



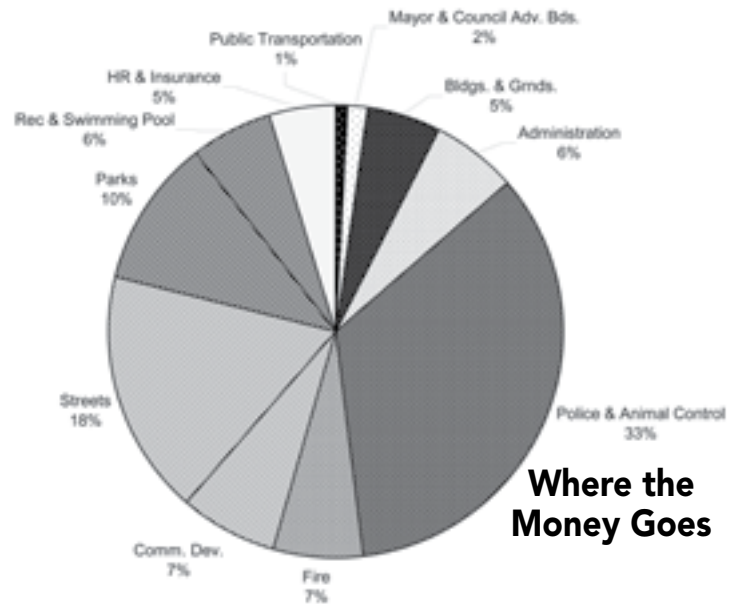
LA VISTA citywise

Budgeting for La Vista's Growth

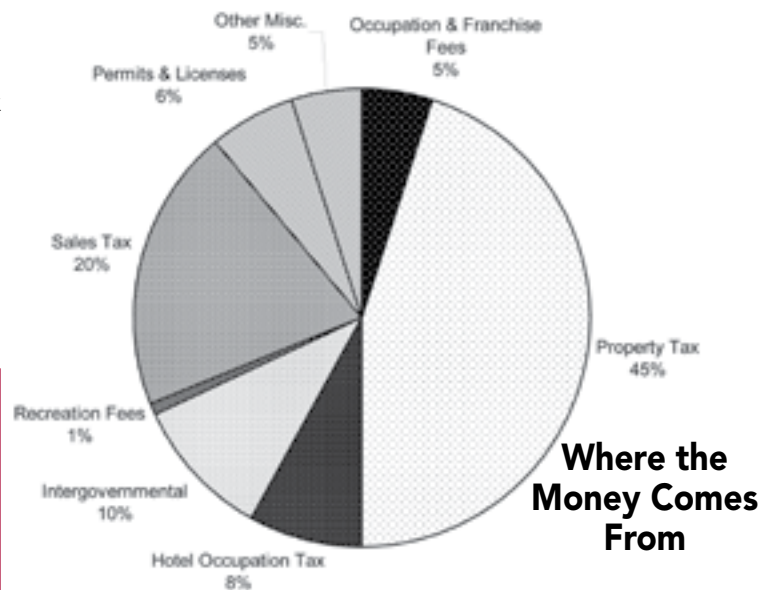
La Vista continues to be one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Nebraska, experiencing a nearly 57% growth in population since 2000. Each year as City officials prepare the budget they are faced with the challenges associated with this growth, as well as maintaining high quality and efficient public services. Development costs associated with the Southport subdivision, the opening of a new fire station and the annexation of two residential subdivisions over the last three years continue to impact the budget. The City is starting to see sales and occupation tax revenue from the Southport hotels, the Convention Center and other businesses. It is anticipated that this income stream will continue to grow as the area sees more development.

The City Council approved a budget for 2009 that maintains the total property tax levy at \$.5235 per \$100 of valuation. For the owner of a \$150,000 home this translates into a total tax bill of \$785.25 annually, \$665.25 of which is for public safety services consisting of police, fire, and rescue; public works services that include snow removal, street, park and storm sewer maintenance; library services; community center and swimming pool operations; recreational programs; planning, building inspection and code enforcement services; and the operation of a senior center, and \$120.00 for the City's debt payments. The total monthly tax payment to the City is \$65.43; no increase from 2008.

La Vista's long range financial projections indicate that we will continue to experience some "growing pains" for the next several years; however, the City's recent investments have laid a solid foundation for its financial future. It is anticipated that La Vista will continue to progress and remain a thriving community.



Where the Money Goes



Where the Money Comes From

Holiday Happenings in La Vista

See page 4 of the Recreation Insert



A MINUTE WITH mayor kindig



The preparation of the City's budget is a process that the City Council and I spend a great deal of time on each year. The budget for fiscal year 2009 was formulated

by using the City's Strategic Plan 2009-2010 as the major guiding principle, along with the governing body's ongoing effort to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our residents while balancing the budget. I am pleased to be able to report that we accomplished this without a tax increase.

