

WINTER 2024

# FA LA LA LA VISTA



**LA VISTA**  
**VIEWPOINTS**  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## QUICK VIEW

- 3** | BIENNIAL BUDGET
- 5-8** | FREE CITY EVENTS + TWAS THE LIGHTS
- 9** | LIBRARY NOOK
- 10** | PUBLIC WORKS ZONE
- 11** | RECREATION: ATHLETICS & COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS/CLASSES
- 15** | SENIOR PROGRAM NEWS
- 17** | POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## SEE US ON SOCIAL



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@LaVistaPolice



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@lavistapolice



@cityoflavista  
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@lavistalibraryyouth



[YouTube.com/CityofLaVista](https://www.youtube.com/CityofLaVista)

## CITY CONTACTS

- City Hall..... 402.331.4343
- Community Development..... 402.593.6400
- Human Resources..... 402.331.4343
- Library..... 402.537.3900
- Police..... 402.331.1582
- Public Works..... 402.331.8927
- Recreation & Community Center... 402.331.3455

## MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR



Thanksgiving is right around the corner and on behalf of the City, I want to wish you a wonderful start to your holiday season.

My hope is that your Thanksgiving is filled with togetherness, time with loved ones and appreciation for the blessings we share in our City. We are a thriving and safe community. Our residents, business owners and dedicated public servants care for one another and are committed to making our City an excellent place to live, work and visit. For that, I'm deeply grateful.

We have plenty of holiday magic coming to La Vista this November and December.

I'm pleased to share that the City has been busy preparing a series of festive 'Twas the Lights events. These will kick off with one of our most popular and longest running holiday traditions, Santa's annual sleigh ride through town on **December 1**. That same day, Santa will assist with the City's Tree Lighting Celebration outside his workshop in Central Park. Be sure to read about these events on page 6 of this newsletter and make plans to join us.

A new outdoor holiday market is one addition to this year's 'Twas the Lights event lineup. The Winter Wonderland Craft and Vendor Market will take place on **December 7**. Details are included on page 5. The Library is also hosting its annual Buy Local Craft and Vendor Fair on **November 9**. See page 9 for more information. As usual, there will also be multiple opportunities to visit Santa at his workshop. Dates and times are on page 7.

This year, I am particularly excited for the unveiling of our brand-new Christmas lights that will be displayed in Central Park and at The Link. I invite you to stop by during the month of December to stroll through the City's Winter Wonderland and take in the lights. The lighted decorations at The Nines Plaza should make for a nice spot to take a holiday family photo.

There will be no shortage of opportunities for families, friends and neighbors to enjoy time together in La Vista this holiday season. I invite you and yours to come celebrate with us.

MAYOR

*Douglas Kindig*

## November 2024

- 5 City Council, 6 p.m.
- 7 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Buy Local, Craft and Vendor Fair, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Library
- 11 La Vista-Metropolitan Community College Condominium Owners Association, 4 p.m., Library
- 14 Library Advisory Board, 6 p.m., Library
- 19 **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 20 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 21 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday
- 29 Offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday

## December 2024

- 1 Santa's Sleigh Ride, 1-5 p.m., Across La Vista
- 1 Tree Lighting Celebration, 4-6:30 p.m., Santa's Workshop/Central Park
- 3 City Council, 6 p.m.
- 5 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Visit Santa at Workshop, 4-7 p.m.
- 7 Winter Wonderland Craft & Vendor Market, 12-4 p.m., City Centre
- 10 Visit Santa at Workshop, 4-7 p.m.
- 11 Travelin' Trivia, 6 p.m., Pint 9 Brewing Company
- 12 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 6 p.m.
- 12 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 13 Visit Santa at Workshop, 4-7 p.m.
- 14 Pet-Friendly Visit Santa at Workshop, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 17 City Council, 6 p.m.
- 18 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 25 Offices closed for Christmas holiday

## January 2025

- 1 Offices closed for New Year's holiday
- 2 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 7 **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 8 Travelin' Trivia, 6 p.m., Heights Draft Room
- 9 Library Advisory Board, 6 p.m., Library
- 15 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 16 Planning Commission, 6 p.m.
- 20 Offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
- 21 **City Council, 6 p.m.**

For more information about the special events listed on this calendar, visit [CityofLaVista.org/2024Events](http://CityofLaVista.org/2024Events).

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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



## One-Night Event!

### Santa's Sleigh Ride & Tree Lighting Celebration

Sunday, December 1

**1-5 p.m.** Sleigh Ride around La Vista neighborhoods

**4 p.m.** Winter Wonderland opens with festivities outside Santa's Workshop

**5:45 p.m.** Santa arrives via sleigh through Central Park

**6 p.m.** Tree Lighting outside Santa's Workshop



## COUNCIL CLIPS

*Highlights of recent City Council action.*

- Approved an agreement for a sound study related to The Astro Amphitheater.
- Awarded a contract for the La Vista Municipal Pool demolition project.
- Authorized purchase of holiday lights and decorations for Central Park.
- Awarded a contract for construction of a surface parking lot in City Centre.
- Approved art mural project for the Applewood Creek Trail Underpass.

# BIENNIAL BUDGET

The FY25-FY26 Biennial Budget demonstrates the City's commitment to providing excellent services and amenities for residents while ensuring the City's financial health.

The total budget of \$58.3M in FY25 and \$49.6M in FY26 aligns with the strategic priorities established by the Mayor and city council and continues with investments in key infrastructure projects. La Vista emphasizes economic development through public infrastructure, tourism, and effective municipal services, catering to a growing population. Challenges from being landlocked necessitate innovative growth strategies.

We understand property tax concerns and are committed to property tax reform and transparent governance. The City faces challenges, just like our residents. It is impacted by the need to control property tax while facing inflation, rising fuel prices, and increased costs.

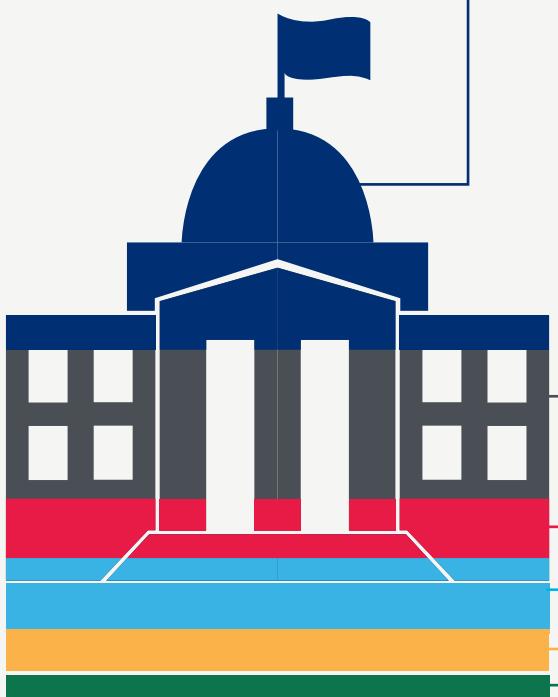
On page 4, the monthly cost of City services is identified for the owner of a home in La Vista valued at \$222,900. Currently, City related property taxes account for approximately 1.7% of an average monthly household budget.

