



## Vision 84 Master Park Plan Process Underway

Envision a time when La Vista is home to a premier regional park. Perhaps you could rent a paddle boat, listen to a concert, ice skate, stroll or ride a bike on the trails or attend one of many special events including La Vista Daze, a holiday festival or a farmer's market.

While the specific uses of such a park are still up in the air, La Vista's redevelopment vision for 84th Street calls for the park to be located in the heart of the City where La Vista Falls Golf Course and Central Park currently lie.

The park, dubbed Civic Center Park, and the Thompson Creek basin will also create a vital connection to future development along 84th Street, as outlined in Vision 84 this will become La Vista's central core and likely catalyst for adjacent development.

Facilitated by RDG Planning & Design, this master planning process is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a uniquely "La Vista" space with the community's identity weaved into the design. Civic Center Park will be La Vista's front lawn, and because the City does not have a traditional downtown, this park would, for the first time, give the community a public gathering place in an easily accessible, central location with sufficient room for events, recreation, and a wide variety of other opportunities.

The project kicked off this fall with the assistance of residents from across the community. The opportunities for this park identified in the Vision 84 planning process are now being developed in more detail.

In September stakeholder group meetings were held, which engaged business owners, residents, elected officials, golfers and local developers in small group discussions regarding the potential for the area.

Also, a working group of residents,



development professionals and City staff has been formed to help create the proposed park design.

More than 50 residents attended a Community Workshop held in November where they learned about other communities where parks had been a major catalyst for private investment in surrounding areas. Participants also viewed more than 40 different images of park features, voting on which features would be suitable for Civic Center Park. Features they favored included:

- Performance spaces
- Places to play in water
- Winter activities like skating and sledding
- Longer looped trails and lighted paths

The priorities shared by the community members have been incorporated into a master plan that was presented at a second Community Workshop on January 31.

"We are so grateful to those who have given of their time and talents in this master plan process," said Mayor Douglas Kindig. "Input from our residents is the key to the success of this plan. I would invite all of you to continue to give feedback throughout the process."

The City's Web site, [www.cityoflavista.org/civicpark](http://www.cityoflavista.org/civicpark), contains up-to-date information and residents can also sign up for e-mail alerts when new information is posted about the process. *Continued pg. 5*



## Pool Bond Issue on Ballot in May

A bond issue asking voters to approve funding to construct a new municipal pool will go on the ballot in May. Please see page 7 for more information

## A MINUTE WITH mayor kindig



Serving as an elected official for the last several years has certainly given me an opportunity to see La Vista continue to develop into a community that stands out and is recognized throughout the state for its innovation and successes.

We were among the first in the metro area to institute building design guidelines, and the results can be seen in the beautiful buildings that have been and continue to be constructed in our City limits and within our zoning jurisdiction.

La Vista is "a city better by design", and the Vision 84 Park Master Plan process is another example of how we achieve excellent results. This park development process is a very important project that has the potential to impact our City for years to come.

I would encourage you to participate in the Civic Center Park master planning process. Citizen feedback is essential to making this project successful and creating a regional park that everyone can enjoy for generations to come.

Another component of Vision 84 is our swimming pool. The May 15 election will include a bond issue for the construction of a new pool. La Vista's existing pool has multiple infrastructure, compliance and capacity issues.

The swimming pool has been a vital community amenity for several generations and if the infrastructure needs are not addressed, the pool may have to be closed down. For more information about the pool bond issue, visit the City's Web site, [www.cityoflavista.org/poolproject](http://www.cityoflavista.org/poolproject).

— Mayor Douglas Kindig

## Many thanks to our 2011 event sponsors!

The City of La Vista wrapped up another event season at the end of 2011 with two successful holiday programs at the Community Center, neither of which would have been possible without valuable partnerships with local businesses.

The Halloween Safe Night event attracted an estimated 1,000 people on October 31. The City would like to thank the many businesses who hosted tables in the gym at the Community Center, and the Advanced Drama students from Papillion-La Vista High School who created and hosted a family-friendly spook room for the event.

The Tree Lighting Celebration on November 28 drew an estimated crowd of more than 500 people, who filled the Community Center gym to capacity to watch entertainment from local groups and enjoy soup and chili sponsored by the Mayor and City Council, and by the Runza restaurant located at 121st Street and Giles Road in La Vista.

## La Vista City Calendar

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

### February 2012

- 7 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14 Senior Valentine's Lunch, La Vista Community Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 14 Teen Anti-Valentine's Day Party, La Vista Library, 5 p.m.
- 15 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 16 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 16 Little Chefs Story Time & Cookie Decorating, La Vista Community Center, 11 a.m.
- 21 City Council Meeting 7 p.m.
- 21 La Vista/Metropolitan Community College Condominium Owners Association, 4 p.m., La Vista Library

### March 2012

- 2 Read Across America Celebration, La Vista Library, 3:30 p.m.
- 6 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 8 Citizen Advisory Review Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 8 Library Advisory Board Meeting, La Vista Library, 5:30 p.m.
- 9 Family Fun Night, La Vista Community Center, 6-8 p.m.
- 15 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 16 Senior St. Patrick's Day Lunch, La Vista Community Center, 11:30 a.m.
- 20 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 21 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

### April 2012

- 3 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 7 Annual Easter Egg Hunt, La Vista Sports Complex, 10 a.m.
- 17 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 18 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board Meeting
- 19 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 27 Arbor Day

# firedepartment



## Officer Appointments

The La Vista Fire & Rescue Department recently named officers for 2012. The promotions are an opportunity for the members to take on more responsibility and pass on their experience to the community and newer members. Please help us congratulate our new officers on their promotions.

