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# Chambe COMMERCE

# WHERE BUSINESS AND **COMMUNITY CONNECT**

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## A Chamber of Commerce's job is to do these 5 things:

### PROMOTE

- » We send business information and events to over 400 contacts via email and to even more contacts through the Chamber Facebook page and our website www. lexcoc.com.
- » Placement in the annual Visitor Guide (distributed statewide.)
- » We promote Business after Hours, ribbon cuttings, grand openings, celebrations, and Chamber Coffees for our members.
- » Our Lexington Chamber Bucks program keeps thousands of dollars in circulation through Chamber-member businesses » Meet potential customers, make vital each year.
- We encourage tourism to our area through

several sponsored events each year.

### INFORM

- » The Chamber Weekly highlights community events and news and is sent out every Monday morning to all Chamber members.
- » News and events are posted on our Facebook page and website.
- » Opportunity to participate in the legislative conference call with the NE State Chamber when the Unicameral is in session.

### CONNECT

- » Member referrals—when we receive requests for goods and services, we send them directly to our members.
- contacts, and learn from your association with other successful professionals.

» The Chamber offers opportunities to be involved with other businesses and the community through committee events and activities.

### **ADVOCATE**

- » The strength of a team is much greater than that of an individual. The Chamber is active in communicating with city officials, community and government leaders to ensure the voice of business is heard.
- » We regularly promote the benefits of shopping local on Facebook, Chamber website, and Chamber Weekly.

## EDUCATE

» Information on timely and meaningful seminars, meetings and classes on management skills, employee education, accounting, sales techniques and more.



# LEXINGTON

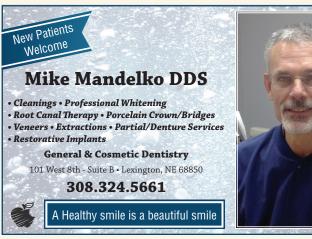
The mission of Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce is to create and maintain a favorable business climate in the Lexington area by representing the collective interest of business and by becoming involved in other aspects of the community that affect our quality-of-life.

## Where Business and Community Connect

Embracelex

Lexington, NE





## **CITY SERVICES**

Lexington is governed by a five-member elected City Council. Regular meetings of the City Council are on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. The City employs a professional manager who oversees day-to-day operations. Lexington Utilities System provides or administers electric, water, sewer and trash removal.

### Lexington Public Library 907 N Washington Street, 308-324-2151

Lexington's 18,528 square feet Public Library opened in late 2005, replacing the previous 40-year-old 4,950 square feet facility.

Besides being a beautiful public structure, the new Lexington Public Library offers three technology centers which are capable of housing 36 public use computers. There are also four public meeting rooms, private study rooms, youth activity centers and children's risers for story time and other performing arts. The Library regularly brings in authors, musicians and storytellers to enhance lifelong learning opportunities for local residents.

## Grand Generation Center

407 E 6th Street, 308-324-2498

Lexington's 12,500 square feet senior center is regularly open



Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 3,500 square feet was added in 2007, at which time upgrades and improvements were added to the existing structure. Center staff serve reasonably-priced public meals at noon Monday through Friday. They offer games, crafts, exercise opportunities, occasional evening meals, entertainment, dances and bingo. The GGC also provides meals-on-wheels to shut-ins, with assistance from many valued volunteers.

### Parks & Recreation

Lexington boasts eight public parks with more than 100 acres of outdoor recreation space. Two of the largest parks are graced with recently renovated lakes that feature handicap accessible fishing piers and lots of new trails. Both lakes are stocked with fish from the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. There are four tennis courts, several ball fields, soccer fields, basketball and volleyball courts, Frisbee golf, a skate park, walking trails, and numerous picnic shelters and playground features.

The **Lexington Family Aquatic Center** features an Olympicsized lap pool, and zero-depth pool with a water slide, as well



as a splash pad.

More recent improvements include an **indoor hitting facility** for baseball and golf practice; and the **Lexington Fieldhouse**, a 27,000 square feet indoor sports activities building.

### **Downtown Revitalization**

In 2010 Lexington initiated a Downtown Revitalization Project. Spurred by a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), both public and private improvements were made. Adding local contributions, more than \$600,000 was invested in Lexington's downtown. Subsequently the City secured CDGB funding to make additional improvements in and around the downtown, including street and sewer upgrades, and renovation of the downtown Majestic Theatre.