## GENERAL FUND

The General Fund is the City's main operating fund. It pays for the majority of the day-to-day services and programs that keep La Vista running. Property and sales taxes are the largest General Fund revenue sources.

### GENERAL FUND REVENUE SOURCES

Multiple revenue sources sustain La Vista's General Fund.



#### PROPERTY TAX — \$12.6M

For every \$100 of assessed valuation, the City receives \$.54. The **General Fund** receives \$.50. (*An additional \$.04 goes to the Debt Service Fund.*) The majority of your property taxes support local schools.

#### SALES TAX — \$6.1M

For every \$100 in purchases made, residents, businesses and visitors pay \$7.50 in sales tax. The majority of the sales tax, \$5.50, benefits the State, while the City receives approximately \$2. The **General Fund** receives \$1, and, as approved by voters, \$.50 goes to both the Redevelopment Fund for 84th Street infrastructure improvements and the Debt Service Fund for streets and other public infrastructure.

#### OTHER — \$2.8M

Revenue categories less than \$1M are combined in Other. These categories include Occupation & Franchise Taxes, Interest Income, Recreation Fees, Special Services, Grant Income, Parking Garage Fees, Permits & Licensing and Miscellaneous.

#### INTER-GOVERNMENTAL — \$2.5M

The City receives a distribution from the State of Nebraska of Highway Allocation revenue, which includes fuel taxes and other motor vehicle fees from the State.

#### HOTEL TAX — \$1.1M

Hotels pay a monthly occupation tax equal to 5% of gross receipts from room rentals.

#### RESTAURANT TAX — \$700K

Restaurants and drinking places pay a monthly occupation tax equal to 1.5% of gross prepared food and beverage receipts.

For more info, visit  
[CityofLaVista.org/Budget](http://CityofLaVista.org/Budget)

# FY25 BUDGET EXPENDITURES

*Your tax dollars at work*

This is a breakdown of the monthly household cost of the services the City provides.



**\$38.04** Public Safety

Police | Fire | EMS | Animal Control



**\$22.66** Public Works

Streets | Parks | Facility Maintenance  
Sports Complex | Snow Removal



**\$19.91** General Government

Administration | Finance  
Human Resources | I.T.



**\$7.43** Debt Service



**\$4.73** Recreation



**\$4.19** Library



**\$3.35** Community Development

Planning | Zoning | Building Inspections



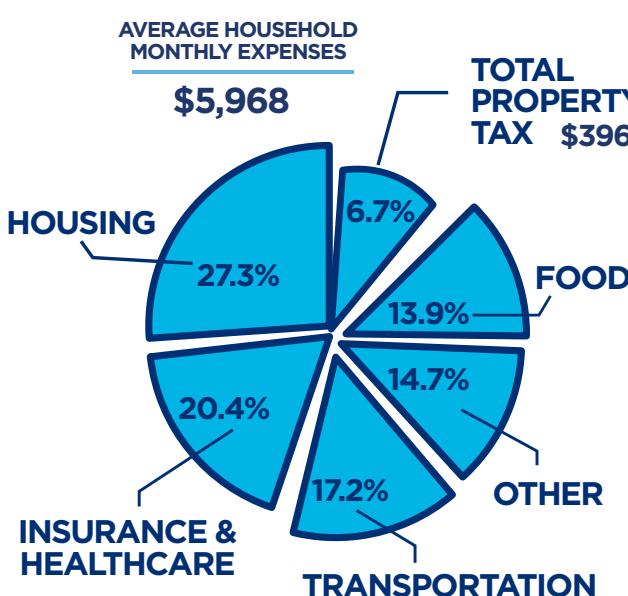
**\$100.31\***

TOTAL

Estimated monthly taxes for city services.

\*Estimated monthly taxes for city services based on a La Vista single-family home valued at \$222,900

## AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD MONTHLY EXPENSES VS. MONTHLY CITY PROPERTY TAXES



**City taxes make up about 1.7% of the average household monthly budget.**



\*Estimated monthly taxes for city services based on a La Vista single-family home valued at \$222,900

Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 2023

# CITY EVENTS



## TRAVELIN' TRIVIA NIGHTS

You asked for it, so we delivered! Get ready for a winter edition of our popular Trivia Night. We will be going out on the road to some of La Vista's favorite spots.

**Wednesday, December 11**

*Pint 9 Brewing Company (10411 Portal Rd.)*

**Wednesday, January 8**

*Heights Draft Room (7861 Main St.)*

**Wednesday, February 12**

*Lucky Bucket Brewing Co. (11941 Centennial Rd.)*

Form a team with your friends and test your wits playing trivia with La Vista City staff on the second Wednesday of the winter months. Top teams will win prizes. A food truck will be on site (except at Heights where you can order delivery from City Pub) and the host locations will offer a full range of beverages for purchase.

Teams of up to six people are welcome to play. Pre-registration is not required.

### Practice your trivia skills

See if you can answer these questions about La Vista.

1. La Vista will celebrate a milestone anniversary in 2025. How old will La Vista turn on February 23?
2. Don Decker developed La Vista's first residential area—335 homes on 80 acres of land east of 72nd and Harrison Streets. What name was given to this part of the City?
3. Two of La Vista's five Mayors shared the same first name. What is that name?



## WINTER WONDERLAND CRAFT AND VENDOR MARKET

**Saturday, December 7, 12–4 p.m.**

*City Centre  
Free admission*

Join us for a festive afternoon at the Winter Wonderland Craft and Vendor Market in City Centre! Explore an array of handcrafted goods, unique gifts and artisanal treats in a beautiful outdoor setting. This family-friendly event promises goodies for everyone, with local food and drink vendors there to make sure no one leaves empty-handed.

Bundle up, bring your friends and family, and enjoy a fun day of shopping. This is the perfect opportunity to support local businesses and find unique gifts for your loved ones! Find the market in the tent near 84th Street and City Centre Drive.

Wait, there's more! Santa will be there and you'll have an opportunity to take your own photo with him. Bring your smart phone and snap a selfie with Santa to share on your socials for all to see with #TwasTheLights.

