

City Happenings



An eNewsletter from the City of Lexington, Nebraska

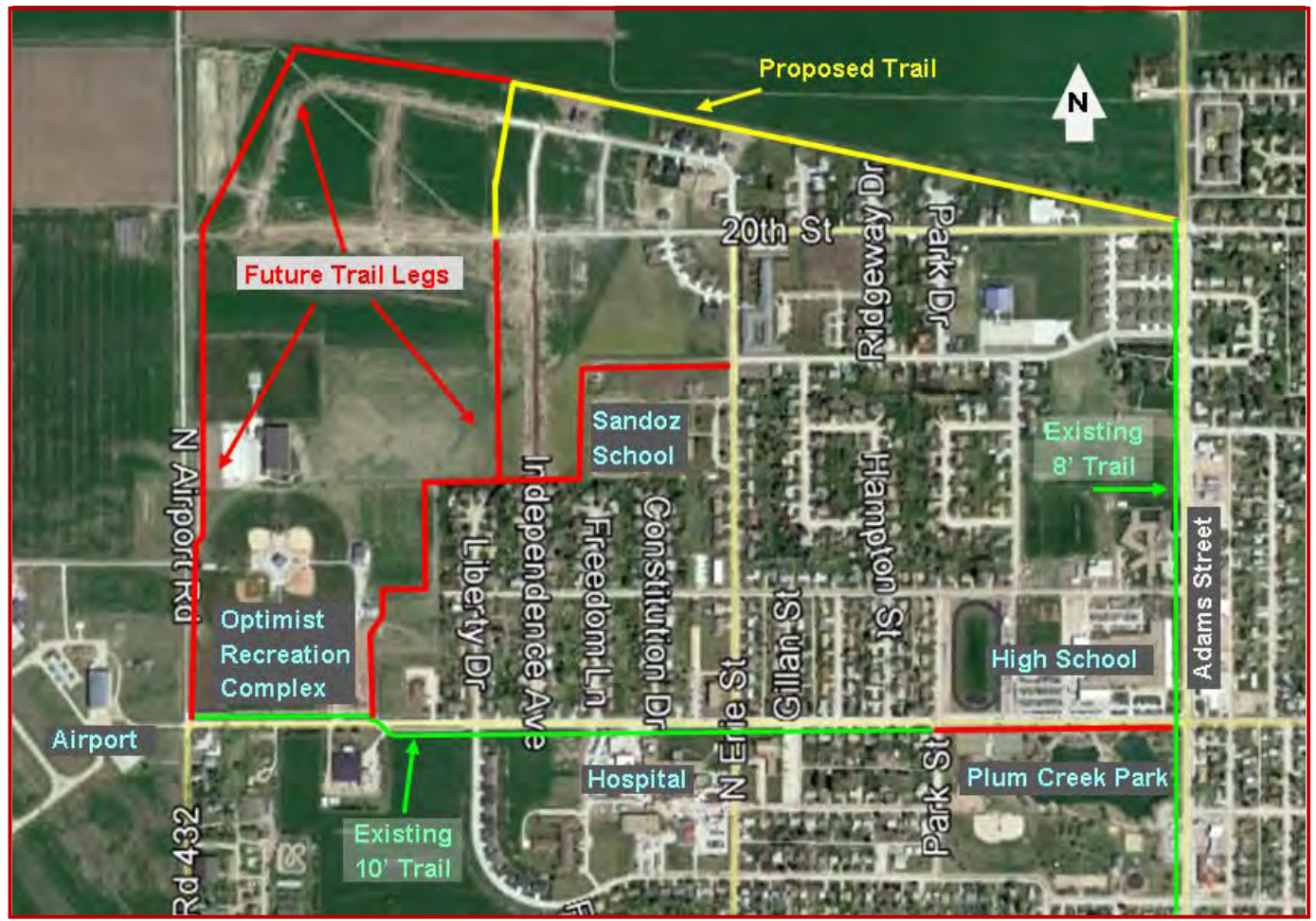
October 2017



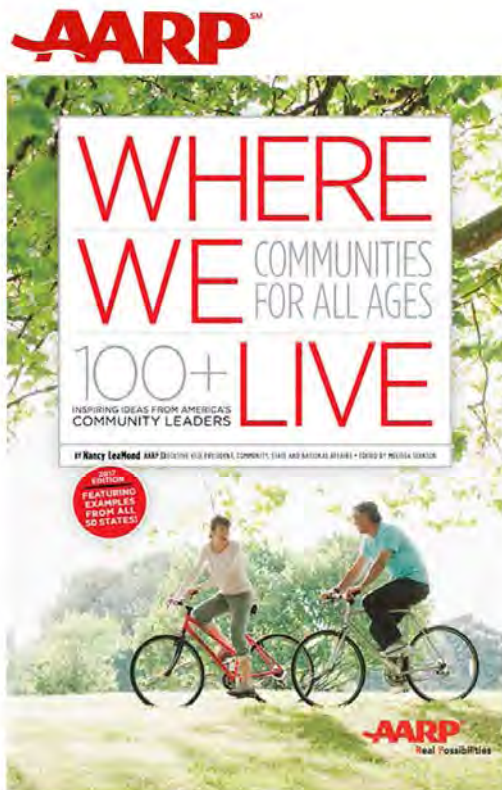
New Hike-Bike Trail Planned in Northwest Lexington

Construction of a new segment of hike-bike trail is planned to start in the spring of 2018 northwest of 20th & Adams Streets. The proposed 10-foot-wide trail will start on the west side of 20th & Adams. It will follow a former drainage ditch to the northwest, along the north side of the residential area. Just west of Independence Avenue,

the new trail will toggle south to intersect with 20th Street. The map below shows existing (green), proposed (yellow) and future (red) trail segments.



**Lexington
RYDE
Public
Transit
Featured
in AARP
Publication**



RYDE Transit is your public transportation service available to all residents of Lexington.

RYDE Transit

Hours – 8 AM to 5 PM – Monday thru Friday.
Please schedule rides 24 hours in advance by calling 308-324-3670 or stopping at the office located at 407 E 6th St.

Public Transportation is easy to ride, and open to everyone.

American Association of Retired Persons

TRANSIT, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

RYDES TO THE RESCUE

ADAMS, BUFFALO, DAWSON, FRANKLIN, GOSPER, HAMILTON and KEARNEY COUNTIES, NEBRASKA
Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska

Nondrivers who live in rural areas typically have two choices when they need to go somewhere: (1) ask a friend or family member for a ride, or (2) don't go.

Residents in a seven-county region of south-central Nebraska have a real second option, which is to contact **RYDE Transit** (Reach Your Destination Easily) for a low-cost door-to-door ride.

John Fagot, the mayor of Lexington, Nebraska, is a regular rider. He doesn't drive because of vision loss. "RYDE Transit takes me wherever I want to go—City Hall, home, work," he says. "Life would be difficult for many people in the county without it. People depend on it. They could not keep their jobs. They could not do their daily errands."

