

LA VISTA citywise

La Vista Days Wrap Up

The annual La Vista Days celebration, held May 31 through June 4, was once again deemed a great success by the La Vista Area Chamber of Commerce. This event is one the Chamber's largest fund raising efforts each year and a great deal of volunteer time goes into making it successful. The City of La Vista and the Chamber of Commerce work hand in hand to provide a fun, family-oriented celebration for citizens.

La Vista Days has seen some changes over the years and this year was no exception. For many years the parade route began west of 84th Street and followed Park View Blvd. east to Edgewood, ending at La Vista Junior High School. Closing 84th Street, a major north-south arterial through the City, for a significant period of time has always been a concern for the Police and Fire Departments. To address that growing concern, the Chamber and the City jointly worked out an alternative parade route, keeping the entire event between 72nd Street and 84th Street, eliminating the need to close down any of the City's four-lane roadways. The parade began at 73rd & Park View Blvd. and ran west on Park View to 83rd Street. The grandstand was located in Champion Park at 75th and Park View Blvd. The new parade route is somewhat shorter than the previous one, but the enthusiasm of those watching was as high as ever and the safety of all citizens during the time of the parade was enhanced.



La Vista's new black & white Dodge Charger police cruiser leading the parade.

As in the past, the carnival, beer garden and other vendors were located in Central Park. Bigger and better carnival rides continue to be added as space permits. The beer garden was relocated this year from the picnic shelter area to a large tent near the tennis courts. This provided for a more open, well lit environment, again providing public safety officials with better access and ease of monitoring. The large tent was also used as the site of other La Vista Days events such as the Runza eating contest, family fair and craft fair.

The celebration always ends on Sunday evening with the Community Cookout, Celebrity Softball Game, and fantastic fireworks at the Sports Complex. This is a great family fun night where in exchange for a donation to the Food Bank, you can have dinner, be entertained by local talent, watch City and Chamber "celebrities" play a game of softball against University of Nebraska athletes, local newscasters, and others, and enjoy a great fireworks display.

The Chamber is always looking for volunteers and suggestions to make La Vista Days a bigger and better event. Citizens can contact the La Vista Area Chamber of Commerce at 339-2078, or by email at tina@lavistachamber.org.



Having fun with the La Vista library's parade entry.

A MINUTE WITH mayor kindig



As you are reading this issue of CityWise you are likely gearing up for fall, football season, and back to school.

Because of the lead time it takes to develop, publish, and distribute the newsletter, we begin working on it a couple of months in advance. Our thoughts as we prepare this edition are of another successful La Vista Days celebration, summer recreation, and road construction. We also utilize the summer months for our annual budget preparation.

An issue that will greatly affect our upcoming budget and has been of significant concern to us over the past couple of years is the impending loss of WalMart, anticipated to occur in October. Not only are we concerned about replacing the sales tax revenue WalMart generates, we also understand the implications of losing a prominent retail anchor on 84th Street. While we don't know what the future holds for this soon to be vacated facility, I want to assure business owners and residents that we are keenly aware of the potential impact this loss could have. We are doing everything within our means to strategically prepare for the impact of WalMart's closing.

The 84th Street corridor has been known as "La Vista's Golden Mile" for many years. Even as exciting new growth occurs in the western part of La Vista, the City Council and I remain dedicated to preserving the integrity of the 84th Street corridor and ensuring its strength and viability for years to come.

Douglas Kindig
Mayor

Halloween Safe Night

The City of La Vista Recreation Department and the La Vista Volunteer Fire Department are sponsoring Halloween Safe Night on Tuesday, October 31, 2006. This annual event takes place in the Community Center and provides a safe and secure environment where youngsters can trick-or-treat, enjoy hot dogs and soda, and have lots of "scary" fun. Children under the age of 12 are invited to participate (accompanied by a parent) and the fun begins at 6 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for local businesses and community organizations to set up a booth and provide treats for the ghosts and goblins. A big thank you to all of those who have participated in the past! If you would like to be a part of this event or have questions, please contact Rich or Sue at the Recreation Department, 331-3455.



