

OH WHAT FUN

Christmas in La Vista

Pgs. 5 & 6

WINTER 2022



LA VISTA
VIEWPOINTS
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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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

As we enter this holiday season, I'm reminded how much we have to be thankful for in La Vista. The past few years have been filled with enormous challenges, but our City has remained strong. For that I am truly thankful. I'm also thankful that:

Our community is so full of life again. We are back to gathering and celebrating. This year, we were finally able to revive some of our City's favorite traditions—our parade, car show and fireworks during the Salute to Summer festival. We gathered for concerts and movies. We conversed and ate pancakes together this fall. We played sports and participated in Library and Recreation programs. Soon we will come together to welcome Santa and enjoy La Vista's magical holiday atmosphere and festivities. Across La Vista there are countless examples of our energetic and spirited community.

Our employees are driven. We have incredibly dedicated and hard-working City employees in La Vista. It is because of their daily efforts to serve our community that our City has been able to overcome difficulties, evolve and grow.

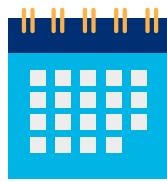
Our City is prospering. I'm proud to report that La Vista is on solid ground financially and is well-prepared for the future. Not only did we successfully navigate the financial challenges brought on by COVID, but voter approval of the continuation of the half-cent sales tax ensures we will be able to continue making progress on improvements to our aging infrastructure.

In this edition of La Vista Viewpoints, you'll find stories about the exciting things happening in our thriving community. You will learn about the award-winning work of our employees. Finally, you'll see information about La Vista's economy and details about the City's recently approved FY23 -FY24 Biennial Budget. My hope is that as you dive into these stories, you'll feel the same pride and gratitude for our City that I do.

Happy holidays, La Vista!

MAYOR *Douglas Kindig*





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

November 2022

- 14 **Joint City Council & Planning Commission Workshop, 6 p.m., City Hall Annex**
- 15 **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 16 Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 24 **Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**
- 25 **Offices Closed**

December 2022

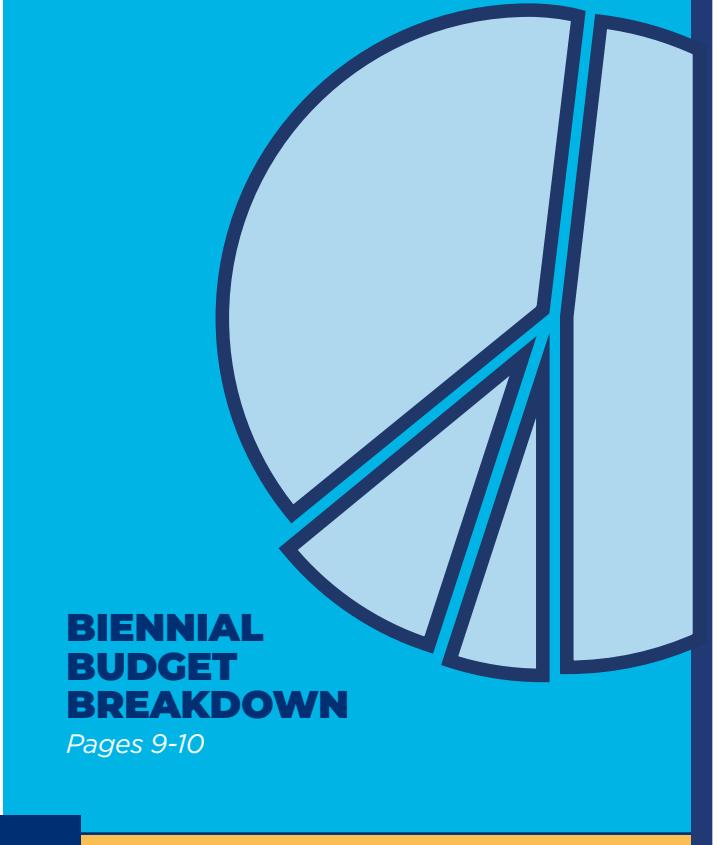
- 6 **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 8 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 6 p.m.
- 8 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 20 **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 21 Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 26 **Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday**

January 2023

- 2 **Offices Closed for New Year's Holiday**
- 5 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Library Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m., Library
- 16 **Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- 18 Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 19 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

For more info on these events & more, visit CityofLaVista.org/2022Events.

For an extensive list of holiday events in La Vista, see pages 5-6 of this newsletter.



BIENNIAL BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Pages 9-10

COUNCIL CLIPS

Highlights of recent City Council action.

- Approved the lease renewal and agreement with Metropolitan Community College for continued operation of La Vista's Dog Park.
- Approved purchase and installation of playground equipment for Jaycee Park.
- Approved the FY23-FY24 Biennial Budget.
- Approved the City's one and six-year plan for highway, road and street improvements.
- Authorized agreement with the National Research Center at Polco to conduct the National Community Survey.



INSIDE PERSPECTIVE

The ins and outs of the La Vista brand.

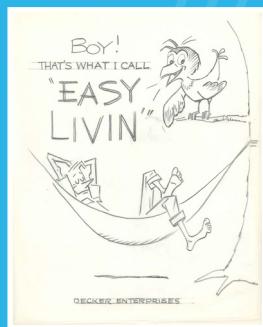
CITY'S HISTORY REFLECTED IN NEW DEVELOPMENT

La Vista owes its very existence to the fortitude of families who chose to move here in late 1959 and 1960. They were lured by the prospect of finally owning a home, and they stayed because of the community they discovered in La Vista.



La Vista's first neighborhood of homes was 335 lots east of 72nd and Harrison streets and was developed by Don Decker and called The House of Nines, because the houses cost a total of \$9,999.

"It was Deckerville, it's a wonder they didn't call it that. The two streets that paralleled the creek were Easy Street North and Easy Street South," said former City Engineer Bob Dreessen. "The whole concept was that for \$9 down and \$99 a month, you too could live on Easy Street."



Decker Enterprises advertisement, 1960s

Decker would even substitute sweat equity for the down payment if the new owners would paint the interior of their homes.

As this community moves into the future with new opportunities and quality of life amenities, the City's history will be ever present when construction on The Link finishes next year. The Link will provide public restrooms, concession areas and outdoor event space that will be available for rent by the public. The project also includes public spaces around the music venue.



THE HOUSE OF IXs

A design feature of The Link is a repeating roman numeral nine on the concrete walls that line the lower level of the new park facility. The numbers will create an always-present reminder of La Vista's beginning.



COMMUNITY TABLE

Neighborhood parties were a regular occurrence in La Vista's early days, mostly because there wasn't much else to do. La Vistans had to invent their own fun as they didn't have the money to go out on the town. Families often made an evening outing at the local ballpark, and street dances and block parties were also common occurrences.

Above all else, the neighbors who were also friends came to be like family.

In honor of the community La Vista's first residents found in each other, another feature that will be added to the area around The Link will be a large community table, inspired by a photo from the City's history book showing a neighborhood gathering in someone's backyard in La Vista's early days.