One of the City's top priorities in the Strategic Plan is to pursue revitalization of the 84th Street corridor. Funds have been included in the budget to undertake a visioning process that will involve the community and its businesses in formulating a plan to redevelop and revitalize this area. We recently solicited proposals to identify a consultant to facilitate this project. We look forward to hearing from the citizens of La Vista regarding this important issue.

Another focus over the next year will be planning for the celebration of the City's 50th Anniversary in 2010. Watch our website and future issues of this newsletter for updated information throughout the year regarding events, activities and volunteer opportunities associated with the year-long celebration.

The budget also included funding for the initiation of a Rental Housing Inspection Program that will help us maintain the quality of older residential neighborhoods in La Vista. More information about this program will be coming in the spring of 2009.

La Vista continues to grow at a rapid pace. The 2009 budget ensures that citizens will continue to enjoy high quality public services while we carefully consider new programs to keep La Vista moving forward.

Mayor Douglas Kindig

La Vista Receives Voice of the People Award

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) recently presented awards to 18 communities nationally for service excellence or significant improvement in service.

La Vista received a Voice of the People Award for Excellence based on the results of the National Citizen Survey conducted last fall. To qualify for the award a community must have a service quality rating in the top three among all eligible jurisdictions and also be in the top ten percent among over 500 jurisdictions in the NRC database of citizen surveys. La Vista was recognized for its police services rating.



Police Chief Lausten accepts the Voice of the People Award from Asst. City Administrator Rita Ramirez at a recent City Council meeting.

Mayor Doug Kindig stated, "This award is especially gratifying as it directly relates to how the citizens of La Vista view their community and the services being provided."

La Vista City Calendar

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

NOVEMBER 2008

- 4 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Library Advisory Board Meeting 5:30 p.m. in Library Conference Room
- 18 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 27-28 Most City offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- 30 Santa's Sleigh Ride in La Vista starting at 5:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 2008

- 1 Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:00 p.m., Community Ctr.
- 2 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Citizens Advisory Review Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Most City offices will be closed for the Christmas Holiday

JANUARY 2009

- 1 Most City offices will be closed for the New Years Holiday
- 6 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Library Advisory Board meeting 5:30 p.m. in Library Conference Room
- 15 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Most City offices will be closed for the Martin Luther King Holiday
- 20 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Park and Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.

TRIVIA

What well-known Mexican restaurant got its start in the City of La Vista? Do you know the original name of the restaurant?

Answer on page 7

Amnesty Time at the Library!

The La Vista Public Library is offering an opportunity for citizens to return overdue materials without a fine, but there's a catch. You have to do a good turn by making a donation to the Food Pantry.

Beginning Monday, November 17th through Wednesday, November 26th, the Library will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items and waiving fees on overdue materials. Bring in a can of beans with your overdue book and the fees will be waived-gone, zippo, presto-like magic they will disappear. A can of pears can pay the overdue fee for that DVD that fell behind the TV. There is no limit to the number of trades as long as you bring in one non-perishable food item for each book or other item you want to return.

If you have already returned an overdue item but have an outstanding fine (any amount), bring in a donation and we will wipe the slate clean, allowing you to check out new materials. This is a great way for the Library to retrieve long overdue materials and help the less fortunate in our community. It also encourages people to come back to the Library and reconnect with the services and programs we offer.

If you have any questions about this incredible deal, contact any member of the Library staff for further information, 537-3900.



Mayor Doug Kindig and City Council Member Terri Quick recently spent time reading to children at La Vista Public Library.



policewatch

Police Department Uniform Patrol Bureau

One of the most visible divisions in the Police Department is the Uniform Patrol Bureau (UPB). Officers assigned to UPB provide basic police services in one of the three patrol districts on a 24 hour basis.

The UPB is comprised of sixteen officers and four sergeants who work twelve hour shifts. Each district has an officer assigned to handle all calls for service in that area. Officers are responsible for responding to calls for service, traffic enforcement, conducting criminal investigations, problem resolution, and any other law enforcement function that comes up in their district.

If you have any questions or need to contact the UPB commander, email Lt. DJ Barcal at DBarcal@cityoflavista.org.

PayPal Wins the Gold, La Vista the Silver

The City of La Vista All-Stars squared off against the PayPal All-Stars on August 28th in their second annual charity basketball game. The La Vista squad, led by "coach" Mayor Doug Kindig, stayed competitive, closing the PayPal lead to



4 at one point. PayPal's youth and athleticism caught up with the City team late in the second half however, and they were able to pull away for a 64-50 victory. The real winner in the contest was Nebraska Special Olympics as the event raised over \$1,000 for the organization. PayPal and the City have been active in promoting positive community involvement for a good cause and these events have been rewarding to employees and citizens alike. Look for the next match up during the annual celebrity softball game at La Vista Days 2009.

