

SPRING 2025



GET YOUR TAIL TO
LA VISTA



 **LA VISTA**

VIEWPOINTS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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SEE US ON SOCIAL



@CityofLaVistaGovernment
@LaVistaPolice



@cityoflavista
@lavistapolice



@cityoflavista
@lavistapolice
@lavistalibraryyouth



[YouTube.com/CityofLaVista](https://www.youtube.com/CityofLaVista)

CITY CONTACTS

- City Hall**.....402.331.4343
- Community Development**..... 402.593.6400
- Human Resources**.....402.331.4343
- Library**..... 402.537.3900
- Police**.....402.331.1582
- Public Works**.....402.331.8927
- Recreation & Community Center**... 402.331.3455

MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR



Happy 2025, La Vista. Seeing so many residents celebrating together during our City's holiday events renewed my pride in our community. We truly have the best people in La Vista!

I've said it here before, and I firmly believe that La Vista's volunteers shape who we are as a community. Volunteers and their selfless acts of service make a meaningful impact that cannot be overstated. That's why I'm proud to share that for a second year in a row, the City is hosting a Volunteer Recognition event during National Volunteer Month in April to show appreciation for individuals and groups who give their time and talents in La Vista.

The Volunteer Recognition event will take place during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 15. If you have volunteered on a board or at a City event in the past 12 months, please consider joining us so we can formally thank you for your contributions.

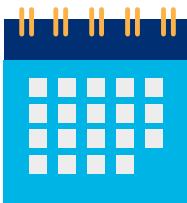
La Vista can always use more helping hands. The Recreation Department, the Library and our event teams rely on assistance from community helpers throughout the year. I encourage you to visit CityofLaVista.org/Volunteer to learn about volunteer opportunities with the City. There is a form to fill out if you'd like to be contacted about volunteer positions. This is a great way to find opportunities that match your interests. Spring and summer events are quickly approaching and I know our Event Team would welcome helpers at La Vista Days.

Speaking of La Vista Days, be sure to look at page five of this newsletter to see some preliminary information about the event. La Vista Days will again take place on the weekend following Memorial Day, so set your calendar reminder now for May 30-31. Then, watch for an announcement soon about the musical acts performing at the concert on Friday, May 30.

I'm looking forward to another great year in the City of La Vista.

MAYOR

Douglas Kindig



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

February

- 4** City Council, 6 p.m.
- 6** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 10** La Vista-Metropolitan Community College Condominium Owners Association, 4 p.m., Library
- 12** Travelin' Trivia Night, Lucky Bucket Brewing Company, 11941 Centennial Rd.
- 17** **Offices closed for Presidents Day**
- 18** **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 19** Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 20** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

March

- 3** **March Madness Basketball Skills Competition, 6-8 p.m., Community Center**
- 4** City Council, 6 p.m.
- 6** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 13** Library Advisory Board, 6 p.m., Library
- 13** Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 6 p.m.
- 18** **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 19** Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 22** **Bands & Brews, 5-9 p.m., The Astro Theater**

April

- 1** City Council, 6 p.m.
- 3** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 15** Volunteer Recognition, 5:30 p.m., City Hall
- 15** **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 16** Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 17** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** **Easter Egg Hunt and Food Drive, 1 p.m., La Vista Sports Complex**
- 24** **Yappy Hour, 4-7 p.m., Dog Park at Southwind Park**
- 25** **Arbor Day Lunch and Learn, 12 p.m., Central Park East**

For more information about the special events listed on this calendar, visit CityofLaVista.org/Events.



MARCH 1-30

Kitten Kaboodle Donation Drive

La Vista Public Library, Community Center, City Hall (Drop-off during normal facility hours)

La Vista hasn't gone completely to the dogs! During the month of March, we will be showering love on our feline friends (just in time for kitten season) with a donation drive benefitting Feline Friendz and Town & Country Animal Rescue.

[Donate Here](#)

Feline Friendz



You can help! Visit CityofLaVista.org/Kitten to see a wishlist of needed items, then drop off donations at the La Vista Public Library, Community Center or City Hall March 1-30. If you'd like, you can also make a monetary donation directly to the rescues.

Town and Country Animal Rescue



COUNCIL CLIPS

Highlights of recent City Council action.

- Authorized purchase of new citizen reporting software.
- Approved a service agreement for construction of a traffic signal at 99th Street/Val Verde Drive and Giles Road.
- Approved the One-Year and Six-Year Street Improvement Plan.
- Authorized replacement of the damaged civil defense siren in Apollo Park.
- Authorized purchase of two new marked police vehicles.
- Approved process to earn accreditation through the American Public Works Association Accreditation Program.

RETIREMENTS

Two long-time City of La Vista employees retired late last year, with two more retiring next month. We're grateful for the contributions of these dedicated employees and their combined 94+ years of service to the community.

Here is a brief look at their careers and their plans for retirement.



POLICE CAPTAIN

D.J. BARCAL

Captain D.J. Barcal will retire March 7 after nearly 36 years with the La Vista Police Department. D.J. was originally hired by LVPD as a police officer and worked patrol for many years before later being promoted to Captain. Fun fact: The City only had 12 officers when he was hired!

