

# City Happenings



June 2017

An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska



## Upcoming Events Celebrate Parks & Physical Activity

Two upcoming events co-sponsored by the City of Lexington will provide opportunities for community activities and help improve parks.

The first event is organized by the Walk Lexington steering committee, with help from Two Rivers Public Health Department. The "Bike Bash" is a five-mile ride that starts June 24 at Lexington Family Aquatic Center. No registration necessary - just show up with your bicycles. There will be a short bicycle safety presentation from the Lexington Police Department, and afterward participants are invited to swim for free. Helmets are highly recommended for the bike ride.

The second event is an expanded version of the City's Annual July 4 Fun Run, and has also moved the activity to Plum Creek Park. For details there is a complete brochure / registration form at the end of this newsletter. The "Make Sparks" event runs from 9:00 a.m. to noon (registration at 8:00 a.m.). Your registration fee gets you a T-shirt and a swimming pool pass. The run starts at the High School parking lot, but there will be activities and fun for runners and non-runners at the park shelter all morning. The expanded event is hope to raise funds to help with park improvements.

If you have any questions, contact Parks and Recreation Director Ann Luther at 308-325-5277.



**BIKE BASH**

Family Fitness and Fun!  
Saturday,  
June 24, 2017  
1:00 - 3:00 PM

Meet at the Swimming Pool for this 5-mile ride, then swim for free!

**MAKE SPARKS!**  
**RUN FOR THE PARKS**  
**PLUM CREEK 5K**

Tuesday, July 4, 2017  
**5K Run/Walk** ★ **9:00 AM**  
with obstacles ★ Plum Creek Park  
Lexington, NE



## What's Going On At . . . ?

### Plum Creek Park



The City of Lexington is continuing to make a steady stream of improvements at Plum Creek Park, following a successful lake restoration project about a year ago.

Many linear feet of new hike/bike trail has been installed all around the lake, some of which lead to several concrete fishing piers (bottom photo). These piers and the sidewalks that serve them are compliant with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Along a section of new trail toward the southeast of the lake, the City has installed a memorial bench (center photo) in honor of **Glenn Hawks**. The much-beloved Hawks, who died August 8, 2016, worked for the City for 66 years. He was an avid fisherman so the lake-front view from the bench is a proper tribute. The bench was donated by Glenn's family, and the City sincerely thanks them for their generosity.

In the top photo you will see areas of the lake's banks have been covered with straw-colored mats. These mats help the grass seed planted there get started, and prevent rain events from washing seeds away before they have a chance to take root and stabilize the banks.

Watch future issues of City Happenings for news about new tree planting and other landscaping on the lake's peninsula. These activities are planned for the fall, which is the next best time for tree planting.



## Luis Nunez Joins Police Force



The Lexington Police Department is proud to announce the hiring of **Luis Nunez** as a Police Officer. Officer Nunez began with the Police Department June 5. Officer Nunez was a 2014 graduate of the Lexington High School and attended Southeast Community College in Lincoln as a criminal justice major. Please welcome Officer Nunez to the department when you see him.



Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn

Find out more at [www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com)

### Fertilize sparingly and carefully

Green your lawn, not the lake

Storm drains found in our streets and yards lead directly to our lakes and streams. So, fertilizer from your lawn can easily end up in our water. This fertilizer can form large algae blooms and use up oxygen fish and other aquatic insects need to survive.

What can you do? Simple.

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks and back onto your lawn.
- Recycle grass clippings by leaving them on your lawn.
- Use fertilizer with no or low phosphorus.
- Select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is water insoluble (check the label).

Keep the green on the lawn and in your pocket



Support provided by NDEQ



The City's website has tools to help you save energy and money.

[www.cityoflex.com/departments/utilities](http://www.cityoflex.com/departments/utilities)



## Farmers Market Coupons Help Seniors, Low Income

In order for participants to be eligible for the program, individuals must meet categorical & income eligibility requirements:

- Categorically, participants must be 60 years of age or older.
- Income eligibility is measured in one of two ways—One person household’s annual gross income cannot exceed \$22,311; Two person household’s annual gross income cannot exceed \$30,044. Income is defined as gross income before deductions.
- Senior citizens are required to complete and sign a Participant Application Form, which verifies their eligibility for the program.
- Coupons can be used to redeem only fresh, nutritious, locally grown, unprepared fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey for human consumption from any Nebraska SFMNP certified produce stand.
- One set of coupons per household. SFMNP annual benefits cannot exceed \$48 per participant.
- **Because appropriations are limited, not all eligible seniors may be served. Waiting lists will be maintained only when there is some reasonable expectation of being able to provide benefits at a later date to additional, unserved individuals.**

### LEX GGC FARMERS MARKET COUPON MEETING

**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 20, 10:00 AM

**WHERE:** Lex Grand Generation Center (GGC)  
Meeting Room, 407 E 6th Street

- Seniors who are age and income eligible, as listed above, **must** attend the **entire** nutritional meeting to receive the coupons.
- Upon arrival at the GGC, please register with Deb at the front desk and wait in the dining area. We will call you to the meeting room when it is time to begin the meeting.
- Participants **must bring** proof of ID **AND** proof of income to the meeting. You may have a Proxy attend the meeting in your place with the appropriately signed proxy form that is currently available at the GGC.
- If all of the FM Coupon packets are not distributed during the 10:00 AM meeting, a second meeting will be held at 2:00 pm the same day. Packets will be available for distribution, first come, first serve.



