

LA VISTA citywise

City on Sound Financial Footing

La Vista's budget for the 2013 fiscal year was recently approved by the City Council and does not include a property tax increase. The City's strategic plan is the foundation upon which the budget is prepared. Other considerations include the Mayor and City Council's ongoing efforts to ensure that the needs of residents are being met while balancing the budget in an uncertain economic environment. Attention was also given to maintaining an acceptable cash reserve. Current service levels are generally maintained despite the fact that operating costs beyond the City's control continue to rise.

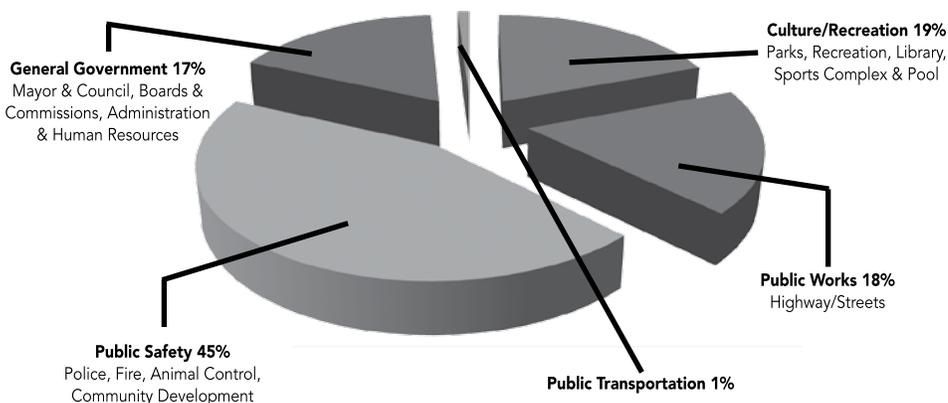
Since 2000, La Vista's population has grown by nearly 48 percent and over the past 10 years the City's assessed valuation has increased an average of about 10% annually to a total of over \$1 billion. The dramatic change in our economy over the past few years however, has impacted the City's revenues through declining property

values. For FY13 assessed valuation grew by only one-tenth of one percent. Even so, the La Vista's disciplined, long-term growth has kept the City in a strong financial position as evidenced by Moody's Investors Service's A1 bond rating.

The City's General Fund budget provides funding for common municipal operations. The chart below illustrates the percentage of General Fund expenditures allocated to various categories, with Public Safety constituting the largest portion. Total operating expenditures are budgeted at \$11.9 million and capital expenditures at \$215,000. This is a 2.24% increase over FY12.

The new budget also provides for a variety of initiatives identified in the strategic plan including continued work on Vision 84, participation in the National Citizen Survey and the implementation of a new emergency notification system for residents.

"In order to keep the City on healthy financial footing, we must continue to remain conservative and ensure that we are making the best use of our existing resources," said Mayor Douglas Kindig.



**"Survey says..."
It could be you!**

La Vista will again take part in The National Citizen Survey process. For more information see page 3.

A MINUTE WITH mayor kindig



The City Council recently approved a budget with a zero percent tax increase and a minimal increase in overall spending. The Council and I

agree that with continued economic uncertainty, a conservative budget approach is crucial to the City's future financial stability.

Being conservative does not mean that all activity stops, however. La Vista continues to grow and there are important initiatives the City needs to keep working on in addition to providing efficient services and quality of life amenities for our residents. A new emergency notification system for citizens is one such initiative that was included in the upcoming budget.

Providing fun cultural and recreational activities has also been a focus and funds have again been included in the budget for these types of programs. We have worked to create programs and activities as unique as our residents—everything from water balloon fights in the park to a program for home-school families at the Library.

The City has a partner for some of these opportunities and events, many of which wouldn't be possible without the support of the La Vista Community Foundation. This organization sponsors City events and gives thousands of dollars in grants each year to community organizations.

The Foundation's most significant fundraiser of the year, To the Nines, is a New Year's Eve Gala. I would encourage you to consider attending this fun-filled evening of dinner and dancing. Visit www.lavistacommunityfoundation.com for all the details.

Happy Holidays!

— Mayor Douglas Kindig

What is Next for Thompson Creek?

As part of ongoing efforts to control erosion along the banks of Thompson Creek, the City acquired and demolished 24 homes in 2011. This housing acquisition was funded primarily with a grants from FEMA and the Papio-Missouri NRD and created an appealing green space along the creek adjacent to Park View Boulevard.

While it might appear that nothing further is happening, efforts to secure funding for the next phase of the project remain ongoing. At an estimated cost of \$2.7 million, the next phase will include channel improvements to control erosion and realignment of the channel in some areas.

The City recently submitted grant applications to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Nebraska Environmental Trust to fund the next phase of improvements.

"Future Thompson Creek improvements will not only benefit the properties adjacent to the creek by repairing the erosion damage," said Mayor Douglas Kindig, "but are an important part of laying the foundation for improvements upstream that will need to be made to create a civic park space in conjunction with the Vision 84 project."

La Vista City Calendar

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

November 2012

- 6 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 8 Library Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m., La Vista Library
- 12 La Vista/Metropolitan Community College Condominium Owners Association, 3 p.m., La Vista Library
- 15 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 20 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 21 Park and Rec. Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 22-23 Most City offices closed for the Thanksgiving holiday
- 25 Santa's Sleigh Ride in La Vista starting at 5 p.m.
- 26 Tree Lighting Celebration, 6 p.m., Community Center

December 2012

- 4 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 7 p.m.
- 18 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 19 Park and Rec. Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 20 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 25 Most City offices closed for the Christmas holiday

January 2013

- 1 Most City offices closed for the New Year's holiday
- 2 City Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 10 Library Advisory Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., La Vista Library
- 15 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 16 Park and Rec. Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Selecting a Tree for the Holidays

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord



before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch.

Avoid Using Lit Candles

If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Source: United State Fire Administration

La Vista to Participate in National Citizen Survey

Residents will soon be asked to participate for a second time in The National Citizen Survey, a customized process that collects, analyzes and reports data back to the City regarding its performance in a variety of areas.

The survey will be sent to 1,200 randomly selected La Vista residents who will receive a postcard in January letting them know they have been selected to participate. A copy of the survey will be delivered approximately one week later and a follow-up survey will be sent prior to the due date.

The survey will provide data to help the city identify citizen priorities and measure satisfaction levels. It will also support the City's performance measurement efforts.

Additionally, since this is the City's second time conducting the survey, the data collected will provide elected officials and staff a very important progress update in key areas.

Survey questions will ask residents to rate La Vista's quality of life, demographics, quality and use of municipal services and local policies.

Results will be announced in a future issue of CityWise and will be provided on the City's website.

If you have any questions, contact City Hall, 402-331-4343.



If you are selected to participate, please take the time to complete the survey. You will be providing valuable information to elected officials and City staff that will be used to plan for La Vista's future.

police department



CITY ORDINANCE REMINDER

Snow Emergency

Whenever two or more inches of snow, ice and/or sleet has fallen on the streets of La Vista, or when a snow emergency has been declared with notice to the news media, cars cannot be parked on any public street in the City for 24 hours or until the street has been plowed by the City snow plows. Any vehicle that is not moved will be towed at the owner's expense.

Clearing Sidewalks

Sidewalks in all residential areas of the City of La Vista are required to be cleaned of any snow, sleet, mud or ice within 24 hours after the end of a storm. Sidewalks in a business district must be cleaned within five hours after the end of the storm unless the snow fall took place during the night, in which case the sidewalk shall be cleaned before 8:30 a.m. the following day.



Holiday Happenings

La Vista will once again kick-off the holiday season with two special events on **Sunday, November 25** and **Monday, November 26**.

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

As we understand the information from the North Pole, Santa will depart from the City Hall parking lot at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 25. He plans to be west of 84th Street between 5 and 6 p.m., between 84th and 72nd streets from 6 to 7 p.m. and east of 72nd Street from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Times and travel route could vary based on traffic, weather and other conditions.

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

Immediately following the tree lighting, the Mayor and City Council will host a soup supper inside the Community

Center gymnasium along with holiday entertainment. Special thanks to the La Vista Runza (121st & Giles Road) for their support of this event. Free-will donations to the Tri-City Food Pantry will also be accepted. Hot chocolate and treats will also be available while children tell Santa their holiday wishes.

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

Holiday Lights Tour

A list of recommended holiday lights displays will be created. Neighborhoods will be visited in early December to identify the homes to feature on this tour. If you would like to recommend a display or neighborhood, send us the location by Wednesday, December 5 at dkarlson@cityoflavista.org. A map of the best holiday lights will be posted on the City's website to help you enjoy the holiday season.



Christmas Tree Recycling

The City of La Vista is once again offering free drop sites for Christmas trees at the following locations:

- La Vista Soccer Complex parking lot (two blocks south of Harrison Street on 66th Street).
- Kelly West parking lot (87th Street and Park View Blvd.).

Drop off sites will be open December 26 to January 15. All decorations, tinsel and plastic bags must be removed prior to disposal. The collected trees will be chipped into mulch, which is available to residents free of charge.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department, 402-331-8927.

Winter Season Reminders

The La Vista Public Works Department offers the following suggestions to residents to stay safe this winter.

- City code does not allow snow from driveways and sidewalks to be placed in the street.

- Allow yourself extra traveling time when road conditions are snow or ice covered.
- Lower your traveling speed accordingly for road conditions. Increase stopping distance.
- Allow adequate time for your car to properly warm-up. All windows should be clear of snow and ice and have full visibility.
- Increase the following distance from the vehicle in front of you. Remember, City Code requires 100 feet of separation from snow plows.
- Never pass through a multiple truck plowing operation; these trucks weave in and out of turn lanes. Visibility is greatly reduced when multiple vehicles are plowing together.
- Be sure to check your vehicle's windshield wiper blades, tires, heater, defroster and washer fluid.
- During a winter storm do not travel from your home unless absolutely necessary.
- Contact the La Vista Public Works Department with winter road or related questions, 402-331-8927.



Community Development Department Project Updates

ASInc.net

A permit has been issued for a 6,734 s.f. tenant finish for this staffing company. Location: 12702 Westport Parkway.

Bradco

A 6,400 s.f. tenant finish for this equipment wholesaler has been completed. Location: 10501 Chandler Circle.

Elite Glass

Construction has been completed on a 12,000 s.f. building for this glass service, supply and repair business. Location: 10327 Chandler Road

Goracke & Associates

A 5,400 s.f. tenant finish is underway this full service tax, accounting and business consulting firm company. Location: 12110 Port Grace Boulevard.

Hutong Sushi Grill

This 1,935 s.f. Japanese restaurant is now open for business. Location: 7202 Giles Road.

Primrose School

A replat application is in progress in the Mayfair subdivision for this private preschool offering innovative, educational child care for infants through private kindergarten and after school. Location: 96th & Giles Road.

Progressive Insurance

A building permit application has been submitted for this 16,591 s.f. claims center and office. Location: Harrison Street and Harry Anderson Boulevard.

Reruns R Fun

A permit has been issued to enclose the loading dock. Location: 8501 Granville Parkway.

Streck Laboratories

A 6,410 s.f. building addition is under construction in order to connect their buildings. Location: 10923 Emiline Street.

Taylor Industries

A permit has been issued for a 1,200 s.f. tenant finish for this company. Location: 12110 Cary Circle.

Walmart Neighborhood Market

The City Council has approved a replat in the Southwind subdivision for this new 41,180 s.f. grocery store. Location: 96th & Giles Road.

Yahoo!

A permit has been issued for an additional 54,000 s.f. of interior space to house a tape library. Location: 10917 Harry Watanabe Parkway.



December Fun at Your Library

The library will be offering the following activities in December:

Saturday, December 1 - Special Craft Day at the Library - Watch for more information.

Saturday, December 8, 11 a.m.-noon
 Gingerbread Houses - All children 10 years old and under are invited to make a gingerbread house at the library. Registration is required and an adult is required to help their child make the gingerbread house.

Thursday, December 20, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Family Movie Night - Watch a movie on the big screen!! The city will blow up the large outdoor movie screen and bring it inside for a fun holiday movie. Children are encouraged to wear their pajamas and bring a pillow and/or blanket to enjoy a family-friendly movie. Snacks will be served.

Wednesday, January 2, 11:30-12:15 p.m. Lunch Bunch and Free Book Wednesday - Families can bring their lunch to the library and eat while listening to three books read by Ms. Jodi. All children will receive a free book and be given the opportunity to play in the storytime room. Registration is not required.

Lego Club

Come build your Lego masterpieces one brick at a time with the La Vista Public Library's Lego Club. Lego Club is open to children ages 3-11. Each month will have a different theme, and the library will provide the Legos. Bring your cameras because weekly creations will not be kept. Registration is not required.

Homeschool Programs

The La Vista Public Library offers several programs designed for home school families.

Registration is required for these programs. To see a complete listing of our home school programs visit the Library's Web site, www.cityoflavista.org/library. If you have any questions, please contact Karla, 402-537-3900 or kshafer@lavistamail.mccneb.edu.

Winter Craft Days

Winter Craft Days are held from 3:30-4 p.m. for children in fourth grade and under. Craft days will be held on November 12, December 17, and January 14. Registration is not required.

Story Times

The La Vista Public Library offers a variety of story times for many age groups, including: Ms. Karla's Drop-In Family Story Time, Preschool, Toddler, Lapsit, & Music.

For more information on each of these programs, visit the Library's Web site at www.cityoflavista.org/library/stories.

Get Technical

Computer one-on-one sessions are offered to library cardholders to provide skills in specific areas: Basic Computer Skills, Basic Internet, Basic Word, Basic Excel, PowerPoint, Digital Camera and Job Searching Skills. These hands-on classes are held in the library computer lab. Call Jean to set up a time.

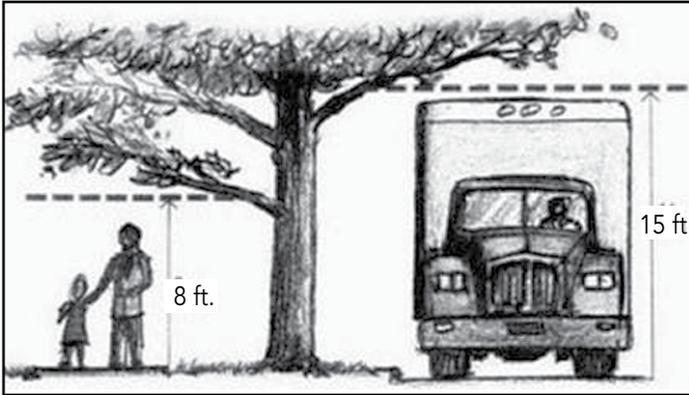
Did you know?

- The Library provides several online databases that can be accessed 24/7 from your home computer? Usernames and passwords can be picked up at the Library. Databases include learning various languages, world travel resources, auto repair references, and Consumer Reports just to name a few.
- Want to try electronic books? Try using OverDrive from your home computer. You can download books to read on your home computer, smart phones, or readers. You can also download audio books to your computer or mp3 player or iPods. Available 24/7 at www.cityoflavista.org/library.
- The library has free wireless Internet! Bring your laptop and enjoy freedom from wires!
- The La Vista Public Library hosts a blood drive the first Thursday of every month, 12:30-6:30 p.m. Blood donations have a very short shelf life and only last six weeks for red cells. It's always the season to give!

Teen Activities

Teen programs are held every Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. Calendars are available at the library and on the library's Web site. For more information, contact Lindsey Tomsu, 402-537-3900.

**Access the Library's online catalog at www.cityoflavista.org/library/catalog.
 Search the library's collection for cookbooks for your holiday needs.**



Trim Those Trees

If you are out raking leaves and cleaning up the garden this fall, take a look at your trees and shrubs. The City of La Vista has an ordinance that requires all trees, shrubs and bushes to be pruned when they obstruct the light from any street lamp, obstruct the visibility of any traffic control device or sign, obstruct the passage of pedestrians on sidewalks or obstruct the view of any street or alley intersection. The minimum clearance for any overhanging branches or limbs is 15 feet above streets and 8 feet above sidewalks. Fall is a great time for pruning and we want to

ensure safe passage of pedestrians and snow plow equipment this winter.

One Warm Coat Drive

The City of La Vista's 7th annual One Warm Coat Drive will begin November 1 and run until December 31.

Donations will be collected at the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd., the La Vista Public Library, 9110 Giles Road, and Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 7706 S. 96th Street. All sizes of clean, reusable coats are needed, especially infant, children and teen sizes. Hats, scarves and gloves are also welcome. Donations will be given to the Stephen Center and Youth Emergency Services (YES) throughout the winter months. Visit the City's Web site at www.cityoflavista.org/coatdrive, to read about the Stephen Center and YES and how they provide services to those in need.

Council Clips

The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:

- Approved the fiscal year 2012-2013 budget.
- Authorized grant applications for the next phase of the Thompson Creek improvements.
- Approved update to the City's Strategic Plan.
- Approved a resolution discouraging tobacco use at the City's playing fields.
- Approved agreement with Metropolitan Area Planning Agency to participate in the Heartland 2050 Regional Visioning Project.
- Approved the purchase of new exercise equipment for the Community Center.

Home Maintenance Checklist for Fall and Winter



- ✓ Seal air leaks - attic, basement, crawlspace, windows, doors
- ✓ Check attic insulation - R-38 recommended
- ✓ Check for erosion / shifting soil around house - water should drain away from the foundation
- ✓ Check dryer vents and exhaust vents - clean out lint build-up / bird nests
- ✓ Check roof - missing shingles, gaps around roof penetrations, condition of flashing
- ✓ Check interior / exterior GFCI's - test for functionality / safety (test device available at hardware stores)
- ✓ Check sump pump - discharge pipe should point away from foundation
- ✓ Check gutters / downspouts - clean debris, check for leaks, attached securely, downspout extenders or splash blocks direct water away from foundation
- ✓ Check exterior faucets / water lines - blow out sprinkler systems, insulate exterior faucets / water lines, disconnect & drain hoses
- ✓ Check furnace - schedule cleaning & inspection of heating system, change filter every month
- ✓ Check carbon monoxide detectors / smoke detectors - test / replace batteries, clean / dust if necessary

Questions? Concerns? Call the Building Department, 402-331-4343

Mayor

Douglas Kindig

City Council

Brenda Carlisle, Ward 1

Ron Sheehan, Ward 1

Mike Crawford, Ward 2

Terrilyn Quick, Ward 2

Mark Ellerbeck, Ward 3

Alan Ronan, Ward 3

Anthony Gowan, Ward 4

Kelly Sell, Ward 4

City Administrator

Brenda Gunn

Management Team

Rita Ramirez, Assistant City Administrator

Pat Archibald, Buildings & Grounds Director

Pam Buethe, City Clerk

Ann Birch, Community Development Director

Sheila Lindberg, Finance Director

Rich Uhl, Fire Chief

Rose Barcal, Library Director

Bob Lausten, Police Chief

Joe Soucie, Public Works Director

Scott Stopak, Recreation Director



Photo courtesy of La Vista Sun

City Hosts Disaster Exercise

The City of La Vista hosted a full-scale disaster exercise recently, which was designed to simulate the City's initial response to a tornado or other natural disaster. The exercise, which is part of the City's ongoing emergency management training efforts, included the La Vista Police, Volunteer Fire and Public Works departments as well as the Papillion Fire and Police departments and the LifeNet helicopter.

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

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