

LA VISTA citywise

City Council Reconsiders Swimming Pool Bond Issue

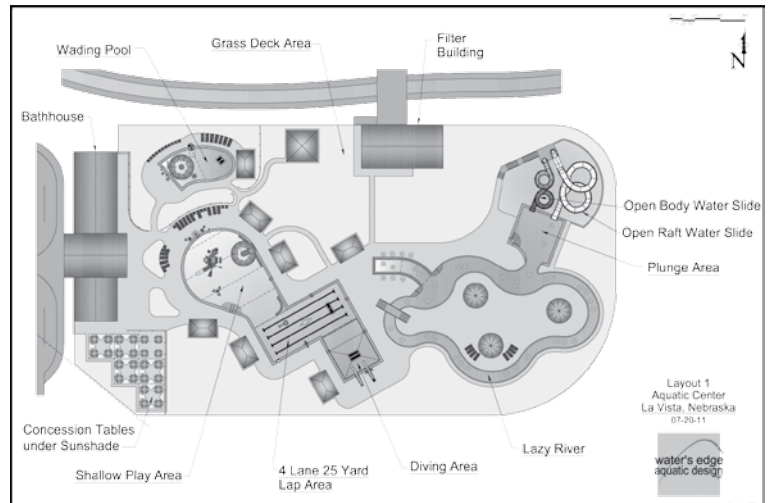
In 2012 La Vista residents will potentially have another opportunity to vote on whether they want a new swimming pool facility for the generations to come. A conceptual plan presented to voters in 2008 was narrowly defeated by 305 votes. The City Council recently determined that the design concept presented to voters in 2008 should be submitted again and has directed staff to take the necessary steps to prepare this issue for the ballot.

The aging infrastructure at the current facility has resulted in uncertainty for several years about the continued operation of the pool. For two consecutive summers, City crews have had to make extensive repairs to some portion of the infrastructure in order for the pool to be operational, including this summer when the wading pool opened a month late. At nearly 50 years old, parts are no longer manufactured for the pool. If the pool experiences an infrastructure failure and parts are not available, the City Council would be faced with a difficult decision on whether to make very costly repairs or close the pool. The proposed project seeks not only to maintain an amenity La Vista residents have come to expect but to also add to the quality of life for those living here.

Since the 2008 bond issue election, the future of La Vista's pool has been an ongoing discussion for the City Council. As elected officials, Councilmembers see it as their duty to be good stewards of the taxpayer's resources and to responsibly respond to the repair requirements of the pool. Being sensitive to the economic times, Councilmembers have struggled with the timing of a bond issue while also striving to provide a high quality of life to La Vista residents.

Ultimately the Council concluded that it is once again necessary to ask voters to consider a bond issue for a new swimming pool based on the original concept and the following factors:

- Significant portions of the pool's infrastructure have reached the point in their lifespan where they soon will fail, basic parts are no longer available and extensive repair will be required.
- As a city of more than 17,000 people, La Vista's current pool facility is inadequate for the existing population both in terms of the amount of water surface and features offered (i.e. diving boards, water slides, etc.)
- Redevelopment of the 84th Street corridor is a high priority for residents. A new pool in the existing location would be one of the first steps in the realization of Vision 84 and would improve access from 84th Street via a new connection at Summer Drive.



- A 2008 Citizen Survey revealed that more than 80 percent of respondents were supportive of the need for a new swimming pool.
- Many public participation opportunities were key to development of the swimming pool concept.
- Data gathered by Water's Edge Aquatic Design confirms that the size of the proposed pool is appropriate for La Vista's population.

If approved, the new municipal pool would be located on the site of the existing pool facility, and would contain approximately 14,471 square feet of water surface.

Key features of the new swimming pool would include:

- Wading pool with zero-depth entry and toddler area.
- Lap and recreational pool with zero-depth splash area and diving board.
- Lazy River area with water slides and bridge.
- Other features, including a rental shelter and admissions/bathhouse facility.
- Connection to 84th Street from the extension of Summer Drive.

Total cost for the project including construction, right-of-way acquisition and financing is \$8.5 million. What does this mean for the taxpayers in La Vista? If you own a home in La Vista valued at \$150,000, your property taxes would increase by \$81.75 annually, or \$6.81 per month.

For more information on the proposed swimming pool project, visit the City's Web site, www.cityoflavista.org/poolproject.

A MINUTE WITH mayor kindig



In addition to summer events, we have been working hard recently to prepare the fiscal year 2011-12 budget,

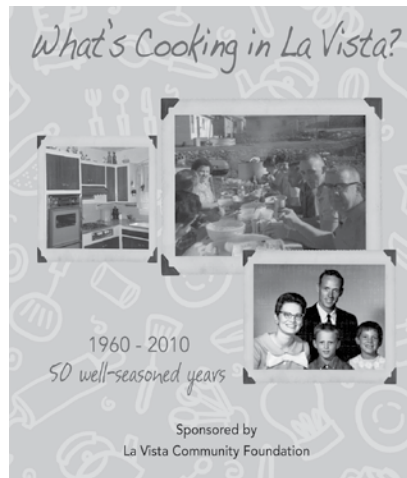
continuing negotiations on a new 911 agreement and gathering information about the best future direction for our municipal pool.