D.J. is the current Uniform Patrol Bureau Commander. Before coming to La Vista, he served in the Air Force and worked for Douglas County Corrections and the Metro Community College Public Safety Department.

During his more than three and a half decades with the City, D.J. has enjoyed seeing the positive growth across La Vista and its Police Department. He's also proud to have worked to create La Vista's Police Honor Guard Unit.

D.J. and his wife, Rose, (who is the Director of the La Vista Public Library) love La Vista and look forward to living here for years to come. During his retirement, he'd like to serve on La Vista's Civil Service Commission to remain involved in the future direction of the Police Department.



CITY CLERK

PAM BUETHE

Pam Buethe retired in December after serving as La Vista's City Clerk for 18 years. While she had a wide range of responsibilities as City Clerk, La Vista residents may best know Pam for her role at City Council meetings.

Prior to accepting her position with La Vista, Pam was the City Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Gretna.

Last year, Pam was named the 2024 Outstanding Clerk of the Year by the Nebraska Municipal Clerks Association. Of her many notable achievements, Pam is proud of her work to successfully implement the City's records management system. She also takes great pride in having been the Civil Service Secretary, which allowed her to participate in the hiring and promotional processes for the Police Department.

Pam is excited to spend more time with her family now that she's retired. She also intends to complete many long-overdue projects at home.



MAINTENANCE WORKER II (PARKS DIVISION)

RON KELLER

Ron Keller, a valued member of the Public Works Parks Division, retired this past October after serving the City for more than 20 years.

Ron was appreciated for being a reliable team member who was always willing to lend a helping hand. He was first hired for the Parks Maintenance Worker I role, and later moved into a Maintenance Worker II position. Ron's supervisor, Park Superintendent Jason Allen, shared that

Ron was a wonderful employee, known for his dedication, accountability, and incredible contributions to the City.

"Ron is a devoted family man who has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to both his work and his loved ones. His hard work and integrity have left a lasting impact, and he will be greatly missed," said Allen.

Ron worked side-by-side with another Keller in the Public Works Department. Ron's son, Tim Keller, is also a Public Works employee.



MECHANIC

RICK ROY

Rick Roy is retiring next month after 20 years of service to La Vista's Public Works Department. Rick began his career with the City as a shop assistant. He later transitioned to the role of mechanic.

Rick came to Public Works after having worked in the maintenance department at the Pamida/Shopko warehouse. He is known for being a talented expert in his trade, and for his resemblance to Santa Claus. In fact, Rick shared that a favorite memory he'll carry with him from his time with La Vista is assisting with the

City's annual Sleigh Ride. For years, Rick has braved the cold to help bring joy to La Vista residents.

Rick has enjoyed the opportunity to work with great people in the Public Works Department and explained that these people are a big part of what makes La Vista special.

Rick plans to remain active into retirement and will be working part-time at Liberty First Credit Union Arena in Ralston helping maintain the ice.

Introducing La Vista's New City Clerk: Rachel Carl



La Vista has a new City Clerk, Rachel Carl. Mayor Douglas Kindig appointed Carl to the position in December to fill the role following the retirement of longtime Clerk Pam Buethe.

The City Council approved her appointment and Carl officially stepped into the role on December 21.

Carl has served the City of La Vista for more than six years, first as Deputy City Clerk and later as the Assistant to the City Administrator.

Carl began her career in local government in 2003 with the City of Ocean Shores, Washington, where she held various positions within the Public Works Department before becoming the City Clerk there. She came to La Vista in 2018, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and a passion for public service.

Some of Carl's responsibilities as Clerk include managing records, issuing occupation licenses, maintaining the municipal code, publishing legal notices, and of course, keeping City Council agendas and minutes.

Carl sees the City Clerk as being La Vista's ultimate record keeper and hub of information.

"There are many facets to the work of the Clerk, and it often varies by the size of the city," said Carl. "Whether it be legislative actions of the City Council, financial records, or licenses issued, the City Clerk maintains the history of a community."

Carl's professional role aligns with her personal interests. Outside of work, she enjoys scrapbooking old family photos—a nod to her role as her family's historian.

Carl said she's thrilled to continue serving the La Vista community and looks forward to contributing to its growth and success.



PERMIT REMINDER PROTECT YOUR HOME AND COMMUNITY

As you plan your next home improvement project, we're here to ensure it's a success. Many projects require permits to make sure the work meets safety standards and protects your investment. Examples of projects that require a permit include, but are not limited to:

- New or expanded decks • Sheds • Garages • Carports • Fences • Electrical or plumbing work
- Water heaters and HVAC systems • Remodeling kitchens or bathrooms, and finishing basements
- Adding, removing, or replacing walls, windows, doors, siding, and roofs

By obtaining the proper permits, you help ensure the work is safe for you, your family, and your neighbors. Performing work without the proper permits can lead to fines and complications when selling your home.

For more information on permit requirements and how to apply, visit CityofLaVista.org/BuildingPermits or contact the Community Development Department at **402.593.6400**.

CITY EVENTS

Travelin' Trivia Nights

Wednesday, February 12, 6 p.m.