La Vista City Calendar

August 2006

- 1 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 15 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 16 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber

September 2006

- 4 Most City offices will be closed for Labor Day Holiday
- 5 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 11 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 7:00 p.m. in the Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 14 Library Advisory Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. in Library Conference Room 142
- 19 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 20 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber

October 2006

- 3 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 9 Most City offices will be closed for Columbus Day Holiday
- 17 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 18 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Harold "Andy" Anderson Council Chamber
- 29 Daylight Savings Time Ends - Move your clocks back one hour
- 31 Halloween Safe Night

Visit Us at Our New Website!

The City of La Vista has unveiled a newly designed, user friendly website. On June 30, 2006 the new site went "live" and includes many features that were not available on the previous site. We are excited about being able to provide this new opportunity to our citizens.

The Mayor and City Council had identified updating the website as a priority during their strategic planning session earlier this year. While trying to determine the most efficient and effective way to accomplish this goal, City staff discovered that the CivicPlus organization was sponsoring an Extreme Website Makeover contest. An application was submitted and La Vista was ultimately named a winner in its population category. The prize was a makeover of the City's website and the hosting of that website for one year by CivicPlus, an approximate \$20,000 value.

CivicPlus representatives and City staff worked together to create the foundation of the new La Vista website. Staff members were then trained by CivicPlus to update and maintain the site. While it is relatively new and many sections are still being updated and fine-tuned, the site contains a wealth of information about the City of La Vista and offers capabilities not available on the previous site.

We encourage you to visit us at www.ci.la-vista.ne.us to access news and information about the City, a calendar with upcoming



events, answers to frequently asked questions, employment opportunities, bid information, and the current CityWise newsletter. You can also find information about the Mayor and City Council, City Departments, meeting notices, City Council agendas and minutes, and a number of various permit applications and forms.

Let us know what you think! Suggestions and feedback should be directed to clupomech@ci.la-vista.ne.us.

policewatch

Saying Goodbye to an Old Friend

On July 5, 2006, the La Vista Police Department's first K-9 was officially retired during a ceremony held in the Harold "Andy" Anderson City Council Chamber. The ceremony gave the City and the Police Department an opportunity to publicly recognize and "thank" Cosmo for his service to the citizens of La Vista, as well as citizens throughout the metro area.

Cosmo, a 10-1/2 year old German Shepard, began his career with the LVPD in 1998. Over his nearly eight years of service, Cosmo, along with his handler, Officer John Danderand, participated in over 1,400 K-9 uses and public demonstrations; seized nearly \$20,000 in cash; located enough drug paraphernalia to fill a large trashcan; and, seized over 142 pounds of marijuana, 36 pounds of methamphetamine, and 10 grams of heroin and cocaine. In addition, Cosmo has assisted in 462 arrests, 406 of which were drug related. Cosmo will enjoy his retirement in the care of Officer Danderand. His working days behind him, Danderand anticipates that Cosmo will be quite at home eating, napping and playing with his chew toys.

A newly trained K-9 named Leda, an 18 month old Belgian Malinois, and her handler, Officer John York, have been assigned to fill Cosmo's shoes (paws).



Cosmo, La Vista's first K-9 was officially retired on July 5, 2006 after 8 years of service.



Leda, an 18 month old Belgian Malinois, is the newest member of the La Vista Police Department.

Community Development Project Updates

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church - Construction is underway on a 49,000 s.f. religious facility that will include sanctuary space (seating for 750), classrooms, a social hall, meeting rooms, administrative offices, an outdoor basketball court for church members, and a licensed daycare facility. Location: 96th & Melissa Streets

Cabela's - Construction is underway on a 130,000 s.f. destination superstore in the Southport West development, scheduled to open in the fall of 2006. Inside, the outdoors come alive with hundreds of museum-quality animal displays, giant freshwater aquariums stocked with native fish and a huge selection of hunting, fishing, camping, and outdoor gear. Location: 12703 Westport Parkway

Castelar Plaza - Construction of a 28,000 s.f. industrial flex building is in progress. Location: 13229 Portal Drive

Char-Deb Properties - This 36,800 s.f. industrial flex building is under construction. Emser Tile & Natural Stone is finishing 12,000 s.f. for their office and showroom. Location: 11941 Centennial Rd.

