



April/May 2007

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City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska

Spring cleaning time



Spring is here and the weather is finally permitting us to clean up winter storm damage. Everyone is urged to take care of this chore to help keep Lexington beautiful and to avoid getting a nuisance notice under the City's new property maintenance code.

If possible, please take your branches to the Community Service Building, 801 West Vine, during the hours listed in the sidebar article (page 2). The compost pile on East Walnut should be used only for

waste such as leaves and grass clippings. If you can't haul your downed branches, arrangements may be possible - call the Service Building at 324-5995. You can also take other debris, furniture, and appliances - a small fee may be charged.

In a related article in this issue (page 2) we have reprinted information about caring for storm-damaged trees.

Everyone is encouraged to reach out to neighbors less capable and help one another during the aftermath of our severe winter.

GGC Expansion Complete

By early April the new addition to Lexington's Grand Generation Center was finished. Some minor remodel details to the original section are still underway. There will also be some parking lot improvements but, for the most parts, building crews are clearing out and the GGC staff is moving back in. Stop by and see your new and improved senior center at 407 East 6th Street!



New tile and carpet greet visitors as they enter the renovated Grand Generation Center (looking NE)



Early April 2007 shot of the GGC Addition (east side). The main exterior improvement left is the parking lot.

City Council Meeting Time Changes

In February the City Council voted to move the times of City Council meetings to 5:30 p.m. (was 7:30 p.m.). Only the time of day is new - the meetings are still on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.



Lex Named Tree City USA for 10th Time

Lexington has been named a Tree City USA community by the National Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry. It is the tenth year Lexington has received this national recognition.

Lexington has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community: a Tree Board, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day Observance. Lexington's Tree Board members are: Glenn Hawks, Dave Stenberg, Marty Smith, Tim Boyle and Gordon Sellin.

"Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our cities and towns, and provide environmental and economical benefits," said Lexington Mayor John Fagot.

Arbor Day in Lexington

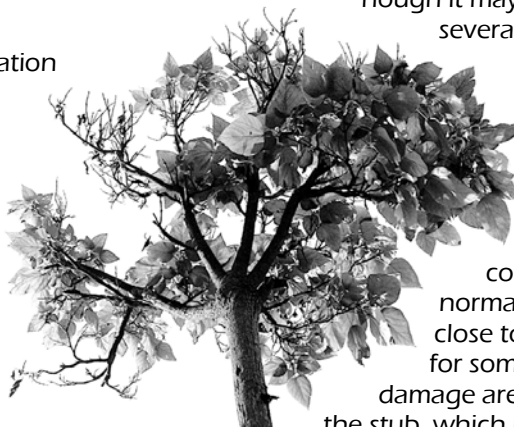
Mayor John Fagot signed a proclamation this month declaring April 27 Arbor Day in Lexington. Cities across the nation celebrate this Nebraska-grown event annually to give attention to the importance of trees in our communities.

The Lexington Tree Board will honor the day with a tree planting ceremony at the Lexington Public Library at 10:00 a.m. April 27.

Baby trees: \$1 apiece (sort of)

The National Arbor Day Foundation is helping by offering 10 "free" trees to everyone who joins the NADF during April. Membership cost is \$10 – less than the cost of one tree at most nurseries, although these trees are only 6-12 inches tall. Still, who needs 10 new trees in one's yard?

Here's a suggestion: Join the NADF under this promotion, get the 10 trees, plant what you want, and donate what you don't plant to your community forest! The Lexington Tree Board is developing sites to grow such seedlings so in a few years they can be transplanted into City parks and green spaces. Just take your surplus baby trees to the Community Service Building during the hours listed below.



Advice for Storm-Damaged Trees

As the weather warms up and trees start budding many of us will finally be able to really assess the tree damage that started with the first ice storms in December. Fortunately, according to the Nebraska Forest Service, trees can go without immediate corrective attention after a storm.

Whether or not a tree survives depends upon the species, the nature of the damage, and the corrective action taken. Storm damage can be placed into five categories: broken branches, trunk bending, splitting, complete trunk failure, and tipping or uprooting.

NFS says that generally, if at least 60% or more of the crown remains, the tree should recover nicely, although it may require continued attention and several years.

First thing to do is remove immediate hazards such as broken and hanging branches or trees with significant cracks or leaning. Larger material and limbs high in the crown should be removed by professionals.

The next step is pruning, following correct pruning standards. Although normally this means cutting a branch as close to the trunk as possible, it may be best for some branches to be trimmed near the damage area. This lets the tree grow leaves on the stub, which it will need to produce food after being stressed from the damage. This might best be assessed by a professional. The branch may be completely pruned in a year or two after the tree has recovered and grown more leaf-producing limbs.

The City will help dispose of your tree debris. It would be helpful if you can take the debris to the City Service Building, 801 W. Vine Street. Otherwise you may leave your debris near the end of your yard (not in the street) and City workers will try to pick it up.

For more information about tree maintenance and repair, visit the NFS website at www.nfs.unl.edu. The website also lists trees that do well in various regions as well how much water and sunlight various trees prefer (Publications/Community Forestry/Trees for all Nebraska).

Service Building Summer Hours

The Glenn Hawks Community Service Building, 801 West Vine, will start observing summer hours April 16. For more information call the Service Building at 324-5995.

- ▶ Monday – Friday: 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- ▶ First Saturday of month: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- ▶ All other Saturdays: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- ▶ Sundays: closed



New Management for Electric Operations

The operation and maintenance (O&M) of Lexington's electric system will be managed by Nebraska Public Power District beginning May 1. NPPD is contracted to provide the personnel, materials, and equipment necessary to maintain the physical system. The City retains system ownership, and will continue to provide customer service, electric service connections, and billing through the Lexington Utility System office in City Hall.