Two budget workshops were held in July. These workshops give the elected officials and public an opportunity to look in detail at the proposed budget and future projections. You can read more about the City's budget on page 4.

Work also continues on negotiating a 911 agreement. Let me reiterate what we told you last year when these negotiations were featured in numerous news stories - the residents of La Vista will never be without 911 services. I, and the City Council, would never let that happen. We hope to have some news soon on this issue, so watch the City's Web site and future issues of CityWise for more information.

For two consecutive summers, City crews have had to make extensive repairs to some portion of the pool infrastructure in order to have it operational for the season. I think this highlights what we already know, and that is, La Vista's pool is aging and repairs are becoming more frequent and more extensive. As you read on the cover of this newsletter, voters could potentially be asked to vote on a bond issue in 2012 for a new pool.

— Mayor Douglas Kindig



Cookbook Reminder

The La Vista Commemorative Cookbook, "What's Cooking in La Vista", produced last year in conjunction with the City's 50th anniversary, is still for sale at La Vista City Hall, 8116 Parkview Blvd. and Divine Truth Christian Bookstore, 84th and Harrison Streets.

The book contains recipes from longtime residents, former and current city officials and employees. The cost per book is \$20 and all proceeds benefit the La Vista Community Foundation.

La Vista City Calendar

All meetings held in the Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber unless otherwise noted.

October 2011

- 4 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 9 Fire Department Open House, 1-4 p.m., District 1, 8110 Park View Blvd.
- 10 Most City offices closed for the Columbus Day holiday
- 18 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 19 Park and Rec. Advisory Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 20 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 31 Halloween Safe Night, La Vista Community Center, 5:30-7 p.m.

November 2011

- 1 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10 Library Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m., La Vista Public Library
- 14 La Vista/Metropolitan Community College Owners Association, 4 p.m., La Vista Public Library
- 15 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 16 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 24-25 Most City offices closed for the Thanksgiving holiday
- 27 Santa's Sleigh Ride in La Vista starting at 5 p.m.
- 28 Tree Lighting Ceremony, 6 p.m., Community Center

December 2011

- 6 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 8 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 7 p.m.
- 15 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 20 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 21 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 26 Most City offices closed for the Christmas holiday

Holiday Traditions

La Vista will once again kick-off the holiday season with two special events on **Sunday, November 27 and Monday, November 28.**

Santa Claus will make his annual visit to La Vista on Sunday evening with a sleigh ride through the city, escorted by volunteers from the Public Works, Police and Fire departments.

As we understand the information from the North Pole, Santa will depart from the City Hall parking lot at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 28. He plans to be west of 84th Street between 5 and 6 p.m., between 84th and 72nd streets from 6 to 7 p.m. and east of 72nd Street from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Times and travel route could vary based on traffic, weather and other conditions.

Festivities will continue on Monday night with the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Soup Supper at the Community Center. The event will begin at 6 p.m. when Santa will return and light the outdoor tree.

Immediately following the tree lighting, the Mayor and City Council will host a soup supper inside the Community Center gymnasium along with holiday entertainment. Free-will donations to the Tri-City Food Pantry will be accepted. Hot chocolate and treats will also be available while children tell Santa their holiday wishes.

For more information, call the La Vista Community Center, 402-331-3455.

Halloween Safe Night

Join the City of La Vista and the La Vista Fire Department for the annual Halloween tradition!

Halloween Safe Night will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on **Monday, October 31**, at the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Boulevard.

All children ages 12 and under, accompanied by a parent or guardian are invited to attend this event, which will feature food, drink, candy and Halloween surprises around every corner.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, contact David Karlson in the Recreation Department, 402-331-3455.

Returning this year will be the pumpkin carving contest. Entry details, as well as other event information, are available on the City's Web site, www.cityoflavista.org/2011halloween.



firedepartment

SIMPLE ACTIONS CAN PREVENT LARGE DISASTERS

Recent fires at the Alpine Village and Shadow Ridge apartment complexes in La Vista and at the Ponderosa Pines apartments in Ralston have put the spotlight on the dangers associated with smoking in multi-family buildings.

These fires displaced more than 100 people and all three have been blamed on improper disposal of smoking materials. In the past three years, La Vista firefighters have responded to 10 smoking-related fires, which is the third most common cause of a fire in the home.

The La Vista Volunteer Fire Department offers these tips to those living in apartment buildings:

- Above all, avoid smoking in or near a building - instead do so on the ground floor and away from the structure
- Never leave lit cigarettes, candles or grills unattended
- Never smoke when you are lying down, drowsy, or in bed
- Never smoke while handling flammable liquids such as gasoline
- Cigarettes burn at up to 700 degrees so make sure when you put it out, it really is out

- Cigarette butts and ashes should be doused with water before being thrown into the trash
- Always use a proper ashtray and make sure it can't be knocked over
- Before emptying ashtrays make sure the contents are cold
- Practice good housekeeping - trash and clutter gives fire a place to start

Visit the La Vista Fire Department on the City's Web site, www.cityoflavista.org, for a fire safety checklist for your home.

