

City Happenings

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



5th & 6th Street Improvements

A summer road project in the downtown area started May 18. Funded by a Comprehensive Investment Stabilization (CIS) grant program, this is the first project in a multi-year grant to improve infrastructure in central Lexington.

This year's project will be done in four phases and concentrates on improving parking/curbs/sidewalks/drainage on 5th and 6th Streets. This is designed to improve accessibility and safety for residents and users of downtown amenities. The most visible feature is the replacement of bricks with concrete in the parking areas. Also drainage will be improved, and some water mains will be replaced where applicable.

The first phase of the project is 5th Street between Washington and Grant. The other three phases are 5th Street between Washington and Lincoln, and two blocks of 6th Street on either side of Washington.

The CIS grant is part of a Community Development Block Grant program administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.



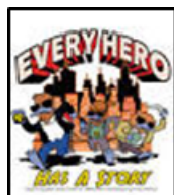


Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907 North Washington Street

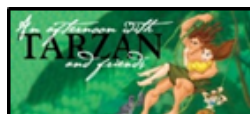


If you visit the library during this summer, don't be surprised if you meet a hero. The theme for **Summer Reading 2015** is **Every Hero Has a**

Story and the heroes abound at the Lexington Public Library. Children began signing up to participate on May 20. Summer reading will run through July 24. The summer reading programming schedule for June and July offers three programs: Preschool through 2nd grade will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings; grades 3 through 5 will meet on Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m., and the Wild and Wacky Wednesday Drop in Storytime will be 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays.

- **Mrs. Science** will be at the library on June 11, at 10:30 a.m., to introduce Nebraska's youth to the wonder of science one wow moment at a time.

- **Crane River** will make a return visit to the library on Thursday, June 18 at 10:30 a.m. The program this year will be **Tarzan**.



- **Superhero Saturday Meet and Greet** will be held on June 27 at 1:30 p.m. **Batman, Superman and Spider-man** will be at the library to meet students. Students can then have their pictures taken with the superheroes.

- One of the premier educational resources in the state, the **Edgerton Explorit Center**, will present the demonstration, **Super Heroes in Science** on June 23 at 10:30 am.



July programming will focus on the local real life heroes we meet every day. Programs include conversations and demonstrations by **Mayor John Fagot** (July 14 at 10:30 a.m.); **Dawson County Sheriff's Dept. and Canine Unit** (July 7 at 10:30 a.m.); and the **Lexington Volunteer Fire Dept.** (July 16 at 9:30 a.m.).

Other programs in July include:

- **Jeff Quinn**, whose program **The Greatest Superpower of All – Reading!** will be July 9 at 10:30 a.m.

- **Dawson County Children's Museum** will educate and entertain children with **Influential Nebraskans** on July 21 at 10:30 a.m.

- The **Summer Reading Finale** will be July 24 at 10:30 a.m., when the **Hampstead Stage Company** performs **Hercules and the Heroes**. Summer reading prizes will also be awarded at this program.



The summer reading **theme for teens** for 2015 is **Unmask!** Teens may also sign up for summer reading beginning May 20. Teens on Tuesday programming will begin on Tuesday, June 2, at 3:30 p.m., and be held on Tuesday afternoons throughout June.

The **theme for adults – Escape the Ordinary!** Adult summer reading runs June 1 - August 31. Adults can register for the program at the check-out desk.

A **drawing for Chamber Bucks** will be held September 1.

There are four **Lexington Community Foundation** Programs left in the 2014-2015 season:

- On June 7 at 2:00 p.m., **Joan Wells**, who has been inducted in the National



Cowgirl Hall of Fame, will perform **Trick Roping**. This is a **Humanities Nebraska** program.



- On Thursday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m., **Stephanie Grace Whitson** will talk about **Civil War quilts** and her latest novel, **Civil War Regiment**. **Plum Creek Quilt Guild** will provide refreshments.