Lexington, a community of 10,000 residents, accounts for roughly 10,000 RYDE Transit rides per year. Small buses and mini vans run Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the larger cities of Kearney and Hastings, the service is available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The rides cost \$1 or \$2 for a local trip and up to \$8 for an out-of-town visit.

About half of all RYDE Transit riders are older than 50, but many children take RYDE transit to after-school activities. Passengers are asked to book their rides 24 hours in advance, if possible, although there is flexibility on return trips.

"When you're at the doctor, you don't know if it will be 10 minutes or two hours," RYDE Transit Director Charles McGraw points out.

RYDE Transit, which is one of the more than 60 public transit providers working in rural and urban Nebraska, is run by the Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska, which also manages the region's Head Start programs, numerous senior centers, WIC programs and food banks. Funding comes from local municipalities and counties as well as the state and federal government, foundation grants and contributions from local United Ways and donors. ■





Library News

by Kathy Thomsen
Library Director



907
North
Washington
Street



The Friends of the Lexington Public Library are gearing up for Give BIG Lexington on

November 16, 2017. The project that the Friends have selected for 2017 is buying new meeting room tables. The tables have wheels and are easy to set up. A percentage of the funds generated from GBL for the Friends of the Library will also go toward funding the Friends of the Library's contribution to the Library Initiative Grant. The Library Initiative Grant provides the funding for the majority of library programs, including an array of summer reading programs, the Sunday Afternoon Family presentations, and "Booked for Lunch."