LVFD ADDS 22 NEW FACES

On Tuesday, June 7, the La Vista Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department welcomed 22 new recruits to the ranks, 13 of which are now three months into their Emergency Medical Technician/Basic class. This class will conclude in November allowing them to take their National Registry Exam and apply for a Nebraska License. The remaining nine recruits have already completed their EMT training. In January, these new recruits will attend fire school to obtain their Firefighter One Certification from the State of Nebraska.

City Approves Budget for FY 2012

In preparing La Vista's budget for fiscal year 2012, City officials focused on three things: providing for the efficient and effective delivery of services, implementing the Mayor and City Council's strategic plan and maintaining an adequate level of cash reserve.

La Vista is one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Nebraska and continues to face the challenges associated with such rapid growth, namely providing high-quality public services to an expanding population while remaining fiscally responsible. The recently released census data indicates that over the last 10 years the City's population has increased by nearly 46 percent. During that same time, La Vista has solidified its position as a statewide economic development leader, facilitated a plan for major redevelopment in the heart of the City, and extended City services as far west as Interstate 80.

Managing rapid growth and remaining fiscally responsible is challenging in the best economic times. The fact that the regional and national economy has become unstable and unpredictable over the past several years has made that challenge even more difficult. While the Midwest has been fortunate economically when compared with the nation as a whole, there has been an impact.

La Vista's property valuations saw sluggish growth last year. Over the last ten years valuations have increased by an average of 11% annually. This year the increase in valuation is less than 1% despite recent annexations, which is at least \$63 million less than anticipated. A decline in the valuation of many existing properties has offset the additional valuation taken in through annexation. And, property values are expected to remain fairly static for the next several years. Additionally, the State of Nebraska eliminated all state aid to cities during the last legislative session which resulted in a loss of approximately \$100,000 for La Vista.

Efforts have been made to keep expenditures under control; however maintaining existing services in a growing community that is also seeing increased business activity results in increased costs. Budgeted expenditures for next year in the general fund, which covers the City's operating expenses, show a modest 1.7% increase over the current year.

The other area that factors into the total tax levy is the bond fund, which covers debt service payments on facilities such as the library, police station, and the District 2 fire station as well as development debt taken on through annexation.

The City has managed to keep operating expenses down and meet its debt obligations for the past several years without increasing taxes. Looking forward, the City's debt obligations peak in the next few years and that fact, combined with the flat property values and loss of state aid, have resulted in the Mayor and Council approving a budget with a 2.6 cent property tax increase. For the owner of a home valued at \$150,000, this translates to an increase of \$39.75 per year or \$3.31 per month. Some of the services you receive for this payment include police, fire and EMS protection, well-maintained streets that are promptly cleared of snow and ice in

the winter, and amenities including a wonderful library, community center and beautiful parks.

Anticipating that the economic recovery will take some time, the next few years will be lean ones in terms of the City's budget. However, the long term prognosis for La Vista is very good. The investment made in infrastructure is providing development opportunities, and City facilities such as the Library provide great quality of life amenities for residents.

"This budget recognizes the uncertain economic environment and difficult budget choices the City has made over the last several years," said Mayor Douglas Kindig. "In a growing city such as La Vista, not adding staff, delaying the purchase of equipment and waiting on desired projects is very similar to making budget cuts. Despite the challenges we currently face, La Vista will continue to flourish and will continue to be a great place to live, work, play and do business."



Summer Events 2011: What did you think?

The City is always looking for ways to improve activities and events, and we need your help to make them better.

Have you enjoyed the outdoor movies and concerts this summer? If so, which ones did you attend and what did you like about them? What did you think about La Vista Daze? What did you like and what would you have done differently?

Feedback received from the community will be taken into account when planning next year's events. We want to know what you think.

Please visit the City's Web site www.cityoflavista.org/2011events to fill out a brief survey.

For La Vista Daze events, go to www.cityoflavista.org/lavistadaze.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on an event committee, please contact Community Relations Coordinator, Mitch Beaumont, at 402-331-4343.



NEW K9 OFFICER

Members of La Vista City Council were introduced on June 7 to the La Vista Police Department's newest officer - a 60-pound Dutch Shepherd named Tar.

Tar is trained in tracking, article recovery, narcotics and handler protection.

The dog is from the Netherlands and takes commands in Czech, German or English - but only from his handler, Officer Mike Loyd.

Tar and Officer Loyd went through a 14 week training program along with K9 teams from Council Bluffs and Omaha at the Omaha Police Academy.

Tar and Loyd join Leda and Officer John Danderand to make up La Vista's Police Service Dog teams. The officers are supervised by Sgt. Bryan Waugh.

AVOID CAR BREAK-INS & THEFT FROM VEHICLES

La Vista residents and visitors are encouraged to help reduce the potential for car thefts and break-ins by using these simple yet effective ways to lessen the opportunity for criminal activity in our community.

