



LA VISTA
citywise

City Council Approves 2008 Budget

In 2007 the City of La Vista continued to experience significant change and growth. With the recent annexation of Southwind and Val Verde, the City's population is over 18,000. Development on the western edge of the City, as well as change along the 84th Street corridor, has impacted the City financially and made for a challenging budget. The City Council approved a budget for 2008 that includes a \$.03 increase in the property tax levy. This budget will allow the City to maintain high quality and efficient public services for all residents while continuing to deal with La Vista's growing pains.

The City has made a considerable investment to facilitate development of the Southport area which continues to impact the budget. It is anticipated however, that significant future sales tax and hotel occupation tax revenue will be generated by this development, which will ultimately result in a very positive impact on the City. Sales tax revenues have held fairly steady during 2007 even with the loss of Walmart and other 84th street retailers. City officials continue to work diligently to foster and encourage new development along 84th Street.

In 2008 the owner of a \$150,000 home will pay \$785.25 in property taxes to the City of La Vista (an increase of \$37.60 over last year) for public safety services that include 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; the operation of a senior center; and debt service.

La Vista's budget will continue to reflect the City's growing pains for the next several years, however recent investments have laid a solid foundation for the financial future of the City and it is expected that La Vista will continue to be a thriving community on the rise.

La Vista Welcomes New Residents

On September 14, 2007 the population of La Vista increased by approximately 2,300 residents as the City Council's annexation of the Southwind and Val Verde subdivisions, generally located at 96th & Giles, became effective. Citizens living in SID 200 (Southwind, Southwind Two, Windstone and the Villas at Southwind) and SID 198 (Val Verde) are now located within the city limits of La Vista.

On August 28, 2007 a new resident orientation meeting was held at City Hall. Residents from the areas targeted for annexation were invited to meet with City officials, hear presentations from each of the City's departments regarding services and ask questions. Welcome packets were also distributed to those in attendance. For residents unable to attend the meeting, the orientation information is available on the City's website (www.ci.la-vista.ne.us) by clicking on the "Living in La Vista" tab.

La Vista welcomes its newest residents and encourages any citizen who has questions or needs assistance to contact City Hall at 331-4343 or visit the City's website.

First Time Readers

Many of you are seeing the CityWise newsletter for the first time. In an effort to establish a better sense of community connection, the City Council budgeted additional funds in FY08 to include on the mailing list several subdivisions located immediately adjacent to the city. Citizens in the newly annexed areas are also receiving their initial mailing of the newsletter. CityWise is published quarterly and mailed out in early November, February, May, and August. The latest issue is also available on the website. Suggestions, comments and questions are always welcome.



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

La Vista will be the first city in Nebraska to take part in The National Citizen Survey process. See page 3.

A MINUTE WITH mayor kindig



In a previous issue of this newsletter I talked with you about the importance and value of the City's annual strategic planning process. For many years the elected

officials in La Vista have conducted an annual meeting where we spend an entire day reviewing our progress, setting goals, developing priorities and establishing objectives. This process provides staff with essential guidance and facilitates a productive budget preparation process that allows us to achieve our goals and objectives.

The bottom line in local government quality, however, is resident perspective. What do the citizens think about municipal services? The best indicator of government performance is citizen satisfaction and the best way to encourage good performance is to measure it. In an effort to measure our progress, the City of La Vista will soon be participating in the National Citizen Survey.

The National Citizen Survey is a unique service that administers, analyzes and reports results from a customized citizen survey. During the next 30 days 1,200 La Vista residents will be randomly selected to participate in this survey.

We need your help in measuring La Vista's progress, assessing our strengths and weaknesses and planning for the City's future. If you receive a copy of the survey, please take the time to complete and return it in the postage paid envelope provided. The survey is a great opportunity for you to express your opinion about the state of your City and the services being provided. The results will give the elected officials and staff valuable feedback as we plan for the future of La Vista.

