

WINTER 2025



CLOSING THE YEAR ON A **HIGH NOTE**



 **LA VISTA**
VIEWPOINTS
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

QUICK VIEW

- 5 | LIBRARY NOOK
- 7 | HOLIDAY & OTHER CITY EVENTS
- 10 | PUBLIC WORKS ZONE
- 11 | RECREATION: EVENTS, CLASSES, CLUBS & FALL SPORTS
- 15 | SENIOR PROGRAM
- 17 | POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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[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
- Special Services Bus**.....402.657.3550

MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR



As I started thinking about the messages I wanted to share in this final newsletter of 2025, I found it difficult to narrow down my list. There's so much happening in La Vista that it's hard to choose just a few highlights!

One thing is certain, I want to start by sending out a well-deserved "Congratulations" to the Public Works Department for their recent accreditation from the American Public Works Association (APWA). This is quite an accomplishment. A team of employees worked behind the scenes for 18 months to help La Vista achieve APWA accreditation. You can read about their efforts and the evaluation process on page 10 of this Viewpoints newsletter. I'm incredibly proud of our team and the fact that La Vista Public Works is one of only two departments in Nebraska to earn accreditation. This speaks volumes about the professionalism of our staff.

I also want to highlight the progress that has been made on Reflections Plaza in Central Park East. As you may recall, this project was inspired by our late Councilman Mike Crawford and his vision to create a peaceful place for residents to enjoy. While there's still some work to come, I know Mike would be pleased by this first phase of the project. I urge you to stop by and see the striking fire and water feature, the newly relocated Blue Star Memorial and the sitting area. There's a photo of Reflections Plaza on page 4 of this newsletter.

Another major project that is just getting underway is the 84th Street Trail Project. Due to the scope, this project will continue into the early part of 2027. It involves constructing a new bridge on 84th Street and improving walkability with new, wider trails along both sides of 84th Street. While there will undoubtedly be some traffic disruptions that go along with this project, it will ultimately allow us to create a connection between Central Park and Central Park West. This will be extremely valuable as we continue with new development on the west side of the 84th Street Corridor.

My last message is about the festive holiday events and programs that will be happening soon in La Vista. From the Tree Lighting to the Winter Market to Santa visits at the Workshop, there are plenty of opportunities for families, friends and neighbors to enjoy spending time with one another. I invite you to read about the events in this newsletter and then come celebrate with us.

I wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season.

MAYOR *Douglas Kindig*

LA VISTA CITY CALENDAR



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

November

- 4 City Council, 6 p.m.
- 6 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Buy Local Craft & Vendor Fair, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Library
- 10 La Vista-Metropolitan Community College Condominium Owners Association, 4 p.m. Library
- 13 Library Advisory Board, 6 p.m., Library
- 18 City Council, 6 p.m.
- 19 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.
- 20 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Offices Closed for Thanksgiving holiday
- 28 Offices Closed for Thanksgiving holiday
- 30 Santa's Sleigh Ride, 1-5 p.m., La Vista neighborhoods
- 30 Tree Lighting Celebration, 4-6:15 p.m., Santa's Workshop/Central Park

December

- 2 City Council, 6 p.m.
- 4 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Visit Santa at Workshop, 4-7 p.m.
- 6 Winter Wonderland Craft and Vendor Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., City Centre
- 9 Visit Santa at Workshop, 4-7 p.m.
- 10 Travelin' Trivia, 6 p.m., Lucky Bucket Brewing Co.
- 11 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 6 p.m.
- 11 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Visit Santa at Workshop, 4-7 p.m.
- 13 Pet-Friendly Visit Santa at Workshop, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 16 City Council, 6 p.m.
- 17 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.
- 25 Offices closed for Christmas holiday

January

- 1 Offices closed for New Year's holiday
- 6 City Council, 6 p.m.
- 8 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Library Advisory Board, 6 p.m., Library
- 14 Travelin' Trivia, 6 p.m., Corn Coast Brewing Taproom
- 19 Offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 20 City Council, 6 p.m.
- 21 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.
- 22 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

For more information about the special events listed on this calendar, visit CityofLaVista.org/Events.



Sunday, November 30

One Day, Two Magical Events!

Santa's Sleigh Ride 1-5 p.m.



See Santa and his entourage as they travel through La Vista neighborhoods.

Tree Lighting Celebration 4-6:15 p.m.



- 4 p.m. Winter Wonderland opens with festivities outside Santa's Workshop in Central Park
- 5:45 p.m. Santa arrives at his Workshop
- 6 p.m. Lighting of the tree followed by a song & community selfie with Santa (no individual Santa photos)
- 6:15 p.m. Event ends

More info on page 7.

COUNCIL CLIPS

Highlights of recent City Council action.

- Approved an extension to the Keno Operator Agreement with LVK Holdings.
- Awarded the bid for the 84th Street Trail - Giles to Harrison - Project.
- Approved the amended FY25-FY26 Biennial Budget.
- Approved a renewed agreement with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office for crime scene investigation services.
- Approved the purchase of in-car video camera systems for the Police Department.



