



La Vista Gets Thumbs Up from Citizens

A key objective identified in the City's 2007-2009 Strategic Plan was to conduct a random-sample citizen survey to determine residents' attachment to La Vista and to gather ideas for improving the community and municipal services. Such a survey is also useful for assessing community needs, facilitating long-range, short-term and strategic plans, benchmarking and policy development.

As a result, in November 2007 the City of La Vista participated in the National Citizen Survey™, a customized citizen survey process that collects, analyzes and reports data back to the municipality. A random sample of 1,200 La Vista residents were selected to participate in this survey. The survey response rate was 31% which is considered a good return.

The National Citizen Survey™ contained many questions related to the life of residents in the Community. Survey participants were asked to rate their overall quality of life, as well as other aspects of quality of life in La Vista. They also evaluated characteristics of the community, and gave their perceptions of safety in the City of La Vista. The questionnaire assessed use of the amenities of the community and involvement by respondents in the civic and economic life of La Vista.

The highest rated characteristics of La Vista were overall quality of new development, educational opportunities, overall appearance and overall image/reputation. When asked about potential problems in La Vista, the three concerns rated by the highest proportion of respondents as a "major problem" were taxes, drugs and unsupervised youth. The rate of population growth was viewed as "too fast" by 16% of respondents, while 8% thought it was "too slow".

When evaluating safety in the community, 84% of respondents felt "somewhat" or "very safe" from violent crimes in La Vista. In their neighborhood after dark, 85 % of survey participants felt "somewhat" or "very safe." Residents also similarly ranked Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Residents ranked all city services above the national norm. Seventy-two percent of the respondents indicated that they were pleased with the overall direction the City of La Vista is taking.

Other areas of interest in the survey included overwhelming support for a new aquatic facility. However, when the potential of increased taxes to fund such a facility was presented, the level of support decreased. When asked to identify what citizens felt was La Vista's

most pressing need, there were a significant number of respondents who mentioned the 84th Street corridor and/or specifically the vacant Wal-Mart property. (See article, page 3).

Finally, while most citizens are not necessarily excited about paying taxes, La Vista was ranked in the 74th percentile by respondents when asked if they felt they received a good value for the City of La Vista taxes they pay. Out of 219 communities asking a similar survey question, La Vista ranked 57th.

The City sincerely appreciates the residents who took the time to respond. A full report of the citizen survey results is available for review at La Vista City Hall, the La Vista Public Library and on the City's website at www.cityoflavista.org.



The Mayor and City Council participate in an annual Strategic Planning meeting to set goals and direction for the upcoming year. Major issues such as the erosion along Thompson Creek (see below) were discussed.



A MINUTE WITH mayor kindig



Each spring prior to the beginning of the City's annual budget preparation process, the Mayor, City Council and management team participate in a day-long strategic planning session. I truly believe this meeting is one of the most important things we do each year. It gives us an opportunity to review the progress we have made and re-establish our priorities and goals for the upcoming year. It is the process by which we set the direction for La Vista.

As we worked on our strategic planning efforts this year, it was extremely beneficial to have the results of the citizen survey for reference. We now have input directly from the citizens who live in La Vista about what they want and need from their community. Thank you to everyone who received a survey and responded. You have provided valuable information and direction.

As evidenced by the survey, one of the issues that continues to be a concern for residents is the vacant Wal Mart property and the 84th Street corridor in general. Because so many of you mentioned this in your survey comments, we have included information elsewhere in this newsletter to let you know just what the City can and cannot do regarding vacant properties.

While the City Council and I are pleased to know that citizens are generally satisfied with city services and the quality of life in La Vista, the survey also gives us insight into community wants and needs. We don't want to become complacent and we know there are always things we can do better. The survey results will help us focus our efforts in the right direction.

Douglas Kindig, Mayor

La Vista History Project

In just two short years the City of La Vista will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding. In conjunction with that anniversary we are undertaking a project to record the City's first 50 years of history.

A committee of several people with connections to the early years of La Vista has been established. If you have a story to tell, photos or other La Vista memorabilia, we would like to hear from you. Our goal is to publish a book that tells La Vista's story, where we started, how we got to where we are now, and our vision for the future.

Please contact Rita Ramirez at rramirez@cityoflavista.org or 331-4343 with ideas, questions or comments. We look forward to hearing from you.

La Vista Trivia: What was the original name of Park View Blvd.? (see page 7 for answer).

La Vista City Calendar

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

May 2008

- 6 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Library Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m., Library (Room 142)
- 15 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Park and Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Most City offices will be closed for Memorial Day
- 28 Swimming Pool Advisory Committee, 7:00 p.m., Library

June 2008

- 3 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Ice Cream Social, 2:30 p.m., Community Center
- 5-8 La Vista Days
- 9 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Dinosaur Egg Hunt, 3 p.m., Central Park
- 18 Park and Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.

July 2008

- 1 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Most City offices will be closed for Independence Day
- 10 Library Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m., in Library Conference Room
- 14 City Council Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m.
- 15 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 City Council Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m.
- 16 Park and Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.

Why is the Wal-Mart Property Still Vacant?

