

City Happenings



April 2017

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



Lexington Earns Tree Care Award

The City of Lexington has been named the Nebraska Outstanding Tree Care Community for 2016. In a presentation at the state capitol April 5, Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside accepted the award on behalf the City and the Lexington Tree Board.

The award was given by the Nebraska Community Forestry Council, a consortium of tree organizations Nebraska Forest Service, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, and Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, among others. Lexington Tree Board member Dave Stenberg is on the Board of the Council.

"It's clear Lexington has been improving the way they care for their community forest by attending tree care workshops and demonstrating best practices in planting and caring for trees.," said Nebraska State Forester Amy Seilers.



Above: Lexington's Outstanding Tree Care Award Plaque

Lower Left: Lexington's Tree City USA 20 Year Award (see sidebar on page 2)

Lower Right: State Forester Amy Seilers presents Lexington's Outstanding Tree Care Award Plaque to Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside



Housing Development Accelerates in Two Areas of the Community



Looking northwest:
Grading for Independence Avenue extension.



Looking west from South Adams Street:
This area will become a driveway for new apartments.

The City of Lexington continues to place a high priority on improving housing supply and opportunity in the community. This Spring, new infrastructure projects were initiated to accommodate a variety of housing options.

With the extension of 20th Street to Airport Road to improve traffic flow in the northwest quadrant of the community, abutting streets, water and sewer lines are being installed to accommodate single family and townhome/condominium unit development. Single family lots are currently available to purchase at \$5,000 per lot, with a condition that construction on the housing unit commence within 12 months of purchase.

In the Southwest First Addition, southwest of the Adams Street and Walnut Street intersection, streets

and utilities are being installed to accommodate a substantial housing development that will include apartments, duplexes, and single family units, with both rental and owner occupied options. The project will be built in several phases, with an overall goal of providing up to 320 new housing units for the community.

For more information on the projects contact Joe Peplitsch, 308-324-2341.

Lexington Named a Tree City USA for 20th Consecutive Year



Lexington has been named a Tree City USA City for the 20th 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 5.

Arbor Day 2017 is April 28. 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.



YARD WASTE ONLY!

At the yard waste site on East Walnut



Violators subject to fines
Other large items may be disposed of at
The City Service Building, 801 W Vine.



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>

Remember, you're not just getting rid of weeds and pests



Choose Earth-friendly landscaping

Did you know that herbicides and pesticides are harmful to our kids, pets, and the environment?

The chemicals in these materials pollute our waterways if washed from our lawns and gardens into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Practicing Earth-friendly landscaping in your yard and garden can help protect kids, pets, and our waterways.

So what can you do? Simple:

- Select plants native to Nebraska. These plants require less fertilizer and water, and are more disease resistant.
- Avoid over-watering your lawn — it needs about one inch of rain/water per week.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to help retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.
- Mow your lawn high — 3 inches is the rule. Follow your community's leaf pick-up guidelines. Try mowing grass clippings and leaves into your lawn — they make good fertilizers.
- Use herbicides and pesticides sparingly and limit application to problem areas only.

Choose Earth-friendly landscaping and help keep our water clean!



Support provided by NDEQ



www.cityoflex.com



Planning Commissioners Attend Training



Four members of Lexington's nine-member Planning Commission attended a day of workshops at the annual conference of the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association. Shown above at the March 8 event are, left to right: Derek Haines, Jared Jacob, Doug Heineman, Sadie Worthing, City Clerk Pam Baruth, and Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside.

NEW! **DRIVING RANGE NOW OPEN!**



Just southeast of the Lexington Fieldhouse
Optimist Recreation Complex
13th & Airport Road

<p>Small Bucket about 40 balls \$3</p>	<p>Medium Bucket about 75 balls \$5</p>	<p>Large Bucket about 105 balls \$7</p>
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MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS
TO ATTEND

DINNER & AUCTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING
BENEFITTING LEXINGTON
AND THE
SURROUNDING AREA.

