



LA VISTA

citywise

A Publication of the City of La Vista  
Summer 2006

## In the Swim of Things

One of the priorities identified in the City's Park & Recreation Master Plan was the need to assess the City's current and future aquatic requirements. The City's swimming pool was originally built by a private developer in 1962, just two years after the City was incorporated. Later acquired by the City, the pool is traditional in style and has been renovated and rehabilitated numerous times during the past 40+ years.

More recently a number of factors, including frequency and types of repairs, compliance with current standards and codes, and meeting the needs of a growing community, have made it evident that the City needed a plan for aquatic services.

In the summer of 2005, the City utilized Water's Edge Aquatic Design, Lenexa, Kansas to review and evaluate the existing pool facility and provide recommendations for improvement. The study and findings were presented to the City Council at their February 7, 2006 meeting.

Improvements considered in the report ranged from aesthetic suggestions to code issues and life safety items, as well as meeting the needs of La Vista's growing population. Based on the findings, four possible options were identified: immediate improvements, basic renovation, major/enhanced renovation and pool replacement.

Immediate improvements address safety and health related issues. Basic renovations bring the pool into compliance with current codes and prolong the life of the facility. Major/enhanced renovation means adding fun features that expand the recreation, instruction, competition, therapy, or other uses of the pool. The new pool alternative was presented for comparison to the renovation options and to determine if the renovation options are practical as compared to complete pool replacement.

The immediate safety concerns that were identified will be addressed prior to the opening of the swimming pool for the 2006 season. The most significant item of concern is that the current pool dimensions are inadequate to accommodate a diving board. Consequently, the existing diving board will be removed. In an attempt to minimize this disappointment, the Mayor and City Council have approved funding for a slide to replace the diving board feature.

### What Happens Next?

The bottom line is that the existing pool has outlived its useful life and warrants some significant improvements and/or enhancements. As the Mayor and City Council move forward in making decisions regarding the future of the pool, it is important that they hear from residents. Throughout the process, there will be opportunities for the public to receive information and have input. The Mayor will be appointing an ad hoc committee to study the issue further. If you are interested, in participating as a member on such committee, please call Linda at 331-4343.



### NEW Longer Pool Season!

**The La Vista Municipal Pool will open on Saturday, May 27, 2006.**

**Pool Hours are 1:00-9:00 p.m. daily through August 13.**

**From August 18 to September 4 the pool will be open on Fridays 4:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sundays 1:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Monday, September 4, (Labor Day) the pool will be open from 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

## A MINUTE WITH mayor kindig



Dear Residents,

It has been a memorable few weeks in the City of La Vista. We couldn't be more pleased to celebrate PayPal's

expansion into a second facility in La Vista and to be a part of a groundbreaking to welcome Cabela's, the Worlds Foremost Outfitter, to our community.

Last year when Cabela's expressed a desire to locate another store in Nebraska, La Vista took on the challenge to convince them that our Southport development was the place they wanted to be. We have long envisioned this area as a destination location and our dream of Southport being the gateway to the Omaha metro area is becoming a reality.

The PayPal expansion and Cabela's projects are just the beginning. A number of other projects are currently in the works. I truly believe Southport is on the way to becoming a premier development that will solidify La Vista's future.

A plan like this does not come together without the hard work and efforts of many. La Vista has strong elected leadership, both past and present, who were willing to stay committed to their vision. They saw the potential for this area and laid the foundation. Our City staff has worked diligently to keep these projects and others in Southport moving forward. I also want to acknowledge the commitment and contributions of Sarpy County and the Sarpy County Tourism Board who have assisted us in making a destination development of this caliber a reality.

It is an exciting time here in La Vista and I couldn't be more proud to serve as your Mayor!

Regards,

Douglas Kindig, Mayor

## Mayor Announces City Administrator Appointment

Mayor Douglas Kindig recently announced his appointment of Brenda (Sedlacek) Gunn to the position of City Administrator for the City of La Vista. The City Council confirmed her appointment on April 18, 2006. Ms. Gunn has nearly 13 years of professional local government management experience and is a Credentialed Manager by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). In 2005, she received the ICMA Assistant Excellence in Leadership Award. Gunn has worked for the City of La Vista since July 1997 as Assistant City Administrator and has served as Interim City Administrator since the departure of Cara Pavlicek in November 2005.



"Brenda has been my top choice for the position of City Administrator from the beginning of this process. She is without a doubt the best person for this job and I have complete trust in her ability to take La Vista to the next level as a City," said Kindig.

Ms. Gunn began her career in local government management with the City of Concordia, Kansas in 1993 as the Director of Community Development and Assistant to the City Manager. She also served as the Acting City Manager for over a year. Gunn was hired by the City of La Vista in July 1997.

