



## Another Busy Year in La Vista

Each year at this time we take a moment to look back over the last twelve months to evaluate how we have grown and changed as a City, while at the same time starting to think about the upcoming year and the challenges that lie ahead. The Mayor and City Council will soon be getting ready for their annual strategic planning session, which charts the course for the City and identifies goals and priorities. An important part of that process is to review our progress over the last year.



As 2007 began, the City's Volunteer Fire Department was preparing for significant changes. In April the new District 2 fire station was completed. This 22,450 sq. ft. facility provides five drive-through bays for fire

and other emergency apparatus. The City's first paid fire chief, Rich Uhl, came on board in May. Chief Uhl brought 25+ years of firefighting experience to La Vista. Two new pieces of apparatus, a pumper truck and an aerial truck were recently delivered and put into service. The volunteer firefighters in La Vista do an outstanding job and the changes that took place during 2007 will help them to continue to provide efficient and effective emergency services to our growing population.



The Southport development on the City's western edge continued to take shape during 2007. Cabela's had a successful first year and the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center is on track for a June

2008 opening. The Marriott Courtyard Hotel is also under construction and Hampton Inn and Suites opened in early June. Other new additions to the area include Securities America, a second PayPal facility, Pinnacle Bank, Fantasy's, and Runza. Summer

Kitchen Restaurant will relocate to Southport East in the near future, as well. Both Southport East and Southport West continue to attract new and diverse businesses to La Vista.

The annexation of the Southwind and Val Verde subdivisions was approved in September, adding approximately 2,300 residents and bringing the City's population to over 18,000.



Although it might appear that much of the City's focus is on western growth and development, there was considerable time spent last year considering programs that will impact all areas of La Vista. The Mayor and Council

identified revitalization of the 84th Street corridor as one of their goals in the 2007-2009 strategic plan, and continue to be actively involved with potential developers. 84th Street remains one of the most highly traveled sections of roadway in Sarpy County and will continue to be a great business location. Improvements were made to the roadway last summer including resurfacing, an additional turn lane, and curb and gutter repair. Funding for a visioning process for this area was approved in the budget and will be undertaken in 2008.

Other major projects being considered by the Mayor and Council include a solution for erosion problems along the banks of Thompson Creek and the construction of a La Vista Link to the Keystone Trail through the Sports Complex. Grant funding has been received for the trail project and options are being studied for the Thompson Creek project. The Swimming Pool Advisory Committee continued its work and a conceptual plan was unveiled for public input. A recommendation to the Mayor and Council regarding an aquatics facility is anticipated in early 2008.

La Vista is also currently taking part in activities that will enhance our service delivery to citizens and assist us in planning for the future. During November the City participated in the National Citizen Survey. Approximately 1,200 citizens were randomly selected to complete a survey regarding City services and citizen expectations.

*Continued on page 3*

## A MINUTE WITH mayor kindig



As the busiest shopping season of the year comes to a close, I would like to take a moment to recognize our local businesses and thank those of you who shop locally during the holidays and throughout the year.

By shopping locally you can save time, save money, even save the environment! Contrary to popular belief, local shops are not always more expensive than the larger national chains. When you add in the cost of gas, travel time, parking, etc., it can be more economical to shop locally. Additionally, dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community. Good things happen when you shop, dine, buy gasoline or make other purchases from a merchant whose business is located in La Vista. When shopping locally you simultaneously create jobs, fund more city services through sales tax, invest in neighborhood improvement and promote community development.

La Vista welcomed some new businesses this past year, while many others have been a part of the community for a long time. All of these businesses are vital to the City's economy and many of them contribute to local charities, schools and community events. Non-profit groups typically receive their greatest support from local businesses. By frequenting local merchants you help to strengthen our community and our economy.

La Vista's business community will continue to grow in 2008. I would encourage you to shop locally whenever possible. To quote the Boulder Independent Business Alliance, "Put Your Money Where Your House Is!" It's the smart thing to do.

Douglas Kindig, Mayor

## Election Information



Four seats on the La Vista City Council (one in each ward) and the Mayor position will be up for election in 2008. The filing deadline for incumbent office-holders is February 15, 2008. Non-incumbent candidates have until March 3, 2008 to file. Filings can be completed in the office of the Sarpy County Election Commissioner or at City Hall; however, the filing fee (\$43.20 for City Council and \$108.00 for Mayor) must be paid at the City. The primary election will be held on May 13, 2008. The two candidates receiving the most votes for each position will go on to the general election in November 2008. If you have any questions please contact the Sarpy County Election Commissioner (593-2166) or City Clerk Pam Buethe (331-4343 or pbuethe@ci.la-vista.ne.us).

## La Vista City Calendar

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

### February 2008

- 5 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Senior Valentine Brunch, 11:30 a.m., La Vista Community Center
- 18 Most City offices will be closed for President's Day
- 19 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Park and Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.

### March 2008

- 4 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Citizen Advisory Review Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Library Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m. in Library Board Room
- 18 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Park and Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m., Central Park

### April 2008

- 1 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Park and Recreation Advisory Board, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 18-19 Spring Clean Up Days, La Vista Public Works, 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 9

# Continuing the 1/2 Cent Sales Tax in La Vista

In 1984 the City of La Vista established a one cent local option sales tax to support day to day operational costs. In 1990 an additional 1/2 cent sales tax was added to support street and capital improvements, bringing La Vista's total sales tax rate to 1-1/2%. The additional 1/2 cent of sales tax was initially approved for a period of ten years. In 1998 voters approved extending the 1/2 cent sales tax for another ten years, until 2010.