Lucky Bucket Brewing Company
(11941 Centennial Rd.)

FREE

The final winter Travelin' Trivia Night is February 12. Form a team (up to six people) and test your wits playing trivia with La Vista City staff. Top teams will win prizes.

Santiago's Mexican food truck will be on site and Lucky Bucket will offer a full range of beverages for purchase. Pre-registration is not required.



MARCH 22 | 5-9 P.M.

THE ASTRO

FREE FOR ALL AGES

CITYOFLAVISTA.ORG/BANDSANDBREWS

FEATURING:

HECTOR ANCHONDO BAND

THE BROADWAYS

SPECK NELSON AND THE RALSTONES

Bands & Brews

March 22, 5-9 p.m.

*Doors open at 5 p.m.,
Music begins at 6 p.m.
The Astro (8302 City Centre Dr.)*

FREE ADMISSION! (All ages)

Bands & Brews is your free ticket to enjoy an indoor concert at The Astro, the hottest new destination for live music in the Greater Omaha area.

Come experience what everyone is talking about at this world-class venue in the heart of La Vista! This event, featuring local bands and beverages, is presented by the City of La Vista, The Astro, and La Vista City Centre.

Headlining the evening is the nationally acclaimed, award-winning HECTOR ANCHONDO BAND, with opening performances by local favorites THE BROADWAYS and SPECK NELSON AND THE RALSTONES. Admission is free!

Tickets (1,500) will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the door on the day of the event.

Enjoy beverages for purchase, including the chance to meet the makers from local breweries. Come on down(town) to mix and mingle with others who love all things local!

Mark your calendar for La Vista's biggest event of the year!

Save the date for this unforgettable event.

Friday, May 30

(The Astro Amphitheater)

- Free concert
- Spectacular fireworks & drone show

Saturday, May 31

(City Hall Campus)

- Parade
- Family Fun Festival



Watch for more details coming soon at LaVistaDays.org

Easter Egg Hunt & Food Drive

Saturday, April 19, 1-3 p.m.

*Gates open at 1 p.m.,
Hunt begins promptly at 2 p.m.
La Vista Sports Complex
Soccer Fields (7346 S 66th St.)*

FREE

Over 20,000 eggs will be spread out between the four soccer fields for kids ages 10 and under, with an adaptive field for ages 22 and under!

Enjoy photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny before the hunt. Be sure to bring a basket or bag to hold your eggs. This event draws a large number of people, so come early to allow time to park and walk to the fields.

All age groups will start at the same time to help keep each field age appropriate and safer.



HUNT DOWN A GOLDEN EGG

Each age group will have 5 golden eggs that can be turned in for an "egg"tra special surprise!



Don't forget your cans or cash! La Vista Gives will be collecting food and/or cash donations for the Neighbor Good Community Pantry.

Yappy Hour

Thursday, April 24, 4-7 p.m.

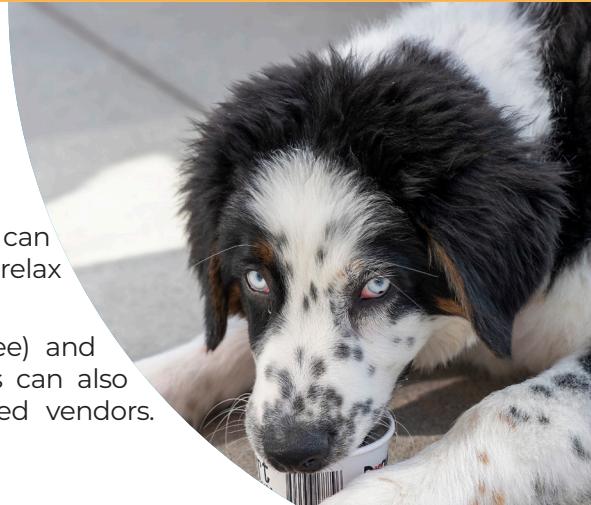
*Dog Park in Southwind Park
(8130 S. 92 Ave.)*

FREE ENTRY

Enjoy a "patio" experience outside the dog park. Pet owners can gather at picnic tables or around high-top tables to converse, relax and listen to some background music.

Sip on non-alcoholic drinks from a beverage truck/cart (free) and grab a bite to eat from a food truck (for purchase). Visitors can also chat with representatives from pet rescues and dog-related vendors.

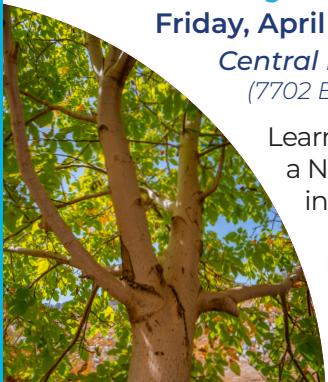
Parking is available at the La Vista Public Library (9110 Giles Rd.)



Arbor Day Lunch & Learn

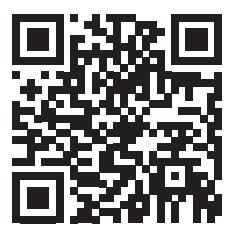
Friday, April 25, 12-1 p.m. | FREE

*Central Park East
(7702 Edgewood Blvd.)*



Learn about the planting and caring of trees while honoring Arbor Day, a National Holiday that originated in Nebraska. Watch a special introduction and tree planting near the new picnic shelter.

