

LA VISTA citywise



La Vista Daze a Swinging Success!

Summer got off to a swinging good start in La Vista over Memorial Day weekend with the annual La Vista Daze festival.

Thousands of people enjoyed the Community Cookout at City Hall, sponsored by the La Vista Community Foundation, and the fireworks display, provided by Bellino Fireworks.

Central Park was filled to the brim all weekend with people who took in the carnival and vendors.

The parade was also a great success with hundreds lining the route along Park View Boulevard. *(Continued page 3).*

Voters Approve Additional Half-Cent Sales Tax

La Vista voters went to the polls for the May 13 primary and approved an additional half-cent sales tax to be used for the redevelopment of 84th Street.

The additional sales tax was approved with 1,186 in favor and 767 against.

The revenue generated by the additional half-cent sales tax will enable the City to proceed with redevelopment efforts along the 84th Street corridor, including:

- Potential acquisition and demolition of property.
- Creation of a town center.

- Improvement of pedestrian safety and access.

- Updating and improving existing infrastructure along the entire corridor.

The City will send a letter to La Vista businesses in July to make them aware of the additional sales tax. Collection of the additional half-cent sales tax will begin on October 1.

Watch future editions of the CityWise newsletter as well as the City's website and local media for updates on the redevelopment of 84th Street.

Jim Frederick Appointed to Ward IV Council Vacancy

The City Council has a new member, Jim Frederick, who was appointed in June to fill the Ward IV seat made vacant by the resignation of Tony Gowan.



Mr. Frederick will serve the remainder of Mr. Gowan's term, which runs through 2016.

Mr. Frederick is a graduate of Papillion-La Vista High School and Bellevue University with a degree in Communication Studies. He works as the Director of Marketing and Recruitment for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands.

"The thing I love most about La Vista is the people. They are hard working, passionate, family-oriented, and caring people," Mr. Frederick said. "I was interested in filling the vacancy on the City Council because I wanted to give back to the community that has given me so much. It was an honor to be able to interview and even a greater honor to be appointed to the City Council position. I am excited to work with current City Council members and the great staff of the City of La Vista."

Mr. Frederick is looking forward to giving back to the community and helping with the next stages of growth. He can be reached via e-mail at jfreesrick@cityoflavista.org.

A MINUTE WITH
mayor kindig



The future of 84th Street looks brighter thanks to La Vista voters!

On May 13, residents overwhelmingly approved (61% to 39%) the additional half-cent sales tax for the redevelopment of the 84th Street corridor.

Thank you to those who attended our information session before the election. I hope your time was well spent and that it helped you make an informed decision when you voted.

Thank you for your vote of confidence.

The additional half-cent sales tax provides a revenue source that will enable us to have constructive conversations with developers, and proceed with redevelopment efforts along the 84th Street corridor. See the cover story of this newsletter for additional details.

Businesses will begin collecting the additional half-cent this October, but the impact on your wallet should be minimal. Remember that on a \$20 transaction, you'll pay approximately 10 cents more than before.

Progress along 84th Street will not happen overnight, but thanks to our citizens, we have added a very important tool to our redevelopment toolbox.

As soon as we have something to share with you, we will do so here in this newsletter, on our website and in the local media.

– Mayor Douglas Kindig

La Vista City Calendar

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

August 2014

- 2 Urban Scramble Adventure Race, 8 a.m., begins and ends at the Community Center
- 5 City Council, 5:30 p.m.
- 5 National Night Out, 6 p.m., Central Park
- 8 Summer Concert and Movie – Charm School Dropouts followed by "Gravity", 7 p.m., Library
- 11 La Vista/Metropolitan Community College Condominium Owner's Association, 4 p.m., Library
- 18-23 Used Tire Collection, Public Works
- 19 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 20 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 21 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

September 2014

- 1 Most City offices closed in observance of Labor Day holiday
- 2 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 11 Library Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m., Library
- 11 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 7 p.m.
- 16 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 17 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 18 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

October 2014

- 7 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 15 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 16 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 21 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 31 Halloween Safe Night, 5:30 p.m., Community Center



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Continued: La Vista Daze a Swinging Success!

Honored during the parade for their contributions to the community were the men and women of the La Vista Volunteer Fire Department, who rode down the parade route on a fire truck.

This year's Friend of La Vista was Pat Lodes, who has volunteered many years as a youth sports coach and as a member of the City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mayor Kindig presented a special award to Pat at the Mayor's Lunch prior to the parade.

La Vista Daze would not be possible without the generous contributions of the La Vista Community Foundation, Bellino Fireworks and La Vista Keno.

The Foundation has taken a much more

active role in the community and their support is crucial to the City being able to continue to offer special events for residents.

Bellino Fireworks makes a significant contribution to La Vista Daze each year by donating the amazing fireworks display on Friday night over the golf course.