Community Development Department

Abante - Construction has started on this 10,140 s.f. industrial building and warehouse. Location: 13378 Centech Road.

BDKR Warehouse - Construction is nearly complete on this 8,260 s.f. warehouse. Location: 7050 S. 109th St.

Burger King - An application has been submitted for a permit to construct a 3,000 s.f. restaurant in Southport East. Location: 12223 McDermott Plaza.

Courtyard by Marriott Hotel - Construction on a six story hotel with 246 rooms, including meeting rooms, a restaurant, a lounge and recreational facilities continues. This hotel will be connected to the La Vista Conference Center through a covered walkway. A spring 2009 opening date is anticipated. Location: 12560 Westport Parkway.

Culvers - Construction has been completed on this 4,261 s.f. ButterBurger and custard restaurant which is now open for business in the Mayfair subdivision. Location: 9848 Giles Road.

Goyi Restaurant - A tenant finish is underway for this 4,000 s.f. African restaurant and grocery. Location: 7215 S. 83rd Street.

Performance Group - Construction has started on a 19,160 s.f. office and warehouse facility. Location: 13308 Chandler Road.

Pizza Gourmet - An application has been submitted for a tenant finish permit to construct this 4,721 s.f. restaurant in the Southport Center building. Location: 12040 McDermott Plaza.

Right Hand Man Construction - Construction has started on a 3,500 s.f. office and warehouse for this construction company. Location: 10416 Chandler Road.

Southport Center - Construction is underway on the first building of a two building complex which will also contain an open plaza area. The east building will have 21,643 s.f. of commercial flex space and the west building will offer 20,748 s.f. of similar space. Location: 12040 McDermott Plaza.

Southport Plaza - Construction has been completed on a 12,851 s.f. commercial flex-space building. The Learning With Laughter child care center is open for business. Location: 7428 Eastport Parkway.

State Steel - An 84,000 s.f. addition is being added to this company's building in the Centech Business Park. Location: 13433 Centech Road.

Susan G. Koman Foundation - A tenant finish has been completed for the Nebraska headquarters of this organization. Location: 8610 Brentwood #3.

Tan World - A tenant finish has been completed for this 5,000 s.f. corporate office and warehouse. Location: 8402 S. 117th Street.

Thrasher Basement Systems - Construction has started on a 26,320 s.f. warehouse building addition at this company's current location. Location: 12330 Cary Circle.

gogreen!

Buying greener is another way of showing your commitment to an environmentally and socially responsible way of living. By purchasing green products for your everyday consumer needs you'll be making a contribution to the environment.

A green product is one that is both environmentally and socially responsible. Green products are made with their environmental impacts in mind; for example organic produce grown without toxic chemicals or furniture made from recycled wood.

Consider the following earth-friendly buying suggestions:

Fabric Products (clothes, linens, curtains, etc.) - Find items made out of organic, natural and recycled materials.

Cosmetics - Look for products without aluminum and other similar elements

and those that have not been tested on animals.

Home Appliances (dishwashers, refrigerators, washing machines) - Look for Energy Star qualified models.

Housekeeping Items (all types of cleaners, laundry supplies) - Choose products made with biodegradable ingredients in a recyclable container.

Furniture - Look for "reclaimed" or "recycled" wood products.

Computers - Computers contain a number of highly toxic elements, such as lead, cadmium, chromium and mercury so proper recycling is a priority. Flat screen monitors and laptops are a better choice because, unlike regular monitors, they don't contain lead.

Batteries - Use rechargeable batteries to reduce battery waste and dispose of all

batteries properly.

Food - Look for meat and poultry products made from grass-fed animals, and that involve organic meat production. Avoid production that uses pesticides, genetic engineering, and added hormones. Food products labeled "organic" qualify as green because crops were grown without conventional pesticides, artificial fertilizers, or sewage sludge.

Cars - New car technologies, such as hybrid cars, reduce toxic emissions and increase fuel efficiency.

Finally, buy local whenever possible. This saves energy to preserve and transfer products to supermarket shelves. Buying local strengthens your community by investing dollars close to home.



2008 Construction Season Review

By mid-November the City of La Vista should be winding down the 2008 construction season. The following projects have been completed or are substantially underway:

Granville Parkway and 89th Street Intersection - This intersection was completely removed and replaced with new concrete paving. The intersection is directly adjacent to Park View Heights Elementary School and work was completed prior to the start of the school year.

Heather Avenue (Giles Road to Edgewood Blvd) - This project included curb repair, minor concrete panel replacement and a 2" milling and asphalt overlay.