Recently the La Vista City Council voted to place another extension of this 1/2 cent sales tax on the May 13, 2008 ballot. Citizens will be asked to extend the tax until the year 2025, continuing to restrict that the money generated be earmarked for street and capital improvements.

As the City continues to age and grow, additional street improvements and capital expenditures will continue to be necessary. The City's Capital Improvement Program has identified projects that need to be completed well past 2010. The alternative of funding road improvements with sales tax dollars versus property tax dollars is an appropriate way of shifting the burden of taxation from La Vista residents (property tax) to a broader base of those who shop in La Vista (sales tax), many of which are non-residents. Being a part of the metropolitan area results in a significant amount of wear and tear on City roads by non-residents. The Council believes that sales tax is the best way for those non-residents to share in the cost of keeping La Vista's streets in good repair.

Since 2000, the 1/2 cent sales tax has generated an average of over \$800,000 per year for La Vista. If this amount of money were to be transferred to property taxes, it would increase the property tax rate by approximately \$.09 or 17%. Revenues received from the 1/2 cent sales tax have paid for many major street improvement/capital projects including but not limited to:

- The widening of Harrison Street and Giles Rd. to 4 lanes
- Improvements to 96th Street from Giles Rd. to Cornhusker Rd.
- Improvements to 66th Street from Giles Rd. to Harrison St.
- Improvements to 84th Street from Harrison Street to Giles Rd.
- Improvements to 114th Street, north of Giles Rd.
- Improvements to Cornhusker Rd. from 96th St. to 100th St.
- Intersection improvements at 84th & Park View Blvd.
- Various signalization projects
- Annual street resurfacing projects and annual sidewalk district improvements.

It is also important to note that virtually all of the surrounding communities in the metro area have a local option sales tax of 1-1/2 cents. When you shop in Omaha or Papillion or Bellevue, for example, you are paying those communities \$1.50 for every \$100 you spend. If La Vista were to lose the additional 1/2 cent sales tax, our neighbors would only be paying \$1.00 to our community for every \$100 they spend.

If you have questions regarding the sales tax issue please contact City Hall at 331-4343. Information will also be published on the city's website, [www.ci.la-vista.ne.us](http://www.ci.la-vista.ne.us).

## policewatch

In March the "2008 La Vista Citizen's Police Academy" will begin. The Citizen's Police Academy is an eleven-week course that covers all aspects of police work, and two classes will be dedicated to fire services. The classes will be held every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M. and will be taught by officers from the La Vista Police and Fire departments. Applications are available beginning in January at the La Vista police station, 7701 S. 96th Street. For further information please contact Officer James Thompson at 402-331-1582 or email [jthompson@ci.la-vista.ne.us](mailto:jthompson@ci.la-vista.ne.us)

## Employment Opportunities

Applications for summer employment with the City of La Vista are now being accepted. Positions are available in the Public Works Department and at the Swimming Pool. Applicants for these positions must be at least 16 years of age. Public Works applicants must have a valid drivers license. Opportunities are available in the Street Division, Park Division and at the Golf Course. Wages range from \$7.25 to \$10.50/hour depending on experience. Flexible schedules are available, including weekend hours. Lifeguard applicants must have a current certification, be CPR certified, and know standard first aid. Wages range from \$7.00 to \$10.50/hour depending on experience. Applications are available at City Hall, 8116 Park View Blvd. or accessed from the City website, [www.ci.la-vista.ne.us](http://www.ci.la-vista.ne.us). Questions should be directed to Karen Fagin at 331-4343. The City of La Vista is an equal opportunity employer.

## Busy Year from page 1

Final results are expected in the next few weeks and a full report will be made in a future newsletter.

In 2007 the City adopted its first official Capital Improvement Program (CIP). This is an invaluable long-range planning document that is updated on a yearly basis and provides a road map for major capital expenditures.

La Vista is currently in the process of working with a consultant to develop a Municipal Facilities Plan. Existing facilities will be reviewed for efficiency and adequacy. Recommendations will be made for short and long range solutions to current inefficiencies and to plan for anticipated growth.

As we look back over the events of 2007, two words come to mind: growth and change. It was a busy and challenging year for the City of La Vista. We are excited about the growth and the new challenges that such growth brings. At the same time, we are committed to maintaining and revitalizing the areas of La Vista that have been the foundation of our success. We are looking forward to 2008 with great anticipation.

# Community Development Department

**A&W/Long John Silvers** - A permit has been approved for the remodeling of the former Bakery building which will be the site of these two new restaurants. Location: 8220 Giles Road.

**Bones Brew & Barbeque** - A new restaurant is open in the building formerly known as Boston's. Location: 8045 S. 83rd Avenue.

**Chatty Squirrel Café & Bakery** - A permit has been issued to remodel the building formerly known as Mancino's Restaurant in the Val Verde shopping center. Location: 9631 Giles Road.

**Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center** - Construction is on-going on a 248,000 s.f. seven story hotel with 257 rooms. The hotel will have a full height atrium with dining and lounge seating, and full height trees. Amenities at the hotel will include an indoor pool with a hot tub, health and exercise facility and an outdoor sun deck. The atrium will be connected to a conference center with a wide concourse, which will include a restaurant and coffee shop. Construction has also started on the conference center which will have a capacity of 5,000-6,000 people with a full kitchen, and be marketed for conventions, corporate meetings, trade shows, fund raising dinners, wedding receptions, etc. Location: 12520 Westport Parkway.