Free grab-and-go lunches will be available to enjoy in the park! Afterwards, children are invited to take home free saplings and special gifts.
(While supplies last.)



**Register for free lunch
by Friday, April 18 at
CityofLaVista.org/ArborDayLunch.**

LIBRARY NOOK

9110 Giles Rd | 402.537.3900 | Library@CityofLaVista.org | CityofLaVista.org/Library

Library Hours: Monday–Thursday: 8 a.m.–9 p.m. Friday–Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday: 1–5 p.m.



Adult Card Club

Monthly program, meets fourth Thursday each month at 3 p.m.

This club plays a variety of classic card games as well as some new ones. Games/cards are provided, and light refreshments are served. Come with a group or as a solo player. Registration is not required.



Technology Help @ the Library

The Library is your go-to place for free technology assistance! Whether you're learning the basics of using a computer, need help navigating your smartphone or want to set up an email account, we're here to help. Staff can assist with printing, scanning, accessing online resources and more. We also offer one-on-one sessions to boost your digital skills, from understanding social media to protecting your privacy online. Stop by today and discover how the Library can make technology easy and accessible for everyone!

To reserve one-on-one help sessions with our Technology Librarian, Jean Hurst, call the Library at **402.537.3900**, email JHurst@CityofLaVista.org or stop by the circulation desk.

Dog Man Party

Friday, February 7, 10:30 a.m.

Ideal for ages 6-12 years

Roll out the red carpet and help the Library celebrate the newest book and movie in Dav Pilkey's Dog Man series. We'll have snacks, games, crafts and more! This supa silly party is family friendly and best suited for children ages 6-12.

Registration is not required.

Hide & Peep Scavenger Hunt

April 15–April 22

All ages

Twenty peeps are hiding in the Library! Find them, tell us their color and enter our drawing for a special Peep-themed prize. One entry per person. All ages are welcome to participate.

Note: Parent participation may be required.

SPRING BREAK AT THE LIBRARY

GRAPHIC NOVEL & COMIC BOOK MANIA

NEVER FEAR, GRAPHIC NOVELS AND COMIC BOOKS ARE HERE!

LA VISTA LIBRARY • MARCH 10-14



GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK TALK

ALL AGES

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 6-6:30 P.M.

Take a seat and get a look at some recommended graphic novel series to read! We'll also be talking about our favorite manga, manhwa and webcomics. Light refreshments will be served and those who attend will get to take home a special bookmark and button. Feel free to stay after the presentation to chat and share recommendations with others. All ages welcome!

CREATING COMIC STRIPS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12,
2-3:30 P.M. AGES 8+



Have you been dreaming about making your own comic strip but don't know where to start? Or do you have a comic you're working on and want some tips on how to make it even better? Then we have the activity for you!

In this 90-minute program, you will learn how professional comics are made from start to finish. Then, you'll have time to either start your own comic or work on a comic you brought.

Supplies and materials provided.
Registration required. Call
402.537.3900 to sign up.

COMIC BOOK CRAFTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 13,
2 P.M., ALL AGES



Use cut-up comic books and/or graphic novels to create magnets, design your own bookmark and decorate small treasure boxes.

Ideal for all ages. Parent participation is required. This activity is available while supplies last.

THRIFTY COSPLAY TIPS & TRICKS

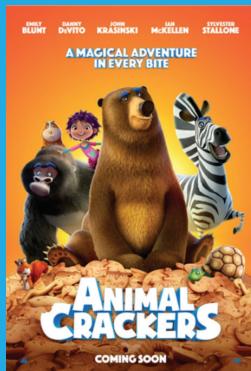
TUESDAY, MARCH 11,
2 P.M. AGES 10+

Cosplay is the art of dressing up as a character from a book, movie or video game. Creating outfits can be time intensive and expensive, so we'll be sharing ways to make cosplay using supplies you have at home or by refurbishing thrifted items. After the presentation, you're invited to use what you learned to make something out of the Library's excess cardboard.



FRIDAY FLICKS: ANIMAL CRACKERS

FRIDAY, MARCH 14,
2 P.M., ALL AGES



Watch a movie with us! Based on the graphic novel "Animal Crackers" by Scott Christian Sava, this movie follows a family who must use a magical box of animal crackers to save a run-down circus from being taken over.

Ideal for all ages. Popcorn provided.



Meet your new La Vista police officers

The La Vista Police Department is pleased to introduce its newest officers. Below is a message from each new member of the department. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them in our community.



Officer Jacob Ackerman

My name is Jacob Ackerman. I was born and raised in the La Vista/Bellevue area and have a love for my community, the outdoors and my family. After graduating from Bellevue West High School in 2014, I completed a two-year college ministry program at my church. During the ministry program and for two years after while working for the Youth Pastor, I was able to serve my community and act as a positive influence for many high school students. I have also volunteered on the security team at my church for many years.

Before coming to the LVPD, I worked in HVAC and then as an arborist. My wife and I have two young sons, and we enjoy spending time at the zoo. I am honored to serve the City of La Vista.



