

# City Happenings

#103



October 2023



## Hike-Bike Trail Added to New Park



**Patriot Park**, just northeast of West 20th and Airport Road, is planned to open to the public next year. Its most notable feature is Patriot Park Lake, which is now circled by a 10-foot wide hike-bike trail. The new trail also extends south (see photo) and east (at the north end) to connect with existing and planned trails in the City's Master Trail Plan. The

park is designed as "nature park," and the lake will be stocked with fish by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). Funding for the new park comes from NGPC, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Central Platte Natural Resources District, and the Lexington Community Foundation.



**Paul Schwarz Named Lexington's New Police Chief**



On September 29, 2023, Paul Schwarz was named Lexington's new Police Chief. He succeeds Tracy Wolf, who retired August 22 after serving 40 years with the Lexington Police Department. Chief Schwarz has 33 years of law enforcement experience, including 17 years with the LPD, the seven years as Captain. According to City Manager Joe Pepplitsch, "Paul's experience, commitment, certifications, training, and interagency cooperation will serve the community and Police Department well into the future." Schwarz added, "I look forward to working with other city officials, the citizens, businesses, and visitors to our city in keeping our community safe."



**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



**SHIFT10**

*— keep it local —*

**October 10 (10/10)**

**SHIFT10 is a national movement to encourage shoppers to shift 10% of their spending to local businesses in communities across the United States.**

**SHOPPING LOCAL  
ISN'T JUST A TREND,  
IT'S A WAY OF LIFE!**



## HONOR A VETERAN WITH THIS LASTING TRIBUTE

Thanks to the Lexington Veterans Memorial Committee, you now have the opportunity to purchase a commemorative brick which can be inscribed in honor or in memory of a veteran. The bricks will be installed on the Veterans Pavilion Memorial Wall at the south end of Kirkpatrick Memorial Park.



The process is simple: fill out the form at <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/lex>, (or use the QR code above) and remit your payment. All the helpful details are at the website.

Thank you for supporting our local heroes!



## 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**





## Library News



907 N Washington  
(308) 324-2151



by Jennifer Norton  
Library Director

*"There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them." — Joseph Brodsky (Russian poet)*



The **Lexington Public Library**, along with **Keep Lexington Beautiful** will be hosting its 2nd Annual **Fall Festival** at the library on Thursday, October 19 from 5-7:30 p.m. Fun, family activities along with a hayrack ride, pumpkin painting and outdoor games and scarecrow dress-up are just a few of the activities on tap. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy free chili, a bake sale, and a silent auction. All proceeds will go to the Lexington Friends of the Library and Keep Lexington Beautiful. Come enjoy a



fabulous fall evening at the Library.



**LEGO Club** will resume on November 14 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. All ages are welcome, and NO registration is required. Come create with LEGOS and enjoy a snack. Creations will be displayed in the display case in the Children's area of the Library.



November's **Family Fun Night** is slated for Thursday, November 16, from 5:00-7:30

p.m. Enjoy a light meal and family activities at YOUR Lexington Public Library: A place to belong, connect, explore, learn, and grow.



Tap into another platform for digital audiobooks. Your Lexington Public Library has recently added **Blackstone Unlimited** where you can find downloadable audiobooks without wait times and no check out periods. Access Blackstone Unlimited through the Libraries website at [www.libraries.ne.gov/lexington](http://www.libraries.ne.gov/lexington) or find the app in your favorite app store. Blackstone Unlimited goes where you do and it's FREE!





## EnergyWise Tip: **Energy Lost**



*by NPPD Energy Efficiency Program Manager Cory Fuehrer*

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) has designated October as Energy Awareness Month. This recognition comes at the perfect time because, as winter approaches, it's easy to overlook many different areas in our homes and businesses where energy will be lost or consumed without bringing benefit. As the old Greek proverb implies, "Out of sight, out of mind." Only when a high utility bill arrives, do most people become "aware" of the energy waste.

To heighten energy awareness, consider these often-ignored home energy efficiency errors:

**1. Lights left on.** Especially as the days grow shorter, lighting is needed for longer periods. But when occupants leave a room or area, the simple act of switching the light "off" is frequently forgotten. If this becomes a chronic problem, installing an occupancy sensor switch to automate the process is a simple solution. If exterior lighting regularly operates

into the next day, a photosensor switch can deactivate the electrical circuit as dawn arrives.

**2. Windows not tightly closed.** Respite from the summer heat is often found after the sun goes down and a cool breeze can be drawn through the house by opening all the windows. While most are shut before the heat of the



following day, some may not be closed all way and locked. Others may be missed in spare rooms, basements or other areas not frequently occupied. With differences between indoor and outdoor temperatures often doubling in the winter when compared to summer periods, the undesired air infiltration can significantly impact home heating costs.

**3. Furnace filters unchanged.** Dirty furnace filters add resistance to air flow through HVAC systems causing them

to operate longer to keep the indoor climate comfortable. While the life of a furnace filter will vary due to a number of factors, it's a good idea to examine filters at least every 60 days until a replacement schedule is established. Placing a bi-monthly reminder on a calendar helps assure it does not get overlooked.

**4. Attic access unsealed.** The most common type of attic access style is the attic ladder and hatch system. Others include a simple hatch in the ceiling or a door into the unconditioned attic space. Regardless of type, all should be insulated and sealed with weatherstripping to reduce energy loss.