1. Park your car in an area that is well lit.
2. Be vigilant, and park your car where you can watch it.
3. Do not leave your keys in the ignition or in the vehicle.
4. Do not keep valuables in the passenger compartment of your car.
5. Put your valuables in the trunk ("out of sight, out of mind").
6. Even if you're only gone for a short period of time, do not leave your wallet, purse, iPod, cell phone or anything of value in the car, it only takes a matter of seconds for someone else to reach in and grab them!
7. Vehicles with tinted windows are more likely to be broken into. The tinting hides the activities of the criminals while in your car.
8. Criminals also target cars with the adhesive type of window tinting because it muffles the sound of breaking glass.
9. Convertibles may look cool, but they can be expensive to repair if the criminals decide to slice a hole in the top to get to your iPod. Do not consider locked doors on a convertible as "safe".
10. Report any suspicious activity immediately! If you think you see someone breaking in to a car, call 9-1-1, if you need to report a theft from a vehicle, call our non-emergency number at 402-331-1353. If a break-in does occur, notify the La Vista Police Department immediately. Even if nothing of value has been taken or you feel that it is not worth reporting, let the police know anyway. There is a chance that other break-ins may have occurred and any information you provide may lead to an arrest.



Civic Park Master Plan

A long-range study to design the future Civic Park

Join in on the process!

The City of La Vista has contracted with RDG Planning & Design to facilitate a master plan for the future Civic Park, which was identified as one of the features of the 84th Street redevelopment plan.

The City will be hosting a number of public workshops in the months to come and as a resident of La Vista, you are invited to participate!

Watch the City's Web site for meeting dates and more information.



www.cityoflavista.org/civicpark

APOLLO

No, not the spacecraft, but the library catalog system, which allows more control to the library user to manage their account. Some new features include, reserving a title that is currently checked out and renewing your books from home. Library patrons also have a choice to be notified of books that are overdue, on reserve and three-day reminder by either e-mail or text message before materials are due.

The Library catalog page can be found at <http://lavista.bibliunix.com/atoz/catalog/>. Go online to reserve a copy of Todd Burpo's, (Nebraska author), account of his son's experience, Heaven is for Real, in paperback, Large Print or audio book (CD book format).

DATA BASES

Library databases are at <http://www.cityoflavista.org/index.aspx?NID=829>. This month's feature is: Home Improvement Reference Center. This database helps you with those home improvements or projects with great explanations, diagrams and even lists the materials needed for specific projects. This service is free and you can access from any Internet connected device. Stop by the library for your password and username.

NEW Database: World Book Encyclopedia has several features that are useful for all age groups: World Book online for kids, World Book online Info Finder, World Book Discover, Encyclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos, Dramatic Learning and Early World of Learning. This site includes educational games, information in both English and Spanish and IT IS FREE! You can access from any Internet connected device with the password and username.

TECHNOLOGY CLASSES

Want to enhance your computer skills? Computer classes are offered to library cardholders to provide skills in specific areas: Basic Computer Skills, Basic Internet,

Basic Word and Basic Scanning classes, Basic Excel, Job Searching on the Internet and Digital Camera. New classes recently added are Facebook, Twitter, Picasa, Flickr, ebooks and Overdrive. These hands-on classes are held in the library computer lab. A monthly calendar of classes and their content are posted at the library and on the web page. Registration is required. Contact Jean Hurst for more information, 402-537-3900.

QUILTING BEE SATURDAYS!

The Quilting Group meets the second and fourth Saturday every month. Drop by anytime between 2 and 4 p.m. You'll have "sew" much fun! This gathering is for beginners and experts alike.

CRAFT DAY

Craft Days are held various times throughout the year. This session is from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. for children in fifth grade and younger. Upcoming craft day is, October 17. Registration is not required.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

The La Vista Public Library will host a Halloween Party on Wednesday, October 26 from 11 a.m. to noon for children five years old and younger who are not in kindergarten. We'll read Halloween books, sing Halloween songs, have a costume parade, make a craft, and decorate caramel apples. Be sure to wear your costume and bring a bag for treats! Registration is required and begins Monday, October 3. If you have any questions, contact Jodi Linhart, 402-537-3900.

AFTERNOON BINGO

Afternoon Bingo will be held on Friday, October 14 from 2 to 3 p.m. This program is for the whole family. Prizes will be given away to anyone that gets a bingo. Registration is not required.



Preschool Storytime is geared towards three- to five-year-old children who are not in kindergarten. The aim of storytime is to introduce children to the library, the magic of books and reading, and to develop social skills needed for school. Preschool Storytime starts on Monday, September 12 and ends on Friday, December 9. Sessions are held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 10 to 10:45 a.m. and Thursdays from 2 to 2:45 p.m.

There will be no classes the week of November 21, and registration begins on Monday, August 15. Please sign-up for only one day a week.

Toddler Storytime is for children eighteen months to three years. It's a time for the child to participate with Mom, Dad or a grandparent or caregiver. Toddler Storytime is offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays and each class runs from 10:10 to 10:40 a.m. The fall session runs from Monday, September 19 to Friday, December 19. There will be no classes the week of November 22. Space is limited and registration begins on August 14.

Lapsit is a fun, hands-on program that introduces young children to the library and the joy of reading. This program is offered to children from six to eighteen months. It is offered only on Thursdays from 10:10 to 10:40 a.m. Lapsit starts on Thursday, September 20 and will end on Thursday, December 6. There will be no class on November 25. Space is limited and registration will begin on August 14.

