



LA VISTA

# citywise



**Look Out La Vista**

**MOODY'S**  
INVESTORS SERVICE

**Bond Rating Upgrade**



**FootGolf at La Vista Falls**



**Thompson Creek Restoration**

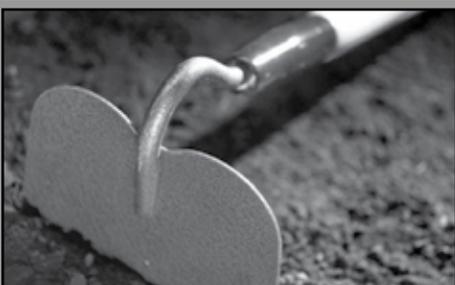
**10 things to**

**LOVE**

**about 2015**



**Holiday Lights**



**Community Garden Program**

**Turn to page 4 for  
descriptions and details.**



**City Park Ballfield Improvements**

**La Vista  
Hometown Heroes**



*Joel Cahill  
Global War on Terror  
Army*

**La Vista  
Hometown Heroes**



*Randall Cahill  
Global War on Terror  
Army*

**Hometown Heroes  
Banner Program**



**Alamo Drafthouse  
Opens for Business**



**Taste of La Vista**

A MINUTE WITH  
**mayor kindig**



As we begin a new year I always enjoy looking back at the highlights and accomplishments of the previous year.

The City of La Vista certainly enjoyed a very successful 2015. It was difficult to pick just 10 things for our cover story that we loved about what happened in La Vista.

While it might not seem like exciting news to some, the fact that the City's bond rating went up was a highlight of the year for me personally. These upgrades are not done routinely and it is an indication of the City's very stable financial condition.

The work that was started on updating the City's comprehensive plan resulted in a number of community activities that generated outstanding engagement by our citizens. Look Out La Vista and Taste of La Vista were just two events that brought hundreds of people out to weigh in on life in La Vista.

Several new programs were initiated last year including the Community Garden Program, the Hometown Heroes Banner Program, Foot Golf and the expanded Holiday Lights. Positive feedback was received on all of these efforts.

In addition to some exciting development announcements, we continue to work on development efforts along the 84th Street corridor and in the Southport area.

The Thompson Creek Watershed Restoration project saw a great deal of progress and is nearing completion.

As I look to 2016, I do so with optimism. The City has much to be thankful for and look back on with pride. There is also great promise for the future and I look forward to what the upcoming year has in store for us!

– Mayor Douglas Kindig

# La Vista City Calendar

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

## February 2016

- 2 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 8 La Vista/Metropolitan Community College Condominium Owners Association, 4 p.m., Library
- 11 Preschool Playtime Valentine Cookie Decorating, 10 a.m., Community Center
- 15 Most City offices closed in observance of President's Day holiday
- 16 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 17 Tween Adventure Series: Catapults, 4-5 p.m., Community Center
- 17 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 18 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

## March 2016

- 1 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 8 Preschool Playtime Craft Day, 10 a.m., Community Center
- 10 Library Advisory Board, 5:30, Library
- 10 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 7 p.m.
- 15 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 16 Tween Adventure Series: La Vista Ninja Warrior, 4-5 p.m., Community Center
- 16 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 22 Preschool Playtime Easter Egg Dying, 10 a.m., Community Center
- 26 Easter Egg Hunt and Food Drive, 10 a.m., Sports Complex

## April 2016

- 5 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 11 Fly-In Movie, 10:30 a.m., Library
- 16-17 Omaha Bead Affair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Community Center
- 19 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 20 Tween Adventure Series: FootGolf, 4-5 p.m., La Vista Falls Golf Course
- 20 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 21 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 28 Arbor Day Celebration, 10 a.m., Community Center

## INSIDE

10 Things about 2015 ..... 4

Hometown Heroes .....5

Citizens Police Academy ..7

# Thompson Creek Update

Work has continued this fall to complete a number of projects related to the reconstruction of Thompson Creek between 72nd Street and Edgewood Boulevard.

In November crews completed the storm sewer at 76th Street and Park View Boulevard, which allowed for grading work behind those homes to also be completed. Since then crews have been concentrating on the installation of fences in backyards of homes where they were removed.

The grading of the channel between 72nd Street and 73rd Avenue is substantially complete, although some work remains on the east side of 73rd Avenue. Grading in the area west of 73rd Avenue is generally complete from Champion Park to the east. The area from Champion Park to the west

has a significant amount of reshaping and finish work that still needs to be completed.

In the spring, work will include placing erosion control features and planting grasses. Turf grass will be planted in flat areas and native grasses in the channel slopes. The native grasses will require a couple of years to become fully established. For a period of time, 73rd Avenue between Park View Boulevard and Valley Road will be closed in order to allow installation of two storm sewer filtering devices.