- On Sunday, June 28 at 2:00 p.m., **Vicki Harris** will talk about **African-American Homesteaders and Cowboys**. This is a **Humanities Nebraska** program.



- On July 12 at 2:00 p.m., **Peter, Job and Chuck** will entertain with a mixture of '60s and '70s sounds.



The **Afternoon Movie for Adults** has moved from Monday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon because the Summer Reading Monday Movie Matinee begins at 3:30 Monday afternoons in June and July with the exception of July 27. The afternoon movie for adults will be June 24 and July 15 at 1:30 p.m.



Harold Brown Retires After 23 Years



Harold Brown, Mechanic in the City of Lexington's Central Garage since 1992, has laid down his wrenches. For 23 years Harold has kept the City's fleet running, from weed eaters to police cars to

road graders, Harold was the man who kept them all humming. A retirement reception was held May 12 at the Grand Generation Center.



**Lexington
Family Aquatic
Center 2015 Season
June 3 - August 2
Hours: 1:00- 7:30 PM M-TH
1:00 - 6:00 PM Fri-Sun
10th & Monroe**

Stop. Look. Listen.

**ABOUT EVERY THREE HOURS,
A PERSON OR VEHICLE IS
HIT BY A TRAIN**



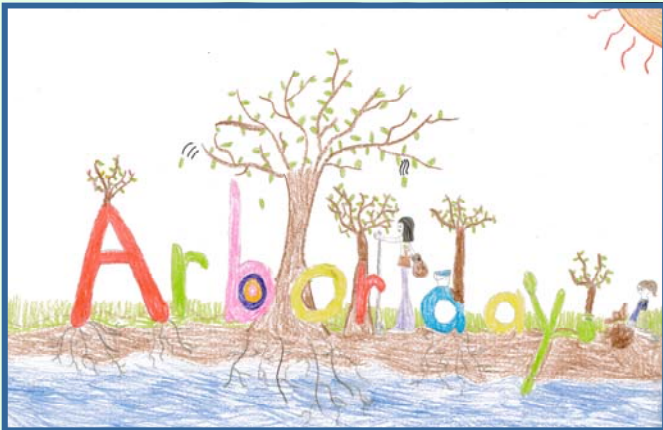
One, Two, TREE!

For their annual 3rd grade Arbor Day poster contest, the Lexington Tree Board broke tradition and named winners from two schools. For the fifth year in a row a Pershing Elementary School pupil has won. Grace Goodwin was honored April 27 at Pershing School. Members of the Tree Board helped plant a tree on the grounds of the School, and presented Grace with her poster framed for posterity. The same honor was bestowed upon Elizabeth Ramirez from Morton Elementary School on April 30.

Right Top: 2015 Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Elizabeth Ramirez
Right Middle: 2015 Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Grace Goodwin
Right Bottom: Tree Board member Dave Stenberg (second from right) during the Tree City USA Awards in Lincoln April 1

Below: Elizabeth's winning 2015 Arbor Day Poster (top)
Grace's winning 2015 Arbor Day Poster (bottom)

The Tree Board judged 110 poster entries from Lexington elementary school pupils, but has no knowledge of the artist or the artist's school until the judging is over. As usual there were many talented artists and creative posters, which made the judging challenging but rewarding.



EnergyWise Tip: Low-Cost, No-Cost Summer Efficiency



As we roll into summer, you may wonder when heat waves will bring the season's first air-conditioning bill. While a newer, high-efficiency air conditioner or heat pump usually reduces cooling costs, they also require a sizable investment. What can a homeowner do this summer to save energy without breaking the piggy bank? Read on!

Windows – When it cools off at night, turn off your cooling system and open your windows. In the morning, shut windows and blinds to keep heat out. If needed, install window coverings that reduce heat gain through your windows.