Learn more or complete a vendor application at [CityofLaVista.org/WinterMarket](http://CityofLaVista.org/WinterMarket).

### SAVE THE DATE

## WINTER MOVIE: HOOK (PG)

**Sunday, February 2**

**Pre party 2:30–3:30 p.m., Movie begins at 4 p.m.**  
*Alamo Drafthouse Cinema (12750 Westport Pkwy.)  
Free admission + \$5 food voucher per person*

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us at the movie theater for a free showing of the popular '90's movie Hook. There will be pre-movie fun with raffles and discounted food and drinks from the Liquid Sunshine Taproom before the show. Seating for the movie will open at 3:30 p.m.

Visit [CityofLaVista.org/WinterMovie](http://CityofLaVista.org/WinterMovie) to learn more about reserving your tickets.

# One-Night Event!

## Santa's Sleigh Ride and Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 1

City Wide Streets & Santa's Workshop  
(8305 Park View Blvd.)

**1-5 p.m.** Sleigh Ride around La Vista neighborhoods

**4 p.m.** Winter Wonderland opens with festivities outside Santa's Workshop

**5:45 p.m.** Santa arrives via sleigh through Central Park

**6 p.m.** Tree Lighting

Santa Claus is coming to town! Catch your first glimpse of him this season during Santa's Sleigh Ride and Tree Lighting Celebration on Sunday, December 1.

## Sleigh Ride **1-5 p.m.**

We are excited to welcome Santa to La Vista and see him make his way through our neighborhoods during his annual Sleigh Ride. Residents of all ages will delight in waving at Santa as he passes by on his sleigh with his entourage.

Santa's Sleigh Ride will take place from 1-5 p.m. Here are some tips to help you keep track of Santa, so you know when to expect him in your area:



### Use the QR code to see a route map.

**map.** Santa and his crew will begin on the west side of 84th Street and work their way east. They will be west of 84th Street approximately 1-3 p.m. and travel through the neighborhoods east of 84th Street around 3-5 p.m.

**Download the Glympse app** and use it to track Santa's sleigh as it travels through La Vista. Find the app and instructions for using it at [CityofLaVista.org/SleighRide](http://CityofLaVista.org/SleighRide).

**Anticipate Santa's arrival and make your way outside before he gets to your street.** We have it on record that Santa passes by streets more quickly if no one is outside. He and his crew will travel more slowly when they come across people. So, be sure to be outside and ready so he can spot you!

**SUNDAY DEC 1**



## Tree Lighting **6 p.m.**

Once Santa has completed his trip through the City, he will make his way through Central Park to light the tree outside his workshop, lead a singalong and take a selfie with the community.

Santa won't arrive until approximately 5:45 p.m., but you're welcome to visit the workshop starting at 4 p.m. You can get a sneak peak inside the workshop and enjoy fun and treats outdoors.

Sip on free hot cocoa, grab a cookie and a glow necklace, pet and take photos with the live animals and listen to the carolers while you wait for Santa's arrival. Those who want to capture some festive photos can make their way over to The Link to find the two selfie spots at the boardwalk and The Nines Plaza. They're just a short stroll through the park and offer an opportunity for some fun and unique holiday photos.

At 6 p.m., be sure you're outside in front of Santa's Workshop to see the tree lighting. After the tree is lit, Santa will invite everyone to sing a holiday song together and take a community group selfie.



## LETTERS TO SANTA

November 25-December 13

*Santa's Workshop outdoor mailbox  
(8305 Park View Blvd.)  
La Vista Public Library indoor mailbox  
(9110 Giles Rd.)*

Have you been good this year? Send a message to the big man himself! Write a letter to Santa and send it off to the North Pole. You can ask Santa questions, share a story, draw a picture and tell him what you want for Christmas. Drop your letters in one of the special mailboxes at Santa's Workshop or at the Library. Be sure to include your name and return address so Santa knows where to send his reply. **Drop off your letter by December 13 to receive a reply by Christmas.**



## WALKIN' IN LA VISTA WONDERLAND

December 1-31

Central Park (near Santa's Workshop) and The Nines Plaza

Walk through the Winter Wonderland in the park, see the lights and take photos with the fun holiday decorations. There will be fun, new additions to the park this year!

## HOLIDAY BINGO FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, December 20, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

La Vista Community Center

Take a break during the busy holiday season to enjoy some family time and simple fun playing bingo. Join us at the Community Center and see who shouts BINGO first! If you're lucky, you might even take home a prize.



## VISIT SANTA AT HIS WORKSHOP

- **Friday, December 6, 4-7 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, December 10, 4-7 p.m.**
- **Friday, December 13, 4-7 p.m.**
- **Saturday, December 14, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.**  
*(PET FRIENDLY ON THIS DATE. Open to people and their animals; leashes required for pets)*

*Santa's Workshop at Central Park*

*Free admission*

You're invited to visit Santa at his workshop in La Vista this holiday season! Come walk through the La Vista Wonderland in Central Park, enjoy some free cookies, cocoa and activities, and then have a nice chat and get a photo with Santa.

**When you arrive for your visit, check in at the tent and get a pager. Santa is a popular guy and there will likely be a wait, so be prepared to spend some time outdoors (or in the heated tent) before entering the building.**

As you wait, you'll be able to roam around and view the new lights in the park and complete a fun scavenger hunt if you choose. Your pager will even allow you to stroll over to see the decorations and take photos with the display at The Nines Plaza (at The Link). Follow the trails past the small pond and head towards the boardwalk to get there.

Once your pager buzzes, you'll be welcomed into the workshop to experience the magic inside and meet the big guy in red, of course. Have your phone or camera ready so you can snap your own photos of your group with Santa.

If you plan to visit on Saturday, December 14, please be aware that this is a pet-friendly date. You will encounter pets (must be on leashes) outside and inside the tent and workshop while waiting to see Santa.



# Christmas AT THE LA VISTA LIBRARY



**Happy Holidays! Christmas time is a special time at the Library. Get in the festive spirit with one of many programs offered in late November and throughout December. Registration is required for those programs with an asterisk (\*).**



## ADULT UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER DECORATING

**Thursday, November 21, 6 p.m.**

Get ready to win the Ugly Sweater Contest! The Library will provide all the decorations you need to create the perfect Ugly Christmas Sweater. You will need to bring your own sweater to decorate.