## Dawson County Opportunity Center 1501 Plum Creek Parkway

In 2010 The City of Lexington took the lead in developing the Dawson County Opportunity Center. Once a vacated "big-box store," it's now a buzzing hive of activity. DCOC is home to the Lexington campus of Central Community College, the Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce, Dawson Area Development, a branch of the Nebraska Department of Labor, Lexington Public Schools Early Learning Academy, and a regional call center for Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services.



## 6 LEXINGTON CHURCHES



**Berean Bible Church** 210 W. 7th Street (308) 324-3095

**Buffalo Grove Presbyterian** 76199 Rd. 429 (308) 324-4211

**Calvary Assembly of God** 1304 N. Adams (308) 324-5310

Camino de Vida 810 S. Washington Street (308) 746-2431

**Church of Christ** 1211 N. Tyler Street (308) 324-3191

Church of Christ North Side 704 E. 6th Street (308) 324-4182

Church of God of Prophecy/Iglesia de Dios de la Profecia 1011 N. Lincoln Lexington, NE 68850 (308) 325-9899

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 1407 W. 13th Street (308) 324-6840 **Evangelical Free Church** 810 S. Washington Street (308) 324-3825

**First Baptist Church** 713 Monroe Street (308) 324-2909

**First Lutheran Church** 42957 Buffalo Road (308) 324-8715

**First Presbyterian Church** 801 N. Lincoln Street (308) 324-5507

**First United Methodist Church** 201 E. 8th Street (308) 324-2397

**Grace Lutheran ELCA** 105 E. 17th (308) 324-2496

Iglesia Asambleas de Dios Filadelphia 501 S. Madison Street (308) 325-9909

**Iglesia de Dios Camino de Santidad** 500 N. Monroe Street (308) 324-8764 **Iglesia Dios Es Amor** 521 N. Madison (308) 324-7960

Lexington Christian Church 1206 N. Erie Street (308) 324-3084

Masjidul Rahma of Lexington 114 W. Fifth Street

**Parkview Baptist** 803 W. 18th Street (308) 324-4410

Salon Del Reino De Los Teshgos De Jehova 705 20th Street

**St. Ann's Catholic Church** 301 E. 6th Street (308) 324-4647

**St. John's Lutheran Church** 42650 Road 764, Cozad, NE (308) 784-3063

**St. Peter's in the Valley Episcopal** 905 E. 13th Street (308) 324-6199

**Trinity Lutheran Church LCMS** 205 E. 7th St. (308) 324-4341

## 8 HISTORIC TRANSPORTATION

Lexington is at the crossroads several of highways. Highway 30 and Interstate 80 are the main east-west by-ways across Nebraska, while Highways 283 and 21 connect locations from South Dakota to Kansas. Travelers in the past also made their way through Dawson County using one or more of five trails.

## **Oregon Trail**

Possibly the most well known trail made its way through Dawson County, the Oregon Trail. The route was the most widely used of all the trails, with more than half a million people using the route for over 25 years. Many of the area's early communities can trace roots to the trail.

### **Pony Express Route**

A symbol of growth westward during the 1800s, the Pony Express was the



first link to early settlers. The service was short-lived, operating from 1860-1861, delivering between St. Joseph, MO and Sacramento, CA until the advent of the telegraph.

### Mormon Trail

Nearly 100,000 early adventurers crossed near the future site of Lexington by following the Mormon Trail. The trail loosely followed the north bank of the Platte River, which later proved to be a viable footprint for the Lincoln Highway and Interstate 80.

## Lincoln Highway

The nation's first transcontinental auto route ran along the Platte River. U.S. Highway 30, recognized as the Lincoln Highway, still serves as an east-west route across Nebraska.

### **Union Pacific Railroad**

The Iron Road was the name given to the first transcontinental railroad. In 1865, Union Pacific began laying rails along the Great Platte River Road, and promoted settlement by selling land in the fertile Platte River Valley.





Contact the Lexington Convention & Visitor's Bureau for more information

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Paid for by the Lexington CVB.