**NEW! DRIVING RANGE NOW OPEN!**

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

 <p><b>Small Bucket</b> about 40 balls <b>\$3</b></p>	<p><b>Medium Bucket</b> about 75 balls <b>\$5</b></p>	<p><b>Large Bucket</b> about 105 balls <b>\$7</b></p>
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## Library News

by Kathy Thomsen  
Library Director



907  
North  
Washington  
Street



This is the first year that the theme – **Build a Better World** – is the same for all age groups.

The **Children's Program** runs from June 1 to July 22, 2017. When children register at the Youth Services Desk, they receive an activity sheet. The sheet includes 20 activities to do throughout the summer. When completed, the sheet can be returned for a reading bag and prizes.

The Children's Program also offers a variety of performances and activities. Movie Madness Monday – A different movie will be shown at 3:30 p.m. on Monday afternoons.

**Tuesday Storytime** – At 10:30 a.m., a storytime will be held for children who are in Pre-school to second grade. Wednesdays are **STEM Days!** At 10:30 a.m. programming will focus on STEM activities and books. This program is recommended for grades 1 – 4.

**June 14 – Love Our World around Us** – Conserving and protecting our world around us.

**June 21 – Discovering Mammals** – We will have access to a complete hands-on Mammal Trunk from the Nebr. Games and Parks Commission.

**June 28 – Discovering Birds** – This will be another hands-on trunk from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. One of the activities will be breaking down an owl pellet to see what bones we can find in it.

**July 12** – On a Roll – Marble Mazes etc.

**Summer Reading for Children will also offer a variety of special programming in June and July.**

**Tuesday, June 13**, at 10:30 a.m. – **Adam Fowler** will present a music program that will have you learning about letters, storybook characters, authors and some really cool facts about our wonderful world.

**Thursday, June 15**, at 10:30 a.m. – **Crane River Theater** will present **The Little Mermaid** in one of its Page to Stage library outreach programs.

**Thursday, June 22**, at 10:30 a.m. – **Dawson County Children's Museum** will present an interactive program about **Solar Energy**.

**Monday, June 26** – The **Edgerton Explorit Center** will be at the Library all day showcasing their **Portable Planetarium**. There is limited seating. We will have sign-up sheets for each showing. Please contact the Library at 324-2151 to register for a seat in the Portable Planetarium.

**Thursday, June 29** at 10:30 a.m. – **Dino O'Dell** will offer a music and storytelling program for children.

**Thursday, July 20** at 10:30 a.m. – **Hampstead Stage Company** will return to the Library to present **Beauty and the Beast**. All ages are welcome to attend this program.

**Tuesday, July 25**, at 10:30 a.m. – **Curtis Mork, the Lego Man**, will be at the Library for children and adults to build amazing creations with his array of Legos.

**Young Adults** interested in summer reading can register at the Circulation Desk. The Young Adult summer reading program includes reading, prizes and the opportunity to participate in a "Serve Your Community Scavenger Hunt."

**Adults** interested in participating in the summer reading program can register at the circulation desk. They will receive a book bag and summer reading materials. Adults summer readers can read and turn in review sheets, participate in a community tic, tac toe, or choose from a favorite activity list. All reading, tic-tac, toe and activity list entries can be returned to the Library to be entered in a prize drawing. The Young Adult and Adult Summer Reading Programs will run from Memorial Day to Labor Day.



**Sunday, July 16**, at 2:00 p.m., Emmy Award winning duo, Jack and Kitty Norton perform "organic vaudeville folk music." Jack and Kitty, who

bring a high energy, family-oriented, interactive show, love to perform concerts for both children and grown-ups. Recently they have performed at the Minnesota State Fair, the Mall of America, and the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, performing shows for military families.



## Third Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners!

For their annual 3rd grade Arbor Day poster contest, the Lexington Tree Board named two winners. **Gerardo Jimenez Ambriz** from **Sandoz Elementary School** and **Eslin Hernandez-Zadala** from **Bryan Elementary School** are this year's winners.

The Tree Board honored the pupils at their schools by planting trees in their names, and presenting them with their posters framed for posterity.

Photos below (with Tree Board members and parents)  
(top) Eslin and her winning 2017 Arbor Day Poster  
(bottom) Gerardo and his winning 2017 Arbor Day Poster

The Tree Board judged 158 poster entries from Lexington elementary school pupils, but has no knowledge of the artist until the judging is over.

Arbor Day was originated in Nebraska and has become a national day that celebrates trees, and is always the last Friday in April. The National Arbor Foundation is headquartered in Nebraska City.

Lexington Tree Board members are: Ann Luther, Timothy Potter, Gordon Sellin, Marty Smith and Dave Stenberg.