## La Vista City Calendar

### May 2006

- 2 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 11 Library Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m. in Library Conference Room, #142
- 16 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 17 Park and Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m. in Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 29 Most City offices will be closed for Memorial Day

### June 2006

- 1-4 La Vista Days
- 3 La Vista Days Parade, 1:30 p.m., Start at 73rd & Parkview Blvd, End at 83rd & Parkview Blvd
- 6 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 12 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 7:00 p.m. in Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 20 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 21 Park and Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m. in Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 21 Library Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m. in Library Board Room

### July 2006

- 4 Most City offices will be closed for Independence Day
- 5 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 11 & 12 City Council Budget Workshops, 6:00 p.m. in Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 18 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber

# communitydevelopment

The Community Development Department continues to be very busy with a multitude of projects in various stages of completion. The list below indicates the upcoming construction season will be a busy one in La Vista.

## RECENTLY COMPLETELY OR NEARLY COMPLETED

**Daltile** - Construction has been completed on this 30,000 s.f. building with space for additional tenants. Location: 12008 Portal Rd.

**JT Builders** - Construction has been completed on this 20,000 s.f. building with space for additional tenants. Location: 12305 Cary Cir.

**Thrasher Basement Systems** - Construction has been completed on this new 40,000 s.f. building. Location: 12330 Cary Cir.

**Norandex** - Construction is nearing completion on this 28,000 s.f. building. Location: 12201 Cary Cir. - *Continued, page 7.*

**Pelster Building** - Construction is nearing completion on this 18,000 s.f. warehouse building. Location: 13211 Chandler Rd.

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

**Cabela's** - Construction is underway on a 130,000 s.f. destination superstore in the Southport West development, scheduled to be open in the fall of 2006. Location: 12703 Westport Parkway

**District 2 Fire Station** - Construction has started on the City's 22,450 s.f. facility. The station is scheduled to be open and operational by February of 2007. Location: 10727 Chandler Road

**PayPal** - Construction is underway on a new 2-story, 130,000 s.f. building. PayPal, an eBay company, is a global leader in online payment solutions with more than 100 million accounts. Location: 7700 Eastport Pkwy.

**Peel's Salon Services** - This \$4.4 million building will be the new corporate office for Peel's, a wholesale distributor of salon supplies. The 96,000 s.f. building is under construction. Location: 11720 Peel Cir.

**Southport Professional Building** - This upscale 2-story, 24,000 s.f. office building is under construction. Location: 12110 Port Grace Blvd.

**Castellar Plaza** - Construction of a 28,000 s.f. industrial flex building is in progress. Location: 13229 Portal Drive

**Char-Deb Properties** - This 36,800 s.f. industrial flex building is under construction. Emser Tile & Natural Stone is finishing 12,000 s.f. for their office and showroom. Location: 11941 Centennial Rd.

**Dakota Wall Systems** - This 10,000 s.f. building is under construction. Location: 8810 S. 120th St.

**Midwest Tile** - Construction of a 14,400 s.f. showroom and warehouse is in progress. Location: 13259 Centennial Road

**T & T Poured Walls** - This 9,900 s.f. building is under construction. Location: 10620 Chandler

**Val Verde Commercial Buildings** - The construction of two 7,765 s.f. commercial buildings is underway. Location: 9821 Giles Rd.

## COMING UP

**Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church** - Construction of a 49,000 s.f. religious facility. Project review and approval completed; building permit application expected in the spring of 2006. Location: 96th & Melissa Street.

**Hampton Inn & Suites** - Preliminary design calls for a 4-story building with 116 rooms. Project review and approval completed; building permit application expected in the spring of 2006, and construction is expected to be completed in the spring of 2007. Location: 126th Street & Southport Parkway

**Oriental Trading Company** - Applied for a building permit to construct a 137,000 s.f. warehouse and office addition to their new facility. Location: 11201 Giles Rd.

# employee recognition

## Employees Receive Awards

On February 4, 2006 the City of La Vista recognized outstanding employees and volunteers with a variety of awards in several categories.



### Employee of the Year

Rich Carstensen & Valerie Houloose



### Leadership Award

Police Chief Robert Lausten



### 2005 T.E.A.M. Award

Awarded to two groups of employees in 2005, one for their work with the La Vista Senior Program and the other for their efforts in assisting with the Husker Nation event. Those working with the Senior Program include Sue Tangeman, Dave Carlson, and Rich Carstensen, pictured above. Employees involved with the Husker Nation event included John Helwig, Ron Keller, Tim Sedlacek, Mike Stewart, and Jeff Thornburg.