84th Street Trail Project

Big Changes Coming to 84th Street

The much anticipated 84th Street Trail Project kicked off this fall in La Vista. This project is the next phase in the redevelopment of the 84th Street Corridor and is the result of years of planning. It involves:

Constructing a bridge over the Thompson Creek channel with an underpass that will allow the City to create a trail connection between Central Park and Central Park West.

Creating 10-foot-wide trails to replace the four-foot sidewalks that run along either side of 84th Street from Giles Road to Harrison Street. The new trails will be positioned farther away from the road – improving pedestrian safety.

Improving the drainage along 84th Street.

The first step in this major construction project was to remove several of the trees in the right of way along 84th Street between Giles Road and Harrison Street. This was necessary to create space to widen the walking trails on both sides of the roadway and move them further away from the street. New trees and plantings along the corridor are anticipated in a future phase.

Next comes the lengthy process of building the bridge over the creek channel. This is where drivers will begin noticing some impact on traffic. As crews work to remove the existing street, drive bridge foundation piles into the ground, build a retaining wall, set the superstructure and complete construction of the bridge, traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction. This will allow crews to complete one side of the bridge (while traffic remains open on the other side) and then move traffic to the completed side while the other side of the bridge is constructed.

Drivers should expect that 84th Street will be limited to one-lane in each direction from near Park View Boulevard to City Centre Drive into the early part of 2027. As with any road construction project, the timeline is weather dependent and could vary slightly.

It's long been the City's vision that the areas along the east and west of the 84th Street Corridor would be connected by a pedestrian trail. By building a bridge and underpass, the City will be able to establish a connection between Central Park and Central Park West in the future. This will make it easier and safer to travel from one side of 84th Street to the other without driving.

The project's total cost—including planning, design, and construction—is \$12.2 million. The City successfully secured a \$5 million federal grant to help fund the project, covering close to half of the total cost. As a result, the City's share was reduced to \$7.2 million. That portion is being paid for by the half cent sales tax voters approved in 2014 for 84th Street redevelopment.

Find more information about the 84th Street Trail Project at CityofLaVista.org/84thTrail and follow along for progress updates.

84th Street Trail Project Highlights

- Projected timeline: Fall 2025 through Spring 2027
- Involves constructing the 84th Street bridge and moving/widening the trails adjacent to 84th Street
- Federal \$5 million grant secured to help fund the project

Reflections Plaza

A peaceful new community space is taking shape in Central Park East. Reflections Plaza, a project inspired by late La Vista Councilmember Mike Crawford, sits just off Park View Boulevard in the park. It offers a serene and welcoming haven for families and individuals wanting to pause for a moment of calm and remembrance.

Councilmember Crawford's vision was to create a space that honors the courage and sacrifice of veterans and first responders. Reflections Plaza fulfills that dream.

The plaza is the new home to the City's Blue Star Memorial—which was recently relocated from outside City Hall. Come May, the City will celebrate Memorial Day by hosting its annual Hometown Hero's celebration at Reflections Plaza. The space will be the perfect setting for this powerful and moving event.



Reflections Plaza is not only a tranquil place to pay tribute to those who have served, it's also an area of comfort for all members of the community who wish to honor loved ones, reflect on their memories or simply find a quiet moment away from the rush of daily life.

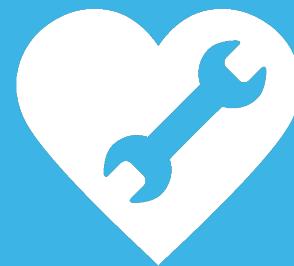
The plaza features a beautiful water feature with an eternal flame, flagpoles, thoughtfully planned seating and gentle landscaping. The City would like to thank the Crawford family and the La Vista Community Foundation for their involvement in the project.



Have you heard the news?

The City is now using the SeeClickFix system to manage all issues reported by its residents for things such as code enforcement, streets and parks.

Using the City's website CityofLaVista.org/ReportAConcern or the SeeClickFix app, residents can easily report an issue, which will be routed to the appropriate department for resolution.



SeeClickFix

SeeClickFix App

Download and search
for "La Vista, NE"



CityofLaVista.org/ReportAConcern

Scan the QR code above to learn more about La Vista's issue reporting system.

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.

Grab and Go Activity/Craft Kits

Monthly kits for all ages!

The Library's Grab and Go Kits are pre-packaged sets of materials that you can pick up and use at home. These kits are designed to support learning, creativity and exploration for all ages. **They may include books, crafts, educational activities or themed items such as STEM experiments, art supplies or early literacy tools.** Convenient and accessible, Grab and Go Kits offer a fun and engaging way to bring the library experience home, especially for families, adults and lifelong learners. These kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last.



