

City Happenings

#102



August 2023



The End of an Era, Times Two

Two long time City of Lexington Department Heads are retiring soon. They have done a great job and defined an era. They leave big shoes to fill, and we will miss them and wish them the best in retirement.



Tracy Wolf, now in his 40th year with the Lexington Police Department, will retire August 22, 2023. A native of Eustis, Nebraska, he joined as a Police Recruit on December 14, 1983, soon after his honorable discharge from the United States Army, where he rose

to the rank of Specialist 4th Class. The Police Chief at the time was Jim Joneson; the City Manager was Bill Podraza. Wolf wrote on his employment application form that he learned things in the Army "That I feel will help me out and the people I would serve."

He completed basic training at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in 1984. Many training excursions followed, and soon he was helping train the rest of the Police Department.

Nine years later he was promoted to Supervisory Sergeant. The Police Chief at that time was Charlie Clark. As Supervisory Sergeant, Tracy was



Barb Hodges's story is a little more complicated but it's safe to say she's worked for the City close to 40 years. She first joined the City as a Data Entry Operator in October of 1978. Back then she was Barb Mills; the City Manager was Jack

Heaton. Barb left in 1980 to care for her growing family. She eased back to the City part-time in 1984, as a Data Processing Operator, and ramped up to full-time in 1985. Always ambitious, Barb learned the duties at all the desks in the business office. Then in 1992 she left the City to start college. She returned in 1995, working some part-time and some full-time hours. After several title changes and additional job responsibilities, in 1997 she was appointed Interim Finance Director. Barb graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Accounting. Shortly after she became Finance

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Wolf (continued from Page 1)

Acting Police Chief whenever Charlie took a leave of absence. When Charlie retired in late 2010, according to Civil Service standards, a formal search was conducted to fill the position. After evaluating and interviewing several qualified candidates, on February 25, 2011, Tracy was officially named Chief of Police for the Lexington Police Department.

Chief Wolf has been involved on numerous boards, including South Central Area Law Enforcement Services, CODE Federal Drug Task Force, the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Police Standards Advisory Council at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, and Nebraska's Crime Commission.

There will be a retirement reception for Tracy August 22, 2-4 p.m. at the Grand Generation Center, 407 East 6th Street.

Hodges (continued from Page 1)

Director. In April 2000, she was appointed City Treasurer by City Manager, Joe Peplitsch. Also in 2000, Barb took over operations of the Lexington Utilities System business office. Barb has been a member of the Government Finance Officers Association for many years. She served on the Municipal Accounting and Finance Committee for the League of Nebraska Municipalities for 5 years and was a conference presenter several times.

Barb's last day will be September 1. There will be a retirement reception for Barb at the Grand Generation Center, 407 East 6th Street, on August 31 from 3-5 p.m.



**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, and other large items (small fee may apply)
- recycle paper, plastic, and cardboard
- pick up free wood chips or compost



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





Please Take the Backflow Survey

Here's how you can help us keep your water supply uncontaminated! The City has created an online survey, short and simple to complete. **All water customers – please help with this state requirement!**

The survey can be found at the City website: www.cityoflex.com. Just click on the Backflow article in the "News" section.

If you have questions please call 308-324-5995





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

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.




FARMERS MARKET



Starts June 17, 2023
Bob's True Value
 (1601 Plum Creek Parkway)
Saturdays 8-11 a.m.
Tuesdays 3-6 p.m.

(ends Oct. 7)





A New Way to Honor and Memorialize Veterans

As a lasting tribute to veterans in our lives, the Lexington Veterans Memorial Committee has found a great way to demonstrate your support of America's veterans in a special and permanent way. You now have the opportunity to purchase a commemorative brick which can be inscribed in honor or in memory of a veteran of your choosing.

These bricks will be cemented into the Memorial Wall at Lexington's new Veterans Pavilion at the south end of Kirkpatrick Memorial Park, accessible from East 7th Street. Each 4" x 8" brick sells for \$100. Please note this request from the Veterans Committee: the memorialized veteran and/or purchaser must have some tie to Lexington. They do not necessarily have to be born and raised here – it's also okay to have lived here at some time, or is related to someone who fits this guideline.

Each brick will have three lines, up to 20 characters per line, including spaces. The first line will be the veteran's name in all capital letters. The second line, upper- and lower-case, will be the veteran's rank. The third line, also upper-and lower

-case, gives the veteran's branch of the military, and his or her entry and discharge dates.



The bricks will be cemented randomly on the Veterans Pavilion Memorial Wall, 1,128 bricks per side, for a total of 2,256 bricks. If you have two veterans you want to ensure appear together, there's an option of purchasing an 8" x 8" (double height) brick, on which two names, ranks and branch can be engraved. These square bricks cost \$200 each.