74th Street (Harrison Street to Joseph Street) - This project included curb repair, minor concrete panel replacement and a 2" milling and asphalt overlay.

Joseph Street and James Avenue Intersection - This intersection was completely removed and replaced with new concrete paving. It is anticipated that this project will assist in resolving the problem of water pooling in the intersection.

Josephine Street (72nd Street to 75th Street) - Curb repair and concrete panel replacement completed.

Harrison Street Retaining Wall (78th Street to 80th Street) - Reconstructed existing retaining wall.

Golf Course Cart Paths - Installed six foot wide cart paths on fairway #2 & #3.

Portal Greenway Study - Completed feasibility options and some preliminary engineering on the creek channel. Will be seeking grant assistance for channel work.

La Vista Link to the Keystone Trail Design work is 90% complete. Project should be under contract by January 2009 with construction starting in the spring of 2009.

Harrison Street (72nd Street to 48th Street) - The widening of Harrison Street from 60th Street to 72nd Street should be completed by November 1, 2008. Work on the section from 60th Street to 53rd Street will continue into the fall of 2008. Remaining work will resume in the spring of 2009.

Winter Tips

With the onset of winter, snowfall is inevitable. The following guidelines should get citizens through the winter months with minimal difficulty. Whenever two or more inches of snow, ice and/or sleet has fallen, or when the Mayor declares a snow emergency with notice to the news media, parking is prohibited on any public street within the city for 24 hours or until the snow emergency has been lifted or expired. Any vehicle that is not moved may be towed at the owner's expense.

La Vista Municipal Code Section 93.015 requires that occupants of any lot or the owner of any vacant lot shall not allow any snow, sleet, ice, or any other substance to accumulate, or remain, on the sidewalks. Non-compliance may result in fines or the City billing clean-up efforts to the property owner. The City Council recently amended this ordinance to provide for more timely enforcement of the regulations. Each year in October the City will publish the snow removal requirements in the paper. During the course of the winter season if a resident is found to be in violation of the snow removal ordinance, they will be given one notification by certified letter and personal notice (door hanger). Subsequent violations will not require notice prior to the City doing the clean up and billing the property owner.

Business District sidewalks shall be cleaned within five hours after the cessation of a storm. If the snow fell during the night, the sidewalk must be cleaned before 8:30 a.m. the following day.

Residential Area sidewalks shall be cleared within 24 hours after the cessation of the snow fall.

In both the instances above, snow and ice may not be placed on a public roadway when being cleared from a private sidewalk, driveway, parking lot or access drive. Questions concerning winter regulations and operations should be directed to the La Vista Public Works Department at (402) 331-8927.



Public Works Director Joe Soucie (and his team) helped rebuild this home in New Orleans.

HELPING REBUILD NEW ORLEANS

The 2008 American Public Works Association (APWA) National Conference was hosted by the City of New Orleans, Louisiana, August 16-21, 2008. In conjunction with the conference, over 300 Public Works professionals from across the nation volunteered two additional days to rebuild homes in the St. Bernard Parish of New Orleans. The St. Bernard Parish was one of the areas most heavily damaged by hurricane Katrina, and over 1800 families remain homeless. La Vista Public Works Director Joe Soucie volunteered for the project and found the work to be very gratifying even though numerous homes are still vacant in what was a very vibrant blue-collar neighborhood prior to Katrina. More information is available at www.stbernardproject.org.

There is something for everyone at the Library this winter! Check out the following activities and programs.

Winter Craft Days

Winter Craft Days will be held from 3:30-4:00 p.m. on December 17th, January 14th, and February 11th for school aged children in kindergarten through fifth grade. The library will also be offering craft days on December 5th and January 9th from 1:00-1:30 p.m. and December 9th and January 6th from 11:00-11:30 a.m. for three, four, and five year old children. A parent or other adult is required to participate with preschool children during craft time. Registration is not required.

Family Game Night

Family Game Night will be held on December 11th, January 22nd, and February 19th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The library will provide several different board games for families to play. Snacks will be provided and registration is not required.

Family Movie Sundays

Family Movie Sundays will be held on December 14th, January 25th, and February 22nd from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Children are encouraged to bring their pillows and/or blankets and relax in the library. Snacks are provided and registration is not required.

Homework Help

The Homework Help Room is open every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. September 9th to December 16th. The library staff will be available to help school aged children in first through sixth grade with their homework assignments or a school project. Snacks will be provided and registration is not required. Dates and times for January and February are still being determined. Contact the Library for more information.

4th and 5th Grade Book Club

The 4th and 5th Grade Book Club will meet during December, January, and February. The book club is limited to twelve members. Dates and times are still being determined. Call Jodi at the library for more information.

Get Technical

Computer classes offered to library cardholders include: 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.

Teen Winter Activities

Teen Tuesdays continue this winter with a variety of activities.