**Courtyard by Marriott Hotel** - Construction of a six story hotel with 243 rooms, including meeting rooms, a restaurant, a lounge and recreational facilities is underway. This hotel will also be connected to the Conference Center through a covered walkway. Location: 12560 Westport Parkway.

**Enterprise Precast Concrete, Inc.** - Construction has started on a 4,920 s.f. building addition. Location: 13800 W. Giles Road.

**Island Bar & Grill** - A tenant finish is underway for this restaurant and bar to locate in the Fantasy's complex in Southport East. Location: 7826 S. 123rd Plaza.

**Monarch Tire & Wheel** - Construction has started on the new location for this wholesale wheel and tire business in the Val Vista industrial park. Location: 10346 Chandler Circle.

**Nuts & Bolts, Inc.** - Construction is nearing completion on this 30,780 s.f. building. This company is a wholesaler/distributor of — can you guess? Location: 12005 Centennial Road.



**Runza** - Construction is complete on this new restaurant in Southport East. Location: 12149 McDermott Plaza.

**Securities America** - Construction of a 3-story 86,791 s.f. office building

has been completed. Securities America is an SEC registered investment advisory firm. Location: 12325 Port Grace Blvd.

**Smart Car** - A new Smart Car dealership is being added to the Chrysler/ Dodge/Jeep dealership at the Performance Auto Plaza. Location: 7010 S. 124th Circle.

**Southport Center** - Construction is underway on the first building of a two building commercial complex which will also contain an open plaza area. The east building contains 21,643 s.f. and the west building contains 20,748 s.f. of commercial flex-space. Tenants have not been announced. Location: 12040 McDermott Plaza.

**Southport Plaza** - Construction has started on a 12,851 s.f. commercial flex-space building. A tenant finish is underway for Learning With Love, a child care center. Location: 7428 Eastport Parkway.



**Steve & Barry's** - The interior of the former Gordman's store in Brentwood Square was remodeled for this apparel and accessory store which opened in November. Location: 8100 S. 84th Street.

**Summer Kitchen Café** - Construction has started on this new restaurant in Southport East. A spring opening date is anticipated. Location: 12010 Giles Road.



**Turnkey Solutions** - Construction is on-going on this 56,760 s.f. industrial building. This software manufacturer produces CD's, DVD's, VHS tapes and audio cassettes. Services include printing, packaging

and distribution. Turnkey is the largest duplication facility of its kind in the country. Location: 12001 Cary Circle.

**Wonder Plumbing** - Construction has started on this 7,798 s.f. building which will be the new office/warehouse for this plumbing company. Location: 7811 S. 134th Street.



**Young Chiropractic** - An interior finish was completed in one of the Val Verde commercial buildings for this chiropractic office. Location: 9825 Giles Road.

## ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAYS

The City's Annual Clean-up Days will be held on **Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19, 2008**. All residents, including residents in the City's Extra-Territorial Zoning Jurisdiction, are encouraged to take advantage of this FREE disposal service by bringing discarded items to the Public Works Facility, 9900 Portal Road. Hours of operation will be **7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Examples of items that will be accepted include: major appliances, lawn and household furniture, toys, bikes, lawn mowers, grills and mattresses. There will be a separate dumpster to collect yard waste, leaves and grass clippings. Yard waste must be removed from non-biodegradable bags. Branches will be accepted if their diameter is less than 6 inches. Motor oil and anti-freeze will be accepted but must be free of debris. Household batteries and car batteries will also be accepted. Paint, tires and hazardous waste will not be accepted. Proof of residency will be required, either a valid drivers license or a utility bill.

## 2008 CONSTRUCTION SEASON

The 2008 construction season is rapidly approaching and citizens will see a wide variety of projects underway throughout the city over the next several months.

- The reconstruction of Harrison Street from 71st Street to 48th Street is scheduled to begin in late spring. The road will be improved to a 3-lane urban design.
- La Vista will be working with Sarpy County to begin improvements to the 132nd and West Giles Road intersection.
- The 7300 & 7400 blocks of Josephine Street will have numerous concrete panels replaced. Heather Avenue and 74th Street from Harrison to Josephine will be milled and a new 2" asphalt overlay installed in addition to various curb and panel repairs.
- The intersection of 89th and Granville Parkway will be reconstructed.
- The existing retaining wall on Harrison Street from 78th to 80th will be reconstructed to correct failing wall supports.
- The Keystone Trail Link will be constructed from 69th Street through the Sports Complex and connect with the new Harrison Street sidewalk system.
- A feasibility study will begin on the Portal Greenway located on the east edge of Val Vista subdivision. The study will look at creek channel improvements and future trail locations through this area.
- The Golf Course will have additional cart paths installed on fairways #2 and #3.

Questions concerning any of the proposed projects can be directed to the La Vista Public Works Department at 331-8927 or email Joe Soucie at [jsoucie@ci.la-vista.ne.us](mailto:jsoucie@ci.la-vista.ne.us).



## CONGRATULATIONS

The Nebraska Chapter of the American Public Works Association announced Joe Soucie, City of La Vista Public Works Director, as the 2007 Outstanding Member at its annual banquet November 7, 2007 in Kearney, Nebraska. Joe was presented the award by Nebraska Chapter President Dan Freshman. In addition, Greg Goldman, City of La Vista Street Superintendent was elected to the Nebraska Chapter's President position and Soucie was elected Chapter Delegate after serving two-years as the alternate delegate. The La Vista Public Works Department continues to be very active in local and national APWA activities.