Douglas Kindig, Mayor

Special Services Transportation Program

The cities of La Vista and Ralston jointly operate a program to provide bus service to senior (age 60 and older) and handicapped residents of the cities. For many years the City of Ralston has been responsible for the daily administration of this program. A new interlocal agreement between the two cities was recently approved and beginning October 1, 2007 the City of La Vista took over the administrative duties.

The program operates Monday - Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and transports passengers to a variety of destinations including senior centers, shopping, medical and other appointments, etc. (Accommodation depends on prior commitments.) Fares are \$1.00 for trips within the cities and \$2.00 for trips outside of the cities. Multiple stops are an additional \$1.00.

If you or someone you know is in need of transportation services and qualifies for this program please call 657-3550 for information and scheduling. Information regarding the program can also be obtained by contacting the La Vista Community Center at 331-3455.

La Vista City Calendar

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

November 2007

- 4 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 6 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Library Advisory Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. in Library Conference Room
- 10 Leaf Collection Day, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., La Vista Public Works
- 15 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 22-23 Most City offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- 25 Santa's Sleigh Ride in La Vista starting at 5:00 p.m.
- 26 Tree Lighting Ceremony and Soup Supper, 6:00 p.m., City Hall/Community Center

December 2007

- 4 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Citizens Advisory Review Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 24-25 Most City offices will be closed for the Christmas Holiday

January 2008

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

La Vista to Participate in The National Citizen Survey

The City of La Vista will soon be participating in The National Citizen Survey, a customized citizen survey process that collects, analyzes and reports data back to the municipality regarding how residents feel about the city's performance in a variety of areas. It will also help to assess community needs from the citizens' perspective. La Vista will be the first city in Nebraska to take part in The National Citizen Survey process.

Questions will be included in the survey about the quality of life in La Vista, local policies, demographics, quality of La Vista's municipal services and resident use of services. The feedback received from citizens will help City officials measure service performance, assess community needs, and make long-range, short-term and strategic plans.

The City Council adopted a two year strategic plan in March of 2007 that included a goal of strengthening a sense of shared community identity among residents and businesses. One of the key objectives for this goal was to conduct a random-sample written survey of citizens to determine their attachment to the community and gather ideas for improving the community and municipal services. The National Citizen Survey provides a tool to accomplish this goal and also provides comparison to national norms and the credibility of a widely reputable independent research firm, the National Research Center.

Within the next few weeks questionnaires will be sent to a random sample of 1,200 La Vista residents asking for feedback on the quality and usefulness of city services. The results will be included in a final report

that city officials can use in planning and budgeting for the future.

If you are selected to participate you will first receive a post card letting you know that the survey will be forthcoming. A copy of the survey form will be delivered approximately one week later and a follow up copy of the survey form will also be sent prior to the return due date. Self-addressed postage paid envelopes will be included for your convenience. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire. You will be providing valuable information to elected officials and city staff that will be used to plan for La Vista's future. If you have questions please contact City Hall at 331-4343.

Holiday Happenings

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 25, beginning at 5 p.m. 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.

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, November 26. Citizens are invited to City Hall at 6 p.m. to watch Santa light the outdoor tree. The Mayor and City Council members will be serving up a Soup Supper (\$1.00 donation for local charities) and there will be holiday entertainment and treats in the Community Center. Santa will take some time to listen to children's wishes before returning to the North Pole. Please join us for a great family evening.

Santa will also be making a visit to the La Vista Public Library on December 3 at 10:00 a.m. Stop by to hear Santa read a **Christmas Story**. While you are at the Library check out the wonderful selection of cookbooks. If you need holiday ideas, the Library is a great resource.

The Recreation Department also has a "connection" to the North Pole. **Santa Claus will be making telephone calls** to children



in grades K-2 on Tuesday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 12, between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Registration forms are available at the Community Center.

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.



Community Development Department

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church - Construction is completed and dedication ceremonies were held September 30th. Location: 96th & Melissa Streets.