The fact that the former Wal-Mart location in Brentwood Crossing is still vacant 18 months after the company moved to a new location is obviously on the minds of La Vista's citizens. Twenty-one percent of those responding to the National Citizen Survey listed the vacant property and/or the general conditions along the 84th Street corridor as a concern.

Unfortunately, there is very little the City can do with regard to vacant commercial properties. Wal-Mart has a lease on the Brentwood Crossing property until 2011. The Kroenke Group, located in Missouri, owns the property. The decisions made by private business owners with regard to leasing or selling their properties are just that, private, and not governed by the City.

Here is what the City CAN do. The City can enforce its ordinances to ensure that vacant properties do not fall into disrepair. It can keep

existing infrastructure (84th Street) well maintained. In regard to the Brentwood Crossing property, the City has kept in touch with Wal-Mart representatives as well as the property owner. La Vista officials are working hard to make potential developers aware of the vacancy. Additionally, funds have been budgeted to explore options regarding a long-term visioning process for the 84th Street corridor.

There are many reasons why commercial properties become vacant. New development on the western end of the City as well as in neighboring communities has enticed some businesses to relocate. The City is committed to the long-term economic health of the 84th Street corridor and will do whatever it can to keep the area a viable commercial corridor.

policewatch



La Vista's Finest Go Hollywood

On February 24, 2008, La Vista Chief of Police Bob Lausten (right) and Sergeant Jeremy Kinsey (left) were on the red carpet for the 80th Academy Awards at the famed Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.

Lausten and Kinsey spent the weekend in Los Angeles as part of the security team at the Oscars. They were guests of the company providing security for the event and were provided a "behind-the-scenes" look at the organization, planning and implementation of the security plan. Due to the fact that the event is held in a public shopping-entertainment center rather than being confined to one venue, security is very comprehensive and creative. In addition to the LAPD and the LA Fire Department, the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security were involved in the security plan.

Lausten and Kinsey were assigned to a detail monitoring the arrival of 3,000 guests and following the awards program they provided security for 1,000 guests who attended the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences Governor's Ball. It was a great opportunity to observe the inner workings of a very large scale security operation.



The La Vista Police Department's Criminal Investigations Bureau received an award at the annual Sarpy County Crimestoppers Luncheon for their outstanding work in 2007.

2007 Annual Report

The La Vista Police Department's 2007 Annual Report indicates that crime statistics were down considerably in 2007. In fact, they were at the lowest level in five years. Significant decreases were seen in the number of incidents of vandalism, theft and assault.

As the City continues to grow, it is not surprising that the number of traffic crashes continues to increase. Traffic safety was one of the areas of focus for the Police Department last year. Alcohol-related enforcement was increased with the use of sobriety checkpoints and initiatives to combat underage drinking. During 2007 the department issued 5,024 traffic citations and written warnings, and on average had a DUI arrest every two days.

Again in 2007, the Police Department partnered with other city departments and a wide variety of private organizations to provide an array of services that strengthen families, build neighborhoods, and preserve our high quality of life. The officers of the La Vista Police Department are committed to continuing the tradition of maintaining La Vista as a safe place in which to live, work and raise a family.

Community Development Department

A&W/Long John Silvers

Building remodeling has been completed and these two new restaurants are now open for business. Location: 8220 Giles Road.

The Brenmar Company

A permit has been issued for a 5,860 s.f. tenant finish for this nationwide leader in the food service supply industry. Location: 11701 Centennial Road.

Chatty Squirrel Café & Bakery

This new restaurant in the Val Verde shopping center is now open for business. Location: 9631 Giles Road.

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center

Construction is on-going on this seven story hotel with 257 rooms. The hotel will have a full height atrium, dining and lounge seating, and full height trees. Amenities will include an indoor pool with a hot tub, health and exercise facility and an outdoor sun deck. Construction has also started on the conference center which will have a capacity of 5,000-6,000 and be marketed for conventions, corporate meetings, trade shows, fund raising dinners, wedding receptions, etc. Location: 12520 Westport Parkway.

Courtyard by Marriott Hotel

Construction of a six story hotel with 246 rooms, including meeting rooms, a restaurant, a lounge and recreational facilities is underway. This hotel will also be connected to the Conference Center through a covered walkway. Location: 12560 Westport Parkway.

Culvers

A permit has been issued for the construction of a new 4,261 s.f. restaurant in the Mayfair subdivision. Location: 9848 Giles Road.

Enterprise Precast Concrete, Inc.

Construction is nearly completed on a 4,920 s.f. building addition. Location: 13800 W. Giles Road.

Headdley Financial Services

A permit has been issued for a 4,032 s.f. tenant finish on the first floor of the Southport Professional Building #1. Location: 12110 Port Grace Boulevard.

Island Bar & Grill

This restaurant and bar located in the Fantasy's complex in Southport East is now open. Location: 7826 S. 123rd Plaza.

KSI Construction

A permit has been issued for a 2,000 s.f. tenant finish for this construction company office. Location: 8720 S. 114th Street.

Monarch Tire & Wheel

Construction is nearly complete on the new location for this wholesale wheel and tire business. Location: 10346 Chandler Circle.