## 2012 Fire Department Officers

### District 1

District Chief: Adam Vail

Fire Captains: Jerad Henderson, Andy Bierbrauer

Fire Lieutenant: Shawn Jones

Rescue Lieutenant: Matt Rappley

### District 2

District Chief: Andy Brewer

Fire Captains: Bob Bierman, Chris Goley

Fire Lieutenant: Vicki Pfeifer

Rescue Lieutenant: Kelly Vogel

### Department Wide

Assistant Chief: Rory Froehlich

Rescue Captain: Steve Leighton

Fire Training Officer: Mark Stevens

Medical Training Officer: Kirsten Bradley

Public Information Officer: Austin Brake



## LVFD Welcomes Nine New Recruits Raising Membership to Nearly 70 members

The La Vista Fire Department recently welcomed nine new recruits to the ranks. Payton Brannen, Evan Engelman, Jake Hewett, Alane Jespersen, Ben Jones, Annie Peterson, Greg Spellman, Sarah Wilson, and Tyler Young were confirmed before City Council on December 6, 2011. These nine were chosen from a large group of highly motivated individuals. They all come with previous Fire and EMS experience and will soon be working as EMTs/Paramedics after passing their department tests. Please join us in welcoming them to the department.

### SAFETY TIPS

Store fireplace and woodstove ashes outside in a metal container.

Do not dry clothes on a space heater.

Teach children not to play with matches.

Clean the lint screen in your dryer after each load of clothes are dry.

Turn off the clothes dryer before leaving home.



## LVFD Station Tours

**Scheduling:** Please visit the Fire Department page on [www.cityoflavista.org/fire](http://www.cityoflavista.org/fire) to fill out a request form for a station tour. Those without internet access may call 402-331-4748 x122 to schedule a tour. Tours must be scheduled at least three weeks in advance. Tours are conducted at our District 2 station located at 108th Street and Chandler Road. Birthday parties are welcome to view the station as part of their event. However, due to limited available space, we do not allow party festivities such as cake, ice cream or gifts at the station.

**Group Tours:** For safety reasons groups may be no larger than thirty people, including children and chaperones. You

must provide an adequate number of chaperones to maintain control of your group. We suggest one adult chaperone for every five children.

**Age Level:** Ages 3 and above.

**Length of Tour:** Approximately 45 to 60 minutes.

**Times Available:** Station tours are available Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Please understand that even with a scheduled tour, the possibility exists that the crew could all be called out on an emergency and the station closed either before your arrival or during your tour. The Public Information Officer will be happy to reschedule your tour if necessary.

# City Council Adopts Dangerous Dog Ordinance

The City Council recently approved an ordinance, which identifies dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs.

The ordinance, which went into effect January 1, avoids breed-specific restrictions and focuses on the responsibility of owners by giving the Nebraska Humane Society the ability to designate any dog as potentially dangerous based on their behavior.

Any dog can be determined potentially dangerous if it inflicts injury on a person or domestic animal or chases or approaches

a person on the street or sidewalk in a way in which an attack may be imminent.

La Vista's new potentially dangerous dog ordinance requires a dog be spayed or neutered and be micro-chipped within 30 days of receiving the "potentially dangerous" designation. Owners must also attend a responsible pet ownership class within 90 days, and at the determination of the Nebraska Humane Society, a dog can be required to attend a behavior class.

After a dog has been designated as

potentially dangerous, a leash and muzzle are required when the animal leaves the owner's property and it must be under the control of an adult. Additionally, owners are required to show proof of \$100,000 liability insurance.

An owner with three separate offenses of this ordinance or with three animal convictions within a 24-month period will be considered a reckless owner and must surrender all pets and will be prohibited from owning a pet for four years.

## Dog Bite Prevention

It is the responsibility of every pet owner and parent to be educated about dog bite prevention. Any dog is capable of biting but you can lessen the risk by being proactive and responsible. There are simple guidelines to help keep pets, children and others safe.

### Top 3 Things to Teach Your Kids

**1.** Dogs do not like hugs and kisses - Teach your kids not to hug or kiss a dog on the face. Hugging the family dog or face to face contact are common causes of bites to the face. Instead, teach kids to scratch the dog on the chest or the side of the neck.

**2.** Be a tree if a strange dog approaches - teach kids to stand still, like a tree. This works for strange dogs and anytime the family dog gets too frisky or becomes aggressive.

**3.** Never tease a dog - and never disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or protecting something such as a bone or favorite toy.

### Top 3 Things for Dog Owners

**1.** Spay or neuter your dog - Neutered pets are calmer, healthier and less likely to be aggressive.

**2.** Condition your dog for the world - Give your puppy lots of new positive

experiences. Train using positive methods such as clicker training.

**3.** Supervise your dog - Supervise your dog at all times around children. If visiting children are bothering your dog, put the dog away until the children go home.

For more information on dog bite prevention, visit the Nebraska Humane Society's Web site [www.nehumane.org](http://www.nehumane.org).

The Nebraska Humane Society also offers bite prevention training. For more information contact Kristie Biodrowski at 402-905-3425.