La Vista Keno is a fairly new partner with the City on La Vista Daze, hosting the popular car show for the past two years.



"The support of these organizations is absolutely essential to making La Vista Daze the success it has been year in and year out," said Mayor Douglas Kindig. "To these organizations, as well as our other partners, thank you so much for supporting La Vista's annual festival."



Bio Blitz

On May 17, the City and the Nebraska Watershed Network hosted the first-ever BioBlitz in Central Park. The event was designed in conjunction with the Thompson Creek Watershed Restoration Project as a way to get families to experience nature up close and personal. More than 100 people attended the event, which included booths, demonstrations, interactive workshops, hands-on children's activities and more.



Summer Fun

Hopefully your summer has been fun and relaxing. Beginning Memorial Day weekend with La Vista Daze and continuing through the summer with concerts, movies, a "Splash Bash" at the pool and other events, the City of La Vista and our partners have hosted a variety of free family fun.

Hopefully you had an opportunity to enjoy the La Vista Daze activities, which would not be possible without the support of many sponsoring organizations, including: A&W, Bank of Nebraska, Bo Bo's Bouncy Town, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Bellino Fireworks, Chili's, CVS, Faith Presbyterian Church, Fareway, Harrison Street Baptist Church, Hutong Sushi Grill, La Vista Community Foundation, La Vista Keno, La Vista Firefighter's Association, Lucky Bucket Brewing Company, Rotella's, Tri-City Ministerial Association, Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market and Xenon Hair Academy.

Likewise, many of the summer events would not be possible without the support of some incredible sponsors. The La Vista Community Foundation supports each of our events, and Black Hills Energy and Five Points Bank sponsored the concert series and movie nights respectively this year.

In an effort to continue providing events that focus on great family fun, we would like your feedback. Please visit the City's Web site at www.cityoflavista.org/2014eventfeedback to tell us what you think.

The City is always looking for ideas for new events that would be unique to La Vista. If you have a suggestion, or would be interested in volunteering to help plan future events, e-mail Mitch Beaumont at mbeaumont@cityoflavista.org.

USED TIRE COLLECTION

The City will once again be hosting a used tire collection event the week of August 18 - 23. Used tires can be dropped off at the Public Works Facility located at 9900 Portal Road.

Drop-off times are Monday, August 18 through Friday, August 22, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday, August 23, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Used tires left outside collect water and become prime breeding sites for mosquitoes, which carry West Nile Virus. The used tires are collected and then sent to a recycling company which shreds them. In addition to used tires, used motor oil, anti-freeze and all types of batteries will be accepted.

The event is open to all residents and those living in the City's extra-territorial jurisdiction. Proof of residency will be required; photo I.D. or a utility bill. For

more information call the Public Works Department at 402-331-8927.

The tire collection is made possible by a grant received from the Sarpy/Cass Health Department for West Nile Virus Prevention.

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

On Saturday, November 8, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., a free dump site for leaves and yard waste will be offered at the Public Works Facility, 9900 Portal Road.

This service is available to residents and those living in the City's extra-territorial jurisdiction.

Leaves and grass clippings will be accepted along with tree branches, which can be any length but no larger than 6 inches in diameter. Used motor oil, anti-freeze and all batteries will also be accepted. Citizens must have proof of residency, either a valid photo I.D. or a copy of a utility bill.

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

"DO NOT FLUSH"

Disinfecting wipes touted as being disposable and even flushable are causing problems for city sewer systems.

Manufacturers claim they can be conveniently flushed down the toilet, but the material doesn't break down in sanitary sewer systems and can block sewer lines. Consumer Reports tested several brands of wipes labeled flushable and found that while toilet paper disintegrated after about eight seconds, the wipes still had not broken down in 30 minutes.

In parts of La Vista where tree root intrusions are prevalent, the flushable wipes are causing big problems because the wipes get caught on tree roots and eventually cause backups. This is especially true for residential service lines which have much less water velocity to break down and move the wipes. To prevent any unnecessary sewer backups, residents should **only flush toilet paper**.

Forums Help Gather Feedback on Engagement Methods



The City hosted a pair of community engagement forums in April, designed to give feedback on the methods of engagement residents would most likely participate in if invited to do so in the future.

The forums were hosted by the Community Development Department, which is beginning the process of updating the City's 17-year-old Comprehensive Plan (see page 7 for more information). This plan guides the way the City will grow and develop over a long period of time. A critical part of the update process will include a substantial amount of community input.

More than 600 households were randomly selected to participate in one of two sessions. In total, 30 people attended and listened to a presentation on seven chosen methods of engagement.

Those in attendance were then asked to select which methods they thought would be most likely to get people involved and excited about shaping the future of their community.