Nuts & Bolts, Inc.

Construction is nearly complete on this 30,780 s.f. building. This company is a wholesaler/distributor of - can you guess? Location: 12005 Centennial Road.

Quality Rivets

A permit has been issued for a 5,874 s.f. tenant finish for this rivet company. Location: 10630 Chandler Road.

Smart Car

A new Smart Car dealership has been added to the Chrysler/ Dodge/Jeep dealership at the Performance Auto Plaza. Location: 7010 S. 124th Circle.

Southport Center

Construction is underway on the first building of a two building complex which will also contain an open plaza area. The two buildings contain over 40,000 s.f. of commercial flex-space. Tenants have not been announced. Location: 12040 McDermott Plaza.

Southport Plaza

A tenant finish is underway for Learning With Love, a child care center. Location: 7428 Eastport Parkway.

Summer Kitchen Café

Construction has started on this new restaurant in Southport East. A summer opening date is anticipated. Location: 12010 Giles Road.

Turnkey Solutions

Construction has been completed on this 56,760 s.f. industrial building. This software manufacturer produces CD's, DVD's, VHS tapes and audio cassettes. Turnkey is the largest duplication facility of its kind in the country. Location: 12001 Cary Circle.

Wonder Plumbing

Construction has started on a 7,798 s.f. building which will be the new office/warehouse for this plumbing company. Location: 7811 S. 134th Street.



George Barth, the 2007 City of La Vista Employee of the Year, and Mayor Kindig. George is the Golf Course Superintendent at La Vista Falls.

Congratulations

Recognition awards for 2007 were presented to City employees at a special event in February. In addition to recognizing George Barth, the 2007 employee of the year, outstanding service awards were presented to Pat Archibald, Sue Tangeman and Dutch Sevener. A TEAM award was given to Mary Alex, Karen Fagin, Dave Karlson and Vicki Whittaker for their work on the annual Health Fair.

Public Works employees receiving recognition for various projects included Jeff Thornburg, Pat Cavlovic, Don Ward, John Yost, Russ Addleman, Scott Wood, Dennis Iverson, Kyle Rappold, Ron Keller, John Helwig, Travis Prosser, Rob George and Ricky Roy, Jr.

The Police Department recognized Harald Rappold, James Thompson, Mike Loyd, John Danderand and Brad Wood.

Wellness awards were presented to Pat Archibald, Rita Ramirez, Karen Fagin, Dee Jay Barcal, Brian Stolley and Dennis Dinan.



Council Gives Direction on Thompson Creek

Following presentations, resident feedback, meetings, surveys, and a tour of the affected area, the La Vista City Council provided direction for addressing the erosion along Thompson Creek between Edgewood Blvd. and 72nd Street, and instructed staff to pursue funding options. The preferred option is a combination of property acquisition (22 homes) and channel construction work. Estimated cost is \$4.3 million. Now that an option has been identified, applications can be submitted for funding from various sources. The timeline for this project will be directly connected to the availability of funding. If citizens have questions or concerns they may contact City Hall at 331-4343 or visit the City's website at www.cityoflavista.org

Prevent Water Pollution

Residents are reminded that anything that is washed out of their yard and driveway into the street will flow along the curb and into a storm water drain; which will eventually end up in a pond, lake, creek, stream or river. Unlike the sanitary sewer, storm water is untreated and can be very harmful to aquatic plants and animals if polluted with other substances. When fertilizing your lawn, any material left on the sidewalk and street should be placed back on the lawn. Do not over water your lawn; discontinue watering when the lawn becomes saturated and will no longer absorb water. Oil and antifreeze should never be washed into the

street and should be disposed of properly. These items can be dropped off at the La Vista Public Works Department (9900 Portal Road) during normal business hours or during special collection events. Vehicles should be washed at a commercial car wash where soap and other chemicals drain into a sanitary sewer system. Washing a vehicle in your driveway results in these chemicals entering the storm sewer and eventually ending up in a waterway. Every citizen plays a vital role in keeping the waters of our community from being impaired.

Public Works Takes Delivery of New Dump Truck System

In March the La Vista Public Works Department took delivery of a new 2008 Sterling Dump Truck. The truck is fully equipped for snow and ice removal operations and it is the fourth unit at Public Works to utilize a Force America Hydraulic System for controlling the plow, sander, box and hydraulic controls. This standardization ensures that no matter what brand of truck an employee is operating, the controls look the same and are located in the same position. This truck also has a Swap-Loader System. This system resembles the loading and unloading system used by trash trucks for roll-off dumpsters. It allows different types of truck beds and boxes such as a standard dump box, v-box material spreader bed and flat-bed to be loaded and unloaded quickly.

Work Zone Safety Fact Sheet

- The two main causes of work zone crashes are speeding and inattentive driving.
- Most work zone crashes in Nebraska involve rear-end crashes. Remember to leave 2 seconds of braking time between you and the car in front of you.
- Most work zone crashes occur in daylight.
- Most work zone crashes occur on straight and level sections of roadway.
- More motorists are injured in work zone crashes than highway workers.
- Fines for speeding are doubled in work zones.
- It takes less than a minute more to travel through a two-mile long work zone at 45 M.P.H. than at 65 M.P.H. - 52 seconds to be precise.
- If you see flashing arrow panels or "lane closed ahead" signs, merge as soon as possible.
- From April to December, as many as 300 highway projects may be in progress across Nebraska.

