

# City Happenings



December 2022 # 98

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

## Trail of Lights Open with More Lights and Features



This is the second year of lighting up Kirkpatrick Memorial Park with our Trail of Lights. New lighted areas this year include lighting the outer trees around the trail, a Messerschmidt donated collection of holiday lights, a Christmas train, beach snowmen and wave of lights in the area of the Lexington Family Aquatic Center.

Dawson Public Power District donated time to light the southeast section of the trail, including several tall spruce trees and a large linden. Shotkoski Hay Company once again donated hay bales throughout the park, the largest section being the hay bale Christmas tree that stands more than 30 feet high. Many volunteers helped decorate the park along with a long list of sponsors who donated some of the large holiday scenery throughout the park. A list of sponsors that helped make this project possible is displayed on the trail.



## Veterans Pavilion Project Making Great Progress

Construction has recently started on a Veterans Memorial Pavilion at the south end of Kirkpatrick Memorial Park. When finished, the project will include an amphitheater and five stations honoring five branches of the military. The project has been made possible by many generous donations and fund-raising work by the Veterans Memorial Steering Committee and the Lexington Community Foundation. The goal is to have the project completed in time for a grand opening on Memorial Day weekend 2023.



(looking northwest)



(looking northeast)





## Library News



907 N Washington  
(308) 324-2151



by Jennifer Norton  
Library Director

“When I have a little money, I buy books; and if I have any left, I buy food and clothes.” - Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus



**Booked for Lunch** is back! Join us for a light lunch and a fun program on December 8 at 11:30 a.m. Please

pre-register with the library 308-324-2151.



December’s program features holiday music with **Cheryl and Dennis Burnside**.

December’s **Family Fun Night** will be Monday, December 19, from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. We’ll do crafts, cookie decorating, snowman dress-up and more! A light meal will be provided.



Like us on Facebook

**MOVIE EVENT**

It's a Wonderful Life  
Wednesday, December 14  
2 pm

LIBERTY FILMS PRESENTS  
Frank CAPRA'S  
**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE**  
Starring  
James STEWART  
and Donna REED  
LIONEL BARRYMORE - THOMAS MITCHELL - HENRY TRAVERS -  
BEULAH BONDI - WARD BOND - FRANK FAYLEN - GIORA GRAHAMIE  
DIRECTED BY FRANK CAPRA

Lexington PUBLIC LIBRARY



## HOW DOES STORMWATER IMPACT OUR WATER SUPPLY?

A WATERSHED IS ALL THE LAND AREA THAT DRAINS INTO A STREAM, RIVER, LAKE OR OTHER BODY OF WATER. STORMWATER RUNOFF – RAINFALL THAT DOES NOT SOAK INTO THE GROUND, BUT INSTEAD FLOWS OVER THE LAND OR THROUGH STORM SEWER PIPES INTO THESE SURFACE WATERS – IS IMPORTANT TO REPLENISH OUR WATER SUPPLY AND CONTRIBUTES TO MAINTAINING GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER FLOWS THAT SUPPORT AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITAT.

STORMWATER IS NOT TREATED AT FACILITIES BEFORE IT ENTERS THE ENVIRONMENT. ANY POLLUTANTS OR LITTER PICKED UP BY STORMWATER GOES DIRECTLY INTO SURFACE WATER SOURCES. AS THE NUMBER OF IMPERVIOUS SURFACES SUCH AS ROOFTOPS, ROADS AND PARKING LOTS INCREASE, THE FEWER OPPORTUNITIES RAINFALL HAS TO NATURALLY RETURN TO THE ENVIRONMENT. PROPER MANAGEMENT OF STORMWATER CAN HELP AVOID NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS LIKE EROSION, FLOODING AND CONTAMINATION OF OUR WATER.

WHILE STORMWATER IS AN IMPORTANT ASSET FOR REPLENISHING NATURAL BODIES OF WATER, STORMWATER POLLUTION CAN MAKE MONITORING AND TREATMENT OF OUR DRINKING WATER MORE DIFFICULT AND COSTLY, ESPECIALLY IN METROPOLITAN NORTH GEORGIA WHERE ALMOST ALL OF OUR DRINKING WATER COMES FROM SURFACE WATER. WHEN MANAGED PROPERLY, STORMWATER CAN SUPPORT THE HEALTH OF THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM OF THE STREAMS, RIVERS AND LAKES THAT SO MANY USE FOR SWIMMING, FISHING OR OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.