The process is simple: fill out the form at <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/lex>, and remit your payment. If you are unsure of your veteran's information, don't worry. The Veterans Committee has access to military records. They will review all submissions and make sure the information is correct. They may also apply military-approved abbreviations, if necessary.

Thank you for supporting our local heroes!





EnergyWise Tip: **Energy Efficiency**



*by NPPD Energy Efficiency
Program Manager
Cory Fuehrer*

What is the difference between energy conservation and energy efficiency? Since the early 1970s, the term “energy conservation” has been characterized by a “save it” mentality after sudden energy price and supply issues impacted the world.

People found ways to use less energy by adjusting behaviors and habits. In doing so, they saved money.

But by 2010, the term “energy efficiency” was becoming popular as it implied using technology that required less energy to perform the same function without the personal sacrifice common with conservation measures.

Today, there are many reasons why homeowners should consider energy efficiency, from environmental and financial benefits to potential improvements in mental and physical health. In fact, energy efficiency has become one of the biggest opportunities for prospective and current homeowners. Here are some additional reasons why:

Reduce utility bills

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that you can save anywhere from 5% to 30% on your utility bills with energy efficient options and home upgrades. Energy efficient appliances consume less energy throughout their service lives without sacrificing quality and are an excellent way to lower energy expenditures.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Return on investment

Energy efficient purchases are an investment with savings that add up over the service life of the product. These savings can offset the initial price premium on energy efficient appliances and offer a significant return when compared to conventional, non-efficient alternatives.

Furthermore, that savings increases over time as energy prices tend to rise.

Protect the environment

Implementing energy efficiency is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint. Homes were responsible for 19% of national greenhouse gas emissions in 2016. Implementing home energy efficiency measures can significantly reduce a home’s emissions contribution. According to the DOE, the typical household can reduce

its energy use (and by extension its greenhouse gas emissions) by 25% to 30% percent by investing in energy efficiency opportunities.

Increase property value

In the housing market, energy efficient homes usually sell for a higher price than standard homes with comparable features. Every project that increases a home’s energy efficiency adds a portion of its cost to the final selling price. Potential home buyers recognize that energy-efficient homes have reduced utility bills and fewer repair bills, too.

Enhance quality of life

Implementing energy efficient measures creates a home that

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Energy Efficiency

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will be warmer, drier and properly ventilated. This lowers the risk of illness and mold growth. Energy efficiency also prevents the buildup of indoor pollutants, a major concern in areas with high radon emissions.

Regardless of the reasons, Lexington Utilities System, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, can help customers meet their energy efficiency goals. They may also provide EnergyWiseSM energy efficiency incentives to reduce the cost of improvements. Contact Lexington Utilities System or visit www.energywisenebraska.com for more information.



Buy a New Electric Lawn Mower, Get a Rebate



20% incentive on any NEW battery powered or corded lawn mower, chain saw, or tiller

Must be new and purchased on or after Jan. 1, 2023

Costs NOT eligible: installation, taxes, shipping/delivery, and setup costs

Chargers and additional battery purchases are eligible for the incentive at the time of initial snow blower purchase.

Proof of purchase required.



Nebraska Public Power District

Find the application form at www.EnergyWiseNebraska.com
Return paperwork to LEXUS, 406 E 7th, PO Box 70, Lexington, NE 68850





Library News



907 N Washington
(308) 324-2151



by Jennifer Norton
Library Director

"Many people, myself among them, feel better at the mere sight of a book."
- Jane Smiley (novelist)



Middle School After School Programs will begin August 21. The Lexington Public Library is once again partnering with LPS to offer programs to middle school students at the Library. Students will come to the Library on Mondays after school for a six-week session of activities, crafts, and fun learning opportunities.

A **Tween Book Club** at Lexington Middle School will begin in September. Up to 10 students from each grade (6th, 7th & 8th) will read and discuss a different book each month throughout the school year. Interested students should contact Middle School Media Specialist, **Erin Hanna**, to sign up.

A new **Teen Book Club** will also be starting soon.



Interested in the Classics? Contact **Kevin Zelaya** at the Lexington Public Library to get

involved in the latest book club offered at the library. September's selection is **A Christmas Carol** by **Charles Dickens**.



Thank you **Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation** for funds to digitize microfilm of Lexington newspapers. This project will create an online searchable database of the papers from 1874 through 1999. Future projects will complete the digitization from 2000 to present.



Storytime Kits

- Free Delivery
- 3 Week Check Out
- Flexible Schedule

Contact Us

308-324-2151

www.libraries.ne.gov/lexington

jnorton@cityoflex.com

907 N. Washington St.
Lexington, NE 68850



STORY TIME
BACKPACK
KITS

Kits include:

- Picture Books
- Craft/Activities
- Bilingual Board Book Set

FROM YOUR
LEXINGTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY



Story Time by a
librarian or
volunteer also
available.