FALL LEAF COLLECTION & DOCUMENT SHREDDING

On **Saturday, November 12**, the City of La Vista will offer free document shredding and a free dump site for leaves and yard waste at the Public Works Department, 9900 Portal Road. The document shredding and yard waste collection will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Both services are available to residents and those living in the City's Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction.

The document shredding is limited to three boxes of documents per household. Documents will be shredded on site and staples and paper clips do not need to be removed.

Leaves, grass clippings and tree branches, which can be any length but no larger than 6 inches in diameter, will be accepted. Used motor oil, anti-freeze and all batteries will also be accepted. Citizens must have proof of residency, either a valid driver's license or a copy of a utility bill. For more information call 402-331-8927.

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Weatherization assistance is available to La Vista residents from the Southeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership (SENCA) who meet certain eligibility requirements. Disabled persons ages 60 and older are at the top of the eligibility list.

Eligible weatherization improvements include:

- Adding insulation to the attic, walls and/or floors.
- Perform an air leakage evaluation and seal holes and gaps in the structure.
- Replace broken glass in primary windows.
- Install or adjust door weatherstrip, thresholds and/or sweeps.

For more information regarding the weatherization program, contact Gin Schaardt at SENCA, 888-313-5608 or ginschaardt@neb.rr.com

Council Clips

The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:

- Approved selection of consultant for 84th Street Blight and Substandard Study.
- Approved selection of consultant for Civic Center Park Master Plan.
- Approved bid for LED traffic signal modules.
- Approved selection of consultant for Information Technology Strategic Plan.
- Approved refunding of several bond issues.
- Approved selection of contractor for Keystone Trail project.

publicworkszone



KEYSTONE TRAIL PROJECT TO BEGIN THIS FALL

La Vista Link/Keystone Trail Project - The long anticipated La Vista Link/Keystone Trail Project now has begun.

The project involves running a 10-foot wide concrete trail from South 69th Street, through the south end of the Sports Complex, crossing 66th Street to the Soccer Complex and then following 66th Street north, where it will connect to the existing trail on Harrison Street.

Eighty percent of the \$320,000 construction and engineering cost is being funded by a Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant. The City of La Vista is picking up 10 percent of the local share, with the Papio-Missouri NRD contributing the remaining 10 percent.

The project will provide alternative access to the Sports Complex via bicycle or pedestrian traffic. In addition, the path will provide residents living west of the Sports Complex access to the complex in a safer manner - currently there are no sidewalks on 66th Street for bike or pedestrian traffic.

A majority of the project should be completed in 2011; with some wrap-up work in spring of 2012.

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...

Baby Pool - Visitors to the La Vista Municipal Pool earlier this summer may have noticed the baby pool was closed for repairs. They may have also noticed longer than normal rest periods early in the season at intermittent times in the main pool facility.

Both of these were the result of problems below the surface with aging pool infrastructure.

Public Works crews were able to isolate part of the baby pool problem to corroded sections of the drain pipe leading from the pump house to the baby pool. Three breaks in the pipe were allowing substantial amounts of air into the filtration system, called an air gap, which resulted in an automatic shut down of that pool.

Other problems include a cracked skimmer and an issue with a jet line.

A similar air gap issue is also suspected somewhere underneath the main pool facility, but fortunately the problem did not substantially interfere with operation of the main pool this summer.

72nd Street Pedestrian Overpass - The 72nd Street pedestrian overpass by G. Stanley Hall Elementary was closed for several weeks in July to allow for the repair of the retaining wall and to replace the concrete on the plaza on the west side of the overpass.

LA VISTA cityofficials

Mayor

Douglas Kindig

City Council

Brenda Carlisle, Ward 1

Ron Sheehan, Ward 1

Mike Crawford, Ward 2

Terrilyn Quick, Ward 2

Mark Ellerbeck, Ward 3

Alan Ronan, Ward 3

Anthony Gowan, Ward 4

Kelly Sell, Ward 4

City Administrator

Brenda Gunn

Management Team

Rita Ramirez, Assistant City Administrator

Pat Archibald, Buildings & Grounds Director

Pam Buethe, City Clerk

Ann Birch, Community Development Director

Sheila Lindberg, Finance Director

Rich Uhl, Fire Chief

Rose Barcal, Library Director

Bob Lausten, Police Chief

Joe Soucie, Public Works Director

Scott Stopak, Recreation Director



Donation Makes New Flags Possible

La Vista Public Works employee Randy Sefron replaces flags along 84th Street in advance of the July 4th holiday weekend. The purchase of the new flags made possible by a generous donation from the La Vista Community Foundation.

CityWise is published by the City of La Vista to keep citizens informed about city programs, policies and services. Please send comments and suggestions concerning the publication to the above address. CityWise can also be accessed on La Vista's Web site, www.cityoflavista.org.

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what'shappening • fall 2011

YOUTH POTTERY PAINTING CLASS

Creation Station is offering a pottery painting class just for you at the La Vista Community Center! **WHAT & WHEN:** Monday August 8, 1:30 p.m. – Celebrate going back to school by painting a pencil or crayon box! Tuesday September 6, 11 a.m. – Paint an angel picture frame gift for Grandparents Day! Monday October 17, 1:30 p.m. – Decorate your pumpkin that will last year after year! **COST:** \$12 – Includes pottery piece, paints, clear glazing and firing. Pieces are ready to be picked up one week after the day of class. To register, contact Creation Station at 402-502-9080 or visit their Web site, www.creationstationomaha.com.