Courtyard by Marriott Hotel - A building permit has been issued for a six story hotel with 243 rooms as well as a restaurant, meeting rooms, a lounge and recreational facilities. This hotel will be connected to the Conference Center by a covered walkway. Location: 12560 Westport Parkway.

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center



- Construction continues on a 248,000 s.f. seven story hotel with 257 rooms. The hotel will have a full height atrium with dining and lounge seating, and full height trees. Amenities at the hotel will include an indoor pool with a hot tub, health and exercise facility and an outdoor sun deck. The atrium will be connected to a conference center with a wide concourse, which will include a restaurant and coffee shop. Construction is also underway on the conference center which will have a capacity of 5,000-6,000 people and be marketed for conventions, corporate meetings, trade shows, fund raising dinners, wedding receptions, etc. Scheduled completion date is June of 2008. Location: 12520 Westport Parkway.

Fantasy's Convenience Store and Flex-Space Shell Building



- Construction is nearing completion on a 6,400 s.f. gas station and convenience store, and a 6,400 s.f. shell building for additional tenants. Location: 7826 & 7828 S. 123rd Plaza.

Industrial Buildings - Construction is underway on several industrial flex buildings at various locations including:

- Elite Builders - 12305 Cary Circle.
- Lavigne Building A & B - 13205 & 13231 Centennial Road.
- Pote-Stinn Building - 12251 Cary Circle; a tenant finish is underway in this building for T.S. I. Mechanical.
- RASAJA Building - 8719 S. 135th Street.
- Waite Development - 12115 Centennial Road.

Midwest Custom Roasting - Construction is nearing completion on this 22,488 s.f. building in the Centech Business Park. This company is a wholesale coffee roasting and distribution business. Location: 13314 Centech Road.

Nuts & Bolts, Inc. - Construction started in August on this 30,780 s.f. building. This company is a wholesaler/distributor of - can you guess? Location: 12005 Centennial Road.

Productivity Inc. - A 38,000 s.f. warehouse and office facility for this machine tool distribution company has been completed. Location: 8402 S. 117th Street.

Securities America



- Construction of a 3-story 86,791 s.f. office building is nearing completion. Securities America is an SEC registered investment advisory firm. Location: 12325 Port Grace Blvd.

Southport Professional Building #2



- Construction is nearing completion on the second Southport Professional office building. Both buildings are 2-stories and have 24,000 s.f. of office space. A tenant finish is underway on the second floor for Cornerstone Energy. Location: 12110 Port Grace Blvd.

Turnkey Solutions - Construction is ongoing on this 56,760 s.f. industrial building. This software manufacturer produces CD's, DVD's, VHS tapes and audio cassettes. Services include printing, packaging and distribution. Turnkey is the largest duplication facility of its kind in the country. Location: 12001 Cary Circle.

Weitz Construction Company - Construction is nearly complete on this 12,734 s.f. building which will house the offices and provide warehouse space for Weitz Construction. Location: 8715 S. 120th Street.

CONSTRUCTION WRAP-UP

The 2007 construction season was a busy one. The following projects were completed during this year's construction season:

84th Street Resurfacing

This project included curb and concrete panel repairs, storm sewer inlet replacement, asphalt overlay, the addition of a right turn bay and extension of the left turn bay at Giles Road, and wheel chair ramp repairs. The Public Works Department would like to thank commuters for their patience during the project.

Marisu Lane Court

An asphalt overlay was completed on Marisu Lane Court this summer.

Interstate 80 Signs

The City of La Vista and Sarpy County recently took action to rename a section of 126th Street between Harrison Street and Eastport Parkway to Giles Road. The Nebraska Department of Roads has also installed eight new exit information signs on I-80 as you approach exit #442, indicating the exit takes you to Harrison Street and Giles Road rather than 126th Street.

