

City Happenings

#94



April 2022



Lexington Racquet Center Gets Huge Boost



The proposed Lexington Racquet Center project has been awarded \$600,000 in funding from the **Nebraska Department of Economic Development**, through the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCF). The Fund's purpose is to support the development of civic and community centers throughout Nebraska and to support projects that foster maintenance or growth of communities.

Many Nebraska communities competed for this grant. Fortunately Lexington had strategic laid some of the groundwork, including a public



townhall meeting on July 15, 2021, and subsequently completing a feasibility study in September.

Stay tuned for more information as it develops!



Arbor Day Foundation Grant Will Help Soften the Bite of Ash Borer

The Get Rooted in Lexington Tree Recovery Campaign will Plant and Distribute Trees to City Organizations Affected by Emerald Ash Borer

The Arbor Day Foundation's Lexington, Nebraska, Tree Recovery Campaign – a partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and Peter Kiewit Foundation, will plant and distribute more than 60 trees in Lexington starting on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, from 4:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., at The Optimist Recreation Complex, 13th & Airport Road.

Local partners/tree recipients are Lexington Parks, Schools, Cemeteries, Museum and Housing Authority. These new trees will be free of charge and help to replace trees damaged and destroyed by Emerald Ash Borer.

"The people of Nebraska have suffered great personal and physical loss," said Dan Lambe, Arbor Day Foundation president. "By replanting, we strive to bring healing and hope to the people and the communities in which they live, as well as help return the beauty and the value trees bring back to their properties."



"When Emerald Ash Borer invades a community, historically all the community's ash trees die within a few years," said Assistant City Manager and Tree Board Liaison Dennis Burnside. The insect has been positively identified less than 50 miles away which, experts say, means Emerald Ash Borer is on our doorstep. "With help from the Arbor Day Foundation and other partners, we're getting a start on planting new trees and growing the next canopy to replace the certain loss of ash trees," Burnside added

The Lexington Tree Board conducted a tree inventory in 2021, which listed more than 550 ash trees in public spaces, which includes parks, cemeteries, schools, and other publicly held land, plus residential street trees. Not counting the street trees, there are about 150 ash trees on public land. The Arbor Grant will cover replacement for almost half – about 65 trees. These will be distributed to local partners on April 27 (see flier, next page).



"The grant requires recipients receive tree planting training," said Burnside. Training will be given at the event, by members of the Lexington Tree Board and Parks staff. Although no homeowners are eligible in this round, all are welcome to attend the free training, which should last 10-15 minutes.

There will be a drawing for one free tree for one lucky homeowners who attends. Light refreshments will be served at the event.

The [Arbor Day Foundation's Community Tree Recovery Program](#), a national program underwritten by FedEx and Foundation members, aims to replace trees in communities affected by natural disasters throughout the United States. The program has held more than 1050 events, distributing more than 5.3 million trees since its inception. To donate to the recovery efforts supported by this campaign or others across the country please visit [arborday.org/recovery](#).

About the Arbor Day Foundation: Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has grown to become the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees, with more than one million members, supporters, and valued partners. Their vision is to help others understand and use trees as a solution to many of the global issues we face today, including air quality, water quality, climate change, deforestation, poverty and hunger. As one of the world's largest operating conservation foundations, the Arbor Day Foundation educates and engages stakeholders and communities across the globe to involve themselves in its mission of planting, nurturing and celebrating trees. More information is available at [arborday.org](#).





Get Rooted in Lexington

Tree Distribution and
Planting Celebration

Help us plant a better future

April 27, 2022

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Optimist Recreation Complex

South Parking Lot
13th & Airport Road
Lexington, Nebraska

Tree Distribution to City Parks,
Schools, Cemetery, Museum
and Lexington Housing Authority



Free "How to Plant a Tree" Demonstration

Lexington Tree Board & Parks Staff

Drawing for a
FREE TREE!

