I. MAYOR
1. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Presents Award of Excellence for May.
2. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler News Conference to be Held on Thursday, June 14th, at 555 South 10th Street, 10:00 a.m. Plans for the City’s 2007 July 4th Celebration.
3. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor’s Committee for International Friendship to Host Multi-National Group.
5. NEWS RELEASE. College View Neighborhood to Focus on Improving Transportation.
6. Time Warner Cable Complaint from James and Charlene Simpson.

II. DIRECTORS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
1. PRESS RELEASE. “Food That’s in When School is Out”.
2. NEWS RELEASE. “Clean Out Your Garage and Garden Shed Chemicals”.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1. Wilderness Hills 1st Addition. Final Plat #06042. Generally Located at So. 27th Street and Whispering Wind Boulevard.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES
1. ADVISORY. Roadway Improvement Project #540614. 4th Street; A - J Street.

III. CITY CLERK

IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE

JON CAMP
1. Request to Public Works and Utilities Regarding Traffic Light at 40th and Yankee Hill with Response from Karl Fredrickson, Public Works and Utilities. Signal is being Installed.

JONATHAN COOK
1. Request to Scott Opfer, Public Works & Utilities Department - RE: Traffic signs on light poles (Cook RFI#131 - 06/11/07) (SEE RESPONSE FROM SCOTT OPFER, MANAGER, TRAFFIC & ENGINEERING SERVICES, PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DEPT.)
DOUG EMERY
1. Request to Karl Fredrickson, Public Works & Utilities Director - RE: Stop Signs - Eastridge Elementary School (Emery RFI#1 - 05/21/07)

V. MISCELLANEOUS
Mayor Chris Beutler today presented the Mayor’s Award of Excellence for May to a team from the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging’s (LAAA) LIFE Office: Houston Doan and Bradley Kastl. The monthly award recognizes City employees who consistently provide exemplary service and work that demonstrates personal commitment to the City. The award was presented at the beginning of today’s City Council meeting.

The team was nominated by supervisors Joanne Farell, Joyce Kubicek, Delayne Peck and Jody Roeker in the categories of productivity and customer service for their work to enroll local seniors in Medicare D Prescription Drug Benefits.

Doan has worked at the LIFE office since 2000. Kastl was hired in 2005. They both have the title of Aging Specialist II, but they are better known as the LIFE Agency Financial Counselors. They provide financial counseling and Medicare information support services to clients age 60 and over in LAAA’s eight-county coverage area. They also provide financial and insurance support services and training for the agency staff.

Doan also runs Operation ABLE, an employment program for low-income seniors. He developed a computer skills program as part of that role. Kastl is responsible for the recruitment, training and supervision of the 28 volunteer staff members of the Senior Health Insurance Information Program.

When Congress passed the Medicare Modernization Act of 2004, it allocated little money to start the program at the local level. Older adults and their families were overwhelmed, confused and frustrated. At this point, Doan and Kastl took on the task of helping clients sign up for the prescription drug benefit. They felt a great responsibility to help low-income seniors with no family who needed assistance to enroll.

The first open enrollment period was in late 2005. The second open enrollment recently ended, and the next enrollment period will begin this fall. Based on national results, Nebraska has experienced the fourth highest enrollment of Medicare D eligible beneficiaries in the U.S. In our local area, more than 30,000 seniors signed up for a plan. The savings to seniors is estimated at $3.3 million – money older adults can use for other needs and money that can go back into our local economy.

-more-
Program changes and concerns continue, and the nominators said Doan and Kastl are the “go-to guys” for problems no one else can solve. To help educate the community on Medicare D benefits, the team has given 105 presentations to 2,500 seniors; taped many Channel 5 programs; and given local media interviews. They were instrumental in starting a statewide Medicare D Coalition, working with other agencies to set up and staff ten enrollment banks to help hundreds of families. They also organized radio and television call-in shows.

The nominators thanked Doan and Kastl for their leadership and staff support. They wrote, “They have been our leaders, teachers, and our inspiration providing compassionate, humane, face-to-face customer service to our elderly clients and their families.”

Other categories in which employees can be nominated are loss prevention, safety and valor. All City employees are eligible for the Award of Excellence except for elected officials and some managers. Individuals or teams can be nominated by supervisors, peers, subordinates and the general public.

