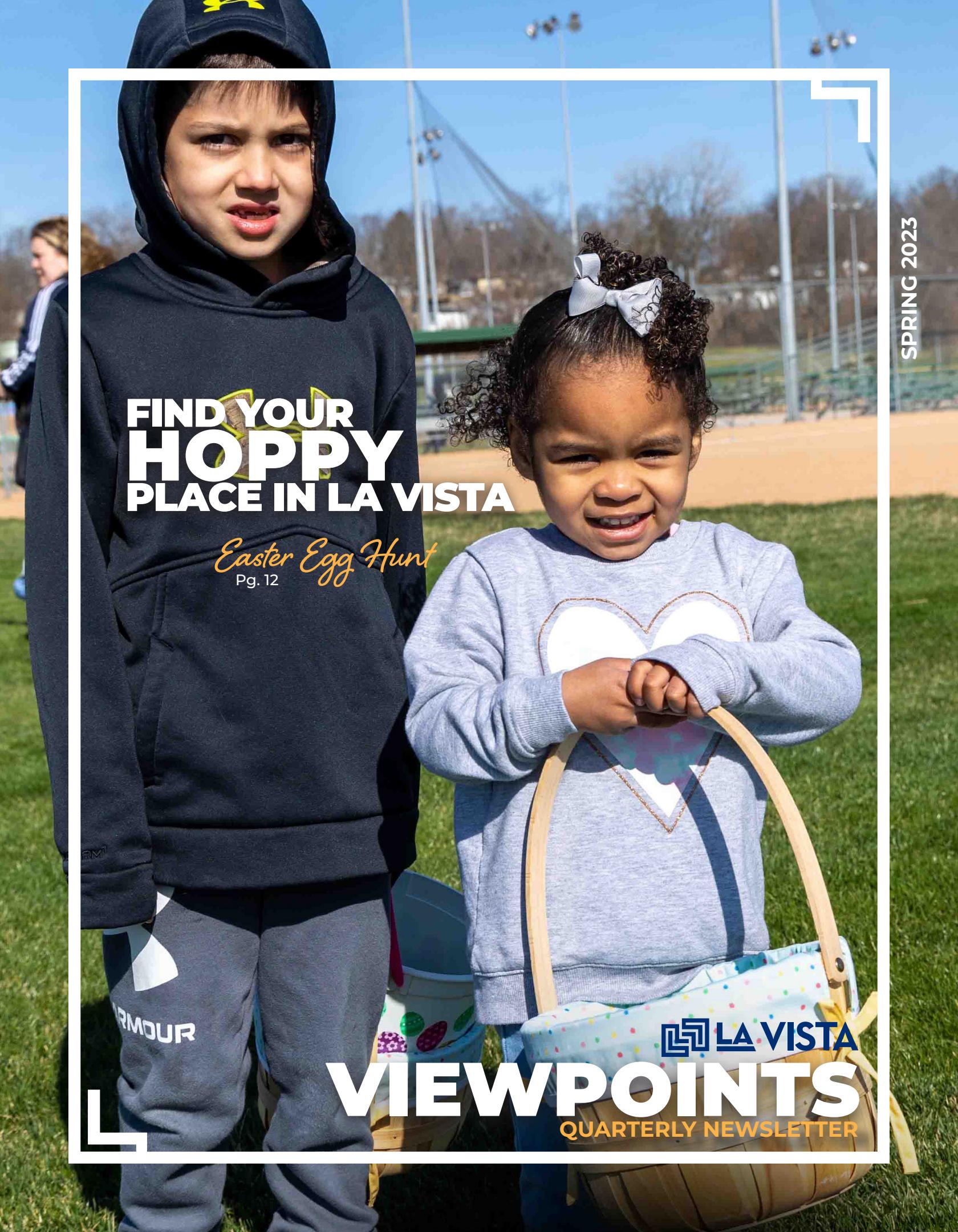


SPRING 2023



**FIND YOUR
HOPPY
PLACE IN LA VISTA**

Easter Egg Hunt
Pg. 12

 **LA VISTA**

VIEWPOINTS
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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SEE US ON SOCIAL

-  @CityofLaVistaGovernment
@LaVistaPolice
-  @cityoflavista
@lavistapolice
-  @cityoflavista
@lavistapolice
@lavistalibraryyouth
-  [YouTube.com/CityofLaVista](https://www.youtube.com/CityofLaVista)

CITY CONTACTS

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

MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR

Can you feel it? There's an incredible energy in our City right now. Although we're only a little more than a month into the new year, I can confidently say that 2023 is going to be a very exciting year in La Vista. Why wouldn't it be? We celebrated many proud moments in 2022, and we're continuing to build on last year's momentum.

Just think about what we accomplished in 2022. For starters, there was a great deal of progress and development. As you'll see on page 4 of this edition of La Vista Viewpoints, crews have worked incredibly hard on projects to transform Central Park. The City's second parking garage also took shape last year.

Construction of the Nebraska MultiSport Complex (NMSC) in La Vista progressed in 2022. We expect to see many visitors come to play, dine and stay in our hotels once the attraction is fully operational.

The Applewood Creek Trail project is another notable 2022 achievement. When complete, the project will help expand our trail system and contribute to improved quality of life for La Vista's residents.

I'm also extremely proud of the work City staff put in over the last year to provide opportunities for us to reconnect with friends and neighbors. Events like our Salute to Summer Festival, concert and movie nights, trivia nights, pet-friendly events, book clubs, recreation classes, sports and the many holiday events at Santa's Workshop helped us rebuild something we lost during the pandemic — our sense of community.

La Vista's City-sponsored events provided the entertainment and togetherness we needed last year, and that has to be among our top achievements. The best part? There is even more in store for 2023.

I'm proud of how vibrant our community is and all that we have to look forward to this year and beyond. Good things are happening in La Vista every day. I invite you to celebrate them. Let's look ahead to our City's future with optimism.

I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2023.

