

# LA VISTA citywise



## Join us this December for Some Holiday Fun!

There will be plenty of Holiday Wintertainment in La Vista this year! Beginning with the annual Santa's Sleigh Ride and Tree Lighting Celebration on November 30 and December 1 respectively, the month of December will be filled with events and activities at the Library and Community Center.

From sugar cone Christmas trees to pancakes in Santa's village, there is something for everyone. Santa's Sleigh Ride is extremely popular and once again you can find the route posted on our website at [www.cityoflavista.org/santa](http://www.cityoflavista.org/santa) and follow his progress on Twitter (@cityoflavista).

The Tree Lighting Celebration will feature some traditions from the past, along with some new twists, so be sure to visit the Community Center on December 1 beginning at 5:45 p.m. to kick off the holiday season! Watch the tree lighting in front of City Hall and then enjoy a free soup supper and entertainment! Children can visit Santa in the Winter Wonderland. Bring a food donation for the Tri-City Food Pantry.

For more information on our holiday events, visit our website at [www.cityoflavista.org/wintertainment](http://www.cityoflavista.org/wintertainment).

## Share Your Ideas About La Vista's Future



The City will soon begin the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, which will include a series of opportunities for the community to get involved, similar to the Vision 84 workshops pictured here. Watch the City's website, social media and local media outlets for more information.



## Jean Hurst Celebrates 35 Years of Service

Jean Hurst, the City of La Vista's longest serving employee, was recognized recently by Mayor Kindig and the City Council for 35 years of service to the City.

Jean has worked at the library since 1979 when she was a participant in a summer youth program. At the time, the City's library was five years old and was located near to where City Hall is now located.

La Vista was much smaller back then, Hurst said. It was a true community gathering spot.

"It was like any other small town, you knew everyone," she said. "We didn't even use library cards, because we knew everyone's name."

Jean has been a La Vista resident since 1968 and doesn't plan on going anywhere anytime soon.

"I probably work for the most fun department in the City."

## A MINUTE WITH mayorkindig



As your city government, we provide you and your family with a wide range of services. Our employees work every day to make our community the place you want to live, work and play.

We are always striving to provide these services efficiently, making sure you get the best value for your tax dollars, which means always pursuing opportunities for partnerships with other organizations.

These partnerships are a regular part of our day-to-day operations, including long-existing relationships between metro area law enforcement agencies and the new service agreement with the City of Papillion for fire and EMS services.

Another example of a great partnership is the United Cities of Sarpy County. The cities of Gretna, Papillion, Springfield and La Vista have been working together on issues of mutual interest and legislative initiatives. Our collaborative efforts have benefitted the City in many ways.

Most recently we signed a new agreement with Sarpy County Information Systems to host our computer servers, which will present significant savings in the future. That is in addition to an agreement with Sarpy County for I.T. support.

Our partnerships allow us to give you a better product for less money - it's good government and in the end I hope it means La Vista will remain your home, your place of business and your playground for years to come.

– Mayor Douglas Kindig

# La Vista City Calendar

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

## November 2014

- 4 City Council, 6 p.m.
- 10 La Vista/Metro Condominium Owner's Association, 4 p.m., Library
- 11 Lego Club, 3:30 p.m., Library
- 12 Winter Hot Wheels Drag Races, 5:30 p.m., Community Center
- 13 Library Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m., Library
- 18 Preschool Playtime Thanksgiving Craft Day, 10 a.m., Community Center
- 18 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 19 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 20 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 27-28 Most City offices closed for the Thanksgiving holiday
- 30 Santa's Sleigh Ride, starting at 4:30 p.m. Route at [www.cityoflavista.org/santa](http://www.cityoflavista.org/santa)

## December 2014

- 1 Tree Lighting Celebration, 5:45 p.m., Community Center
- 2 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 6 Holiday Open House, 10 a.m., Library
- 6 Sugar Cone Christmas Trees, 11 a.m., Library
- 9 Lego Club, 3:30 p.m., Library
- 11 Preschool Playtime Holiday Craft Day, 10 a.m., Community Center
- 11 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 7 p.m.
- 16 Pancakes and Pajamas, 9 a.m., Community Center
- 16 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 17 St. Nicholas Visit, 10 a.m., Library
- 17 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 18 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 22 School's Out Afternoon Holiday Movie, 2 p.m., Library
- 25 Most City offices closed for the Christmas holiday
- 30 Winter Hot Wheels Drag Races, 5:30 p.m., Community Center

## January 2015

- 1 Most City offices closed for the New Year's Day holiday
- 6 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 8 Library Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m., Library
- 13 Lego Club, 3:30 p.m., Library
- 14 Winter Hot Wheels Drag Races, 5:30 p.m., Community Center
- 19 Most City offices closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
- 20 Preschool Playtime Winter Craft Day, 10 a.m., Community Center
- 20 City Council, 7 p.m.
- 21 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m.
- 22 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

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## National Night Out Celebration

The annual National Night Out event took place in August in Central Park. Hundreds of people turned out for free hot dogs, vehicle displays from the Police, Fire and Public Works departments and the FBI as well as the chance to run through a giant sprinkler. Above, K9 Officer Mike Loyd talks with some kids who attended the event.