Buy Local Craft & Vendor Fair

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

Join us at the library for a fun-filled Craft and Vendor Fair—admission is free!

Local artisans and crafters will be showcasing 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. Whether you're a craft enthusiast or just looking for a fun outing, La Vista Public Library's Buy Local Craft & Vendor Fair is the perfect place to spend the day.

Not a crafter? Stop by and purchase lunch from the Girls Scouts. We hope to see you there!

Noon Year's Eve Party

Wednesday, December 31, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

La Vista Community Center

Ring in a new year a little early with a family-friendly celebration perfect for kids and early birds! Meet us at the Community Center on Wednesday, December 31, 11 a.m.–12 p.m. for a festive Noon Year's Eve party featuring crafts, games, music and a balloon countdown at noon. Bring your party hats, best dance moves and cameras for this joyful celebration!

Holiday Baking Basket Raffle

Deck the halls this holiday season with the delicious smells of holiday baking! When you check out a cake pan from the Library between November 10 and December 12, your name will be entered to win a holiday baking basket. The more cake pans you check out, the more entries you earn.

From Christmas trees to gingerbread men, we have the perfect pan to make your holiday baking extra special. Don't miss your chance to bake something sweet and win something sweeter. Winner will be drawn December 15. Good luck and happy baking!

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Saturday, January 24

**Doors open at 9:30 a.m.,
Competition begins at 10 a.m.**



Think you're a puzzle master? Want to enjoy a morning of puzzling? Gather a team of 2–4 people (all ages) and race to assemble a 500-piece puzzle. First and second place winners will be awarded a gift card!

We'll provide donuts—just bring your own drink of choice.

Registration is required for the competition.

Puzzles will be provided, and all teams get to take their puzzle home. Great for families, friends or anyone who loves a good challenge.



Christmas

AT THE LA VISTA LIBRARY



Happy Holidays! Celebrate the magic of the season with special holiday programs for all ages. Join us throughout December for festive storytimes, creative crafts, and cheerful surprises. Bring your holiday spirit and join us for warm memories, joyful activities, and a whole lot of library love this Christmas season!

Grab & Go Holiday Card Making Kit

Monday, December 1

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.

Adult Holiday Card Making

Wednesday, December 3, 6 p.m.

Use library provided supplies to make unique and festive holiday cards for friends and family. This is an in-person program. Materials will be provided for 2 cards per person. **FREE**

Mini Magic: Holiday Diorama Workshop

***Sunday, December 7, 2 p.m.**

Grab a friend, partner, family member or work alone while creating a Christmas Winter Diorama. Using a box, mini figures, craft material and lots of imagination, participants will build their own winter wonderland or holiday scene to take home. Whether it's Santa's workshop, a cozy snowy village or a gingerbread house scene. All supplies are provided, or participants can bring their own items to add to the diorama. This program is ideal for participants to work in pairs (parent-child, siblings, friends), but you may work alone. Registration is required and space is limited.

***Nonrefundable Material Fee: \$10 per diorama.**

Elf Academy

Saturday, December 13, 10:30 a.m.

Children become elves-in-training and work their way through different stations to see if they qualify to be one of Santa's elves. Official Elf Certificates are awarded at the end of each session.

Ideal for ages 4-12. Elf costume welcome!

Holiday Songs and Meanings

Thursday, December 18, 6 p.m.

Join us as we listen to some of our favorite holiday songs and chat about their meanings. Bring your favorite to discuss. Holiday songs from all traditions are welcome! Please e-mail Cedate at CShultz@CityofLaVista.org no later than Friday, December 12, with your song titles.

Families welcome. **FREE**

Christmas Colorland Drop-In

Monday, December 22, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Stop by anytime and get creative at our Christmas Colorland Drop-in program. Color Santa, snowflakes, reindeer, Christmas trees and more. This is a fun and relaxing way for families to enjoy the season together!

Storytelling and Poetry Night

Monday, December 22, 5 p.m.

Join us for a night of local stories! Ages 12+ are invited to submit a story or poem to read aloud (or have library staff read for them if preferred). Submissions should be no more than 1,500 words and family friendly. Invite your friends and family! Hot chocolate will be served.





Sunday, November 30

One day, two events to welcome Santa to La Vista

Free for everyone!

Santa Claus is coming to town! Santa and his holiday crew will arrive in La Vista and travel through the City before stopping in Central Park to light the tree, lead a joyful sing-along and snap a big community selfie.

Santa's Sleigh Ride

1-5 p.m.
Neighborhoods Across La Vista

All ages will delight in waving at Santa as he passes by on his sleigh. Santa's Sleigh Ride will take place 1-5 p.m. in neighborhoods across La Vista. Here's how to track Santa so you know when to expect him in your area:

Visit CityofLaVista.org/WelcomeSanta to see a route map. Santa will be in neighborhoods west of 84th Street approximately 1-3 p.m. He'll travel east of 84th Street around 3-5 p.m.



Download the Glympse app or use the QR code to track Santa.