In the spring, the City Council will also unveil a commemorative tree program.

For more information on the Thompson Creek Watershed Restoration project, including regular blog updates, visit the City's website, [www.cityoflavista.org/thompsoncreek](http://www.cityoflavista.org/thompsoncreek).

# Community Development Department Project Update



# Shoppes at Southport West

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

Pictured are the Shoppes at Southport West, two retail buildings totaling more than 28,000 square feet under construction in Southport West near Alamo Draffhouse Cinema and Boot Barn. Tenants have not

yet been announced for the Shoppes at Southport West.

*For a complete list of ongoing development projects, visit our website, [www.cityoflavista.org/constructionupdates](http://www.cityoflavista.org/constructionupdates).*



# Tree Lighting Celebration

The Community Center was the place to be on Thursday, December 3, for the City's annual tree lighting celebration. Those in attendance watched Mayor Kindig and Santa unveil the carving from the old tree and light the new tree outside City Hall. After that, soup and chili were provided by the Mayor and City Council, holiday entertainment was provided, children visited Santa and commemorative ornaments made from the old tree were available. To view photos of the Tree Lighting, visit the City's website, [www.cityoflavista.org/treelightingphotos](http://www.cityoflavista.org/treelightingphotos).

# 10 Things to Love about 2015

## Look Out La Vista

The City began the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan in 2015, which led to several opportunities for residents to offer their feedback and vision for the future of La Vista. Over the course of nearly 10 public events, more than 1,700 residents participated in the process.

## Thompson Creek Construction

Crews were busy in 2015 along Thompson Creek on the reconstruction of the Thompson Creek channel from 72nd Street to Edgewood Boulevard. Also, a tree planting plan was approved by the City Council, which provides a roadmap for trees and shrubs to be planted along the channel.

## Community Garden Program

The City's first-ever Community Gardens Program was introduced in 2015, with plots available for rent at three parks: Camenzind, Hollis and Jaycee. The garden plots are raised beds and most are 4 feet by 12 feet in size.

## Hometown Heroes Banner Program

A new program to honor our nation's veterans was introduced in 2015. The

Hometown Heroes Banner Program was presented as a legacy project by participants in Leadership Sarpy. Banners are available at a cost of \$175, which covers the banner, installation materials and maintenance.

## Bond Rating Upgrade

Moody's Investor Services upgraded the City's general obligation bond rating in October from A1 to Aa3. La Vista's new ranking indicates high quality and very low credit risk. The upgrade reflects the City's growing tax base as well as La Vista's strong financial position.

## Alamo Drafthouse Opens for Business

La Vista's first movie theater, Alamo Drafthouse and Cinema, opened for business this fall in Southport West. The more than 37,000-square-foot theater, bar and restaurant gained national attention when it was chosen as one of the best places in the country to view the new Star Wars film.

## FootGolf at La Vista Falls

The metro area's newest sport kicked off in La Vista in 2015. La Vista Falls Golf Course introduced FootGolf to the public with a

kick-off event in May and it continued to be a popular offering throughout the summer and fall months.

## Holiday Lights

The holiday season was a little brighter in La Vista in 2015 thanks to expanded holiday lights. The City purchased and installed new lights and decorations at City facilities.

## City Park Ballfield Improvements

City Park received significant improvements in 2015 when the Papillion-La Vista High School girls' softball program was relocated to La Vista. The school district invested approximately \$500,000 in the improvements, which included new dugouts, scoreboard and a press box.

## Taste of La Vista

In conjunction with Look Out La Vista, the City hosted a new event called Taste of La Vista. More than 600 people attended the event where local pizza restaurants and beer brewers offered their products and those in attendance gave feedback on the Comprehensive Plan.

## policedepartment



This past December, the Police Department participated in the third annual Cops and Kids program. Officer Jamie Brown organized the program. Children from La Vista schools whose

families would be struggling to provide Christmas presents, were selected by school officials. On a Sunday morning in December, the children were treated to a shopping trip through the Papillion

Super Target store, 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 22 and Saturday, April 23.

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, but 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.

**2016 Construction Projects**

The following projects are among those that are anticipated to begin during the 2016 construction season. For more information regarding any of the projects, contact the Public Works Department, 402-331-8927.

- Thompson Creek - Phase VI (Part 2), 72nd Street to Edgewood Blvd. - Majority of the project was completed in 2015. Spring work will include final channel grading, installing storm sewer filters in 73rd Avenue, installation of rip-rap and planting of grasses.
- 132nd Street and West Giles Road - Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation in 2016. Reconstruction of the intersection is anticipated for summer 2017.
- Thompson Creek Levee Relocation - 66th Street east of Sports Complex:

The south levee was completed in 2015 and work will continue on the north levee in 2016.