----- Sources, Nebraska Department of Roads, U.S. Department of Transportation.

La Vista Days

Plans are underway for La Vista Days 2008. The La Vista Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of La Vista are preparing for another year of great family fun. The carnival in Central Park will open on Thursday, June 5 and run through Sunday, June 8. Please note this is a week later than La Vista Days has typically been held. There will be a beer garden in Central Park on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening, June 6 and 7.

The annual parade is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Again this year the parade will start at 73rd and Park View Blvd. and run west to 83rd and Park View Blvd. The parade will not cross 84th Street and traffic will remain open on 84th Street. The reviewing stand will be located in Champion Park at approximately 75th and Park View Blvd. Parade entry forms are available from the La Vista Area Chamber of Commerce, 339-2078.

The weekend will conclude with a Community Cookout sponsored by Suburban Newspapers, a Celebrity Softball game, and fireworks sponsored by Bellino Fireworks. All of these events are held at the City's Sports Complex on Sunday evening, June 8.

Please contact the La Vista Area Chamber of Commerce at 339-2078 or visit their website at www.lavistachamber.org for more information on La Vista Days. Come join in the fun!

Summer Reading Program

The 2008 Summer Reading Program: Catch the Reading Bug is open to children from birth through 8th grade. Program participants will be able to explore the library's collection for exciting books to read. They can earn prizes and coupons by keeping track of the amount of time they spend reading. The Summer Reading Program will also offer various activities throughout the summer including Preschool, Toddler and Lapsit Storytimes, crafts, contests, movie night, guest speakers, and more. We are doing something NEW this year. There will be an activity Monday through Friday - EVERY DAY AT 2 P.M. Registration for the Summer Reading Program will be at the **Kick Off, June 4th from 2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.** at the library.

Saturday, June 21st, is Leda Day at the Library. Leda is the Police Department's K-9 officer. Mark your calendars! Visit the library's web page for more information or ask on your next visit to the library.

The Summer Reading Program for Teens is being revamped! The theme is Metamorphosis @ Your Library! Watch the library's web page and stop by the **Teen Kick-off and registration on June 6th from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.** at the library. Come join us for an afternoon of fun and games!

Teen Volunteers are needed this summer. Sign up at the library by May 31st to assist with craft time, game day, story time, and more! Orientation will be June 3rd at 2 p.m.

New Children's Librarian

The La Vista Public Library offers many programs that focus on children and youth. We are very excited to have a new Children's Librarian on board and invite you to stop into the Library to meet her. Jodi Tangeman started at the Library in April. She brings valuable experience to La Vista having worked with children of all ages in the Omaha Public Schools system as both a teacher and a librarian.

Jodi will be very involved with the programs and activities that are planned for the upcoming summer months. Get your children registered for one of these programs and take advantage of this opportunity to get to know Jodi and the Library better.

Reading Room

Reading Room is still open. This is a basic drop-in storytime session of 20-30 minutes where children with or without a parent will be read to by library staff. This session is geared for infant children through 2nd grade. There are two sessions each week: Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. and Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. No registration is needed. Drop-in to the Reading Room.

Evening Book Club.

The Library has an evening book club which meets the second Monday of every month. Call the library to check on the current title. Join us for a book discussion.

Quilt Club

The Quilt Club is going strong. They have finished their first quilt and are in the process of completing FOUR more! The goal is to make and donate at least 6 quilts to the La Vista Fire Department for use with needy families and in the sleeping quarters of the Fire Station. Anyone interested in assisting with the quilts or donating materials can visit the Quilt Club the second and fourth Saturdays of every month at 2 p.m.

Library cards

Library cards are free to residents of La Vista, allowing you to check out all materials at no additional cost. If you are not sure if you live within the city limits, call the library or stop in and visit. Non-residents can purchase a membership for one full year for just \$50, less than the cost of buying two hardback books! The library has a great selection of the latest publishing authors. See you at the library!

**Did you know if you are 8 years old and a La Vista resident,
you can get your very own library card?**

children



Story Times

Summer Story times are available during June and July.

Preschool Story Time starts on June 9th and will run on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Time is geared for children 3-5.

Toddler Story Time begins on June 16th and will run Monday, Tuesday, and Friday at 10:10 a.m. Toddler Story Time is for children 18 months to 3 years along with Mom or Dad or a grandparent or caregiver.

Lapsit will begin that same week and is for children from 6 months to 18 months of age on Thursdays. These fun, hands-on programs introduce young children to the library and the joy of reading.

Registration for all story times is required. Call for more information.

