



QUICK VIEW

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Our original spring Citywise was designed to highlight our spring and summer activities. The COVID-19 situation has caused us to change course, so instead, this special edition replaces our regular spring/summer newsletter.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy. This is a challenging time for families and businesses in La Vista and around the world as the coronavirus has brought unprecedented changes and interruptions to all of our daily lives. Every day brings uncertainty as we face the unknown and anticipate our “new normal”.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the healthcare professionals, first responders and workers in the service industry who have maintained vital functions throughout this extraordinary time in the life of our community. You are our heroes.

I assure you our top priority is the health, safety and well-being of our residents. We are taking the situation seriously and are in constant contact with federal, state and local health officials to stay updated on the latest information, restrictions and recommendations. Our efforts over the past few weeks have been to slow the spread of COVID-19, while providing core City services. Please know that even though City facilities may be closed, your City Council, City staff and I are working hard behind the scenes and are committed to maintaining vital and essential services for our residents.

As we continue through these challenging times and are filled with impatience to get back to our normal routines, we must be patient and stay the course. Stay home whenever possible, except to make essential trips to the grocery store or pharmacy. As the weather is improving and many of us will be getting outdoors to work in our yards, exercise and play with our children, we want to remind you how important it is that we continue to work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community. We must all be mindful not to gather in groups, even when outside, and always practice social distancing (6 feet or more from other people). Your cooperation can help save lives right here in La Vista.

Thank you for doing your part and for your ongoing cooperation. I know that we will get through this challenging time and my hope is that we will grow closer together through this process, difficult as it may be.

We hope that you find this special edition of the CityWise newsletter helpful and urge you to stay connected with us. Please visit our website for online resources or follow us on one of our social media platforms. If that's not your thing, don't hesitate to send us an e-mail at webinfo@cityoflavista.org or give us a call at **402.331.4343**. We are open for business and continue to provide exceptional service, albeit in new ways.

Given the uncertainty about what lies ahead, one thing I do know is that La Vista is strong. We are resilient, we are kind, and together we can be champions of slowing the spread of this terrible virus and strengthen our community as a result.

I continue to be proud to be your Mayor.

-Douglas Kindig



COVID-19 UPDATES

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

All City facilities are closed to the public until at least April 30. Staff is reporting to work and answering the phones, so give us a call! You can reach someone at each location as follows:

City Hall: 402.331.4343

Community Development: 402.593.6400

Public Works: 402.331.8927

Police: 402.331.1582

Library: 402.537.3900

Community Center: 402.331.3455

Community Development services are also available to the public by special appointment. Inspectors are available to review construction and remodeling plans, which should be submitted electronically if possible, to jsinnett@cityoflavista.org or by fax (**402.593.6445**). Physical building plans or material samples that must be submitted in person can be dropped off by arranging an appointment ahead of time by calling **402.593.6400**.

Service requests can also be submitted online at CityofLaVista.org/ReportAConcern.

UNCERTAINTY ABOUNDS FOR PROGRAMMING, SPECIAL EVENTS

Among the significant impacts of the Directed Health Measures associated with COVID-19 are the limitations on public gatherings. As a result, it has been necessary to make some tough decisions about upcoming programming and special events. Specifically, all programs and events have been cancelled through May 30. This includes all of the events listed in the box to the left.

The City was prepared to launch its 60th anniversary celebration in early April with the La Vista X 60 Challenge. Those plans are on hold as well, however, the City is hoping to launch this program later in the year when restrictions have been lifted and businesses are open again.

“This year’s Salute to Summer festival was to have been a celebration of our 60th anniversary and would have taken place with a new format and schedule of events,” said Mayor Douglas Kindig. “Cancelling this event is the last thing we want to do, but we feel it is necessary to ensure the health and safety of our community.”

The spring sports seasons are in limbo as well. All sports leagues and providers in the Omaha metro area are still hoping to offer their programs this year, and staff is working to explore options, such as abbreviated seasons. Any decisions will be on the website and we will contact anyone who has registered.

No decision has been made about summer events and programming, including the Library’s Summer Reading Program, concerts & movie nights, etc. The City will keep the community informed as future program and event decisions are made.

CANCELLED EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt
(April 11)

Spring Clean-Up Days
(April 16-19)

Arbor Day Celebration
(April 23)

Hometown Heroes
(May 21)

Salute to Summer Festival
(May 22-23)

PUBLIC MEETINGS

A new reality for local governments and communities during this pandemic is conducting virtual public meetings, which was made possible by an executive order from Governor Ricketts.