Thermostat – Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends no lower than 78°F (26°C) when you are at home and need cooling. When you're away, allow your home to become warmer. A programmable thermostat can make this process easy. Remember not to set your thermostat to a "colder-than-normal" setting when you return. A lower setting will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Fans – If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort. Remember to turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room. Fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect. When bathing or showering, use the fan to



remove heat and humidity. Bathroom and kitchen fans should be vented to the outside and not just to the attic.

Cooling System Efficiency – Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment at least once every three years. See ad next page or, electronic readers: [click here](#) for information for a \$30 rebate to have your cooling system inspected. Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your thermostat, which can cause the cooling system to run longer. And check that furniture and other objects are not blocking airflow through your registers.

Cooking – On hot days, avoid using the oven; cook on the stove, use a microwave oven, or grill outside. Minimize kitchen exhaust fan usage to reduce the amount of conditioned air removed from inside.

Lighting – Install efficient lighting, such as light-emitting diode (LED) lamps, that run cooler. Take advantage of daylight instead of artificial lighting, but avoid direct sunlight.

Cleaning – Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. If the option is available, consider air drying both dishes and clothing. Take short showers instead of baths. Water heating can account for 10 percent or more of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

Sealing – Keep hot air from leaking into your home by sealing cracks and openings. Add or repair caulk and weather stripping to seal out warm air. Replace old, cracked weather stripping, door sweeps, and thresholds as well.

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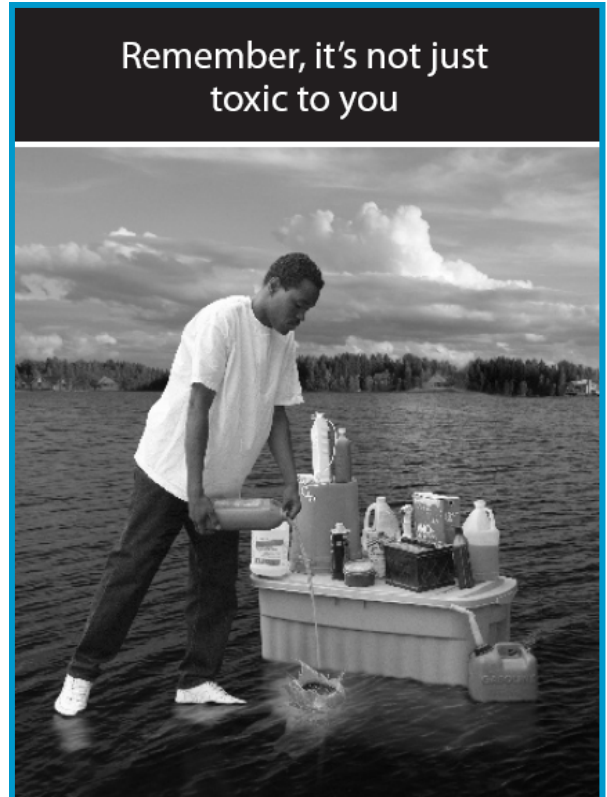
EnergyWise Tip: **Summer Efficiency**

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In General – Minimize activities that generate a lot of heat, such as running a computer, burning open flames, running a dishwasher, and using hot devices such as curling irons or hair dryers. This is especially important during the hotter times of the day. Even stereos and televisions will add some heat to your home.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of your energy dollar and reduce cooling costs without costing you a fortune. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, along with possible energy efficiency financial incentives, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com



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 NDEQ



It PAYS to tune up your heating & cooling system

COOLING SYSTEM TUNE-UP PROGRAM

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.

Lexington Utilities System
308.324-2343

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





801 West
Vine Street
308-324-5995

Summer Hours

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

OPEN 3rd SATURDAYS

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

June 20 • July 18
August 15 • Sept. 19

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



The City has planted trees in the islands at the Dawson County Opportunity Center. Shrubs will be added soon.



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/pages/City-of-Lexington-Nebraska/157277430966096>



CLIP AND 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 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.



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.

CLIP AND SAVE