## SUMMER JOBS - Temporary Seasonal Workers, Part-time



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/](http://www.cityoflex.com/human-resources/).





UTILITIES SYSTEM

## EnergyWise Tip: **Holiday Efficiency Savings**

**ENERGYWISE**  
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

by NPPD Energy Efficiency  
Program Manager  
Cory Fuehrer

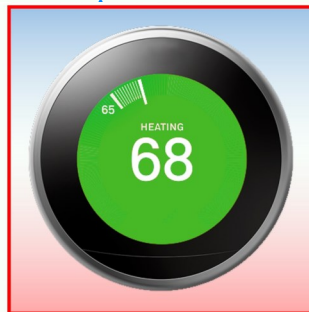
The cost of decking the halls, devouring delectable holiday treats, imbibing fine spirits and celebrating with family and friends over the holidays can really add up. Here are a few efficiency ideas to lighten their impact on your finances, schedules and the environment.

and off at the appropriate times – typically on at dusk and off at bedtime. To safely control exterior lights around your home, use a weatherproof outdoor timer.

Consider decorations with few or no lights. Reflective ornaments, candles, ribbons and garland make the most of low-lighting conditions. They can be used throughout the house to decorate staircases, entryways, mantels or wherever else you want to add some holiday cheer.

a window to cool down is very inefficient, especially if you forget to close the window afterward. If you are baking, turn the oven off when finished and leave the door open to circulate extra heat into the room.

For those who may feel a little chilled, add another layer of clothing or grab a blanket rather than turning the thermostat up.



### **Decorating**

If you haven't already, switch to LED Christmas lights. LED Christmas lights last longer and only use about 10% of the electricity when compared to traditional incandescent bulbs that produce the same amount of light. Pre-lit, fiber optic trees and decorations also use LEDs with the added benefit of being shatterproof, shock-resistant, and cool to the touch.

Use a timer for all holiday lights. Set it to automatically turn your holiday lights on

When operating holiday lights, turn off room lights. This enhances the holiday mood while providing sufficient lighting for most activities. Note that fireplaces also provide warm, ambient light. Just remember to close the flue when the fireplace is cold and not in use to ensure heat isn't escaping up the chimney.

### **Heating**

When you have guests, turn down the thermostat and take advantage of the body heat they generate. Waiting until guests are too warm and then opening

Considering this is the only time of the year you can get away with wearing your favorite ugly Christmas sweater or Santa hat, why not take advantage of the opportunity?

### **Cooking**

While creating your culinary delights, keep the lid on pots and pans and the oven door closed. Food will cook faster and require less energy while cooking. Use a timer to prevent overcooking and the

*(continues on next page)*



## Holiday Efficiency Savings

*(continued from previous page)*

oven light to check on your food's progress. Remember it takes about the same amount of energy to heat an oven full of food as it does a nearly empty one. When possible, bake several dishes at the same time.

For smaller cooking tasks, use kitchen appliances like the microwave or toaster oven. Save the oven for larger and longer cooking projects like roasting a turkey or ham. Rather than grabbing a pot for tasks like melting chocolate, making cocoa or warming up leftovers, use the microwave to reduce energy usage by 50% or more.

### Shopping

Give the gift of energy efficiency. When considering household appliances and electronics, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. ENERGY STAR-certified products use up to 60% less electricity than non-certified products. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for a list of qualified ideas to ensure your gift will save energy for years to come.

Shop locally. Not only will it save time and energy by not making an extended shopping trip, but it also helps support small businesses in your area. Are you more of an online shopper? Check out <https://buynebraska.com>, <https://grownebraska.org> and <https://fromne.com> for a huge selection of great gifts from retailers right here in Nebraska.

Lexington Utilities System, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, want to help you make the most of this holiday season! For additional ways you can become more EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup>, visit with Lexington Utilities System or go to [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com).