Nomination forms are available from department heads, employee bulletin boards or the Personnel Department, which oversees the awards program. All nominations are reviewed by the Mayor’s Award of Excellence Committee, which includes a representative with each union and a non-union representative appointed by the Mayor. Award winners receive a $100 U.S. savings bond, a day off with pay and a plaque. Monthly winners are eligible to receive the annual award, which comes with a $500 U.S. savings bond, two days off with pay and a plaque.
Mayor Chris Beutler will be joined by officials with Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra, Broadcast House and the Lincoln Jaycees to announce specific plans for the City’s 2007 4th of July celebration – “Uncle Sam Jam” featuring Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra – at a news conference at 10:15 a.m. Thursday, June 14 in City Council Chambers, 555 S. 10th St.
MAYOR’S COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP
TO HOST MULTI-NATIONAL GROUP

The Mayor’s Committee for International Friendship announced today that a multi-national group will visit Lincoln on June 14 and 15 to study biotechnology and food safety. Participants include three individuals from Denmark, Slovak Republic and Turkey. These individuals were invited to the U.S. under the auspices of the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program. This visit, which began in Washington, D.C. and takes the group to several states, was arranged by the Meridian International Center of Washington, D.C.

Included in their schedule are meetings with Mayor Chris Beutler; Steve Sands of Premium Protein to learn about food safety at a beef processing plant; Dr. Michael Fromm with the UNL Beadle Center for Biotechnology regarding research and development in agricultural biotechnology; and Agronomy and Horticulture Professors Steve Baenziger and Charles Francis to discuss research and development of crops and sustainable agriculture.

The group also will visit with Doug and Krista Dittman at Branched Oak Farm to learn about dairy production and food safety at their certified organic dairy farm and will tour the farm of Jerry Newsham near Ceresco.

The group’s participants are:

- Mr. Jens Christensen, President of Danish Agricultural Advisory Center; pig farmer from Denmark
- Ms. Vladimira Puskarova, Director of Agriculture and Services Department; plant expert, Slovak Agricultural and Food Chamber, of Slovak Republic
- Ms. Selda Turkoglu, European Union Assistant Expert, Foreign Relations and EU Coordination Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, of Turkey

The Mayor’s Committee for International Friendship (MCIF) is a volunteer organization which hosts visitors from around the world. The committee sets up visits with professional counterparts and plans cultural exchanges and learning experiences to promote international understanding among the visitors and citizens in the Lincoln area. Participants are established or potential foreign leaders in government, politics, media, education, science, labor relations and other key fields. They are selected by American Embassies overseas to visit the United States to experience this country firsthand.
Mayor Chris Beutler announced today that the City’s annual Fourth of July celebration will feature a 22-minute fireworks display choreographed to a free live concert by Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra at 10 p.m. Mayor Beutler was joined by representatives from the Symphony, the Lincoln Jaycees and B107.3/Broadcast House in announcing plans for “Uncle Sam Jam 2007” at Oak Lake Park on Wednesday, July 4.

The Symphony also will present a free “pre-fireworks” concert starting at 9:22 p.m. The “pre-fireworks” concert will be carried live exclusively on radio stations B107.3 FM and KLIN 1400AM beginning at about 9 p.m. Broadcast House’s two other Lincoln stations, 105.3 LINC-FM and Froggy 98, will join the broadcast for the Symphony’s 10 p.m. performance that will be choreographed to the fireworks.

“We are delighted that our City’s annual Independence Day celebration once again will feature a spectacular live performance by Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra,” Mayor Beutler said. “The reviews of last year’s Uncle Sam Jam concert were exceptional, making us all look forward with great anticipation to this year’s encore performance.” The City again will collaborate on the planning and coordination of the event with the Lincoln Jaycees, Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra, Broadcast House, Pepsi-Cola and – new to the partnership this year – the Lincoln Journal Star.

Pepsi-Cola is the fireworks sponsor for this year’s celebration, and Zambelli Internationale again will present the fireworks display. The Symphony performances are sponsored by TierOne Charitable Foundation and Sampson Construction Company Inc., with support from BNSF Railway, Nebraska Lottery, Nelnet and Donna W. Woods. The Uncle Sam Jam concerts kick-off the Symphony’s 81st season.

“The overwhelmingly positive response from our community after Uncle Sam Jam 2006 has led us to dream even bigger about this year’s event,” said Barbara Zach, Executive Director for Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra. “We estimate that last year we reached more than 30,000 people, both in the park itself and through the live radio broadcast. We are expecting record attendance this year, and LSO is thrilled to be a part of such an exciting celebration.”