- TLC Meetings are December 2nd, January 6th, and February 3rd at 7 p.m.
- Movie Nights will be on December 9th, January 13th, and February 10th at 6 p.m.
- Craft Nights are scheduled for December 16th, January 20th, and February 17th at 7 p.m.
- Game Nights are January 27th and February 24th at 7 pm.
- The TLC Blog is available with updates and information for teens at: <http://lavistatlc.blogspot.com>.

Did You Know...

- The library now has wireless internet? Bring your laptop and enjoy freedom from wires!
- The library has a typewriter for public use in the computer lab?
- You can donate blood at the library (Room 138) the first Thursday of every month from 12:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.? Blood donations have a very short shelf life so it is always the season to give!

children

Preschool Storytime

Preschool Storytime is geared towards three to five-year-old children who are not in kindergarten. The aim of storytime is to introduce children to the library, the magic of books and reading, and to develop social skills needed for school. Preschool Storytime starts on Monday, January 26th and ends on Friday, May 1st. It is available to three year olds on Mondays and Tuesdays and four and five year olds on Thursdays and Fridays. Each class has limited availability and will run from 10:00-10:45 a.m.

Toddler Storytime

Toddler Storytime is for children eighteen months to two years. Mom, dad, a grandparent or caregiver is required to sit with the child during this time. Toddler Storytime is offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Each class runs from 10:10 to 10:40 a.m. beginning Monday, February 2nd through Friday, May 1st. Space is limited and registration will begin in December.

Lapsit

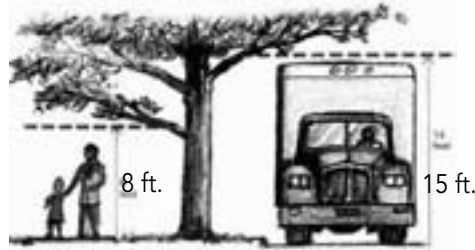
Lapsit is a fun, hands-on program that introduces young children to the library and the joy of reading. This program is offered to children from six to eighteen months on Thursdays from 10:10-10:40 a.m. Lapsit starts on Thursday, February 5th and ends on April 30th. Space is limited and registration will begin in December.

Library Time

During December and January the library will have Library Time where parents can bring their children (infants to five year olds not in kindergarten) to the library to play and learn how to socialize with other children. The library will have toys, games, coloring sheets, puzzles, and other items for the children. Parents must stay with their children and library staff will be available to assist. Contact the library for dates and times. Registration is not required.

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 should be 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. Thank you for your cooperation.



Hosted by United Way, Nebraska's 2-1-1 resource center provides access to information on health and human services with one phone call. Or visit online at www.ne211.org. All calls are strictly confidential and while you will be asked for your name and other details, you are not required to disclose this information to receive referrals. The 2-1-1 resource center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Share a Ride

Are you interested in carpooling or public transportation options for your daily commute? Approximately one year ago the Metro! Rideshare program was launched. This is a free web-based carpooling program that is easy to use. Nearly 2,000 people have signed up at this site to find a carpool group and many companies are now using the site to facilitate connections between their employees for ride-sharing opportunities. Log on to www.MetroRideshare.org or call the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) at 444-6866 for more information.

There is also a limited service bus route in La Vista that provides morning and evening

Council Clips

The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:

- Approved a New Agreement with the City's Keno Lottery Operator
- Approved Placing a Bond Issue for a New Aquatic Facility on the November Ballot
- Authorized a Request for Proposals for the 84th Street Visioning Project
- Approved the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget
- Adopted the 2009-2013 Capital Improvement Program
- Authorized the Expansion of the Fitness Room at the Community Center

Trivia answer from page 2:

Romeo's and Casa de Reyes

transportation to and from the downtown area. Please contact Metropolitan Area Transit (MAT) at www.metroareatransit.com or 341-0800 for the specific route, times, etc.

firedepartment news

Congratulations!

During the Nebraska State EMS Conference in Kearney, the La Vista Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department was awarded the Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year. This award is given to a volunteer or paid rescue service that has been active in community service, public relations, and continuing education during the past year, consequently improving their quality of patient care and helping to educate the public concerning EMS.

On May 16, 2008 La Vista Rescue personnel were dispatched to a local restaurant parking lot for someone having difficulty breathing. LVFD assumed patient care from police officers and

continued with advanced care as the patient was still in ventricular fibrillation and not breathing. Upon arrival at the hospital the patient had a strong pulse and was attempting to breath on his own. He has since recovered.

For their actions the following LVFD members were recently recognized and received Life Saving Commendations from the Mayor and City Council as well as a commendation bar from the Fire Chief: Capt. Rob Witt, PIO Melanie Smith, MTO T.J. Markowsky, and Firefighter Bo Wilson.