**Library web page is
located at
[www.cityoflavista.org/](http://www.cityoflavista.org/library)
library
Click on "card catalog"
to search the library's
collection for bugs
and insects.**

"Coolest" Companies

Did you know that La Vista is home to two of the "coolest" companies to work for? A recent article in the Omaha World Herald identified five Midlands companies as standouts when it comes to designing colorful, functional, employee-friendly work spaces. Cabela's and Pay Pal designed buildings that create a "wow factor" with the public while at the same time keeping employee needs in mind. The fun, creative work spaces are positive factors in employee recruitment and retention. Congratulations to both of these companies!

Metro! Rideshare

Metro! Rideshare is a free web-based carpooling program sponsored by the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA). The program is available for all Omaha-Metro commuters in Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, Pottawattamie and Mills counties. AAA estimates that if you have a one-way commute of 10 miles per day and rideshare five days per week, you can save over \$2,600 per year. Visit www.MetroRideshare.org to sign up and learn more about the program or contact MAPA at 444-6866 Ext. 210.

Property Tax Information

If you own property in Sarpy County and want to know how your property is being taxed you can log on to www.sarpy.com and click on "Property Search" to enter your address. You will have access to information about the tax rates of various entities and how they impact your property.

Aquatic Facility Update

The Swimming Pool Advisory Committee met again in early April to discuss the feedback received via the National Citizen Survey about the aquatic facility project. After considerable discussion, the Committee requested that the consultants prepare revisions to the plan to pare it down. The Committee will meet again on May 28, 2008 to review the revisions in order to formulate a recommendation for the City Council. Watch the City's website, www.cityoflavista.org, for details. Council could place the issue on the ballot as early as November 2008.

Council Clips

The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:

- Directed sales tax initiative be placed on the ballot
- Approved the One and Six Year Street Improvement Plan
- Issued permits for the sale of fireworks to five community organizations
- Participated in the annual day-long strategic planning meeting
- Gave direction regarding an erosion control plan for Thompson Creek
- Began work on the annual budget by reviewing a draft of the Capital Improvement Program

Answer to Trivia Question:
Easy Street North

firedepartment news

The La Vista Firefighters' Association is hosting its **Second Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 31**, at Tara Hills Golf Course. Proceeds benefit the fire department and the community through fire safety education and other service projects. Pre-registration is required. Contact the Fire Department at 331-4748 or visit our website at www.cityoflavista.org under the Fire Department tab for more information.

La Vista Days is coming up! Join the Fire Department after the parade on **June 7 for the Annual Water Fights Competition** in front of Big Lots on 84th Street. Cheer on your La Vista firefighters as they compete against other area fire

departments in this test of hose and water management skills.

Are you looking for a good way to give back to your community? Have you ever considered becoming a firefighter or emergency medical technician? The volunteers at the La Vista Fire Department welcome new members twice a year. Applications are available at City Hall or on our website. **Applications are due in April and October** each year, with recruit classes starting in May and December. No experience is necessary. Please contact the Fire Department at 331-4748 if you would like to talk with us about your future as a La Vista Firefighter or EMT.



The La Vista Volunteer Fire Department hosted its **2nd Citizen's Fire Academy** on April 5 and 6. The Academy is designed to provide a hands-on experience for those considering service as a volunteer firefighter. In the photo, LVFD Captain Rory Froehlich instructs academy participants in the proper technique for water stream application.

LA VISTA
cityofficials

Mayor

Douglas Kindig

City Council

Brenda Carlisle, Ward 1
Ron Sheehan, Ward 1
Robert McLaughlin, 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
Rose Iwan, Library Director
Rich Uhl, Fire Chief
Bob Lausten, Police Chief
Joe Soucie, Public Works Director
Scott Stopak, Recreation Director

La Vista Days

Sunday, June 8

Sunday night events sponsored by

Suburban Newspapers and Bellino Fireworks

7:00 p.m.

FREE Community Cookout
Musical Entertainment

7:30 p.m.

La Vista Police K-9 Demonstration

8:00 p.m.

Celebrity Softball Game
(City officials versus media and business personalities)

9:45 p.m.

Fireworks!

*All events held at the La Vista Sports Complex
Two Blocks South of 66th & Harrison Street*



City of La Vista
8116 Park View Blvd.
La Vista, NE 68128

p: 402-331-4343 | f: 402-331-4375

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA, NE
PERMIT NO. 1313

what's happening • summer 2008



NEW

The La Vista Recreation Department now offers competitive and recreational baseball divisions.

LA VISTA PANTHERS BASEBALL

Competitive Select League divisions: Under 14, Under 13, Under 12, Under 11, Under 10, Under 9. Ages as of April 30 of the current year.

U 14 and U 13 play approximately 28 league games. (plus 2 tournaments).
U 12 and U 11 play approximately 25 league games. (plus 2 tournaments).
U 10 and U 9 play approximately 20 league games. (plus 2 tournaments).

League try outs July 18, 19 and 20th 2008. Please pre-register for the try out by Monday July 14th, 2008. **FEES:** La Vista Residents \$300.00, Non-Residents \$390.00. Fees include full uniform. A \$35 deposit is required to participate in the tryout. Once a player makes a Panther team, the remaining balance must be paid by March 1, 2009. The \$35 deposit then becomes non-refundable. If a player does not make the Panthers division, they will be placed in our recreational/developmental Wildcat league and the \$35.00 will go toward their registration fee for the Wildcat team. Those who choose not to participate in the Wildcat division will receive a full refund.