"I always said we have family, but then we had this family," says Linda Filbrandt in the City's history book. "If you ever had a problem, you knew they were there for you."

#LOVELAVISTA

Spotlight

Featuring stories about the people and organizations spreading a little love in La Vista.

PROJECT SLAM DUNK

La Vista's Jaycee Park transformed thanks to volunteers from Thrasher Foundation Repair.

The basketball court and surrounding landscaping at La Vista's Jaycee Park received some love from a generous local business this summer. A team of volunteers from Thrasher Foundation Repair adopted Jaycee Park as part of a volunteer project it dubbed "Project Slam Dunk." Drawing inspiration from Nike and the work the company does to revitalize outdoor basketball courts, Thrasher's team poured nine months into planning its project. The plan included repairing and painting the basketball court, replacing the nets on the basketball hoops, adding to the park's landscaping and making other needed updates. The result is a winning transformation for our community to enjoy.

Kyla Bayne, Thrasher's Marketing Event Coordinator, explained that one of Thrasher's core values is "One Community." Bayne said that means "returning the blessings that we've been given."

"We had the idea to adopt a park and paint a basketball court, and we searched through a bunch of parks in the area," said Bayne. "When we stopped by here, it was the perfect area right by our community—right in the heart of it—and it was a really good space."



Thrasher's volunteers worked closely with the City of La Vista's Recreation and Public Works departments to come up with a design for the basketball court that is consistent with La Vista's brand. Bayne pointed out that the design came naturally because the City's colors "really match the Thrasher colors and the geometric shape. So, we kind of merged everything together."

Employees from Thrasher's marketing and customer care teams began working in the park in July, contributing several workdays to the project. During that time, they got some assistance from another area business: Mulhall's.

"We're really lucky to have a great partnership with Mulhall's," said Bayne. "They were able to come out here as well and plant some really cool things and donate some really fun little areas to the park."

We're thankful for Thrasher's vision and the volunteers from both Thrasher Foundation Repair and Mulhall's for changing our viewpoint on Jaycee Park.



FORMER CITY COUNCILMEMBER MIKE CRAWFORD HONORED FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

The City of La Vista hosted a reception recently to celebrate the service of longtime City Council member Mike Crawford, who had to resign earlier this year due to health concerns. The reception was a chance for Crawford to reunite with the City's elected officials and staff, who he served with for many years.

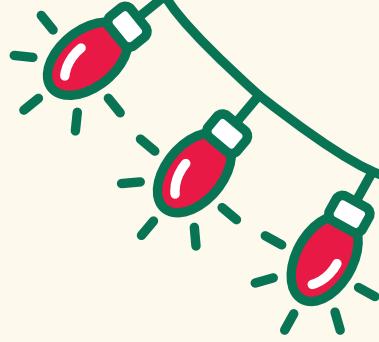
"It was so good to see Mike, and it was a privilege for all of the Council to honor him," said Mayor Douglas Kindig. "We miss Mike and his perspective on Council, and we wish him all the best." Crawford was joined by many members of his family, and during a City Council meeting the night of the reception, he was presented with a rendering of a planned reflection plaza on the City Hall Campus.

"I am honored that the City of La Vista has chosen to move forward with this project," Crawford said. "It will not only honor veterans and first responders but hopefully be a place for the public to reflect and find comfort."

The plaza is being planned to be a site of reflection, commemoration and inspiration. In addition to honoring those who have served in the military, this plaza will also be a place to honor La Vista residents and public servants. The La Vista Community Foundation has set up a fund to receive donations for this project.



Here's a list of all the fun holiday events in La Vista. Check it twice.



LETTERS TO SANTA

November 28-December 13

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

Have you been good this year? Tell it to the big man himself! Write a Christmas letter to Santa this holiday season and send it off to the North Pole! You can ask Santa questions, tell him a story, draw him a picture—and don't forget to tell him what you want for Christmas!

Drop your letters off in the special mailboxes at Santa's Workshop or 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!

SANTA PAWS

Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Santa's Workshop (8305 Park View Blvd)

Get a free pet photo with Santa! Bring your dog (or dogs) to Santa's Workshop for a special, professional portrait. And bring some canned goods to donate to the Tri-City Food Pantry too!

WALKIN' IN A LA VISTA WONDERLAND

November 28-December 31

Central Park (8305 Park View Blvd)

Walk through the Winter Wonderland in the park and take photos with fun holiday cutouts!

VISIT SANTA AND HIS REINDEER

Friday, December 2, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 9, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 13, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 17, 9-11 a.m. (no reindeer)

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

You're invited to visit Santa, Mrs. Claus and the reindeer at his workshop in La Vista this holiday season!

See the reindeer, walk through the La Vista Wonderland in Central Park and then enter Santa's magical workshop—where you can enjoy cookies from Mrs. Claus while you wait to see Santa! There will be lots of photo opportunities inside the workshop and outside in the park. It's possible the workshop will be at capacity when you arrive, so please come prepared to wait outdoors for a time before entering the building.

PARENT AND ME: GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING (AGES 5-10)

Saturday December 10, 1-3 p.m.

La Vista Community Center

Start celebrating the season with gingerbread fun in this holiday workshop. Discover tools and techniques to create the perfect gingerbread house display for all to see. You'll be provided with a gingerbread house and all the fixings to decorate it, plus guidance from an instructor. Join this class to create memories that will last a lifetime. **Cost: \$55**. This is a child/parent class. Only the child should register. Supplies included.

See more info at
CityofLaVista.org/TwasTheLights.



★ *Christmas* AT THE LIBRARY ★

Christmas time is a special time at the Library. Get in the festive spirit with one of many programs offered throughout the month of December!

GINGER WHO

December 1-31

Come find out which gingerbread characters are hanging out in the Library. Some old friends have returned, and new friends have arrived. Earn a prize if you guess all storybook characters correctly. This activity is available all month. One prize per person.

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS CRAFT

Thursday, December 1, 9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

We are counting down the days to Christmas, and we hope you are too! Stop by the Library to make your own craft and begin counting today. Craft supplies will be available while supplies last. Ideal for the whole family.

STORYTIME, MUSIC AND CRAFT WITH SANTA CLAUS

Wednesday, December 7, 10-11 a.m.

Santa is coming to the Library to read a story, sing songs and make a craft. Dress in your best and bring your cameras for picture taking. Ages 0-6

GIFT WRAPPING STATION

December 8-23

Swing by the Library with the gifts you need to wrap and work in peace! We will have a gift-wrapping station open for all to use in the Makerspace area of the Library. The Library will supply the wrapping paper, bows, tape, scissors and wide-open table space. This area is open during normal business hours.

TEEN WINTER BALL

Friday, December 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Come dressed in your best formal attire or winter-themed costume for this after-hours party! An indoor snowball fight, ice sculpture contest, Just Dance dance competition, party games, festive snacks, finger foods and more will be happening all night long! At the end of the night, one teen will be crowned the night's Winter Wizard. RSVP by December 5 to attend. 7th-12th graders only.