LA VISTA **cityofficials**

Mayor

Douglas Kindig

City Council

Brenda Carlisle, Ward 1

Ron Sheehan, Ward 1

Robert McLaughlin, Ward 2

Terrilyn Quick, Ward 2

Mark Ellerbeck, Ward 3

Alan Ronan, Ward 3

Anthony Gowan, Ward 4

Kelly Sell, Ward 4

City Administrator

Brenda Gunn

Management Team

Rita Ramirez, Assistant City Administrator

Pat Archibald, Buildings & Grounds Director

Pam Buethe, City Clerk

Ann Birch, Community Development Director

Sheila Lindberg, Finance Director

Rose Iwan, Library Director

Rich Uhl, Fire Chief

Bob Lausten, Police Chief

Joe Soucie, Public Works Director

Scott Stopak, Recreation Director

Resident Feedback

What would you like to see covered in the CityWise?

Send your suggestions to:

CityWise

City of La Vista

8116 Park View Blvd.

La Vista, NE 68128

Email: rramirez@cityoflavista.org



In future issues of CityWise, I'd like to read about:



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

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

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what'shappening • winter 2008

BATON CLASSES

NEW! Discover the fun you can have twirling! Not only will you learn to twirl, but you will also make friends, build confidence, and learn to present yourself in a positive light. *Small Classes* Wednesday afternoon: Beginners 4:00-4:45 p.m., Advanced 5:00-6:00 p.m. Ages: 5 and up. Classes subject to availability. Call Instructor Vicki Ludwick at 612-1479 for further information or registration.

PUT ON YOUR DANCING SHOES AND DANCE LIKE THE STARS!

NEW! at the Community Center - Ballroom Dancing with Instructor Terry Vargas. Terry has been dancing since age 18 and, continues to study and participate in dance competitions. In 2007, Terry received the Top Student Award in the Nebraska Invitational, and has also earned three top teacher awards with the Arthur Murray Dance Studios. Terry would like to give others the opportunity to enjoy dancing as much as he does. Two to three dances will be taught each four-week session. The first session will begin January 12, 2009, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Ages 16 and up only. Join as a single or a couple. **FEE** for each session is \$40 per person. Leather-soled shoes preferred (no gym shoes, please). Call 639-2209 for further information or to register for class.

PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

Come to the La Vista Community Center as we open the gym for parents and children preschool-age and under. Bring your child's favorite indoor toys and the Recreation Department will provide extra toys and games. Preschool Play Time will run throughout the school year. (Preschool Playtime will not be held on school vacation days. School age children are not allowed during this time period.) When: Tuesday and Thursday morning 10:00-11:00 a.m. **FEE:** Free.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINTER LEAGUES

Registration Deadline: January 18, 2009, or until the leagues are full, whichever comes first. Women's Recreational Division, Wednesday evenings. Must be 18 and out of high school. **FEES:** \$100.00 per team, Referee fee: \$8.00 per match paid directly to the referee. Late Fee \$10 (after January 18, 2009).

INTERESTED IN TEACHING A CLASS?

If you have a special skill or talent, consider teaching a class to adult and/or youth at the Community Center. Check out the Instructor Interest Form on-line at www.cityoflavista.org/recreation, or call 331-3455.



Recreation Director Scott Stopak shares with the City Council an appreciation award. The Slump Buster Event, a nationally televised baseball tournament, was held at the La Vista Sports Complex.

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

Mon. - Fri.: 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
 Sat. (May 1 - Aug.31): 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Sat. (Sept. 1 - April 30): 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
 Sun. (May 1 - Aug. 31): Closed
 Sun. (Sept. 1 - April 30): 1 p.m.-10 p.m.

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

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

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

Mon.-Fri. (Summer Sched. / No School)
 1:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Adults & Youth

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

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

MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Registration Deadline: November 2, 2008 or until the league is full, whichever comes first. Must be 18 or over and out of high school. Games on Sunday afternoon/evening at the La Vista Community Center. **FEE:** \$135.00 per team. \$22.00 per game paid directly to the officials before the game. \$44.00 Forfeit Fee deposit (Separate check, collected at time of registration.) Late Fee \$10 (after November 2, 2008).

CO-ED YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINIC

Registration Dates: Tuesday, November 18, and Saturday, November 22, 2008. Boys and Girls Grades 1 & 2. Saturday mornings starting mid-January. Learn the basic skills of dribbling, passing, shooting, teamwork and fun in our 5-one hour sessions. **FEE:** La Vista Residents \$15 Non-La Vista Residents \$20 Late Fee \$10 (After November 22, 2008), if space available. T-Shirt included. Volunteer coaches needed.