### Outstanding Service Awards

Sheila Lindberg, Karen Fagin, Rita Ramirez, Linda Gooch, Brenda Gunn, and David Potter.



### Police Employee of the Year

Lt. Kevin Pokorny

## Board and Commission Service Awards

Larry Filbrandt - 20 Years

# La Vista Days - Fun Tradition with NEW Changes

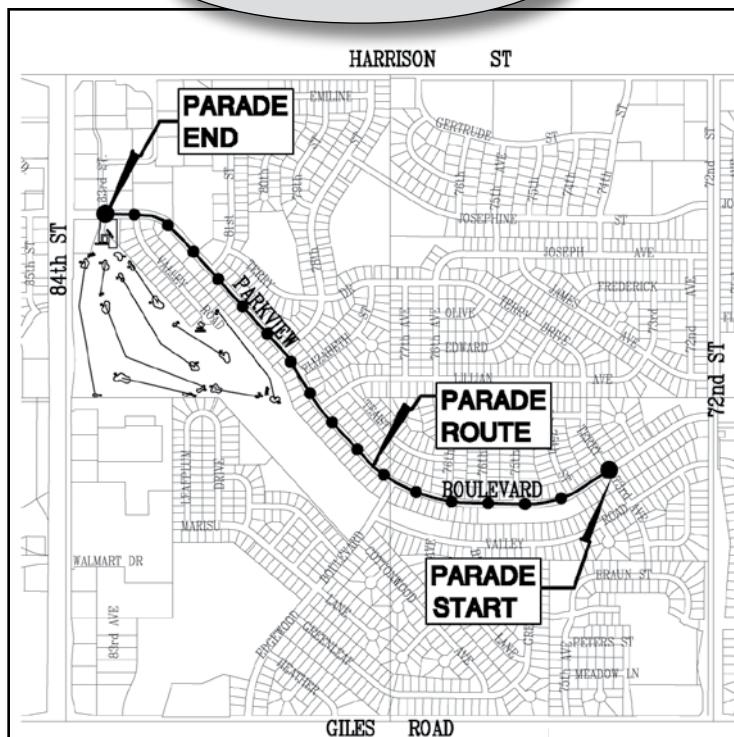
The annual La Vista Days Celebration will include some old favorites this year as well as some new changes. The celebration will take place beginning on **Wednesday, May 31** and run through **Sunday, June 4**.

**NEW THIS YEAR** - The La Vista Days Parade will be held on Saturday, June 3, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The parade is going back to an afternoon event after being held in the evening for the past two years. Also, a **new parade route** is being implemented. The parade route will **begin 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 during the parade. The reviewing stand will be located in Champion Park, at approximately 75th and Park View Blvd. The route change is the result of concern expressed in the past by public safety officials that closing 84th Street limits vital access to the City during an emergency. The new route is expected to address that concern. Parade entry forms are available at the La Vista Chamber of Commerce, 7536 So. 84th Street, or at the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd.

Other La Vista Days events include a Prayer Walk, Carnival, Pancake Breakfast, Mascot Competition, Kiddie Parade, Beer Garden, Dance, Family Fair, Auto Jam, and Water Fights. Most events are held in or near Central Park. The weekend will conclude with a Community Cookout, Celebrity Softball Game and Fireworks at the Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

Please call the La Vista Chamber of Commerce at 339-2078 or visit their website at [www.lavistachamber.org](http://www.lavistachamber.org) for more information on La Vista Days. Come join in the fun!

## New Parade Route



LA VISTA

## fire & rescue department

### Join the L.V.F.D.

The La Vista Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department is now accepting applications through June 5th for the July recruit class. **Accept the challenge and make a difference in our community.** Join the department at this exciting time in its history. The dedication of a second fire station will take place next year at 108th and Chandler in western La Vista. As the city grows, we need your help to continue delivering outstanding Fire & Rescue services. Please contact Karen Fagin: 331-4343 x186, email: [kfagin@ci.la-vista.ne.us](mailto:kfagin@ci.la-vista.ne.us) or web: [www.ci.la-vista.ne.us](http://www.ci.la-vista.ne.us) (click on City Services, then Fire & Rescue).

See Tips for a Safe July 4th Holiday on Page 5

### Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector Installation Program

The La Vista Fire & Rescue Department recently expanded its existing Smoke Detector Installation Program to include carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. This new service aids La Vista residents unable to afford the expensive, but lifesaving devices. A limited number of detectors were distributed through this pilot program; more CO detectors will be available if additional funding is secured. In addition, the La Vista Fire & Rescue Department will continue accepting requests to install new smoke detectors or inspect existing detectors. This is a free service available to all La Vista homeowners. The new smoke detectors are offered at no cost to the resident, courtesy of a La Vista Community Foundation grant. Please call the L.V.F.D. at 331-4748 for more details or to schedule an installation/inspection.