## police department



The City of La Vista would like to welcome a new recruit to the police department. Thomas J. Markowsky began employment with the City on January 3 and is currently attending the police academy in Grand Island. Recruit Markowsky will graduate from the 14-week academy in April and enter a challenging 15-week field-training program where he will be trained and evaluated by La Vista police training officers. After successful completion of the field-training program, Markowsky will be eligible for solo patrol duties.

**Help Us Help You** - The La Vista Police Department hosted a community crime prevention forum in December to facilitate better communication with residents. Among the things discussed at the forum was a revamped crime prevention program. In order for our crime prevention efforts to be effective, though, the Police Department needs your help. There are a variety of ways to get involved in community activities, including:

- Start a Neighborhood Watch program: all it takes to get started is a little bit of your time and a few of your neighbors. Get to know your neighbors and your neighborhood and help keep it safe!
- Join the Citizen's Traffic Watch: Help the Police conduct traffic violation surveys, learn to use the RADAR and watch the school speed zones around your child's school.
- If you live in an apartment complex ask your apartment manager about the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program.
- Become a Mc Gruff House Volunteer: Provide a safe haven for children who may have to run from trouble on their way to or from school, and be their link to the Police.
- If you own or manage a business in town: Start a Business Watch program, help us crack down on shoplifters and vandals!

Each one of these programs are easy to start, easy to maintain and may make a world of difference in someone's life. For details on how to get involved contact Detective Jamie Schuster, 402-331-1582, or via e-mail [JSchuster@cityoflavista.org](mailto:JSchuster@cityoflavista.org).



## ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAYS

The City of La Vista's Annual Clean-Up Days will be held on Friday, April 27 and Saturday April 28, 2012.

In addition to the clean-up days, document shredding services will also be provided 10 a.m.-noon, April 28. The shredding is limited to three boxes of documents per household. Documents will be shredded on site and staples and paper clips do not need to be removed.

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 and hazardous waste will not be accepted.

Proof of residency will be required; either a valid drivers license or a utility bill.

## Community Development Department

**Alegent La Vista Clinic** - A building permit has been issued and a new 32,500 s.f. Alegent Health medical clinic is under construction. Location: 8248 S. 96th Street.

**Alpine Apartments** - The reconstruction of an apartment building damaged by fire is underway. Location: 7106/7108 S. 86th Street.

**Bradco** - A 6,400 s.f. tenant finish is under construction for this equipment wholesaler. Location: 10501 Chandler Circle.

**Cimarron Terrace** - Construction has been completed on phase one of this apartment development which includes five three-story buildings, garages, a clubhouse, pool and playground. The second phase which includes an additional two three-story buildings, garages, storm shelter and playground has been approved and is under construction. Additional phases are anticipated. Location: 99th & Harrison Street.

**CVS Pharmacy / Divine Truth Book Store** - Demolition of the existing buildings is underway and construction has started on the first of two new buildings for CVS Pharmacy and Divine Truth Bookstore. Location: 84th & Harrison Street.

**Elite Glass** - Construction is underway on a 12,000 s.f. building for this glass service, supply and repair business. Location: 10327 Chandler Road.

**Harrison Heights Apartments** - Construction of 112 units of market rate senior housing, totaling 111,884 sq. ft., is underway. Location: 7544 Gertrude Street.

**Japanese Restaurant** - A 1,935 s.f. tenant finish is underway for a

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 402-331-8927, or via e-mail, [cnorris@cityoflavista.org](mailto:cnorris@cityoflavista.org).

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WRAP-UP

The La Vista Public Works Department had a very successful construction year in 2011, with several projects that had been in the works for multiple years finally coming to completion. The following is a synopsis of the construction season:

- La Vista Link to the Keystone Trail - Trail segment running from 69th Street through the Sports Complex and terminating at 66th & Harrison streets. Completed in November 2011.
- Golf Course Maintenance Building Expansion - Added additional storage area for maintenance equipment. Completed in July 2011.
- Thompson Creek Phase VI Part A - Acquisition and demolition of 24 homes along Park View Boulevard and Valley Road. Completed in November 2011.
- Hell Creek Channel Improvements - Improvements to the Hell Creek channel and banks north and south of the Harrison Street Bridge at approximately 111th Street. Completed in December 2011.
- Harrison Street Bridge Repairs over Eastport Parkway - Reconstructed bridge expansion joints and made improvements to bridge approach slabs. Completed in October 2011.

new Japanese restaurant. Location: 7202 Giles Road.

**Roll Enterprises** - A 6,400 s.f. tenant finish is underway for this construction company. Location: 10501 Chandler Circle.

**Salon Centric** - Construction is underway for an 82,720 s.f. warehouse addition for the business formerly known as Peels Salon Services. Location: 11720 Peels Circle

## ANTICIPATED NEW PROJECTS FOR 2012

**Garden Fresh Vegetables** - Indoor farmers market and wholesale distribution center by a company in O'Neill, Nebraska. Location: West Giles Road & Westport Parkway.

**The Outlets & Live! At Southport West** - Regional outlet shopping center and entertainment district by The Cordish Companies. Location: Westport Parkway.

## Cover Story Continued: Vision 84

Those who can't attend the next community workshop, or would like to offer their feedback before the next meeting, are encouraged to visit the Web site, <http://lavistalists.ideascale.com>, where you can submit an idea, vote and discuss ideas posted by other people.