PAJAMA STORYTIME AND COOKING DECORATING WITH MRS. CLAUS

Thursday, December 15, 6 p.m.

Listen to stories, decorate holiday-themed cookies and visit with our favorite Mrs. Claus. Bring your cameras and snap a picture too.

HOLIDAY CARD MAKING

Saturday, December 17, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The holidays are a great time to spend the morning with family and friends. Come to the Library and make holiday themed crafts, cards, and more! We'll provide the supplies or just the space for you to create. Ugly sweaters are encouraged. Enjoy a sweet treat and hot chocolate too!

WINTER MOVIE

Monday, December 19, 2 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate wintertime with a family movie! Can you guess the movie? Fearless Anna teams up with Kristoff and Sven on an epic journey to find her sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped Arendelle in eternal winter. Treats will be provided.

HOLIDAY BINGO

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

Get ready for an evening of bingo, prizes and delicious holiday treats. Holiday attire or pajamas are strongly encouraged. Ideal for the whole family.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CRAFTS

Friday, December 30, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Stop by the Children's area to create fun crafts that will help you celebrate the New Year! Craft supplies will be available while supplies last. Ideal for the whole family. Special goody bags are available at the circulation desk to all children who make a craft.



A ROAD TRIP TO REMEMBER

This August, the La Vista Senior Center took a group of 45 seniors on an unforgettable adventure.

The group traveled far outside of La Vista on a daytrip to the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines.

Kaily Stanley, La Vista's Senior Services Manager, helped organize the excursion. Stanley explained that the idea for a trip came from seniors who frequent the Center. She said the City had designated funds for a signature senior program.

When she asked seniors for input on the type of program they wanted, a common response was "Take me on a trip!"

The group departed early in the morning and was treated to donuts and games during the drive. Each senior received a map of the fairgrounds and a list of popular

exhibits. Upon arrival, everyone dispersed to explore on their own. Many made it a point to see the iconic Butter Cow. The 4-H exhibits, animal shows, cow chip throwing contest, wine tasting and art exhibits were also popular stops. A few thrill-seekers rode the carnival rides.

Many of the seniors had never been to the Iowa State Fair, though a few said they went regularly when they were younger. One senior shared that he had attended the fair as an exhibitor more than 30 times, and he was eager to return.

When the group reunited for dinner at the Machine Shed restaurant before driving home, everyone shared lively stories about their experiences and the memories they made during their day at the Iowa State Fair.

LA VISTA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM RECOGNIZED AT NEBRASKA PLANNING CONFERENCE

Two members of the City's Community Development team recently received awards at the 2022 Annual Nebraska Planning Conference.



Cale Brodersen, Assistant Planner, received the Emerging Practicing Planner of the Year Award from Nebraska's chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). This award recognizes an individual with seven or fewer years of planning experience who demonstrates an exceptional commitment and understanding towards the planning profession.

Cale has worked as the Assistant Planner for the City of La Vista since his graduation with a Master's in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2019.

In addition to volunteering on multiple City employee committees, Cale volunteers extensively within the Nebraska chapter of the APA and Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association. He serves as a newsletter co-editor, manages a book club for professionals, created a mentorship program and heads the Emerging Planners Networking Group.



Jeff Sinnott, Chief Building Official, received the Carol Swayne Planning Commissioner Award from the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association. This award is for "Excellence in Planning" by a Planning Commissioner. While Jeff's primary area of expertise is in building permit review and inspection, he has a long history in planning and zoning. In 1974, he became a member of the La Vista Planning Commission and served for four years. He's also served in a planning and zoning role for the City of Plattsmouth, and he currently serves on the City of Ralston's Planning Commission.

Jeff has been employed with the City for 25 years and has assisted with La Vista's planning and zoning while in the role of Chief Building Official (prior to La Vista's hiring of a dedicated City Planner) since 1997.

WINTER DRIVING SAFETY



Winter driving conditions can change rapidly in Nebraska, so it is important that you and your family are prepared as you take to the roads during inclement weather. The best advice is to stay home during storms and avoid driving, but if you need to go out, please follow these suggestions.

- Always wear your seatbelt.
- Keep your vehicle gassed up and in good working condition. Ensure wiper blades are functioning and top off windshield fluid.
- Check the weather and traffic report (or your weather app) before heading out driving.
- Allow extra time for travel during the winter and do not drive faster than road conditions allow.
- Do not pass snowplows or sanding trucks. Plow drivers have limited visibility and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
- Do not drive beyond your vehicle's capabilities. Even vehicles with 4-wheel drive can encounter issues on snow or ice-covered roadways.
- Stock your vehicle with the supplies you need to drive safely in the winter and stay warm in an emergency, including:
 - Snow shovel
 - Sand or cat litter
(*in case your vehicle becomes stuck in snow*)
 - Warm jackets, blankets, hats & gloves (*in case you must exit your vehicle*)
 - Ice scraper/broom
 - Flashlight
 - Jumper cables
 - Phone charger
 - Warning devices (*i.e. strobes, emergency markers*)

For longer trips, consider packing food, water and any medication you might need if stranded. If you become stranded or your vehicle breaks down:

- Stay with your vehicle.
- Do not overexert yourself.
- Place bright markers on the antenna or windows.
- Keep the interior dome light turned on.
- Do not run your car for long periods of time while the windows are rolled up or in an enclosed space—this is a carbon monoxide hazard. If you must keep your vehicle running to stay warm, clear snow away from the exhaust pipe.



PROTECT HOLIDAY PACKAGES FROM GRINCHES

The holiday season is a time of giving. Sadly, some grinches look for opportunities during the holidays to take what isn't theirs. Package theft has become more common thanks to the popularity of online shopping — and porch pirates are becoming increasingly bold. Video doorbells and security cameras can record thieves in action, but these devices don't always prevent theft.

To avoid becoming an easy target, take precautions when you shop online to keep your packages out of thieves' hands. We suggest:

- Selecting "ship to store" at checkout when shopping online from retailers that have stores near your home or work.
- Having orders delivered to shipping stores (UPS, FedEx, etc.) that will hold your packages until you can retrieve them.
- Using secure delivery lockers. (Amazon, etc.)
- Requesting "signature required" delivery so purchases are not left unattended at your home.
- Watching for delivery status updates in your inbox and keeping track of when your items are out for delivery.
- Teaming up with neighbors and asking someone you trust to watch for and retrieve packages when you aren't home.

Remember to always keep your porch well lit, and don't hesitate to report suspicious activity to the Police Department.



LA VISTA'S CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

March 7 - May 9, Tuesday evenings, 6-9 p.m.

The La Vista Police Department is excited to host a Citizen's Police Academy this spring. The goal of the Academy is to foster communication between residents and the Police Department and create a group of citizens with a strong understanding of police practices and services.

Classes are free. Registration is now open, and class size is limited, so sign up early.