“In talking with other symphonies, I have realized that our partnership with the City of Lincoln is truly unique,” said Zach. “We are blessed to have such strong support from our community. This support has led to the planning of an even bigger celebration this year, and it is our dream that this grows into an annual Lincoln Independence Day tradition, one worthy of drawing crowds from throughout the Midwest region.”
LSO Music Director Ed Polochick has selected a program that includes patriotic favorites as well as the symphony’s rendition of “There is No Place Like Nebraska.” *(see attached Symphony repertoire).*

“The Broadcast House stations of KBBK, KLIN, KFGE and KLNC once again are very excited to be a part of the Uncle Sam Jam celebration,” said Steve Albertsen, Broadcast House Operations Manager. “It was a thrilling experience last year to broadcast the live music from Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra and treat our listeners to the performance while fireworks exploded overhead. In the days following the broadcast, we received numerous phone calls complimenting everyone on a spectacular event. Once again this year, we will spend considerable time in advance promoting the activities at Oak Lake Park, culminating with a live broadcast of the Symphony’s fireworks performance. It is our distinct pleasure to promote the events of the city, and to celebrate another Uncle Sam Jam at Oak Lake Park.”

StarTran will provide free public shuttle bus service from 5 to 11 p.m. between the main entrance at Oak Lake Park and two downtown locations: the Haymarket Parking Garage at 9th and “Q” streets and the Gold’s bus stop at 11th and “O” streets. The Haymarket Garage and the Iron Horse parking lot at 7th and “Q” streets are offering a special $2 event fee for the celebration. Handi-Van service is available for eligible individuals, and reservations can be made through the normal procedure by calling Star Tran at 441-7109.

A variety of food and concessions will be available from noon to 10 p.m. The Lincoln Jaycees will operate an information booth, and the Red Cross will have first aid available.

“For the 25th year, the Lincoln Jaycees are ready to provide a day full of family-oriented activities at Uncle Sam Jam 2007,” said Chris Peters, Lincoln Jaycees President. “We have several new activities, and many of the standards from years past *(see attached schedule).* Our partnership with the City has been one that has grown and flourished, including the last five years at Oak Lake Park. And to again have the Symphony perform is another great benefit for the citizens of Lincoln. We invite everyone to spend the day with us at the park.”

Fireworks other than those used in the Zambelli show are prohibited in the park. Alcohol also is prohibited. All pets are required to wear a leash while in the park. Citizens are discouraged from bringing pets to the park during the fireworks display.

In case of inclement weather, the fireworks display will be rescheduled to 10 p.m. Thursday, July 5 along with accompaniment by Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra and the corresponding radio coverage on the four Lincoln Broadcast House stations. The 9 p.m. “pre-fireworks” Symphony performance also would be held on July 5 and carried live by B107.3 and KLIN. No other events would be rescheduled to the 5th.

More information on the day’s events is available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: 4th). For event registration information, contact the Lincoln Jaycees at 434-8900. Information on Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra is available at www.lincolnsymphony.com or by calling 476-2211.
LINCOLN’S SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Uncle Sam Jam 2007
Oak Lake Park

Repertoire

Star-spangled Banner

Fanfare for the Common Man  Copland

South Pacific Overture  Rodgers and Hammerstein

An American Salute  Gould

 Armed Forces Salute  Lowden

Seventy-six Trombones  Willson (arranged for orchestra by Ricketts)

1812 Overture  Tchaikovsky
*The fireworks will begin during the last few minutes of the 1812 Overture

National Emblem March  Bagley

Hoe-Down  Copland

March from Superman  Williams

America the Beautiful  arranged for orchestra by Dragon

There is No Place Like Nebraska

Stars and Stripes Forever  Sousa
# UNCLE SAM JAM 2007

**Oak Lake Park, 1st and Charleston**

## Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration for Lincoln Jaycees “Fun Run”</td>
<td>Haymarket Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Lincoln Jaycees “Fun Run” (5K run)</td>
<td>Haymarket Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Craft Show</td>
<td>East side of Oak Lake Park entrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Nebraska Chess Club open play</td>
<td>Park shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 a.m. to 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Trash Art Contest (registration)</td>
<td>Jaycee Information Booth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noon to 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Food and concessions</td>
<td>Main parking lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 6:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Live bands</td>
<td>Northwest corner of main Oak Lake parking lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Bingo</td>
<td>Park shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Kids’ games</td>
<td>Playground area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Food Eating Contests (registration)</td>
<td>Jaycee Information Booth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Judging of Trash Art entries</td>
<td>Park shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 to 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Food-eating contests (jalapenos, Twinkies, etc.)</td>
<td>Park shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dusk</td>
<td>Sale of glow necklaces/novelty items</td>
<td>Throughout the park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 to 10 p.m.</td>
<td>Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra “pre-fireworks” concert (broadcast live on B107.3 FM and KLIN 1400AM)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 10:22 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>UNCLE SAM JAM!</strong> Fireworks display by Zambelli Internationale, sponsored by Pepsi-Cola; music by Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra; broadcast live on your favorite Broadcast House radio station - B107.3, Froggy 98.1, 105.3 Linc FM and 1400 KLIN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residents of the College View neighborhood in the Union College area will work with the City this summer to conduct a mobility audit – an effort to improve conditions in the area for pedestrians, bicyclists, bus service and motorists. The mobility audit is the first step in developing several multi-modal neighborhood transportation plans throughout the City, as part of Lincoln’s Long Range Transportation Plan.