PILATES MATWORK

Saturday mornings, October 1-November 19, 9-10 a.m.; or Wednesday evenings, October 5-November 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. Fee: \$60 per eight-week session. Come join the new Pilates Matwork class to help develop mind and body uniformity, provide balance, improve posture, reduce stress and focus on your core. Pilates is a versatile form of non-impact exercise designed to build strength, flexibility and endurance without building bulk or stressing joints. For more information, contact Wendy Harrison, 402-297-5230 or via e-mail at designsbywendy@hotmail.com.

KITE FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 9, 2011 12-5 p.m. at the La Vista Sports Complex. Bring the whole family for an afternoon of kite flying & fun! The American Kite Fliers Association and the La Vista Recreation Department invite you to Go Fly a Kite! Come see some of the world's largest and most creative kites at our upcoming festival.

LA VISTA LUGGAGE TRAVEL CLUB

MALL OF AMERICA TRIP. December 5-7. **FEES:** *Single occupancy price is \$285 or \$225 per person double occupancy. Itinerary: two nights lodging at Mystic Lake, mall coupon booklet, shuttle to Mall of America. The trip includes a professional escort on a luxury motor coach with on-board entertainment and restroom. Trip highlights include: Mall of America - the nation's largest combined retail and entertainment center. Marjorie McNeely Conservatory Gardens - enjoy the winter flower show, where you will be transported by sight and aroma to a beautiful summer day! For reservations, call Elite Tours 402-342-4585.

HO! HO! HO! SANTA'S CALLING!

On Tuesday, December 6, and Wednesday, December 7, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Santa will be taking time out of his busy schedule to call children in preschool (minimum age 3) through 2nd grade. Registration forms may be picked up at the La Vista Community Center, or download one from the City's Web site at www.cityoflavista.org. Forms must be returned to the Community Center by Friday, December 2. Calls are limited to the first 80 children registered. Due to the large number of calls, Santa can't take request for certain days or times! Local calls only.

LA VISTA HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Decorate your front door, front porch or front yard. Choose a Christmas or Holiday theme and show off your creativity! Prizes awarded for Best in Show, Griswold (over the top) and

Charlie Brown (simple). Entry forms available online at www.cityoflavista.org, or pick one up at the Community Center. Registrations must be submitted by December 5.

MARINE CORPS "TOYS FOR TOTS"

The La Vista Community Center will once again be collecting toys for the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program. Please bring toys (must be new and in original packaging) to the Community Center prior to the Community Tree Lighting Celebration on Monday, November 28, 2011.

LA VISTA LIBRARY HOLIDAY MOVIE NIGHT

Tuesday, December 20, 6:30 p.m., La Vista Public Library, 9110 Giles Road. All aboard for an evening of holiday movie magic – on Christmas Eve, a doubting boy boards a magical train that's headed to the North Pole. The La Vista Public Library will host this free movie event open to all La Vista residents. Treats will be provided. For more information, call the La Vista Public Library, 402-537-3900.

YOUTH DANCE CLASS

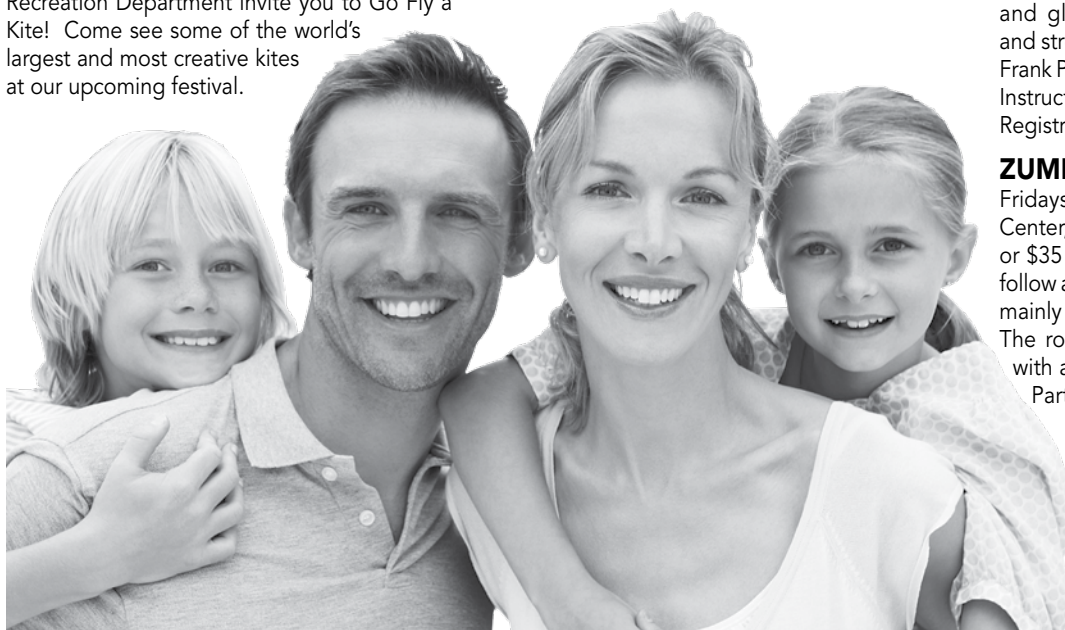
Ballet, Pointe, Tap, Jazz, & more for all ages! Visit www.doublehdance.com or contact Katherine Hogston, khogsto1@yahoo.com, for further information on classes and fees.