## EnergyWise Tip: Kitchen Ranges

What's for dinner? Around most homes, it's the most frequently asked question. If you plan on cooking, you likely have an opportunity to save energy while making the meal!

Webster's Dictionary defines "range" as the combination of a stovetop and an oven into one kitchen appliance. Even if you have a separate cooktop and oven, you still have the same opportunities to make your meal in an energy-efficient manner. Consider the following tips:

**Match the amount of food to pan and element size.** Using a pan capable of holding much larger quantities of food ends up requiring more energy than necessary to cook the food. Also, using a burner or cooking element larger than the selected pan also wastes energy. As an example, a 6-inch pan on an 8-inch burner will waste more than 40 percent of the heat produced.

**Select durable, flat-bottomed cookware.** The best cookware has a slightly concave bottom, which when heated, expands and the bottom flattens out. An electric element or burner is significantly less efficient if the pan does not have good contact. For instance, boiling water for pasta could use 50 percent more energy on a cheap, warped-bottom pan compared to a flat-bottom pan.

**Choose highly conductive materials.** Some materials transfer heat more evenly than others and usually result in more evenly cooked food. Note that copper-bottom and stainless steel pans

heat up faster than aluminum or tin pans. In the oven, glass or ceramic pans are typically better than metal. This allows the oven temperature to be set about 25°F lower and cook foods just as quickly.

**Keep stovetop clean and shiny.** When burner pans become blackened or the surface of cooking elements become tarnished, they can absorb a lot of heat and reduce burner efficiency. Clean and shiny reflects more heat up into the cookware.



**Reduce cooking time.** Defrost frozen foods in the refrigerator before cooking. This will often improve "doneness" consistency in the prepared food.

**Minimize preheat time.** All too often, cooks turn their ovens on to preheat to a specific temperature, and the oven reaches that temperature long before food is ready to be placed in the oven. This additional "unoccupied – at temperature" time results in wasted energy.

**Keep racks clear.** Don't lay foil over the top of oven racks as this will restrict air flow and increase cooking time. For the same reason, stagger pans on the racks to improve air flow.

**No peeking!** There is a logical reason as to why most ovens today have interior lights and a window in the door. Every time the oven door is opened, 25° - 50°F is lost.

**Leftovers, please!** By cooking double portions, all you have to do is reheat prepared food. If you have a microwave oven available, even greater energy savings can be achieved.

**Reduce food size.** Preparing individual servings when possible enables you to reduce cooking time. As an example, cooking a meatloaf in a full-sized pan takes 90 minutes, while cooking individually sized meatloaf portions in a muffin tin requires only 30 minutes of cooking time. Note that cutting up foods prepared on the stovetop benefit in the same way if pieces are cut to bite-sized as opposed to whole foods.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. This includes saving energy while preparing your meals. For more ideas on how you can make your home, business or farming operation more EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup>, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com).



# 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>

**Lexington Family Aquatic Center**

M-TH  
1:00 - 7:30

FRI-SUN  
1:00 - 6:00

10th & Monroe

**NOW OPEN!**  
 Watch the City and LFAC Facebook pages for updates.

★ ★ **THE MATCHUP** ★ ★

**THAT DOESN'T ADD UP.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

<b>CAR</b>	<b>VS</b>	<b>TRAIN</b>
<b>1½ TONS</b> OF STEEL, PLASTIC, RUBBER & GLASS		<b>6,000 TONS</b> OF SOLID BUILT AMERICAN STEEL

**IT'S NO CONTEST.** Every day, people are injured or killed trying to beat a train.

OPERATION LIFE SAVER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN FAIRWAYS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See the video **THINK TRAIN** [SeeTracksThinkTrain.org](http://SeeTracksThinkTrain.org)



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



## Waiver

I know that running/walking road race is a hazardous activity. I should not enter and run/walk unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of an official, relative to my ability to safely complete the race/walk. I assume all risks associated with running/walking in this event including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, traffic, the effect of the weather, including high heat or humidity, and the conditions of the road. All such risks being know and appreciated by me. I also agree that I may be examined during the course of the race/walk by qualified personnel in the event medical problems of any cause arise. The race officials or the qualified medical staff have the right to disqualify me and remove me from the race/walk if, in their opinion, I may be suffering from a life threatening condition. Having read this waiver and knowing those facts and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release all sponsors, their relatives, their representatives, race volunteers and race directors, from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Adult #1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Adult #2 (if participating in the race)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian must sign for children under 18

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



This 5K run/obstacle course will start at Plum Creek Park and has some new “sparks” this year with a different trail, a little off-road adventure, and a few ups & downs.

### Support Us! Make a Donation!

Above all, the Plum Creek Race is about helping the City of Lexington Parks & Trails. Whether you are participating in the race, or if you just want to contribute, every dollar counts. We appreciate gifts of any amount.

**For more information, contact Ann Luther at (308) 325-5277.**



## MAKE SPARKS! RUN FOR THE PARKS

### PLUM CREEK 5K

Tuesday, July 4, 2017

5K Run/Walk ★ 9:00 AM

with obstacles ★ Plum Creek Park

Lexington, NE