Golf Course Drainage Swale

Work was completed on the drainage swale in the NW corner of the golf course; near the number nine green. Armour-Flex Matting material was installed to stabilize the floor and sidewalls of the drainage swale. The open cell design allows vegetation to grow in each cell, producing a natural looking swale.

Harrison Street Project (48th Street to 71st Street)

This project will change Harrison Street to a three lane urban design with curb and gutters. Right turn bays will be installed at specific locations and traffic signals will be installed at 66th Street. Construction will begin in the spring of 2008. During 2007 work continued on final design plans, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation. The project is a joint venture involving the Cities of La Vista, Omaha, Bellevue, and the counties of Sarpy and Douglas.

Help Us Help Others

Each year La Vista City employees organize and participate in efforts to help those less fortunate. We encourage citizens who visit City Hall, the Community Center or the Library to help us help others by donating to the following programs.

One Warm Coat Campaign. We will be collecting gently used, clean coats during the months of November and December. Collection boxes will be located at the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. Donated coats will be given to the Open Door Mission in Omaha. Help us keep our communities warm — one coat at a time.

Toys for Tots. La Vista City Hall and the Community Center will once again be designated drop off sites for the annual Toys for Tots campaign sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. New, unwrapped toys are collected and distributed by the Marines to those in need. When you are doing your holiday shopping pick up something "extra" and drop it into the collection box. Donations will be accepted until mid-December.

Food Drive. The City of La Vista will be teaming up with the La Vista Area Chamber of Commerce to collect food for the Food Bank. During November you can drop off non-perishable food items at the La Vista Public Library, the La Vista Community Center, and the La Vista Chamber Office.

La Vista and PayPal Team Up for Special Olympics



La Vista officials were invited to participate in a fundraiser for Special Olympics on September 11, 2007, sponsored by PayPal at their corporate campus. A basketball game between the PayPal all-star team and a team made up of La Vista employees was the highlight of the event. Before a crowd of over 100 people, the La Vista team, coached by Mayor Doug Kindig, and with only one player under the age of 30, put a scare into the younger, taller and more athletic PayPal team before PayPal's youth and athleticism took over in the second half. PayPal took a seven point lead into halftime before pulling away late in the game to win, 82-58. La Vista was led by police officers DJ Barcal and Greg Carrico who combined for 30 points. Thanks to PayPal for organizing the event and to all who attended. Over \$1,400 was raised for Special Olympics.

Heat up with Winter Craft and Activities

The library's winter craft is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12th from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Watch for the registration at the beginning of December. This event is designed for school aged children in first through the sixth grade. Watch for more details!

Chess Club

The library will start its new Chess Club on Saturday, October 20th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Participants of all ages who enjoy chess can come and play in the meeting room. Chess sets will be provided. The Chess Club will be held on the first Saturday of November and December from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and is open to all those interested in playing. No registration is required.

Going Global

The La Vista Public Library recently purchased 4 GPS units through a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission. These units were used for an ongoing summer reading geocaching program. Geocaching is a form of modern treasure hunting. The library is still checking out the GPS units to customers interested in these handheld devices. The units are at the circulation desk and can be checked out for 3 weeks.

"Talk" With Your Hands

Come to the La Vista Public Library on Saturday, November 10th and 17th to learn the American Sign Language manual alphabet and some simple signs. This program is open to anyone who is interested. Children ages 10 and under must be accompanied by a parent. The program will last from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. November 10th will be the introduction to the signs and November 17th will be practice and review.

Get Technical

Computer classes are offered to library cardholders to provide skills in specific areas: 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.

Did you know?

- The library now has wireless internet. Bring your laptop and enjoy the 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 until 6:30 p.m. Blood donations have a very short shelf life and only last six weeks for red cells. It's always the season to give!

Santa will be visiting the library on December 3rd at 10:00 a.m. Stop by to say "Hi" to Father Christmas and hear him read a Christmas story.

children



Preschool & Toddler Storytimes

Storytime classes will be starting in January and ending in April. These fun, hands-on programs introduce young children to the library and the joy of reading.