MAYOR
Douglas Kindig





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

February 2023

- 2** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 7** **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 10** **Valentine's Day Senior Lunch**
- 13** La Vista-Metropolitan Community College Condominium Owners Association, 4 p.m., La Vista Public Library
- 15** Park and Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 16** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 20** **Offices Closed for President's Day**
- 21** **City Council, 6 p.m.**

March 2023

- 2** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 7** **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 9** Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 6 p.m.
- 9** Library Advisory Board, 6 p.m., La Vista Public Library
- 15** Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 16** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 17** **St. Patrick's Day Senior Lunch**
- 21** **City Council, 6 p.m.**

April 2023

- 4** **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 6** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 8** **Easter Egg Hunt and Food Drive, 10:30 a.m., La Vista Sports Complex**
- 18** **City Council, 6 p.m.**
- 19** Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 6 p.m.
- 20** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 27** **Arbor Day Celebration, 10 a.m., Southwind Park**

For more information about the special events listed on this calendar, visit CityofLaVista.org/2023Events.



SATURDAY, MAY 27

This annual celebration is the City's most exciting event of the year. Mark your calendar and watch for more details coming soon about this one-day, fun-filled festival.

Want to be a Salute to Summer insider? Volunteer at the festival!

Register to volunteer by scanning the code or visiting CityofLaVista.org/Volunteer.



COUNCIL CLIPS

Highlights of recent City Council action.

- Awarded a contract for the East La Vista Sewer and Pavement Rehabilitation Project.
- Approved purchase of three unmarked police vehicles.
- Approved purchase of tandem axle dump truck.
- Approved new Future Land Use Plan and Map.

Reelected City Council members Kelly Sell, Alan Ronan and Kim Thomas, along with newly elected Kevin Wetuski, were sworn in at City Council meetings in December. Thomas and Ronan remained the representatives in Ward I and Ward III respectively. Due to redistricting, Sell moved to Ward II, opening the seat in Ward IV that Wetuski now occupies. Councilmember Thomas was also reelected as the Council President.



Hey La Vista,

HOW ARE WE DOING?

We are collecting feedback to help us plan for La Vista's future. Randomly chosen households in La Vista will soon be mailed a survey to capture residents' needs, interests and preferences regarding City services, programs, events and activities.

Watch your mailbox! If your household receives the National Community Survey, please help us by completing and returning it promptly. Tell us what you like, what you think could be better and what we should be doing that we aren't currently.

The survey should only take a few minutes of your time, and your insights will help us align City amenities with the needs and wants of the residents who use them.

A few weeks after the survey is mailed to residents, an online version will be available for anyone to complete. If you don't receive a mailed survey but want to provide input, you are welcome to do so via the online survey at CityofLaVista.org/Survey.

Updates will be provided on the City's website and social media channels about when the online survey is open.



*History
shaping our
future.*

La Vista's first schools were actually houses.

Today, families in the La Vista community send their children to one of four elementary schools or the middle school, all located within the City limits.

When the community was founded in 1960, though, there were no school buildings.



La Vista's birth as a city and growth as a community presented quite a quandary to the Papillion School District. Those moving into the House of Nines were, by and large, young families with several school-aged children per household.

"I think the school district was in a position where this area was growing so fast with young families. They all had children, and they couldn't construct buildings fast

enough to house all the children," said Assistant City Administrator Rita Ramirez, who attended second through fifth grades in the house schools. "So that was an alternative. They worked out an agreement of some sort with the developer."

Prior to new school construction, La Vista students attended class in houses renovated for educational use. Ramirez's family was one of the first to move to La Vista, and she attended second grade in 1961 in one of the cottages on 72nd Avenue. By fifth grade, she and her classmates moved to another cottage on Lillian Avenue.

"It was a much simpler time," she said. "There wasn't playground equipment or any of that. So you just made up your own fun when you were outside. Literally everyone walked to school, and it didn't really matter what the weather was."

One memory of attending school in the houses still sticks out to Ramirez – the day John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

"We all went home for lunch, and things were just starting to break.

The news was on, and my mom was watching, and when we went back to school, the teacher had a TV in the classroom. That was not a thing in those days that you had TVs in the room," Ramirez said.

"It was a major world event. I think it had a very deep impact for students who were 10 or 11 years old at the time. It's like remembering where you were when 9/11 occurred. You remember that day forever, and you could tell it was that way for the adults."

In 1963, an \$800,000 bond issue was approved to construct, among other facilities, La Vista West and G. Stanley Hall elementary schools. These new schools replaced the cottages scattered throughout the community and added quality and convenience to the student experience.

"It was a big change," Ramirez said. "Bigger classrooms, a lot more space, hallways and interacting with kids at other grade levels to a much, much bigger degree. It was pretty exciting. We had playground equipment, and it was a real school."



Construction continues on The Link in Central Park

Construction on facilities in Central Park and City Centre have progressed nicely through the fall and early winter months. Crews have been busy on public projects for the City including The Link in Central Park.

Located at the southern end of Central Park, where the park connects to the private City Centre development, The Link will be a facility that 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 Astro music venue.



The plaza in front of the music venue will be a welcoming public area to relax outdoors, meet up with friends for lunch or before a concert and enjoy water features near the entrance to the venue.

Access to Central Park from City Centre will be created by a series of stairs and accessible ramps as well as a fun slide for the youngsters or those young at heart. Additional public gathering space will be available at the base of this entrance to the park. Construction on The Link is anticipated to be complete by late summer or early fall 2023.



The City's history will play a prominent role in the facility. Incorporated into the design is the Wall of Nines, which honors the City's first neighborhood, the House of Nines, where you could buy a house for \$9,999 and pay \$99 a month. Behind the walls will be plants and other landscaping.

The Link will feature an elevated boardwalk measuring about 4,500 square feet, providing a link between the facility and the trail system in the park. Most recently crews were working to install the decking on the boardwalk as well as the structural steel for the sloped roof system over the upper level of The Link.

Matt Feik, Superintendent with JE Dunn Construction, says the crews working on the project know about the history of the area, and they talk about how important it is to the La Vista community.

"They, get a twinkle in their eye, like, oh, this actually isn't just a retail space or something. This is a community space that people are going to use forever."