Lexington, located in Dawson County, has a very rich history. It was first established as a frontier trading post in 1860 by Daniel and Louisa Freeman. It sat along Plum Creek across from a Pony Express station south of the Platte River. They provided goods to the people traveling along the Oregon and California trails and traded with the many Indian tribes that were still in the area. Louisa writes in her diary that they got along well with the Indians though many of the white settlers did not and as a result much of Plum Creek fell victim to several attacks. The most famous being the Plum Creek Massacre of 1864 and the Turkey Leg raid of 1867. The Plum Creek Massacre has been portrayed in a book called "Captive of the Chevenne" written by Russ Czaplewski and published by the Dawson

County Historical Society. It tells the true account of Nancy Jane Morton's capture by the Chevenne Indians and the attack on her wagon train.

When the Union Pacific Railroad was built through Dawson County, the Freemans moved their store across from the new depot. The town was called Plum Creek. Louisa writes in her diary that their store was on the first level of their new big house and they boarded newcomers on the second level. Daniel Freeman became the first county clerk and operated the first Plum Creek newspaper called the "Dawson County Banner." Daniel threw himself into bringing people from the east to settle this small town of Plum Creek and was often away from home. It was during one of these trips that he drowned in the Platte River. Louisa and her children



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remained in the Plum Creek vicinity until she died at the age of 86.

With the building of the Union Pacific Railroad and the rise of the locomotive, the small town of Plum Creek began to expand. People came from all over the United States and settled in Dawson County. I.P. "Print" Olive, a cattleman from Texas, was drawn by the vast prairies central Nebraska had to offer. His family, including his parents and a few siblings, settled in Plum Creek and quickly became a prominent family in the area. Ira Olive, Print's brother, was more of a businessman while Print and their younger brother Bob, loved the life of the cowboy and ran their cattle business. But times were changing as more and more homesteaders settled the area and the cattleman and farmers argued

over land rights. One such argument between the Olive family and two homesteaders ended with Bob Olive being shot and killed. In vengeance, Print Olive shot and hanged the homesteaders. A crime he would pay for in the Nebraska State Penitentiary. This caused quite a stir in the little town of Plum Creek and the story was later made into a book called "The Ladder of Rivers" by Harry E. Chrisman.

Plum Creek quickly became known as a "cowboy" town. Even though it continued to grow, and business was booming the community became worried that it would soon have a bad name, and nobody would want to settle in a town filled with scalawags and gun fighters. Several of the community leaders got together and decided to rename the town. Maybe if it had a more "regal"

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name things would change. In 1889, by a write-in vote, the town name was changed to Lexington.

With the construction of a new bridge over the Platte River south of Lexington and the designation of Lexington the county seat the as community soon became a trading hub. To accommodate all the new people coming into town the community leaders once again came together to build a new luxurious hotel in 1890 called "The Cornland." It was known as the best hotel between Omaha and Denver and offered all the latest amenities such as steam heat

and gas lighting.

Throughout the years Lexington has seen many changes in business and population. Some good, some bad, but it continues to grow and draw people from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds just as it did when it was the small town of Plum Creek. The Overland Trails were taken over by the railroad and then came the motor car and Lexington changed yet again to accommodate the Lincoln Highway traffic. Motels, diners, and gas stations sprang up along what we now refer to as Highway 30. In the 1960s the interstate system came through south of Lexington causing the town to grow rapidly in that direction. Overland commerce has never stopped in Lexington, it's merely changed.

In 1973, Lexington was named an "All American City" by the National Civic League with Dawson County receiving the "All American City" award in 1993. It is the only county in Nebraska to be so honored. Lexington also has three buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places: The Olive House at 401 E 13th St., the Dawson County Courthouse located at 7th and Washington St., and the H.V. Temple House at 305 E 13th St. The downtown still has brick streets and many structures have been restored, such as the Majestic Theatre which was taken on as a project by the Lexington Public School system and is now operated by the school and a group of volunteers.

To learn more about Lexington's history visit the Dawson County Historical Museum and the Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles where the area's history is proudly displayed!



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## **12** BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Lexington's base industry is agriculture because of the abundance and availability of natural resources located in the area: fertile soils, groundwater and a temperate growing season.