The app will update to show the approximate location of Santa's sleigh as it travels through neighborhoods.

Anticipate Santa and be outside before he gets to your street.

Santa passes by streets more quickly if no one is outside to greet him. He and his crew will travel more slowly when they come across people. So, be sure to be waiting outside so he can spot you!



Tree Lighting at Santa's Workshop

4-6:15 p.m.
Santa's Workshop (8305 Park View Blvd.)

Come explore Santa's Workshop, view Christmas lights in Central Park, see live animals, listen to Christmas carols and enjoy free cookies, cocoa and glow necklaces.

Exclusive for 2025: Get a free custom engraved La Vista Christmas ornament. We will be handing out 200 ornaments. (Limit one per family while supplies last.) Each family can customize their ornament with a name or word of their choosing.

4 p.m.	Santa's Workshop opens
5:45 p.m.	Santa arrives
6 p.m.	Lighting of the tree followed by a song & community selfie with Santa (no individual Santa photos)
6:15 p.m.	Event ends



Letters to Santa

November 30-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? Let Santa know. Write a letter and send it off to the North Pole. If you drop off a letter by December 13, you'll get a response mailed back before Christmas.

You can ask Santa questions, share a story, draw a picture or just let him know what gifts are on your wishlist this year.

Drop your letters in one of the special mailboxes at Santa's Workshop or at the Library. (No postage needed.) Be sure to include your name and return address so Santa knows where to send his reply.

Winter Wonderland Craft and Vendor Market

Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

City Centre (7878 Main St.)

Free admission



Kick off the holiday season with a cheerful day of shopping in La Vista City Centre! Browse booths filled with handmade goods, one-of-a-kind gifts and delicious seasonal treats. This family-friendly market is the perfect place to discover treasures for everyone on your list while enjoying food and drink from local vendors.

Note: If you're at the Market between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. you might see a mob of Santas running through the area! The Omaha Sports Commission's annual Santa Run will be happening in La Vista's City Centre and Central Park this year. See if you can spot the jolly runners in their Santa suits. Visit Omahasports.org/Santa-Run to learn about the run.

Visit Santa At His Workshop

- Friday, December 5, 4-7 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 9, 4-7 p.m.
- Friday, December 12, 4-7 p.m.
- Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
(PET FRIENDLY, no reindeer on this date)



Santa's Workshop at Central Park
(8305 Park View Blvd.)
Free

Santa is opening the doors to his workshop in La Vista once again, and you're invited to join the fun! Stroll through the festive La Vista Wonderland in Central Park, see the reindeer, sip on free hot cocoa, snack on cookies and enjoy holiday crafts and activities while you wait to meet Santa.

Check in at the tent and get a pager right away when you arrive for your visit. The Workshop may reach capacity at times—Santa is a popular guy after all. Please be prepared to spend some time outdoors (or in the tent) before entering the building. We suggest dressing warmly so you can enjoy the holiday atmosphere outside the Workshop while waiting.

Bring your camera or phone! There will be lots of photo opportunities inside the workshop and outside in the park. You're welcome to snap your own photos of your group with Santa when it's your turn.

Pets are welcome on Saturday, December 13.

Please be aware that December 13 is a pet-friendly event, so you will encounter pets (must be on leashes) outside and inside the tent and workshop. We look forward to seeing your furry, four-legged family members in your holiday photos with Santa.

Note: No reindeer will be at the Workshop on this date.



CITY EVENTS



FREE WINTER MOVIE AT
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE!

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FEB
22

SAVE THE DATE

Winter Travelin' Trivia Nights

December 10, January 14, February 11

Various Locations • Free event

Winter Travelin' Trivia is back! When the weather turns cold, find us at some of the hottest spots in La Vista.

Wednesday, December 10, 6 p.m.

Lucky Bucket Brewing Co. (11941 Centennial Rd.)

Wednesday, January 14, 6 p.m.

Corn Coast Brewing Taproom (10717 Virginia Plaza)

Wednesday, February 11, 6 p.m.

Pint Nine Brewing Co. (10411 Portal 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 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.



**Want to know when
events are happening
in La Vista?**

Subscribe to the CityWise email newsletter! You'll get event information and news delivered to your inbox once each week.

Sign up at CityofLaVista.org/WeeklyNewsletter/Subscribe.

Winter Movie

Sunday, February 22

4:30–7:30 p.m. • Alamo Drafthouse Cinema
(12750 Westport Pkwy)

Join us for a free community movie night at the Alamo Drafthouse in La Vista! Gather your family/friends for an unforgettable evening at the movies.

The theater opens at 4:30 p.m. and the movie begins at 5 p.m.

What movie is showing?

Watch the City's website for an exciting announcement soon!

TICKET RESERVATION
OPENS MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 2.



The movie is free, but advanced ticket registration is required and space is limited! (Limit of 6 tickets per family.) Tickets are required to enter the theater and can be reserved online. Ticket reservations are first-come, first-served.