Beginning this month, La Vista residents will be able to stop by City Hall and the La Vista Public Library to sign a beam that will be incorporated into the slide structure. More information will be posted on the City's website and social media channels about the dates and times the beams will be displayed. Watch for updates, then plan to stop by to put your mark on a beam and become part of City history.



Fire Chief Bill Bowes to retire this spring.

Bill Bowes, the beloved chief of the Papillion Fire Department (which serves the City of La Vista) announced last fall that he would retire in the spring of 2023.

Bowes has served as chief since March 2006. During his tenure, he's led the department as it grew from one fire station to four and more than tripled the size of its staff.

Additionally, Bowes oversaw the joining of La Vista's volunteer department with Papillion's department in 2014, a move that brought professional fire services to the City of La Vista for the first time.

The department's growth under Bowes' leadership is remarkable — even to the chief himself. "I never could have imagined that it would become this size," Bowes said.

Beyond the sizeable growth and transformation that took place in the department while he served as chief, an equally impressive part of Bowes' legacy is his deep commitment to community involvement.

"It's important to me to have the fire department involved in the community," said Bowes.

He explained that there are varying schools of thought in fire service. While some view the role as primarily answering calls and doing training, Bowes has always challenged his department to be as involved in the community as possible.

"To me, the fire department is one

of the ingredients that makes a community a community," Bowes said. He's made it a point to ensure the department routinely takes part in community activities, sends trucks to ribbon cuttings, partners closely with Papillion - La Vista schools and builds relationships with people in the community. This helps crews perform their jobs better, Bowes said.

As his retirement date approaches, Bowes says he's started thinking about how he'll occupy his time in the future. Initially, he wants to take a few months to relax. That will include playing softball and taking a few mini vacations. Then there are home projects, and family time, of course.

In a statement that's fitting of someone who has spent 38 years of his career serving others, Bowes shared that he wants to spend time doing something that benefits others and makes his community better.

"I'm trusting in God to bring something in my path that's going to give me that purpose."

Chief Bowes' retirement is tentatively set for late March or early April. We wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement. And many thanks for the years of service and contributions to our community!



INSIDE PERSPECTIVE

The ins and outs of the La Vista brand.



MORE THAN A LOGO...

After defining our brand, we know what differentiates La Vista from other communities.

We are a city where small gestures and big ideas are both priorities, and this is the perfect time to see both in action.

Our small gestures have become the hallmark of our community with large and small events throughout the year to promote connections and a sense of community. Where else can you visit with Santa in an intimate environment like his La Vista workshop?

Our big ideas have required courage and an eye on what's next. These big ideas have helped us grow into a destination with the likes of Cabela's, Alamo Drafthouse, the Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center and more. On top of that, projects like the Nebraska MultiSport Complex and the Astro music venue in La Vista City Centre will bring thousands of visitors to our city, while improving the quality of life for those who live here.

We're always striving for new ideas and solutions while never forgetting the small gestures that connect all of us. This will be an exciting year, La Vista!



In La Vista, kindness isn't just a concept people talk about, it's common practice.

La Vista is a small city with a lot of heart. Residents, businesses and City employees in our tight-knit community regularly come together to help individuals and families in need.

This past fall, the City's Spread the Warmth Coat Drive brought in more than 450 pounds of new and used coats for distribution by the Papillion-La Vista Community Closet. During November and December, the City hosted its third annual Helping Hands Food Drive and collected a truckload of food for the NeighborGood Community Pantry (formerly the Tri-City Food Pantry).

These examples of cooperation by residents, businesses and organizations in La Vista prove that kindness and generosity are defining characteristics of our community.

In the second half of 2022, our community gave...



1 truckload of backpacks
and school supplies donated to La Vista West Elementary students

School Supply Drive



450 lbs. of winter coats
and accessories given to the Papillion-La Vista Community Closet

Spread the Warmth Coat Drive



1 truckload of food
collected for the NeighborGood Community Pantry

Helping Hands Food Drive



\$1,800 donated to
the NeighborGood Community Pantry by La Vista City employees (earning employees casual dress days)

Casual for a Cause



Pet food
Our 2nd annual dog-friendly Santa event included a pet food collection for the NeighborGood Community Pantry

Blue Santa Santa Paws



Holiday gifts
16 children in need from 6 families received gifts at a holiday party hosted by the La Vista Police Department

Blue Santa

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2022 drives and to the La Vista businesses that served as collection sites, including **Gateway Auto, Kellogg Credit Union, La Vista Chiropractic and Vivere Apartments**.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

The City of La Vista hosted more than 20 'Twas the Lights events in 2022 that brought people in our community together to celebrate the holidays. The City's celebrations began with Santa's annual sleigh ride through La Vista neighborhoods. This sleigh ride was particularly meaningful because it marked 30 consecutive years of the tradition in La Vista.



Santa's Sleigh Ride

Tree Lighting Celebration



Santa Paws



Ho Ho Elvis at the Soup Supper



Visitors at Santa's Workshop

Beat spring fever in La Vista's parks.

Every year around this time, spring fever hits. It's natural to feel a bit anxious and eager to get outside after spending months indoors avoiding the cold. Plus, there are health benefits to being outside. Research shows spending time outdoors can help relieve stress, improve mood, boost vitamin D intake, aid sleep and more. Beyond the health benefits, being outside is just plain refreshing.



FIELDS
Baseball,
softball,
soccer &
football



COURTS
Basketball,
volleyball,
tennis &
pickleball



**GAGA
BALL PIT**



**TRAILS &
WALKING
PATHS**



DOG PARK



**PICNIC
TABLES &
SHELTERS**



**HORSESHOE
PIT**

Playgrounds

Apollo Park
7206 Park View Blvd.

Ardmore Park
6830 Michelle Ave.

Camenzind Park
7120 Wood Lane Dr.

Central Park West
7601 S. 85th St.

Children's Park
7307 Josephine Dr.

City Park
7629 Josephine St.

**Eberle-Walden
Park**
7215 S. 69th St.

Giles Corner Park
7514 Michelle Ave.

Jaycee Park
7105 Harvest Hills Dr.