LA VISTA DAYS KICKOFF ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Wednesday June 4, 2008. Starts 2:30 p.m. **FEE:** 25 cents. Kickoff your summer at the La Vista Community Center with an old fashion Ice Cream Social!

DINOSAUR EGG HUNT

Tuesday June 17, 2008. 3:00 p.m. Central Park (Wooden Shelter). **FEE:** \$1.50 per person. Registration deadline: Friday June 13, 2008. Friends and Family will join us in Central Park to hunt giant dinosaur eggs (watermelons). When all the eggs are found, we'll haul them back to the picnic shelter to crack open our "eggs" and enjoy a slice of ice cold watermelon.

LA VISTA COMMUNITY CENTER INDOOR GARAGE SALE

Saturday August 16, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$15 will reserve a spot to sell items (this includes an eight foot table and two chairs at the Community Center). Tables will be assigned on a first come-paid basis. Space is limited; drop by the La Vista Community Center to reserve your space. Set up time for sellers is 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. No admission will be charged for visitors.

LA VISTA WILDCATS BASEBALL

Recreational/Developmental League divisions:

13/14 Division plays approximately 16 games. **FEES:** La Vista Residents \$65.00, Non-residents \$85.00.

11/12 Division plays approximately 14 games **FEES:** La Vista Residents \$45.00, Non-residents \$75.00.

9/10 Kid Pitch Division plays approximately 8 games **FEES:** La Vista Residents \$35.00, Non-residents \$55.00.

9/10, 11/12 an 13/14 Divisions: Registration deadline is March 1, 2009.

7/8 Coach Pitch Division plays approximately 6 games **FEES:** La Vista Residents \$25.00, Non-residents \$40.00

5/6 T-Ball Division plays Approximately 6 games. **FEES:** La Vista Residents \$25.00, Non-residents \$40.00 (Fees includes t-shirt and hat).

5/6 and 7/8 Divisions: Registration deadline is April 26, 2009.

PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

Come to the La Vista Community Center as 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. School-age children are not allowed during this time. When: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:00 a.m. **FEES:** FREE.

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

Mon. - Fri: 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

Sat. (May 1 - Aug. 31): 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

Sun. (May 1 - Aug. 31): Closed

Sun. (Sept. 1 - April 30): 1 p.m.-10 p.m.

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

Adults Only

Mon.-Fri. (School Yr.): 3 p.m.-10 p.m.

Adults & Youth

Mon.-Fri. (Summer): 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Adults Only

Mon.-Fri. (Summer Sched. / No School)

1:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Adults & Youth

Snow Days are not included in the above schedule - those days are considered the same as school days for youth. Hours are 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

BELLY DANCING CLASSES!

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, call Wren Newman at 596-1397. Class Times: (Beginner) Tuesday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (Advanced) Tuesday 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **FEE:** \$20 per month.

OMAHA JITTERBUGS

The Omaha Jitterbugs offer a variety of dance lessons at the Community Center such as Lindy Hop, Charleston for Two, Swing and Bal-Swing (Balboa). Length of sessions and fees vary with classes. For more information and registrations, visit their website at www.jitterbugs.org.

JANEL'S YOUTH DANCE CLASS

Several dance styles, tumbling and pom offered for youth. Call Janel at 504-4357 for more information on schedule, registration and fees.

KARATE

Children Classes: Ages 5-12 Tues. & Fri., 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. Adult Classes: Ages 13 & Over Tue. & Fri., 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **FEE:** \$25 per Month with a \$5 One-Time Sign Up Fee. For information, call Sensei Porter at 592-7771.

AIKIDO

Children's Classes (5-11 yrs.): Mon. & Thu. 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Adult Classes: Ages 12 & Over: Mon. & Thu. 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. **FEE:** Adult Classes: Residents \$30/month; Non-Residents \$35/month. Children's Classes: Residents \$20/month; Non-Residents \$25/month. For further information, call Ron Christenham at 339-6124.

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE SWORDSMANSHIP

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 Ryu), kumi-iai (paired sword forms), naginata-jutsu, pure kenpo sword and wakizashi techniques. Classes are on Wednesday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00 - 3:00 pm. Adults, ages 18 & older, only. Open enrollment. **FEE:** \$40 per month. For more information, email Britt Nichols at Info@suioryu-usa.org.

LA VISTA FALLS GOLF COURSE

8305 Park View Blvd. La Vista Falls Golf Course is now accepting applications for adult and junior leagues, family, company, school and night time golf outings. For all leagues you may sign up as individual, twosome, threesome or foursome teams. Call Manager Denny Dinan at 339-9147 for more information on open golf, golf course hours, fees, leagues and special outings. (If golf course is closed, please call the Recreation Dept. at 331-3455).

SPRING AND SUMMER GOLF LEAGUES

Men - 2 Man Teams - Tuesday Night. Sign up as individual or twosome team. Flag Prizes, Fun Night, End of league party.