Visit CityofLaVista.org/WinterMovie to reserve tickets beginning February 2.

PUBLIC WORKS ZONE

9900 Portal Rd | 402.331.8927 | PublicWorks@CityofLaVista.org | CityofLaVista.org/PublicWorks

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

Leading the Way: La Vista Public Works among first in Nebraska Accredited by American Public Works Association

Public Works recently completed the rigorous process of earning accreditation from the American Public Works Association (APWA). The APWA awards accreditation to departments across the U.S. that meet the highest operating and management standards for public works systems and services.

In August, after 18 months of working toward its goal, La Vista officially learned that it earned full accreditation. Public Works was formally recognized and presented certification at a City Council meeting in October.

The APWA estimates there are more than 20,000 public works agencies across North America. In the U.S., just 223 agencies have achieved accreditation.

Only one other public works department in Nebraska (the City of Lincoln) has earned this status, proving La Vista Public Works is ahead of the curve and a leader in their profession.

La Vista wanted to pursue accreditation to benchmark its work against other agencies. The process helped staff identify weaknesses and make improvements that will increase efficiency and service to residents.

Demonstrating compliance with APWA's standards took contributions from employees across La Vista's Public Works Department. Twenty staff members worked to formalize 355 standard operating procedures, submit 8,000 documents for review and ensure the department passed a 3-day on-site review with APWA evaluators. It was a huge undertaking and remarkable team effort.

La Vista's current accreditation is valid for four years. Public Works can then seek re-accreditation to support its ongoing commitment to improvement.



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 11. 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 Street
- La Vista Sports Complex (near the baseball fields), 7346 S. 66th Street

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 | CityofLaVista.org/Recreation

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



Family and Friends Bingo Nights

Third Friday, Monthly | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Community Center

Cost: Free | Ages: All

November 21: Bingo, Pie & Gratitude Vibes

Give thanks and get your game on! We're celebrating all that we are thankful for: family, friends and a little healthy competition.

December 19: Snow Much Fun Bingo

Bundle up! This celebration is packed with frosty fun and merry moments. Play for cheerful prizes, sip on cocoa and enjoy the twinkling lights. It's the most wonderful time... for bingo!

January 16: New Year's Resolution

Ring in the New Year! Perfect for kids, parents, grandparents and neighbors to come together for classic bingo rounds, great prizes and a lively community atmosphere.

Romantasy Craft & Chat

Fourth Sunday, monthly | 6:30-8 p.m. | Various locations

Cost: Free | Ages: 18+

November 23: Sub Genres & Sparkles – Book Bedazzling

Location: Community Center

Join us at Sub-Genres & Sparkles – Book Bedazzling Night. We will dive into the world of romantasy sub-genres and add a little sparkle to our shelves—literally! Bring a book (or use one of ours) to decorate with gems, stickers, metallic markers, washi tape and other dazzling details. *Register by November 21 at CityofLaVista.org/Active (Activity #11105), max. 25 registrants*

December 28: Page to Screen – Mini Book Ornaments

Location: Central Park Clubhouse

During Page to Screen-Mini Book Ornaments, we'll chat about our favorite adaptations. After some lively discussion (because let's be honest... was the book really better?), we'll channel our bookish love into a whimsical craft: mini book ornaments! *Register by December 26 at CityofLaVista.org/Active (Activity #11106), max. 25 registrants*

January 25: DNF Venting – Painting Book Bags

Location: Central Park Clubhouse

Not every book earns a spot on the “favorites” shelf. Whether it was the cringey romance or that one trope you just can't stand, we all have our DNF (Did Not Finish) moments. Come vent with fellow romantasy fans. We'll turn our passionate opinions into art by painting canvas book bags! *Register by January 23 at CityofLaVista.org/Active (Activity #11107), max. 25 registrants*

Kiddie Crafts

Cost: Free | Ages: 0-11

Kiddie Crafts is a hands-on, creative program that encourages children to explore colors, textures and simple craft techniques in a fun and supportive environment. Each drop-in session features themed crafts that build fine motor skills and foster social interaction. No registration necessary. Parents and caregivers are welcome to craft or relax nearby.

Saturday, December 13: Christmas Cards, 10-11 a.m., Community Center
(8116 Park View Blvd.)

Saturday, January 3: Beaded Snowflakes, 10-11 a.m., Central Park Clubhouse
(8305 Park View Blvd.)



Winter Break Activities

December 22-23, 26-30, January 2-5
1-3 p.m. | Community Center

From crafts to movie days, and snack bars to dance parties, drop by the Community Center for activities that are sure to make long winter days more enjoyable when school is out. For more info., visit our website at CityofLaVista.org/RecEvents.

Activities are open to all youth ages 18 and under.

(Ages 0-9 must be accompanied by a chaperone 16 or older.)