Mayor's Park
7651 S. 72nd St.

Southwind Park
8120 S. 92nd St.

Val Verde Park
9807 Centennial Rd.

Basketball Courts

Camenzind Park
7120 Wood Lane Dr.

Central Park East
7702 Edgewood Blvd.

Jaycee Park
7105 Harvest Hills Dr.

Val Verde Park
9807 Centennial Rd.



New and Blue

Have you seen our new park signs? The Public Works Department began building and installing new signs in La Vista's parks in the fall. New signs in La Vista's colors are planned for all City parks.

Park Gatherings

If you're planning a birthday party, family reunion or other get-together and need somewhere to gather, consider renting a park shelter or field in La Vista.

There are nine parks with picnic shelters around La Vista that can accommodate groups of various sizes. Whether you use park amenities or bring your own lawn games, you and your guests will enjoy spending time together in a pleasant, playful setting. (Bonus: No need to clean your house!)

Learn more or reserve a park shelter by visiting CityofLaVista.org/Active or calling **402.331.3455**.

Maintenance projects to tackle this spring.

Spring cleaning can be a divisive topic. While some people can't wait to attack cleaning projects they put off during the year, others find it strange that anyone would get excited about cleaning. (Don't worry, we won't judge you either way!) Whether you love or loathe cleaning, here's a piece of advice to make your spring cleaning more productive:

Include seasonal home maintenance tasks on your spring cleaning checklist.

Spring cleaning isn't just for tidying up around your home. Spring is the perfect time to complete maintenance projects that are easily overlooked. The City of La Vista's Building Inspector, Brad Baber, says that giving attention to the following maintenance projects this spring could save you from headaches in the future.

5 SIMPLE SPRING MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

1. Inspect the exterior of your home

Winter storms can damage a home's exterior. Unfortunately, homeowners may not notice issues during the winter when they spend less time outdoors. In the spring, walk around outside and examine your home's exterior. Check siding, windows, masonry, etc. Don't forget to examine your deck, too.

2. Clean out gutters and downspouts

Gutters clog easily during the fall and winter. Take time in the spring to remove debris and check that gutters are not loose or leaky, and the extensions are in place draining away from the home.

3. Check your AC unit

Give your air conditioner some attention in the spring before the weather heats up. Take time to go outside and examine your AC unit. Remove any debris that is around the unit.

4. Replace HVAC air filters

Manufacturers recommend changing air filters at different intervals based on the type of filter used. Oftentimes filters need to be changed every three to six months. Make a habit of changing your filter in the spring while doing other cleaning and maintenance so you don't forget.

5. Check home safety equipment

Replace batteries in your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector. You never know when you'll need them. Sometimes, it's a matter of life or death, so take the time to change the batteries now. Pick a date to do this maintenance (like daylight savings time) and test the units and replace batteries every year. Also, replace expired fire extinguishers.

For more home maintenance tips from La Vista's Community Development team, visit CityofLaVista.org/SpringHomeMaintenance.

Your complete guide to everything happening in La Vista.

The **2023 SPRING/SUMMER LA VISTA COMMUNITY GUIDE** has all the details you need about the events and activities happening in La Vista this spring and summer. Check your mailbox next month!



YEARS WITH THE CITY:
13

FUN FACT

Brad used to co-own his own home inspection company with his father in the Phoenix Metro area.

BRAD'S VIEW OF LA VISTA

"La Vista has shifted from building single-family homes to more apartments and commercial construction. I look forward to seeing the exciting new developments along 84th Street come to completion."



LIBRARY NOOK



Follow us on social media for videos, updates and more!



@CityofLaVistaGovernment



@LaVistaLibraryYouth



@CityofLaVista



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



Get techy during Spring Break at the Library.

Making plans for Spring Break? Add the La Vista Public Library to your list. Join us for an exciting week of experimenting and playing with technology.

MAKERSPACE MONDAY

Monday, March 13, 2-6 p.m.

The Library's Makerspace is an innovative learning space that provides hands-on opportunities to the entire community. Drop-in and learn about the equipment that is available for use including a 3D printer, laser cutter, button maker, sewing machine, laminator, rubber stamps and more! We'll offer short presentations about the various machines and technology, and we'll allow time for questions and answers. After receiving instruction on how to use the equipment, you're invited to reserve a different time to come back and make your own creations. Everyone who attends Makerspace Monday will have their name entered into a raffle for free 3D printer items.

Ideal for ages 7+



VIRTUAL REALITY GROUP SESSIONS

Tuesday, March 14 & Thursday, March 16, Various Times

Virtual Reality (VR) programs are happening at the Library! Families or groups of four people or less can register for one-hour adventures/interactive experiences. All users must sign a consent form. Sessions are limited. Contact the Library for more information and to reserve a time. **VR use is strongly recommended for ages 13+ (Younger children may only participate with an adult.)**

TECHNOLOGY PETTING ZOO

Wednesday, March 15, 1:30-3 p.m.

From coding and iPads to Makey Makey stations, you are invited to meet and play with the various Library technology toys through multiple stations. Plus, ask any questions about our online databases or get help using your device. We'll have experts ready to assist you. **Ideal for ages 3+**

FRIDAY FUN DAY

Friday, March 17, 1:30 p.m.

Play board games, make crafts, watch a movie and enjoy a root beer float. **All ages**



Special Events

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!

Register by Tuesday, February 7.

Parental participation required.

STORYTIME WITH THE AUTHOR: AMY FORSS

Saturday, February 18, 2 p.m.

Meet a local author and hear her read her book. Amy Forss will join us to read her book, talk about the Civil Rights movement and discuss Black History Month. This will be a unique opportunity to learn about local history.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, April 27, 10 a.m. at Southwind Park

Bring your children to enjoy a storybook walk in the park followed by a tree planting and storytime with a La Vista librarian. Afterwards, take home free saplings and special gifts for the children while supplies last.

Children & Family Programs

NEW

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Fridays, February 10 & 24, March 10 & 24, April 21; 10 a.m.