**Ages 15+ welcome**



## \*ADULT CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN CALENDAR BAKING SHEET CRAFT

**Saturday, November 30, 1:30 p.m.**

Turn a baking sheet and a few simple craft supplies into a reusable Christmas Countdown Calendar. All materials will be provided. Registration is required and space is limited. **Ages 18+**



## ADULT HOLIDAY CARD MAKING

**Tuesday, December 3, 6 p.m.**

Use library provided supplies to create holiday greeting cards for your upcoming celebrations. Each participant can make two cards. **Ages 18+**



## GRAB & GO HOLIDAY CARD MAKING KIT

**Tuesday, December 3, all day**

If this holiday season leaves you feeling crafty and glittery, stop by the Library and grab a Holiday Card Making Kit. Each kit will have enough supplies to make two holiday themed cards. Kits will be available while supplies last. **Ages 17 and under. One kit per child.**



## FAMILY GIFT MAKING

**Monday, December 9, 6 p.m.**

Families can create Gifts in a Jar. Participants will place dry ingredients in a jar and attach instructions to the gift tag for adding wet ingredients and baking/cooking the final product. Each family can make one gift for FREE. Additional jars can be made for \$5 each. Bring your cameras for this event and take pictures with Mrs. Claus as she passes out her favorite cookies.

**All ages**



## PRE-TEEN/TEEN CHRISTMAS MOVIE WATCH PARTY

**Wednesday, December 11, 6 p.m.**

Destress before finals week by coming to watch a Christmas movie at the Library. Our movie party will feature special activities for you to do as you watch. Make an elf hat, try some maple syrup spaghetti cookies, have an intermission snowball fight and more! Based on these activities, can you guess what we'll be watching? **Ages 10-18 welcome**



## \*PRINCESS TEA PARTY

**Saturday, December 21, 10 a.m.**

Come for a festive tea party and meet a magical princess with ice-powers. Don't forget to dress up for this royal occasion. Cocoa, tea and cookies will be served. There's snow-way you can miss this! Registration required. Space is limited. **Ages 8 and under**



## KID'S NYE STICKER, STAMP AND STENCIL PARTY

**Tuesday, December 31, 10:30 a.m.**

Help ring in the new year with stickers, stamps and stencils. Complete various activities using these tools. Ink stamp pads will be used during this program, so please dress accordingly. Parental participation appreciated. **All ages**



# LIBRARY NOOK

9110 Giles Rd | 402.537.3900 | Library@CityofLaVista.org | CityofLaVista.org/Library

**Library Hours:** Monday–Thursday: 8 a.m.–9 p.m. Friday–Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday: 1–5 p.m.

## Library Book Sale

Did you know that the Library hosts a daily book sale? Each day brings new titles and the chance to explore a refreshed selection of books! From fiction and biographies to children's books and cookbooks, you'll find a wide selection of books at unbeatable prices.

Whether you're an avid reader or just looking for a great deal, this ongoing sale is perfect for discovering hidden gems and stocking up on your favorite genres. The sale includes gently used, new and weeded books, DVDs, CDs, and more.

*Don't forget to bring a bag to carry your new reads when you visit the book sale!*



## Buy Local Craft & Vendor Fair

**Saturday, November 9, 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.**



Calling all craft enthusiasts and holiday shoppers! Stop by the Library for a fun-filled Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, November 9. This event is open 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. and admission is FREE.

We're excited to invite you to this special event where local artisans and crafters will showcase their unique handmade creations. From jewelry and artwork to knitted items and holiday decor, there will be a variety of beautiful crafts for sale. It's a wonderful opportunity to support local talent, find one-of-a-kind gifts, and enjoy a creative community atmosphere.

Not a craft shopper? Stop by anyway and purchase breakfast or lunch from the Girls Scouts to support their fundraising efforts.

## Makerspace Holiday Gifts

Looking for affordable holiday gift ideas? Want to surprise a hard-to-shop-for loved one who has everything? Come to the Library and explore how you can create thoughtful handmade gifts using the Library's 3D Printer.

With a 3D Printer, you can turn any idea into reality and create custom designs, cute Christmas ornaments, iconic props, puzzles, keychains, toys, household items and more.

Drop by the Library to see samples of gifts you can make, and then schedule an appointment to create your own gifts to give! Please note: fees apply for material usage.

## Anime Club

**November 14, 4–5 p.m.**  
**December 9, 4–5 p.m.**  
**January 16, 4–5 p.m.**  
**February 18, 4–5 p.m.**

Do you love reading manga or watching anime? Then join the Library's NEW Anime Club!

This club meets once each month to watch anime, talk about manga and do cool crafts. Check the Library's calendar or contact Ashely Wemhoff at [AWemhoff@CityofLaVista.org](mailto:AWemhoff@CityofLaVista.org) for more details.

The Anime Club is open to participants ages 10+.



## Grab and Go Activity/Craft Kits

The Library offers monthly grab and go craft kits for all ages! Pop by each month to pick up a FREE craft kit to be enjoyed by all. Kits are available on a first-come-first-served basis, while supplies last. All needed supplies will be included except for items you likely have at home such as scissors, crayons, tape and glue.

Grab and go activity bags are displayed at the front desk and change monthly. One bag is allowed per person per visit.

# PUBLIC WORKS ZONE

9900 Portal Rd | 402.331.8927 | [PublicWorks@CityofLaVista.org](mailto:PublicWorks@CityofLaVista.org) | [CityofLaVista.org/PublicWorks](http://CityofLaVista.org/PublicWorks)

**La Vista Public Works Hours:** Monday-Friday: 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday: Closed

## Public Works Is Practiced and Prepared for Storm Response

From winter weather to summer storms, La Vista residents can depend on Public Works to respond during all types of weather emergencies.

Immediately after a severe thunderstorm tore through the metro area on the evening of July 31, La Vista Public Works employees began canvassing the City to assess damage. High winds and heavy rain had created numerous safety hazards for residents. Streets were littered with fallen trees, branches and debris. Twenty-five streets were completely blocked. Several traffic signals and stop signs were damaged, and much of the City was without power.

Public Works crews worked alongside La Vista Police and Papillion Fire first responders to identify safety issues and needs.

Public Works Director Joe Soucie explained that clearing the roads and ensuring streets were passable for emergency responders and residents was a top priority in the hours after the storm—and Public Works employees answered the call.

*“Part of our original response was getting streets opened back up as soon as possible,” Soucie said. “That was done within about a three-hour window.”*

Public Works was prepared to activate employees quickly thanks to an efficient call out protocol they've mastered during previous storms. It's the same process they will use this upcoming winter when snow falls and roads need to be cleared.

“We've actually got a detailed call out list of employees who are ready to go, so it's just a matter of figuring out how many you need,” said Soucie. “We can usually get folks in here within 30 to 60 minutes and be ready to go.”