The final master plan for Civic Center Park will be presented to the City Council later this year and will contain a design concept, preliminary cost estimates and a phasing plan.



## Join the Lego Club!

Come build your Lego masterpieces one brick at a time at the La Vista Public Library. The new Lego Club meets the second Tuesday of each month, 3:30-4:30 p.m. and is open to children ages 4-11. The club's first meeting will be on Tuesday, February 14.

Each month will have a different theme. The Library will provide Legos, please don't bring your own. Parents are welcome to bring their cameras and capture these fun creations. Registration is not required.

The Library is also looking for donations of used Legos for use in this club. If you have some to donate, or if you'd like more information about the club, contact Jodi Linhart, 402-537-3900, or via e-mail at [jlinhart@lavistamail.mccneb.edu](mailto:jlinhart@lavistamail.mccneb.edu).

## eReader

Did you get an e-reader for Christmas? The La Vista Public Library services include digital audiobooks and eBooks, available to download from the library's Web site, [www.cityoflavista.org/](http://www.cityoflavista.org/) overdrive.



Library card holders can check out and download digital media anytime. With free software, users may browse the content, check out with a valid library card and telephone number, and download to PC, Mac, Kindle, and many mobile devices.

Some audio titles can also be burned to CD to listen on-the-go. Titles will automatically expire at the end of the lending period.

And better yet, there are no late fees!

## Computer Instruction

The library offers computer instruction to cardholders to provide skills in specific areas: Basic Computer Skills, Basic Internet, Basic Word, Digital Cameras, Job Searching on the Internet, and Resume Writing.

To make an appointment or for more information, contact Jean Hurst at the library, 402-537-3900.

## Read Across America

Read Across America is an annual event that encourages all children around the world to read. This event is celebrated in conjunction with the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. To help celebrate this event the library will host a **Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. on Friday, March 2**. Families are invited to listen to several Dr. Seuss stories, make a craft, and enjoy cake and ice cream. Registration is not required.

## Spring Craft Program kicks off February 13

All children in fifth grade and under are invited to participate in four spring craft days during the months of February through April. Each craft day takes place from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. at the library on February 13, March 2, March 13 and April 5. Registration is not required.

## SAVE THE DATE! 2012 Summer Reading Program

The La Vista Public Library's Summer Reading Program will kick off on **Wednesday, May 30 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.** This year's theme is "Dream Big - Read", and children birth to fifth grade will enjoy reading about ghosts, goblins, bats, owls, stars, campfires, and lullabies during our 10-week summer reading program.

## Teen Events

Do you love the library? Show your support by joining the Teen Advisory Board. Upcoming Teen Advisory Board meetings are scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 2 and Thursday, March 1. Attend the meeting and earn 75 book bucks. Each meeting is an exchange of ideas for future activities at the library, snacks provided. For more information, contact Lindsey, 402-537-3900, or via e-mail at [ltomsu@lavistamail.mccneb.edu](mailto:ltomsu@lavistamail.mccneb.edu).

The third annual teen **Anti-Valentine's Day Party** is scheduled for Thursday, February 16 from 5 to 8 p.m. Earn 150 book bucks by attending. Join your friends at the library to play games, win prizes, and decorate cookies. End the evening with snacks and soda during a movie. See the teen calendar in the library for more details.

Who says programs at the library aren't physically active? Join the Pool Noodle Kendo Club to learn the art of kendo and spar with other teens safely using pool noodles. This group will meet Thursday, January 12; Thursday, February 23; and Thursday, March 15, each at 6 p.m. Earn 50 book bucks by attending each time!

## Storytimes

The La Vista Public Library offers a variety of children's programming including three different storytimes for children ages six to 18 months, toddlers ages 18 months to three years and preschoolers ages three to five. For more information about these programs, visit the City's Web site, [www.cityoflavista.org/children](http://www.cityoflavista.org/children).

# shorttakes shorttakes shorttakes shorttakes

## SMOKE/CO INSTALS

Are you a La Vista resident in need of a smoke or carbon monoxide detector? The Fire Department has a program in place to install or test existing detectors at no cost to you. If you are a renter, your landlord is responsible for ensuring the installation and maintenance of your detectors. A request may be made by visiting the City's Web site, [www.cityoflavista.org/fire](http://www.cityoflavista.org/fire). Those without Internet access may call 402-331-4748 x122 to make an appointment. Please note that Smoke/CO installs are only available on Fridays from 8am-8pm.

## WATER SHUT OFF VALVES & STOP BOXES SHOULD BE TESTED ONCE A YEAR

La Vista residents and businesses are encouraged to know the location of the water shut-off valves on both their home and at the curb near the street, also known as a stop box.

Knowing the location of these shut-off valves will aid plumbers if repair work is needed on the main water lines leading to the property and on plumbing fixtures within your home or business.

If you don't know the location of the stop box for your property, Metropolitan Utilities District will look up your address and help you find it by giving you exact measurements of its location from the

curb and the property line. A special tool is required to operate the stop box and only licensed plumbers carry such tools.

M.U.D. also recommends testing the water shut-off valve on your house or business facility at least once a year to ensure it is working properly. Shut-off valves are located near the water meter and in older homes tend to stick from lack of use.

For more information contact the M.U.D. customer service line at 402-554-6666.

## LIBRARY'S WEB CATALOG

Find that next great read! Not sure what to read next or trying to find the next title in your favorite series?

