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NEBRASKA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CERTIFIED COMMUNITY

# City Happenings

LEAP  
DAY



February 2020



## Final Improved Space at Opportunity Center Open for Business

Most new visitors of the Dawson County Opportunity Center would assume the facility had been completely renovated. Actually, there was a 5,000 square foot space in the northwest of the former Walmart building that the City completed in December.

In cooperation with Central Community College (CCC), additional classrooms were developed to provide space to improve local workforce capacity. The inaugural training program — already underway — centers around a group of employees from Tyson Fresh Meats. For this curriculum CCC hired Dawson County native Joshua Brant. The Tyson employees receive 16 hours a week of classroom and hands-on training, through April.

Doug Pauley, CCC Associate Dean of Training and Development, said the training includes fundamentals of electricity, motor controls, hydraulics, pneumatics, and programmable logic controls. He calls the program “mechatronics.”

Once this initial Tyson pilot program is completed, Pauley said they want to invite other businesses to take advantage of various workforce development trainings. In addition to subjects listed above, other options CCC can offer include safety, HazMat, mechanical systems, and lockout/tagout processes. In the future there may also be opportunities for high schoolers to get some of this practical training.

Local businesses who want to partner with CCC for workforce training can call Doug Pauley at 402-562-1280.



(top) - the pneumatic / hydraulic lab  
(bottom) - the electrical / motor lab

City Offices:



406 E 7th Street



Lexington, NE 68850



308-324-2341



407 East 6th Street

**Annual Cake  
Decorating & Auction**  
February 13-14, 2020

The Lexington Grand Generation Center will hold our annual cake decorating on Thursday, February 13, beginning at 1:00 PM. The cakes will be baked and ready for you to frost. You have your choice of white or chocolate cake and round, square or heart shaped as well as 1 or 2 layers.

There will be white, red, green and yellow frosting available for you to use. You will need to bring anything else you'd like to decorate with.



**We would like your business/organization to participate with a team!!**

The teams can one or two people from any group, business or organization. You may keep with the Valentines Day theme or use your own ideas. We ask that you don't use anything that needs to be refrigerated.

The cakes will then be displayed and up for bid for a silent auction from 3:00 p.m. on Thursday until 1:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14. All proceeds will go to the Lexington Grand Generation Center Support Fund.

Call **Melissa** or **Deb** at 324-2490 to reserve your cake at no cost by Friday, Feb 1st!



**Work for the US Census!**

*Apply Today, make your next job count!*

**Apply Online! 2020 Census Jobs**

The 2020 Census is taking applications now for positions starting soon. The 2020 Census has a wide variety of positions requiring various levels of experience and training, offering temporary full time to flexible part time positions. Make your next job count.

*For more information about our Field or Office positions please visit us at:*  
**2020census.gov/jobs**  
**1-855-JOB-2020**  
(1-855-562-2020)

- Clerks / Supervisory Clerks
- Listers / Enumerators
- First Line Supervisors

*For more information about Professional and Management positions please visit us at:*  
**usajobs.gov**  
**census.gov/fieldjobs**

- Office Managers
- Partnership Specialists





## New Online Calculators Designed for EVs and Solar Power

### Electric Vehicle (EV) Calculator

EVs are gaining popularity, with the number of EVs registered in Nebraska doubling since July 2018.

People interesting in a possible switch are advised that there are differences in comparing EVs with traditional internal combustion vehicles. Differences include:

- mileage by charge versus miles per gallon;
- cost of fuel,
- available incentives; and
- purchase price.

That's where the public powered EV calculator comes in handy. This calculator can compare a wide variety of EV and conventional vehicle models, determine costs and savings, and even estimate carbon reduction projections. It is now available at [publicpowered.wattplan.com/ev/](http://publicpowered.wattplan.com/ev/).

Using the calculator is easy, takes just minutes to do, and you need only a minimal amount of information to initiate vehicle comparisons.

By adding more of your personal information such as mileage for round trips, the cost of your current monthly electric bill, and other items based primarily on charging the vehicle at home, the calculator can estimate things such as:

- your break-even point (the time you will begin achieving cost savings);
- how far your selected EV could travel on a single charge (and mapping that range visually);
- details about local and federal EV incentives;
- charging station locations; and
- benefits of using an EV.

### Solar Calculator

If you are interested in installing your own solar panel(s), there is a similar calculator found at [publicpowered.wattplan.com/pv/](http://publicpowered.wattplan.com/pv/), which can help you make informed decisions relating to the purchase of solar panels. The tool estimates the cost of installing rooftop solar by taking into consideration the direction your rooftop faces, its slope, and the amount of shade it receives. Within this tool, you will obtain much of the same style of information as with the EV calculator.