Visit CityofLaVista.org/CitizensAcademy to register for the Citizen's Police Academy, or contact Officer Karl Meister at KMeister@CityofLaVista.org for more information.

BIENNIAL BUDGET

HIGHLIGHTS

The spending plan of \$67.9M in FY23 and \$47.9M in FY24 for all funds in the FY23-FY24 Biennial Budget continues the City's commitment to delivering quality municipal services, investing in public infrastructure and opportunities to improve the economy, and ensuring long-term financial stability.

Growth management significantly influenced development of the budget based on two primary drivers. The population, which is expected to increase by 20% over the next decade and daytime population, which will continue to evolve as new development occurs. These factors will have immediate impact on city services related to public safety calls for service, traffic management, parking enforcement, snow removal, park maintenance, parking facility operations and maintenance, etc.

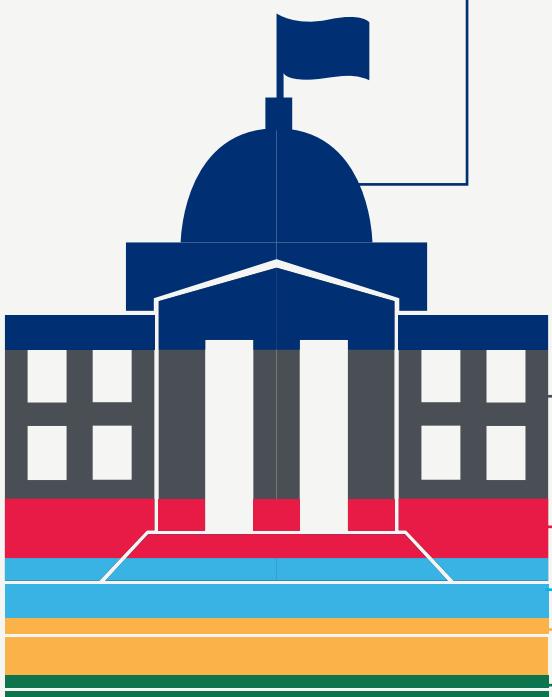
Major expenses pertain to personnel, equipment and infrastructure improvements. New positions include the following additions: (3) police officers; (1) police sergeant; (1) landscape gardener; (1) maintenance worker (1) administrative assistant (Library); PT – seasonal workers and recreation attendants. Infrastructure investment is highlighted on page 10.

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.



For more info, visit
CityofLaVista.org/Budget

PROPERTY TAX – \$11.9M

For every \$100 in property 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 – \$4.9M

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 and the Debt Service Fund for streets and other infrastructure.

OTHER – \$2.2M

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 – \$2.1M

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.

RESTAURANT TAX – \$2.1M*

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

*This number will be amended to \$700K.

HOTEL TAX – \$1M

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

2023 BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Your tax dollars at work

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



\$29.30 Public Safety

Police | Fire | EMS | Animal Control



\$18.17 Public Works

Streets | Parks | Public Facilities
Sports Complex | Snow Removal



\$13.03 General Government

Administration | Finance
Human Resources | I.T.



\$5.64 Debt Service



\$4.26 Recreation



\$3.39 Library



\$2.31 Community Development

Planning | Zoning Building Inspections



\$76.10*
TOTAL

Estimated monthly taxes for city services.

*Based on a La Vista single-family home valued at \$169,100.
Median Home Value = \$169,100.

Source: ACS (American Community Survey) 5-year estimate (2016-2020).

A STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION



La Vista's overall financial condition is strong. The City continues to maintain an Aa3 bond rating, which demonstrates high quality and very low credit risk, while pursuing new development.

PROPERTY TAX LEVY RATE

The City's property tax levy rate is \$0.54 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The rate was lowered in 2022.

\$0.50
General Fund Levy

\$0.04
Debt Service Fund

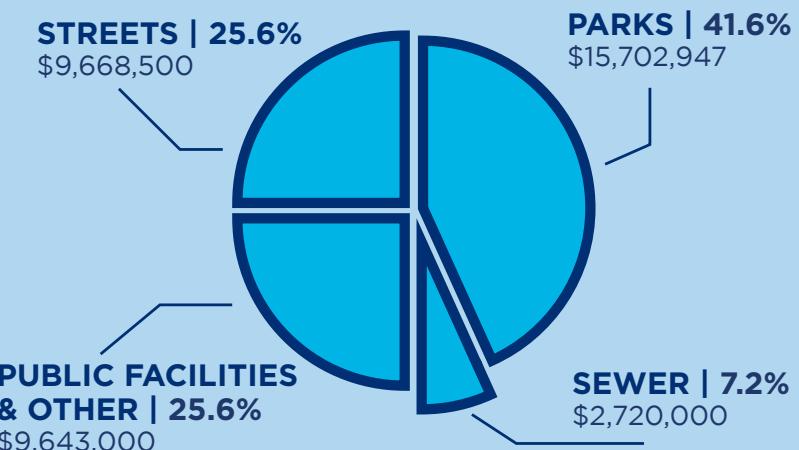
\$0.54

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) identifies, prioritizes and addresses community needs. The FY23 CIP budgeted expenditures totals

\$37,734,447

FY23 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM AREA





LIBRARY NOOK



Follow us on social for
videos, updates and more!



@CityofLaVistaGovernment



@CityofLaVista



@LaVistaLibraryYouth



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

WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

Hopefully you answered, "A library card!" Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September since 1987 to mark the beginning of the school year. If you missed getting a card in September, don't worry—you can get one any time the La Vista Public Library is open.

To get a La Vista Library card, stop by the Library and sign up! Library cards are issued to adults 16 and older, and minor children ages 5-15 with parental consent. If you are a La Vista resident, meaning you live within the legal limits of La Vista, the taxes you pay to the City already pay for your Library membership. This is your tax dollars at work!

You are eligible for a La Vista Public Library card at no charge if you meet any of these requirements:

- Reside within the city limits of La Vista (including any apartment complex within the legal city limits)
- Own your own business in La Vista
- Active-duty military residing in Sarpy County
- Current Metropolitan Community College student, faculty member or staff person
- Teach within the city limits of La Vista

Non-residents who do not meet the above criteria can still sign up and pay for a La Vista Public Library membership. The fee is \$60 annually.

When signing up for your card, bring your driver's license or state issued I.D. card with your La Vista address on it. If you are active military, MCC student, faculty or staff, or teaching, bring your I.D. for verification. New to the area and don't have your state I.D. yet? A utility bill with your name and La Vista address works, too.

To verify whether or not you live within the legal limits of La Vista, call or e-mail the Library or visit the City's website at CityofLaVista.org/AmIAResident.

As always, call or e-mail if you have questions. You can also use Gabbie, our text-a-librarian service. Just text **402.204.1537** to text-chat with a librarian. You can easily renew your books, receive notification whenever items are overdue, or ask a reference question!