## Some of the main nonmanufacturing employers are:

» City of Lexington and Dawson County

- » Dawson Public Power District
- » Lexington Public Schools

» Country Partners Cooperative (fertilizer, car care and agronomy divisions)

» Lexington Livestock Commission Co. (livestock auction)

- » Plum Creek Medical Group
- » Lexington Regional Health Center
- » Avamere at Lexington
- » Plum Creek Care Center

» State of Nebraska Department of Roads

## Major manufacturers and industries include:

» Eilers Machine and Welding Inc.



(fabricated metal parts, welding and machine repairs)

» Tyson Fresh Meats (beef and related products for a national and export market)

» Orthman Manufacturing Co. (farm implements for the national and export market)

» Darling Ingredients (meat scraps, tallow and hides)

» Designer Craft Woodworking (furniture, cabinetry for national market)» Veetronix (communications equipment)

» Chief Ethanol Fuels, Inc. (ethanol plant)

The rest of the area's economy revolves around a variety of manufacturing firms, some which create value-added products from the region's agricultural base and some stand-along products. The service sector includes a variety of motels and retail stores. Lexington is home to many unique specialty shops and ethnic businesses and restaurants.





## FUN & ENTERTAINMENT 13

There is so much to see and do in Lexington and the surrounding area in 2021!

Stock car races begin in May at the Dawson County Raceway "where only the best, go 3 abreast!"

The 4th of July fireworks show is planned for Kirkpatrick Memorial Park for both the hometown audience and those visiting the community.

The Dawson County Fair will be at the Dawson County Fairgrounds in July. Here, youth participate in life-skills contests ranging from cooking, sewing, and photography. Young ranchers compete in livestock shows showing off their sheep, hogs, cattle, dogs and even cats! The carnival is in town, and many vendors and open-class competitions take place.

August is busy with the "Wings and Wine, Beer & Brats" event at Mac's Creek Winery & Brewery later in the month.

In December, Santa travels to downtown Lexington during the annual Light up Lexington Christmas Parade and visits with children on the first three Saturdays of the month. Fire truck rides are also provided by the Lexington Volunteer Fire Department.

## 2021 Calendar of Events

### March

» Vietnam Veterans Rememberance Parade

### May

» Sunday Stock Car Races Begin

**June** » Welcome Back Orange & Black Alumni Parade

### July

» 4th of July Fireworks
Show
» Dawson County Fair
» Chamber of Commerce
Golf Tournament

» Lexington Tennis Tournament

#### August

 New Teacher Luncheon
Wings and Wine, Beer & Brats Event

#### October

 » Trick or Treat Street Halloween Event, downtown Lexington

#### December

 » Light up Lexington Christmas Parade
» Weekend Santa Visits and Fire Truck Rides, downtown Lexington

## For the full schedule, visit www.lexcoc.com



## **14** ATTRACTIONS



With so much space in and around Lexington, it is not surprising there are plenty of recreational activities, unique attractions and one-of-akind events that are scattered throughout the community.

### Mac's Creek Winery & Brewery

Located just north of Lexington is a labor of love for the McFarland family. They produce a variety of flavorful semi-dry, semi-sweet and dessert wines. In 2019 they ventured into craft beers. Enjoy a wine tasting or beer tasting and an appetizer while overlooking the vineyard.

### Canyon Lakes Brewing Company

Canyon Lakes Brewing Company, owned by the Bliven family, is located on the east side of Johnson Lake southwest of Lexington. Opened in 2019 the brewery currently offers several different brews plus dining options as well.

## Stock Car Races

One can also enjoy the stock car races during the summer months at the *Dawson County Raceway* located at the Dawson County Fairgrounds. Five classes of racing will thrill the crowd: IMCA Modified, Northern Sport Stock Modified, Stock Cars, Hobby Stocks, and Sport Compacts. Dawson County Raceway: "Where Only the Best, Go 3 Abreast!"

## Museums

Two museums showcase the

intriguing history of Lexington and Dawson County. Aircraft, tanks and trucks make up the approximately 100 vehicles restored at the *Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles*. Much of this museum is hands-on, with many of the







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vehicles available for patrons to touch or even sit in.

Historic aircraft, pioneer implements, railroad artifacts, and tons of Lexington and Dawson County history are preserved at the *Dawson County Historical Museum*. Exhibits outside the main museum building include a rural schoolhouse, log cabin, and historic church.