## 2007 Annual Building Report

The Community Development Department had another very busy year in 2007. A total of 780 building permits were issued including 102 permits for new single family residences and 26 permits for new commercial buildings. These permits, as well as additional permits for residential and commercial remodels, conversions and additions, added over \$135 million in property valuation and generated \$1.16 million in fees for the City of La Vista. Development in the Southport area, including the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center, added significantly to these figures. The City's inspectors performed approximately 2,300 inspections during 2007.

Type of Permit	Number
New Residential Housing	102
New Commercial Building	26
Remodels, Conversions, Additions	
Residential	113
Commercial	55
Sheds and Fences	175
Signs and Miscellaneous	65
Electrical	37
Plumbing	110
Mechanical	97
<b>Total</b>	<b>780</b>

**Annual Report.** The numbers are still great. 92,069 people passed through the library gates, checking out a total of 116,305 items. Patronage was down slightly, however 1,504 more items were checked out than in the previous year. Thank you La Vista!

**New Library Cards.** Following a cost analysis it was determined that purchasing pre-printed library cards is more efficient. The new cards don't have to be mailed out; you can get your card immediately with no waiting. Just another way the library is improving service to you. If you are a La Vista resident, there is no charge for a library card. Stop by and get yours today.

**What else happened this year?** Donations to the La Vista Public Library totaled 9,870. What a generous community we have! Magazines, DVDs, audio books, music CDs, fiction and non-fiction titles are just a sampling of items received in 2007. These items help make the library's collection broader in scope and a true reflection of our community. The library even received donations through the mail from a person in Missouri. Thank you from your library staff.

**Tax Season** is here! Some helpful websites:

<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov> Internal Revenue site offers forms, publications, regulations, and online assistance.

<http://www.taxsites.com/state.html> State and Local Taxes has links to tax departments, tax forms, and tax codes for all 50 states.

<http://www.fourmilab.ch/ustax/ustax.html> U.S. Tax Codes On-Line: A good site for serious tax questions.

<http://www.revenue.state.ne.us/tax/forms.html> State of Nebraska tax forms. Get forms, use e-filing, check on your return and more.

Read the FAQs sections and get help preparing your tax forms. The library still carries a large assortment of both state and federal tax forms. Also available is a reproducible book to photocopy any tax form you might need.

**Spring Craft Program.** These programs are designed for school aged children to mingle and create! Watch the website and the library bulletin board for more details in March. You won't want to miss it.

**Join the La Vista Public Library Quilt Club!** The Quilt Club is for beginners and experienced quilters. Lap quilts will be made to donate to the La Vista Fire and Police Departments. The Quilt Club meets at 2 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month.

**The Genealogy Group** meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for an opportunity to share ideas concerning your family's history. If you aren't available at that time, please feel free to stop by the library and ask our staff about genealogy. We are here to assist you.

**Electronic Books.** To find out what electronic books the library has, visit our web site, at <http://www.ci.la-vista.ne.us>, click on "card catalog", type in electronic books and click on the Subject button. To set up an account to access the electronic books from home, stop in the library. It is a simple process that takes less than 3 minutes. Electronic books can be searched full-text. Topics include recipes, computers, literature and philosophy to name a few. The library received a grant during 2007 to obtain 3,000 more titles!

**Catch the Reading Bug This Summer.** The Summer Reading Program Kick-off will be held on Wednesday, June 4th from 2:00-4:00 P.M. Mark your calendars and watch the web page and the next issue of CityWise for further details.

## children



### Storytimes

These weekly story sessions are for children from 6 months old to pre-kindergarten. The goals of Storytime are to introduce children to the library, to show children the magic of books and reading, to help develop social skills needed for school, and, of course, to have fun! Registration is necessary to attend. If you have any questions or need more information about the different storytimes, please call the library.

### Let's Blog!

A Blog "is a website where entries are written in chronological order and commonly displayed in reverse chronological order" according to Wikipedia.

And the library now has one! Visit our library blog at <http://lavistalibrary.blogspot.com> and leave us your feedback!

# shorttakes shorttakes shorttakes shorttakes

## THOMPSON CREEK

If you would like to weigh in on the alternatives that the City Council is studying to alleviate erosion along Thompson Creek, visit the City's website at [www.ci.la-vista.ne.us](http://www.ci.la-vista.ne.us) to give us your opinion. Even if you do not live along the creek, we would like to hear from you. While the City will be seeking grant funding or some other source of revenue for this project, any portion not funded by other sources will be the responsibility of all of the taxpayers in La Vista. Let us know what you think.

## NEWSLETTER

We are always looking for new ideas and ways to improve this newsletter. If there is a topic you would like to see covered in an upcoming issue of CityWise please let us know by contacting City Hall at 331-4343 or emailing us at [rramirez@ci.la-vista.ne.us](mailto:rramirez@ci.la-vista.ne.us).

## GARAGE SALES

Garage sale season is fast approaching. Garage sales are limited to four per residence per year and cannot last longer than four days. Sale items cannot be placed

in the right-of-way (see below). Garage sale signs have the following restrictions: Signs cannot be larger than six square feet and they cannot be attached to utility poles or other signs or posts. Signs cannot be placed in the right-of-way (back from the curb 12 feet in residential areas, 25 feet along 72nd Street, Harrison Street, and Giles Road, and 50 feet along 84th Street). Signs can be placed on private property with the permission of the owner - one sign per lot. Signs must be promptly removed following the sale.