Explore the Night Sky with Your Library Card

Did you know you can borrow a telescope from the Library? It's as easy as checking out a book. Thanks to a partnership with the Omaha Astronomical Society, Library cardholders (with a good standing account and at least three continuous months of membership) can check out an easy-to-use, high-quality telescope with a user guide and star maps. The telescope can be checked out for two weeks at a time. Whether you're a first-time stargazer or an astronomy buff, ask about the telescope on your next trip to the Library.



Video Magnifier for Visual Assistance

Through a partnership between the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Library is able to offer a new portable video magnifier to help visually impaired users read books, newspapers, and other materials.

This resource is easy to use, has a variety of settings for different viewing options and is available whenever the Library is open. Staff can answer questions and provide assistance as needed.

For a 3-minute demonstration video, just contact the Library!

Cake Pans for Holiday Baking

Let the Library help you start a new holiday baking tradition this year. The Library now offers cake pans and decorating supplies for cardholders to check out. The Library's new cake pan collection was established by Millie Belik, a Papillion La Vista High School sophomore, as part of her work to earn her Gold Award in Girl Scouts.

A variety of holiday themed and character baking pans are available. We even have recipes and decorating tips to share courtesy of Millie. Remember, baking isn't hard when you have a library card!



CHILDREN & FAMILY PROGRAMS

LIBRARY STORYTIMES

Tuesdays; December 6 & 20, January 10, February 24
Ideal for ages 0-6

Storytimes teach new early literacy and fine motor skills through fun songs, crafts and stories.

CRAFTERNOON

Thursdays; December 15, January 12, February 9; 4 p.m.
Ideal for ages 4-8

Crafternoon encourages younger children to let out their creative energy while making, building and creating arts and crafts together.

STEAM CLUB

Wednesdays; December 7, January 4, February 1; 4 p.m.
Ideal for ages 8-12

STEAM Club allows children to explore science, technology, engineering, art & math.

VALENTINE'S GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Friday, February 10, 2-3:30 p.m.

Gingerbread houses can be fun all year round! Join library staff and create your own Valentine's themed house using graham crackers, frosting, and CANDY! Registration closes on Tuesday, February 7. Parental participation required.

RECREATION



Double The Fun: Preschool Play + A Story

Staff from the Library and Recreation Department team up once a month to offer a special activity and read a story geared toward preschoolers at the Community Center. Children's Services Librarian, Rachel Bachman, says combining a short story with Preschool Playtime is the best of both worlds and gives everyone a chance to hear a story—even kiddos who may not want to sit still for long periods of time.

PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Zip around the gym on our tricycles and Cozy Coupe cars, play preschool-sized basketball, kick balls or just run, jump and play with others. It's a great playdate for kids and parents! Please do not bring your own bikes, tricycles or scooters. Special Preschool Playtime activity days are held on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Community Center gym. Following the activity and story, open play is available until noon.

December 8, 10 a.m. - Red Light Green Light

January 12, 10 a.m. - Duck, Duck, Goose

February 9, 10 a.m. - Freeze Tag

Cost: Free **Ages:** Preschool (with Adult)



*"Because children benefit so much when someone reads to them, we read a book each time the Library joins Preschool Playtime. It is a lot of fun. Everyone loved it last month when we played Freeze Dance as a group, read the book *Dancing Feet* by Marc Brown and practiced dancing like the animals in the book. Plus, with around twenty kids in the gym playing, everyone has a chance to make a new friend."*

**-Rachel Bachman,
Children's Services Librarian**

Updated Hours (September-April)

Monday-Friday

8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Adults only 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Youth (8-18) 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday

1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Youth 8-18 on weekdays with
scheduled school days off

1:30 - 9 p.m.

*(Does not include days off for
inclement weather.)*

DIRECTOR

Scott Stopak

ASST. DIRECTOR

David Karlson

YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS COORDINATOR

Denny Dinan

SENIOR SERVICES

MANAGER

Kaily Stanley

COMMUNITY EVENTS COORDINATOR

Brian Allen

ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT

Sue Tangeman

CityofLaVista.org/Recreation

Recreation@CityofLaVista.org

402.331.3455

CLASSES

The Community Center offers tons of activities and classes. Here's a look at just a few! For the full list, visit CityofLaVista.org/Classes.

AIKIDO

Monday & Thursday Nights
More info at sarpyaikidoclub.com.

OMAHA METRO ARMED COMBAT ACADEMY

Thursdays, 6-8:45 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
For more info, contact Cat Souliere at omacagreenknights@gmail.com.

SAFE HANDS HEALING HANDS

Last Wednesday of November, 6-9 p.m.
For more info., contact Claudia Brown-Jackman at **402.630.3169** or claudia@safehandshealinghands.com.

BALLROOM DANCE LESSONS

**Mondays, 7-8 p.m. (by Appointment),
Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. (Group Class)**
For more info., contact Terry Vargas at **402.639.2209**.

KENDO JAPANESE SWORD FIGHTING

Thursdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; Saturdays, 9-11 a.m.
For more info, contact Mark Porter at **402.715.0500** or learningkendo@cox.net.

WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Last Tuesday of the Month, 6-8:45 p.m.
For more info., contact Claudia Brown-Jackman at **402.630.3169** or visit shuurindojo.com.



YOGA

Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sundays, 3-4:30 p.m. (September-April)
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
For beginner and intermediate students. The class format focuses on breathing & relaxation techniques, stretching, joint & gland exercises, Hatha Yoga postures and stress management techniques. For more info., contact Frank at frankpferrante@gmail.com.

Cost: \$7/class

Ages: 13+

Belly Dancing

Danielle "Elianae" Stone has over 20 years of experience in traditional Raqs Sharqi style Belly Dance and is Level 2 certified in the Salimpour School of Dance, as well as certified in Yoga, Barre and Fitness for Older adults and special populations. She holds a BA in Dance and an MA in Health and Physical Activity and is excited to see you in class!

BEGINNER BELLY DANCING

Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.

Learn the basics of Raqs Sharqi style belly dance, or traditional dances from Egypt, Turkey, and Greece. Learn fundamental hip, torso, and arm movements in a low-impact and fun way! Combinations, choreography, and props such as veil and cymbals can be taught based on the group, and no experience is required. Come shimmy and connect with this beautiful global dance form.

INTERMEDIATE BELLY DANCING

Mondays, 6-7 p.m.

Move beyond the basics with adding layering techniques, prop work and group formations to foundational belly dance movements. Class is appropriate for those with at least one year regular belly dance class experience, and combinations will be tailored to the technical level and interests of participants. It is suggested you attend several monthly sessions of beginner belly dance prior to enrolling in this class. Prop work such as cane, veil and finger cymbals will be taught, layering and specialty topics including folkloric and cultural/regional styles are approached in this class.



BELLY DANCE PERFORMANCE TROUPE REHEARSAL

Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m.

This class requires instructor approval to join. At least two years of regular weekly belly dance/dance experience required. Please attend several of Elianae's intermediate sessions and discuss placement with her to decide if committing to the performance troupe is right for you.