Get ready to move and groove with your little one at the La Vista Public Library! This new program offers a chance to play with other children and practice fine and gross motor skills.

Ideal for ages 0-6

STORYTIMES

Tuesdays, February 7 & 21, March 7 & 21, April 4 & 18; 10 a.m.

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

Ideal for ages 0-6

CRAFTERNOON

Thursdays, February 9, March 9, April 13; 4 p.m.

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

Ideal for ages 4-8

STEAM CLUB

Wednesdays, February 1, March 1, April 5; 4 p.m.

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

Ideal for ages 8-12

POLICE



Police issue a warning about uptick in scams.

Warning: Scammers are impersonating police officers. The La Vista Police Department is seeing an increase in scams involving persons claiming to be from a local law enforcement agency.

This is part of a nationwide trend in which scammers call people claiming to be a member of a police or sheriff's department. Scammers state that the person they are targeting must submit a form of payment to avoid being arrested.

They often give real names of officers and may spoof the phone number from the local police department.

The La Vista Police Department wants to remind you that:

- La Vista Police will never call you and request money for any reason.
- The La Vista Police Department does not call community members and seek payment for outstanding traffic citations or warrants. This includes claims of unpaid federal or state taxes.
- The La Vista Police Department does not work with collection agencies to collect unpaid debts.
- If you receive a call from someone claiming to be a relative in jail, hang up and attempt to call them back using your normal means of contact for them. Contact the agency allegedly holding the person by locating a phone number from a directory rather than using the number provided by the caller.
- Ask for a case or docket number. Hang up and then contact the agency through a directory or their web posted number.

AND NEVER SUBMIT PAYMENT OVER THE PHONE FOR CRIMINAL MATTERS!

Please be vigilant and share this information with others.

April is National Humor Month.



Some members of the La Vista Police Department think they're real comedians. We'll let you decide whether their favorite jokes are funny or criminally bad.

Why didn't Han Solo enjoy his steak dinner?



It was Chewie.

I also know a bunch of good jokes about umbrellas, but they usually go over people's heads.

OFFICER RICK HENRY

**Break-in at the Apple store!
Police looking for iWitnesses.**

SERGEANT RAY HARROD



What do you call an investigator who solves crimes by accident?

Sheer Luck Holmes

OFFICER MATTHEW ORDUNA



RECREATION



EASTER EGG HUNT AND FOOD DRIVE

Saturday, April 8, La Vista Sports Complex (Softball/Baseball Fields)

Gates Open 9:45 a.m.; Start 10:30 a.m.

More than 16,000 eggs will be spread out between the four fields! This event draws a large amount of people, so plan to come early to allow time to park and walk to the fields. We will also be collecting food and/or cash donations for the NeighborGood Community Pantry. (Formerly the Tri-City Food Pantry). **Cost: Free**

New this year, all age groups will start at the same time to help keep each field age appropriate and safer for all the kids.

FIELDS #2 & #3

Ages 4 and under

FIELD #4

Ages 5-7

FIELD #1

Ages 8-10



SPRING KITE FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 7
La Vista Soccer Complex
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring your whole family to this free event for an afternoon of kite-flying fun. You will see some of the world's largest and most creative kites. Don't forget to bring your own kites to fly and a bag for the kite candy drops, which take place throughout the event. **Cost: Free**

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, April 27
Southwind Park
10 a.m.

Bring your children to enjoy a storybook walk in the park followed by a tree planting and storytime with a La Vista librarian. Afterwards, take home free saplings and special gifts for the children while supplies last. **Cost: Free**

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



The Sarpy Aikido Club is celebrating 33 years of operation in 2023.

Sarpy Aikido Club's specific style of aikido is Senryaku. The Club's roots come from Hawaii, and it has sister dojos across the U.S. Sensei Jeff Christenham answered some common questions about this modern martial art form and the classes Sarpy Aikido offers at the La Vista Community Center.

What is aikido?

Aikido is a non-competitive martial art for self-improvement and self-defense. It focuses on protection and neutralizing threats with the least amount of destructive force.

What are some benefits of practicing aikido?

Aikido contributes to overall physical and mental well-being. Benefits include self-confidence under stress, increased balance, movement efficiency, self-protection against falling (important considering more people hurt themselves falling vs. being attacked), connection and camaraderie with classmates and much more.

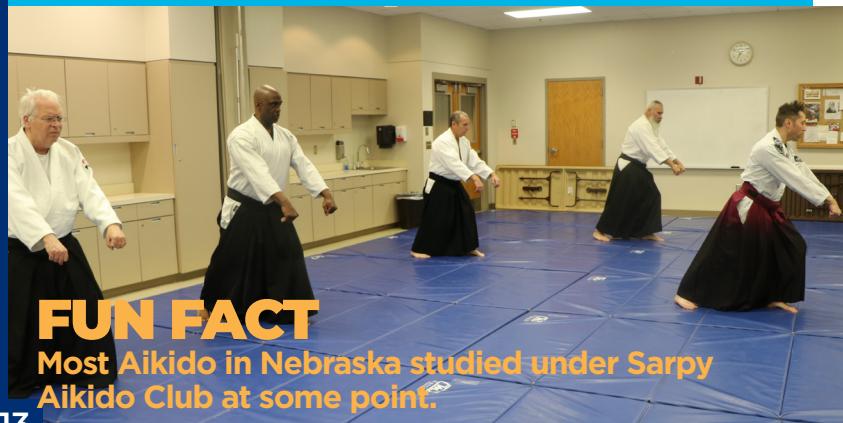


Who can learn aikido?

Aikido is a martial art for young and old alike. Anyone can practice it regardless of athleticism, injuries or age. We typically start kids around age 5-7 and teach adults into their 80's and above. No experience is needed to learn. In fact, students without prior martial arts experience tend to learn faster.

What are classes like?

Our classes typically start with warm-ups and aikido exercises, followed by fundamentals and paired partner practice. From the get-go, students learn rolls, deflections, footwork, escapes and striking, as well as locks and throws. Practices can be challenging but customized to each student's fitness level. Every class is fun and engaging.