## Sewer Fees to Increase Through 2019

La Vista residents can expect their sewer bills to increase by 10 percent per year for at least the next five years.

For the average residential customer in La Vista, that will mean a monthly increase of approximately \$2 per month for 2015 starting in October of this year.

The new sewer use fees were approved by the City Council in August when it accepted the latest Sewer Rate Study conducted by the Public Works Department.

La Vista's sewer fund pays expenses related to the administration, operation and maintenance of the City's sewer system as well as sewage treatment fees to the City of Omaha.

The study identified the need to increase sewer fee for maintenance and repairs, equipment replacement and due to the fact that Omaha is charging more to treat sewage.

The federal government's sewer separation mandate was also a major factor in raising the rates, because as Omaha moves to comply, it is passing on the costs to its customers.

Additionally, the sewer rate study identified the need to provide funding for replacements to La Vista's sewer system, which is nearly 55 years old on the eastern side of the City.

For more information on the Sewer Rate Study, contact the Public Works Department at 402-331-8927.

## Budget Finalized

In September, the City Council finalized a budget for fiscal year 2015 that does not call for a property tax increase.

The budget is fiscally conservative and continues to seek disciplined, sustainable growth with decisions based on the City's strategic plan.

**The strategic plan is on our website, [www.cityoflavista.org/strategicplan](http://www.cityoflavista.org/strategicplan).**

Strategic priorities included in this year's budget continued work on the redevelopment of the 84th Street corridor, the Thompson Creek stabilization project, an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan as well as several technology-related projects.

The budget also includes the additional half-cent sales tax approved by voters in May. This will fund the redevelopment of 84th Street.

"La Vista is in a strong financial position, and that is because we budget conservatively," said Mayor Douglas Kindig. "We will continue to be strategic about our priorities to ensure we are making the best use of our existing resources."

**What do you think about  
our Recreation programs?**

**How can we improve?**

**Tell us what you think**

**by taking our**

**Recreation survey!**

**[www.cityoflavista.org/  
recreationsurvey](http://www.cityoflavista.org/recreationsurvey)**

## Summer Fun

There was plenty of fun this summer in La Vista! Adults and children alike enjoyed concerts, movies, a free day at the pool, summer reading fun and other activities. The City also hosted a hydrant party in Central Park (pictured here). Children, and some parents, ran through the water and enjoyed playing with water guns.





### Christmas Tree Recycling

The City of La Vista is once again offering free drop-off sites for Christmas trees at the following locations:

- La Vista Soccer Complex parking lot (two blocks south of Harrison Street on 66th Street).
- Kelly Park West parking lot (87th Street and Park View Blvd.).

Drop off sites will be open from 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.

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

### Snow Emergency

Whenever two or more inches of snow, ice and/or sleet has fallen on the streets of La Vista, or when a snow emergency has been declared with notice to the news media, cars cannot be parked on any public street in the City for 24 hours or until the street has been plowed by the City. Any vehicle that is not moved will be towed at the owner's expense.

### Clearing Sidewalks and Snow Placement

Sidewalks in all residential areas of the City of La Vista are required to be cleaned of any snow, sleet or ice within 24 hours after the end of a storm. Sidewalks in a business district must be cleaned within five hours after the end of the storm unless the snow fall took place during the night, in which

case the sidewalk shall be cleaned before 8:30 a.m. the following day.

As a reminder, it is a violation of city code to shovel or blow snow from sidewalks and driveways into the street. There is an increased cost to taxpayers when snowplows must be re-dispatched to clean a street again. It is recommended that snow removed from sidewalks and driveways be placed in the yard behind the sidewalk (house side). This leaves more room for placement of snow from the street on curb side.

## Street Planter Installed to Filter Storm Water Runoff



*This street planter was recently installed at 73rd Avenue and Park View Boulevard to help filter storm water runoff before it gets to the Thompson Creek.*

If you've visited the eastern end of Park View Boulevard, you may have noticed a new rectangular concrete box at the southwest corner of 73rd Avenue.