During the July storm, clearing roads was just the first step in the cleanup process. Crews also coordinated a debris drop-off site and organized a curbside debris pickup for all La Vista residents.

In just eight days, Public Works crews made two complete passes through the City to pick up residents' debris.

Soucie said coordinating cleanup efforts went smoothly because Public Works was prepared to

implement plans they'd used successfully in the past. The department also had most of the necessary equipment on hand, with the exception of a couple pieces they rented.



*“Being able to get through the whole city in about eight days with a curbside cleanup was huge,” Soucie said.*

“Crews had a good spirit, really got after it and got things done in a timely manner. That got us back into cleaning up parks and trails.”

## Leaf Collection Available at Public Works throughout November

The La Vista Public Works Department is offering a leaf collection dumpster through November 30.

La Vista residents are welcome to drop off leaves, yard waste and small branches in the dumpster Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. (Please do not put plastic bags in the dumpster.) The dumpster is located outside on the east side of the Public Works building at 9900 Portal Rd.

## Post-holiday Christmas Tree Recycling in La Vista

Christmas tree recycling will be available December 26-January 12. La Vista residents can drop off live Christmas trees for recycling at these locations:

### | Kelly East Fields

(located on the east side of Kelly fields) 7601 S. 85th St.

### | La Vista Sports Complex

(near the baseball fields) 7346 S. 66th St.

Please note: All ornaments, tinsel and plastic bags must be removed from trees prior to disposal. The collected trees will be chipped into mulch, which is available to residents free of charge.

# RECREATION

8116 Park View Blvd | 402.331.3455 | [Recreation@CityofLaVista.org](mailto:Recreation@CityofLaVista.org) | [CityofLaVista.org/Recreation](http://CityofLaVista.org/Recreation)

**Community Center Hours:** Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday: 1-9 p.m.



## Host Your Next Gathering at the Community Center

Are you looking for somewhere to host a birthday party, holiday gift exchange, baby shower or family gathering? Do you need a space for your business or organization to hold a meeting? If so, look no further than the La Vista Community Center.

The Community Center has five rentable meeting rooms that can be configured to comfortably fit small or large groups of up to 75 people. There are flexible rental options to accommodate a variety of needs and budgets.

All rooms feature new flooring and are equipped with tables and folding chairs. The rooms have minimal décor, making them a blank canvas for any party decorations you choose to bring. (Feel free to recreate your favorite visions from your Pinterest boards!)

Three of the meeting rooms have sinks. A kitchen rental option is available for those needing refrigerator space or a place to prepare food. This offers access to a full kitchen with all appliances and a large island that provides plenty of space for food prep.

Skip the stress of hosting at your place and take advantage of our affordable rental spaces for your next celebration or get-together.

**Visit [CityofLaVista.org/RoomRentals](http://CityofLaVista.org/RoomRentals) to find more information about the rooms, see pricing and make a reservation.**

## Recreation Activities and Events

### Family & Friends Bingo Nights

November 15, December 20, January 17  
6:30-7:30 p.m., Community Center

Join us for family-friendly monthly bingo nights and see if you take home the grand prize.

November grand prize - Frozen turkey  
December grand prize - Holiday ham  
January grand prize - Bottle of sparkling cider

**Cost:** Free      **Ages:** All

### Jingle Bell Raqs: Student Belly Dance Recital and Community Gathering

Saturday, December 7

**Workshop: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Recital: 2-5 p.m.**  
Community Center Gym

Make the holidays merry and bright while supporting our local arts!

This annual recital is a chance for belly dance students from the La Vista Community Center to shine, and for the local community to participate in a dance workshop and afternoon show.

The family-friendly show is open to the local community, fellow dancers, and friends and supporters of Acceleration Dance's students.

Come enjoy light refreshments and cheer on the dancers. You might even get the chance to get up and learn a few moves with live drumming during our open dance portion of the afternoon.

For more info and registration, contact Elianae at **402.370.9021** or email [ElianaeTheBellyDancer@gmail.com](mailto:ElianaeTheBellyDancer@gmail.com).

### Preschool Playtime + Holiday Craft

Saturday, December 14, 2:30-4 p.m.  
Community Center

All the fun of Preschool Playtime plus a fun holiday craft activity. No registration needed.

**Cost:** Free      **Ages:** Pre-K-2nd grade

## CLASSES & CLUBS

The Community Center offers a variety of social, fitness and leisure activities for all ages. For a full list, visit [CityofLaVista.org/Classes](http://CityofLaVista.org/Classes).

Learn more about the Community Center's classes and clubs by contacting the instructor.

### CLASS

### INSTRUCTOR



AIKIDO

Jeff

[j.a.christenham@gmail.com](mailto:j.a.christenham@gmail.com)



BALLROOM DANCE

Terry

402.639.2209



BELLY DANCING

Elianae

402.370.9021 or  
[elianaethebellydancer@gmail.com](mailto:elianaethebellydancer@gmail.com)



COMPLETE EXERCISE PROGRAM

Frank

[frankferrante@gmail.com](mailto:frankferrante@gmail.com)



KENPO KARATE

Tony or Tom

402.297.3773 (Tony) or  
402.990.2485 (Tom)



LABLAST DANCE FITNESS CLASS

Alex

402.714.4938 or  
[dancewithpacheco@gmail.com](mailto:dancewithpacheco@gmail.com)



MINIATURES CLUB

Sandy

402.708.1177



OMAHA METRO ARMED COMBAT ACADEMY

Cat

[omacagreenknights@gmail.com](mailto:omacagreenknights@gmail.com)



SQUARE DANCING

Ken

402.690.3020



TABLE TENNIS

Matt

402.680.2937 or  
[matthewziegler907@gmail.com](mailto:matthewziegler907@gmail.com)



YOGA

Frank

[frankferrante@gmail.com](mailto:frankferrante@gmail.com)

## Winter Break Games & Open Gym

Youth, teens and families are invited to stop by the Community Center when school is out to play in the game room or shoot hoops during open gym.

Admission is free for ages 18 and under. Children ages 9 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is at least 16 years of age.

The game room is open at all times during the Community Center's normal hours of operation. The open gym schedule is available online at [CityofLaVista.org/OpenGym](http://CityofLaVista.org/OpenGym).

### WINTER BREAK OPEN GYM SCHEDULE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	Closed	26	27
1-9 p.m.	1-9 p.m.			1-9 p.m.	1:30 p.m.-9 p.m.	8 a.m.-6 p.m.
29	30	31	1	Closed	2	3
1-9 p.m.	1-9 p.m.			1-9 p.m.	1:30 p.m.-9 p.m.	4

December 21, 1-6 p.m.