FUN FACT

Most Aikido in Nebraska studied under Sarpy Aikido Club at some point.



AIKIDO CLASSES

*Mondays and Thursdays,
6-7 p.m. (Beginner),
7-8:30 p.m. (Advanced)*

**Cost: Resident Beginner \$25,
Non-Resident Beginner \$30
Resident Advanced \$40,
Non-Resident Advanced \$45**

For more information and to register,
email Jeff Christenham at
j.a.christenham@gmail.com.

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.

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**.

BELLY DANCING

Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. (Beginner), Mondays 6-7 p.m. (Intermediate), Tuesdays 7-8 p.m. (Advanced)
For more info., contact Elianae at **402.370.9021** or elianaethebellydancer@gmail.com.

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.

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.

PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
For more info., contact La Vista Recreation at **402.331.3455**.

SQUARE DANCE LESSONS

5-week session begins February 26, 2-6 p.m.
For more info., contact contact Ken Young at **402.690.3020**.

SAFE HANDS HEALING HANDS

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

WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Last Tuesday of February, April & June, 6-8:45 p.m.
For more info., contact Claudia Brown-Jackman at **402.630.3169**, claudia@defenseproject88.com or visit shuurindojo.com.

YOGA

Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Sundays, 3-4:30 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
For more info., contact Frank at frankpferrante@gmail.com.



MARCH MADNESS BASKETBALL SKILLS CHALLENGE

Tuesday, March 7

Registration: 5:30-6 p.m.
Competition starts at 6 p.m.
Must register on day of event ONLY!

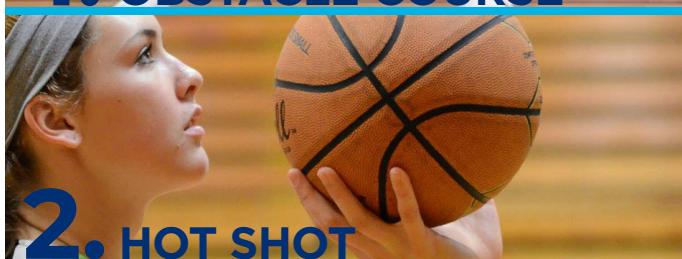
Boys Divisions: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grades

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!

SPORTS

Register and pay online for youth sports programs at CityofLaVista.org/Active.

COED SOCCER CLINIC (Age 3)

SPRING CLINIC: APRIL 15-MAY 13

Early-Bird Registration Deadline: March 6
Final Registration Deadline: March 27

This is a parent participation clinic designed to teach the fundamentals of soccer while having fun. This clinic is comprised of 5 one-hour sessions to be held on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The 3-year-old Soccer Clinic is offered in the spring and fall. Clinic is limited to 16 participants. Start/end date is subject to change.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Ages: Boys and Girls 3 as of April 1
Early-Bird Registration: January 3-March 6
Early-Bird Cost: Resident—\$17
Non-resident—\$22
Final Registration: March 7-March 27
Final Registration Cost: Resident—\$27,
Non-resident—\$32



SOCER ACADEMY AND LEAGUE

APRIL 11-MAY 13

Early-Bird Registration Deadline: March 6
Final Registration Deadline: March 27

The soccer academy and league have a partnership with the Metro Wolves Soccer Club. This program focuses on different soccer skills to develop each player with individual attention and maximum ball touches in a fun environment. Sessions are held twice a week for five weeks – academy training/practices are on Tuesdays with game situations/scrimmages on Saturdays. Start/end date is subject to change.

The 4/5's meet on Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9-10 a.m. The 6/7's meet on Tuesdays from 7-8 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:15-11:15 a.m.

ACADEMY (Ages 4-5)

The La Vista Recreation Department and Metro Wolves Soccer Club have partnered together to create this academy, which will deliver a fun soccer environment for boys and girls living in and around the La Vista area. The goal of the Youth Soccer Academy is to introduce young players and their families to soccer and have FUN while doing it!

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Ages: Boys and Girls 4-5 as of April 1
Early-Bird Registration: January 3-March 6
Early-Bird Cost: Resident—\$33
Non-resident—\$53
Final Registration: March 7-March 27
Final Registration Cost: Resident—\$43,
Non-resident—\$63

LEAGUE (Ages 6-7)

The Youth Soccer League players will attend academy training on Tuesdays, but on Saturdays, participating teams will have league games/scrimmages. This will enable them to utilize the skills they are learning in Academy in a more competitive atmosphere. Parent volunteers are needed to assist instructors. Parent volunteers will work with the Omaha Metro Wolves Soccer Club trainers to help run Academy/League sessions. Individual development is the focus at this age but learning to play as a team is important as well!

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Ages: Boys and Girls 6-7 as of April 1
Early-Bird Registration: January 3-March 6
Early-Bird Cost: Resident—\$33
Non-resident—\$53
Final Registration: March 7-March 27
Final Registration Cost: Resident—\$43,
Non-resident—\$63

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.

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

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

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





COED T-BALL

SEASON BEGINS IN MAY

Early-Bird Registration Deadline: April 10

Final Registration Deadline: April 24

The co-ed t-ball program introduces parents and children to the sport of baseball. This is a parent participation program designed to teach the fundamentals of baseball while having fun. The La Vista Recreation Department offers coed T-ball for children ages 5 & 6 in the summer of each year.

Practice will tentatively start the week of May 8. Practices are held at coach's discretion during the week. Games will be played on Saturday mornings beginning June 3 and ending July 15 on La Vista ball fields. 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.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Ages: Boys and Girls 5-6 as of April 1

Early-Bird Registration: January 3-April 10

Early-Bird Cost: Resident—\$45

Non-resident—\$60

Final Registration: April 11-April 24

Final Registration Cost: Resident—\$55,

Non-resident—\$70

SPRING FLAG FOOTBALL

SPRING GAMES: APRIL 22-JUNE 10

Early-Bird Registration Deadline: February 20

Final Registration Deadline: March 6

The La Vista Recreation Department offers a youth flag football program for boys and girls grades K-6th in the fall and spring. 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. Games are played on Saturdays at the La Vista Sports Complex, Papillion Landing, BJSA and/or Spirit Monarch Flag Football fields starting on April 22 and ending on June 10. Start/end date is subject to change.