**RESERVATIONS NOW
BEING ACCEPTED**

RESERVED, LIMITED SEATING ONLY

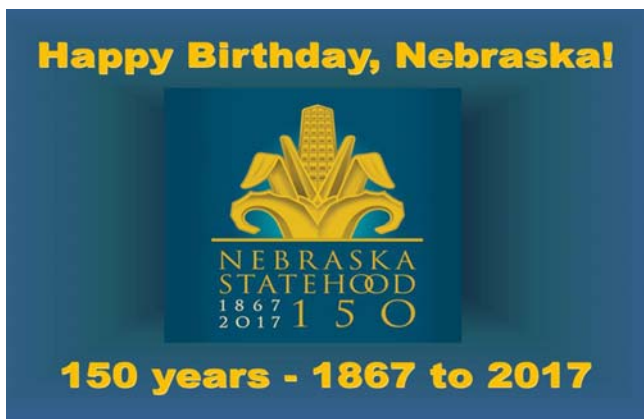
**ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE
PAID IN ADVANCE**

INDIVIDUAL SEATS: \$100
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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Your City Progress: Before & After





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907
North
Washington
Street



On April 23 at 2:00 pm, well-known author **Andrea Warren** will be at the Library talking about her book, **"Pioneer Girl: The Story of Growing Up on the Prairie."**

Pioneer Girl takes readers on a journey with Grace McCance and her family, homesteaders in central Nebraska. They lived in a sod house, dug a well by hand, endured drought, prairie fires, locusts, storm, blizzards and serious illness – and still created a rich vibrant life on the great open prairie. Andrea Warren has also written books about Bill Cody's Bleeding Kansas, the orphan train riders, the Nazi death camps of Poland, and wartime Vietnam.

On April 30 at 2:00 pm, **Adam Miller**, who is both a folksinger and a natural-born storyteller, will be performing at the Library. A resident of the Pacific Coast of Oregon, Adam Miller is one of the finest autoharpists in the world. A masterful entertainer, who never fails to get his audience singing along, Miller is a performer who appeals to audiences of all ages. Both of these programs are brought to you by the **Lexington**



Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation.

At the **"Booked for Lunch"** program Thursday, April 20, author/



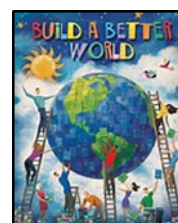
humorist **Joy Johnson** will talk about writing the books in her Boob (Burned Out Old Broads) Girls Series. The Boob Girl series chronicles the adventures, mysteries and comedies of a group of widows from Meadow Lake Retirement Community and are guaranteed to make you laugh out loud. The books are available at the Library. Joy and her late husband, Dr. Marvin Johnson, founded the Centering Corporation, North America's oldest bereavement resource center. They also founded Ted E. Bear Hollow, Omaha's center for grieving children.

On Thursday, May 25, **Theresa Wadkins** from Lexington will present **"Chasing History One Marker at a Time,"** at our May "Booked for Lunch" program. A Nebraska native, Wadkins and her husband, Doug, have always had an interest in the



state's history. Together they have documented the more than 500 historical markers. If you would like to attend either of these "Booked for Lunch" programs, please call the Library (324-2151) to register.

The Library will be celebrating **Children's Book Week** the week of May 1 to May 7. The theme for Children's Book Week 2017 is **"One World, Many Stories."** Stop by the Library during Children's Book Week for special activities, events and prizes.



The theme for **Summer Reading 2017** is **Build a Better World.** For the first time the theme will be the same for all age groups. Registration for children's summer reading will begin May 22. The adult and young adult programs will begin the day after Memorial Day and end the day following Labor Day. Be sure to stop by the Library and register for Build a Better World. Watch for updates of great library programs for summer reading in June and July!



KLB Deploys New Recycling Trailer



Keep Lexington Beautiful recently obtained a new recycling trailer, thanks to grant money from Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and underwriting from Plum Creek Medical Group and Family Physical Therapy & Sports Center. KLB held a ribbon-cutting and Business After Hours on March 24 at Lexington Middle School, where the trailer will be stationed on the northwest side. The trailer is earmarked for corrugated cardboard, plastic, aluminum and steel ("tin") cans.