Preschool Storytime is geared for children ages 3-5. The Preschool session starts Monday, January 14th and ends Friday, April 11th. Preschool classes will be held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00-10:45 a.m.

Toddler Storytime is for children 18 months - 3 years along with Mom, Dad or a grandparent or care giver. The Toddler session starts Monday, January 21st and ends on Friday, April 11th. Toddler Storytime is on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

Lapsit is for children 6 months to 18 months. This session starts on Thursday, January 24th and ends on Thursday, April 10th. Call the library to register for Storytime.

Library Web Page is located at
<http://www.ci.la-vista.ne.us>

Click on "Card Catalog" to search the library's collection for Thanksgiving and Christmas books. The library has several cookbooks for your holiday needs.

Chamber of Commerce New Office

The La Vista Area Chamber of Commerce recently relocated to new office space in the Brentwood Square Shopping Center. Stop in to say hello.

8040 South 84th Street
La Vista, NE 68128
Phone 339-2078
Fax 339-2026

Website: www.lavistachamber.org

Executive Director: Mary Harper

Membership Coordinator: Dawn Gumm

Upcoming Activities:

October 31 - Halloween Safe Night, 6:00 p.m. at La Vista Community Center in conjunction with the City of La Vista

November 26 - Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony and Soup Supper, 6:00 p.m. at La Vista City Hall in conjunction with the



City of La Vista

December 9 - Santa in the Square, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Brentwood Square. Santa will be listening to Christmas wishes.

January 22 - Membership Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. at PayPal.

Council Clips

The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:

- Approved the municipal budget for fiscal year 2008.
- Adopted the City's first Capital Improvement Program.
- Approved the annexation of the Val Verde and Southwind subdivisions into the City.
- Held a public hearing and discussed alternatives regarding erosion along Thompson Creek.
- Approved an interlocal agreement with the other cities in Sarpy County regarding legislative lobbying efforts.
- Approved an agreement with the Public Works employees bargaining group.

fire department news

The La Vista Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department had a busy fall season. Fire Prevention Week was October 7-13 and volunteers visited each of La Vista's elementary schools giving students an opportunity to view a fire truck close up and talking with them about fire safety. The week concluded with the Department's annual Open House at the District 2 station on October 14.

A new event, the Citizen's Fire Academy Weekend, was held on October 20 & 21 at the Bellevue Fire Training Facility. This two-day academy gave citizens an opportunity to learn from nationally certified instructors and helped to determine if volunteering as a firefighter or EMT was right for them. Participants learned CPR, extinguished a fire, practiced search and rescue, and much more.

La Vista volunteers also assisted at the Fall session of the Citizen's Police Academy. In addition to learning about many aspects of police work, this eleven-week course also includes a fire service component that is taught by the Fire Department.

The City's annual Halloween Safe Night is another event in which the Volunteer Fire Department participates. The free hot dog supper is organized and coordinated by the firefighters.

As you can see, our volunteers do more than answer fire and rescue calls on their own time. They are very involved in many

community activities and provide support for various events throughout the year.

Smoke Dectectors

The La Vista Fire Department offers free smoke detector checks and installations to La Vista homeowners. If you would like to have your existing smoke detectors checked or new detectors installed, please contact the fire department at 331-4748 or fill out a request on our website www.ci.la-vista.ne.us under the fire department tab.

Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for a good way to give back to your community? Have you ever considered becoming a firefighter or emergency medical technician? The volunteers at the La Vista Fire Department welcome new members twice a year. Applications are available at City Hall or on our website. Applications are due in November and May each year, with recruit classes starting in January and June. No experience is necessary. Please contact the fire department at 331-4748 if you would like to talk with us about your future as a La Vista Firefighter or EMT.