The method receiving the largest amount of positive feedback was World Café, which is a type of focus group meeting that separates participants into small groups to discuss questions for a set amount of time, rotate to a new set of questions then come together as a whole to discuss all questions.

The City has begun to look at the results from these forums and will use them to formulate a larger community engagement strategy for the Comprehensive Plan update and other projects.

firedepartment

It has been four months since the City of Papillion began providing fire and EMS services to the citizens of La Vista. Unless you have needed these services, it is likely you have not noticed anything in the way of a change.

There are currently 51 firefighters assigned to suppression duties covering the cities of La Vista and Papillion and the rural fire district. In order to continue to provide top notch services, twelve new firefighters were added this spring as well as a Fire Marshal and an EMS Manager.

Since April 1, when the switch over took place, the Fire Department has responded to 263 incidents in La Vista with an average response time of approximately five minutes and 30 seconds. We've heard many positive remarks from both residents and law enforcement about the quick response and quality care that has been provided.

It has not been all work for the personnel assigned to La Vista. They've enjoyed having a more central participatory role in community events like La Vista Daze. Seen above, members of the department accepted donations during this year's parade for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.



The department is excited about rolling out their fire prevention and public education program in La Vista in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week, which is scheduled for October 5-11. The theme for this year is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!"

Residents are invited to stop by any of the four stations covering La Vista and Papillion to meet the staff or tour the facility. The Fire Department can be contacted at 402-339-8617.

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 Republic National Distributing Company project at 8648 S. 117th Street, which will be a 230,000 square foot office, warehouse and distribution center for this company.

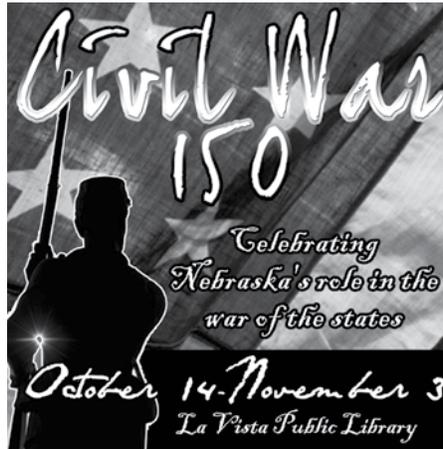


For a complete list of ongoing development projects, visit our website, www.cityoflavista.org/constructionupdates.

Civil War Display

Coming to La Vista This Fall!

The library will host a special display this fall commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The exhibit will be in La Vista October 14-November 3, the only location in Nebraska to host this exhibit. A full schedule of events for young and old alike has been created to compliment the exhibit's time in Nebraska. The display was made possible by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. We have much more information on our website at www.cityoflavista.org/civilwar150.



Listen to Free Music

The library now has Freegal Music which allows library users to download 3 songs per week and 3 hours of streaming per day! Visit the library website, www.cityoflavista.org/library, for more information.

Halloween Party

The library's Halloween Party will take place on Wednesday, October 27, 10-11 a.m. This party, for children five years old and younger who are not in kindergarten, will feature Halloween books and songs, costume parade, craft, and caramel apples. Be sure to wear your costume and bring a bag for treats! Registration is required and begins Tuesday, October 1. For more information, contact Jodi Norton, 402-537-3900.

Creative Hands at the Library

This interactive program, ideal for parents/caregivers and children ages 2-5, meets Fridays at 9:30 a.m. September 8-November 21. Each week participants will use their hands to discover something new. Registration is not required. For more information, contact Jennifer Goss, 402-537-3900, or via e-mail at jgoss@cityoflavista.org.

Storytime Information

Preschool Storytime

- 3- to 5-year-olds who are not in kindergarten.
- Begins Monday, September 8 and ends Thursday, November 20.
- Meets Mondays and Thursdays 10-10:45 a.m.
- Registration begins Monday, August 11. Please sign-up for only one day a week.

Toddler Storytime

- Children 18 to 36 months.
- Begins Monday, September 15 and ends Thursday, November 20.
- Meets Mondays and Thursdays 10:05-10:35 a.m.
- Registration begins on Monday, August 11. Space is limited.

Cruisers Storytime

- Children 6 to 18 months
- Meets Tuesdays 10:05-10:40 a.m.
- Begins September 16 and ends November 18.
- Registration begins on Monday, August 11. Space is limited.



Your Library at a glance

Library Catalog

You can access the library's online catalog at www.cityoflavista.org/catalog. Add a book review from your library account. Pull up the material record and click on the "review" button.

Library Databases

Access our databases at www.cityoflavista.org/databases. This month's feature is NoveList Plus, which provides reading recommendations available through libraries around the world.

Technology Sessions

Want to enhance your computer skills? Sessions are offered to provide basic skills as well as other topics including Facebook, Twitter, Picasa, Flickr, ebooks, emagazines and emusic. For more information, contact Jean Hurst, 402-537-3900.