COMMUNITY TREE
RECOVERYTM
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

150TH
ANNIVERSARY
OF ARBOR DAY

50 YEARS
Arbor Day
Foundation®





UTILITIES SYSTEM

EnergyWise Tip: Smart Thermostats



by NPPD Energy Efficiency Program Manager Cory Fuehrer

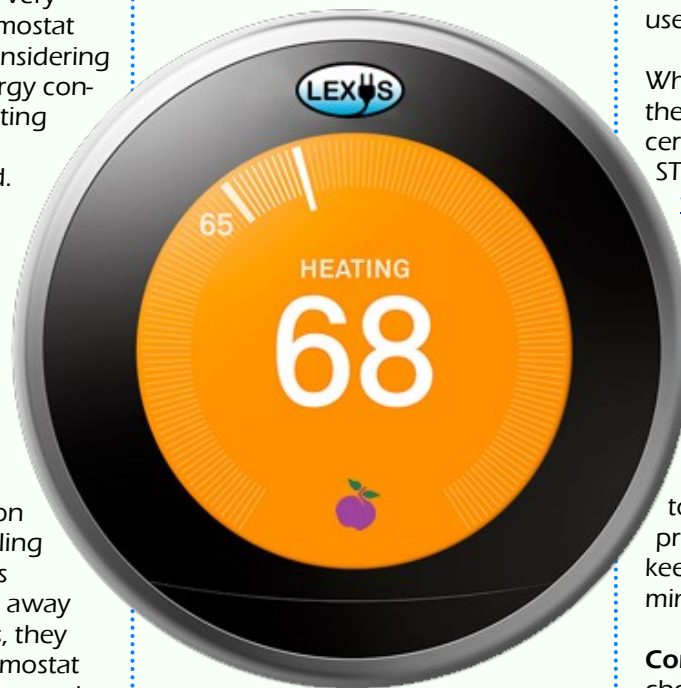
When was the last time your home's thermostat was adjusted to reduce energy costs? A 2018 survey indicated that only half of Nebraskans living outside metropolitan areas were very likely to adjust their thermostat when leaving home. Considering about 50% of home energy consumption is used for heating and cooling, significant savings could be realized.

The U.S. Department of Energy states that energy costs can be reduced up to 10% a year by simply turning your thermostat back by 7° to 10°F for eight hours a day. They recommend settings of 68°F in the heating season and 78°F during the cooling season when someone is home and active. When away or during sleeping hours, they suggest turning the thermostat down to 55°F in the winter and up to 85°F or higher in the summer.

Unfortunately, there are countless explanations why more people do not employ this energy-saving strategy. While some are perfectly reasonable, inconvenience no longer has to be one for homes with a smart thermostat. These energy-efficient devices work in much the same way as a traditional thermostat. However, smart thermostats connect to Wi-Fi and

can be controlled via smartphone apps. Some types of smart thermostats can even learn repetitive user behaviors to decide when to heat and cool a home.

Though programmable thermostats allow some of the same automated



control by entering a fixed routine of setpoints, users often override and even abandon their programs when personal schedules fall outside the norm. On the other hand, smart thermostats can change setpoints in real-time so no one has to come home to an overly cold or stifling place.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® program concluded that homes with smart thermostats can save up to \$180 per year on heating and cooling. With

quality units ranging from \$60 to a few hundred dollars, they quickly pay for themselves. While installing a smart thermostat may not be the right choice for those who move often, rent or seldom leave their home, most can enjoy this hassle-free way of managing home temperatures and energy use.

When shopping for a smart thermostat, start with the certified models on the ENERGY STAR® website at: <https://www.energystar.gov/productfinder/product/certified-connected-thermostats/>.

While there are various features to look for when choosing a smart thermostat, the importance of each will vary from buyer to buyer. Regardless of preferences, everyone should keep the following concerns in mind:

Compatibility - It's vital to choose a thermostat this is compatible with the current HVAC system. Otherwise, homeowners can expect to spend several hundred dollars on complex compatibility work.

Price - The budget often impacts a buyer's options, and those who do not intend to remain in a particular home for a long time may not want to invest in a more-expensive model. Fortunately, lower-cost smart thermostats are

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Smart Thermostats

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very common, popular and often just as effective as pricey models.

Ease of Use - Most smart thermostats allow users to adjust parameters and settings via a smartphone app. Others track the behaviors and patterns of tenants to formulate software-generated schedules of heating and cooling. These types of software depend on at least some user interface and interaction. That is why it is important to familiarize yourself with your preferred product's app and system before making a final decision.

Professional Installation - Some HVAC systems cannot be easily connected to certain smart thermostats. Before choosing a product, ensure that your preferred thermostat functions with your heating and cooling system. While professional installation may add significantly to the overall cost of a smart thermostat, it may save tons of frustration and ensures your system operates as expected.

Lexington Utilities System has information on additional ways to efficiently use the energy they provide while keeping your home comfortable. In partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, they offer smart thermostat and other incentives to reduce the cost for many of these improvements. Visit with Lexington Utilities System or go to www.nppd.com for additional ways you can become more EnergyWiseSM!



Come Play the New Game FARKLE!

Play **FARKLE** Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 at Lexington's Grand Generation Center.

FARKLE is a game of chance and strategy where you roll the dice to earn points.

Any number of people of any age can play.

It's easy to learn and a lot of fun.