Age: All ages

Cost: \$40 per month, or \$12 drop-in fee (if unable to commit to attending monthly class)

Please reserve your spot with Elianae on her website at accelerationbellydancefitness.com, call **402.370.9021** or email at elianaethebellydancer@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S SPORTS

COED BASKETBALL CLINIC

JANUARY 14-FEBRUARY 11

Early-Bird Registration Deadline: December 14
Final Registration Deadline: December 28

The La Vista Recreation Department offers a coed youth basketball clinic for 1st and 2nd grade boys and girls. Participants will learn the basic skills of dribbling, passing, shooting, teamwork and sportsmanship, all while having fun!

This is a parent-instructed clinic, so several volunteers will be needed to hold these clinics.

The basketball clinic is comprised of 5 one-hour sessions to be held on Saturday mornings from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the La Vista Community Center. Start/end date is subject to change.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Grades: Boys and Girls currently in 1st-2nd
Early-Bird Registration: October 1-December 14
Early-Bird Cost: Resident—\$17, Non-resident—\$22
Final Registration: December 15-December 28
Final Registration Cost: Resident—\$27,
Non-resident—\$32

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

JANUARY-MARCH

Early-Bird Registration Deadline: November 14
Final Registration Deadline: November 28 (or until leagues are full)

The emphasis of the La Vista Youth Basketball League will be learning new skills, improving current basketball skills, techniques, teamwork, sportsmanship and fun. We offer youth basketball for boys and girls in grades 3rd-8th (players are separated into 3rd/4th, 5th/6th & 7th/8th grade divisions).

Our teams participate with the Sarpy Community YMCA, and games are typically played on Saturdays/Sundays at several locations in the La Vista/Papillion area. This is a "recreational" league, and players are not allowed to play in this league if they participate on a "select" or "competitive" team. You will receive a call from your child's coach approximately one week prior to the season starting to provide you with information about your child's specific practice day, time and location.

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED! Please consider volunteering your time to coach.

Practices will tentatively begin the week of January 2, 2023. Practices are held at coach's discretion 1-2 times per week on Sunday-Friday evenings with no practices on Wednesdays. Game days and locations may vary. Games will begin in late January and end in March. Start/end date is subject to change.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Grades: Boys and Girls currently in 3rd-8th
Final Registration Deadline: December 5
Final Registration Cost: Resident—\$65, Non-resident—\$75



MARCH MADNESS BASKETBALL SKILLS CHALLENGE

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Registration: 6-6:30 p.m. | Competition starts at 6:30 p.m.
Must register on day of event ONLY!

Boys Divisions: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grades
Girls Divisions: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grades

We're bringing a bit of March Madness to La Vista with a youth basketball skills competition! Boys and girls in grades 3-8 are invited to show off their skills in a three-part challenge that includes:



1. OBSTACLE COURSE

2. HOT SHOT

3. FREE THROW CONTEST

An overall champion from each age division will be crowned based on the combined scores from the three events. Join us at the La Vista Community Center and give it a shot!

BASEBALL

SEASON BEGINS IN APRIL

Early-Bird Registration Deadline: February 13

Final Registration Deadline: March 1

The youth baseball program is a partnership with the Ralston Area Baseball Association. Games are played on varying days and locations; practices are held at the coach's discretion. The La Vista Recreation Department offers youth baseball for ages 7-14. The baseball season runs from April through early July of each year.

Practices will tentatively start the week of April 3 and are held at the coach's discretion during the week. Game days vary and can be held during the week and on the weekends. You will receive a call from your child's coach approximately one week prior to the season starting to provide you with information about your child's specific practice day, time and location. Start/end date is subject to change.

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED! Please consider volunteering your time to coach.

SOFTBALL

SEASON BEGINS IN APRIL

Early-Bird Registration Deadline: February 13

Final Registration Deadline: March 1

The softball program plays in the Papillion Softball league, which is a true recreational league for girls to learn fundamentals of the game of softball and to have fun. Players are not allowed to play in this league if they participate on a "select" or "competitive" team. The La Vista Recreation Department offers youth softball for girls ages 7-18.

Practice will tentatively start the week of April 3. Practices are held at coach's discretion during the week. Game days are typically Friday evenings and Saturday mornings/afternoons, but some weeknight games may also be scheduled. You will receive a call from your child's coach prior to the season starting. At that time, you will receive information about your child's specific practice day, time and location. Start/end date is subject to change.

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED! Please consider volunteering your time to coach.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Early-Bird Registration: January 2-February 13

Final Registration: February 14-March 1

PONY LEAGUE (13-14)

Ages: Boys 13-14 as of April 1

Early-Bird Cost: Resident-\$85, Non-resident-\$105

Final Registration Cost: Resident-\$95, Non-resident-\$115

BRONCO LEAGUE (11-12)

Ages: Boys 11-12 as of April 1

Early-Bird Cost: Resident-\$75, Non-resident-\$105

Final Registration Cost: Resident-\$85, Non-resident-\$115

MUSTANG LEAGUE (9-10)

Ages: Boys 9-10 as of April 1

Early-Bird Cost: Resident-\$65, Non-resident-\$85

Final Registration Cost: Resident-\$75, Non-resident-\$95

YEARLING/COACH PITCH LEAGUE (7-8)

Ages: Boys 7-8 as of April 1

Early-Bird Cost: Resident-\$50, Non-resident-\$65

Final Registration Cost: Resident-\$60, Non-resident-\$75

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Early-Bird Registration: January 2-February 13

Final Registration: February 14-March 1

JR./SR. LEAGUE (13-18)

Ages: Girls 13-18 as of April 1

Early-Bird Cost: Resident-\$110, Non-resident-\$140

Final Registration Cost: Resident-\$120, Non-resident-\$150

BRONCO LEAGUE (11-12)

Ages: Girls 11-12 as of April 1

Early-Bird Cost: Resident-\$75, Non-resident-\$105

Final Registration Cost: Resident-\$85, Non-resident-\$115

MUSTANG LEAGUE (9-10)

Ages: Girls 9-10 as of April 1

Early-Bird Cost: Resident-\$65, Non-resident-\$85

Final Registration Cost: Resident-\$75, Non-resident-\$95

PINTO/COACH PITCH LEAGUE (7-8)

Ages: Girls 7-8 as of April 1

Early-Bird Cost: Resident-\$50, Non-resident-\$65

Final Registration Cost: Resident-\$60, Non-resident-\$75



SPRING FLAG FOOTBALL

SPRING GAMES: APRIL 15-JUNE 17

Early-Bird Registration Deadline: February 20

Final Registration Deadline: March 6

The Recreation Department offers a youth flag football program for boys and girls grades K-6 in the spring and fall. The flag football program is part of the Sarpy County Flag Football League, which is dedicated to improving youth sports by teaching and developing skills promoting maximum participation and providing a fair, safe environment. All games are played on Saturday mornings/afternoons at the La Vista Sports Complex, Papillion Landing and/or Spirit Monarch and BJSA Fields. Start/end dates are subject to change.