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



Employees and members of the Volunteer Fire Department receiving service awards during 2007 included: (left to right) Jeff Sinnett, James Thompson, Marcia Schipper, Lori Spethman-Twiford, Brenda Gunn, Ray Crane, Scott Wood, Cindy Norris, Rich Carstensen, Michala Ivey, and Andrew Johnson. Not pictured: Harald Rappold, Steve Viers, Ray Harrod, Brad Miser, Bryan Waugh, Randy Erickson, and Kirk Schuster.



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La Vista, NE 68128

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what'shappening • winter 2007

EXERCISE, LEARN, HAVE FUN AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Just because it's cold outside, doesn't mean you have to slow down.

The La Vista Recreation Department offers many opportunities to stay active.

See our program schedule below and sign up now!

NEW TIME FOR 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: Tuesdays and Thursday morning 10:00-11:00 a.m.
FEE: Free.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WINTER LEAGUES:

Registration Deadline: January 21, 2008, or until the leagues are full, which ever 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.

MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Registration Deadline: January 7, 2008 or until the league is full which ever comes first. Must be 18 and out of high school. Games on Sunday afternoon/evening at the La Vista Community Center. **FEES:** Registration 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.)

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Registration Deadline: November 11, 2007. Boys & Girls grades 3rd/4th & 5th/6th. The emphasis of the League will be on learning new skills and improving current basketball techniques, teamwork, sportsmanship & fun. Parents, please consider volunteering your time to coach. Season: December through early March. 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 division. **FEE:** 3rd & 4th grades La Vista Residents \$50; Non-Residents \$60. 5th & 6th grades, La Vista Residents \$50. Non-Residents \$60. 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.



CO-ED YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINIC

(5 One-Hour Sessions)
Registration Deadline: January 4, 2008. Boys and Girls grades 1st & 2nd. Learn the basic skills of dribbling, passing, shooting, teamwork and fun in our 5-one hour sessions. Saturday mornings starting mid-January. **FEE:** La Vista Residents \$15.00. Non-La Vista Residents \$20.00. Volunteer Coaches Needed.

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 1:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.



Seniors are enjoying the new vehicle recently purchased for the Special Services Transportation Program.

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 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, and a small charge of \$2 for non-resident Seniors (age 55 & over).

Seniors go on several outings per month including restaurants, museums, movies or sight-seeing. In recent outings, 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 cards are offered, and 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 Valentines 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 9-11:00 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 331-6677 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.ci.la-vista.ne.us/recreation (you may see the monthly newsletter and calendar there also!)

LA VISTA VIPERS WRESTLING

Registration Deadline: November 29, 2007. No children will be allowed to practice until the registration fee is paid and the Parental Consent form is signed. Ages 5-14 years (age as of January 1, 2008) **FEE:** La Vista Residents \$35, Non-Residents. \$60 Uniform and headgear, as well as 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 6:00 - 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 the Wrestling Club President Brent Pearson at 689-9357 or 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.

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.

KIKAI FIGHTING METHOD AND A.S.A.P. METHOD

Adult Martial Arts Classes Wednesday evening 7:00-9:00 p.m. In Kikai, you will learn the core techniques of multiple martial arts. A.S.A.P. (Adrenal-Scenario-Based Awareness & Protection) develops the correct responses in pre-conflict stages. **FEES:** \$40 per month; \$20 for those already enrolled in LVCC martial arts class. For more information, please call 331-3455.

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 at 7-8:30 p.m. Children 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 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00 - 3:00 pm. Adults, ages 18 & older, only. Open enrollment. **FEE:** \$40 per month. For more information, email Britt Nichols at Info@suioryu-usa.org.

NEW 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

This class, for adults age 18 and older, 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, available free of charge, is for any La Vista Resident and/or Seniors in 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 of other programs. Walking is available at other times also.

MODEL AIRPLANE LICENSE & FIELD TIMES

Model airplane flying licenses may be purchased at the 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 a.m.-1:30 pm 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



LA VISTA FALLS GOLF COURSE 8305 PARK VIEW BLVD.