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



**Look for this button at**

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



**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>





## 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.**



## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**Friday & Saturday  
December 23 & 24**  
City Offices closed

**Monday, Dec. 26**  
City Offices closed

**Monday, January 2**  
City Offices closed

**Before**



**YOUR 2021 CITY**

**Levander's Body Shop & ServiceMaster**

**2022 PROGRESS!**

**After**





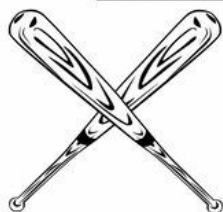




Joining us for our Birthday Luncheon will be **Roger and Deb Wells**, a local couple who perform a musical duo featuring guitar and soprano voice. Both are incredibly talented and we're fortunate to have them perform for us. Come to the Grand Generation Center on Friday, December 9, and enjoy some nice Christmas music!

JINGLE BELLS Yule White Christmas  
 Oh Holy Night Noel Silent Night Noel  
 Christmas NOEL Silent Night  
 JINGLE BELLS Christmas Oh Holy Night  
 Silent Night Yule Christmas Whi  
 CHRISTMAS Yule JINGLE BELLS Yule  
 SILENT NIGHT Christmas CHRISTMAS  
 Noel Oh Christmas Tree Noel  
 Yule SILENT NIGHT YULE Noel  
 Oh Christmas Tree Oh Holy Night  
 Yule Jingle Bells Christmas

## OPEN HIT NIGHT



**TUESDAYS:**  
 December 6, 13, 20  
 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
 1601 W. 13th St.

**BASEBALL**  
**GOLF**  
**SOFTBALL**

The Lexington Optimist Hitting Complex - Open Hit Night - Available for all ages for use of the batting cages, pitching machines, and golf range nets. Middle School students and younger need to be accompanied by an adult. High School and Adult participants are welcomed without supervision.

Contact **Jake Saulsbury, 308-746-3543**  
[jsaulsbury@cityoflex.com](mailto:jsaulsbury@cityoflex.com) with questions

## OPEN TENNIS



**MONDAYS:**  
 December 5, 12, 19  
 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
 &  
**SATURDAYS:**  
 December 3, 10, 17  
 12:30 - 2:00 pm

*Lexington Fieldhouse*

Open Tennis is available for students 4th grade and up at the Lexington Fieldhouse. Courts are available for rally and competitive play. This is not a structured class, but kids will be organized by skill level and receive guidance on what to work on or play, based on participant numbers and skill levels present.

Contact **Jake Saulsbury, 308-746-3543**  
[jsaulsbury@cityoflex.com](mailto:jsaulsbury@cityoflex.com) with questions





## Lexington Receives “Free Fall Trees”



This flowering crab tree was planted on the north side of the Northwest Hike-Bike Trail Phase 1. Shown left to right: Tree Board members Dave Stenberg and Tom Nelson, and Assistant City Manager Dennis Burnside.



Lexington received five free fall trees this fall, which were planted along the hike-bike trail in the northwest. All five were received through a “Free Trees for Fall Planting” grant offered through the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, and funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Nebraska Forest Service was also instrumental in organizing the program. One goal of the grant is to remind Nebraskans that fall is an excellent time to plant trees.

Earlier this year the Lexington Tree Board applied for this competitive grant. This is the 11th consecutive year Lexington has received free fall trees so, since 2012, that’s 105 free trees for Lexington so far!

In 2023 and beyond, the City will plant more trees along trails, and in parks, cemeteries, green spaces, and in new developments.



## Lexington snow and ice removal

**W**inter weather is upon us 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.

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 with the prohibition and move

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.



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





**Lexington  
Emergency  
Snow  
Routes**





# YOUTH

Mondays:  
January 9, 16, 23, 30

# TENNIS

## 2023

Pre-K to 5th Grade  
Red, Orange, & Yellow Ball Instruction

All Classes will take place at the Lexington Fieldhouse  
1602 N. Airport Rd.

➔ Free to Participate

➔ Pre-Register by January 6 to help us prepare for class sizes

Pre-register by texting or emailing Jake Saulsbury at: 308-746-3543 or [jsaulsbury@cityoflex.com](mailto:jsaulsbury@cityoflex.com)

Please include:

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

➔ 5:15 - 5:45 pm  
Red Ball: Pre-k

➔ 5:45 - 6:30 pm  
Red Ball: K - 1st Gr.