Women - Wednesday Night. Sign up as individual, twosome, threesome or foursome team. Flag Prizes, Fun Night, End of league party

Couples - Male/Female - Friday Night. Sign up as individual, twosome, threesome or foursome team. Flag Prizes, Fun Night, End of league party.

Juniors - Individual, Groups. Recreational League. Accommodations for Car Pooling. End of the Year Prizes & Party.

*Must have playing ability & knowledge of the game.

Please contact Manager Denny Dinan at 339-9147, to reserve your dates and tee times for your 2008 golf outing.

LEAGUE FEES FOR 2008

- 1) Leagues with Prize/Party Fund \$170.00 per player
- 2) Junior Golf Program \$ To be determined
- 3) All Other League Play Regular Green Fees x number of weeks

GREEN FEES & SPECIALS MARCH 1ST - SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 *AFTER 3:00 P.M. SAME AS WEEKDAY RATES

9-Hole Weekdays (adults).....	\$8.50
9-Hole Weekends (Sat-Sun) (adults)	*\$10.00
18-Hole Weekdays (adults).....	\$14.50
18-Hole Weekends (Sat-Sun) (adults)	*\$16.00
9-Hole Weekdays (Jr/Sr)	\$6.00
9-Hole Weekends (Sat-Sun) (Jr/Sr).....	*\$8.00
18-Hole Weekdays (Jr/Sr).....	\$11.00
18-Hole Weekends (Sat-Sun) (Jr/Sr).....	*\$13.00
1 year Adult Membership.....	\$300.00
1 year Jr/Sr Membership	\$200.00
1 year Family Membership	\$600.00

Pull Carts \$2.50

Rental Clubs \$7.00

Electric Carts (9-Holes) ... \$6.00

Electric Carts (18-Holes) . \$9.00

Punch Card Discount

Buy 10-Get 12 (Adult) \$85.00

Buy 10-Get 12 (Jr/Sr) \$60.00



LAVISTA FALLS PRO SHOP!

In conjunction with Fareway Golf LLC, the La Vista Falls Golf Course pro shop will now be carrying Air-Cool™ golf shirts - made with Tynel™, the only true moisture-wicking material on the market. Guaranteed to keep you cool and dry all day. These shirts are machine washable, no shrinkage, no collar curl and no ironing needed. Sizes S-3XL available. Also, check out the complete line of golf equipment and accessories - Bags, Clubs, Balls, hats, gloves and towels!

La Vista Community Center • 8116 Park View Blvd. • 331-3455

SOCHI-GO RYU SELF-DEFENSE CLASS!

Sochi-Go Ryu is the newest martial arts self-defense class at La Vista Community Center. Please call Mike Benkis at 895-7841 for more information.

ADULT WEIGHT TRAINING CLASSES

This class, for adults age 19 and older, 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. **FEE:** \$25.

LA VISTA (INDOOR) WALKING CLUB

The La Vista Walking Club is a continual free program throughout the year. Between the hours of 10:30 and 11:30 am on M-W-F, no other programs are scheduled. Walking is also available other week days. Sometimes however, adjustments may need to be made due to other programs. You will keep a record of how far you walk each day and a tally will be recorded for you. Walking Club members may also record outside walking.

YOUTH DANCE TEAM CAMP

Registration Deadline: June 1, 2008

This camp is for future cheerleaders and dance team members ages 7-13. Participants will learn basic performance jazz moves. Also, fun dance inspired games and activities. Camp shirts/snacks provided. Wear cool, comfortable clothes and smoothed soled tennis shoes or Jazz shoes. For information/registration, call Janel Scott at 504-4357. Class Times: June 23-27, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.; Ages 7-13 years old. **FEE:** Residents \$65.00; Non-Residents \$70.00.

YOUTH HIP HOP DANCE CAMP

Registration Deadline: July 1, 2008.

Girls and boys ages 7-13 will enjoy this high energy hip hop dance camp. Participants will learn the basics of many hip hop dance styles plus a dance routine! Camp shirts/snacks provided. Wear cool, comfortable clothes with smooth soled tennis shoes. For information/registration, call Janel Scott at 504-4357. Class Times: July 21-25, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.; Ages 7-13 years old. **FEE:** Residents \$65.00; Non-Residents \$70.00

ADULT HIP HOP DANCE CLASS

Registration Deadline: June 16, 2008
Ever wish you could dance Hip Hop like you see on TV and movies? Now you can in this exciting high energy class for adults ages 14 and older. Learn the fundamentals of Hip Hop and a fun dance routine. For more information and registration call Janel Scott at 504-4357. Class Times: 6 week session, Saturdays July 12-August 16, 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. **FEE:** \$45.00

INDOOR REMOTE CONTROL

MODEL AIRPLANE FLYING

Every Monday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm participate in Indoor Model Airplane Flying at the La Vista Community Center. These lightweight planes will amaze you, as will the individuals who design and fly them. A good time is had by all during this weekly event! Come watch at no cost, or come fly your own plane for a small drop-in fee!