Officer Brian Maddy

My name is Brian Maddy, and I am very excited to be part of the La Vista Police Department. Prior to becoming a police officer, I was the 8th Grade Counselor at La Vista Middle School. This is a great community, and I am eager to continue working with the people of La Vista.

I graduated from Iowa State University with degrees in Communication Studies and Elementary Education. I went on to earn a master's degree in School Counseling. My wife and I have two children. Our daughter, a recent graduate of Papillion-La Vista High School, is a freshman at Iowa State University and our son is a freshman at PLHS.

It is a real honor and privilege to serve this community as a police officer.



Officer Conner Barnett

Hello, I'm Conner Barnett. I am a Nebraska native and prior to my career in law enforcement I was a teacher for a year. I attended Bellevue University and graduated with bachelor's degrees in education and U.S. history. I am a Nebraska Cornhuskers fan and a KC Royals fan.

My wife and I enjoy the La Vista community and are excited to explore the new La Vista City Centre.



Officer Connor Rinn

My name is Connor Rinn. I am a Nebraska native and went to college at Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska. Some fun facts about me are that I played sports in college and I enjoy being physically active in my free time. My previous employment was at Midland University as a resident advisor for three and a half years. I am looking forward to new opportunities with the LVPD.

Community Police Alliance

Thursdays in April, 6:30-9 p.m.

4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24

Police Department (7701 S. 96 St.)

Cost: Free

The La Vista Citizen's Police Academy is now the **COMMUNITY POLICE ALLIANCE**.

The La Vista Police Department is proud to announce a re-imagining of this classic program.

Are you interested in a career in policing? Or, are you curious how your local police department functions? Join us!

The Community Police Alliance (CPA) will meet weekly in April to discuss a variety of topics including how to be a good witness, crime prevention through environmental design, existing police partnerships, real world scenarios, conducting traffic stops and much more.

The CPA will culminate with a Family Night Cookout with a tour of the Police Department, several emergency response vehicles, games, swag and a graduation. Individuals ranging in age from high school seniors to senior citizens are all welcome.

Space is limited, so don't miss this fun opportunity to engage with your community and safety partners. Register online at CityofLaVista.org/CPA.

CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

As we begin coming out of winter's hibernation period, we hope you and your family kept safe and warm and that your year is off to a positive start. The Code Enforcement office would like to express our deep appreciation for our community. We look forward to seeing the City of La Vista continue to be a safe place to call home for generations.

Code Enforcement's goal is to work with residents and businesses to maintain a high quality of living, neighborhoods and property value. With that in mind, here are a few reminders to protect property values and help those who are selling their home get the most out of their property.



1. Grass/weeds should be no longer than 12 inches tall. *(Code 133.01)*



2. No accumulation of vehicle parts, metal, abandoned vehicles or non-operable vehicles on property. *(Code 7.13.02 & 7.13.03)*



3. No chickens/roosters and/or livestock allowed in La Vista city limits or in the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). *(Code 7.14)*



4. No parking of vehicles on non-hard surfaces. *(Code 7.13.04)*



5. No accumulation of garbage, trash, waste, litter on property. *(Code 50.03)*

Please contact the Code Enforcement office at **402.331.1582 ext. 251** with any questions or concerns.

PUBLIC WORKS ZONE

9900 Portal Rd | 402.331.8927 | PublicWorks@CityofLaVista.org | CityofLaVista.org/PublicWorks

La Vista Public Works Hours: Monday–Friday: 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Saturday–Sunday: Closed



Public Works Director Named Nebraska's APWA Leader of the Year

Nebraska's chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) presented its 2024 Leader of the Year Award to La Vista Public Works Director Joe Soucie. Joe was honored with the award at the APWA's annual conference in Kearney this past November.

The Leader of the Year Award is given to an outstanding public works professional who demonstrates success in areas such as leadership, innovation, customer service, community service and sustainability.

We want to congratulate Joe for this well-deserved achievement. It is a testament to the dedicated work he does in La Vista and his contributions to the advancement of the public works profession.



Coming Soon: Road Work Ahead

La Vista residents can expect to see work on several street improvement projects in 2025. Here is a look at the upcoming projects and when they are scheduled to take place:

Concrete Panel Repair

WHERE: In the Park View Heights neighborhood between 84th St. and 93rd St. north of Park View Blvd.
WHEN: Summer

New Traffic Signal Installation

WHERE: The intersection of 99th Street and Giles Road
WHEN: Summer/Fall

Bridge Improvements

WHERE: Harrison Street at the I-80 overpass
WHEN: Summer/Fall

Trail and Underpass Work

WHERE: 84th Street trail and underpass between Giles Road and Harrison Street
WHEN: Fall/Winter

2025 SPRING CLEANUP DAYS

APRIL 7-13
7 a.m.-5 p.m. each day

The Public Works Department will co-host a spring cleanup event with the City of Papillion **April 7-13, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.** each day.

This joint event will be located at 99th Circle and Portal Road on the south side of Portal Road, just east of the Papillion Public Works Facility. The event is open to Papillion and La Vista residents only.