**STUDENTS!**

**NOW** is the time to apply for City summer jobs: concessions, lifeguards, and lawn mowing.

Go to [www.cityoflex.com/departments/city/human-resources](http://www.cityoflex.com/departments/city/human-resources) for more information and to download a blank application form.

Send completed application to address below or email to [pbaruth@cityoflex.com](mailto:pbaruth@cityoflex.com).

**Don't delay - Do it today!**





**EnergyWise Tip: Icicles**

*by NPPD Energy Efficiency Program Manager Cory Fuehrer*

Can you think back to your childhood and remember the "magic" of icicles? While growing up in a century-old farm house, I remember wintry "No School" days when my mom would bundle me up in so many layers of sweatshirts, coats and overalls that I could barely move. Then, I'd waddle outside and start my polar expedition around the farm to discover the winter wonderland and search for the perfect icicle.

Inevitably, I would find the most beautiful ones hanging from the gutters on the south side of the house. Over the next couple of hours, I would keep checking to see how much they had grown. Then, before they became too long, I would break them off and carefully put them in the deep freezer thinking how refreshing they would taste in July when it's 95°F. Sadly, I never experienced that summertime sensation because mom always threw them out when she defrosted the freezer during spring cleaning.

Unfortunately, not all stories involving icicles are as innocent or benign. It seems every winter, we hear a news of someone injured by falling icicles. More likely, we hear very little about the gutters pulled off homes when the icicles become

too heavy or the ice that builds up on the roof behind them, melts and rots wood in attics. Their beauty disguises the warning of other potential damage including loosened or broken shingles, cracked chimney stacks, ruined insulation, damaged drywall or even a roof collapsing.



Icicles form on days when the outdoor air temperature is subfreezing but heat escaping through the attic melts snow or ice on top. As it drips off the roof, a water droplet freezes as it loses heat to the cold air. Over time, ice gets thicker and thicker to create an ice dam. Eventually, the water behind the ice dam builds up enough to push under the shingles and into the house.

Roof rakes, heat cables and ice dam removal companies only address the symptoms of ice damming. While you may never completely eliminate icicles, there are two parts to a long-term solution: reducing the heat escaping into the attic and removing the heat that does.

**Attic insulation and air sealing**

Since most of this misplaced heat comes from below the attic, ensure proper insulation and air sealing. According to the Department of Energy, Nebraska homes should have enough insulation to equate to at least an R49 value in attics. This value is equal to about 15 inches of fiberglass batt material assuming an average of R3.25 per inch of thickness. Note that if you have loose-fill insulation in your attic, the R-value of does not change proportionately with thickness. Rather, manufacturers provide coverage charts that specify the amount needed to achieve a particular R-value.

Air leaks transmit a lot of heat into the attic quickly. When trying to seal up sources of these leaks, pay particular attention to the following items that often penetrate into the attic:

 (continues on next page)



## Icicles

*(continued from previous page)*

- ▶ Chimneys
- ▶ Plumbing stacks
- ▶ Recessed lighting from the ceiling below
- ▶ Bathroom and clothes dryer ventilation

Of the four, bathroom and clothes dryer exhausts can be the worst. Not only do they bring heat into the attic area, some are not completely ducted outside and dump warm, moisture-laden air right into the attic. This often leads to problems similar to ice damming such as rotting rafters, ruined insulation, moisture inside walls, mold, and peeling paint.

### More attic ventilation

Though secondary to insulation and sealing, ventilation is also important. No matter how much you insulate, some heat will still come through. Proper attic ventilation promptly moves the undesired heat outdoors before it causes melting on your roof.

Many homes built before 1980 have inadequate attic ventilation. When checking your attic's insulation levels, look for these signs of moisture problems:

- ▶ Damp insulation
- ▶ Unnaturally dark or discolored decking
- ▶ Dark streaks on roof boards around nails
- ▶ Orange resin beads on rafters signaling sweating wood
- ▶ Moisture on roof boards and rafters
- ▶ Crumbling, curled roof shingles

Lexington Utilities System, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, is happy to help you make the most of the energy needed to keep you warm, safe and sound this winter. For additional ideas, as well as information on EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> incentives to help with the cost of efficiency improvements, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com).



Remember, you're not just fertilizing your lawn



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

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**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  
Nebr. Dept. or  
Environment  
& Energy





## Housing Lots Available in Northwest Lexington



**Contact  
Lexington  
City Manager  
308-324-2341**

- **Dozens of sites to choose from**
- **Protective covenants in place**
- **Utilities on site(Electric, Sewer, Water)**
- **Sewer depths accommodate basements**
- **Close to Optimist Recreation Complex & Sandoz Elementary School**
- **Lots sizes: approx. 12,000 - 25,000 square feet**
- **\$0-\$5,000 each**
- **Are not located in floodplain;**

### WE ASK OUR CUSTOMERS



**Dan's Sanitation**  
324-6693 • Lexington

### DO NOT DEPOSIT IN TRASH DUMPSTERS:

yard waste • tree branches • wood • cement • iron • batteries and tires . . .  
. . . as the landfill will not accept these items.