Practice will tentatively begin the week of April 3. Practices are held at the coach's discretion during the week. You will receive a call from your child's coach approximately one week prior to the season starting to provide you with information about your child's specific practice day, time and location.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Grades: Boys & Girls K-6 as of spring 2023

Early-Bird Registration: January 2–February 20

Early-Bird Cost: Resident—\$33, Non-resident—\$53

Final Registration: February 21–March 6

Final Registration Cost: Resident—\$43, Non-resident—\$63



PLAY BALL!

ADULT SOFTBALL

COED LEAGUE: **FRIDAY EVENINGS**

MEN'S LEAGUE: **TUESDAY OR
FRIDAY EVENINGS**

Registration Deadline: February 1–March 24
or until leagues are full

Registration Cost: \$215 (+ separate \$44 check for
forfeit deposit fee)

Umpire Fees: Paid in cash directly to
umpires before each game

14-week season



Pickleball: Funny name, fun for all

Pickleball came to La Vista this fall, and it's been a huge hit. Since the City added two indoor and three outdoor pickleball courts, the Recreation Department has found residents are excited and curious about this oddly named sport. Assistant Recreation Director, David Karlson, discusses pickleball's popularity.

INDOOR COURTS

Two courts are located in the Community Center gymnasium. They may be reserved up to one week ahead. Nets will be set up and ready for rentals. We recommend bringing your own equipment, but a limited number of paddles and balls are available at the front desk. Please call **402.331.3455** for rental times, availability and fees, or visit CityofLaVista.org/Recreation.

OUTDOOR COURTS

The three tennis courts at Central Park East are now multipurpose courts that can be used for playing both tennis and pickleball.

Please note that the nets on these courts are removed during the winter months!



Why did La Vista add pickleball courts?

Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the U.S., and we saw a strong interest in La Vista.



How does offering pickleball support the Recreation Department's mission?

Our last Community Interest and Opinion Survey revealed that La Vista's residents are highly interested in adult health and wellness. By providing places to play pickleball, we're giving community members another fun way to be active.



What's been the community's response to pickleball in La Vista?

The response has been great. Nearly 30 people attended an introduction to pickleball session at the Community Center in September, and our indoor courts are rented regularly.



What advice do you have for new pickleball players?

Start with the basics—learning to serve cross court and volleying the ball—then incorporate the rules. Play for fun first, then learn the strategies to play competitively.

FOOTBALL AND FUN AT LA VISTA'S PUNT, PASS AND KICK COMPETITION

La Vista's Recreation Department hosted its annual Punt, Pass and Kick football skills competition in September at the La Vista Sports Complex. Kids ranging in age from 7 to 13, along with a few adults, participated in the event. The following winners in the youth divisions qualified to compete in the statewide competition held at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln in October:

Grant Wilson (7), Braxton Erickson (8), Liam Mayberry (9), Truman Grams (10), Khyler Rivers (11), Lucas Wilson (12), Sophie Dudek (10), Leyton Michaelis (11) and Aurelia Grams (13).

The group represented well at the state finals, where 117 contestants from across the state competed. Erickson, Dudek and Michaelis each brought home awards.



SENIOR CENTER



SPECIAL SERVICES BUS

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

The service operates Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and does not operate on City of La Vista holidays or when Papillion La Vista or Ralston Public Schools are closed due to weather conditions.

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.

For more information about service, fees, etc., please call the La Vista Recreation Department at 402.331.3455, or visit us at CityofLaVista.org.

The La Vista Senior Center, located in the Community Center, offers friendship, fitness, field trips and many more fun activities. The Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENO) is sponsoring the Congregate Meal Program Monday-Friday at 11:30 a.m., which is catered by Treat America. The suggested contribution amount for the meal is \$4.25 for adults over 60 years of age. For those younger than age 60, the lunch cost is \$11.

To make a lunch reservation, either call the Center or sign up at the Center by noon on the business day before. Please visit CityofLaVista.org/Seniors for the monthly senior newsletter and to look at scheduled activities/trips and lunch menus. For more info, contact Kaily Stanley at **402.331.3455** or KStanley@CityofLaVista.org.

55 AND UP ONGOING ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	FEES
BINGO	FRI	1 p.m.	\$1 total for 4 games
CHAIR VOLLEYBALL	WED, FRI	10:15-11:15 a.m.	FREE
TAI CHI FOR BALANCE	TUES, THURS	11-11:45 a.m.	60+: \$0.50 suggested
MOVIE SHOWINGS	EVERY OTHER TUES	Afternoon	FREE
DROP-IN QUILTING	WED	9-11:30 a.m.	FREE
HAND & FOOT (CARD GAME)	WED	1 p.m.	FREE
PITCH (CARD GAME)	FRI	1 p.m.	FREE

Bingo

Unless noted, there will be no bingo on days when there is a scheduled speaker or other entertainment.

Chair Volleyball

Fun and fast-paced game played with a beach ball while sitting in a chair.

Tai Chi

Series of rhythmic, slow, coordinated and gentle movements. Tai Chi means great energy, because it helps the energy to flow through your body. It strengthens your heart, lungs and circulatory system, and can improve balance, coordination, deep breathing, mood and calmness. This Tai Chi class is Moving for Balance Tai Chi or Tai Chi 8, with eight different movements.

Movie Showings

Various movies shown on the big screen, all while eating fresh popcorn and candy with your favorite soda.

Drop-in Quilting Group

Come join the Sew 'N' Sews quilting group, which gives folks of any skill level an outlet to show their creativity.



PUBLIC WORKS ZONE



Follow us on social
for construction
updates and more!



@CityofLaVistaGovernment



@CityofLaVista



YouTube.com/CityLaVista



WINTER SEASON REMINDERS

Snowy weather will soon be here, and the Public Works Department has a couple of reminders regarding clearing snow from streets and sidewalks.

SNOW EMERGENCY

When a snow emergency is declared, local media outlets (radio and newspaper) will be notified and notice will be posted on the City's social media accounts and website at CityofLaVista.org.

Citizens are required to keep all vehicles off the street after a snowstorm (at least 2 inches of accumulation) or after a declared snow emergency for 24 hours, or until the street has been plowed. Even if the vehicle was already parked on the street before the storm, it must be moved off the street for 24 hours after the storm ends or until the snowplows clear the street.

CLEARING SIDEWALKS

In all residential neighborhoods, sidewalks must be clear within 24 hours after precipitation ends. In all business districts, the property and public sidewalks must be clear within five hours of the end of the storm, or by 8:30 a.m. the next morning.



WORK IS UNDERWAY ON THE APPLEWOOD CREEK TRAIL PROJECT

The Applewood Creek Trail project will create a new 10-foot-wide recreational trail that runs north and south near 101st Street and connects to an existing trail in the area south of Giles Road.