Homeschool Programs

The library offers many programs for homeschool families, which will start in September. For more information, contact Jennifer Goss, 402-537-3900.

Lego Club

The library's Lego Club is open to children of all ages and meets the second Tuesday of each month. We'll have a different theme each month, and the library will provide the Legos. Registration is not required.

Teen Programming at the Library

School-year programs will begin Tuesday, September 16, and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. Programs include holiday-themed parties, crafts, movie and game nights, Random Club, Pool Noodle Kendo Club, and more. Join the Teen Advisory Board to help plan programs for the library! For more information contact Lindsey Tomsu, 402-537-3900 or via e-mail at ltomsu@cityoflavista.org.

City of La Vista Annual Halloween Tradition!

Halloween Safe Night is scheduled for 5:30-7 p.m., Friday, October 31, at the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Boulevard.

All children ages 12 and under, accompanied by a parent or guardian, are invited to attend this event which will feature Halloween surprises around every corner.

For more information about the event, visit our website, www.cityoflavista.org/2014halloween.

Local businesses and organizations are invited to participate in the event by sponsoring a table and handing out candy to those in attendance.

For more information on sponsoring a table, contact Mitch Beaumont at City Hall, 402-331-4343, or via e-mail at mbeaumont@cityoflavista.org.



Council Clips

The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:

- Authorized the purchase of a boom truck for the Public Works Department
- Approved a series of agreements with Sarpy County and other cities providing for 911 emergency services through the Sarpy County Public Safety Communications Agency.
- Implemented a City staffing Reorganization Plan.
- Approved a contract to refinish the wood floors at the Community Center.
- Approved an interlocal agreement with Sarpy County for IT services.

police department

Promotions Announced in Police Department

Three longtime Police Department employees have been promoted and the department has hired a new officer.

Officer Mark Flash, a member of the department for 11 years, has been promoted to sergeant. He is currently assigned to the Criminal Investigations Bureau and is a former member of the South Metro SWAT team. Flash will be assigned to the Uniform Patrol Bureau.

Sergeants Jeremy Kinsey and Bryan Waugh have been promoted to captain.

Kinsey has been with the department for more than 20 years and he currently supervises the Criminal Investigations Bureau. He is a member of the Metro Fugitive Task Force as well as the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force. Kinsey will be assigned to the Field Services Division.

Waugh has been with the department for 16 years and he currently supervises the Special Enforcement Bureau. He is a former member of the South Metro SWAT team and is the coordinator of the Sarpy County Crash Reconstruction Team. Waugh will be assigned to the Field Services Division.

Also, Dana Miller is the newest officer in the department. She has six years of law enforcement experience in Nebraska, including four years working for the Ralston Police Department. Miller has been assigned to the Field Training Program.



Sergeant Mark Flash



Captain Jeremy Kinsey



Captain Bryan Waugh

Comprehensive Plan Update Will Involve YOU!

Beginning this fall, the City will begin the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan, which is a long-term roadmap for the future of the community.

A new Comprehensive Plan will be an opportunity for the community to address new challenges that lie ahead and will serve as a guide for the management of these challenges.

The Comprehensive Plan update, the City's first since 1997, will include extensive opportunities for public involvement and feedback, including public meetings and opportunities to contribute ideas in online platforms.

Watch this newsletter, our website, social media platforms and the local media for updates on this important project.

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
Sheila Lindberg, Finance Director
Rose Barcal, Library Director
Bob Lausten, Police Chief / Director of Public Safety
Joe Soucie, Director of Public Works
Scott Stopak, Recreation Director



Arbor Day at the Community Center

The annual Arbor Day celebration was held this spring at the Community Center. This joint event between the Recreation Department and Public Library included a story time with Police Captain DJ Barcal, pictured above, free prizes for the children in attendance and the planting of a new tree in the green space next to City Hall.

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



Community Center
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Adults Only
Mon. - Fri. (School year):8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Adults and Youth
Mon. - Fri. (School year): S P S P
Mon. - Fri. (Sched. days off): S P

The Community Center will be closed for the following Holidays: Labor Day.

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Resident Adults: \$3.00 Drop-In
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Resident Seniors (55+): Free
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Center unless involved in a class or sport).

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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.

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The La Vista Senior 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 donation amount for the meal is now \$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 (12\$ DQG FDWHUHG E\ 9DOOH\)RRG 6HUFLFH 9LVLW RXU ZH Z 1-27% (1/67(1-1776) for the monthly senior newsletter, and to look at scheduled activities/trips and lunch menus. For more information contact Senior Director Rich Carstensen, 402-331-3455.

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Senior Tai Chi Class is held on Monday's and Thursday's at 11:00am to 11:45am at the La Vista Senior Activity Center. Cost for the class is just \$1.00 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!

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