December 22, 23, 26, 29 & January 2, 1-9 p.m.

December 27 & January 3, 1:30-9 p.m.

December 28, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

December 25 & January 1, closed

December 30, 1-9 p.m.

## Community Gardens

Garden plots are available for rent in the following La Vista parks:

- *Camenzind Park* (7120 Wood Lane Dr.)
- *Hollis Park* (7521 Joseph St.)
- *Jaycee Park* (7323 Harvest Hills Dr.)

**Cost:** \$20 per plot

Community garden plots are rented on an annual basis from early spring through fall. Returning 2024 gardeners have until January 31 to reserve a plot for the 2025 season. Remaining plots are open to new gardeners from La Vista on February 1.

La Vista residents need to visit the Community Center to reserve a garden plot. To register for a plot, residents must read and complete the garden contract, and acknowledge that they have read the entirety of the La Vista Community Gardens Rules and Guidelines.



## Field requests open for 2025 tournaments

The Recreation Department is now accepting 2025 tournament requests for the City's sports fields. The City of La Vista has baseball, softball, flag football and soccer fields available at the La Vista Sports Complex, City Park and Central Park West that can be used for tournaments. These well-maintained fields are typically available April through October depending on the weather.

Each year, athletes from across the state and region come to La Vista to play in tournaments. Want to host your own tournament here? La Vista loves tournaments and the excitement they bring. If you'd like to host a tournament, you'll need to submit an application in advance to be considered. Tournament rates vary and fees can be found online at [CityofLaVista.org/Fields](http://CityofLaVista.org/Fields).

To submit a tournament request, fill out the application at [CityofLaVista.org/Fields](http://CityofLaVista.org/Fields) and return to La Vista Recreation Manager - Athletics, Denny Dinan at the Community Center or [DDinan@CityofLaVista.org](mailto:DDinan@CityofLaVista.org).

Register for winter and spring recreation sports!  
[CityofLaVista.org/Active](http://CityofLaVista.org/Active)

## BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Practice starts: January 2

Games start: January 18

AGE	Fees	
	EARLY-BIRD OCT 1 - NOV 10	FINAL NOV 11 - NOV 30
Grades 3rd - 8th	Resident: \$55 Non-resident: \$65	Resident: \$65 Non-resident: \$75

## COED BASKETBALL CLINIC

Clinic runs: January 4 through February 1

AGE	Fees	
	EARLY-BIRD OCT 1 - DEC 11	FINAL DEC 12 - DEC 22 OR UNTIL FULL
Grades: 1st-2nd	Resident: \$17 Non-resident: \$22	Resident: \$27 Non-resident: \$32

## COED SOCCER ACADEMY/LEAGUE

Spring session runs April 8 - May 17

LEAGUE AGES	ACADEMY AGES	Fees	
		EARLY-BIRD JAN 2 - MAR 4	FINAL MAR 5 - MAR 19
6-7 years old	4-5 years old	Resident: \$33 Non-resident: \$53	Resident: \$43 Non-resident: \$63

## COED SOCCER CLINIC

Spring clinic runs: April 5 - May 10

AGE	Fees	
	EARLY-BIRD JAN 2 - MAR 4	FINAL MAR 5 - MAR 19 OR UNTIL FULL
3 years old	Resident: \$17 Non-resident: \$22	Resident: \$27 Non-resident: \$32

## BOYS BASEBALL

Practice starts: Week of April 1

Games run: April 26-June 30

LEAGUE	AGE (as of April 1)	Fees	
		EARLY-BIRD JAN 2-FEB 12	FINAL FEB 13-28
YEARLING/COACH PITCH LEAGUE	7-8	Resident: \$50 Non-resident: \$65	Resident: \$60 Non-resident: \$75
MUSTANG LEAGUE	9-10	Resident: \$65 Non-resident: \$85	Resident: \$75 Non-resident: \$95
BRONCO LEAGUE	11-12	Resident: \$75 Non-resident: \$105	Resident: \$85 Non-resident: \$115
PONY LEAGUE	13-14	Resident: \$85 Non-resident: \$105	Resident: \$95 Non-resident: \$115



## GIRLS SOFTBALL

Spring practice starts: Week of April 1

Games run: April 22-July 2

LEAGUE	AGE (as of May 1)	Fees	
		EARLY-BIRD JAN 2-FEB 12	FINAL FEB 13-28
MINOR/KID-PITCH LEAGUE	7-10	Resident: \$65 Non-resident: \$85	Resident: \$75 Non-resident: \$95
JUNIOR LEAGUE	11-13	Resident: \$75 Non-resident: \$105	Resident: \$85 Non-resident: \$115
SENIOR LEAGUE	14-18	Resident: \$110 Non-resident: \$140	Resident: \$120 Non-resident: \$150



## COED T-BALL

Spring practice starts: Week of May 5

Games run: June 7-July 12

AGE	Fees	
	EARLY-BIRD MAR 1-APR 1	FINAL APR 2-16
Boys & Girls 5-6 (As of April 1)	Resident: \$45 Non-resident: \$60	Resident: \$55 Non-resident: \$70

## COED FLAG FOOTBALL

Spring practice starts: Week of April 1

Games run: April 12-June 21

AGE	Fees	
	EARLY-BIRD JAN 2 - FEB 12	FINAL FEB 13 - FEB 28
Grades PreK - 6th	Resident: \$33 Non-resident: \$53	Resident: \$43 Non-resident: \$63

# SENIOR PROGRAM



## SENIOR SERVICES

### SPECIAL SERVICES BUS

The Special Services Bus is available for senior citizens ages 60 and older and all special needs/ handicapped individuals residing in La Vista and Ralston.

**Hours of operation:**  
Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**For reservations call  
402.657.3550 at least  
48 hours in advance.**

We make every effort to accommodate, but sometimes due to prior scheduling, we may not be able to help everyone at their requested times.

The Special Services Bus does not operate on City of La Vista holidays or when Papillion-La Vista or Ralston Public Schools are closed due to weather conditions.

La Vista residents and non-residents who are 55 and older can participate in the Senior Program and become part of its thriving community free of charge. Visit the front desk at the La Vista Community Center to join.

For more information about the Senior Program and special events, see the monthly Senior Newsletter at [CityOfLaVista.org/Seniors](http://CityOfLaVista.org/Seniors), or contact Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley at **402.331.3455**.



Like clockwork, lunch is served for seniors at the Community Center on weekdays at 11:30 a.m. Also, like clockwork, a few friendly volunteers arrive ahead of the daily meal to assist with the lunch service. They're known as La Vista's Lunch Volunteers.

Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley said there are currently 10 La Vista Lunch Volunteers who share the daily shifts.

"Some volunteer up to four times a week, while others help out once a month," said Stanley. "Volunteers pick the days and times that work for them. It's very flexible."

Connie Twohig and Bobette Jones are two of the group's longest serving volunteers. Connie has been volunteering several days a week for 12 years. Bobette recalls that she's also been volunteering for a number of years.

The Lunch Volunteers have a to-do checklist they follow each day that includes tasks like counting and setting out trays and silverware,

putting centerpieces on the tables and readying beverages. According to the energetic group, each volunteer has proudly claimed a favorite duty. For example, Karen and Harvey are the go-to dishwashers. Cheri is the master cake cutter.

Helping with the senior program meals gives the volunteers a sense of purpose. It also keeps away loneliness. The group clearly enjoys each other's company. They've jokingly adopted a motto: What happens in the kitchen stays in the kitchen.

Stanley said she would like to add a few more volunteers and encourages others with free time to consider joining the group.

"We couldn't provide the type of lunch experience we do for seniors without our volunteers," Stanley said. "We're so appreciative of them and what they do for our program."

Want to become a La Vista Lunch Volunteer? Contact Kaily at **402.331.3455**.

### SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

**Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.**

Enjoy a nutritious meal at the Community Center, provided by Treat America, in cooperation with the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging. Please call by noon the business day before you'd like to visit to make a reservation. After lunch, feel free to stick around for many of our other activities. View the monthly lunch menu at [CityOfLaVista.org/Seniors](http://CityOfLaVista.org/Seniors).

**Suggested Donation:** \$5 for those 60 & older

**Required Fee:** \$9.50 for those younger than 60

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TOUR

Dates vary and space is limited

Join us on the La Vista/Ralston Special Services Buses for a fun night of carol singing while we view the beautiful holiday lights around the metro. Call 402.331.3455 for dates or watch for more information in the December Senior Program Newsletter. **Cost:** Free



## MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Monday, December 16, 11:30 a.m.

Register by Monday December 9

La Vista Community Center

Main dish to be announced. If your last name starts with A-O bring a side, if your last name starts with P-Z bring a dessert. RSVP in advance by calling **402.331.3455**.

**Cost:** Free



## VALENTINE'S SENIOR LUNCH

Friday, February 14, Papillion Landing

Doors open at 11 a.m., lunch begins at 11:30 a.m., musical entertainment to follow.

Register by Wednesday, February 5, at Papillion Landing or the La Vista Community Center front desk. Menu to be determined.

**Cost:** \$8 per person. Payment due at time of registration. Sorry no refunds. **Ages:** All Seniors 55+ are invited. Maximum 150 registrations.



## 55 AND UP ONGOING ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	FEES
Golden Ballroom Dancing Exercise	Mondays	9 a.m.	FREE
Senior Pickleball Class	Third Monday of the month	3:30 p.m.	FREE
Tai Chi For Balance	Tuesdays & Thursdays	10:45-11:30 a.m.	Age 60+: \$0.50 suggested
Various Card Games	Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays	Tues: 12 p.m. or 2 p.m. Wed & Fri: 2 p.m.	FREE
Movie Showings	Every other Tuesday	1 p.m.	FREE
Drop-In Quilting	Wednesdays	9-11:30 a.m.	FREE
Chair Volleyball	Wednesdays & Fridays	10:15-11:15 a.m.	FREE
Hand & Foot (Cards)	Wednesdays	1 p.m.	FREE
Pitch (Cards)	Fridays	1 p.m.	FREE
Bingo	Fridays	1 p.m.	\$1 total for 5 games



# POLICE

## Mario Hatcher selected as LVPD's Employee of the Quarter

This year, the La Vista Police Department began presenting an Employee of the Quarter Award to recognize outstanding service within the department. Mario Hatcher, La Vista's Code Enforcement Officer, was selected as this quarter's honoree.

As La Vista's only Code Enforcement Officer, Hatcher responds to complaints about code violations and works with residents and businesses to resolve these problem areas. His responsibilities extend across the City, and also the zoning jurisdiction, which goes two miles past the city limits.

Officer Hatcher's productivity is nothing short of spectacular, and he's only been on the job in La Vista since February. His dedication to excellent service, personal communication skills and the manner in which he interacts with La Vista's residents set him apart and helped earn him recognition.

The department has continuously received positive feedback about Officer Hatcher and his performance. Multiple residents have reached out to the department to compliment Officer Hatcher, proving the positive impact he is having across the City.

Officer Hatcher is part of the City's Code Enforcement Software Replacement Committee that is working to adopt new software and improve the reporting process for residents.

In addition to his assigned duties, Officer Hatcher has become actively involved with the department's Special Enforcement Bureau and has jumped at the opportunity to fill in wherever he's needed during City events—including La Vista Days and the Easter Egg Hunt earlier this year.

Congratulations to Officer Mario Hatcher for a job well done!



## CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

By the time you are reading this, it may have already snowed in La Vista. If not, snow will inevitably be on its way soon. With that in mind, here are a few snow-related code reminders.

- Snow must be removed from business areas within five hours of snow ending.
- For residential properties, snow must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours of snow ending.
- When a snow emergency occurs, City of La Vista plows need street clearance, and it is unlawful for any automobile to be parked on any public street in La Vista for 24 hours or longer depending on the length of the emergency. Please stay tuned to local news outlets and the City's social media resources for information and updates about snow emergencies in La Vista.

Lastly, please bring your patience during snowfalls as it can be stressful for many driving in it. If you have any questions about parking or residential sidewalk snow removal, please contact the La Vista Code Enforcement office at **402.331.1582 ext. 251**.

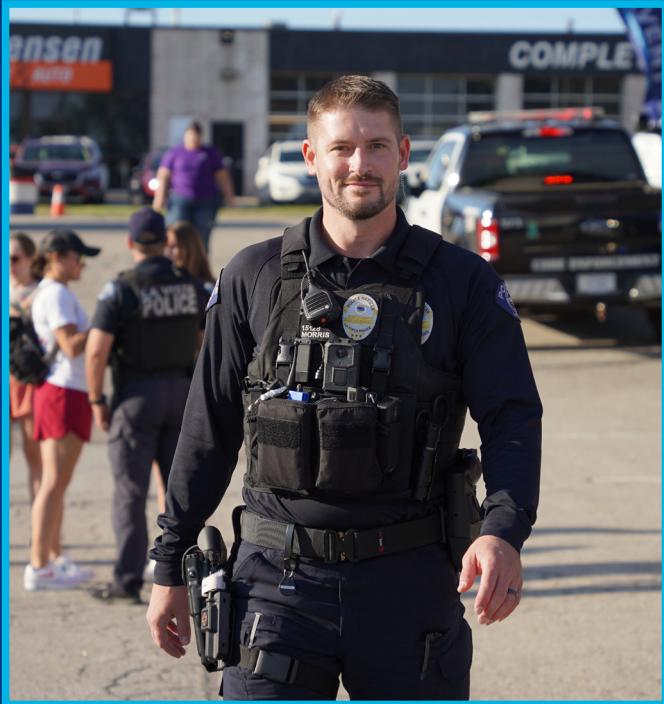
**MARIO HATCHER**  
Code Enforcement Officer



Visit [CityofLaVista.org/CodeViolation](http://CityofLaVista.org/CodeViolation) or scan the QR code to learn about violations, what to do if you receive one, how to research City ordinances and more.