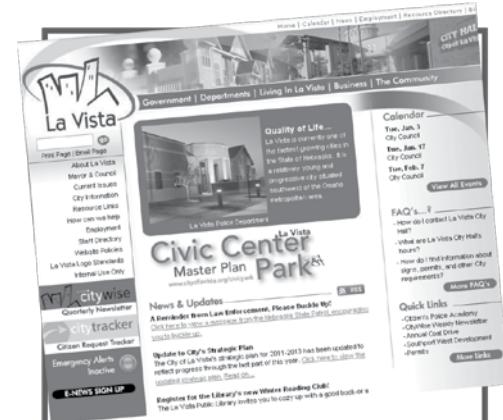
Let the La Vista Public Library web catalog find it for you! Visit the City's Web site, [www.cityoflavista.org/librarycatalog](http://www.cityoflavista.org/librarycatalog), click on "log into library account", enter your library account number and phone number.

From the web catalog, you can renew materials, search for any book, magazine, periodical, audio book or movie in the collection and now you can write a review of the latest book or DVD you checked out from the La Vista Public Library. You can also reserve an item that is currently checked out or request an item the library doesn't own. The web catalog also features a "See What's Hot" section of items added to the collection in the last three months.

## Council Clips

The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:

- Approved placing the swimming pool bond issue on the May ballot.
- Approved establishment of new City Council ward boundaries.
- Approved Strategic Technology Plan.
- Approved City's participation in performance measurement program.
- Approved new dangerous animal ordinance.
- Approved the purchase of a new motorcycle for the Police Department.



## Pool Bond Issue on Ballot for Primary Election

La Vista residents will be voting on a bond issue on May 15 for the construction of a new swimming pool.

If approved, the City's existing pool would be replaced with a facility adequate for a growing community of more than 17,000 residents. Over the past several years a number of factors, including aging infrastructure, have resulted in uncertainty about the continued operation of the existing pool.

The proposed pool would be an amenity to the Vision 84 redevelopment plan, which also includes the development of Civic Center Park. All of these projects will serve as catalysts to bring people back to the 84th Street corridor.

The new municipal pool would contain approximately 14,400 square feet of water, including a wading pool with zero-depth entry and toddler area, lap and recreation pools with zero-depth splash area and diving board, lazy river with water slides and other features including a rental shelter and admissions/bathhouse facility.

What does this mean for the taxpayers in La Vista? If you own a home in La Vista valued at \$150,000, your property taxes would increase by \$85.50 annually, or \$7.13 per month, if this \$8.5 million bond issue is approved.

For more information about the pool project, visit the City's Web site at [www.cityoflavista.org/poolproject](http://www.cityoflavista.org/poolproject).

Information  
at your  
**fingertips**  
[www.cityoflavista.org](http://www.cityoflavista.org)

Did you know, on the  
City's Web site, you can:

- ◊ Sign up for Emergency Alerts
- ◊ Review meeting agendas
- ◊ View the City's Strategic Plan
- ◊ Download building permit forms
- ◊ And more!

**Visit us today!**

# LA VISTA cityofficials

## Mayor

Douglas Kindig

## City Council

Brenda Carlisle, Ward 1  
Ron Sheehan, Ward 1  
Mike Crawford, Ward 2  
Terrilyn Quick, Ward 2  
Mark Ellerbeck, Ward 3  
Alan Ronan, Ward 3  
Anthony Gowan, Ward 4  
Kelli 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  
Rich Uhl, Fire Chief  
Rose Barcal, Library Director  
Bob Lausten, Police Chief  
Joe Soucie, Public Works Director  
Scott Stopak, Recreation Director



## Displaying the City's Trucks

The La Vista Public Works Department participated recently in several vehicle demonstration events with local schools.

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).



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

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

Community Pride. Progressive Vision.



# what'shappening • spring 2012

## LA VISTA FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

Friday, March 9, 2012, 6-8 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd., \$4 per person pizza, which includes a 7-inch pizza and drink per person. Register by March 2 at the Community Center. The La Vista Recreation Department and Library are teaming up to bring you a La Vista Family Fun Night! Bring your whole family to the La Vista Community Center for a night of family fun including beachball volleyball, ping pong, billiards, shuffleboard, ladderball, bean bag toss, walleyball, Wii, books, board games and more! Pizza and drinks will be available for \$4 per person (payable that night). Preregister your family by March 2 at the La Vista Community Center. For more information, visit the City's Web site, [www.cityoflavista.org/recreation](http://www.cityoflavista.org/recreation), or call 402-331-3455.

## PRESCHOOL PLAY-BY-PLAY

Session 1 - 9-9:45 a.m., Tuesdays from February 28 to March 27 (registration deadline is February 10). Session 2 - 9-9:45 a.m., Tuesdays from April 10 to May 15 (registration deadline is March 30). Resident, \$15; non-resident, \$20. This program is designed for youth ages 3, 4 and 5 to help develop basic motor skills that kids use for play and sports. During the six-week program, children will learn the basics of throwing, catching, dribbling, shooting, kicking, and batting in a safe and positive environment. Parent/guardian attendance is required, and participation is encouraged! Class is limited to 10 participants per session.

## FREE TAX HELP!

February 1-April 14 at the La Vista Community Center, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m., geared toward taxpayers with low/middle income, with special attention to those ages 60 and older. No appointments, walk-ins only. To prepare for your visit, see the instruction sheet at the Community Center, or visit the City's Web site, [www.cityoflavista.org/recreation](http://www.cityoflavista.org/recreation).