**5. Fireplace flues left open.** Who doesn't like a cozy fire on a chilly evening? Obviously, proper exhausting of smoke and fumes is necessary until the embers have completely burnt out. This usually means leaving the flue open until the next day. But the next day's affairs regularly take priority and

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## Energy Lost

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the open flue may be forgotten. This allows interior heated air to literally go right up the chimney! Placing reminder notes where they will be seen first thing in the next morning can be great for correcting this oversight.

**6. Water heater set too high.** Even though many water heaters are set at 140 degrees Fahrenheit by default, the DOE recommends 120°F for energy efficiency. For every 10 degrees the thermostat is lowered, energy costs for water heating can be reduced by 3 to 5%.

**7. Plug loads drawing energy.** Many home electronics, battery chargers and appliances use standby power even when they appear to be off. Any device that uses a remote control, has an external power supply or a continuous display are still consuming power. Connecting

multiple electronics to a power strip makes it easier to switch off unused devices all at once to assure unnecessary energy use does not occur.

With space and water heating accounting for about half of annual energy use in the average Nebraska home, these often-overlooked energy losses can add up. Recognizing these losses is the first step to improving energy efficiency. Lexington Utilities System, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, can help identify other ways to gain the most value from your energy costs. For more energy-saving ideas for your home, business, or farming operation, contact Lexington Utilities System or visit [www.energywisenebraska.com](http://www.energywisenebraska.com).



# LET'S GO SHOP SMALL

NOV 25, 2023  
SMALL BUSINESS  
SATURDAY



Shop Small Saturday is  
always the Saturday  
after Thanksgiving, a  
day to emphasize  
shopping at small,  
local businesses!



## Lexington Gets Free Trees

Thanks to the *Ten Free Trees* program, an effort of the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, the City of Lexington received eight ready-to-plant trees.

The trees have been planted around the new Veterans Pavilion at the south end of Kirkpatrick Memorial Park. More trees will be added in the future, but this is a great start.

Despite providing a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits, most Nebraska community forests have been in steady and sometimes dramatic decline. Many challenges contribute, including extreme weather, insects, disease and lack of diversity. The Emerald Ash borer is the latest major challenge added to the list.

In an effort to stop this decline and increase community forest resilience, the Free Trees program grants up to 10 high quality trees for tree-related educational events and community celebrations promoting trees and fall planting. Due to overwhelming demand, not all communities received the full 10 trees. Since 2012 Lexington has received 113 free trees through this program.

In addition to simply planting more trees, the

**Park workers Aaron Deal and Marvin Melara with a just-planted tree at the new Veterans Pavilion. In the background is the Pavilion's Amphitheatre.**



program goals include increasing appreciation and awareness of the value of community forests in Nebraska. Special emphasis is placed on species diversity and higher impact projects, especially street tree planting and projects in neighborhoods of highest need.

*Ten Free Trees* is supported by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's Trees for Nebraska Towns Initiative funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and a U.S. Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration grant received by the Nebraska Forest Service.



### 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.



## 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

Don't wait in line...  
**Pay Online**

Pay your utility bill  
using your computer,  
smart phone or tablet!  
Go to  
[www.cityoflex.com](http://www.cityoflex.com)  
to sign up and pay.

**Safe, Secure & Free!**



Optimized for mobile devices

- ★ Convenient: 24/7/365
- ★ Save time, postage and fuel
- ★ Pay by credit or debit card
- ★ View updated billing and consumption history
- ★ Account balances are automatically updated



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](mailto:keeplexbeautiful@yahoo.com)).

#### KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN!



Support  
provided by  
Nebr. Dept. of  
Environment  
& Energy



### 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 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
hosts 13<sup>th</sup> annual  
**Give Big Lexington on November 9, 2023**  
[givebiglexington.org](http://givebiglexington.org)



The Give BIG giving day website is **LIVE.**

Give BIG Lexington is a day that weaves our communities together.

We unite thousands of donors to give to and support our local nonprofits.

[givebiglexington.org](http://givebiglexington.org)



### LCF Makes Give BIG Possible

Lexington Community Foundation is honored to host Give BIG Lexington for the 13th consecutive year. The goal of GBL is to make a positive impact on local nonprofits, raise awareness, and connect surrounding communities.

Your donations during Give BIG advance our mission to inspire generosity to strengthen our community. Our vision is to have a community where all people thrive.

**LEXINGTON**  
*community foundation*



# 2nd Annual *Fall* FESTIVAL

- Hay Ride • Face Painting • Pumpkin Painting • Scarecrow Dress-Up • Temporary Tattoos • Informational Booths

\* **BAKE SALE**

\* **SILENT AUCTION**

\* **FREE CHILI MEAL & DRINKS**

**LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**OCTOBER 19, 2023**

**5:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

**907 N. WASHINGTON ST.**

**(308) 324-2151**



KEEP LEXINGTON BEAUTIFUL

# FREE COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT!



**DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARDS RECYCLING PROJECTS!**

## OCTOBER 20, 2023

3 pm - 5 pm

**H&R BLOCK \* 617 N. Grant St. Lexington**

Shredding available to anyone in the Lexington area, residential and commercial. No cardboard boxes accepted. Document drop off available 1 day in advance.

For more information contact us @ [klbnebraska@gmail.com](mailto:klbnebraska@gmail.com) or  
308-325-5701



## Lexington snow and ice removal

**W**inter weather is almost 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.

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 their vehicles from the street.

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.



