

City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Downtown makeover continues

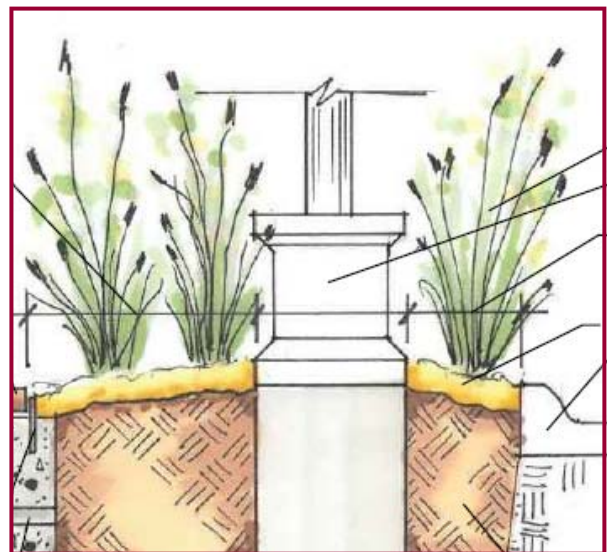
Last year's downtown improvements funded by federal dollars has provided a springboard for ongoing downtown progress.

Colorful new pole banners (right) now adorn the historic street lights in the area. We will soon be updating the landscaping around the south parking lot, street lights, and be adding plants to the planters that were installed last fall.

In the coming weeks the free-standing planters will get a variety of colorful flowers and shrubs. The ground-level openings around the historic street lights and lot at 5th & Washington will receive tall, decorative "reed" grasses and shrubs.



It's not too soon to announce that Lexington's **Farmers Market** will relocate to the south parking lot this summer. The market starts June 30 and runs Saturday mornings from 8-11 and Tuesday evenings from 4-7.



Sketch of decorative grasses around street lights



Lexington Mayor named 2013 Outstanding Elected Official



Lexington Mayor John Fagot is honored to be named Outstanding Elected Official of the Year by the Nebraska Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. Fagot was presented with the honor at an April 3 Awards Luncheon in Omaha. Helping share in John's honor were his wife, Marge, Council Members Linda Miller and John Salem, City Manager Joe Peplitsch, Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside, City Clerk Pam Berke, and Chief Building Inspector Bill Brecks. Peplitsch made the introductory remarks. Other dignitaries at the luncheon included former U.S. Representative and Omaha Mayor Hal Daub, and Robert O'Neill, Executive Director of the International City/County Management Association.



John Fagot was drafted by local citizens in 1994 to run for City Council. Mayor Fagot is currently serving his 19th year on the City Council, 13th year as Mayor. Lexington has enjoyed many improvements while John has been a community leader. These include, but are not limited to: new and improved roadways/viaducts; utility systems expansions and upgrades; new and renovated park and trails facilities, enhanced public safety services, new and renovated public facilities, commercial and industrial business expansion, and housing development. He has persistently pursued partnerships with public and private sector entities, leading to more efficiencies and the community's ability to realize improvements such as the Dawson County Opportunity Center,



He is quick to point out that the success the community has had, and will have into the future, is a team effort and he has been blessed to work with so many talented individuals on the City Council, City Staff, and the community at large. "Although this recognition was given to an individual," John said, "it was earned by many."

Photos:
(top) Mayor John Fagot expresses gratitude on behalf of the City of Lexington
(center) John with City Manager Joe Peplitsch
(bottom) John with wife Marge



N. Jackson St. road work



Jackson Street from 8th to 13th Street will be completely reconstructed this construction season.

Anticipated to start in June and last about three months, the road will be widened to a consistent 40-foot width (it currently tapers from 40 feet wide in the south to 32 feet wide in the north). The project includes upgrading water and storm sewer lines, street lights, and handicap ramps at intersections. The majority of the cost for the project will be supported with federal highway funds.

In past April newsletters . . .

2011

Bleachers with seating for about 300 were installed at the Soccer Stadium in the Optimist Recreation Complex (13th & Airport)



2009

A new playground feature was installed at Pioneer Park, 15th & Madison.

2007



Renovations were completed for the Grand Generation Center, 407 E 6th Street. A 3,080 square foot

addition was constructed on the east, as well as numerous upgrades to the existing space.



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 out 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 NDEQ



www.cityoflex.com



Lexington Named a Tree City USA for 16th Consecutive Year



Lexington has been named a Tree City USA City for the 16th year in a row. The designation honors Lexington's commitment to nurturing a diverse urban forest. Tree Board member

Dave Stenberg represented Lexington at the annual award ceremony in Lincoln April 2.

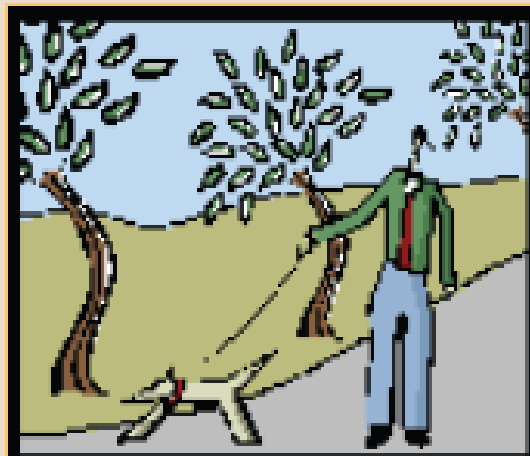
Arbor Day 2013 is April 26. The Tree Board and the City are planning tree-planting and awareness activities. Let us know if you plan

something. Citizens are encouraged to participate by planting trees too. The Tree Board recommends the following trees to be good fits for Lexington's needs, climate, and soils:

Manchurian Ash, Japanese Elm, Coffeetree, Accolade Elm, Triumph Elm, Gingko, Hackberry, American Linden, American Elm ("Valley Forge" cultivar), Miyabe Maple, Orange Osage, London Planetree (Sycamore), Lacebark Elm, Discovery Elm, Goldenraintree, Honeylocust, Littleleaf Linden, Sugar Maple, Chinkapin Oak, Japanese Pagodatree, and Walnut.

ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

As you and your dog are out walking in your neighborhoods, in the City's parks or on the trails, please remember to clean up after your dog. A simple plastic bag slipped over your hand like a glove makes an efficient and clean pick-up tool. Picking up is just part of having a dog. It may seem silly at first, but people who see you do it will know any mess left behind is NOT from your dog. Picking up shows pride in your community, in yourself, and in your dog. You'll set a great example for others, and will help create a positive image for dogs and their owners.



801 West
Vine Street
308-324-5995

Summer Hours

(Starting April 15)

Mon. - Fri.
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- dispose of furniture, appliances, and other large items
- pick up free wood chips, dirt or compost
- dispose of tree limbs.



EnergyWise Tip: **Earth Day**

Based on data from the U.S. Department of Energy, the average U.S. household will spend over \$2,100 on home energy this year. As we approach **Earth Day** (April 22), it is a good time to remember that energy efficiency can help “green” the planet while keeping more “green” in our wallet.

“Consumers who experienced high winter heating bills and are already contending with spiraling gasoline prices are eager to spend less on home energy this spring and summer,” said Kateri Callahan, President of the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE). “Energy efficiency not only significantly cuts home energy costs, it also increases indoor comfort.”

Here are 10 simple, yet effective ways the ASE suggests to celebrate Earth Day by saving energy in your home:



1. Seal air leaks and properly insulate – These are always the first steps for reducing energy waste, saving up to 20 percent on heating and cooling bills and increasing home comfort.
2. Turn off all lights, appliances and electronics not in use. (Sometimes the simplest things are really effective!)
3. Use your windows shades – Close blinds on the sunny side in summer and open them in winter. During the winter, close them all at night.
4. A programmable thermostat, properly programmed, can save up to 10 percent on cooling and heating costs.
5. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label, the symbol of quality and energy efficiency, on a wide range of consumer products to save up to 30 percent on related electricity bills.
6. New & improved light bulbs – Reduce energy use from about a third to as much as 80 percent with today’s increasing number of energy-efficient halogen incandescents, compact fluorescents and LEDs.

7. Clean or change furnace filters regularly. A dirty filter will slow down air flow and make the system run longer to keep you warm or cool.
8. Reduce water heater temperature to 125° F to save energy and money on heating water.
9. Wash clothes in cold water to save \$63 a year.
10. Use low-flow faucets and shower heads to save on water bills, too.

For more great ideas on how to make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com.

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Library News

Lexington Public Library
907 North Washington St.

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director

Join us for an afternoon of musical entertainment with **Job, Peter and Chuck** on Sunday, April 7, at 2:00 pm. The band, which formed in 2006, plays classic folk and rock from the 1960s and 1970s. The group encourages the audience to sing along because the songs they play are the songs most audiences know and love to sing. Coffee and cookies will be served by the Friends of the Library. This program is sponsored by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation.



The next Lexington Community Foundation program will be Conductor **Jack of the Zinghoppers**, who will perform at 10:00 am on June 4.



Communities Matter @ Your Library – **National Library Week**

is April 14 to April 20. The Lexington Public Library will be celebrating by hosting an open house on Wednesday, April 17. Stop by the library on that day

and enjoy coffee, tea, and celebrate with us. When you visit the library during National Library Week, sign up for daily prize drawings. You can learn lots of “cool library facts” when you browse through the library’s trivia. We will also be offering a **fine-free week** from April 14 through 20.



We are excited to be able to offer more **computer training**

opportunities at the library. Basic Microsoft Word and Basic Microsoft Excel classes will be offered in May. If you would be interested in learning more about either of these classes, contact the library. Pinterest is the latest way to find new ideas. If you would like to learn more how to use Pinterest or would just like to learn more about this amazing tool, contact the library to sign up for a Pinterest class. The Pinterest classes will be offered in April and June. There are still spots available for you to sign up for Beginning Computer and Beginning Internet classes. Call the library at 324-2151 to register, if you are interested in any of these classes.

The library continues to offer Kindle, Nook, and iPad **One-on-One classes**. If you have one of these devices and would like to learn more about the device and how to use it, call the library at 324-2151 to schedule a One-on-One session.

Family Night at the Library – On the last Tuesday of each month we will be starting a new program, Family Night at the Library. This will be a time when families of children age preschool through grade 5 can come to the library for interactive programming and activities. The first program will be held on Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00 pm and the theme is *Reading is Your Passport to the World*. Join us on April 30 to discover the adventure of reading and explore different cultures around the world.





Lexington Police Department Drug Take-Back Event

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2013 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Lexington Regional Health Center lobby
13th & Erie, Lexington

Bring your outdated and unused prescription drugs and local authorities will ensure they are disposed of in a safe, confidential and environmentally-friendly manner.

Co-sponsors:

- Keep Lexington Beautiful
- Lexington Regional Health Center
- Two Rivers Public Health Department
- Nebraska State Patrol



**Lexington
Family Aquatic
Center 2013 Season
May 25 - August 4
Hours: 1:00- 7:30 PM M-TH
1:00 - 6:00 PM Fri-Sun
10th & Monroe**

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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 the local radio or TV station for information on 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 area are urged to notify the Dawson County Emergency Center at 911.

ALL-CLEAR

An 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 the Local Radio or TV Stations 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 safer in a low, flat location. Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.

CLIP AND SAVE