Construction, which began in late August, focused initially on building the section of the new trail south of Giles Road and building the south half of a pedestrian underpass under Giles Road. Crews have also been constructing a portion of the trail between Giles Road and Brentwood Drive and intend to continue with trail work north of Brentwood Drive as weather allows.

If weather permits, work may continue over the winter, however, traffic is not expected to be significantly impacted. Construction will shift to the north half of the Giles Road in the spring, as well as any remaining trail work north of Brentwood Drive. At that time, traffic on Giles Road will be temporarily restricted while the second half of the pedestrian underpass is completed. The entire project is expected to be ready for the community's enjoyment by summer 2023.

For more information on the Applewood Creek Trail project, contact the Public Works Department at **402.331.8927**.



TREE TALK

The Gift of Trees

Gift a tree this holiday season! While trees aren't necessarily top-of-mind for holiday shoppers, commemorative trees make unique and meaningful gifts.

Trees honoring loved ones can be purchased for planting in any of La Vista's parks through the City's Commemorative Tree Program. You pick the type of tree and location—the City will plant a tree and install a commemorative marker this spring. No crowded stores or gift wrapping required.

More information is available at CityofLaVista.org/TreeProgram.

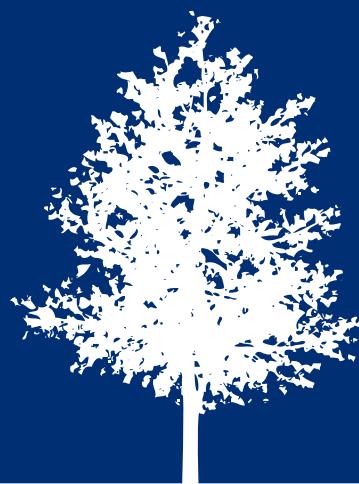
A Tip to Ready Trees for Winter

Pruning trees in the late fall helps protect them from storms during the winter months. This time of year, identify and remove dead or sagging branches from trees on your property. They are the weakest link in a tree and the most likely to fall and cause damage to property or power lines during winter storms.

The City of La Vista's certified arborist, Dutch Sevener, explains there are certain things homeowners can look for in the shape and condition of their trees' branches to know if they are likely to come down in a strong storm. One is to be cautious of tree joints that form a tight "V" shape because they are more likely to snap under the weight of a storm.

Tree Ordinance Reminder

Make way for snowplows! The City's ordinance requires homeowners to keep all trees that hang over the street trimmed to allow 15 feet or more of overhead clearance. This makes it easier for plows to clear streets when it snows.



MEET DUTCH SEVENER

CERTIFIED ARBORIST

YEARS WITH THE CITY: 18

FUN FACT

Dutch's first role with the City was at the golf course.

DUTCH'S VIEW OF LA VISTA

The City has grown a lot and added new trails, which keeps employees busy maintaining these new areas.

Maintaining the more than 2,000 trees across La Vista is a tall order. Leading the effort is long-time City employee, Dutch Sevener, who became a certified arborist five years ago. As part of his arborist certification process, Sevener attended training workshops to grow his knowledge of trees and tree care.

Sevener's classes covered topics ranging from tree identification to soil to tree care. He explained that tree diseases and treatments were a particular area of focus because "one disease can easily look like another."

Sevener's training serves him well when caring for the City's trees, however if he gets stumped, he turns to technology to expand his knowledge. "I myself don't own a cell phone, so when I get home, I get on my iPad and look stuff up."

Park Superintendent, Jason Allen, explains that having an arborist on staff supports La Vista's Tree City USA designation. He says Sevener's expertise is invaluable and helps the City protect its investment in its trees and the benefits they provide.

"Dutch's expertise in trimming, tree removal, the safety of it, the knowledge of tree species (how they're supposed to be maintained and cared for) is what that arborist license brings to us in the City. It's very valuable."

AN IMPROVED PLAYING EXPERIENCE AT THE LA VISTA SPORTS COMPLEX

If you spent any time playing or watching sports at the La Vista Sports Complex this fall, you may have noticed the impact of a new mowing pattern the City adopted.

The La Vista Sports Complex on the far eastern end of the community has been a hive of athletic activity for more than three decades. A recent change to the height of the grass on the playing fields has resulted in a nice change of pace for teams that play there.

Aaron Johannsen is the foreman at the La Vista Sports Complex, which encompasses nearly 70 acres with 14 soccer fields and five mixed use baseball/softball fields. Last fall, Johannsen and the maintenance team made a change to how they mow the grass playing surfaces at the complex.

Crews now mow the soccer fields to an inch and three-eighths compared to three inches, shaving off more than an inch and a quarter of grass on each field. The baseball fields are now kept at a two-inch height. As a result, the pace of games has increased significantly.

"It's been quite the change of speed. We are actually watching the ball roll instead of hitting the grass and stopping," Johannsen said. "It's kind of fascinating to me, and I know the players enjoy it, too."

With a shorter playing surface, when a soccer ball gets kicked or a baseball/softball gets hit into the grass, it has less resistance and rolls farther. Players can make plays without the ball stopping and them having to go to it.

"It changes the playing experience, and it also changes our growth. With our increased mowing frequency and shorter height, the plant itself likes to try and push recovery all the time. Our grass grows a little more, and we're getting more sustained growth throughout the year."

Johannsen said he has received positive feedback from both players and coaches. He explained that other than

needing fuel more often, nothing else has changed to the maintenance operations at the Sports Complex to make this improvement possible.

"I know what turf can be, and I know what turf can do, so I want to push its limits," Johannsen explained. "We've had pretty great results as far as the fields standing up to traffic, and the overall experience has increased. It really has been a change for the better."



YEARS WITH THE CITY: 1.5

FUN FACT

Aaron previously maintained the athletic fields at Iowa State University.

AARON'S VIEW OF LA VISTA

From April to November, there's at least one event on a City field each day (soccer, baseball, softball, flag football & more). Over the past 1.5 years, I've grown to know the community and enjoy it. From the La Vista community to City staff and even to the Public Works Department, the City feels like a tight-knit group that always works together.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING SITES

OPEN DECEMBER 26 THROUGH JANUARY 15

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

- **LA VISTA SPORTS COMPLEX BASEBALL PARKING LOT**
(2 blocks south of Harrison St. on the west side of 66th St.)
- **SWIMMING POOL PARKING LOT**
(Located on the east side of Kelly Fields: 7601 S. 85th St.)

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





CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Douglas Kindig

CITY COUNCIL

Kim Thomas	Ward I	Terrilyn Quick	Ward I
Ron Sheehan	Ward II	Josh Frey	Ward II
Deb Hale	Ward III	Alan Ronan	Ward III
Jim Frederick	Ward IV	Kelly Sell	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
Bob Lausten	Police Chief/Director of Public Safety
Rachel Carl	Assistant to the City Administrator
Pam Buethe	City Clerk
Pat Dowse	City Engineer
Bruce Fountain	Community Development Director
Rose Barcal	Library Director
Scott Stopak	Recreation Director
Wendy Lowery	Human Resources Director