- Hell Creek Grade Control Structure - located at the confluence of West Papillion Creek: joint project with NRD and City of Omaha.
- 66th Street - Harrison Street to Giles Road - Temporary asphalt overlay in anticipation of federally funded reconstruction in 2020.
- 84th Street Adaptive Signals - Center Street to Cornhusker Road - Joint project with cities of Omaha, Ralston, Papillion and Metropolitan Area Planning Agency. Project goal is to improve traffic flow on the 84th Street corridor.
- City Parking Lot Access Improvements - A public road will be installed on the south side of the City Parking Lot in Southport West. This will connect to the dead-end at the south side of the existing road in front of Cabela's.

**Hometown Heroes Banner Program**

Registration is now open for the second year of the Hometown Heroes Banner Program.

Banners are available at a cost of \$175, which covers the banner, installation materials and maintenance. The banners, which measure 80 inches long by 30 inches wide, will be on display on utility poles along 84th Street and will feature a photo of the person being honored.

Applications are now being accepted and will close when 38 slots have been reserved. The banners will be displayed from Memorial Day through the Fourth of July. Each banner purchased will be guaranteed to be displayed a minimum of two seasons.

For more information on the Hometown Heroes Banner Program, visit the City's website, [www.cityoflavista.org/hometownheroes](http://www.cityoflavista.org/hometownheroes), or call City Hall, 402-331-4343.

La Vista Hometown Heroes La Vista Hometown Heroes La Vista Hometown Heroes

**Hometown Heroes Banner Program**  
2016 applications now available

Joel Cahill Global War on Terror Army  
Shane Kielion Global War on Terror Marine Corps  
Randall Cahill Global War on Terror Army

## Top 5s of 2015

Have you ever wondered what's most popular at the Library? For fiscal year 2014-2015, here are the most checked out books and DVDs and most popular programs.

### Top 5 DVDs:

1. Barbie and Her Sisters in a Pony Tale
2. Batman, the Brave, and the Bold
3. Annie
4. Barbie as Rapunzel
5. Barbie Fairytopia

### Top 5 books:

1. Big Nate by Peirce
2. Burn by Patterson
3. NYPD Red by Patterson
4. Truth or Die by Patterson
5. Blood of Olympus by Riordan

### Top 5 programs:

1. Summer Reading Bingo Cards - 217 Participants
2. Civil War 150 Grand Opening - 212
3. La Vista K-9 Demonstration - 200
4. Halloween Book Walk - 144
5. Super Hero Academy - 140

## 2016 Summer Reading Program at the La Vista Public Library

Our summer reading program will begin on Wednesday, June 1 with a special craft at 10:30. This year's theme is "On Your Mark...Get Set...Read!" Children and families will enjoy reading fiction and nonfiction books about a variety of sports and games during June and July.

## NEW! Tween Summer Reading Programs

If you are in 4th to 6th grade, these summer programs will be just for you. Watch for a Tween Calendar....coming soon!

## Weather Announcement

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

## One Stop Shop!

Did you get a new electronic device for Christmas? The La Vista Public Library offers several choices for your reading or listening pleasure. New offerings this year include: OneClickDigital!

As a Library patron, you also have access to:

- Overdrive
- Overdrive for teens and youth
- Freading
- EbscoHost ebooks
- FirstSearch ebooks.
- Zinio Magazines
- Freegal Music (3 downloads per week and 3 hours streaming per day).

All of these wonderful databases work with most devices!

## A Reading Program for the Adults!

Why should the younger book readers be the only ones with a Reading Program? The fifth annual Adult Winter Reading Program is in full swing! Stop by the library to sign up. This program ends March 31.

## Storytimes

Studies show that children who are read to at an early age, fare better in school, which means you should join us for one of our many storytimes! For more information contact us at the Library, or visit our website at [www.cityoflavista.org/library](http://www.cityoflavista.org/library).

## Teen Programming

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

What kind of teen programs are there? Here's just a few—Teen Advisory Board (TAB), Bacon Club, Homework Hotspot, Media Club, Teen Storytime, and more!



# Spring Safety Tips from the Fire Department

As spring rolls in and winter moves out, here are some spring safety tips from the Papillion Fire Department to ensure a good time as the weather warms up.

Each home needs to have working smoke detectors. Here are some things you need to know about smoke detectors:

- There should be at least one working detector on each level of your home. You can go one step further and have a smoke detector in each bedroom for added coverage.
- Be sure to change the batteries in your smoke detector. Some newer detectors have batteries that are good for 10 years.
- Clean your smoke detector with a vacuum and soft brush attachment. Dust can build up and prevent your detector from working properly.
- If your detector is more than 10 years old, it is most likely time to replace your unit. A smoke detector that is past its working life can have components that have weakened and prevent it from working properly.
- If you have questions about your detector or need one installed, contact the Fire Department, 402-339-8617.