MODEL AIRPLANE LICENSE & FIELD TIMES

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

RED CROSS SWIMMING LESSONS

Registration Dates:

La Vista Residents Beginning:
Monday, April 28, 2008

Non-Residents Beginning:
Monday, May 5, 2008

FEES: La Vista Residents: \$25.00
Non-Residents: \$50.00

Swimming Lesson Sessions:

Session 1: June 16 through June 27

Session 2: July 7 through July 18

Session 3: July 21 through August 1

Levels of Lessons: Pre-Beginners, Level I, Level II, Level III, Level IV, Level V, Level VI.

Lessons are held Monday through Thursday. Fridays are rain days. Minimum age for pre-beginners is age four. All classes are forty-five minutes in length.

TACKLE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Ages 9/10, 11/12 & 13/14. Registration deadline: July 13, 2008. Teams determined by age/weight as of August 1, 2008. A copy of the player's birth certificate is required to register. **FEES:** La Vista Residents \$95.00, Non-Residents \$115.00. Refundable uniform deposit \$160.00. Volunteer Coaches Needed.

LA VISTA MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL

The La Vista Municipal Pool will open on Saturday, May 24, 2008 and close Monday, September 1, 2008 (Labor Day). Pool Hours are 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. daily (schedule will change once school begins). Season passes and resident tags may be purchased at the La Vista Recreation Center. Season passes are available for Residents and Non-Residents.

SWIMMING POOL FEES - 2008

Daily Admission:

Youth 5 & under:.....Free
Youth Resident 6-17 years of age (with tag):.....\$2.00
Youth Non-Resident 6-17 years of age (with tag):.....\$4.00
Adult Resident 18 & older (with tag):.....\$3.00
Adult Non-Resident 18 & older: \$4.00

RESIDENT TAG	.....\$1.50
YOUTH RESIDENT	
Season Pass	.....\$50.00
YOUTH NON-RESIDENT	
Season Pass	.....\$80.00
ADULT RESIDENT	
Season Pass	.....\$60.00
ADULT NON-RESIDENT	
Season Pass	.....\$90.00
FAMILY RESIDENT	
Season Pass	.....\$90.00
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	
Season Pass	.....\$150.00
DAY-CARE Season Pass	.....\$250.00
30-Day Pass Booklet (Residents)	.....\$45.00
30-Day Pass Booklet (Non-Residents)	.....\$75.00

CHEERLEADING FOR TACKLE FOOTBALL

Ages 7-14 as of August 1, 2008. Registration deadline: July 20, 2008. **FEES:** La Vista Resident \$25.00, Non-Residents \$45.00 Refundable uniform deposit \$75.00. Volunteer Coaches Needed.

FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Ages 6/7/8 as of August 1, 2008. Registration deadline: July 6, 2008. **FEES:** La Vista Residents \$30.00, Non-Residents \$50.00. Volunteer Coaches Needed.

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Boys & Girls grades 3/4 & 5/6. Registration deadline: September 2, 2008. **FEES:** La Vista Resident \$30.00, Non-resident \$50.00. Volunteer Coaches Needed.

YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Ages 4/5 & 6/7. Age as of August 1, 2008. Fall session registration deadline: July 20, 2008. **FEES:** La Vista Resident \$25.00, Non-Resident \$45.00. Volunteer Coaches Needed.

FALL ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Registration deadline: August 4, 2008, or until league is full (which ever comes first). Co-ed leagues Friday/Sunday, Men's Leagues S/M/T/W/Th/F, Double Header Leagues Wednesday/Thursday. **FEES:** Coed/Men's Leagues \$110.00. Double Header Leagues \$220.00. Umpire fees \$18.00 per game paid directly to the umpires. Games start the week of September 2, 2008.

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



Police Officer Harald Rappold and Police Chief Bob Lausten conduct a Senior Citizen Police Academy session.

LA VISTA SENIOR CENTER

The La Vista Senior Center is located in the Community Center and offers friendship, food, fitness, field trips, and many more fun activities. Please contact the Recreation Department at 331-3455 if you would like your name placed on the mailing list to receive a monthly calendar or check us out online at www.ci.la-vista.ne.us/recreation. The Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging provides hot lunches on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m., catered by Valley Corporation. Lunch reservations need to be made [by noon] one business day in advance by calling 331-3455. A suggested donation of \$2.50 (for ages 60 & over) is appreciated.

The Community Center has Senior walkers every morning (free of charge), and a fitness room with various exercise equipment for your use. There is no charge for La Vista Seniors to use the equipment, with a small charge of \$2 for non-resident Seniors (age 55 & over).

Throughout the year, the seniors have special events such as an annual Valentines Day party, which includes great food and entertainment. Pot-luck lunches are also held frequently, and monthly birthday parties are held the second Wednesday of each month. Other activities include periodic outings, cards and games.

A visiting nurse is at the Community Center on the first Friday of each month from 9-11:00 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet across from the front desk, but walk-ins are welcome.

A Special Services Bus is available for senior citizens age 60 and older and all special needs/handicapped residents residing in Ralston and La Vista. The van typically operates Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 4:30 pm. Call 657-3550 48-hours in advance to schedule a ride time. Call the La Vista Recreation Department at 331-3455 for any questions about this service.

Having a Great Time at the Annual Senior Valentine Brunch