## Swimming, Biking, & Hiking

Enjoy the outdoors at *Lexington's Family Aquatic Center*, which caters to all ages with its zero-depth pool, water slide, lap pool, diving pool, snack bar, sand volleyball and sand play area.

Hiking/biking trails are also a popular recreational activity with several trails completed in Lexington as well as the *Johnson Lake Trails*, located southwest of the city. Johnson Lake Trails is fast becoming

## ATTRACTIONS 15



## a hike/bike destination for users from across the state.

## Sports

Lexington has many parks where families, skate boarders, Frisbee, and tennis enthusiasts are all welcome. The parks inside the city limits are Kirkpatrick Memorial Park, Plum Creek, Oak, Arbor, and Pioneer. The *Optimist Hitting Complex* is an indoor hitting facility where future baseball and softball players can practice and participate in lessons and camps. The *Fieldhouse and Driving Range* hosts indoor soccer matches and practices as well as a variety of other planned activities. The *Orthman*  *Community YMCA* provides many programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

### Camping

Campgrounds are available at Dawson County Fairgrounds and two areas of Johnson Lake, on the east side and the west side inlet. There campers are provided with gravel or cement pads all available with electrical hookups, showers, restrooms, a dump station and an up-todate fish-cleaning station.

## Golf

There are two golf courses near Lexington: Overton, which is a 9-hole course, and *Lakeside Golf Club* at Johnson Lake, which is an 18-hole course, both with beautiful green landscapes and cool Nebraska breezes to make playing a joy.

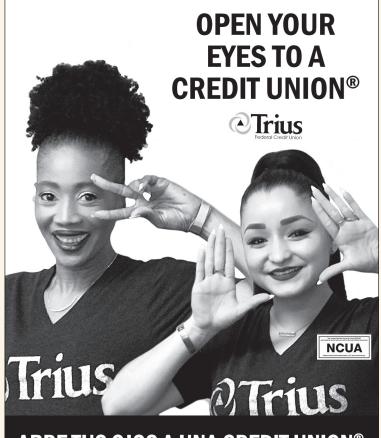


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Lexington is the county seat of Dawson County. Dawson County operates under a commissioner form of government with five commissioners elected to four-year terms on a staggered basis. The commissioners represent different districts on the board. The county also has a seven-member planning commission with members appointed by the county commissioners to staggered three-year terms.

The City of Lexington operates with the Council-Manager form of government. Council members serve fouryear terms. Elected at-large by the public, they in turn select one of the five as mayor for a two-year term. The Council engages the City Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the City.

Lexington also has a ninemember planning commission with members appointed for three-year terms.

The Lexington Police Department has a force of 20 full-time sworn officers, and two civilian office staff. The Lexington Volunteer Fire Department shares space and emergency equipment with the Rural Fire Department, which handles emergencies on a contract basis to surrounding rural areas.

Dawson County Sheriff's Office has a staff of 62, including deputies, jail staff, office staff and part-time employees. Regular patrol provides protection to rural and residential communities throughout the county.

The county has combined dispatch services with the communities of Lexington, Overton, Cozad, Sumner, Eddyville and the Johnson Lake area.



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## **Government Officials**

**City Manager** Joe Pepplitsch (308) 324-2341

**City Council** John Fagot - Mayor Jeremy Roberts John Salem Steve Smith Dora Vivas

#### **County Commissioners**

Dean Kugler PJ Jacobson Dennis Rickertsen Bill Stewart Rod Reynolds

**State Senator** Senator Matt Williams (402) 471-2642 **Governor** Pete Ricketts (402) 471-2244

Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley

**U.S. House Representative** Congressman Adrian Smith (308) 384-3900

**U.S. Senate Representatives** Senator Deb Fischer (402) 441-4600

Senator Ben Sasse (308) 233-3677



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## **18** QUALITY EDUCATION



### Our diversity is our strength.

Today Lexington Public Schools is the sixteenth largest school district in Nebraska. The district's seven schools welcome more than 3,000 students each day. But for more than a hundred years, Lexington Public Schools has been providing a world class education for students.

» Over 45 countries and 30 languages represented by the students at LPS

» Dual Language Program - Half of their daily instruction in English and the other half in Spanish (K-5th)

» Grade Level Campus Concept (Morton Elementary K-1; Sandoz Elementary 2-3; Pershing Elementary 4-5)

» Early Learning Academy for students ages 3 and 4 years old - One of the largest preschool programs in the state of Nebraska, accommodating 90% of the next year's kindergarten class.