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Registration Dates: Tuesday, November 18, 2008 6 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 22, 2008 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Boys & Girls grades 3 /4 & 5 /6: The emphasis of the League will be learning new skills and improving current basketball techniques, teamwork, sportsmanship & fun. Season: December through early March. Parents - please consider volunteering your time to coach. To keep teams as evenly competitive as possible, teams will be selected by draft. No requests will be taken. Siblings will be placed together if in the same grade divisions. **FEE:** La Vista Residents \$45. Non-Residents \$55. A late registration fee of \$10 will be charged after November 29, 2008, if space is available. There will be a \$40 uniform deposit, which must be paid at the time of registration (must be a separate check). The check will be returned at the end of the season when the uniform is returned. If the uniform is not returned within two weeks of the end of the season, the check will be cashed.



LA VISTA VIPERS WRESTLING

Registration Dates: Tuesday, November 25, 2008 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday, November 29, 2008, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. A late registration fee of \$10 will be charged after November 29, 2008, if space available. No children will be allowed to practice until the registration fee is paid and the Parental Consent form is signed. Ages 5-14 (age as of January 1, 2009) **FEE:** La Vista Residents \$40. Non-Residents \$65. Uniform, headgear and tournament fees are included in your registration fee. (There is a separate \$50.00 deposit for the singlet, collected by the La Vista Vipers Wrestling Club.) The Novice season (1-2 years experience) begins late November and continues through March. Practices are held at the La Vista Community Center from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The JV/Varsity season (3 years experience and up) starts in early November and continues through March. Practices will be held at Papillion/La Vista High School on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you have any questions, call Wrestling Club President Brent Pearson at 689-9357 or by email at viperswrestling@cox.net and see us on the web at www.viperswrestling.org

BELLY DANCING CLASSES

For all ages/all sizes! A continuing class where you will learn an art form and musical instrument (finger cymbals). Enjoy this form of dance that brings out your unique self-expression. For more information, call Wren Newman at 596-1397. Class Times: (Beginner) Tuesday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and (Advanced) Tuesday 7 - 8:00 p.m. **FEE:** \$20 per month.

OMAHA JITTERBUGS

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



LA VISTA FALLS GOLF COURSE

La Vista Falls Golf Course will remain open during the winter season, weather and course conditions permitting. The course is in great shape and hopefully there will be nice days yet this year to enjoy a round of golf. Call the Golf Course Clubhouse at 339-9147 for updates, hours and fees. If the weather isn't nice enough to play golf, you can begin thinking about spring by organizing a group outing or league play. La Vista Falls has leagues for men, women, seniors and coed groups at all skill levels.

JANEL'S YOUTH DANCE CLASS

Several dance styles, tumbling and pom offered for youth. Call Janel at 504-4357 for more information and to register for class.

AIKIDO

Adult Classes (Ages 12 and over): Monday and Thursday 7-9:30 p.m. Children's Classes (5 -11 years.): Monday and Thursday 6-7:00 p.m. **FEES:** Adult Classes: La Vista Residents \$30/month; Non-Residents \$35/month. Children's Classes: La Vista Residents \$15/month; Non-Residents \$20/month. For further information, call Ron Christenham at 339-6124.

KARATE

Adult Classes (Ages 13 and over): Tuesday and Friday 7-8:30 p.m. Children's Classes (Ages 5-12): Tuesday & Friday 6-6:45 p.m. **FEE:** \$25 per month with a \$5 one-time sign up fee. For information, call Sensei Porter at 592-7771.

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE SWORDSMANSHIP

Suio Ryu is one of the few ancient systems of martial arts practiced today. It encompasses a broad variety of techniques such as jojutsu (Suio Tyu), kumi-iai (paired sword forms), naginata-jutsu, pure kenpo sword and wakizashi techniques. Classes are on Wednesday 7 - 9 p.m. and Saturday 12 - 3 p.m. Adults, ages 18 & older only. Open enrollment. **FEE:** \$40 per month. For more information, email Britt Nichols at Info@suioryu-usa.org.

WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Women's self-defense classes are being offered the first Thursday of each month. These classes teach basic self-defense techniques to help defend and deter an attacker. Students also learn how to be aware and remove themselves from difficult situations, either physically or verbally. This class is designed for women of all ages and any level of experience. **FEE:** \$5. For more information, please contact Claudia at 630-3169.

SOCHI-GO RYU SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

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

INDIVIDUAL WEIGHT TRAINING CLASSES

For adults age 18 and older, this class teaches the basics of weight training. Learn how to set up and advance; use proper technique and form; and get the most out of your weight-training program using both machine and free weights. This individual training class meets for two 1-hour sessions. Body Fat Testing is included. **FEE:** \$25.

LA VISTA (INDOOR) WALKING CLUB

The La Vista Community Center Walking Club, (free of charge) welcomes any La Vista resident and/or senior from the surrounding areas. Walking will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This one hour time period will be set aside for walkers, so there will be no interference from other programs. Walking is available at other times also.