## Lane Restrictions and Road Closings

The 2006 construction season is underway in La Vista and throughout the metro area increasing the potential for traffic congestion and safety hazards. Please slow down when approaching work zones, heed posted warning signs and stay alert. By following these simple steps, the risk of accidents and injuries will be reduced or prevented.

The La Vista Public Works Department wants to ensure the safety of its employees, private contractors and the traveling public. The following information is presented regarding road construction projects in and around La Vista in the coming months to increase awareness of potential safety hazards.

**72nd & Giles Road** - La Vista City officials have had a number of meetings with the City of Papillion in an attempt to minimize the impact of the Market Pointe development on our citizens. Road improvements in the area of 72nd & Giles Road will be necessary, however, resulting in road closures and lane restrictions throughout the summer months.

Giles Road from 72nd Street east to 69th Street will be closed from early April until mid-June, 2006. There will also be lane closures on 72nd Street and on Giles Road west of 72nd Street during this period of time. Short term lane closures will be necessary later in the summer when permanent traffic signal poles are installed.

It is anticipated that road improvements in this area will be completed by late August or early September.

## Street Improvement Plan Approved

The City Council approved the annual 1 & 6-year Street Improvement Plan at the February 21, 2006 meeting. During the summer of 2006, the following projects will be underway:

**96th Street (Giles Road to HWY 370)** - construct and pave two additional lanes from Giles Road to Cornhusker Road and add four lanes from Cornhusker Road to HWY 370.

**Pine Drive (South Glenview Drive to Park Crest Drive)** - replace concrete panels in various locations.

**Harvest Hills Drive (Park View Blvd. to Valley View Drive)** - replace concrete panels in various locations.

**Harrison Street (La Vista Drive to 48th Street)** - finalize design work, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocates.

**Traffic Signal Installation (Southport East & West)** - the intersection of 126th Street and Southport Parkway.

**Traffic Signal Installation (Southport East & West)** - the intersection of Giles Road, Eastport Parkway and 126th Street.

We appreciate your patience during the construction season and ask that you contact La Vista Public Works Director Joe Soucie at 331-8972 if you experience any problems.

## Work Zone Safety Fact Sheet

- The two main reasons for 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.

## fire & rescue department

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### Fireworks Safety Tips

- Always read and follow label directions
- Have an adult supervise all fireworks activities
- Buy from reliable sources
- Ignite outdoors, away from buildings and vehicles
- Keep a bucket of water handy
- Light fireworks one at a time
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place
- Never throw fireworks at another person
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers
- Eye protection should always be worn by the fireworks shooter
- No part of the shooter's body should be over the firework

For more fireworks safety information, please visit <http://www.fireworksafety.com> online. To view the list of approved Class C fireworks in Nebraska, please visit <http://www.sfm.state.ne.us/publications/fireworks.html>. Have a safe and fun Fourth of July!

# librarynook

9110 Giles Road • 402.537.3900 • <http://lavistaweb.mccneb.edu>

Hours

Mon. - Thur. 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Fri. - Sat. 8:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Sun. 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

## Technology Classes

Computer classes are offered to library cardholders to provide skills in specific areas: Basic Computer Skills, Basic Internet, Basic Word and Basic Scanning classes. These hands-on classes are held in the library computer lab. A monthly calendar of classes and their content is posted at the library and on the web page. Registration is required. Contact Jean Hurst for more information at 537-3900.

## Genealogy Group

The Genealogy Group meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for an opportunity to share ideas concerning your family's history. Learn about the genealogy resources available at the library including a microfilm reader and a microfiche reader.

## Reading Room

The 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 now has an evening book club which meets the second Monday of every month. Call the library to see what the current title is. Join us for a book discussion.

Library Web Page is located at <http://lavistaweb.mccneb.edu>.

Click on "Card Catalog" to search the library's collection.

## City Wins Website Makeover Contest

The City of La Vista was recently named a winner by CivicPlus in the company's Extreme Website Makeover Contest. La Vista won in the category of cities with populations between 10,000-25,000. CivicPlus, the nation's leader in government website creation and management, will work with the City to design a professional, attractive and functional e-government website. Training on updating and managing the site and support and hosting of the site for one year are also included. The prize is valued at over \$20,000.

The contest application pointed out that La Vista is a dynamic community with exciting things on the horizon. However, the existing website does not reflect that excitement. Additionally the City's focus has been on using available resources to maintain quality public services.