Practice will tentatively begin the week of April 3. Practices are held at 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

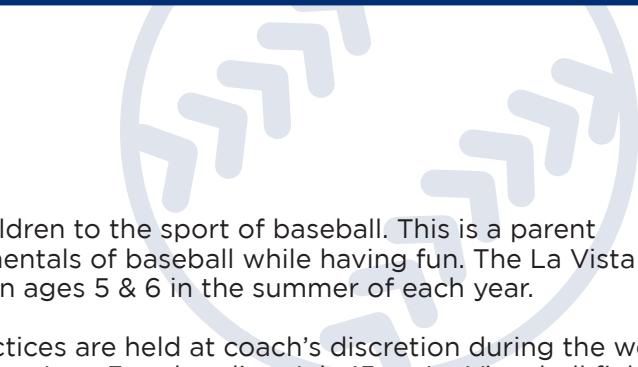
Grades: Boys & Girls K-6 as of spring 2023

Early-Bird Registration: January 3-February 20

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

Final Registration: February 21-March 6

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



ADULT SOFTBALL

COED LEAGUE: **FRIDAY EVENINGS**

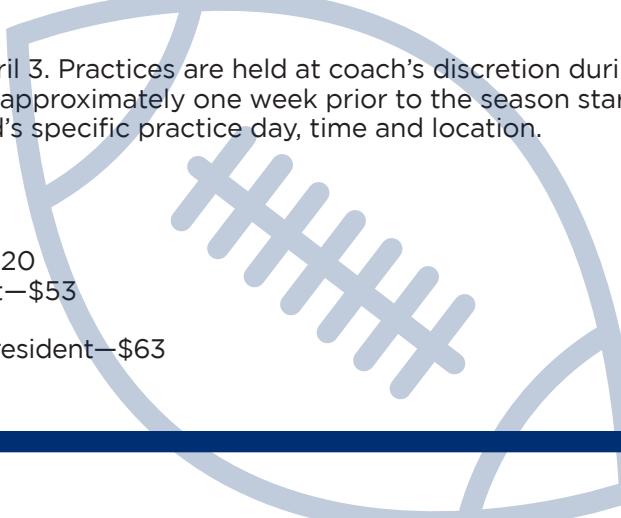
MEN'S LEAGUE: **TUESDAY OR FRIDAY EVENINGS**

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. Games tentatively start the week of April 15 and end July 29. Start/end date is subject to change.



SENIOR CENTER



SPECIAL SERVICES BUS

The Special Services Bus is available for senior citizens ages 60 and older and all special needs individuals residing in the cities of La Vista and 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 is buzzing with activity.

After a busy end to 2022 that included holiday lights tours, cookie decorating, a potluck lunch with the Mayor, movies, entertainment and outings, the Center quickly jumped into its 2023 programming.

A full calendar of events and more information about our upcoming holiday luncheons can be found at CityofLaVista.org/Seniors.



SENIOR VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON

*Friday, February 10
Papillion Landing
(1046 W. Lincoln Street)*

**Doors open at 11 a.m.
Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.**

Includes lunch, live entertainment and fun activities. All seniors 55+ are invited. Registration deadline is Friday, February 3 at Papillion Landing or the La Vista Senior Center front desk.

Menu: Creamy lemon chicken, hash brown casserole, buttered seasoned green beans, brownie and drink.

Cost: \$5 per person.
Payment due at time of registration. No refunds.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

*Friday, March 17
La Vista Senior Center
(8116 Park View Blvd.)*

**Doors open at 11 a.m.
Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.**

Includes lunch, live entertainment and fun activities. All seniors 55+ are invited. Registration deadline is Thursday, March 9 at the La Vista Senior Center front desk or Papillion Landing.

Menu: Corned beef and cabbage, carrots, potatoes, cookie and drink.

Cost: \$8 per person. Payment due at time of registration. No refunds.

55 AND UP ONGOING ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME	FEES
BINGO	FRI	1p.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	1p.m.	FREE
DROP-IN QUILTING	WED	9-11:30 a.m.	FREE
HAND & FOOT (CARDS)	WED	1p.m.	FREE
PITCH (CARDS)	FRI	1p.m.	FREE

BINGO

Unless noted, there will be no bingo on days when there is a scheduled speaker or other entertainment. Please see our monthly newsletter for more details.

TAI CHI

Tai Chi is a 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, breathing, mood and calmness. This Tai Chi class is Moving for Balance Tai Chi or Tai Chi 8, with eight different movements.

The La Vista Senior Center, located in the Community Center, is a gathering place for an active group of seniors who meet to share friendship, food, fitness, field trips and other fun activities.

The Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENOA) 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/trip and lunch menus. For more information, contact Kaily Stanley, **402.331.3455** or **KStanley@CityofLaVista.org**.

CHAIR VOLLEYBALL

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

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 give folks of any skill level an outlet to show their creativity.



PUBLIC WORKS ZONE



Follow us for construction updates and more!



@CityofLaVistaGovernment



@CityofLaVista



YouTube.com/CityofLaVista



The East La Vista Sewer and Pavement Project to begin this spring.

There is good news for residents who have been eagerly awaiting progress on the East La Vista Sewer and Pavement Rehabilitation Project. Work on the project is scheduled to begin this spring.