## Council Clips

*The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:*

- Approved the purchase of ballistic helmets for the Police Department.
- Approved a Council Policy Statement regarding Special Designated Liquor Licenses.
- Approved Statement of Intent with Nebraska Multisport Complex.
- Approved the purchase of a portable sound system.
- In a joint session with the Planning Commission and Parks and Rec Advisory Board, reviewed the Comprehensive Plan Vision Document.
- Approved a transportation study interlocal agreement with the cities of Bellevue, Papillion, Gretna, Springfield and Sarpy County.



**LA VISTA**  
**SALUTE**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ TO ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**SUMMER**  
**FESTIVAL**

**MAY 26-29**

**WWW.SALUTETOSUMMER.ORG**

**Mayor**

Douglas Kindig

**City Council**

Kim Thomas, Ward 1

Deb Hale, Ward 3

Mike Crawford, Ward 1

Alan Ronan, Ward 3

Ron Sheehan, Ward 2

Jim Frederick, Ward 4

Terrilyn Quick, Ward 2

Kelly Sell, Ward 4

**City Administrator**

Brenda Gunn

**Management Team**

Rita Ramirez, *Assistant City Administrator*

Kevin Pokorny, *Director of Administrative Services*

Joe Soucie, *Director of Public Works*

Bob Lausten, *Police Chief / Director of Public Safety*

Jeff Calentine, *Assistant to the City Administrator*

Pam Buethe, *City Clerk*

John Kottmann, *City Engineer*

Ann Birch, *Community Development Director*

Cindy Miserez, *Finance Director*

Mandy Garrod, *Human Resources Manager*

Rose Barcal, *Library Director*

Scott Stopak, *Recreation Director*



## Commemorative Ornaments Part of Tree Lighting Celebration

To commemorate the damaged Christmas tree that was cut down in October 2015, the City created these ornaments and gave them away at the Tree Lighting Celebration in December. The ornaments are created out of the branches from the tree and feature the date the tree was cut down.

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](http://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. Please call 402-339-9147 for more information on open golf, FootGolf, golf course hours, fees, leagues and special outings. La Vista Falls Golf Course is open year round, weather and course permitting.

While the weather may not be nice enough to play golf, or FootGolf, you can begin thinking of spring time by organizing a group outing or league play! La Vista Falls is currently accepting applications for 2016 golf leagues, golf outings and FootGolf outings.

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

**Men's Leagues:** Adult: Tuesday night: Two-man teams, sign up individuals or twosomes. League prizes and end-of-league party. Tentative start date is April 19 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. League prizes and end-of-league party. Tentative start date is April 20 and runs for 17 weeks. **FEE:** \$215 per person.

### FootGolf

Come play the newest sport in the Omaha area "FootGolf". We have updated our FootGolf course layout and have lowered our fees. The cost for 9 holes of FootGolf is now \$8. You can use your own soccer ball or you can rent one of ours for \$2. FootGolf will be played on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from 5:00 p.m. until dark.

FootGolf is a combination of the popular sports of soccer and golf and is for everyone regardless of age or skill level. The game is played with a regulation #5 soccer ball at a golf facility on shortened holes with 21 inch diameter cups. The rules largely correspond to the rules of golf.

### 2016 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

Golf Cart: (per rider)..... \$7

Request tee times online at [www.cityoflavista.org/teetime](http://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](http://www.cityoflavista.org).



### 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](http://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 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Wednesday, March 16, 11:30 a.m., Community Center. **FEE:** \$5 per ticket. Corned beef, cabbage, carrots and all the fixings. All the seniors from the surrounding area are invited. Advanced tickets are required and will be on sale at the Community Center. Registration deadline is Friday, March 11. Sorry, no refunds.

### 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., including a second bus Tuesdays and Thursdays. 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](http://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.

### Drop-In Quilting Group

Come Quilt with Us! Wednesday's mornings from 9:00am-11:30am at the La Vista Community Center. Beginners are welcome, including those who have quilted before and/or anyone who is interested in learning how to quilt. If you have quilted in the past, bring your unfinished projects! Other sewing projects are always welcome as well! Come socialize and work on your works or art! For more information, contact Rich Carstensen at 402-331-3455.

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

Mon. - Fri.: ..... 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sat. (Sept. 12 - April 30): ..... 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun. (Sept. 13 - April 23): ..... 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](http://www.cityoflavista.org/sports) and by visiting the La Vista Community Center.**

**Register & Pay Online  
[www.cityoflavista.org/active](http://www.cityoflavista.org/active)**