Engage with your children using stories, games, and activities provided by the Lexington Public Library.

Scan the QR Code to sign up for a story time backpack kit.



YOUR Lexington Public Library: A place to belong, connect, explore, learn, and grow.



Lexington Public Library Story Time Backpack Kits



Read to learn,
read to grow.



WE ASK OUR CUSTOMERS

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.

Dan's Sanitation

324-6693 • Lexington



Civil Service Commissioners Honored



Tracy Wolf, Donna Soflin, Jim Macias



Tracy Wolf, Ted Harvey

Chief Tracy Wolf of the Lexington, Nebraska Police Department awarded members of the Civil Service Commission with awards of appreciation for their service to the commission and the City of Lexington. Donna Soflin has served since 1987, Jim Macias has served since 1995 and Ted Harvey has served since 1992. We all greatly appreciate their hard work and dedication to the City of Lexington and the Lexington Police Department.



Remember, you're not just walking the dog



Clean up after your pet

Did you know . . .

. . . that pet waste has bacteria that makes our lakes and rivers unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities?

Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yards clean. But there's another important reason to clean up after our pets.

Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or in the yards means that harmful bacteria can get washed into storm drains and roadside ditches that flow directly into our lakes and rivers untreated.

So what can you do? Simple.

Whether you are in your yard or on a walk, dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the trash or toilet to prevent it from entering storm drains and roadside ditches.

Pick up after your pet — and help keep our water clean!



Support provided by Nebr. Dept. of Environment & Energy



JOIN!

TEEN BOOK CLUB

Read great books.
Get together with friends.
Meet once a month.
Have fun & talk about books.

Contact school librarian,
Mrs. Buck
for more information.



Arbor Day Foundation Names Lexington a 2022 Tree City USA Growth Award Recipient

Lexington received a 2022 Tree City USA Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management.

A Growth Award is bestowed to a community alongside their Tree City USA recognition for demonstrating environmental improvement and a higher level of tree care. The award recognizes major milestones and annual activities in five categories: building a team, measuring trees and forests, planning the work, performing the work and building the community network.

"Tree City USA communities can experience the positive effects of a thriving urban canopy year after year," said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees being planted and cared for by

Lexington are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program helps cultivate a sense of stewardship and pride for the trees the community plants and cares for."

Trees are a vital part of every community. They help reduce energy consumption, cool temperatures, clean the air and water, raise property values, and provide a habitat for wildlife.

More information on the program is available at arborday.org/treecityusa.



CITY OF LEX OPEN PICKLEBALL

- FREE PICKLEBALL TO THE PUBLIC
- OPEN COURTS FOR DROP-IN PLAY
- LEARN TO PLAY IN MINUTES
- WE PROVIDE ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT
- WEAR ATHLETIC SHOES

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

CHECK OUT THE FASTEST GROWING SPORT IN AMERICA!

MONDAY & THURSDAY NIGHTS
(ADULTS ONLY 18+)

STARTS Week of MONDAY, JUNE 5
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Free & Open to Public

SUMMER PICKLEBALL

At the Tennis Courts

Mondays:
Kirkpatrick Memorial Park
12th & Monroe

Thursdays:
Plum Creek Park
13th & Park

DRIVING RANGE NOW OPEN

Self-Service

May be closed if cold or stormy . . .

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



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;**

■ Indicates houses under construction or complete (since this aerial photo was taken)

Housing Lots Available in East Lexington



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

- ▶ **Dozens of sites to choose from**
- ▶ **\$5,000 each**
- ▶ **Lots sizes: approx. 11,000 - 15,000 sq. ft.**
- ▶ **Utilities on site (Electric, Sewer, Water)**
- ▶ **Protective covenants in place**
- ▶ **Lots can be or have been removed from floodplain**
- ▶ **Sewer depths accommodate basements**
- ▶ **Close to Kirkpatrick Memorial Park**
- ▶ **Close to Pershing Elementary School**

■ Indicates houses under construction or complete (since this aerial photo was taken)





YOUTH TENNIS

Mondays:
August 7, 14, 21, 28

Pre-K to 4th Grade
Red & Orange Ball Instruction

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

➔ Free to Participate

➔ Pre-Register by August 5 to help us prepare for class sizes

➔ 5:45 - 6:15 pm
Red Ball:
Pre-k

➔ 6:15 - 7:00 pm
Red Ball:
K to 2nd Grade

➔ 7:00 to 7:45 pm
Orange Ball:
3rd & 4th Grade

Text or email:
Jake Saulsbury with child's name,
grade level, parent's phone #, and
email to pre-register!

308-746-3543
jsaulsbury@cityoflex.com



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.