# Meet your newest La Vista police officers

The La Vista Police Department is pleased to introduce two of its newest police officers—welcome additions to the department.

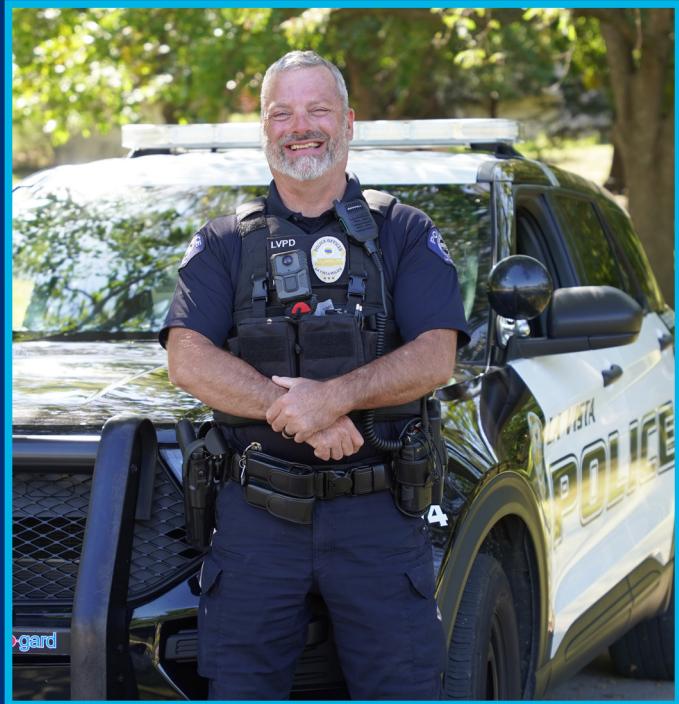


## Steven Morris

Officer Steven Morris was hired earlier this year, and he attended basic training at the Sarpy Douglas Law Enforcement Academy (SDLEA). After graduating from the SDLEA in May, Officer Morris worked to complete his field training. He is currently assigned to the Uniform Patrol Bureau and works the night shift.

Prior to joining LVPD, Officer Morris worked for Omaha Public Schools in an IT role.

We are proud to have Officer Morris join the department's ranks.



## Brian Hrabik

Officer Brian Hrabik joined the La Vista Police Department this summer as a lateral officer. Officer Hrabik first began his law enforcement career in 1995 as a deputy with the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office. In 2004, Hrabik was hired by the Omaha Police Department. He served as an officer with the OPD for more than 20 years. A majority of that time was spent in the Omaha Police Department's Traffic Unit.

After a brief retirement and a short stint in the private sector, Officer Hrabik felt the call to return to policing. He chose to become an officer with the La Vista Police Department.

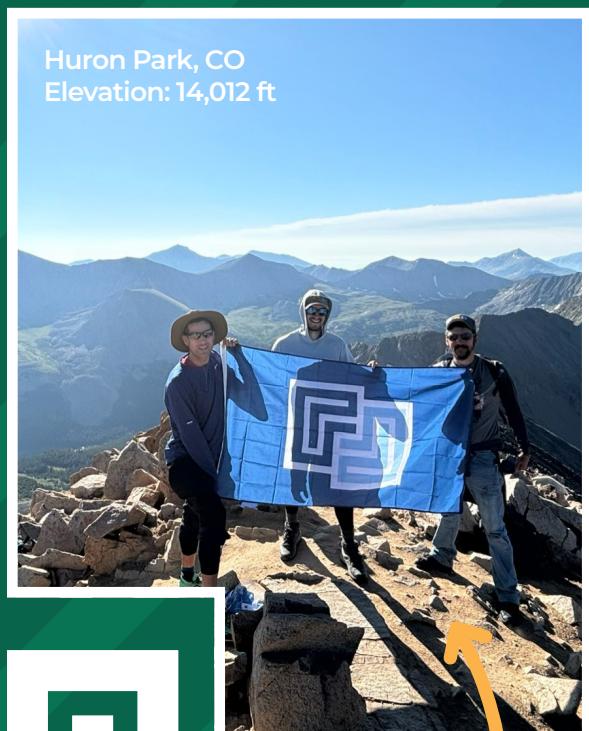
It is a pleasure to have Officer Hrabik continue his law enforcement career here in La Vista.

## HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE

Homeowners are responsible for ensuring compliance with La Vista's Municipal Codes. If you or someone you know needs any assistance due to hardship, please download the 211 Nebraska app and/or visit the website at [www.ne211.org](http://www.ne211.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

**January 9 is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.** This day offers an opportunity to show thanks to the dedicated individuals who work hard and make sacrifices to keep our community safe.



## CITY OFFICIALS

### MAYOR

Douglas Kindig

### CITY COUNCIL

Kim Thomas | Ward I  
Ron Sheehan | Ward II  
Deb Hale | Ward III  
Jim Frederick | Ward IV  
Terrilyn Quick | Ward I  
Kelly Sell | Ward II  
Alan Ronan | Ward III  
Kevin Wetuski | Ward IV

### MANAGEMENT TEAM

Brenda Gunn | City Administrator  
Rita Ramirez | Assistant City Administrator  
Kevin Pokorny | Director of Administrative Services  
Joe Soucie | Director of Public Works  
Mike Schofield | Director of Public Safety  
Rachel Carl | Assistant to the City Administrator  
Rose Barcal | Library Director  
Pam Buethe | City Clerk  
Heather Buller | Recreation Director  
Pat Dowse | City Engineer  
Bruce Fountain | Community Development Director  
Meg Harris | Finance Director  
Wendy Lowery | Human Resources Director



Share your views, La Vista!  
[CityofLaVista.org/Flag](http://CityofLaVista.org/Flag)