Cost: Free

MONDAY December 22	"Minute to Win It" game day
TUESDAY December 23	Hot cocoa and chat
FRIDAY December 26	Pajama and Movie Day (1-3:30 p.m.)
SATURDAY December 27	Mini Art
SUNDAY December 28	Game Day in the game room
MONDAY December 29	Snack Bar Hang Out
TUESDAY December 30	Coloring Wall
FRIDAY January 2	S'mores Indoors
SATURDAY January 3	Family Gym Day
SUNDAY January 4	Chill Zone Relax
MONDAY January 5	Button Making Station

Cost: Free | Ages: 16+

Vision Board Workshop

Sunday, January 11 | 4-6 p.m. | Community Center

Start 2026 off by creating a visual representation of your goals! A vision board is a powerful collage of images, words and symbols that reflect your aspirations. In this workshop, we'll provide the materials you need to design your own personalized vision board. This relaxing evening will help you manifest your goals.

Registration is required. Sign up at CityofLaVista.org/Active (Activity #11102) by January 9.

CLASSES & CLUBS

Visit CityofLaVista.org/Classes for a full list of Recreation classes held at the Community Center. Learn more about these classes by contacting the instructor.

	AIKIDO	INSTRUCTOR: Jeff J.A.Christenham@gmail.com
	BALLROOM DANCE	INSTRUCTOR: Terry 402.639.2209
	BELLY DANCING	INSTRUCTOR: Elianae 402.370.9021 or ElianaeTheBellyDancer@gmail.com
	COMPLETE EXERCISE PROGRAM	INSTRUCTOR: Frank FrankPFerrante@gmail.com
	CENTRAL HAWAIIAN KENPO KARATE	INSTRUCTOR: Tony or Tom 402.297.3773 (Tony) or 402.990.2485 (Tom)
	STRIDES WITH STEPHANIE	INSTRUCTOR: Stephanie Foos.Stephanie@gmail.com
	MINIATURES CLUB	INSTRUCTOR: Sandy 402.708.1177
	OMAHA METRO ARMED COMBAT ACADEMY	INSTRUCTOR: Cat OmahaGreenKnights@gmail.com
	SQUARE DANCING	INSTRUCTOR: Ken 402.690.3020
	TABLE TENNIS CLUB	INSTRUCTOR: Matt 402.680.2937 or MatthewZiegler907@gmail.com
	YOGA	INSTRUCTOR: Frank FrankPFerrante@gmail.com



Community Gardens

Garden plots are available to rent in these locations:

- Camenzind Park, 7120 Wood Lane Drive
- Hollis Park, 7521 Joseph Street
- Jaycee Park, 7323 Harvest Hills Drive

Cost: Residents \$20/plot, Non-residents \$30/plot

Returning gardeners have until January 31 to renew their plot. La Vista residents who are new this year may rent a garden plot after February 1.

Non-residents can rent a garden plot after April 1. Stop by the La Vista Community Center to reserve your plot.



Let the games begin!

A look at the Community Center's Game Room refresh

The Community Center offers multiple spaces for people of all ages to gather, socialize and play together. The game room is one such space at the heart of the Center - and it recently got a makeover.

Bright new overhead lighting, a couch and chairs that offer flexible seating, new children's toys and fresh paint on the walls are a few of the upgrades that have helped transform the game room.

"La Vista residents had been sharing in recent years that the game room didn't feel as comfortable and inviting as they'd like," said Heather Buller, Recreation Director. "The existing furniture—which was years and years old—was partly to blame."

The Recreation Department listened to community feedback and purchased brightly colored, cushioned furniture for the game room that is more conducive to lounging, studying and hanging out with others.

"The new furniture is more comfortable and offers better seating options for those wanting to relax and spend time in the space," Buller said. "It's a much more inviting room for doing homework after school, meeting up with friends for a game of ping-pong or bringing your family to play board games."

The New and Improved Game Room...

- Is available for all La Vista residents to use at no cost during the Community Center's regular hours of operation.
- Is stocked with board games/activities.
- Continues to feature ping pong, pool and foosball tables.
- Offers outlets for charging phones, laptops and other devices.
- Is a safe space for youth and teens to gather and socialize.

The Recreation Department invites you to drop by and enjoy your game room soon!

BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL LEAGUE GAMES JAN 17-MAR 7

Practice starts week of January 5

GRADE	COST	
	EARLY REGISTRATION OCT 1-NOV 10	LATE REGISTRATION NOV 11-30
Boys & Girls Grades 3-8	Resident: \$55 Non-resident: \$65	Resident: \$65 Non-resident: \$75

COED BASKETBALL CLINIC JAN 10-FEB 7

GRADE	COST	
	EARLY REGISTRATION OCT 1-DEC 11	LATE REGISTRATION DEC 12-22
Boys & Girls Grades 1-2	Resident: \$17 Non-resident: \$22	Resident: \$27 Non-resident: \$32