The box is a street planter, which was installed as a way of filtering storm water runoff going into the Thompson Creek.

Street planters are designed to treat the first wave of runoff coming from the street at the beginning of a rainstorm, which

often contains pollutants left on the street by passing vehicles as well as excess fertilizer and debris.

The bottom of the planter has a small perforated pipe connected to the storm sewer system to drain the filtered water.

The street planter was funded in part by an Environmental Protection Agency grant distributed through the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

# firedepartment

## Wintertime Fire Safety

As La Vista residents begin preparing for winter weather, be sure your home is ready for the cold season ahead!

One of the most common safety concerns during this time of year has to do with fire hazards. Space heaters account for one-third of fires related to home heating. Do not allow flammable materials to be anywhere near a space heater and have your fireplace chimney cleaned periodically.

Another common safety hazard during the winter months has to do with an excess of carbon monoxide, which is produced primarily by water heaters and furnaces. If the carbon monoxide escapes into the home, people will begin to experience headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and/or dizziness. Have your water heater and furnace ventilation systems checked yearly and install a CO detector.

The other common safety hazard has to do with holiday decorations. One out of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems, and a heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every six of Christmas tree fires. Be careful not to string too many Christmas tree lights together and make certain you don't overload a circuit or an outlet with too many strings of lights.

If you have specific safety questions, contact the Fire Department, 402-339-8617.



## Family Video/Marco's Pizza Now Open at 84th and Giles Community Development Department Project Update

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

Pictured is the former Blockbuster building at 84th Street and Giles Road, which is being renovated for a 6,300 square foot Family Video store and Marco's Pizza parlor.



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



## December Fun at Your Library

The library will be offering the following activities in December:

- Sugar Cone Christmas Trees - Saturday, December 6, 11-11:45 a.m. - Families are invited to make a sugar cone Christmas tree at the library. Registration is required and an adult must attend to help their child make the Christmas tree.
- Holiday Open House - Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.-noon - Festive music and holiday goodies. Come and enjoy!
- Ho, Ho, Ho!! St. Nicholas is coming to the library - Wednesday, December 17, 10 a.m. - Visit with him and listen to him read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.
- School's Out Afternoon Holiday Movie - Monday, December 22, 2 p.m. - School's out for the holidays beginning Monday, December 22, so join us to celebrate Frozen-style! The Library and Recreation Department are teaming up to bring your family the movie "Frozen". Chairs will be available or bring a blanket to spread out on the floor and enjoy the classic holiday movie with your family and friends. Free popcorn provided.

### Teen Activities

Teen programs are held every Tuesday and Thursday. Calendars are available at the library and on the library's website. If you have any questions contact Lindsey Tomsu, 402-537-3900.

### Lego Club

Come build your Lego masterpieces one brick at a time with the La Vista Public Library's Lego Club. Lego Club will meet November 11, December 9 and January 13 at 3:30 p.m. and is open to all ages. Each month will have a different theme, and the library will provide the Legos. Bring your cameras because weekly creations will not be kept. Registration is not required.

### Homeschool Programs

The La Vista Public Library offers several programs designed for homeschool families. Registration is required for these programs. To see a complete listing of our homeschool programs visit our website at [www.cityoflavista.org/library](http://www.cityoflavista.org/library). If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer, 402-537-3900 or [jgoss@cityoflavista.org](mailto:jgoss@cityoflavista.org).

### Your One-Stop Electronic-Shop!

Using a whole host of electronic tools, you can access ebooks, emagazines, and downloadable and streaming music!

Try using OverDrive to download books to read on your home computer, smartphones, or e-readers. You can also download audio books to your computer or mp3 player or iPods. Available 24/7 at <http://nebraska.lib.overdrive.com/>

## Blood Drive

Please donate blood at the library (Room 138) the first Thursday of every month. Blood donations have a very short shelf life and only last six weeks for red cells. It's always the season to give!



# La Vista's Annual Coat Drive

Each year the City collects hundreds of coats to be donated and distributed to those in need. Since 2005, this annual effort has grown into a community-wide project with support from churches, local clubs and businesses.

Coats collected during this year's drive, Spread the Warmth, will be given to Heartland Family Service to provide warm coats to local families.

Spread the Warmth will run November 1 through the end of December and collection points will be available at all City facilities as well as Beautiful Savior Lutheran and Harrison Street Baptist churches.

Thank you for helping keep our community warm this winter.