## HOME REPAIR PROJECT

Are you considering a home repair project? First, check with the City to determine whether a permit is required for your project. The Community Development staff can answer this and many other questions regarding home repair. The La Vista Library has also added a search engine called Home Improvement Reference Center. You can access this search engine from your home computer with a password obtained at the Library. The search engine provides access to 26 major reference works as

## Council Clips

The following items are highlights of recent City Council action:

- Issued public safety bonds for the purchase of two new pieces of fire apparatus.
- Approved an upgrade to the City's wireless communication system.
- Approved Fire Department officers for 2008.
- Approved a collective bargaining agreement with the La Vista Fraternal Order of Police.
- Approved a new Fire Department recruit class consisting of 11 members.

well as magazines like *This Old House* in full text. You can get assistance with maintenance, remodeling, electrical and plumbing projects, outdoor improvements, and home decorating.

## firedepartment news

### La Vista Citizen's Fire Academy Weekend

On October 20th and 21st the La Vista Fire Department held it's first ever Citizen's Fire Academy Weekend at the Bellevue Fire Department Training Facility. Citizen's from the community who have an interest in joining the volunteer fire service were invited to attend and participate in many fire department evolutions, including vehicle extrication, aerial ladder operations, and even live fire training. Participants also were certified in CPR for Family and Friends. All of the activities were taught and supervised by LVFD's own state certified instructors. The event was a great success and produced some fine recruits for the La Vista Fire Department. Fire Chief Rich Uhl anticipates hosting this program at least once every year.



The Fire Department recently added two pieces of apparatus to its fleet, an engine and an aerial truck. Inspections and training have been completed and both trucks are currently in service. The trucks were built by the Sutphen Corp.

LA VISTA

# cityofficials

**Mayor**

Douglas Kindig

**City Council**

Brenda Carlisle, Ward 1  
Ron Sheehan, Ward 1  
Robert McLaughlin, Ward 2  
Terrilyn Quick, Ward 2  
Mark Ellerbeck, Ward 3  
Alan Ronan, Ward 3  
Anthony Gowan, Ward 4  
Kelly Sell, Ward 4

**City Administrator**

Brenda Gunn

**Management Team**

Rita Ramirez, Assistant City Administrator  
Pat Archibald, Buildings & Grounds Director  
Pam Buethe, City Clerk  
Ann Birch, Community Development Director  
Sheila Lindberg, Finance Director  
Rose Iwan, Library Director  
Rich Uhl, Fire Chief  
Bob Lausten, Police Chief  
Joe Soucie, Public Works Director  
Scott Stopak, Recreation Director



Feeling overwhelmed by winter? Spring is almost here, however these La Vista residents enjoyed some snowy fun while waiting for warmer days.

*Kiley Cruse / World Herald. Reprinted with permission from the Omaha World Herald.*



**City of La Vista**  
8116 Park View Blvd.  
La Vista, NE 68128

p: 402-331-4343 | f: 402-331-4375

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PERMIT NO. 1313

# what'shappening • spring 2008

## SPRING BREAK RECREATION HOURS

Children 8 and older can use the gym and game room from 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. March 17-21 and March 24, 2008. Basketball, volleyball, pool, bumper pool, darts, ping pong, shuffleboard and foosball are available. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. **ALL CHILDREN MUST BE LA VISTA RESIDENTS AND REGISTERED IN THE I.D. SYSTEM.**

## FREE TAX HELP!

Provided to taxpayers with low/middle income; special attention for those age 60 and older. This service provided beginning January 29, 2008 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at the La Vista Community Center, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., and Wednesdays 3 - 7 p.m. through April 15, 2008. No appointments, walk-ins only. Please see instruction sheet at the Community Center for preparations prior to visit.

## PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

Come to the La Vista Community Center as we open the gym for parents and

### Community Center hours of operation (please note-hours are different for adult and youth):

Mon. - Fri: ..... 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

Sat. (May 1 - Aug.31): ..... 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sat. (Sept. 1 - April 30): ..... 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sun. (May 1 - Aug. 31): ..... Closed

Sun. (Sept. 1 - April 30): ..... 1 p.m.-10 p.m.

Mon.-Fri. (School Yr.): ..... 8 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Adults Only

Mon.-Fri. (School Yr.): ..... 3 p.m.-10 p.m.  
Adults & Youth

Mon.-Fri. (Summer): ..... 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Adults Only

Mon.-Fri. (Summer Sched. / No School)  
1:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Adults & Youth

Snow Days are not included in the above schedule - those days are considered the same as school days for youth.  
Hours are 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

## SENIOR VALENTINE'S BRUNCH

The La Vista and Papillion Senior Center will host the annual Valentine's Luncheon on Thursday, February 14, 2008 at the La Vista Community Center. Food, fun & entertainment will be provided. All Seniors from the area are invited! Advanced tickets are required. Tickets will be on sale at the La Vista Community Center, 8116 Parkview Blvd., La Vista, or at the Papillion Recreation Dept., 1100 West Lincoln St., Papillion. Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. Registration Deadline: Thursday, February 7, 2008. **Fee:** 5.00 per person. Sorry, no refunds will be given.



