



# Press Release

For Immediate Release

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## La Vista's Salute to Summer Festival Kicks Off Summer

La Vista's annual celebration, the Salute to Summer Festival, is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, May 24-27. The festival is both a way to honor our active-duty military and veterans as well as kick off summer for the metro area.

The festival will begin with the **Hometown Heroes Event, on Thursday, May 24**, at 6 p.m. at the Blue Star Memorial in the southeast corner of the City Hall parking lot. This event will include a special speaker from Offutt Air Force Base, musical performances from students from Papillion-La Vista High School and ROTC demonstration from Papillion-La Vista South High School. In the event of inclement weather, this event will be held inside the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

The carnival and vendor booths will open **Thursday, May 24**, at 5 p.m. in Central Park and **Hot Wheels races** will take place at 6 p.m. that evening in the Community Center Gym.

The annual **Community Cookout, car show, concert and fireworks display**, sponsored by the La Vista Community Foundation, ACCESSbank, La Vista Keno and Bellino Fireworks, will be held beginning at 6 p.m., **Friday, May 25**, at the City Hall Complex, 8116 Park View Blvd., and La Vista Keno, 7101 S. 84<sup>th</sup> St. This event will feature:

- Free hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks beginning at 6 p.m., *while supplies last*.
  - Those who attend the Community Cookout are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Tri-City Food Pantry and a lawn chair for watching the concert and fireworks.
- Activities for the whole family including fun games, climbing wall, bounce houses, fun with chalk art, games for the whole family and free books.
- The band "Velvet Crush" will give a free concert from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- The car show will take place in the La Vista Keno parking lot and is open to all makes, models and classes. Advance registration is not required.
- Fireworks display, provided by Bellino Fireworks, over Civic Center Park at dusk.

The Beer Garden will be open on Friday and Saturday night at the Central Park Tennis Courts. DJ K DuB will play music on Friday and “Johnny Knucklehead” and “Charm School Dropouts” will be playing on Saturday.

The parade, sponsored by ACCESSbank, will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday at 87<sup>th</sup> Street and Park View Boulevard, proceed across 84<sup>th</sup> Street on Park View and end at 75<sup>th</sup> Street. The grand marshal of the parade will be Rotella’s Italian Bakery, a longtime business headquartered in La Vista.

The City will also be honoring a Military Family of Year and Friend of La Vista. The Military Family of the Year will be William Bray and his family. William and his wife are longtime La Vista residents and he served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. The Friend of La Vista will be Roger Criser, the longtime pastor at Harrison Street Baptist Church, who is retiring this summer.

The festival will close with the **Family Pool Party** Sunday, 1-4 p.m., at the La Vista Municipal Pool. Come for a free afternoon at the pool and enjoy a live DJ and music!

For more information about the Salute to Summer Festival, visit the Festival’s website, [www.salutetosummer.org](http://www.salutetosummer.org).

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*Note to editors and reporters: You are invited to cover any Salute to Summer Festival events. So that we can answer your questions in a timely manner, please notify Mitch Beaumont via cell phone, 402-980-2863.*