The City Council has held two virtual meetings since late March, and will continue until restrictions have been lifted. Virtual meetings are open to the public, and members of the public may participate in public comment during these meetings just as if they were attending a meeting in person at City Hall.

Virtual meetings are being held via Zoom, which allows City officials and residents to participate through both video and audio conferencing.

A link to each meeting will be posted at the top of the agenda along with the meeting ID and dial-in information. The meeting agendas are published on the City's website, CityofLaVista.org, under the **Your Government** tab, then Agendas/Meeting Minutes/Ordinances. The City Council agenda is also available at CityofLaVista.org/agenda.

To join a Zoom meeting, select the meeting link at the top of the meeting agenda, visit Zoom.us, or download the free Zoom app from the App Store. Once in Zoom, enter the Meeting ID and Password, which are posted on each agenda and will be specific to each meeting.

Residents who do not have access to a computer may participate by calling **346.248.7799** and entering the Meeting ID and Password.

For more information and to ask questions, contact the City Clerk's Department at **402.331.4343** or cityclerk@cityoflavista.org.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN PUBLIC PARKS AND TRAILS

Do not use parks or trails if you are exhibiting symptoms.

Follow CDC guidance on personal hygiene prior to visiting parks or trails.

Be prepared for limited access to public restrooms or water fountains.

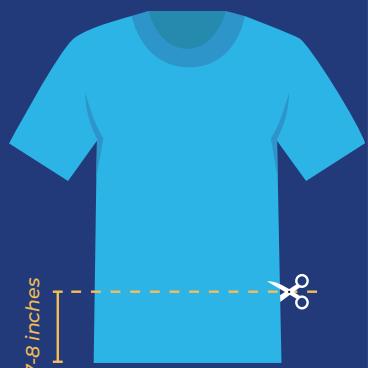
Share the trail and warn other trail users of your presence and as you pass.

Observe CDC's minimum recommended physical distancing of 6' from other persons at all times.

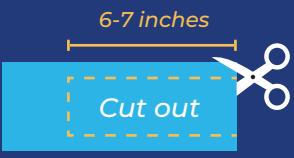


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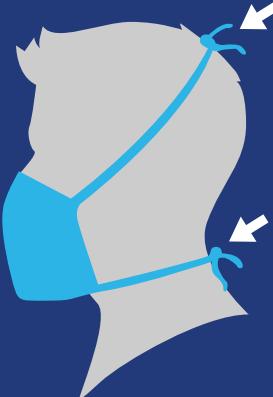
NO-SEW FACE MASKS



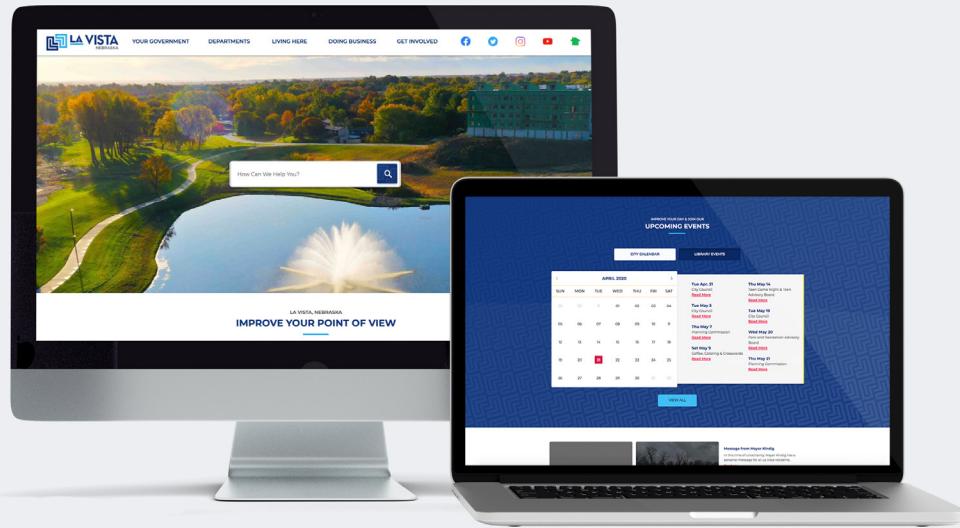
1 Cut 7-8" strip off t-shirt bottom.