» College Program provides students at Lexington High School seventeen (17) dual-credit college courses

» Cognia/AdvancED/NCA Accredited School District since 1914

» Graduation rate of over 90%

» College-going rate of over 70%

» Average class size to teacher ratio: 18:1



» School-Community Partnership, shared facilities with Lexington Middle School and the Orthman Community YMCA

» The 2019 graduating class earned more than 4.2 million in scholarship dollars

» 32 NSAA State Activities Championships

» Largest High School Marching Band in Nebraska with over 225 members

According to Superintendent Dr. John Hakonson, "The diversity of our students and their families have enhanced Lexington by adding to an incredible international presence that you can't get in any other small central Nebraska community. Our students, in turn have prospered from the unfailing commitment and support of a dedicated LPS staff and school board, and an unbelievably generous community. Lexington is truly one of a kind and perhaps one of the best kept secrets in the state."

The mission of Lexington Public Schools is to develop capable and responsible lifelong learners. With the cooperation of family, school and community, we will prepare students for the global challenges and the opportunities of the future.

To learn more visit us at www.lexschools.org Visit us on Facebook and Twitter



## **Lexington Public Schools**

**Central Office** 300 S. Washington (308) 324-4681

Early Learning Academy 1501 Plum Creek Parkway (308) 324-1841

**Sandoz Elementary** 1711 N. Erie (308) 324-5540

**Pershing Elementary** 1104 N. Tyler (308) 324-3765 **Bryan Elementary** 1003 N. Harrison St. (308) 324-3762

**Morton Elementary** 505 S. Lincoln (308) 324-3764

Lexington Middle School 1100 N. Washington (308) 324-2349

**Lexington High School** 705 W. 13th (308) 324-4691

## HEALTH CARE 19



Residents of Lexington and Dawson County have access to numerous, quality health care facilities and services.

Fromprovidingmultilingual support to medical specialists **Plum Creek Medical Group** is committed to improving the way you're cared for. As your independent, physicianowned health care provider, we ensure health care has possibilities by offering the best treatment options available. Plum Creek Medical Group—where health care is treated personally.

Plum Creek Care Center & Wel-Life at Plum Creek is a skilled nursing facility with speech, physical therapy and occupational therapy services. PCCC is licensed for 66 beds, of which 10 are in a unit for patients undergoing rehabilitation. Two of the units are set up for respite care, one on the nursing side and one on the assisted living side. The facility also provides a continuum of care, including 29 units in the assisted living addition, which provides both long-and-short term options. PCCC also has a family council with quarterly meetings to keep the lines of communication open with residents and their families.

Lexington Regional Health Center (LRHC) is a Critical Access Hospital employing more than 260 passionate, dedicated people. Lexington Regional is a progressive healthcare facility dedicated to providing exceptional, costeffective care to Lexington and the surrounding areas. More than just a hospital, Lexington Regional is also home to an emergency room, Family Medicine Specialist Walk-In-Clinic, a state-of-theart outpatient services and surgery center, Rehabilitation

Bertrand Clinic Services, and Elwood Clinic. With over 20 visiting specialists regularly seeing patients at the Outpatient Services Center, comprehensive care is available without having to travel. Specialties include general surgery, cardiology, nephrology, obstetrics & gynecology, podiatry, urology, orthopedics, pain management, dermatology, oncology, wound care, spinal surgery, and more can be seen in the same facility as your primary care provider. Lexington Regional is proud offer family medicine to for families and patients of all ages. Family Medicine Specialists Walk-In-Clinic is open every day of the week with extended hours to meet your needs. Lexington Regional Health Center is honored to care for you and your loved ones in 2020.

Avamere at Lexington. Avamere Health Services is the leading provider of senior living solutions throughout the United States. We are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of every person we serve. Our community is carefully planned and wellmanaged, offering assisted living suites and independent living apartments. Transportation is available to local medical and dental facilities, banks, restaurants, and other civic activities. We offer personalized care, programs, services and solutions that are unique as a result of the collective talents and inspiration of our residents, families, and associates. At Avamere at Lexington, you and your family's engagement and satisfaction are our priority. Your life, our commitment.