Residential Items Only.
Bring Identification.

Not sure if you're a resident? Check the map at CityofLaVista.org/AmIAResident.

- This event is limited to residents of the cities of La Vista and Papillion. Bring a copy of a utility bill or type of identification to prove eligibility.
- The event is restricted to residential items only. Commercial and business vehicles will not be permitted.
- Staff will direct you to the appropriate disposal areas based on the type of materials you bring for disposal.
- Please pay close attention to posted signage for entrance and exit directions.
- Please secure loads properly to prevent debris from obstructing the roads.
- This is a rain or shine event.

SPRING CLEANUP DAYS SITE MAP

96th & Portal Rd



RECREATION

8116 Park View Blvd | 402.331.3455 | Recreation@CityofLaVista.org | CityofLaVista.org/Recreation

Community Center Hours: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–9 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Sunday: 1–9 p.m.



Family Bingo Night

Family and Friends Bingo Nights

February 21 & March 21

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Community Center

Join us for monthly bingo nights on the third Friday of February and March.

Cost: Free **Ages:** All



SPECIAL SERVICES BUS

The Special Services Bus is available for senior citizens ages 60 and older and all special needs/handicapped individuals residing in La Vista and Ralston.

Hours of operation:

Mon.–Fri., 7 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**For reservations call
402.657.3550 at least
48 hours in advance.**

While we make every effort to accommodate, occasionally we are unable to meet requests due to scheduling. The Special Services Bus does not operate on City of La Vista holidays or when Papillion-La Vista or Ralston Public Schools are closed due to weather conditions.



Monday, March 3, 6-8 p.m.

Community Center

Grades: Boys & Girls, 3rd-8th Grade

Cost: FREE

Each participant will compete in 3 fun basketball challenges:

- 1. Hot Shot**
- 2. 3-Point Shooting**
- 3. Free Throw Contest**

NEW THIS YEAR:

Arrive anytime between 6 and 7:45p.m., then register and compete on a first-come, first-served basis. Pick a time that fits your schedule!

Winners will be awarded for each challenge and an overall winner for each age division. Winners will be notified the next day by email.



Community Gardens

Garden plots are available for rent in Camenzind Park, Hollis Park and Jaycee Park. Plots are rented on an annual basis from early spring through fall.

February 1-March 31: La Vista residents may reserve one garden plot.

Beginning April 1: Remaining plots are open for rental by non-residents and residents who want to add an additional plot.

Cost: Residents: \$20/plot
Non-residents: \$25/plot

Ages: 18+

Visit the Community Center to reserve a garden plot.

Teen Café

1-5 p.m. at the Community Center

Teens and pre-teens (ages 10+) are invited to the Community Center for afternoon fun when school is on break.

Spring Break Activities

- Monday, March 10 - Board Games
- Tuesday, March 11 - Craft Day
- Wednesday, March 12 - Self-Portraits
- Thursday, March 13 - St. Patrick's Day Crafts

- Friday, April 18 - Chair Volleyball

- Monday, April 21 - Bags

Cost: Free

Ages: Teens and pre-teens ages 10+



CLASSES & CLUBS

The Recreation Department offers a variety of instructor-led social, fitness, and leisure classes for all ages, held at the Community Center.

For a full list, visit CityofLaVista.org/Classes.

Learn more about the classes and clubs by contacting the instructor.

CLASS

INSTRUCTOR

A silhouette of two people in a martial arts stance.	AIKIDO	Jeff J.A.Christenham@gmail.com
A silhouette of a man and a woman dancing.	BALLROOM DANCE	Terry 402.639.2209
A silhouette of a woman belly dancing.	BELLY DANCING	Elianae 402.370.9021 or ElianaeTheBellyDancer@gmail.com
A silhouette of a person in a dynamic exercise pose.	COMPLETE EXERCISE PROGRAM	Frank FrankPFerrante@gmail.com
A silhouette of a person in a karate stance.	KENPO KARATE	Tony or Tom 402.297.3773 (Tony) or 402.990.2485 (Tom)
A silhouette of a person playing with a small model.	MINIATURES CLUB	Sandy 402.708.1177
A silhouette of a person in a combat stance.	OMAHA METRO ARMED COMBAT ACADEMY	Cat OmacaGreenKnights@gmail.com
A silhouette of a person playing table tennis.	TABLE TENNIS	Matt 402.680.2937 or MatthewZiegler907@gmail.com
A silhouette of a person in a yoga pose.	YOGA	Frank FrankPFerrante@gmail.com

FEB 5

NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

La Vista Recreation proudly joins communities nationwide in recognizing National Girls and Women in Sports Day on February 5.



National Girls and Women in Sports Day is observed annually in the United States to highlight the positive impact of female involvement in sports. Playing sports empowers girls and women by building confidence, teaching teamwork, developing healthy habits and fostering lifelong leadership skills.

La Vista's Recreation Director, Heather Buller, says the Recreation Department is pleased to provide a wide range of opportunities for both girls and women to learn, grow and thrive through involvement in sports.

"Positive role models in sports, whether they're coaches, teammates, or even professional athletes, help shape how young girls see themselves and their potential," said Buller.