2 Fold strip in half, cut out 6-7" rectangle. Then, snip tie strings.



3 Tie strings around neck, then over top of head.

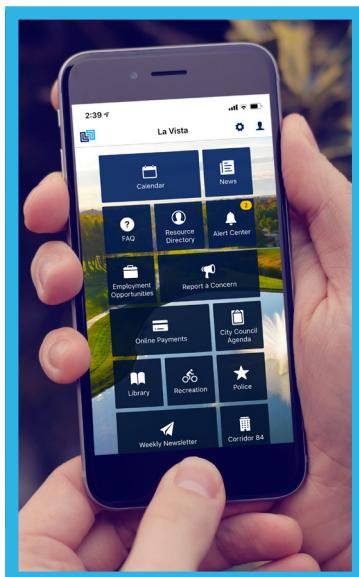


CITY LAUNCHING REDESIGNED WEBSITE, NEW MOBILE APP

By the end of April, the City's web presence will have a new look and the public will be able to download a new City mobile app.

The website redesign is the result of about 14 months of work, using feedback from the community. The City's website was last redesigned in 2013.

"At a time of great uncertainty for everyone, the launch of these new technology platforms is an opportunity to continue to enhance our connection with our residents," said Mayor Douglas Kindig.



New features include:

Mobile Responsive Platform. The new website is now mobile responsive, which displays information and graphics in a variety of ways depending on the device. The mobile app will provide access to City information on the go. The new platform also allows for many new efficiencies when it comes to managing the website.

Unique Sites for Library, Recreation & Police. The Library, Recreation and Police departments will have their own unique sites that tie back to the City's main site, allowing these departments to have distinct navigation options as well as buttons and other content.

Multiple Opportunities to Find City Services. The site was designed and organized to present information in a variety of ways to assist as many people as possible in finding what they need.

The new City app can be found in both the Apple and Google Play stores by searching for "La Vista, NE".

LIBRARY NOOK



RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: TUMBLEBOOKS

Here's a great tool that will help with homeschooling efforts.

All library cardholders now have access to TumbleBooks, which is a clearinghouse of thousands of ebooks for all ages.

La Vista Library patrons will enjoy unlimited access from home with no checkouts, no holds and no bulky downloads and the books are available instantly!

Usernames and passwords are available at CityofLaVista.org/COVID19.

LIBRARY ADJUSTS PROGRAMMING

Although the Library is closed to the public, staff is working to develop programs that will connect with the community virtually.



Recently the City launched a virtual children's storytime featuring staff from the Library. Until the Library opens to the public again, these storytimes will be posted **each Thursday at 10 a.m.** on the City's website at CityofLaVista.org/Library, as well as on our social media channels.



[@CityofLaVistaGovernment](#)



[@LaVistaLibraryYouth](#)



[@CityofLaVista](#)



YouTube.com/CityLaVista

LIBRARY DUE DATES EXTENDED

Due dates for all materials checked out from the Library have been suspended until the Library reopens. Fines have also been suspended. For questions or additional information, please contact the Library at **402.537.3900** or lvlibrary@cityoflavista.org.

COVID-19 LIBRARY RESOURCES

The library has a wealth of online resources for you to use during this time, free of charge! From music downloads to streaming video to eMagazines and of course eBooks and Audiobooks, it's literally all at your fingertips.

Visit CityofLaVista.org/eLibrary for the full list of resources!

For help accessing these resources, send an email to lvlibrary@cityoflavista.org and a staff member will answer your questions. Passwords for the many eLibrary resources available are also available.

RECREATION CENTER

VIRTUAL ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 24

In place of the traditional Arbor Day Celebration this year, Mayor Kindig and the Recreation Department will be offering a virtual version of the event.

On Friday, April 24, at 10 a.m. on the City's website and social media channels, staff from the department will join Mayor Kindig for a special Arbor Day proclamation and storytime. Dino the Dinosaur may even make an appearance.

All residents are invited to join the City for this fun virtual event. It can be found at CityofLaVista.org/2020Events.



#LOVELAVISTA HASHTAG CHALLENGE

The City of La Vista is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year... and so far the celebration isn't going like we'd planned. We need to get the fun going though, so the Recreation Department has created a list of 60 challenges you and your family can do at home!

Check out the insert included in this newsletter to learn how to play. Don't forget to share your photos... and be sure to include the #LoveLaVista hashtag. Have fun!

COVID-19 RECREATION RESOURCES

Whether you're looking for some workout ideas or ways to engage your child's imagination through digital exploration, the Recreation Department can help you out with a list of resources.

It's all compiled on our website at CityofLaVista.org/COVID19.



SPECIAL SERVICES BUS

The City's Special Services transportation program is still operating for those who need it to get to work or appointments.

Drivers are sanitizing vehicles regularly and limiting the number of passengers on the van at one time in order to facilitate appropriate distancing.