407
E. 6th



APRIL 18



NATIONAL
LINEMAN
APPRECIATION DAY

National Lineman Appreciation Day is a time to express our appreciation to the great men and women that work so hard for us every day. It's our honor to celebrate the hard work, innovation, and dedication of Electrical Lineworkers. #thankalineman

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.





Before

YOUR **2020** CITY

Northwest Trail, Phase 2 (from 13th St.)

2022
PROGRESS!

After

CITY OF
Lexington
NEBRASKA

DRIVING RANGE NOW OPEN

Self-Service



May be closed if cold or rainy . . .
Notices posted on the City's Facebook Page
**Just southeast of the Lexington Fieldhouse
Optimist Recreation Complex
13th & Airport Road**

Small Bucket
about 40 balls
\$3

Medium Bucket
about 75 balls
\$5

Large Bucket
about 105 balls
\$7

**"To leave the world better than you
found it, sometimes you have
to pick up other people's trash."**





Library News

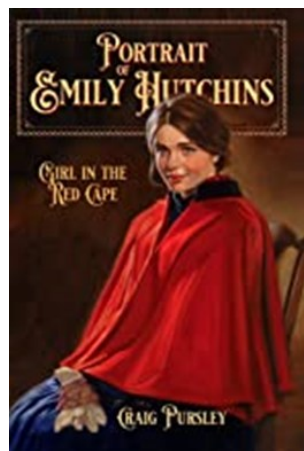


907 N Washington
(308) 324-2151



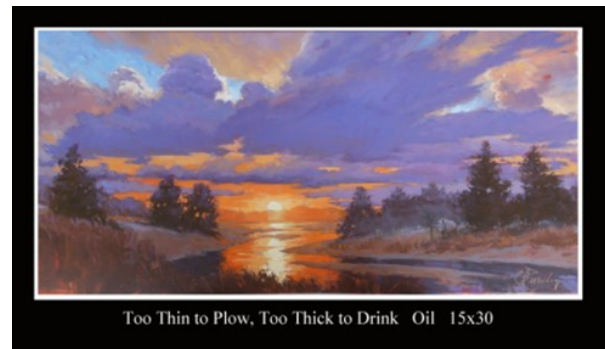
by Jennifer Norton
Library Director

“Books are a uniquely portable magic.” - *Stephen King*



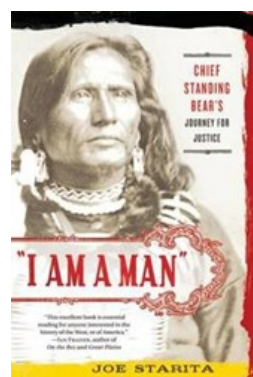
Welcome home Lexington native **Craig Pursley** who will be at the Library on Tuesday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m. Now a world-renown artist, when Pursley was in high school he painted a mural eight feet high and 24 feet long. The mural is still displayed at Lexington High School. Now Craig has written and illustrated a book, “Portrait of Emily Hutchins,” about a young woman in Civil War-era New England.

Below are more examples of Craig’s beautiful paintings.



On Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m., Omaha author **Jonis Agee** will discuss her book “The Bones of Paradise: A Novel

Examined.” The Nebraska Center for the Book has named this novel as the “2022 One Book One Nebraska.” Agee is the author of thirteen books, including five novels and five collections of short fiction.



On Thursday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m., author **Joe Starita** will discuss his book, “I Am a Man: Chief Standing Bear’s

Journey for Justice.” This book was the 2012 “One Book One Nebraska” selection. Starita grew up in Lincoln, has been a reporter for the Miami Herald and is now a professor at the University of Nebraska’s College of Journalism.

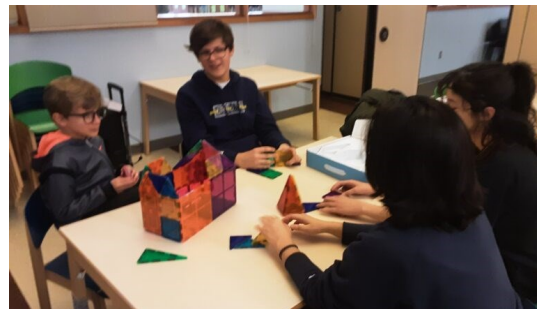


Like us on Facebook



(from the Lexington Public Schools website)

LHS Students Volunteer at Library



Throughout this school year Lexington High School students have volunteered their time at the Lexington Public Library. They have served cookies for the Humanities Nebraska Program, decorated a float for the Christmas Parade, offered babysitting services at Mommies Club, and assisted students with crafts and games at

Prime Time Fridays and the after-school program. If students are interested in volunteering for future activities at the public library email or talk to Mrs. Buck.

Find the original posting here: <https://www.lexschools.org/lexington-high-school-students-volunteer/>



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>



SUMMER JOBS - Temporary Seasonal Workers, Part-time

APPLY NOW!