Events being held at the Library in preparation for GBL include:



Treasure Trove at the Library – In a flea market style, the Library will have lots of treasures for purchase throughout October, (or until all the treasures are gone).



Nearly New Cookbook Sale – It doesn't matter if you are looking for new ways to prepare salads and veggies, steaks or chocolate, the library has a cookbook on the Cookbook Sale shelf for you! Stop by and look at the fantastic collection of cookbooks for sale.



The Friends of the Library will also be selling brownies during the weeks of October 16 Nov. 6.

On Sunday, October 15, at 2:00 p.m., **Lauren Pelon** will present Library Initiative Grant program, **Music from the Backyard and Front Porch.**



This program features music and stories of America's indigenous peoples, songs and instruments of America's many immigrants and Lauren Pelon's own compositions. This program is funded by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund, the Lexington Community Foundation, the Emerson Fund, and the Friends of the Lexington Library. Refreshments will be served following the program.



The day for the "Booked for Lunch" program has moved to the first Tuesday each month, starting on November 7. Serving will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the program, "Nebraska," by Lexington librarians **Karen and Kathy** beginning at noon. Call the Library at 324-2151 to register for "Booked for Lunch."

Library users can now access their library accounts on mobile devices through an app. Users should begin by searching for Auto-Graphics in the



iPhone App Store or on Google Play, if using an android device. They can then download the "Library Mobile" app. When the

app is opened, library users can search for Lexington Library by location or zip code. In order to log into their own account on the library app, the user will need to enter their library card number as their user name and their last name as their password. Once the account has been accessed, library users will be able to:

- View items that are checked out, determine the date the items are due and renew selected items.
- View their check out history, which shows items have been checked out in the past.
- Check for current holds to see which library materials they have placed on reserve. A reserve on a particular item can also be placed from the app.
- Utilize the scanning feature to determine if the Library houses a particular item in its collection. This is a great resource if you are perusing a shelf of books at a store and want to know if your library has that particular title.
- Create lists of items for future reference.

Library information including hours are available in the app. There are also maps to help users navigate to the Library.





GGC Happenings

407 East 6th Street



Plan to join us at noon on Wednesday, October 25, for **Charlotte Endorf's** third program at the GGC, "**Excess Baggage: Riding The Orphan Train.**" This program, funded in part by Humanities Nebraska, is FREE and open to the public. We hope you will join us for

lunch that day and enjoy the fascinating stories. Charlotte will be in period costume and enchant with stories about people who had ridden the Orphan Train and were adopted by complete strangers. The children on the Orphan Train were mostly from the eastern United States, mostly the New York City area. They were put on the train because their parents could not afford to feed them, or they were street kids who had no homes. The trains carried orphans to the west from 1877 to 1926. Invite a friend to join you for lunch and the program!



LEXINGTON GGC AUTUMN EVENING MEAL
Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017

5:00 - 6:30 PM
COST: \$6.50 (under age 60)
\$5.00 (60+)
No reservations required.
Dine-in only.
308-324-2498



407 E 6th Street

MENU

- Pork Roast
- Candied Sweet Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Cranberry Salad
- Apple Crisp

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Finance Director Honored by State-wide Organization



From left: MAFC Vice Chair Kelly Oelke, Clerk/Finance Director, Hickman, presents plaque of appreciation to MAFC Chairperson Barb Hodges, Lexington Treasurer.

City of Lexington Finance Director/Treasurer **Barb Hodges** received an award of appreciation in June. Hodges was finishing up a year as Chair of the Municipal Accounting and Finance Committee, a group formed under the League of Nebraska Municipalities. The award was presented by Hodges's successor, Kelly Oelke of Hickman, Nebraska.



801 West Vine Street
308-324-5995
Mon. - Fri.
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- dispose of furniture, appliances, pallets, and other large items
- recycle paper, plastic, cardboard and pallets
- pick up free wood chips or compost

Last Farmers Market: October 14

LEXINGTON

FARMERS MARKET

Starts June 24, 2017
Opportunity Center Parking Lot
 (1501 Plum Creek Parkway)
Saturdays 8-11 a.m.
Tuesdays 3-6 p.m.

Don't wait in line...
Pay Online

Pay your utility bill using your computer, smart phone or tablet! Go to www.cityoflex.com to sign up and pay.