The City is excited about the opportunity to be able to provide a professional, up-to-date website that will capture the essence of our community. Look for the unveiling early in July.

## children

### Summer Reading Program

The 2006 Summer Reading Program: Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales 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 have spent reading. The Summer Reading Program will also offer various activities throughout the summer including Preschool, Toddler and Lapsit Storytimes, crafts, weekly contests, movie night, guest speakers, and more. Special guests include the Storyteller Jim Carroll, race car driver Steve Kosiski, magician Jeff Quinn, a nature program with Cherie Beam-Clarke, Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha Humane Society, return of the Snake Man Dennis Ferraro, and more! Registration for the Summer Reading Program will be at the **Kick Off, May 31st from 2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.** at the library. Visit the library's web page for more information or ask on your next visit to the library.

### Storytimes

Summer Storytimes are available during June and July.

Preschool Storytime starts on June 5th and will run on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Toddler Storytime begins on June 12th and will run Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:10 a.m.

Lapsit will begin on June 15th and is for children from 6 months to 18 months of age.

These fun, hands-on programs introduce young children to the library and the joy of reading. Preschool Storytime is geared for children 3-5. Toddler Storytime is for children 18 months - 3 years along with Mom or Dad or a grandparent or care giver. Registration for all storytimes is required. Call for more information.

# shorttakes shorttakes shorttakes shorttakes

## Residential Sewer Drain Cleaning

Residents are asked to notify the Public Works Department at 331-8927 when home sewer lines are cleaned. Material removed from your sewer line is forced into the main sewer line, which creates the possibility of that material becoming stuck in the main sewer line and causing backup problems. The Public Works Department will check and service the main sewer line for proper flow.

## Garage Sale Signs

As we enter into garage sale weather, please remember that La Vista has guidelines in place regarding the location of signs. Signs cannot be placed in the right-of-way, which generally means within 25' of a major roadway (50' on 84th Street) and within 12' of a residential street. Please call City Hall, 331-4343, prior to placing your garage sale signs if you have questions. The City of La Vista may confiscate and dispose of signs that are improperly placed.

## Summer Project?

Residents are reminded that a building permit must be obtained prior to the construction of fences, sheds, decks and installation of pools. Driveway and approach replacement, curb grinding and sidewalk replacement also require permits. Permits are processed at La Vista City Hall, 8116 Park View Blvd. or call 331-4343 for more information.

## Diggers Hotline - 344-3565

If you are digging for construction or gardening, call before you dig to have utility lines marked.

## City Hall

A reminder that City Hall is open to the public until 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month prior to the City Council meeting.

## Council Clips

- Awarded a contract to Construct, Inc. for the Fire Station No. 2 project.
- Received the results of a Municipal Aquatics Study completed by Water's Edge and agreed to form a committee to look at options for the City's existing swimming pool.
- Adopted a new Safety Manual for employees.
- Approved the One and Six Year Road Plan.
- Awarded a bid for Thompson Creek Channel Improvements, Phase V.
- Approved land purchase, a preliminary design and authorized bids for an off-street parking facility in Southport West.
- Renamed a section of Giles Road to Giles Road West.
- Renamed a section of 126th Street to Giles Road
- Authorized bids for a pumper truck and an aerial truck for the new fire station.

## policewatch

### La Vista PD Puts Motorcycle on the Streets



Officer Ray Harrod with the new PD motorcycle.

The La Vista Police Department's first motorcycle will be on patrol early in May of 2006.

Last October the police department received a grant from the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety to acquire a police motorcycle to help the department address growing traffic in the city. Two officers, Ray Harrod and Andrew Johnson, recently completed an 80-hour police motor officer training course and will hit the streets on a new Harley Davidson Electra Glide motorcycle. In addition to patrolling our streets and investigating traffic crashes, the motor officers will make every effort to ride into neighborhoods, schools and the central business district to meet up with members of the community on a personal basis.

For additional information on La Vista's Police Motorcycle Unit, contact Lt. DJ Barcal at 402-331-1582 or by e-mail: DBarcal@ci.la-vista.ne.us

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**

Pat Archibald, Buildings & Grounds  
Rita Ramirez, City Clerk  
Ann Birch, Community Development Director  
Sheila Lindberg, Finance Director  
Rose Schinker, Library Director  
Kirk Schuster, Fire Chief  
Bob Lausten, Police Chief  
Joe Soucie, Public Works Director  
Scott Stopak, Recreation Director

## Breaking Ground in La Vista



Top: Mayor Kindig at the Cabela's ground breaking ceremony.

Above: PayPal's proposed new building.



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

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