## LA VISTA ANNUAL EASTER

### EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 7, 2012, rain or shine, begins promptly at 10 a.m. at the La Vista Sports Complex (1/4 mile south of Harrison Street on 66th Street).

Age Divisions: 4 and under, 10:00 a.m. Field #1  
5/6 yr. olds, 10:10 a.m. Field #2  
7/8/9 yr. olds, 10:15 a.m. Field #3.  
10/11/12 yr. olds, 10:20 a.m. Field #4.

## YOUTH DANCE CLASS

Ballet, Pointe, Tap, Jazz, & more for Preschoolers on up! For more information, contact



## LITTLE CHEFS STORY TIME AND COOKIE DECORATING

Thursday, February 16, 11 a.m., the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. For kids ages 3-6 with parent, limited to 20 participants, \$2 per child. The La Vista Recreation Department and Library are teaming up to introduce kids to the world of food!

We'll start our fun with a story time book and finish with the kids decorating Valentine's cookies. For more information and to register, visit the La Vista Community Center or call 402-331-3455.

## Upcoming Senior Activities



## SENIOR VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON

On Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 11:30 a.m., the La Vista and Papillion senior centers will be hosting their annual Valentine's luncheon at the La Vista Community Center. Doors open at 11 a.m., and all seniors from the area are invited. Advance tickets for \$10 per person are required and are on sale at the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Boulevard and the Papillion Recreation Department, 1100 West Lincoln Road, in Papillion. Registration deadline is Tuesday, February 7, 2012. Sorry, no refunds will be given.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

Corned Beef & Cabbage and all the fixings for our St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Friday, March 16, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. at the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. Purchase your tickets for \$8 by Friday, March 9, from the La Vista Recreation Office. Sorry, no refunds will be given.

DoubleHDance instructor Katherine Hogston at [khogsto1@yahoo.com](mailto:khogsto1@yahoo.com).

## PILATES MATWORK

Wednesday's 6:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9-10 a.m., year-round, at the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEE:** \$7 per class (payable in four class sessions of \$28 each). Pre-registration is required. Pilates is a series of controlled, low-impact exercises to help increase flexibility, strength and overall body tone. It benefits both mind and body, addressing posture, concentration, breathing and strengthening your core muscles. For more information or to register for the class, contact Wendy Harris, 402-297-5230 or via email at [designsbywendy@hotmail.com](mailto:designsbywendy@hotmail.com).

## RELAXING YOGA

Saturdays, 1-2 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. Fee: \$6 per class, payable in four class sessions of \$24 each, cash only. Register at the class. Relaxing Yoga is for the beginner and intermediate yoga

student. This class includes breathing and relaxation techniques, stretching, joint and gland exercises, Hatha Yoga postures, and stress management techniques. The instructor is Frank P. Ferrante, Master Degree Certified Yoga Instructor with 17 years teaching experience.

## ADULT BALLROOM DANCE LESSONS

La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEE:** \$40 per person, ages 16 and up only, join as a single or couple. For more information, dates of sessions and to register for the class, call 402-639-2209. There is a minimum of 6 people per class. Ballroom Dancing with Instructor Terry Vargas, who has earned three top teacher awards with the Arthur Murray Dance Studios. While still taking advanced training, Terry would like to give others the opportunity to enjoy dancing as he does. In each four-week session, two or three dances will be taught. Leather-soled shoes preferred (no gym shoes, please).

## La Vista Community Center • 8116 Park View Blvd. • 331-3455

### ADULT BELLY DANCING CLASSES

Beginner - Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; advanced - 7-8 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEE:** \$20 per month, 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 or to register, call Wren Newman, 402-596-1397.

### SQUARE DANCE LESSONS

Five week sessions on Sundays at 2 p.m. at the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. For all ages, this is a low impact aerobic exercise that burns a lot of calories while having fun! Wear comfortable shoes and flat-heeled shoes. For more information or to register contact Ken Young, 402-592-5143 or 402-690-3020.

### CHA-3 KENPO KARATE

Sundays 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEE:** \$40 per month. For ages 10 and up. Realistic self-defense for the whole family that promotes respect, confidence, self discipline and integrity. Kenpo Karate is an art for the individual. It allows the individual to achieve the fullest control over his mind and body. Keno develops balance, speed, power, breathing control, self discipline as well as a good means of self-defense. To register contact Tony Foster, 402-297-3773, or Anthony Foster, 402-917-7135. For more information, visit the City's Web site, [www.cityoflavista.org/recreation](http://www.cityoflavista.org/recreation).

### AIKIDO

Mondays and Thursdays, adults - 7-9:30 p.m. and children (5-11 years old) - 6-7 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEE:** Adult residents \$30 per month, non-residents \$35 per month; children residents \$15 per month, non-residents \$20 per month. For further information or to register, call Ron Christenham, 402-339-6124.

### TRADITIONAL JAPANESE

#### SWORDSMANSHIP

Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., Saturdays, noon-3 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd. **FEE:** \$40 per month. Open enrollment, for adults ages 18 and older only. Suio Ryu is one of the few ancient systems of martial arts practiced today. It encompasses a broad variety of techniques such as jujutsu (Suio Ryu), kumi-iai (paired sword forms), naginata-jutsu, pure kenpo sword and wakizashi techniques. For more information or to register, e-mail Britt Nichols, [Info@suioryu-usa.org](mailto:Info@suioryu-usa.org).