SPRING COED SOCCER ACADEMY & LEAGUE

APRIL 7-MAY 9

AGE	COST	
	EARLY REGISTRATION JAN 5-MAR 4	LATE REGISTRATION MAR 5-19
ACADEMY Boys & Girls 4-5	Resident: \$33 Non-resident: \$53	Resident: \$43 Non-resident: \$63
LEAGUE Boys & Girls 6-7	Resident: \$33 Non-resident: \$53	Resident: \$43 Non-resident: \$63

COED SOCCER CLINIC APRIL 11-MAY 9

AGE	COST	
	EARLY REGISTRATION JAN 5-MAR 4	LATE REGISTRATION MAR 5-19
Boys & Girls Age 3 (as of April 1)	Resident: \$17 Non-resident: \$22	Resident: \$27 Non-resident: \$32

**Register for winter and
spring youth sports!**

CityofLaVista.org/Active

COED FLAG FOOTBALL

GAMES APRIL 18-JUNE 20

Spring practice starts April 1

GRADE	COST	
	EARLY REGISTRATION JAN 5-FEB 12	LATE REGISTRATION FEB 13-28
Boys & Girls PreK-6th as of spring 2025	Resident: \$33 Non-resident: \$53	Resident: \$43 Non-resident: \$63

BOYS BASEBALL GAMES APRIL 23-JUNE 30

Practice starts April 1

LEAGUE	AGE (as of April 1)	COST	
		EARLY REGISTRATION JAN 5-FEB 12	LATE REGISTRATION FEB 13-28
YEARLING/ COACH PITCH	7-8	Resident: \$50 Non-resident: \$65	Resident: \$60 Non-resident: \$75
MUSTANG	9-10	Resident: \$65 Non-resident: \$85	Resident: \$75 Non-resident: \$95
BRONCO	11-12	Resident: \$75 Non-resident: \$105	Resident: \$85 Non-resident: \$115
PONY	13-14	Resident: \$95 Non-resident: \$105	Resident: \$95 Non-resident: \$115

GIRLS SOFTBALL GAMES APRIL 23-JUNE 30

Practice starts April 1

LEAGUE	AGE (as of May 1)	COST	
		EARLY REGISTRATION JAN 5-FEB 12	LATE REGISTRATION FEB 13-28
COACH PITCH	7-8	Resident: \$50 Non-resident: \$65	Resident: \$60 Non-resident: \$75
MINORS	9-10	Resident: \$65 Non-resident: \$85	Resident: \$75 Non-resident: \$95
JUNIORS	11-13	Resident: \$75 Non-resident: \$105	Resident: \$85 Non-resident: \$115
SENIORS	14-18	Resident: \$110 Non-resident: \$140	Resident: \$120 Non-resident: \$150



SENIOR PROGRAM



The La Vista Senior Program is designed to enhance the lives of those 55+ by providing high-quality services that offer wellness, leisure, life-long learning and social opportunities.

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, or contact Kaily Summerlin at 402.331.3455.



Staying in Balance: Seniors Move Toward Wellness with Tai Chi

Practicing tai chi offers numerous health benefits, particularly for older adults. Margaret Noll is well-versed in those benefits. She has been practicing and teaching tai chi for nearly 20 years. She currently teaches classes for the Senior Program at the La Vista Community Center.

Margaret first began studying tai chi while working at a healthcare rehabilitation center. As she learned more about tai chi's positive impact on balance and coordination, and how it helps prevent falls among older adults, she was hooked. Today, she's as passionate as ever about helping people use tai chi to improve their health and well-being.

“Research shows that practicing Tai Chi twice a week for 12 weeks can significantly decrease the odds of falling in older adults,” said Margaret. “Tai chi also improves strength, flexibility, posture breathing and it helps with stress and relaxation. It’s good for blood flow, blood pressure, digestion, sleep and mental health, too.”

Tai chi is a form of exercise rooted in Chinese martial art. It consists of mindful breathing and slow, deliberate movements designed to get energy flowing through different organs. The low-impact movements increase muscle control and body awareness.

There are different tai chi forms, and the classes Margaret leads focus on eight basic movements. The moves are gentle and adaptable, making it easy for people of various levels of fitness and mobility to follow along.

“You can do these moves standing or sitting in a chair or wheelchair,” said Margaret. “If you want to sit and only practice the breathing, you can still join in and benefit from the class. The key is that you never do any moves that hurt.”

The Senior tai chi classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:45 a.m. No experience is needed. There is a suggested contribution of 50 cents per class. Classes are flexible and open to drop-ins—so participants can show up whenever they’re available.

First-timers can expect a relaxing environment, calming music and possibly a few jokes from Margaret.

“It’s fun,” said Margaret. “Just keep moving and you will improve.”

SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy a nutritious meal at the Community Center, provided by Company Kitchen, 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.

Suggested donation: \$5 for those 60 and older

Required fee: \$9.50 for those younger than 60

SENIOR PROGRAM EVENTS

Mayor's Christmas Potluck

Wednesday, December 17 | 11:30 a.m. | La Vista Community Center

Main dish to be announced. If your last name starts with A-P bring a side.