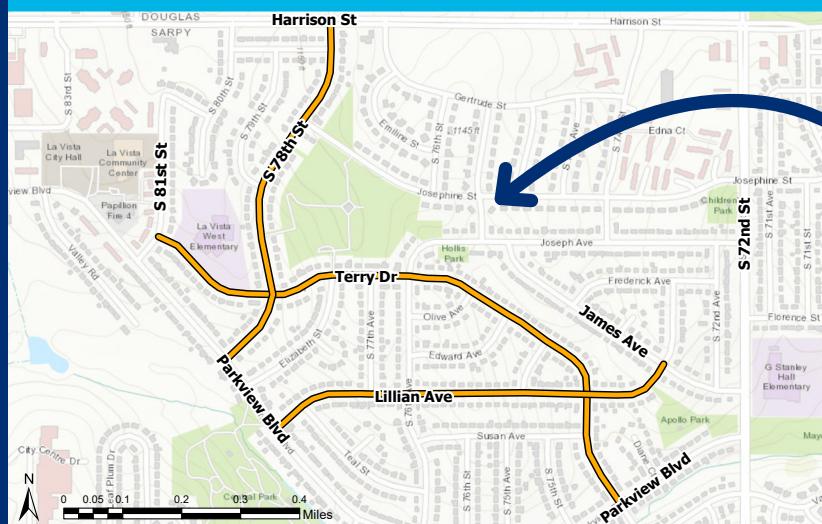
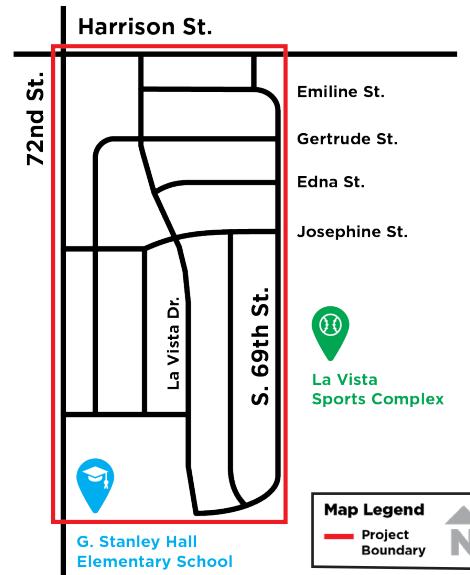
After a final round of bidding last fall, NL&L Concrete Inc. was awarded the bid to replace portions of the main sewer line with a liner, repair and replace lateral connections as needed and repave the streets.

Residents in the neighborhood east of 72nd Street and north of Thompson Creek, known as the House of Nines, will begin to see construction this spring. More exact timelines will be shared in the near future.

The Public Works Department is working closely with the contractor to develop communication materials to keep residents informed about the timing of work and when they should expect disruptions to services as construction takes place.

The City will utilize multiple channels to communicate about the project and its progress, so residents who live in the area are encouraged to watch for updates online and in their mailboxes.

In the meantime, questions about the East La Vista Sewer and Pavement Rehabilitation Project should be directed to the La Vista Public Works Department at **402.331.8927**.



City awards bid for street resurfacing project.

In January, the City awarded a bid to Spencer Management for a street rehabilitation project that will include Lillian Avenue, Terry Drive and South 78th Street. The bid is for concrete panel repair, ramp reconstruction to meet current ADA standards and a two-inch mill and asphalt overlay for all three streets. Now that the bid was awarded, residents in this area should see work begin in the spring.

2023 SPRING CLEANUP DAYS

APRIL 24-30
7 a.m.-5 p.m. each day

The Public Works Department will co-host a spring cleanup event with the City of Papillion **April 24-30, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.** each day. This joint event will be located at 99th Circle and Portal Road on the south side of Portal Road, just east of the Papillion Public Works Facility. The event is open to Papillion and La Vista residents only.

Bring Identification. Residential Items Only.

Not sure if you're a resident? Check the map at CityofLaVista.org/AmIAResident.

- This event is limited to residents of the cities of La Vista and Papillion. Bring a copy of a utility bill or type of identification to prove eligibility.
- The event is restricted to residential items only. Commercial and business vehicles will not be permitted.
- Staff will direct you to the appropriate disposal areas based on the type of materials you bring for disposal.
- Please pay close attention to posted signage for entrance and exit directions.
- Please secure loads properly to prevent debris from obstructing the roads.
- This is a rain or shine event.

SPRING CLEANUP DAYS SITE MAP

96th & Portal Rd





DUMPING DOS & DON'TS

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Household and lawn furniture
- Mattresses and box springs
- Major appliances
- Grills and smokers
- Outdoor power equipment (please empty fuel prior to disposing)
- Residential construction materials
- Automotive parts and batteries
- Undamaged propane tanks

- Broken toys and play structures
- Bicycles
- Tree limbs and yard waste (must be free of garbage and bags)
- All types of TVs (rear projection, tube TVs, flat screens, etc. may be disposed of in the roll-off dumpsters)
- CRT computer monitors (may be disposed of in the roll-off dumpsters)

ELECTRONICS

The electronic recyclers will accept the following items in the designated area of the Cleanup Days site:

- Cassette tapes, CDs, and arcade games
- Computers (CRT monitors may be disposed of in the roll-off dumpsters). *Participants may request hard drives to be destroyed on site. The City of Papillion and its material recyclers are not responsible for loss of personal data.*
- Keyboards and mice
- Printers
- Cables and wires
- Batteries of any type and battery back-ups
- Data center equipment including raised flooring

- Networking equipment, routers, switches, hubs, etc.
- Audio and visual equipment, VCRs, CD players, radios, etc.
- Cell phones of any type and wall chargers
- Telephones
- Electric musical instruments including amplifiers
- Projectors
- Cable and satellite TV boxes
- Antennas
- Small appliances

NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Unfortunately, the following cannot be accepted:

- Tires
- Automotive oil
- Paint
- Hazardous waste
- Chemicals of any kind

Please visit www.underthesink.org for information on a facility that will accept some of these items.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING

Document shredding services will be available on **Saturday, April 29, 7 a.m. to noon**, or until the shredding truck is full. All shredding will be done at the La Vista Public Works facility, just north and across the street from the Papillion Public Works facility. Please limit shreddable material to 10 file-size boxes per residence. Shredding is restricted to residential material only. Material must be free of binders, binder clips, or anything else that may damage the shredder. Shredding boxes will have to be taken back by the resident, but can be disposed of across the street at the Cleanup Days site.



CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR Douglas Kindig



CITY COUNCIL

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

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Brenda Gunn | City Administrator
Rita Ramirez | Assistant City Administrator
Kevin Pokorny | Director of Administrative Services
Joe Soucie | Director of Public Works
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