"For a young girl or woman to see local and national sports reflect them illustrates the endless possibilities that are available to them. Encouraging participation and creating inclusive environments is key to fostering not only athleticism, but also the leadership and determination that will stay with them in every aspect of their lives."



In the spring and fall of each year, La Vista's soccer clinics offer girls as young as three an introduction to team sports. T-ball, softball, volleyball, basketball, flag football and aikido are a few of the other sports offered through the Recreation Department that provide enriching experiences to girls of various ages—from elementary through high school levels. La Vista's popular women's volleyball league at the Community Center attracts players ranging from recent high school graduates to women in their sixties. Multiple teams in the league have mother/daughter pairs on their roster, and several teams have sisters playing together.

"Whether on the field or in the gym, we strive to create supportive environments and positive experiences that get young girls excited about sports—and physical activity in general," Buller said. "Our athletic programs are designed to be fun and equip girls with skills that will keep them active into adulthood," said Buller. "And, we give women opportunities to continue playing sports and participating in activities they enjoy throughout their lives."

Happy National Girls and Women in Sports Day to all of La Vista's athletes, coaches and officials.

ATHLETICS

COED SOCCER ACADEMY/LEAGUE APRIL 5-MAY 10

AGE	COST	
	EARLY REGISTRATION JAN 2-MAR 4	LATE REGISTRATION MAR 5-19
ACADEMY Boys & Girls 4-5	Resident: \$33 Non-resident: \$53	Resident: \$43 Non-resident: \$63
LEAGUE Boys & Girls 6-7	Resident: \$33 Non-resident: \$53	Resident: \$43 Non-resident: \$63

COED SOCCER CLINIC APRIL 5-MAY 10

AGE	COST	
	EARLY REGISTRATION JAN 2-MAR 4	LATE REGISTRATION MAR 5-19
Boys & Girls Age 3 (as of April 1)	Resident: \$17 Non-resident: \$22	Resident: \$27 Non-resident: \$32

BOYS BASEBALL

GAMES APRIL 26-JUNE 30 Practice starts week of April 1

LEAGUE	AGE (as of April 1)	COST	
		EARLY REGISTRATION JAN 2-FEB 12	LATE REGISTRATION FEB 13-28
YEARLING/COACH PITCH LEAGUE	7-8	Resident: \$50 Non-resident: \$65	Resident: \$60, Non-resident: \$75
MUSTANG LEAGUE	9-10	Resident: \$65 Non-resident: \$85	Resident: \$75 Non-resident: \$95
BRONCO LEAGUE	11-12	Resident: \$75 Non-resident: \$105	Resident: \$85 Non-resident: \$115
PONY LEAGUE	13-14	Resident: \$85 Non-resident: \$105	Resident: \$95 Non-resident: \$115

COED FLAG FOOTBALL

GAMES APRIL 10-JUNE 21 Practice starts week of March 10

GRADE	COST	
	EARLY REGISTRATION JAN 2-FEB 12	LATE REGISTRATION FEB 13-28
Boys & Girls PreK-6 as of spring 2025 (Min. age is 4)	Resident: \$33 Non-resident: \$53	Resident: \$43 Non-resident: \$63

GIRLS SOFTBALL

GAMES APRIL 22-JULY 2 Practice starts week of April 1

LEAGUE	AGE (as of May 1)	COST	
		EARLY REGISTRATION JAN 2-FEB 12	LATE REGISTRATION FEB 13-28
COACH PITCH	7-8	Resident: \$50 Non-resident: \$65	Resident: \$60, Non-resident: \$75
MINORS	9-10	Resident: \$65 Non-resident: \$85	Resident: \$75, Non-resident: \$95
JUNIOR LEAGUE	11-13	Resident: \$75 Non-resident: \$105	Resident: \$85 Non-resident: \$115
SENIOR LEAGUE	14-18	Resident: \$110 Non-resident: \$140	Resident: \$120 Non-resident: \$150

COED T-BALL

GAMES JUNE 7-JULY 19 Practice starts week of May 5

AGE	COST	
	EARLY REGISTRATION MAR 1-APR 1	LATE REGISTRATION APR 2-16
Boys & Girls 5-6 (As of April 1)	Resident: \$45 Non-resident: \$60	Resident: \$55 Non-resident: \$70

SENIOR PROGRAM



The La Vista Senior Program is designed to enhance the lives of those 55+ by providing high-quality services that offer wellness, leisure, life-long learning and social opportunities.

La Vista residents and non-residents who are 55 and older can participate in the Senior Program and become part of its thriving community free of charge. Visit the front desk at the La Vista Community Center to join.

For more information about the Senior Program and special events, see the monthly Senior Newsletter at CityOfLaVista.org/Seniors, or contact Kaily Stanley, Recreation Manager - Seniors, at **402.331.3455**.

Staying Active and Connected: The Perks of La Vista's Senior Program

Long-time La Vista residents Harvey and Sally Swanger are enjoying a fulfilling retirement. Most days of the week, the couple can be found at the La Vista Community Center taking part in Senior Program activities. The Swangers credit the Senior Program for providing them with opportunities to make meaningful connections and maintain a sense of purpose during their current chapter of life.