### SOCHI-GO RYU

#### SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Mondays, 5:30-7 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Boulevard. For more information or to register, call Mike Benkis, 402-895-7841.

### SENIOR ART CLASSES

Thursday, 1:30 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Boulevard. **FEE: \$6** per class. Environmental Art Instructor Charlene Potter teaches inspirational and environmental art classes using oil, watercolor, pen and ink. To register for the class, contact Charlene, 402-399-8411.

### PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

Tuesday and Thursday mornings throughout school year, 10-11 a.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Boulevard. The gym is open for parents and children preschool-age and under. Zip around the gym on tricycles and cozy coupe cars, play preschool size basketball, kick balls or just run, jump & play with others! It's a great play date for kids and parents!

### INDIVIDUAL WEIGHT TRAINING CLASSES

By Appointment, La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Boulevard. **FEE: \$25.** Adults, 18 and older. This class teaches the basics of weight training. Learn how to set up and advance; use proper technique and form; and get the most out of your weight-training program using both machine and free weights. This individual training class meets for two 1-hour sessions. Body Fat Testing is included. For more information or appointments, contact Rich Carstensen, 402-331-3455.

### LA VISTA (INDOOR) WALKING CLUB

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Boulevard. The Walking Club is for any La Vista residents and seniors in the surrounding areas. This time is 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

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

### INDOOR REMOTE CONTROL MODEL AIRPLANE FLYING

Mondays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., La Vista Community Center, 8116 Park View Boulevard. Watch at no cost or bring your indoor plane and pay a small drop-in fee. These lightweight planes will amaze you, as will the individuals who designed and fly them. A good time is had by all during this weekly event!

### ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES

Games tentatively start on April 9. Registration deadline is March 10 or until filled. Coed leagues will be held on Friday and Sunday evenings; men's league will be held on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday evenings; double-header League will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. **FEE:** coed and men's leagues \$200; double-header league \$400. Umpire fee: \$20 paid directly to the umpires, cash only.

### YOUTH SPRING FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Season begins in late March, depending on the weather. Open to children in grades kindergarten-6th as of spring 2012. Early-bird registration by February 18. **FEE:** residents, \$30; non-residents, \$50. Fee after February 18: residents, \$40; non-residents, \$60. Registration deadline: March 3.

### COED 3 YEAR OLD SOCCER CLINIC

Five, one hour sessions on Saturdays beginning in April. Open to children age 3 as of April 1. Early-bird registration by March 10. **FEE:** residents, \$15; non-residents, \$20. After March 10: residents, \$25; non-residents, \$30. Registration deadline is March 24. This is a parent participation clinic designed to teach the basic fundamentals of soccer while having fun.

### LA VISTA 4/5 YOUTH SOCCER ACADEMY

Season begins in early April. Open to children ages 4 and 5 as of April 1. Early-bird registration by February 18. **FEE:** residents, \$30; non-residents, \$50. After February 18: Residents, \$40; non-residents, \$60. Registration deadline is March 3. The La Vista Recreation Department and Phoenix Futbol Club have partnered together to create this academy, which will deliver a fun soccer environment for boys and girls living in or around the La Vista area. The program is designed to introduce the young soccer player and family to the wonderful game of soccer. The academy soccer curriculum is designed to encourage player development while maximizing fun and learning. The academy will meet twice per week for six weeks, each time focusing on a different soccer skill to help develop each individual player with individual attention and maximum touches on the ball.

## LA VISTA 6/7 YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Season begins in early April. Open to children ages 6 and 7 as of April 1. Early-bird registration by February 18. **FEE:** residents, \$30; non-residents, \$50. After February 18: residents, \$40; non-residents, \$60. Registration deadline is March 3. The youth soccer league will attend the academy training on Tuesdays, but on Saturdays, participating teams will have league games. This will enable them to utilize the skills they are learning in Academy in a more competitive atmosphere. Coaches for these teams will work with Phoenix Futbol Club trainers to help run academy sessions, and will coach at all games. Individual development is the focus at this age, but learning to play as a team is important as well!

## LA VISTA LANCER SOCCER CLUB

Sarpy County League for boys and girls ages under 8-under 12 as of March 31. Early-bird registration by January 28. **FEE:** \$50, after January 28: \$60. Registration deadline is February 11.

ENSA Soccer League for boys and girls ages under 13-under 15. Early-bird registration by January 14. **FEE:** \$50, after January 14: \$60. Registration deadline is January 28.

Registration fee does not include a uniform. All competitive team uniforms must be ordered through the La Vista Recreation Department (using the form attached to the registration). Uniforms can be used for multiple seasons.

## BRONCO BASEBALL

Season begins in late March. Open to children ages 11 and 12 as of April 30. Early-bird registration by March 3. **FEE:** residents, \$60; non-residents, \$90. After March 3: residents, \$70; non-residents, \$100. Registration deadline is March 17. Uniform deposit, \$20 (separate check, returnable at the end of the season when uniform is returned to the Recreation Department).

## MUSTANG BASEBALL

Season begins in late March. Open to children ages 9 and 10 as of April 30. Early-bird registration by March 3. **FEE:** residents, \$60; non-residents, \$90. After March 3: La Vista residents, \$70; non-residents, \$100. Registration deadline is March 17. Uniform deposit, \$20 (separate check, returnable at the end of the season when uniform is returned to the Recreation Department).