LA VISTA SENIOR CENTER

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

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

Seniors go on several outings per month including trips to restaurants, museums, movies or sight-seeing. The Seniors have gone to Mahoney State Park Dinner Theater, Rosenblatt Stadium for a Royals game, and of course the yearly trips to Nebraska City for apples and the Christmas Light Tour!

Every Monday at 12:15 p.m. Bridge and other card games are offered. Pitch is played every Friday. Other games are also played on Wednesdays and Fridays after lunch.

Throughout the year, the Seniors have special events such as an annual Valentine's Day party, which includes great food and entertainment. Pot-luck lunches are also held frequently, and monthly birthday parties are scheduled the second Wednesday of each month.

A visiting nurse is at the Community Center on the first Friday of each month from 9:30-11:45 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet across from the front desk, but walk-ins are welcome.

Transportation is available for La Vista and Ralston residents on the Ralston/La Vista Special Services Bus. Please call 331-3455 or 657-3550 for further information.

To look at scheduled activities / trips and lunch menus, be sure to sign up for the monthly La Vista Senior Newsletter by calling the La Vista Recreation Dept. at 331-3455, pick one up at the Community Center or check us out online at www.cityoflavista.org/recreation.

MODEL AIRPLANE LICENSE & FIELD TIMES

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

INDOOR REMOTE CONTROL MODEL AIRPLANE FLYING

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

holidayhappenings

SANTA SLEIGH RIDE

La Vista has once again received word from the North Pole that Santa Claus will be making an early visit to the City. On Sunday, November 30, watch for Santa as he makes his annual sleigh ride through La Vista, escorted by volunteers from Public Works, the Police Department and the Fire Department. The map below outlines a tentative route for Santa's travels. Santa will depart from the City Hall parking lot at 5 p.m. He will be west of 84th Street between 5 and 6 p.m., between 84th Street and 72nd Street from 6-7 p.m., and east of 72nd Street from 7-7:30 p.m. He will return to City Hall at 7:45 p.m. (Times and travel route are tentative and could vary based on traffic, weather or other unforeseen circumstances.)

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

If you miss Santa on Sunday evening, the La Vista Chamber of Commerce and the City of La Vista will be hosting the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday evening, December 1. Citizens are invited to City Hall at 6 p.m. to watch Santa light the outdoor tree. Immediately following, the Mayor and City Council will be hosting a chili and soup supper in the Community Center. Hot chocolate and treats will be available and there will be holiday entertainment to enjoy while Santa takes some time to listen to children's wishes before returning to the North Pole. Join us for a great family evening.

HO! HO! HO! SANTA'S CALLING!

Imagine the excitement on your child's face when they receive a telephone call from Santa Claus. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be taking time out of their busy schedule to call children three years of age through 2nd grade on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 8-10, 2008 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. each evening. Santa's Calling forms are available at the La Vista Community Center or can be downloaded from the City's website at www.cityoflavista.org. Forms must be returned to

the Community Center by Sunday, December 7, 2008 in order for your child to receive a call.

THE PERFECT GIFT

Are you struggling with a gift idea for that hard to buy for person on your list? Consider gift certificates, punch cards, season passes and other merchandise from the La Vista Falls Golf Course Pro Shop. There is something for everyone from the junior golfer to the "seasoned pro" and what could be a better gift for the family than spending some time together playing a round of golf at La Vista Falls?

HOLIDAY FUN AT THE LIBRARY

Activities abound for children of all ages, as well as teens, at the La Vista Public Library during the holidays. During the month of December, children and teens can participate in Holiday Bingo at the Library. Cards will be available at the circulation desk on December 1st and must be turned in by 5:00 p.m. on December 30th. Complete activities listed in the various squares on the card and when you get a "bingo" turn the card in for prizes.

Christmas cupcake decorating will take place on Friday, December 19, from 11-11:30 a.m. and from 2-2:30 p.m. No registration is required and this fun activity is open to all age groups.

On December 22nd families are invited to bring their lunch to the Library and enjoy a movie. Drinks and dessert will be provided. This event starts at noon and ends after the movie. No registration is required and children are encouraged to bring a pillow and/or blanket to curl up with during the movie.

Teen Lunch and Movie Day is scheduled for Tuesday, December 30 at noon. Stop by the Library and enjoy a movie and pizza.

TREE DROP OFF SITES

Ultimately, the holidays will be over and La Vista is again offering free drop off sites for trees. Drop off sites will be located at the La

Vista Soccer Complex parking lot (two blocks south of 66th & Harrison Street) and Kelly West parking lot (87th & 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. Questions should be directed to Public Works at 331-8927.

Santa Claus is Coming!