For more information, visit our website, [www.cityoflavista.org/spreadthewarmth](http://www.cityoflavista.org/spreadthewarmth).



## Council Clips

The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:

- Approved the budget for Fiscal Year 2015
- Approved selection of consultant for Comprehensive Plan update
- Approved Planned Unit Development application for development in Southport West
- Accepted the Sewer Rate Study
- Approved interlocal agreement with Sarpy County for computer services hosting
- Approved interlocal agreement with Sarpy County and the City of Papillion to provide for the purchase of Compressed Natural Gas-ready vehicles and convert other vehicles in the Public Works Department.

## policedepartment



The La Vista Police Department and CVS Pharmacy have teamed up to help residents dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medications. The La Vista Police Department applied for and was recently awarded one of the collection units.

Residents are now able to dispose of their medications in the lobby of the La Vista police station located at 7701 S. 96th Street. This collection unit is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Items that can be safely disposed of in the collection unit include:

- Prescription patches
- Prescription medications
- Prescription ointments
- Over-the-counter medications
- Vitamins
- Samples
- Medications for pets

For more information, contact the Police Department, 402-331-1582.

**Mayor**

Douglas Kindig

**City Council**

Kim Thomas, Ward 1  
Mike Crawford, Ward 1  
Ron Sheehan, Ward 2  
Terrilyn Quick, Ward 2  
Deb Hale, Ward 3  
Alan Ronan, Ward 3  
Jim Frederick, Ward 4  
Kelly Sell, Ward 4

**City Administrator**

Brenda Gunn

**Management Team**

Kevin Pokorny, Director of Administrative Services  
Rita Ramirez, Assistant City Administrator / Director of Community Services  
Pam Buethe, City Clerk  
Ann Birch, Community Development Director  
Rose Barcal, Library Director  
Bob Lausten, Police Chief / Director of Public Safety  
Joe Soucie, Director of Public Works  
Scott Stopak, Recreation Director



## School Supply Drive for G. Stanley Hall Elementary

The City hosted a school supply drive late this summer for G. Stanley Hall Elementary School. Donations poured in from community members, local churches and City employees – enough to fill a pick-up truck. The supplies were delivered in time for the start of the new school year. Above, Officer Jamie Brown helps unload the supplies.

CityWise is published by the City of La Vista to keep citizens informed about city programs, policies and services. Please send comments and suggestions concerning the publication to the above address. CityWise can also be accessed on La Vista's Web site, [www.cityoflavista.org](http://www.cityoflavista.org).

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# La Vista Community Gardens



The City of La Vista has created the Community Gardens Program, which is designed to give residents the opportunity to enjoy nature, plant flowers, grow fruits and vegetables for food and get exercise from gardening.

## **Garden plots are available in the following parks:**

- **Camenzind Park**, 7120 Wood Lane Dr.
- **Hollis Park**, 7521 Joseph Ave.
- **Jaycee Park**, 7323 Harvest Hills Dr.

**Garden plots are raised beds and measure 4 feet by 12 feet.**

**A few smaller plots, 4 feet by 8 feet,  
are available at some locations.**

**Gardening is permitted when the park is open,  
generally from dawn to dusk.**

For gardener eligibility and other information, please see reverse.



**For more information, contact David Karlson, 402-331-3455, or visit  
[www.cityoflavista.org/communitygardens](http://www.cityoflavista.org/communitygardens)**



# La Vista Community Gardens

## Gardener Eligibility



The following criteria establish eligibility for having a garden plot:

1. You must be a resident of La Vista. If you move from the city, you forfeit your plot at the end of the growing season.
2. You must sign and return the rental contract with a **\$20 payment by February 1.**
3. Only one garden plot per household unless plots are still available by the end of the sign-up period.
4. Food grown in the rental garden plots is for personal consumption only.
5. Your garden plot should be cleaned up by November 15 with all dead plants and plant supports removed.

## Rental Procedures

1. Garden plots are rented on an annual basis from February 1 through January 31.
2. Rental contracts are available online or by calling 402-331-3455. Contracts must be mailed or returned to the Community Center with the \$20 payment by February 1.
3. Gardeners in good standing will be given priority for renewals. At that time a gardener may request a trade to a different plot, if any are available.
4. As a garden plot renter, the gardener and family members agree to abide by the rules and guidelines of the program.



**A complete set of rules and regulations is available on our website or at the Community Center.**

For more information, contact David Karlson, 402-331-3455, or visit  
**[www.cityoflavista.org/communitygardens](http://www.cityoflavista.org/communitygardens)**