### YOUR DUMPSTER IS FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD TRASH ONLY

If you have a curbside trash container, DO NOT place trash in large alley dumpsters. These are for alley customers only.

If your curbside trash container fills before the weekly pickup, please call for additional containers.

DO NOT under any circumstances put hot BBQ coals or fireplace ashes in your dumpster. If you are caught doing this you will have to pay to replace the dumpster if fire occurs.

If you see someone using alley containers for construction materials, yard waste, or other unaccepted items, please call us right away and we will take care of it.





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



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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>

Join us for the  
**Key '20 Dinner & Auction**

**Starlight Lounge Themed Event**  
**Saturday, April 25, 2020**

**Reservations Accepted Beginning**

**Monday, December 2, 2019**

**Reserved, Limited Seating**

**All reservations must be paid in advance**

**Individual Seats: \$125**

**Tables Seat Eight**

**Credit Cards Accepted**

**Lexington Community Foundation**

**PO Box 422 | 607 N Washington St**

**Lexington, NE 68850 | 308-324-6704**



## CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!  
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

### Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

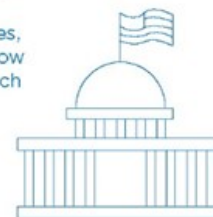


### It's in the constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

### It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



### It's about \$675 billion.



The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.



### It's about redistricting.

After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.



### Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"







## Library News

by Kathy Thomsen  
Library Director



907  
North  
Washington  
Street  
(308) 324-2151



### Prime Time Preschool Reading Time

for the spring  
of 2020 will  
begin on

February 29. A light lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m., followed by the reading program at noon. Prime Time Preschool Reading Time introduces young children and their families to the humanities and to literature through age-appropriate storytelling and literary exploration via center-based play. The program models strategies that encourage meaningful at-home reading behavior between parents/caregivers and their young children. Prime Time Preschool meets on consecutive Saturdays through April 4. Stop by the library or call 324-2151 to register for the Prime Time program.



The **Friends of the Library** will be selling brownies for 50 cents

each the week of February 10 and the week of March 16. If you are interested in the projects that the Friends of the Library support, please attend the next Friends of the Library meeting on February 24 at 3:00 p.m. at the library.

Celtic fingerstyle guitarist, **Jerry Barlow**, will be presenting a program at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 22. Barlow is a virtuoso musician, a warm and accessible performer and a world-class storyteller. His repertoire is composed of a synthesis of traditional music from the British Isles and his own original Celtic-inspired compositions. This program is funded by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund, the Lexington Community Foundation, the Emerson Fund and the Lexington Friends of the Library. The Friends of the Library will serve coffee and cookies following the program.



The February **"Booked for Lunch"**

program will feature Nebraska author/photographer,

**Faith A. Colburn**. Colburn, who is the author of two award-winning Nebraska memoirs, will share how the Great Plains inspired her writing. A light lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the program will begin at noon on February 20. Please call the library at 324-2151 to register for this program.



The first **Family Movie Night** of 2020 will be

held on Thursday, February 20, at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to come to the library on February 20 to enjoy a movie about a street urchin who finds a magic oil lamp. Movie snacks will be provided. Call the library for more information about this event.



The **Monday Afternoon Book Club** did not meet on February 3. The book, **Allie and Bea** by **Catherine Ryan Hyde**, which was scheduled to be discussed at the February meeting, will be discussed at the meeting in March. If you are interested in belonging to a book club, stop by the library, pick up a copy of Allie and Bea and join us at 3:00 p.m. on March 2 at the library.

### LEGO Club

meets the second Thursday of each month from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the library. The theme for the February 13 meeting is Stand Alone Heart or Love. The theme for the March 12 program is Flowers or Clover.





**LEXINGTON UTILITIES SYSTEM**

## Tips to Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Leave Water Running** - Just a small, slow stream/trickle is usually enough to keep the pipes from freezing.
- Leave cabinet doors open** so house heat can warm the pipes better.
- Do not set your thermostat lower than 55°F**, even if you plan to be away for an extended time.
- Unhook Garden Hoses.** You can also install frost-free faucets and insulate outdoor faucets.

### Mobile Homes Need Special Pipe Care

- Install **Insulated Tape Wrap** or even better **Electric Heat Tape** on pipes under the trailer.
- Make sure the trailer is **skirted**.



## Child Care Service Array Survey Day

On behalf of the Nebraska Child Well Being Initiative, the community of Lexington, and Dawson County, you are invited to participate in a community assessment and planning process for children, youth and families called **Service Array**.