➔ 6:30 - 7:15 pm  
Orange Ball:  
2nd & 3rd Grade

➔ 7:15 - 8:15 pm  
Yellow Ball:  
4th & 5th Grade

➔ 8:15 - 9:15 pm  
MS & HS Open Tennis





# TRAIL OF LIGHTS

KIRKPATRICK MEMORIAL PARK

## COME CELEBRATE THE LIGHTS

# EVENT NIGHT!

**DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17**  
**TIME: 5:30 - 7:00 PM**

Complimentary Hot Chocolate provided by Plum Creek Market Place	Special Visit from Santa Claus, Santa's Elf, & The Grinch
Community Concert Carolers	<b>Food Available for Purchase:</b>
Live Nativity (First United Methodist Church)	Bunuelos \$3.00
	Churros \$5.00
	Frituras (Fritos) \$5.00

\*provided by:  
Grassroots Leadership Development Program  
50% of proceeds will go towards The Trail of Lights

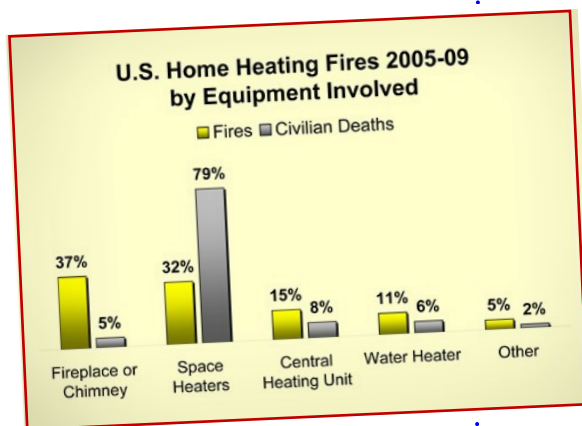


# Space Heater Safety

You might be turning on a space heater to keep warm in this cool weather. However, you might not know that thousands of fires are caused every year by space heaters, especially improperly used ones. The National Fire Protection Association says in 2011, space heaters were involved in about 17,850 home fires.

on the heater and start a fire.

- Do not use extension cords with space heaters unless absolutely necessary. If you have to use an extension cord, make sure it has a power rating as high or higher as that of the heater itself. Keep the cord stretched out and do not allow it to become buried under rugs



or carpeting. Don't place anything on top of the cord. If the cord ever feels even slightly warm, discontinue use.

- Inspect the heater's cord periodically to look for frayed wire or damaged insulation. Do not use a space heater with a damaged cord.
- Check periodically for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug becomes very hot, the outlet may need

to be replaced by a qualified technician. This could be the sign of a potential home wiring issue.

Here are some safety tips from Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and other sources:

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Every level of your home should have a working smoke detector that is tested on a monthly basis.
- Keep all space heaters three feet away from anything that could catch on fire.
- Make sure the space heater includes a tip-over switch to ensure that it shuts off if it accidentally tips over.
- NEVER leave a space heater unattended.
- NEVER use a space heater in the room where you will be sleeping.
- NEVER place heaters on furniture. They are designed to be placed on the floor.
- Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, do not use in damp, wet areas.
- NEVER place heaters where towels or other objects could fall



- Use space heaters only as a supplementary, small-area sources of heat. They are not intended to replace the home's heating system, and turning the central heating system down too low may result in water pipes bursting.
- Don't use a space heater to dry your wet clothes or pull it closer when you are in a bath tub.
- Keep pets and children away from space heaters.

- Space heaters take a lot of electricity. They can overload the home's wiring, especially if other high-wattage appliance are on at the same time. This may cause overheating of circuits, which may lead to fires.
- Make sure the space heater you are buying is certified and labeled as such on the box (such as Underwriters Laboratory).
- If you have a **liquid-fueled** space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. The wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment was designed for and cause a serious fire.
- When refueling, turn off the heater and let it cool down completely before adding fuel. Wipe away any spills promptly.
- Before you buy a kerosene heater, check with your local fire department to ensure that it is legal in your area.
- Kerosene heaters have a different type of threat with the potential of carbon monoxide poisoning, so take that into consideration.