District 2 Fire Station - Construction has started on the City's 22,450 s.f. facility. The station is scheduled to be open and operational by February of 2007. Location: 7703 S. 108th St.

Hampton Inn & Suites - A building permit application has been submitted for a 4-story building with 116 rooms. The hotel will provide a complimentary breakfast, and will also have an enhanced indoor pool and whirlpool. Construction is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2007. Location: 126th Street & Southport Parkway

Midwest Tile - Construction of a 14,400 s.f. showroom and warehouse is in progress. Location: 13259 Centennial Road

Oriental Trading Company - Construction is underway on a 137,000 s.f. warehouse and office addition to their new facility. Location: 11201 Giles Rd.

PayPal - Construction is underway on a new 2-story, 130,000 s.f. building. PayPal, an eBay company, is a global leader in online payment solutions with more than 100 million accounts. Location: 7700 Eastport Pkwy.

Peel's Salon Services - This \$4.4 million building will be the new corporate office for Peel's, a wholesale distributor of salon supplies. The 96,000 s.f. building is under construction. Location: 11720 Peel Cir.

Productivity Inc. - A building permit application has been submitted for a 38,000 sq. ft. warehouse and office facility for this machine tool distribution company. Location: 8402 S. 117th St.

Southport Professional Building - This upscale 2-story, 24,000 s.f. office building is under construction. An application for a tenant finish has been submitted for 15,000 sq. ft. for The Real Estate Brokerage Company. Location: 12110 Port Grace Blvd.

Val Verde Commercial Buildings - The construction of two 7,765 s.f. commercial buildings is underway. An application for a tenant finish has been submitted for a Children's Hospital pediatric clinic. Location: 9821 Giles Rd.

LA VISTA

fire & rescue department

Open House

On Sunday, October 15th, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., the La Vista Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department will again open its doors to the public during the annual "L.V.F.D. Open House". This event is held at the conclusion of Fire Prevention Week. Come see fire engines, rescue squads, the Lifenet helicopter, an antique fire engine, tools-of-the-trade, and more. Learn how to escape a house fire in the Fire Safety Trailer. Let the kids 'burn' some energy in the inflatable Moon Jump! Please join us at the La Vista Fire Station (8110 Parkview Boulevard) for a fun and educational day. Discover how the members of La Vista Fire & Rescue serve our City with pride!



La Vista's second fire station should be ready for service by the spring of 2007.

The La Vista Volunteer

Fire & Rescue Department Wants You!

Join the L.V.F.D. and make a difference in our community. Nothing is more rewarding than helping sick or injured people or protecting their property from fire damage.

Our extensive training will move you ahead of the rest. Also, our department will pay for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class, Fire/Medical conferences, and regional training.

When the work is done, we know that having fun is just as important as serving the public. It will change your life forever - for the better! **Help your Neighbors, Become a Volunteer.**

Next application deadline is November 10, 2006. Please contact Karen Fagin: Phone: 331-4343 x186. Email: kfagin@ci.la-vista.ne.us Web: www.ci.la-vista.ne.us. (Click on City Services, then Fire).

Annual Fall Leaf Collection Day

The City of La Vista will again be offering a free dumpsite for leaves and yard waste. Residents can bring their leaves, grass clippings, and tree branches to the Public Works Department on Saturday, October 28, 2006 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Tree branches can be any length but no larger than 6-inches in diameter. Leaf and yard waste material must be removed from plastic bags. A dumpster will be available for disposal of discarded plastic bags. **Citizens must have proof of residency**, either a valid drivers license or a copy of a utility bill. Residency will be strictly enforced! The Public Works Facility is located at 9900 Cornhusker Road. For more information call 331-8927.



A Message from the Sewer Division

Grease blockages in sewer pipes are common causes of sewage overflows and backups, both in residential plumbing and the city's sewer mains. In addition, grease seriously hinders the operation of sewage pumping stations, metering stations and treatment plants. The City of La Vista Public Works Department is seeking your help in reducing the fat and grease being dumped down the drain.