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- ★ View updated billing and consumption history
- ★ Account balances are automatically updated



Optimized for mobile devices

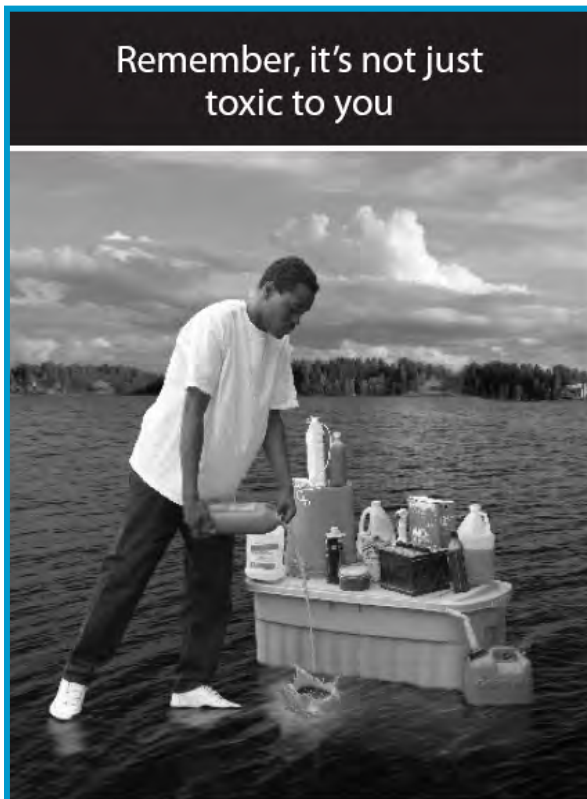


LHS Students Learn Tree Planting



Thanks to a **Free Trees for Fall Planting Mini Grant** from Nebraska Tree Organizations, Lex High Ag students got a lesson from Lexington's Tree Board and Park Staff.

Ten trees were planted during ReTree Nebraska Week, September 27, at Pioneer Park. Tree varieties included varieties of Sycamore, Catalpa, Hackberry, Linden and Oak. The students' teacher is **Timothy Potter**, the newest member of Lexington's Tree Board which also includes **Dave Stenberg, Marty Smith, Ann Luther** and **Gordon Sellin** (shown above with four students). The Free Trees for Fall Planting is funded by: Trees for Nebraska Towns and the Sustainable Schoolyard Partnership programs; the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum; the Nebraska Environmental Trust; The Nebraska Forest Services Community Marketing of Trees; and the US Forest Service.



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



Give BIG Lexington 2017



Join us for the opportunity to take the seventh annual Give BIG Lexington event to a new level!

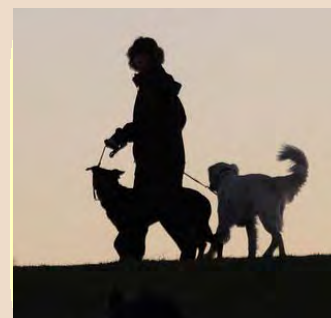
GBL '17 is Thursday, November 16, 2017. This one-day, online event showcases local causes that make this community a more vital place to live. You're encouraged to give to those that mean the most to you and your family.

Change the way you see your community.

Donations can be scheduled now!
<http://www.lexfoundation.org/event/s/give-big>

Cash and check donations delivered to the Lexington Community Foundation office (607 N Washington) on the 16th between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. will qualify for the match funds, or you can fill out a donation sheet assigning a date to make your donation on the 16th.

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.

Help Light Up Downtown Lexington Over the Holidays!

We want to put lighted holiday wreaths on downtown light poles, and we need your help!

Please consider giving to this cause on the Lexington Community Foundation's Give BIG Lexington (November 16).

Let your holiday spirit shine and consider giving to help light up the holidays for years to come!



EnergyWise Tip: **Laundry**



Doing laundry is not at the top of the list of things to do for most people, so how about a few fun statistics to at least make it a little more interesting? Here are some numbers for you.