## PONY SOFTBALL

Season begins in April. Open to children in grades 7 and 8 as of spring 2012. Early-bird registration by March 3. **FEE:** residents, \$75; non-residents, \$95. Fee after March 3: residents,

\$85; non-residents, \$105. Registration deadline: March 17. Softball pants deposit: \$20 (separate check, returnable at the end of the season when pants are returned to the Recreation Department). Tryouts will be held if necessary, and players must be registered by deadline to attend tryout and be placed on a team.

## BRONCO SOFTBALL

Season begins in April. Open to children in grades 5 and 6 as of spring 2012. Early-bird registration by March 3. **FEE:** residents, \$60; non-residents, \$90. Fee after March 3: residents, \$70; non-residents, \$100. Registration deadline: March 17. Softball pants deposit: \$20 (separate check, returnable at the end of the season when pants are returned to the Recreation Department). Tryouts will be held if necessary, and players must be registered by deadline to attend tryout and be placed on a team.

## MUSTANG SOFTBALL

Season begins in April. Open to children in grades 3 and 4 as of spring 2012. Early-bird registration by March 3. **FEE:** residents, \$50; non-residents, \$70. Fee after March 3: residents, \$60; non-residents, \$80. Registration deadline: March 17.

## PINTO SOFTBALL

Season begins in April. Open to children in grades 1 and 2 as of spring 2012. Early-bird registration by March 3. **FEE:** residents, \$40; non-residents, \$55. Fee after March 3: residents, \$50; non-residents, \$65. Registration deadline: March 17.

## PINTO BASEBALL

Season begins in May. Open to children ages 7 and 8 as of April 1. Early-bird registration by April 7. **FEE:** residents, \$40; non-residents, \$55. Fee after April 7: residents, \$50; non-residents, \$65. Registration deadline: April 21.

## COED T-BALL

Season begins in May. Open to children ages 5 and 6 as of April 1. Early-bird registration by April 7. Fee: residents, \$40; non-residents, \$55. After April 7: residents, \$50; non-residents, \$65. Registration deadline: April 21.

## 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. and does not run 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., 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.

## LA VISTA SENIOR CENTER

The La Vista Senior Center, located in the Community Center, 8116 Park View Blvd., offers friendship, food, fitness, field trips and many more fun activities. Please join us for lunch, exercise, games and/or special events. The Senior Center has plenty of parking and easy access. Visit the City's web site, [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 Senior Director Rich Carstensen at 402-331-3455.





### LA VISTA FALLS GOLF COURSE

Nestled in a valley below 84th Street in the heart of the City, La Vista Falls features finely mowed fairways, lush greens and elevated tee boxes amidst trees, small lakes and streams.

Affordability and flexibility are what make La Vista Falls perfect for nearly every type of group outing. The course's wide-open format ensures you won't feel crowded, even with the biggest group. Refresh the group with a wide variety of concessions and equipment available from the clubhouse. After your outing, relax on the patio and enjoy the view.

La Vista Falls Golf Course is open year round, weather and course permitting. Call the clubhouse, 402-339-9147, for updates, hours and fees. We are currently accepting applications for 2012 golf leagues and outings.

Did you know now you can request a tee time online! Visit the City's Web site, [www.cityoflavista.org/teetime](http://www.cityoflavista.org/teetime), to request a specific time and even specify how many will be coming with you. When your request is received at the clubhouse, we will send you an e-mail with confirmation of your tee time and then you're set to go!

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

**Men's League** - Tuesday night: Two-man teams, sign up individuals or twosomes. Flag prizes and end of league party. Tentative start date is April 24, 2012 and run for 17 weeks. **FEE:** \$195

**Senior Men's League** - Friday morning: Call for more information.

**Women's League** - Tuesday morning: Call for more information. Wednesday night: Sign up as individuals, twosomes, threesomes or foursomes. Flag prizes and end-of-league party. Tentative start date is April 25, 2012 and runs for 17 weeks. **FEE:** \$195

**Couples** (NEW for 2012) - Monday night and/or Friday night: Call for more information. Flag prizes and end of league party. Tentative start date is April 27 and runs for 17 weeks. **FEE:** \$195 per person.

**Juniors** - Wednesday 11 am-noon tee times. Individuals or groups for this recreational league. Sign up on a weekly basis with no long-terms commitment. Must have playing ability and knowledge of golf course etiquette. **FEE:** \$12 per day which includes green fees, hot dog and pop.

#### **Greens Fees (March 2012 through September 30)**

Adult (weekdays) \$10 (weekends) \$12

Jr/Sr (weekdays) \$8 (weekends) \$10

For further information on green fees, cart fees, punch cards, season passes, etc., visit our Web site at [www.cityoflavista.org/golf](http://www.cityoflavista.org/golf) or call 402-339-9147.

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

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

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

Sat. (Sept. 1 - April 30): ..... 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun. (Sept. 1 - April 30): ..... 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.\*

Mon. - Fri. (School Year): ..... 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Adults Only

Mon. - Fri. (School Year): ..... 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.\*

Adults & Youth

Mon. - Fri. (Scheduled Days Off School):

1:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.\* Adults & Youth

\* Beginning October 1, 2011, the La Vista Community Center will be closing at 9 p.m. Sunday through Friday.

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

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