Grease is a byproduct of cooking and comes from meat fats, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, sauces and dairy products. You can easily help yourself, your neighbor, the City, and the environment by observing the following recommendations:

- Pour grease into cans or other receptacles and dispose of these in the trash.
- Never pour grease or oil down sinks or toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps into the trash.
- Use basket strainers in sinks to catch food scraps. Empty strainers into the trash.
- Using de-greasing products may simply pass the grease down the line, where it reconstitutes and causes problems elsewhere.
- Remember that home garbage disposals DO NOT protect your plumbing system from grease.

With your help and cooperation we can all contribute to a safer, cleaner environment. Please contact the La Vista Public Works Department at 331-8927 with any questions you may have about this information.



SERVICE AWARDS

Congratulations to the following Public Works Employees who recently received service awards from the Mayor and City Council; **Steve Brand 20 years, Dennis Iverson 10 years, Don Pluta 5 years, and Jeff Thornburg 5 years.**



La Vista Public Works Snow Plow Roadeo winners: Dennis Iverson 1st place in the backhoe operation; Ron Keller 2nd place in the backhoe operation; and John Yost 2nd place in the skid loader operation.

ROADEO WINNERS

The Nebraska Chapter of the American Public Works Association sponsored the annual Snow Plow Roadeo, in Kearney, Nebraska, May 3 & 4, 2006. The City of La Vista had eight employees compete in various events. The Roadeo is designed to challenge employees' skills in operating snow removal equipment including a snow plow truck, front end loader, motor-grader, skid loader and backhoe. In addition to operating the equipment, contestants are required to complete a written exam on road rules and regulations, equipment operation, safety and general operating practices. Contestants must perform a walk-around inspection on the equipment used in the competition and are graded on their ability to spot pre-selected defects on the equipment.

Genealogy Group

Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. This is a great time to get acquainted with library staff, materials, and internet resources available to assist with your family research. Also feel free to stop in any evening or Saturday for genealogy assistance. Our staff is here to help you.

Fall Craft and Activities

Fall craft/activities are after school fun for school aged children in first through sixth grade. Sign up required. Check out upcoming activities!

Technology Classes

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 or contact Jean for more information. Registration is required.

New at the Library

A database called Fiction Connection has been made available by the Nebraska Library Commission's NebraskAccess. Use this database when you want to discover titles similar to books you already enjoy. You can search by a specific title or author or search by topic, genre, setting, character, location or timeframe. You can access this on your home computer as well - just come

to the library to get the password. Use this database in addition to NovelList for all your reading needs.

Did you know

- The library receives new books each month? New titles are ordered at the beginning of every month.
- If a book, movie or music CD is already checked out, you can place a "hold" on that item? A "hold" will place your name on the list to reserve the item and when the item is returned, it is reserved for you. You will be called and notified when the item is ready. You will have 3 days to pick up your item. "Holds" can be placed at the circulation desk.
- The library web page is located at www.ci.la-vista.ne.us/library. Click on "Card Catalog" to search the library's collection for Halloween BOOKs. Witch one will your Mummy read to you?! Just type in Halloween and hit enter. Try "ghost" to see how haunted the collection is!
- You can type in CHIRS and click on Subject to see specific CHIRS (Consumer

Health Information Resource Service) recommended titles found in the library's collection?

Return of the Bus!

In a partnership with Metropolitan Community College, the library previously hosted a bus-museum with the display Behind Barbed Wire: Midwest POWs in Nazi Germany. Due to a generous donor, the bus is up and running again and returning to Nebraska this fall. The new exhibit is entitled: Vanished: German-American Internment, 1941-48. It explores a virtually unknown yet significant historical event — possibly one of the least known WWII sub-chapters. Communities across the state will have an opportunity (in most cases for the first time) to discuss the legacy as well as implications of the U.S. Government's WWII "enemy alien" internment program. The bus that carries this incredible display, called the BUS-eum, will be at the library in October or November. Visit the website for more information at www.Traces.org. Watch the library for more details as this time approaches.



Youngsters enjoy a visit from Steve Kosiski, local race car enthusiast, at the La Vista library.

children

Infant Program Going Strong!

Due to its popularity, the library is still offering Lapsit Story Times for children who will be between 6 and 18 months in September. Sessions start on Thursdays, September 15th at 10:10a.m. We have a variety of activities which will help the youngest children become acquainted with books and other children their age. You will receive a handout each week listing the stories and songs. If you have questions or would like more information, please call Marjie at the library.