For further rules, questions, and/or scheduling requests, please call **402.657.3550** or **402.331.3455**.

WORD SEARCH

La Vista celebrated its 60th Anniversary on February 23, 2020. Help us celebrate by finding all of the hidden words that describe what makes La Vista so special! The words may be hidden in the puzzle backward, forward and diagonally.



ANNIVERSARY
CENTRAL PARK
CITY CENTRE
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL
DINO
FEBRUARY

HOME
HOUSE OF NINES
LA VISTA
LIBRARY
MAYOR
NEBRASKA
NEIGHBORS

POOL
SANTAS WORKSHOP
SARPY
SIXTY
SPORTS COMPLEX
TRADITION
VETERANS

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO STAY CONNECTED, LA VISTA?

In this time of social distancing and quarantines, it's more important than ever to stay connected to your friends, family and neighbors.

Here are some ideas you can try:

- **Virtual playdates**
- **Coffee with a friend**
- **Host a virtual happy hour or watch party**
- **Sunday dinner with family**
- **Send a card or letter**
- **Pick up the phone and call someone**
- **Attend a class or virtual event**
- **Create driveway art with sidewalk chalk & have a neighborhood gallery walk**

What are you doing to stay connected? Share your ideas with us on social media using the hashtag [#LoveLaVista](#).



#LOVELAVISTA

SOCIAL DISTANCING HASHTAG CHALLENGE

- 1 Post a photo or video of you and/or your family doing one of the challenges listed below.
- 2 Use the hashtag #LoveLaVista on Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter.
- 3 We'll share the best submissions on social media, and we'll have a running compilation of all submissions at CityofLaVista.org/COVID19.

CHALLENGES

- Paper Airplanes (*Measure accuracy and distance*)
- Cup-Stacking Race
- Chopsticks (*Place the most grains of rice in a cup using chopsticks*)
- Puzzle Race (*Put a simple puzzle together the fastest*)
- Family Dance Party
- Blindfolded Drawing
- Make Homemade Pizza (*Share your recipe too!*)
- Make a House of Cards
- Build Your Own Board Game
- Camp in the Backyard

SKILLS

- Yard Games (*Cornhole, Washers, Ladder Ball, Croquet*)
- Draw a Picture by Holding a Pencil with Your Toes
- Dribble a Ball with Your Non-dominant hand
- Play Catch with Your Non-dominant Hand
- Put a Puzzle Together Upside Down.
- Try YouTube Yoga
- Learn a Magic Trick
- Learn to Juggle
- Cook a New Meal
- Bake Your Favorite Cookies

GAMES

- Sudoku
- Word Search (*BONUS: Do the One in This Newsletter!*)
- Crossword Puzzle
- Dominoes
- Indoor Scavenger Hunt
- Build a Lego City
- Indoor Bowling
- Play with Hot Wheels
- Hide and Seek
- Nerf Battle!

INTELLECTUAL

- Read a Book
- Dissolve an Egg's Shell in a Glass of Vinegar
- Make a New Board Game Using Several Other Board Games
- Start a Journal
- Write a Letter
- Make a Family Tree
- Learn a New Language
- Create a Time Capsule
- Complete a Puzzle
- Learn Computer Coding

GENERAL

- Give Someone a Compliment
- Play an Instrument
- Movie Night with the Family
- Prepare Your Garden
- Do a Sewing Project
- Paint with Watercolors
- Build Something with Wood
- Put on a Puppet Show
- Color in a Coloring Book
- Paint Rocks
- Write a Song
- Write a Short Story
- Make a Sailboat for the Tub
- Decorate a Cake or Cupcakes
- Make Balloon Animals
- Make Your Own Ice Cream
- Crochet or Stitch Something
- Make a Mini Film
- Disney Marathon
- Put on a Play

#LoveLaVista

Stay Home

STAY HEALTHY

Stay Connected



STAY HOME

If you are sick or if someone in your home is sick.

IF YOU ARE AN EMPLOYER

Make plans so that your employees can stay home when they need to.



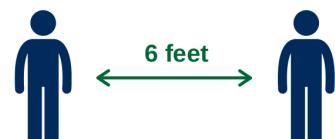
COVER YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH



With a cloth mask when you are out in public.

KEEP AT LEAST 6 FEET DISTANCE

From anyone you don't live with.



SHOP 1 TIME EACH WEEK

Go alone, and be efficient. Avoid browsing.



#KEEPNEBRASKAFLAT

SARPY/CASS
Health Department

NALHD
Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors