



LA VISTA •
citywise



L O O K O U T

LA VISTA

Setting a Vision for the Future

What do you love about La Vista? Why do you live, work or do business here? Where are the opportunities for improvement in La Vista? What should the City look like in 20 years? By participating in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan update project, dubbed **Look Out La Vista**, you will have an opportunity to answer those questions and more to help set the course for La Vista's future.

The City's Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 1997 and was based on the 1990 census when La Vista had less than 10,000 residents. The City is a much different place today and will continue to undergo significant change in the coming years. Be a part of that change and help to craft the plan that will set the course for the City's future.

Look Out La Vista is going to be a fun, exciting project that will take place over the next several months. It will offer many opportunities for citizens to participate and offer their comments and feedback.

The project will culminate in a long-term strategic plan for La Vista, establishing the vision and strategies for development and redevelopment as well as programs and services offered by the City.

The success of this project is directly dependent upon citizen participation! We want to hear from all facets of the community—students, seniors, residents, homeowners, business leaders, developers—tell us what your vision is for the City of La Vista.

In addition to special public events, open houses, workshops and meetings, there will be a strong online presence including questionnaires, surveys, competitions, and opportunities to review and comment on information. Please consider attending an event or participating online in this very important process.

The **Look Out La Vista** kick-off will take place Monday, March 30, with an event featuring nationally-known speaker Peter

Kageyama. For more information on this event, please see the special insert in this CityWise newsletter.

For more information on Look Out La Vista, including upcoming events, visit the City's website, www.cityoflavista.org/lookoutlavista.

Share your photos in the online PhotoVoice Competition at www.cityoflavista.org/photovoice.

Sign up for e-mail alerts to stay informed throughout the process at www.cityoflavista.org/lookoutlavista.

A MINUTE WITH
mayorkindig



The strength of a community can be measured by its people and their commitment to serving the greater good by giving of their time, talents and resources.

La Vista has many citizens and business leaders who do just that. Mike Branigan owns the Style House Barbershop and has been operating his business in La Vista for 40 years. He was recently presented with the Mayor's Distinguished Legacy Award, joining a list of other business leaders who have been recognized for their outstanding community contributions. (For a list of past winners, visit the City's website at www.cityoflavista.org/legacy.)

Mike has volunteered thousands of hours over the years to youth sports and founded the City's youth wrestling program. He has been involved with many Chamber of Commerce activities, he helped found the La Vista chamber, and conducted an annual golf outing for several years that raised money for the Police Department's DARE program. Mike has also served on the City's Facilities Corporation Board for a number of years as well.

While my family has a proud tradition of volunteer service, I also have Mike to thank for my involvement in the community. He initially encouraged me to become a member of the City's Park and Recreation Advisory Board. That led to working on other community projects, becoming active in the Chamber of Commerce and ultimately running for City Council, a decision that resulted in the privilege I now have of serving as the Mayor of this great City.

If you want to leave a lasting legacy on someone's life and on the community, get involved. Volunteer some of your time and give back. It feels great and who knows where you might end up! There are abundant opportunities—for example, in the coming months there will be many events associated with Look Out La Vista, the City's comprehensive plan update project (see cover story). We would welcome your participation. The benefits will be long-lasting.

– Mayor Douglas Kindig

La Vista City Calendar

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

February 2015

- 3 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 9 La Vista/Metropolitan Community College Condominium Owners Association, 4 p.m., Library
- 10 Lego Club, 3:30 p.m., Library
- 11 Senior Valentine's Lunch, 11 a.m., Community Center
- 12 Preschool Play Time Valentine Cookie Decorating, 10 a.m., Community Center
- 16 Most City offices closed in observance of President's Day holiday
- 17 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 18 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 19 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

March 2015

- 3 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 10 Preschool Play Time Craft Day, 10 a.m., Community Center
- 10 Lego Club, 3:30 p.m., Library
- 12 Library Advisory Board, 5:30, Library
- 12 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 7 p.m.
- 18 Senior St. Patrick's Day Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Community Center
- 17 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 18 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 19 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 30 Look Out La Vista Kick-Off Event, 7 p.m., Embassy Suites La Vista

April 2015

- 1 Box Car Drive-In Movie, 10 a.m., Library
- 2 Preschool Play Time Easter Egg Dying, 10 a.m., Community Center
- 4 Easter Egg Hunt and Food Drive, 10 a.m., Sports Complex softball fields
- 7 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 11-12 Omaha Bead Affair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Community Center
- 14 Lego Club, 3:30 p.m., Library
- 15 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 16 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 21 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 23 Arbor Day Celebration, 10 a.m., Community Center
- 30 Preschool Play Time May Day Craft, 10 a.m., Community Center

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**Look Out La Vista Event
 Special Insert**

Holiday Wintertainment Packed in the Fun!



The Community Center was the place to be on Monday, December 1, for the City's annual tree lighting celebration. Those in attendance watched Santa light the tree outside City Hall and then enjoyed soup and chili provided by the Mayor and City Council, holiday entertainment from La Vista schools and other community groups, and children visited Santa. To view photos of past events, visit the City's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cityoflavistagovernment.

Police to Host Citizen's Academy

The La Vista Police Department will host a Citizen's Policy Academy this spring, scheduled for March 19-May 21. The academy consists of 2 ½ hour classes held once a week on Thursdays from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

The academy is designed to foster better communication between residents and the Police Department through education. It will create a group of well-informed residents who possess greater insight into police practices and services. Graduates can share their knowledge and experiences with the community.

Certified police officers and civilian instructors will teach each class, the majority in a classroom-type setting. A variety of simulations and role-playing scenarios, as well as tours of the Sarpy County Law Enforcement and Communications centers will offer a unique, hands-on learning experience.

Participation is open to anyone who lives or works in the metro area and all classes are free. The class size is limited to 20 participants.

For more information and to register, visit the City's website, www.cityoflavista.org/citizensacademy.

policedepartment



Police Department Sponsors Second Annual Holiday Shopping Program

This past December, the Police Department participated in the second annual Cops and Kids program. Officer Jamie Brown organized the program, which selected children from La Vista schools whose families would be struggling to provide

Christmas presents. The children were selected by school officials and on a Sunday morning in December, the children were treated to a shopping trip through the Papillion Super Target store and were accompanied by members of the Police Department. Above, the group poses for a photo.

Annual Clean-Up Days

The City's annual Clean-Up Days will be held on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25.

All residents, including residents in the City's Extra-Territorial Zoning Jurisdiction, are encouraged to take advantage of this free disposal service by bringing discarded items to the Public Works Facility, 9900 Portal Road. Hours of operation will be 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Examples of items that will be accepted include major appliances, lawn and household furniture, toys, bikes, lawn mowers, grills and mattresses. There will be a separate dumpster to collect yard waste, leaves and grass clippings. Tree branches will be accepted if their diameter is less than 6 inches. Motor oil and anti-freeze will be accepted but must be free of debris. Household batteries and car batteries will also be accepted. Paint, tires, hazardous waste and electronics will not be accepted. Paint and household hazardous waste can be dropped off at Under the Sink, 4001 S. 120th Street.

Proof of residency will be required; either a valid driver's license or a utility bill. For further information contact the Public Works Department at (402) 331-8927.

2015 Construction Projects

The following projects should start during the 2015 construction season. For more information regarding any

of the projects, contact the Public Works Department, 402-331-8927.

- Thompson Creek, 72nd Street to Edgewood Blvd. - Tree clearing and power pole relocation work began in November 2014. Actual channel work should begin in the spring 2015.
- West Papio Trail Extension, 90th Street to Giles Road - The trail will be extended to Giles Road where the trail will integrate with surrounding sidewalks.
- 69th Street Sanitary Sewer Lining - a new lining will be placed in the existing sanitary sewer pipe in order to repair offsets and cracks. No excavation will be required for this project.
- 98th Street and Portal Road Storm Sewer Head Wall - the structural integrity of this storm sewer head wall has failed. The project will rebuild the head wall and surrounding supporting structures.
- 132nd Street and West Giles Road - right-of-way acquisition will take place this summer, anticipating utility relocation in late 2015 and early 2016. Reconstruction of the intersection is anticipated for summer 2016.
- Eastport Parkway and Harrison Street Traffic Signal - this project began in December 2014. Completion is anticipated this spring.

Thompson Creek Update



If you have driven down Park View Boulevard or Valley Road recently, you likely noticed large piles of trees being removed along Thompson Creek.

The tree removal work, along with the relocation of utility poles, is the next step toward the reconstruction of the Thompson Creek channel between 72nd Street and Edgewood Boulevard. Trees had to be removed in order for crews to have access to the channel for reconstruction. Also in some places the new channel will have to move from its current location so trees had to be removed for that purpose as well. The channel will be made wider and moved away from homes where possible.

The City contracted with Anderson Excavating Co. for the site clearing work, which began in December.

Following the tree removal and utility relocation work, the next step will be the actual reconstruction of the Thompson Creek channel. The contracts for this phase will go out for bid in February with work anticipated to begin this spring.

The tree removal, utility relocation and reconstruction work will all be funded by grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District along with funds from the City.

fire department

Protect Your Family Against Carbon Monoxide

Carbon Monoxide emergencies happen every day and can pose a serious risk to you and your family. In 2014, the Fire Department has responded to nearly 39 carbon monoxide emergencies.

Carbon Monoxide (C.O.) is a colorless and odorless gas that occurs as a result of incomplete combustion of fossil fuels (i.e. natural gas, unleaded gasoline, propane, diesel fuel, etc.). This means that C.O. can be emitted from a malfunctioning gas furnace, gas stove, hot-water heater, and most commonly a vehicle.

How can I protect myself from C.O.?

1) Install C.O. Detectors: The Fire Department recommends that you install a minimum of one carbon monoxide detector on each level to your home. Keeping them near gas appliances and sleeping areas is best. This way you have early warning to the presence of C.O. in the home. If you have a detector in your home, test it monthly and change batteries every 6 months.

2) Maintain Gas Appliances: All gas appliances need maintenance. Furnaces should be serviced regularly by licensed HVAC technicians. Ensure that the ventilation to these appliances is free of obstructions. Watch for pilot lights going out on gas stoves and hot water heaters.

3) Cars, generators, and gas powered-tools: Be careful not to let these items run in the garage for long periods of



time. In winter months C.O. has a way of building up in attached garages and then rushing into a home/office when a connecting door is opened.

What to do if C.O. is detected in my home

1) Evacuate: It is an unnecessary risk to your health to be exposed to C.O. for any length of time, so if it is detected in your home, evacuate immediately.

2) Call 911: The Fire Department has gas monitoring devices that can accurately detect any C.O. that may be in your home. If C.O. is detected, we will give you direction as to what to do next, including contacting gas utility companies if needed, and our EMS staff will take care of you and your family if your health is affected by exposure to C.O.

3) Don't go back in: We will help you determine when it's safe to go back into your home.

My Place Hotel Under Construction in Southport East Community Development Department Project Update

Contractors and building companies are busy in various parts of La Vista completing a variety of projects, big and small, for local companies.

Pictured is the 64-room My Place extended stay hotel now under construction in Southport East at Southport Parkway and Port Grace Boulevard.



For a complete list of ongoing development projects, visit our website, www.cityoflavista.org/constructionupdates.

Did you know you can search for books and reserve them online? The Library's Web Catalog is located at www.cityoflavista.org/librarycatalog. You can also write a book review, renew your books and more!

Storytimes

The Library's storytime offerings no longer require registration! Here are the storytimes currently offered:

- Mondays - All Age Storytime with Ms. Jodi, 10 a.m.
- Tuesdays - All Age Storytime with Ms. Jen, 9:15 a.m.
- Tuesdays - Infant Storytime with Miss Marjie, 10 a.m.
- Thursdays - Toddler Storytime with Miss Marjie, 10 a.m.

For more information on each of these storytimes, visit our website, www.cityoflavista.org/storytimes.

Read Across America

Read Across America is an annual event that encourages all children around the world to read. This event is celebrated on March 2nd, the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. The library will be hosting a Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration on Monday, March 2nd at 3:30. Registration not required. Contact the library for more information.

It's All About Heroes This Summer at the Library!

This year's summer reading program theme is "Heroes". Families can begin signing up on Tuesday, May 19. The summer reading program will begin on Wednesday, May 27 with a special craft at 10:30 a.m. Throughout this year's program, children, birth to fourth grade, will enjoy reading fiction and nonfiction books about heroes of all kinds during the 10-week program.

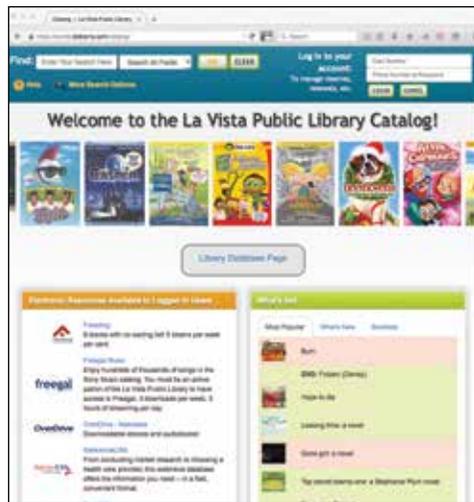
Teen Programming

Teen programs are open for teens in fifth grade and up. Calendars listing all the programs are available at the library!

Here's a sampling of our teen programs:

- Teen Advisory Board
- Bacon Club
- Pool Noodle Kendo Club
- Homework Hotspot
- Media Club
- Teen Storytime

Keep a lookout for more information on the teen summer reading program. For more information contact Lindsey Tomsu via e-mail at ltomsu@cityoflavista.org.



Weather Announcement
When Papillion-La Vista Schools close due to weather conditions, the library will cancel all scheduled programming for safety purposes. This includes story time, crafts, and other events.

Electronic Resources

The Library offers several choices for your electronic reading or listening pleasure:

- Overdrive (for teens and youth, too)
- Freading
- EbscoHost ebooks
- FirstSearch ebooks.

The library also provides access magazines via the Zinio service and music via Freegal (3 downloads per week and 3 hours streaming per day). All of these services work with most devices.

Technology Classes

Need help with technology? The Library offers computer instruction to cardholders to provide skills in specific areas: basic computer, basic internet, basic word, digital cameras, job searching on the Internet and resume writing. Help is also available for Facebook, scanning, ebooks and electronic magazines and downloadable music, Microsoft Publisher, Word and Excel, Twitter, e-mail and any of the Library resources. These hands-on classes are held one-on-one with library staff. For more information contact Jean Hurst at the Library.



La Vista Community Foundation Gives Grants to Departments

The Recreation Department and Library recently received numerous grants from the La Vista Community Foundation.

The Library received two grants: the first for \$1,500 for the Civil War exhibit, which the Library hosted this fall; and the second for \$1,170 for family literacy programs.

The Recreation Department also received two grants: the first for \$1,000 for the Spread the Warmth Coat Drive, which will purchase new children's coats to compliment the coats donated by the community; the second for \$1,500 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

La Vista Daze Rebranding

At the bottom of this page you will find a graphic about dates for the Salute to Summer festival, but you've never heard of that.

La Vista Daze has been renamed and rebranded to be Salute to Summer. The details of the annual festival are still in the planning stages, but for more information on the reason for the change, visit the City's website, www.cityoflavista.org/salutetosummer.

Register to Receive Emergency Notifications

La Vista residents can register to receive emergency notifications from the City. Notifications can come to your cell phone, landline and/or e-mail.

The notification system, which is provided by Nixle, will be activated in circumstances when the City needs to quickly communicate information to residents.

To register to receive these notifications, visit our website, www.cityoflavista.org/notifications, and fill out the form on that page.

Council Clips

The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:

- Awarded a contract for the construction of a Bio-Retention Basin at City Hall.
- Approved agreement with GovHR USA for the recruitment of a new Finance Director.
- Awarded a contract for the site clearing portion of the Thompson Creek Channel Rehabilitation project.
- Approved the Advisory Committee for the Comprehensive Plan update project.
- Approved the purchase of iPads for elected officials and select staff members.



**LA VISTA
SALUTE
TO
SUMMER**

NEW NAME, SAME GREAT FESTIVAL

MAY 21-24

CITYOFLAVISTA.ORG/SALUTETOSUMMER

LA VISTA cityofficials

Mayor

Douglas Kindig

City Council

Kim Thomas, Ward 1
Mike Crawford, Ward 1
Ron Sheehan, Ward 2
Terrilyn Quick, Ward 2
Deb Hale, Ward 3
Alan Ronan, Ward 3
Jim Frederick, Ward 4
Kelly Sell, Ward 4

City Administrator

Brenda Gunn

Management Team

Kevin Pokorny, Director of Administrative Services
Rita Ramirez, Assistant City Administrator / Director of Community Services
Pam Buethe, City Clerk
Ann Birch, Community Development Director
Rose Barcal, Library Director
Bob Lausten, Police Chief / Director of Public Safety
Joe Soucie, Director of Public Works
Scott Stopak, Recreation Director



Branigan Receives Mayor's Award

Mike Branigan of Stylehouse Barbershop recently celebrated 40 years in business in La Vista. Mike has been involved in a host of community initiatives throughout the years and is a friend to many throughout the community. Mayor Kindig, who worked at Stylehouse for 20 years, was on hand for an open house at the barbershop and presented Mike with the Mayor's Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the community.

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.

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



La Vista Falls Golf Course

8305 Park View Blvd. 339-9147 for more information on open golf, golf course hours, fees, leagues and special outings. La Vista Falls Golf Course is open year round, weather and course permitting. Call the clubhouse, 402-339-9147 for updates, hours and fees.

While the weather may not be nice enough to play golf, you can begin thinking of spring time by organizing a group outing or league play! La Vista Falls is currently accepting applications for 2015 golf leagues and outings.

Below are the leagues offered for men, women, seniors and juniors of all skill levels:

Men's Leagues:

Adult: Tuesday night: Two-man teams, sign up individuals or twosomes. Flag prizes and end of league party. Tentative start date is April 21 and runs for 17 weeks. Fee: \$215 per person.

Senior: Friday morning: Call for more information.

Women's Leagues:

Tuesday morning: Call for more information.

Wednesday night: Sign up as individuals, twosomes, threesomes or foursomes. Flag prizes and end-of-league party. Tentative start date is April 22 and runs for 17 weeks. Fee: \$215 per person.

Mixed League:

Friday night: Sign up as twosome or foursome. Flag prizes and end-of-league party. Tentative start date is April 24 and runs for 17 weeks. Fee: \$215 per person.

Junior Leagues:

Tuesday and/or Thursday: Tee times available between noon and 1:00 PM. Sign up as individuals or groups for this recreational league. Sign up on a weekly basis with no long-term commitment. Must have playing ability and knowledge of golf course etiquette. Fee: \$8.50 per day. Call for more information.

2015 Green Fees: (March through September)

Adult: (16 -54 years old)

Weekdays..... \$11

Weekends..... \$13

Jr/Sr: (under 16 and 55 and over)

Weekdays..... \$8.50

Weekends/Holidays..... \$10.50

Request tee times online at www.cityoflavista.org/teetime. For further information on green fees, cart fees, punch cards, season passes, etc. please visit our website at www.cityoflavista.org.



Special Services Bus

Available for senior citizens age 60 and older and all special needs/handicapped residents residing in the cities of La Vista and Ralston. The service operates Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.; the service does not operate on City of La Vista declared holidays or when Papillion-La Vista or Ralston schools are closed due to weather conditions. For questions about service, fees, etc., please call the La Vista Recreation Department at 402-331-3455 or visit us online at www.cityoflavista.org. For reservations, call 402-657-3550 at least 48 hours in advance. We make every effort to accommodate, but due to prior scheduling, we may not be able to help everyone at their requested times.

Second Special Services Bus

A second Special Services Bus is available Tuesday's and Thursday's for riders. This bus will run the same times as our other bus. Watch our website or call for further information about this secondary bus service.

La Vista Senior Activity Center

The La Vista Senior Activity Center, located in the Community Center, offers friendship, food, fitness, field trips and many more fun activities. Bring a friend or come join others for a home-cooked meal on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The suggested contribution amount for the meal is \$3.50 for adults over 60 years of age. To participate, call or sign-up at the La Vista Community Center to reserve your meal by noon the business day before you intend to join us for lunch. Be sure to look at the other activities. You may want to come early or stay late! The meal program is sponsored by ENOA, and catered by Valley Food Service. Visit our website, www.cityoflavista.org/seniorcenter, for the monthly senior newsletter, and to look at scheduled activities/trips and lunch menus. For more information contact Program Coordinator Rich Carstensen, 402-331-3455.

Senior Tai Chi Class/Better Balance Class

Senior Tai Chi Class is held on Monday's and Thursday's 11-11:45 a.m. at the La Vista Senior Activity Center. Cost for the class is just \$1 per week. Please call Rich Carstensen at 402-331-3455 for more details. Come join in the fun and learn Tai Chi for better balance and fitness!

Senior Valentine's Day Luncheon

The La Vista and Papillion recreation departments invite all seniors in the local area to come to the Senior Valentine's Day Luncheon. The lunch will be held at the La Vista Community Center on Wednesday, February 11. Doors open at 11 a.m. with lunch being served at 11:30 a.m. Entertainment will start at 11 a.m. provided by the PLHS Jazz Band. Our main entertainment will be Billy Troy from Nashville! Don't miss out on this fun event! Advanced tickets are required and will be on sale at the Community Center. Cost per ticket is \$5. Registration deadline is Wednesday, February 4. Sorry, no refunds.

Senior St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

The La Vista Senior Activity Center will be hosting its annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at the Community Center at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18. Entertainment will be Johnny Ray Gomez at 12:15 p.m. All seniors from the surrounding area are invited. Advanced tickets are required and will be on sale at the Community Center for \$5 per ticket. Registration deadline is Friday, March 8. Sorry, no refunds.

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

Mon. - Fri.: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Sat. (Sept. 6 - April 25): 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sun. (Sept. 7 - April 26): 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 Adults Only
 Mon. - Fri. (School year): 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Adults and Youth
 Mon. - Fri. (School year): 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.
 Mon. - Fri. (Sched. days off): 1:30 - 9 p.m.

ATTENTION PARENTS: Snow days, not included in the above schedule, are considered the same as school days for youth (3 p.m.).

The Community Center will be closed on all major holidays.

FEES:

Resident Adults: \$3.00 Drop-In
 Non-Residents Adults: \$4.00 Drop-In
 **Resident Youth (Under 19): Free
 Resident Seniors (55+): Free
 Non-Resident Senior (55+): \$2.00 Drop-In
 ** (Non-Resident Youth not allowed in Center unless involved in a class or sport).



ALWAYS CHECK AT THE RECREATION CENTER FOR EVENTS THAT MAY NOT BE LISTED IN THIS

NEWSLETTER. WE POST FLIERS OFTEN FOR SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNED AFTER THE NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED.

Please Note: The La Vista Recreation Department sends youth and adult sport registration information via e-mail only. If you have provided us with your e-mail address, you will receive a message each season when we open registrations. This information is also available by visiting the City's Web site, www.cityoflavista.org/sports and by visiting the La Vista Community Center.

**Register & Pay Online
www.cityoflavista.org/active**