## EASTER EGG HUNT

La Vista's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held RAIN OR SHINE on Saturday, March 22, 2008 at Central Park, located at Edgewood Blvd. & Valley Road. Children 12 and under are welcome to participate. Remember to bring your Easter Basket! Please see the following divisions and start times:

4 and under with/without parents: 10:00 a.m.  
5 and 6 years old: ..... 10:10 a.m.  
7, 8, and 9 years old: ..... 10:15 a.m.  
10, 11 and 12 years old: ..... 10:20 a.m.

children preschool-age and under. Bring your child's favorite indoor toys and the Recreation Department will provide extra toys and games. Preschool Play Time will run throughout the school year (only when school is in session) and is for La Vista residents only. When: Tuesday morning 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and Thursday morning 10:00 a.m. - 11:00. **NO FEE.**

## HERSHEY TRACK & FIELD MEET

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 18, 2008. Join other youth between the ages of 9-14 (age as of December 31, 2007) from La Vista, Papillion, Bellevue, Gretna and Springfield in the 2008 Hershey Track and Field Meet. Events include long jump, softball throw, 50 meter dash, 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 400 meter dash, 800 meter run, 1600 meter run and the 4 x 100 meter relay. All events held at Papillion - La Vista South High School stadium. Event winners will proceed to the state meet in Grand Island in June. Winners of that meet may qualify for the national meet in Hershey, PA. **PARTICIPANTS MUST PRE-REGISTER!** There will be no "DAY OF" entries allowed. Pick up registration form at the La Vista Community Center or the

Papillion Recreation Dept. Please contact La Vista Recreation Dept. at 331-3455 for more information. Event date is Sunday, April 27, 2008. **NO FEE.**

## BELLY DANCING CLASSES

For all ages/all sizes! A continuing class where you will learn an art form and musical instrument (finger cymbals). Enjoy this form of dance that brings out your unique self-expression. For more information, call Wren Newman at 596-1397. Class Times: (Beginner) Tuesday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and (Advanced) Tuesday 7 - 8:00 p.m. **Fee:** \$20 per month.

## OMAHA JITTERBUGS

The Omaha Jitterbugs offer a variety of dance lessons at the Community Center such as Lindy Hop, Charleston for Two, Swing and Bal-Swing (Balboa). Length of sessions and fees vary with classes. For more information and registration, visit their website at [www.jitterbugs.org](http://www.jitterbugs.org).

## JANEL'S YOUTH DANCE CLASS

Several dance styles, tumbling and pom offered for youth. Call Janel at 504-4357 for more information and to register for class.

## KIKAI FIGHTING METHOD AND A.S.A.P. METHOD

Adult Martial Arts Classes Wednesday evening 7:00-9:00 p.m. In Kikai, you will learn the core techniques of multiple martial arts. A.S.A.P. (Adrenal-Scenario-Based Awareness & Protection) develops the correct responses in pre-conflict stages. **FEES:** \$40 per month; \$20 for those already enrolled in LVCC martial arts class. For more information, please call 331-3455.

## AIKIDO

Adult Classes: Ages 12 and Over: Monday and Thursday 7-9:30 p.m. Children's Classes (5 -11 years.): Monday and Thursday 6 - 7:00 p.m. **FEES:** Adult Classes: La Vista Residents \$30/month; Non-Residents \$35/month. Children's Classes: La Vista Residents \$15/month; Non-Residents \$20/month. For further information, call Ron Christenham at 339-6124.

## KARATE

Adult Classes: Ages 13 and over: Tuesday and Friday at 7 - 8:30 p.m. Children Classes: Ages 5-12 Tuesday & Friday 6 - 6:45 p.m. **FEES:** \$25 per month with a \$5 one-time sign up fee. For information, call Sensei Porter at 592-7771.

## TRADITIONAL JAPANESE SWORDSMANSHIP

Suio Ryu is one of the few ancient systems of martial arts practiced today. It encompasses a broad variety of techniques such as jojutsu (Suio Ryu), kumi-iai (paired sword forms), naginata-jutsu, pure kenpo sword and wakizashi techniques. Classes are on Wednesday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00 - 3:00 pm. Adults, ages 18 & older only. Open enrollment. **FEES:** \$40 per month. For more information, email Britt Nichols at [Info@suioryu-usa.org](mailto:Info@suioryu-usa.org).

## SOCHI-GO RYU SELF-DEFENSE CLASS!

Sochi-Go Ryu is the newest martial arts self-defense class at La Vista Community Center. Please call Mike Benkis at 895-7841 for more information.

## INDIVIDUAL WEIGHT TRAINING CLASSES

This class, for adults age 18 and older, teaches the basics of weight training. Learn how to set up and advance; use proper technique and form; and get the most out of your weight-training program using both machine and free weights. This individual training class meets for two 1-hour sessions. Body Fat Testing is included. **FEES:** \$25.

## LA VISTA (INDOOR) WALKING CLUB

The La Vista Community Center Walking Club, available free of charge, is for any La Vista residents and/or Seniors in the surrounding areas. Walking will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This one hour time period will be set aside exclusively for walkers, so there will be no interference from other programs. Walking is also available at other times. Please check at the Community Center.

## LA VISTA SENIOR CENTER

The La Vista Senior Center is located in the Community Center and offers friendship, food, fitness, field trips, and many more fun activities. Please contact the Recreation Department at 331-3455 if you would like your name placed on the mailing list to receive a monthly calendar. The Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging provides hot lunches on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. Lunch reservations need to be made [by noon] one business day in advance by calling 331-3455. A suggested donation of \$2.50 (for ages 60 & over) is appreciated.



Senior Irene Roberts visiting displays at the City of La Vista Health Fair.

The Community Center has Senior walkers every morning (free of charge), and a fitness room with various exercise equipment for your use. There is no charge for La Vista Seniors to use the equipment. There is a small charge of \$2 for non-resident Seniors (age 55 & over).

Seniors go on several outings per month including restaurants, museums, movies or sight-seeing. In recent outings, the Seniors have gone to Mahoney State Park Dinner Theater, Rosenblatt Stadium for a Royals game, and of course the yearly trips to Nebraska City for apples and the Christmas Light Tour!

