you ever gone over to a friend's place for a fish dinner and left smelling like fried carp? If so, it could be that their kitchen exhaust hood was not working properly.

While commercial kitchens use exhaust systems that are fairly complex, exhaust hoods in most homes are relatively simple. They capture polluted air by drawing it in with a single fan and venting it outside or filtering it before recirculating the air back into the kitchen. In doing so, they reduce the amount of airborne grease, smoke and odors to help protect your walls cabinetry and ceilings. Many kitchen exhaust hoods even assist in removing excess heat or providing additional light over a cooktop or range.

Whether you are building a new home, remodeling a kitchen, replacing an old hood or are simply wanting to make the most of your current one, the following factors impact a hood's effectiveness and efficiency while clearing the air:

Types

- Under-cabinet – Most common type. The fan is usually located in cabinetry above.
- Wall-mount/Chimney – In addition to the hood, the ducting and often the fan housing are visible. Often matched with high-performance options.



- Island/Canopy – Ducting extends down from the ceiling over a cooktop. The fan is in the ducting or mounted outside the home. This type requires higher fan capacity due to lack of a wall for smoke containment.
- Downdraft – Unit is built-in behind or next to the cooktop. This type also requires higher

fan capacity due to fumes being drawn downward.

- Built into microwave – With an overhead microwave, this type is a popular space saver. However, fan capacity is limited.

Ducted, Ductless and Convertible

Ducted range hoods vent externally, which means they draw kitchen air out of the house through ductwork in the wall, ceiling or floor. External venting is available in all types of range hoods but is particularly common in wall-mount, island, canopy and downdraft types. Ducted range hoods are often labeled as "vented" in product names and specifications. If reducing heat in the kitchen or removing

odors is a significant concern, a ducted range hood is recommended.

Ductless range hoods filter kitchen air then recirculates it back into the kitchen. Under-cabinet and microwave hoods are most commonly ductless. Ductless range hoods are

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In the Hood

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most common in the under-cabinet and built-in microwave styles. Product specifications will most likely say “recirculation,” indicating it is ductless.

As the name implies, a convertible range hood can vent externally or recirculate the kitchen air. Under-cabinet and canopy hoods are the most likely types to be convertible, but keep in mind that kits are available for non-convertible models that make them convertible.

Rated CFM

The Cubic Feet per Minute (CFM or cfm) rating is a measurement of fan capacity. Hoods over electric ranges or cooktops should have a minimum capacity of 100 CFM per linear foot of appliance. Fan capacity for gas appliances should be a minimum of 1 CFM per 100 British Thermal Units (BTUs) that the stove or cooktop is rated at. (e.g., a 40,000 BTU stove needs 400+ CFM). Note that residential building codes in the state of Nebraska require installation of a makeup air units for kitchen exhaust systems capable of moving 400 CFM or more.

Width and Mounting Height

The hood must be at least as wide as the stove or cooktop beneath it, if not six inches wider. A 30-inch stove should ideally have a 36-inch hood to capture peripheral smoke and grease, especially for island or canopy installations. For optimal performance, hoods should be mounted 20 to 24 inches above electric ranges and 24 to 30 inches above gas ranges.

Lexington Utilities System, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, wants to help you make the most of the energy they provide. That includes helping you comfortably create culinary creations while using your kitchen in the most efficient manner possible. In addition, they may offer EnergyWiseSM incentives to reduce the initial costs of efficiency improvements. Contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.energywisenebraska.com for additional details.



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/profile.php?id=100064541806134>



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

GRAND OPENING & RIBBON CUTTING

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES LEXINGTON SOUTH
2812 HEARTLAND ROAD, LEXINGTON, NEBRASKA

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

3:30 PM Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Lexington Chamber of Commerce

Explore the Hotel
Tour our brand-new space
Meet the team

Enjoy & Enter to Win
Light refreshments & desserts
Complimentary free night stay
IHG® One Rewards points

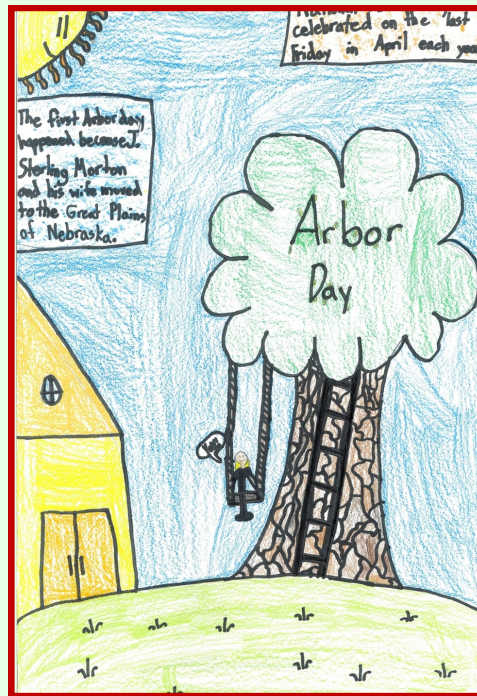
**“To leave the world better than
you found it, sometimes you have
to pick up other people’s trash.”**



Lexington Tree Board's Annual 3rd Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest 2026 Winners



Above: Sandoz Elementary's Sofie Silva-Benevidez's poster. **Below:** Sophie holding her framed poster with Tree Board members Kevin Zelaya & Dave Stenberg, and Principal Barry McFarland.



Above: Poster from Bryan Elementary's Oakley Burson. **Below:** Oakley with her framed poster along with Tree Board members Kevin Zelaya and Dave Stenberg.



For their annual 3rd grade Arbor Day poster contest, the Lexington Tree Board named two winners shown above. The Tree Board judged 229 poster entries from third grade pupils. The purpose of the contest is to build appreciation at an early age for trees and the many benefits they give us. Arbor Day is always the last



Friday in April. This year it was April 24 and marks the 154rd year of Arbor Day, and the 54th anniversary of the Arbor Day Foundation, headquartered in Nebraska City. Lexington Tree Board members are: Tom Nelson, Marty Smith Kevin Zelaya. Dave Stenberg and Jake Saulsbury.



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 Street

308-324-5995

Mon. - Fri.
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Dispose of
recyclables, furniture,
appliances, and other
large items. We do not
accept chemicals, paint,
oil or construction
debris.

SUMMER 2026:

OPEN 3rd SATURDAYS

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

May 16 • June 20 • July 18
August 15 • September 19
October 17



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.

VIDEO RECORDING IN PROGRESS

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™
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

A \$30 incentive is available to qualified customers who have their current cooling system inspected and tuned-up by an HVAC contractor.

Contact us for more information.

It PAYS to tune up your heating & cooling system

COOLING SYSTEM TUNE-UP PROGRAM

308.324-2343

In partnership with our supplier, Nebraska Public Power District, we deliver energy to you.


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/utilities

June is Small Cities Month



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.