La Vista Falls Golf Course will remain open during the fall and winter seasons, weather and course conditions permitting. The course is in great shape and hopefully there will be some nice days left 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 at least be thinking golf. Start planning for spring by organizing a group for league play. La Vista Falls has leagues for men, women, seniors, and coed groups at all skill levels. Contact Manager Denny Dinan for more information regarding a league that's right for you. Remember to watch the Omaha World Herald and the Metropolitan Tee Times for specials.

Winter Season Reminders

Winter is quickly approaching and in Nebraska that means cold temperatures, ice and snow. The La Vista Public Works Department, Community Development Department and Fire Department offer the following information regarding snow removal regulations and winter safety tips. The City of La Vista wants all residents to have a safe and warm winter season.

City Regulations Regarding Parking and Snow Removal

In La Vista 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, it is unlawful for any vehicle to be parked on any public street within the city for 24 hours or until the street has been plowed by the City snow plows. Any vehicle that is not moved may be towed at the owner's expense.

La Vista City 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.

In a 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.

In a Residential Area, sidewalks shall be cleaned within 24 hours after the cessation of the snowfall. Snow may not be thrown off the sidewalks or driveways back into the street.

Winter Driving Conditions

- Allow yourself extra traveling time when road conditions are snow and ice covered.
- Lower your traveling speed accordingly for road conditions. Increase stopping distance.
- Allow adequate time for your car to properly warm-up. All windows should be clear of snow and ice and have full visibility.

- Increase the following distance from the vehicle in front of you. Remember, City Codes require 100 feet of separation from snow plows.
- Never pass through a multiple truck plowing operation; these trucks weave in and out of turn lanes. Visibility is greatly reduced during a tandem plowing operation.
- Be sure to check your vehicle's windshield wiper blades, tires, heater, defroster and washer fluid.
- Placing snow in the street from driveways and sidewalks is prohibited.
- During a winter storm do not travel from your home unless absolutely necessary.
- Please contact the La Vista Public Works Department with winter road related questions, 331-8927.

Getting Your Home Ready for Winter: Outside Tasks and Tips

- Clean out your gutters and down spouts to prevent ice build up.
- Disconnect garden hoses from outside faucets.
- Drain your sprinkler system.
- Check your storm windows for proper fit and replace any broken glass.
- Check the weather strip on exterior doors and windows to make sure they fit properly.
- Caulk gaps and spaces around exterior doors and windows to prevent air leakage.
- Make sure you have ice melt for your sidewalks.
- When lifting heavy bags of mulch, fertilizer or ice melt you can avoid injury by using a wheelbarrow and lifting with your legs, not your back.
- Be extremely careful when using ladders to clean gutters, prune trees, etc. Follow safety instructions on the ladder and always have another person present.

- Keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow to prevent slips and falls.
- Raking leaves and shoveling snow can cause muscle strains and back injuries. Take breaks and change position often. Consider purchasing an ergonomic rake and snow shovel to relieve back strain.

Inside Tasks and Tips

- Furnace and chimney maintenance are vital to your family's safety.
- Have your furnace checked annually by a professional to ensure it is operating safely and efficiently.
- Change your furnace filter on a regular basis. In the winter a good time frame is every 30 days.
- If you have a fireplace or wood stove the chimney should be inspected and cleaned on a regular basis.
- When possible, burn seasoned woods (dryness of the wood is more important than hard wood versus soft wood).
- Smaller, hotter fires will burn more completely and produce less smoke than larger fires.
- Do not burn cardboard boxes or trash, as they can spark a chimney fire.
- Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in your home — check the batteries regularly.
- If your thermostat has batteries make sure they are fresh.
- By turning your thermostat down a few degrees from your normal setting you can save 6% to 13% per month on heating cost during the heating season. Lowering your setting at night by five degrees will also save on your energy cost.

If an accident should occur the most important thing to remember is to call 911 immediately.