Every Monday at 12:15 p.m. Bridge and other card games are offered. Fridays we play pitch. Other games are also played on Wednesdays and Fridays after lunch. Feel free to join us.

Throughout the year, the Seniors have special events such as an annual Valentines Day party, which includes great food and entertainment. Pot-luck lunches are also held frequently, and monthly birthday parties are held the second Wednesday of each month.

A visiting nurse is at the Community Center on the first Friday of each month from 9-11:00 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet across from the front desk, but walk-ins are welcome.

Transportation is available for La Vista and Ralston residents on the La Vista/Ralston Special Services Bus. Please call 331-3455 or 657-3550 for further information.

To receive information regarding scheduled activities/trips and lunch menus, be sure to sign up for the monthly La Vista Senior Newsletter by calling the La Vista Recreation Dept. at 331-3455, pick one up at the Community Center or check us out online at [www.ci.la-vista.ne.us/recreation](http://www.ci.la-vista.ne.us/recreation) (you will see the monthly newsletter and calendar there also!)

## INDOOR REMOTE CONTROL MODEL AIRPLANE FLYING

Every Monday from 11:30-1:30 p.m. participate in Indoor Model Airplane Flying at the La Vista Community Center. These lightweight planes will amaze you, as will the individuals who designed and fly them. A good time is had by all during this weekly event! Come watch at no cost or bring your indoor plane and pay a small drop-in fee!

## MODEL AIRPLANE LICENSE & FIELD TIMES

Model airplane flying licenses may be purchased at Hobby Town, USA. You must have your A.M.A. card in order to purchase your license. **FEE:** La Vista Residents \$30 Non-Residents \$40 (includes 1 year license and Midwest Performance Flyers Club membership). Flying Times (at La Vista Soccer Complex, 66th St. South of Harrison) will be posted at the La Vista Recreation Dept. and Hobby Town U.S.A.

## RED CROSS SWIMMING LESSONS

Registration Dates:

La Vista Residents Beginning: Monday, April 28, 2008.

Non-Residents Beginning: Monday, May 5, 2008

**FEE:** La Vista Residents: ..... \$25.00  
Non-Residents: ..... \$50.00

Swimming Lesson Sessions:

Session 1: June 16 through June 27

Session 2: July 7 through July 18

Session 3: July 21 through August 1

Levels of Lessons: Pre-Beginners, Level I, Level II, Level III, Level IV, Level V, Level VI

Lessons are held Monday through Thursday. Fridays are rain days. Minimum age for pre-beginners is age four. All classes are forty-five minutes in length.

## KITE FLYING FESTIVALS

The American Kite Fliers Association and The La Vista Recreation Department invite you to Go Fly a Kite in 2008! Come see some of the world's largest and most creative kites at our upcoming festivals. April is National Kite Flying Month, and to celebrate we are having a Spring Kite Festival on Sunday, April 27, 2008 from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the La Vista Soccer Complex. Bring the whole family and enjoy a day of kite flying!

## CO-ED YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Ages 4/5 & 6/7. Ages as of August 1, 2007. Spring Session Deadline: March 2, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$25.00, Non-Resident \$45.00. Volunteer Coaches Needed.

## NEW! SPRING FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Ages 6/7/8 as of April 1, 2008. Registration deadline: March 2, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Residents \$30.00. Non-Residents \$50.00.



## LA VISTA FALLS GOLF COURSE

8305 Park View Blvd. La Vista Falls Golf Course is now accepting applications for adult and junior leagues, family, company, school and night time golf outings. For all leagues you may sign up as individual, twosome, threesome or foursome teams. Call Manager Denny Dinan at 339-9147 for more information on open golf, golf course hours, fees, leagues and special outings. (If golf course is closed, please call the Recreation Dept. at 331-3455).

### SPRING AND SUMMER GOLF LEAGUES

**Men** - 2 Man Teams - Tuesday Night. Sign up as individual or twosome team. Flag Prizes, Fun Night, End of league party.

**Women** - Wednesday Night. Sign up as individual, twosome, threesome or foursome team. Flag Prizes, Fun Night, End of league party

**Couples** - Male/Female - Friday Night. Sign up as individual, twosome, threesome or foursome team. Flag Prizes, Fun Night, End of league party.

**Juniors** - Individual, Groups. Recreational League. Accommodations for Car Pooling. End of the Year Prizes & Party. \*Must have playing ability & knowledge of the game.

Please contact Manager Denny Dinan at 339-9147, to reserve your dates and tee times for your 2008 golf outing.

### LEAGUE FEES FOR 2008

1) Leagues with Prize/Party Fund \$170.00 per player

2) Junior Golf Program \$ To be determined

3) All Other League Play Regular Green Fees x number of weeks

**GREEN FEES & SPECIALS** MARCH 1ST - SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 \*AFTER 3:00 P.M. SAME AS WEEKDAY RATES