RELAXING YOGA

Saturdays, 1-2 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEES:** \$6 per class, payable in four class sessions (\$24). Cash only. Relaxing Yoga is for the beginner and intermediate yoga student. This class includes breathing and relaxation techniques, stretching, joint and gland exercises, Hatha Yoga postures, and stress management techniques. Instructor: Frank P. Ferrante, Master Degree Certified Yoga Instructor with 17 years teaching experience. Registration at class.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS

Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEES:** \$6 per class or \$35 for seven classes. Zumba is an easy-to-follow aerobic exercise with movements that are mainly derived from Latin/international music. The routines feature aerobic interval training with a combination of fast and slow rhythms. Participants do not have to know how to dance. This is a fun way to burn some calories. For more information or to register contact the instructor, Marisol, via e-mail at ur.marisol@gmail.com.



BALLROOM DANCE LESSONS (ADULT)

Mondays 7 - 8:00 p.m. La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEE:** \$40 per person. Ages 16 and up only. Join as a single or couple. Ballroom Dancing with Instructor Terry Vargas, who has earned three top teacher awards with the Arthur Murray Dance Studios. While still taking advanced training, Terry would like to give others the opportunity to enjoy dancing as he does. In each four-week session, 2-3 dances will be taught. Leather-soled shoes preferred (no gym shoes, please). Call 402-639-2209 for more information, dates for sessions and to register for the class - minimum of six people per class.

BATON CLASSES

La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. Ages 5 and up. Classes subject to availability; call Instructor Vicki Ludwick, 402-612-1479 to register. Discover the fun you can have twirling! Not only will you learn to twirl, but also you will make friends, build confidence, and learn to present yourself in a positive light.



BELLY DANCING CLASSES

Tuesdays - beginner, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; advanced - 7-8 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEE:** \$20 per month. For all ages/all sizes! A continuing class where you will learn an art form and musical instrument (finger cymbals). Enjoy this form of dance that brings out your unique self-expression. For more information or to register, call Wren Newman, 402-596-1397.

AIKIDO

Mondays and Thursdays: adults - 7-9:00 p.m.; children (5-11 years old) - 6-7 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. Fees: adults - residents \$30 per month; non-residents, \$35 per month; children - residents, \$15 per month; non-residents \$20 per month. For further information or to register, call Ron Christenham, 402-339-6124.

KARATE

Tuesdays and Fridays: adults - 7-8:30 p.m.; children (5-12 years old) - 6-6:45 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. Fee: \$25 per month with a \$5 one-time signup fee. For information or to register, call Sensei Porter, 402-592-7771.

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE SWORDSMANSHIP

Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.; Saturdays, noon-3 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEE:** \$40 per month. Adults, ages 18 and older, only. Suio Ryu is one of the few ancient systems of martial arts practiced today. It encompasses a broad variety of techniques such as jojutsu (Suio Tyu), kumi-iai (paired sword forms), naginata-jutsu, pure kenpo sword and wakizashi techniques. Open enrollment. For more information or to register, e-mail Britt Nichols, Info@suioryu-usa.org.

SOCHI-GO RYU SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Mondays, 5:30-7 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. For more information or to register, call Mike Benkis, 402-895-7841.

SENIOR ART CLASSES

Environmental Art Instructor Charlene Potter teaches inspirational and environmental art classes using oil, watercolor, pen and ink. Classes are every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at the La Vista Community Center. **FEE:** \$6 per class. Contact Charlene at 402-399-8411 to register for class.

PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

Tuesday and Thursday mornings throughout school year, 10-11 a.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. We open the gym for parents and children preschool-age and under. Bring your child's favorite indoor toys and the Recreation Department will provide extra toys and games. **FREE.**

INDIVIDUAL WEIGHT TRAINING CLASSES

By Appointment, La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEE:** \$25. Adults, 18 and older. This class teaches the basics of weight training. Learn how to set up and advance; use proper technique and form; and get the most out of your weight-training program using both machine and free weights. This individual training class meets for two 1-hour sessions. Body fat testing is included. For more information or appointments, call Rich at 402-331-3455.

LA VISTA (INDOOR) WALKING CLUB

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:30-11:30 a.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. The Walking Club is for any La Vista resident and seniors in the surrounding areas. This time is set aside for walkers, so there will be no interference of other programs. Walking is available at other times also. **FEE: FREE.**

MODEL AIRPLANE LICENSE & FIELD TIMES

Flying Times at La Vista Soccer Complex off of 66th Street, south of Harrison will be posted at the La Vista Recreation Department and Hobby Town U.S.A. **FEE:** residents \$30, non-residents \$40 (includes 1 year license and Midwest Performance Flyers Club membership). Model airplane flying licenses may be purchased at the Hobby Town, U.S.A. You must have your A.M.A. card in order to purchase your license.