- **13,500 gallons of water:** The amount the average U.S. household uses to complete almost 400 loads of laundry each year, according to www.energystar.gov.
- **7,000 gallons:** The amount of water that can be saved each year by an energy-efficient front-loading washing machine when compared to the average top-loading washing machine
- **49 percent:** The percentage of laundry loads in the U.S. that run with warm water. By comparison, 37 percent run with cold water and 14 percent with hot.
- **89 percent:** How much more energy is used to “do a load” of laundry on a hot water setting in a top-loading washer as compared to a load in a front-loading machine on a cold-water setting.
- **88 percent:** The average increase in energy efficiency for washing machines manufactured between 1981 and 2003.

When it comes to the amount of energy consumed through use of standard plug-in appliances, your washer takes second place only to your home’s refrigerator. If you have a standard, top-loading washing machine, it probably uses twice as much water per load than newer, front-loading

units bearing the ENERGYSTAR® logo. Washing machines earning this distinction use between 18 and 25 gallons per load, compared to 40 gallons for older machines.

But buying a new washer is not something in everyone’s household budget. Don’t worry. There are many low and no-cost things you can do to make the most of your clothes-cleaning energy!



- **Use cold water.** While you may have been taught that certain stains and soils require hot water, about 90 percent of energy needed for that cycle setting is consumed in heating the water. Some new detergents are made to tackle those same stains using warm or cold water. Not only will this save energy, but cold-water washing will also keep colors bright, reduce wrinkling and won’t set stains.
- **Run a full load.** Your washer will use about the same amount of mechanical energy, regardless of how full it is. Set the water level for the amount of laundry you are running to keep from using more water than necessary.

- **Consider cycle times and any other setting options.** Some lightly-soiled loads only need 10 minutes of washing. To compensate, adjust to a “delicates” setting or advance the cycle half-way through to reduce wash time. If you have a “high spin” option, use it to cut down on drying time.
- **Get smart about drying.** The average U.S. home spends about \$100 a year in electricity using their clothes dryer. Drying is all about moving air through your fabrics to take moisture away. So, before you start every load, clean lint out of the filter to ensure air can circulate more freely.
- **Dry loads of similar fabrics together.** Start with a load of fast-drying fabrics. If your dryer has a moisture sensor, use it. This will automatically reduce the amount of drying time and shut off the machine when it senses clothes are dry. By the way, this also reduces wear and tear on your clothes in addition to saving lots of energy.

Lexington Utilities System and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy it takes to do laundry. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, as well as for financial incentives to help with the cost of your energy-saving upgrades, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.nppd.com.



**Lexington Employees
are hosting a
New Pillow &
Blanket Drive**

The week of October 23-27, City of Lexington employees are holding a **New Pillow & Blanket Drive** to help people in need this winter. Bring a new blanket or pillow to **City Hall**. **OR** bring one to the **Library** and help yourself to an item from the Used Book Sale shelf. **OR** bring one to the **Grand Generation Center** and get a free meal!



Thank you for your generosity!



**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 snow and ice removal

Winter will soon be here and the City would like to remind citizens of the following points related to snow removal. There is also an Emergency Snow Route map on the next page, and is also found on the Maps link at the City's website.

Property owners are required to remove snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property, within 48 hours of the snowfall. Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks not only ensures safe passage for pedestrians (including school children), but also limits liability. Someone who sustains injuries from slipping on ice might claim their injuries resulted from property owner neglect.

Please remember that snow and ice removed from your property is not to be placed into the street. Instead move it to non-paved areas.

The City needs the cooperation of all citizens as we work to remove snow and ice from the streets. Citizens are encouraged to listen to

local radio stations or read the local newspaper (including online) for announcements of possible Snow Emergency situations where substantial snowfall is experienced or anticipated.



In times of a declared Snow Emergency, parking along streets in the designated Snow Emergency Route is prohibited. Commercial Areas may also be included (see Snow Route map).

In addition, during a Snow Emergency, parking in the Downtown area is prohibited. In non-emergency times, citizens are still encouraged to move their parked vehicles off of the street in a reasonable period of time after snowfall to allow City crews access to remove the snow and ice. Information regarding the removal of snow in your area of the City can be obtained by contacting Tom Nelson at 308-324-5995.

The City of Lexington would like to reiterate that snow and ice removal is important for vehicular traffic as well as pedestrian traffic.

Please take the time to do your part to keep our streets and sidewalks safe. The City of Lexington thanks everyone for their cooperation and prompt attention to this issue.