Preschool & Toddler Story Times

New Fall Story Time classes will be starting in September and ending November 18th.

The Preschool session starts Tuesday, September 6th. Preschool classes will be held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. Preschool Story Time is geared for children who will be between 3 - 5 years in September.

The Toddler sessions start Monday, September 12th. Toddler classes will be

held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:10 a.m. Toddler Story Time is for children who will be 18 months - 3 years in September, along with Mom or Dad or a grandparent or care givers. These fun, hands-on programs introduce young children to the library and the joy of reading. Call the library to register your children.



Lt. Governor Sheehy (far right) presents Nebraska Safety Belt Honor Roll Certificate to City of La Vista employees Bob Lausten and Jeff Siebels. Also pictured is Kylee Shannon (left) from the National Safety Council.

SAFETY AWARD

The City of La Vista was recognized by Lt. Governor Sheehy as a recipient of the "Nebraska Safety Belt Honor Roll" Award as the City's employees have achieved a compliance rate of over 80% for the use of seat belts in their personal vehicles. The award, sponsored by the National Safety Council, was presented by Sheehy during a ceremony at the State Capital.

SALES TAX

The local option sales tax constitutes a large portion of the City's annual revenue. All businesses located within the La Vista city limits should be collecting a total of 7% sales tax - 5 1/2% State Sales Tax and 1-1/2% City Sales Tax.

When reporting your sales tax collections to the state, please make sure that you identify your business as being located in La Vista. The sales tax revenue being paid by patrons of your business reduces what the City needs in other forms of revenue such as property taxes. Thank you for your help.

SMOKE DETECTOR INSTALLATION PROGRAM

Did you know that smoke detectors increase your chance of surviving a house fire by 50%? Unfortunately, 1/3 of American homes have smoke detectors that do not work properly. The La Vista Fire & Rescue Department is now accepting requests to install new smoke detectors or inspect existing detectors. This is a free service available to all La Vista homeowners. The new smoke detectors are offered at no cost to residents thanks to a grant received from the La Vista Community Foundation. Please call the La Vista Fire Department at 331-4748 or email lvfdpio@ci.la-vista.ne.us to schedule an installation/inspection. Our goal is for every La Vista homeowner to be protected by this simple and affordable lifesaver!

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

With the upcoming general election in November, we are reminded of our right as American citizens to choose our local, state and national government representatives. The only way to participate in this process is to register to vote.

You can register to vote by completing a Nebraska Voter Registration Application, which is available at La Vista City Hall, the Sarpy County Election Office, and Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicle locations. You must be a citizen of the United States and at least 18 years of age (or will be 18 on or before the 1st Tuesday following the 1st Monday in November). You cannot register to vote if you have been found to be mentally incompetent, convicted of treason unless restored to civil rights, or convicted of a felony until two years after the sentence for said felony conviction is completed, including any parole term.

The completed application must be returned to the Sarpy County Election office and you will receive notice from the Election Office telling you where you should go to vote. A new application should be completed anytime that information such as name, home address or political party changes.

This year's general election will be held on November 7, 2006 and you can register by mail until October 20, 2006 and in person until October 27, 2006.

Council Clips

The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:

- Appointed three new police officers.
- Passed an ordinance regarding residency requirements for sexual predators.
- Appointed a Swimming Pool Advisory Committee.
- Approved the final plat and subdivision agreement for the new Portal Ridge housing development.
- Approved an interlocal agreement with Sarpy County to provide IT services to the City.
- Approved the updated Sarpy County Local Emergency Operations Plan.
- Discussed a proposed Capital Improvement Program policy.

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

Pat Archibald, Buildings & Grounds

Rita Ramirez, City Clerk

Ann Birch, Community Development Director

Sheila Lindberg, Finance Director

Rose Schinker, Library Director

Kirk Schuster, Fire Chief

Bob Lausten, Police Chief

Joe Soucie, Public Works Director

Scott Stopak, Recreation Director

Cabela's Takes Shape



The new Cabela's store is well on its way to completion and should be open for business this fall.



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

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

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