Harvey and Sally have called La Vista home for more than 40 years. Sally retired four years ago, and Harvey has been retired for two years. They were familiar with the Community Center and had visited with their children over the years, but they didn't know much about the Senior Program until recently.

"It wasn't until we retired that we really looked into the Senior Program to see what it offered," Sally said.

"I'd say it was about a year and a half ago that we started coming

here, just occasionally to see what was going on," said Sally. Their visits quickly increased in frequency as they found new activities to add to their schedule.

"We come here a minimum of three days a week," said Harvey.

From crafts to balloon hockey, and bingo to volunteering as lunch servers, the couple has tried nearly all the Senior Program's offerings.

"When you have a lot of activities going on, you have a reason to go somewhere," Sally said. "I know some people who retire and say they just sit around the house—we don't. It gives you a good reason to get up and out, and you just feel more involved in your community."

According to the Swangers, the best part about the Senior Program is that it has introduced them to new people who have become dear friends.

"You meet your neighbors and a lot of nice people you didn't know before. So, you really expand your horizon of friends," said Sally.

Harvey added, "We just really enjoy the people that are here and the camaraderie."

SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy a nutritious meal at the Community Center, provided by Treat America, in cooperation with the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging. Please call by noon the business day before you'd like to visit to make a reservation. After lunch, feel free to stick around for many of our other activities. View the monthly lunch menu at CityofLaVista.org/Seniors.

Suggested Donation: \$5 for those 60 and older
Required Fee: \$9.50 for those younger than 60

VALENTINE'S SENIOR LUNCH

Friday, February 14, Papillion Landing

Doors open at 11 a.m., lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.

Join us at Papillion Landing on Valentine's Day for a special luncheon complete with musical entertainment. Register at Papillion Landing or the La Vista Community Center Front Desk. Registration closes Wednesday, February 5 or once capacity is reached.

Menu: Lasagna, green beans, breadstick, brownie and beverage.

Cost: \$8 per person. Payment due at time of registration. Sorry no refunds.

Ages: All adults 55+ are invited. Maximum 150 registrations.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY SENIOR LUNCH

Monday, March 17, La Vista Community Center

Doors open at 11 a.m., lunch begins at 11:30 a.m.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with good friends, a traditional meal and entertainment at the La Vista Community Center. Register at Papillion Landing or the La Vista Community Center Front Desk. Registration closes Friday, March 5 or once capacity is reached.

Menu: Traditional St. Patrick's Day meal

Cost: \$8 per person. Payment due at time of registration. Sorry no refunds.

Ages: All adults 55+ are invited. Maximum 150 registrations.



SENIOR OLYMPICS

Wednesday, May 7, Papillion Landing

Doors open 9 a.m., Games start at 9:30 a.m.

Participate in the Senior Olympics and help La Vista's Senior Program compete for the gold medal! Events include everything from pool noodle javelin to trivia. Doors will open at 9 a.m. with events starting at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m. with entertainment at 12:30 p.m., and awards given out at 1 p.m. (Lunch menu to be determined.)

Registration opens Monday, February 17 and ends Wednesday, April 16. Registrations limited to 42 per location. Sign up at Papillion Landing or the La Vista Community Center Front Desk.

Cost: \$10 per person. Payment due at time of registration. Sorry no refunds.

Ages: All adults 55+ are invited.



55 AND UP ONGOING ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	FEES
Golden Ballroom Dancing Exercise	Mondays	9 a.m.	FREE
Senior Pickleball Class	Third Monday of the month	3:30 p.m.	FREE
Tai Chi For Balance	Tuesdays & Thursdays	10:45-11:30 a.m.	Age 60+: \$0.50 suggested
Various Card Games	Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays	Tues: 12 p.m. or 2 p.m. Wed & Fri: 2 p.m.	FREE
Basic Sign Language Class	Third Tuesday of the month	1 p.m.	FREE
Movie Showings	Every other Tuesday	1 p.m.	FREE
Drop-In Quilting	Wednesdays	9-11:30 a.m.	FREE
Chair Volleyball	Wednesdays & Fridays	10:15-11:15 a.m.	FREE
Hand & Foot (Cards)	Wednesdays	1 p.m.	FREE
Pitch (Cards)	Fridays	1 p.m.	FREE
Bingo	Fridays	1 p.m.	\$1/5 games



CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Douglas Kindig



CITY COUNCIL

Kim Thomas | Ward I
Ron Sheehan | Ward II
Deb Hale | Ward III
Jim Frederick | Ward IV
Terrilyn Quick | Ward I
Kelly Sell | Ward II
Alan Ronan | Ward III
Kevin Wetuski | Ward IV

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Rita Ramirez | Interim City Administrator
Kevin Pokorny | Director of Administrative Services
Joe Soucie | Director of Public Works
Mike Schofield | Director of Public Safety
Rachel Carl | City Clerk
Rose Barcal | Library Director
Heather Buller | Recreation Director
Pat Dowse | City Engineer
Bruce Fountain | Community Development Director
Meg Harris | Finance Director
Wendy Lowery | Human Resources Director

Share your views, La Vista!
CityofLaVista.org/Flag