Your voice, input, and engagement will be important to help generate accurate information and future directions for the availability, quantity, and quality of resources for children and youth in our community. Key areas to be included are: basic needs; health care; child and youth safety development; and family development.

More than 30 Nebraska counties have completed Service Array assessments with the tools and process developed by the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Family Centered Practice as a Service of the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Service Array is designed to utilize and build on our existing assessment and plans. It will serve as a detailed resource for planning expansions, enhancements, and realignments to achieve **better services for all of the children and families in our community**. This assessment will be facilitated by the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation as part of the Child Well Being Initiative.

A survey day is being held in Lexington, Gothenburg and Cozad to inform each community and to give us a clearer picture of well-being across Dawson County, with a county-wide meeting planned for April of 2020. **Lexington's** survey day will be **Tuesday, February 25, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**, at Central Community College located in the Opportunity Center. Lunch will be provided by Dawson County Community Collaborative through a grant from Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

Pre-registration by Wednesday, February 19, is appreciated for meal and material counts and for contact information in case of winter weather. Online registration is available at [www.GECLC.org](http://www.GECLC.org) or call or text 308-962-6874 and leave your name and email address to register. Feel free to share this letter with others you believe could be valuable to this process and invite them to join you.

We know your time is valuable, and so is your input! Your participation in this conversation is important to help us get the best picture possible of the needs and services available to children and families in our community.

Feel free to contact Andrea McClintic, Dawson Area Development, at [dawsonareadirector@gmail.com](mailto:dawsonareadirector@gmail.com) or 308-962-6874 with questions or to register.



Your Voice Can Make A Difference  
for Children and Families in Lexington

You are invited to share your voice, input, and perspective to help generate accurate information and provide future direction on needed resources for children, youth, and families in our community.

The Dawson County Community Well-Being Coalition is hosting a Service Array Survey Day in cooperation with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to gather information that will inform future plans to provide better services for all the children and families in our community.

Tuesday, February 25 | 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Central Community College @ the Opportunity Center

Any interested community members are invited and encouraged to participate in this conversation to help us get the best picture possible of the needs and services available to children and families in our community and throughout the county.

The day is free and lunch is provided through a grant from Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.  
Register online by Wednesday, February 19 for meal and materials counts.  
Learn more about the day and register at [www.GECLC.org](http://www.GECLC.org)



## Recreation Roundup



presents:

## Lexington TURF TOTS



**WHERE** Lexington Fieldhouse, 1502 Airport Road, Lexington, NE

**WHEN** February 2020  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**ABOUT**

- ▶ Turf Tots is a drop-in free play program for children 1-5 years old. Kids can run and play with equipment provided by the City, including sport balls, crawl tunnels, hula hoops, and more!
- ▶ Parents are required to play on the field and supervise during the event.
- ▶ Please ensure you and your toddler wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes.
- ▶ An extra layer is advisable in case they get cold.
- ▶ No food is allowed in the Fieldhouse.
- ▶ Water is allowed in spill-proof bottles on concrete areas.



**CONTACT** Ann H. Luther, 308-325-5277

## Open Tennis Times

**Lexington Fieldhouse**  
1502 Airport Road

**Mondays**  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

**Saturdays**  
12:00 - 3:00 p.m.



## LEARN TO PLAY PICKLEBALL

- FREE PICKLEBALL DRILLS & INSTRUCTION
- LEARN TO PLAY IN MINUTES (NOT HOURS)!
- WE PROVIDE ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT
- WEAR ATHLETIC SHOES
- 6:00 - 6:30 PM INTRODUCTION AND FUN DRILLS
- 6:30 - 8:30 PM OPEN COURTS FOR DROP-IN PLAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
JAKE SAULSBURY (P) 308.746.3543 (E)JSAULSBURY@CITYOFLEX.COM  
ANN LUTHER (P) 308.325.5277 (E)ALUTHER@CITYOFLEX.COM

**CHECK OUT THE FASTEST GROWING SPORT IN AMERICA!**

PICKLEBALL AT THE LEXINGTON OPTIMIST INDOOR HITTING COMPLEX



**MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**

(ADULTS ONLY 18+)  
6:30 - 8:30 PM

1601 W. 13th St.  
LEXINGTON, NE

ALL ARE WELCOME! NO CHARGE!



## Lexington snow and ice removal

**W**inter weather is 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).

Citizens living along these routes are encouraged to comply

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.



### What Not To Flush (or put down the drain) Could clog your drains or sewers!



- ▶ paper, plastic or cardboard
- ▶ feminine hygiene products
- ▶ wipes (baby or personal)
- ▶ prophylactic items
- ▶ cloth or string
- ▶ grease, oil, wax or fats
- ▶ diapers
- ▶ wrappers
- ▶ bottles
- ▶ cat litter
- ▶ medicines



**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
- pick up free wood chips or compost
- recycle paper, plastic, cardboard and pallets