The transition should seem transparent and seamless to our customers; except maybe the orange bumpers and NPPD logos on the electric utility trucks. The contracting of the O&M services will provide advantages moving into the future; including efficiencies in material purchasing, outage management support, construction services, technology utilization, and system planning. Likewise, current City electrical workers will transfer to NPPD and receive improved opportunities for work experience, education, and advancement. "Taking good care of our customers and employees was our top priority as we negotiated this contract," said City Manager Joe Peppelsch, "and this arrangement will allow our customers to depend on continued quality electrical service and operations for years to come."

Customers will continue to direct question and concern about service connections, disconnections, outages, and billing to the Lexington Utility System Office at 406 E. 7th Street, Lexington, 308-324-2343.

Dates to Remember:

- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 5:30 PM - City Council Meetings, City Office
- April 20, 5 PM - Lexington Community Foundation The Key Preview Night - Holiday Inn
- April 21, 12 - 9 PM - "People Helping People" fund-raising event for the Parent-Child Center, at Eagle's Club, 113 W 5th.
- April 27, Arbor Day - Tree planting at Library, 907 N. Washington, 10 AM.
- May 6, noon - 5 PM - Cinco de Mayo celebration - Memorial Park
- May 26 - Lexington Family Aquatic Center opens. Hours: Mon - Thu: 1 - 7:30 PM; Fri - Sun: 1 - 6 PM.

Subscribe

To subscribe to Lexington City Happenings, fill out the form at www.ci.lexington.ne.us/aboutus.asp. If you have comments or suggestions, contact Dennis Burnside, dburnside@cityoflex.com, 308-324-2341. You are encouraged to forward this to others you think may be interested.



CLIP AND SAVE

City Of Lexington 2007 Summer Recreation Program

Lexington Recreation Complex • 1601 W. 13th St.

Boys Baseball

Baseball & Softball Coordinator:
Leo Gonzalez
Assisted By: Jean Leger

INSTRUCTION:

Instruction: May 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 & 17
(six times of instruction)
Tues. & Thurs.
Ages 5 & 6/7 & 8 - 5:30-6:30
Ages 9 & 10/11 & 12 - 6:30-8:00 p.m.
All instruction is at the
Rec. Complex

TEE BALL BOYS:

Ages: 5 & 6
Program: Instruction and League Play
League Play: Games played in June
at the Rec. Complex.
Fee: \$20.00

SOPHOMORE LEAGUE:

Ages: 7 & 8
Program: Instruction and League
Play
League Play: Games played in June at
the Rec. Complex.
Fee: \$20.00

JUNIOR LEAGUE:

Ages: 9 & 10
Program: Instruction and
League Play
League Play: Games played in
June at the Rec. Complex.
Fee: \$20.00

SENIOR LEAGUE:

Ages: 11 & 12
Program: Instruction and League Play
League Play: Boys will be playing in
South Central Baseball League
Fee: \$30.00

Tennis Instruction

Coordinator: Donna Stewart
Tues. May 29-Sat., June 2, 2007
This class is for the beginning or
inexperienced tennis player. Please
bring racket to the first class.
Location: Plum Creek Park Courts
Fee: \$20.00

Lexington Fundamental Sports Camp

This is a skills building camp for all
Lexington Middle School students.
(Entering grades 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th.
School year 2007-2008)

The students will need two pairs of
athletic tennis shoes. One for indoor
use in the gym and one to wear outside.

June 4-28, 2007
Monday-Thursday (16 Days)
12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

at Lexington High School
(Southwest Door/Wrestling Room)
Some of the sports include:
Basketball, football, volleyball,
wrestling, soccer, weights/agility,
teambuilding, etc.
Fee: \$10.00

Girls Softball

Baseball & Softball Coordinator:
Leo Gonzalez
Assisted By: Jean Leger

INSTRUCTION:

Instruction: April 30 &
May 2, 7, 9, 14 & 16
(six times of instruction)
Mon. & Wed.
Ages 5 & 6/7 & 8 - 5:30-6:30
Ages 9 & 10/11 & 12 - 6:30-8:00 p.m.
All instruction is at the
Rec. Complex

TEE BALL GIRLS:

Ages: 5 & 6
Program: Instruction & League Play
League Play: Games played in June
at the Rec. Complex.
Fee: \$20.00

SOPHOMORE LEAGUE:

Ages: 7 & 8
Program: Instruction &
League Play
League Play: Games played in June
at the Rec. Complex.
Fee: \$20.00

JUNIOR LEAGUE:

Ages: 9-12
Program: Instruction &
League Play
League Play: Games played in June
at the Rec. Complex.
Fee: \$20.00

We are trying to play some area towns

Lexington Family Aquatic Center

Pool Managers:
Roger Reutlinger

Season: Open May 26, 2007
Pool Hours: Mon.-Thurs.,
1:00-7:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sun., 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Fees - Single Admission
Youth Age (15 & under) \$2.25; Adults
(16-54) \$3.25; Senior Citizens (55 &
older) \$2.25; Family Pass Admission
for entire day for immediate family
only \$11.00

Season Tickets
10 visit punch pass \$25.00
Individual Pass \$50.00
Family Pass \$110.00

Lexington Swim Team

Instructor: Donna Ecklund
Program: Instructional Practices &
Swim Meets
Location: Lexington Family
Aquatic Center

Plum Creek Race

Run and Walk • 5K (3.1 miles)
July 4, 2007 • 8 a.m.
Location: Memorial Park
Registration forms will be available
at a later date.

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS

Thursday, April 19, 2007
Lexington Grand Generation Center
407 East 6th, Lexington, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
For More Information Call: Ann Luther, 308-324-2498

COME AND JOIN THE FUN THIS SUMMER!