Positions available include:

- Concession Workers (age 14+)
- Lifeguards (age 15+)
- City Park and Cemetery Maintenance (age 16+)

The City of Lexington is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Download an application from the city website, www.cityoflex.com/human-resources/.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

April is Fair Housing Month

FAIR HOUSING IS YOUR RIGHT: USE IT!

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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.



Lexington Named a Tree City USA for 25th Consecutive Year



The Arbor Day Foundation has named Lexington a Tree City USA City community for the 25th year in a row. The designation recognizes

Lexington's commitment to nurturing a diverse urban forest in 2021. In addition Lexington has been given a "Growth Award" for completing a city-wide tree inventory in 2021.

Arbor Day 2022 is April 29. 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 Lexington Tree Board recommends the following trees to be good fits for Lexington's needs, climate, and

soils: Mountain Ash, Coffeetree, Gingko (male only!), Hackberry, American Linden, Elm (Princeton, Discovery, Accolade, Frontier, Triumph, Japanese, Jefferson, New Horizons or Lacebark), Maple (Norway, Sugar or Miyabe), Orange Osage, Goldenraintree, Honeylocust (Shademaster), Linden (American or Littleleaf), Oak (Bur or Chinkapin), Japanese Pagodatree, and Walnut.



FREE COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT

KEEP LEXINGTON BEAUTIFUL

Friday April 15th 2022
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
617 N Grant St.
H & R Block

For more information
Call 308-325-5701
klbnebraska@gmail.com



Go **NE** Where

PUBLIC TRANSIT WEEK

Public Transit Week April 17-23, 2022



Please call (308) 865-5677 to schedule your RYDE* today!

*Reach Your Destination Easily!





407 E. 6th

MENU

- Apple Crusted Pork Chop
- Mashed Potato w/ Gravy
- Corn & Broccoli Casserole
- Mixed Fruit
- Dinner Roll
- Dessert

LEXINGTON GGC

Easter Dinner

April 18, 2022
11:30 - 12:45

COST: \$6.50
(under age 60)
\$4.00 (60+)

Call by noon,
April 1 to place a
to-go order.

(308) 324-2498

Lexington Community Foundation

PRESENTS

The Key 2022
**CASINO
ROYALE**

Dinner & Auction

SAVE THE DATE
FOR A NIGHT OF HIGH STYLE, COCKTAILS,
DINNER, SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS AND
CAMARADERIE

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022
Prepaid Reservations Accepted

Reserved, Limited Seating Only
Individual Seats: \$125
Tables Seat Eight
Credit Cards Accepted

Formal Dress - Black tie optional

Lexington Community Foundation
PO Box 422 | 607 N Washington
Lexington, NE 68850
308.324.6704
office@lexfoundation.org



National Police Week May 11-16, 2022

President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 to be **National Peace Officers Memorial Day**

to celebrate Police Week, Monday, May 16, is "National Wear Purple for Peace" Day.

Thursday, May 12, is "Turn Lex Blue Day," a day to wear blue in honor of all law enforcement officers.



**801 West Vine St.
308-324-5995
Mon. - Fri.
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

SUMMER SATURDAYS

(May - October):

The Service Building is open the **third Saturday** of the month
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.



- dispose of furniture, appliances, pallets, and other large items (small fee may apply)
- recycle paper, plastic, and cardboard
- pick up free wood chips or compost



Remember, it ALL drains to our lakes and rivers



Help keep pollution out of storm drains

Only rain in the drain!

That's because storm drains and roadside ditches lead directly to our lakes and rivers. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, trash, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and rivers. With thousands of people living in and around Lexington, we all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains.

So what can you do? Simple:

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks, back onto your lawn.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, trash, and fertilizers out of storm drains.
- Do not dump motor oil, anti-freeze, chemicals, pet waste, dirty soapy water, or anything else down the storm drains.
- Volunteer to label the storm drains in your neighborhood to inform your neighbors that storm drains flow directly to our lakes and rivers (contact Keep Lexington Beautiful, (308) 324-7986, or keeplexbeautiful@yahoo.com).

KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN!



Support provided by
Nebr. Dept. of
Environment
& Energy



www.cityoflex.com



STOP AND THINK.

APRIL IS
**FAIR
HOUSING
MONTH**

LET'S MAKE UNFAIR HOUSING HISTORY.

Visit nar.realtor/FHM to access tools to help you prevent discrimination in real estate.



CLIP & 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 a local radio or television station for information and 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 are urged to notify the Dawson County Emergency Center at 911.

ALL-CLEAR

The 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 a local radio or TV station 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 safe 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.