INDOOR REMOTE CONTROL MODEL AIRPLANE FLYING

Mondays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. Watch at no cost or bring your indoor plane and pay a small drop-in fee. These lightweight planes will amaze you, as will the individuals who designed and fly them.

CO-ED YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINIC

Saturday mornings starting in mid-January 2012. Registration deadline: Saturday, December 17, 2011. Boys and girls, 1st and 2nd grades. In five, one-hour sessions, learn the basic skills of dribbling, passing, shooting, teamwork and fun. Early bird **FEE** (register by December 3): La Vista residents, \$15; non-residents, \$25. Regular **FEE** (after December 3): La Vista residents, \$20; non-residents, \$30. T-Shirt included. Volunteer coaches needed.

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Registration deadline: November 26, 2011. For boys and girls, 3rd-6th grades. Early registration by November 12: residents, \$45; non-residents, \$55. After November 12: residents, \$55; non-residents, \$65. Refundable uniform deposit: \$40 (collected at the time of registration and held until uniform is returned at the end of season). If interested in coaching, contact Ryan South at the La Vista Recreation Department, 402-331-3455.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINTER LEAGUES:

Matches on Wednesday evenings at the La Vista Community Center, season begins in late February. Registration Deadline: Saturday, January 7, 2012, or until the leagues are full, whichever comes first. Must be 18 and out of High School. **FEES:** \$100 per team; referee fee, \$8 per match paid directly to the referee. Late fee of \$10 if registered after January 7, 2012.

MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

(MUST BE 18 AND OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL) Season begins January 8, 2012. Games on Sunday afternoons/evenings at the La Vista Community Center. Registration deadline: Saturday, December 3, 2011 or until the league is full, whichever comes first. Must be 18 or over and out of high school. Registration **FEE:** \$135 per team; \$22.00 per game paid directly to the officials before the game; \$44 forfeit fee deposit, (separate check, collected at time of registration; no cash, please). Late fee of \$10 if registered after December 3, 2011.

SPECIAL SERVICES BUS

Available for senior citizens age 60 and older and all special needs/handicapped residents residing in the cities of La Vista and Ralston. The service operates Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; the service does not operate on City of La Vista declared holidays or when Papillion-La Vista or Ralston schools are closed due to weather conditions. Call the La Vista Recreation Department at 402-331-3455 for any questions about this service, or see online at www.cityoflavista.org. Call 402-657-3550 48 hours in advance to schedule a ride time. We make every effort to accommodate, but due to prior scheduling, we may not be able to help everyone at their requested times.

LA VISTA SENIOR CENTER

The La Vista Senior Center, located in the Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd., offers friendship, food, fitness, field trips and many more fun activities. Please join us for lunch, exercise or join in for games and/or special events. The Senior Center has plenty of parking and easy access.

Visit the City's Web site, www.cityoflavista.org/seniorcenter for the monthly senior newsletter, and to look at scheduled activities/trips and lunch menus. Contact the Recreation Department at 402-331-3455 for further information.



LITTLE CHEFS PROGRAM A SUCCESS

The La Vista Recreation Department hosted the first ever Little Chefs storytime and cooking program this spring. The program was so popular that staff will bring it back next year as well! Watch future editions of CityWise for more information about this new program.



LA VISTA FALLS GOLF COURSE

8305 Park View Blvd. 339-9147 for more information on open golf, golf course hours, fees, leagues and special outings.

La Vista Falls Golf Course will remain open during the winter season, weather and course permitting. Don't forget to buy the golfers you know a gift certificate from La Vista Falls this holiday season! Gift certificates can be purchased for any amount and can be used towards green fees, golf carts and merchandise. If the weather isn't nice enough to play golf, you can begin thinking of spring by organizing a group outing (company, family, school or a fundraiser) or league play. Call the Golf Course Clubhouse at 339-9147 for updates, hours and fees.

ATTENTION PARENTS: Snow days, not included in the below schedule, are considered the same as school days for youth (3 p.m.).

Community Center hours of operation (please note: hours are different for adult and youth):

Mon. - Fri.: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.*

Sat. (Sept. 1 - April 30): 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun. (Sept. 1 - April 30): 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.*

Mon. - Fri. (School Year): 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Adults Only

Mon. - Fri. (School Year): 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.*

Adults & Youth

Mon. - Fri. (Scheduled Days Off School):

1:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.* Adults & Youth

* Beginning October 1, 2011, the La Vista Community Center will be closing at 9 p.m. Sunday through Friday.

Snow days, not included in the above schedule, are considered the same as school days for youth (3 p.m.).



DINOSAUR EGG HUNT IN JULY

The City of La Vista Recreation Department hosted its annual Dinosaur Egg Hunt in July at Southwind Park. Children hunted for the dinosaur eggs (watermelons) and carried them back to the park shelter, where they were cut open and everyone enjoyed a few slices of ice cold watermelon. For more information about upcoming Recreation Department programs, visit the City's Web site at www.cityoflavista.org/recreation



ALWAYS CHECK AT THE RECREATION CENTER FOR EVENTS THAT MAY NOT BE LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. WE POST FLYERS OFTEN FOR SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNED AFTER THE NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED.