9-Hole Weekdays (adults)..... \$8.50

9-Hole Weekends (Sat-Sun) (adults) ..... \*\$10.00

18-Hole Weekdays (adults)..... \$14.50

18-Hole Weekends (Sat-Sun) (adults) ..... \*\$16.00

9-Hole Weekdays (Jr/Sr)..... \$6.00

9-Hole Weekends (Sat-Sun) (Jr/Sr)..... \*\$8.00

18-Hole Weekdays (Jr/Sr)..... \$11.00

18-Hole Weekends (Sat-Sun) (Jr/Sr)..... \*\$13.00

1 year Adult Membership..... \$300.00

1 year Jr/Sr Membership ..... \$200.00

1 year Family Membership ..... \$600.00

Pull Carts ..... \$2.00

Rental Clubs ..... \$7.00

Electric Carts (9-Holes) ...\$6.00

Electric Carts (18-Holes) ...\$9.00

### Punch Card Discount

Buy 10-Get 12 (Adult) \$85.00

Buy 10-Get 12 (Jr/Sr) \$60.00

## **SUMMER ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES**

Registration Deadline March 23, 2008. Leagues may fill up before the deadline. Co-ed Leagues Friday and Sunday; Men's League Sunday through Friday; Double Header Leagues Wednesday and Thursday. **FEE:** Co-ed and Men's League \$200.00, Double Header League \$400.00. Umpire Fee: \$18.00 per game paid directly to the umpire - **CASH ONLY**. Games start week of April 13, 2008.

## **PALOMINO BASEBALL**

Ages 17/18 as of April 30, 2008. Registration Deadline: March 2, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$100.00, Non-Resident \$130.00 Uniform Deposit: \$50.00. Players must be registered by the deadline to attend the try out. A try out will be held if more than 15 players are signed up by the registration deadline. This is a competitive league, no guaranteed playing time. Practice starts late March, games late April through early July. Volunteer coaches needed.

## **COLT BASEBALL**

Ages 15/16 as of April 30, 2008. Registration Deadline: March 2, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$75.00, Non-Resident \$105.00 Uniform Deposit: \$50.00. Players must be registered by the deadline to attend the try out. A try out will be held if more than 15 players are signed up by the registration deadline. This is a competitive league, no guaranteed playing time. Practice starts late March, games late April through early July. Volunteer coaches needed.

## **PONY BASEBALL**

Ages 13/14 as of April 30, 2008. Registration Deadline: March 2, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$65.00, Non-Resident \$85.00 Uniform Deposit: \$50.00. Players must be registered by the deadline to attend the try out. Try outs will be held if more than 12 players are signed up by the registration deadline. This is a competitive league, guaranteeing one inning of playing time per game. Practice starts late March, games late April through June. Volunteer coaches needed.

## **BRONCO BASEBALL**

Ages 11/12 as of April 30, 2008. Registration Deadline: March 2, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$45.00, Non-Resident \$75.00 Uniform Deposit: 50.00. Recreational league, all players registered before the deadline will be placed on a team. Practices start late March, games late April through June. Volunteer coaches needed.

## **MUSTANG (KID PITCH) BASEBALL**

Ages 9/10 as of April 30, 2008. Registration Deadline: April 27, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$35.00, Non-Resident \$55.00. Practice starts late May, games mid-June through July. Volunteer coaches needed

## **PINTO (CO-ED COACH PITCH) BASEBALL**

Ages 7/8 as of April 30, 2008. Registration Deadline: April 27, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$25.00, Non-Resident \$40.00. Practice starts late May, games mid-June through July. Volunteer coaches needed

## **T-BALL**

Ages 5/6 as of April 30, 2008. Registration Deadline: April 27, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$25.00, Non-Resident \$40.00 (Co-ed). Practice starts late May, games mid-June through July. Volunteer coaches needed.

## **PONY SOFTBALL**

Ages 13/14/15 as of January 1, 2008. Registration Deadline: April 1, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$65.00, Non-Resident \$85.00, softball pants deposit \$20.00. Practices start late April, games late May through early July. Tryouts will be held if needed. Players must be registered by the deadline to attend the try out and be placed on a team. Volunteer coaches needed.

## **BRONCO SOFTBALL**

Ages 11/12 as of January 1, 2008. Registration Deadline: March 30, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$45.00, Non-Resident \$75.00. Softball pants deposit \$20.00. Practice starts late April, games late May through early July. Volunteer coaches needed.

## **MUSTANG SOFTBALL**

Ages 9/10 as of January 1, 2008. Registration Deadline: March 30, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$35.00, Non-Resident \$55.00. Practice starts late April; games late May through early July. Volunteer coaches needed.

## **PINTO SOFTBALL**

Ages 7/8 as of January 1, 2008. Registration Deadline: March 30, 2008. **FEE:** La Vista Resident \$25.00, Non-Resident \$40.00. Practice starts late April, games late May through early July. Volunteer coaches needed.

## **LA VISTA MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL**

The La Vista Municipal Pool will open on Saturday, May 24, 2008 and close Monday, September 1, 2008 (Labor Day). Pool Hours are 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. daily (schedule will change once school begins). Season passes and resident tags may be purchased at the La Vista Recreation Center. Season passes are available for Residents and Non-Residents.

## **SWIMMING POOL FEES - 2008**

Daily Admission:	
Youth 5 & under:	Free
Youth Resident 6-17 years of age (with tag):	\$2.00
Youth Non-Resident 6-17 years of age (with tag):	\$4.00
Adult Resident 18 & older (with tag):	\$3.00
Adult Non-Resident 18 & older:	\$4.00
RESIDENT TAG	\$1.50
YOUTH RESIDENT	
Season Pass	\$50.00
YOUTH NON-RESIDENT	
Season Pass	\$80.00
ADULT RESIDENT	
Season Pass	\$60.00
ADULT NON-RESIDENT	
Season Pass	\$90.00
FAMILY RESIDENT	
Season Pass	\$90.00
FAMILY NON-RESIDENT	
Season Pass	\$150.00
DAY-CARE Season Pass	\$250.00
30-Day Pass Booklet (Residents)	\$45.00
30-Day Pass Booklet (Non-Residents)	\$75.00