If your last name starts with Q-Z bring a dessert.

Cost: Free **Registration:** RSVP in advance by calling **402.331.3455**. Reserve your spot by Monday, December 8



Valentine's Senior Lunch

Friday, February 13 | Doors open at 11 a.m.,

Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m., Musical entertainment to follow
Papillion Landing

Register by Wednesday, February 4 at Papillion Landing or the La Vista Community Center front desk. Maximum 150 registrations. Menu to be determined.

Cost: \$8 per person. Payment is due at time of registration. Sorry no refunds.

Ages: All Seniors 55+ are invited

55 AND UP ONGOING ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	FEES
Golden Ballroom Dancing Exercise	Mondays	9-10 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	12-4 p.m. or 2-4 p.m.	FREE
	Wednesdays and Fridays	2-4 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 (Card Game)	Wednesdays	1 p.m.	FREE
Bunco	Last Wednesday of the month	1 p.m.	\$1 contribution
Pitch (Card Game)	Fridays	1 p.m.	FREE
Bingo	Fridays	1 p.m.	\$1/5 games

7701 S 96th St | Non-emergency: 402.331.1582



Police Department Now Has a Designated Crime Analyst

The La Vista Police Department is pleased to share that it added a Crime Analyst to its ranks. Stacy Corbit, a longtime employee of the department, began serving as La Vista's first Criminal Intelligence Analyst in October. Corbit's move into this role marks a significant step forward for the department—expanding its ability to identify and proactively respond to crime trends.

Corbit has worked for La Vista Police for 20 years, most recently as an Administrative Specialist for the Criminal Investigations Bureau. This year, she participated in a program through Cal State Fullerton to earn her Crime Analyst Certification. It required her to complete a 400-hour internship and attend eight hours of online classes each Saturday and Sunday for six months.

"The program covered seven different areas of crime analysis," Corbit said. "It focused on topics such as learning to recognize crime series and patterns, and reporting on criminal statistics."

Corbit was eager to pursue training and transition into her new role.

"I've always had an interest in figuring out the 'why' behind crimes and getting down to the root causes," said Corbit. "Now, I will be able to apply my training to identify patterns and people that will help officers further their investigations."

Corbit is determined to use her knowledge and abilities to help make La Vista as safe as possible. It's personal. She was raised in La Vista and her father served as a La Vista Police Sergeant before retiring.

"I want to help build an even greater relationship between the community and the police department," Corbit said. "This is my home. I'm excited to be able to use my training and knowledge to make La Vista a safe place to live, work and play."



Coffee with a Cop

The La Vista and Papillion Police Departments joined together this fall for a friendly morning of community engagement during "Coffee with a Cop" at Coffee Society Café.

Community members were able to ask questions, voice concerns and simply get to know some of the officers who serve their neighborhoods.

Thank you to those who joined us at the event.

Winter Parking Reminders

The City may issue snow emergencies this winter when seasonal storms hit our area. Please pay close attention to posted street signs and the City's snow emergency declarations during storms.

The City and Police Department share detailed information on their social media channels, as well as on the City's website whenever a snow emergency is issued. Checking these places will help you stay informed so you can avoid being ticketed.

CityofLaVista.org/SnowEmergency

 @LaVistaPolice

  @lavistapolice

During winter storms, a primary goal is to ensure multiple fire trucks, ambulances and patrol vehicles can access your neighborhood safely in the unfortunate event of an emergency.

The Police Department makes every effort to avoid ticketing and towing vehicles, but quick action is needed at times to avoid serious traffic issues. Contact our non-emergency line at **402.593.4111** if you have questions about a parking decision.



Safe Winter Driving

The Police Department wants all residents and visitors to stay safe on the roads this winter. We ask you to follow these safety tips:

- Slow down when there is a potential for slick roads and give yourself extra time to arrive at your destination.
- Increase following distance. A common traffic citation issued in crashes is for following too closely. Keep at least a 4-5 second gap between you and the car you are following.
- Clear snow and debris from your vehicle before you drive. In snowy weather, it's common to see vehicles on the road with minimal to no visibility through windows and mirrors. Not only is this dangerous for the driver, but snow left on a vehicle can cause visibility issues for other drivers as it blows off.
- Consider carrying an emergency kit with clothing, water, snacks and jumper cables jump box. If you are delayed or stranded, these items may be needed to make it through a difficult situation.
- Don't drive impaired. The holidays are for gathering and spending time with friends and family. Alcohol is often a big part of celebrations, so please be responsible, get a ride home or have a designated driver.

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 their 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

Rita Ramirez | Interim City Administrator

Kevin Pokorny | Director of Administrative Services

Joe Soucie | Director of Public Works

Mike Schofield | Director of Public Safety

Rachel Carl | City Clerk

Rose Barcal | Library Director

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