LEXINGTON GGC SPRING EVENING MEAL April 25, 2017

Tuesday, April 25
5:00-6:30 PM
COST: \$6.50 (under age 60)
\$5.00 (60+)

No reservations required.
Dine-in only.
308-324-2498

MENU

- Pork Roast OR Chicken Breast
- Candied Sweet Potatoes
- Peas/Pearl Onions
- Cranberry/Pineapple Salad
- Applesauce Cake



407
E 6th
Street

Entertainment!
The Lexington High School Saxophone Quartet will perform at approximately 5:45 during the event.

"Nebraska Energy Quarterly" a Great Resource for Energy Consumers

Every three months the Nebraska Energy Office publishes an online magazine with loads of easy-to-read articles that can help you save energy and money. [Click here to read the March 2017 "Nebraska Energy Quarterly."](#)

At the website you'll also find archived articles and tips for being a smarter energy consumer. You can also subscribe so NEO will send you a quarterly email to remind you when there's a new issue.

Some of the March articles include:

- ◆ Can Smart Phone Energy Apps Save You Money?
 - ◆ The Importance of Insulation
 - ◆ Digital Devices Impact Energy Use
 - ◆ Using Energy Wisely on the Farm and Ranch
 - ◆ A Toolkit for Teachers and Parents
- ◆ Ways to Save Energy and Money at Home

NEBRASKA
ENERGY OFFICE
Good Life. Great Energy.



EnergyWise Tip: **Energy Efficiency for Earth Day**



Though the official date for recognizing Earth Day is Saturday, April 22, public power utilities in Nebraska celebrate Earth Day every day of the year.

Nebraska is the only state where every electric utility is a public power partner; therefore, you can be 100 percent certain your local utility has your (the customer's) best interests in mind. Public power means all Nebraska homes and businesses run on electricity provided by a not-for-profit business serving local customers. In doing so, people served by communities, cooperatives and power districts have more control over their local utility, so all benefits produced by public power — including affordable, reliable and sustainable energy, better service and a focus on local goals — stay locally.

This commitment extends past the electric meter and into homes and businesses by providing assistance in making the most efficient use of the primary product public power provides — electricity!

To throw your own Earth Day celebration, consider implementing a few of the 10 ideas below, and you will be rewarded with savings!

1. Install and use ceiling fans. During air-conditioning season, you should be able to adjust your thermostat up four degrees and experience the same comfort as you would have with only running the air conditioner.
2. Keep the thermostat away from heat sources, including the sun,

candles, lamps and appliances. Temperature misreading may cause your air conditioner to work longer than necessary.

3. Set the thermostat as high as possible to where you are still comfortable. By turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours, you can save 5 to 15 percent a year on your heating bill.



4. Keep drapes and blinds closed during the day in the summer to reduce the amount of solar heat gain. Consider installing solar screens, insulating drapes, and planting trees outside of sun-facing windows for more protection against the sun's rays.
5. Open drapes and blinds during sunny winter days to take advantage of solar heat. Once the sun no longer shines in, close them to help retain heat.
6. Check the air conditioner filter and change it, if necessary. Filters should be changed every 30-90 days. We recommend using HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters, setting calendar reminders and writing the date on the filter when you replace it.

7. Schedule annual air conditioning maintenance tune-up to help reduce repairs and keep your system operating at peak efficiency. What you spend on the tune-up you'll make back on your energy bill. If your unit is older than 15 years and often breaks down, consider replacement.
8. Do not run your heating or air conditioning while you're away from home. Either schedule the times you are gone with a programmable thermostat or remember to turn it off before you leave the house. With a programmable thermostat, you can set it to kick in 30 minutes before you arrive so the desired temperature is reached by the time you get back.
9. Insulate everywhere heat is lost. This includes hot water pipes, air ducts, attic, basement, windows and doors.
10. Block drafts from doors and windows by using caulk, door sweeps and thresholds.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the best choices to shine a light on the subject! This includes helping you make the most of the energy you use throughout the year. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, as well as financial incentives to help with the cost of your energy-saving upgrades, contact [Lexington Utilities System](http://LexingtonUtilitiesSystem.com) or visit www.nppd.com.



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