“Enhancing the experience of walking and biking can strengthen the neighborhood,” said David Cary, transportation planner for the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department. “It encourages healthy living, reduces fuel costs, increases safety and enriches the quality of life and economic viability of the community.”

From June 13 through 20, neighborhood volunteers will conduct an in-depth inventory of transportation assets, liabilities and opportunities. The audit will document sidewalk conditions, pedestrian crossings, safety concerns, bicycle routes and streetscape appearance. The planning effort also will include information on traffic counts, crash data, the Union College master plan and future road and utility infrastructure projects.

Cary said the Planning Department chose College View as a starting point for several reasons. The neighborhood, roughly bounded by Calvert Street, Pioneers Boulevard, 44th and 55th streets, has schools, a park and a recreation center, as well as both new and long-standing businesses. It also include strong institutions such as Union College, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and the home office of Union Bank and Trust. Cary said challenges include a major arterial – 48th Street – dissecting the neighborhood and needing rehabilitation. Higher density housing has resulted in some congestion and parked cars along the streets. The area currently has no connections to major bike paths.

City planners will work with a citizen study committee to analyze these and other transportation issues over the next several months. Cary said citizen involvement is important throughout the process.

“We want the people who live and work and go to school here to take ownership of this plan,” Cary said. “It has to be a process in which people are willing to collaborate and form partnerships for investing in the neighborhood.”
The project will include three neighborhood workshops:

- The first workshop – to be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 13 at Union College’s Ortner Center, 3800 S. 48th St. – will train volunteers on how to look for challenges and opportunities for each mode of transportation in their assigned locations.

- The second workshop, scheduled for July 18, is open to the public to review audit findings, visualize concepts and suggest improvements along key corridors.

- At the third workshop, planned for late August, the public will be invited to give their input on the plans recommended by the study committee and City staff. The City will then formalize the plan and begin working with both public and private entities to begin implementing short-term and long-term projects.

Those wanting more information on the College View Neighborhood Mobility Audit can contact Cary at 441-6364.
To Whom It May Concern,

Okay, enough is enough! My husband and I pay $210.94 each month for cable, Roadrunner, and our telephone service. We have always been pretty satisfied with our service, even though we've had to reboot or trade boxes in the past. We are not complainers and so we have not written or called in to complain about any of the service. I have only called when there is trouble and I do not know what to do to get back the volume or be able to change channels.

However, with the changing to the new Navigator system, this has caused SO many problems! It is VERY slow when you want to change channels. It takes a long time to be able to sit and flip through the channels to see if something catches your eye rather than checking the guide. You sit and wait several seconds for the picture to change to the new channel; it is not immediate like it was before Navigator. When you do check the guide, it takes forever to come on the screen and to be able to find a movie or program of your choice, you might as well forget it because it will take forever! Half the time the guide does not come up or it freezes when it does come up and then you can't get it off the screen! I hate using the guide now! There are way too many steps to go through just to be able to find a movie and see when it is on.

We have to reboot many times. I was home from the hospital on Tuesday, May 22. During a period of an hour, the cable box rebooted itself three times! Not us, but the cable box! We were watching a movie and it rebooted three times!! That was SO frustrating when you are engrossed in a movie and then the cable box reboots, so you miss parts of the movie!! Now normally, we work during the day so the TV is not turned on. How many times does this happen while we are at work?
We pay a lot of money each month in order to watch programs and movies when we are at home. We have been inconvenienced many, many times by having to call and walk me through how to fix what isn't working and then not being able to watch what we had been watching. Or by having to reboot other times myself without calling cable because they told me if there were any more problems, just go through the directions they had just given me to reboot and then we are not able to watch what we had been watching.

I understand this is a new system and they are trying to work out the kinks, but I thought the kinks were worked out with the employees first and then they bring a system out to the public. This has been embarrassing for Time Warner Cable and frustrating to all the people who pay their hard-earned money each month to be able to watch what they want and deserve to be able to watch what they want without interruptions and trouble with the picture and/or sound.

I really believe now that there should be compensation from Time Warner Cable to its customers for all the frustration, missed programs and/or movies and time spent rebooting. There should be a credit to customers' bills each month until this mess gets cleared up. I understand they are working on it, but how long does it take? This has been going on for quite some time!

Thank you for your time,
James and Charlene Simpson
810 West R Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68528
402-435-3032

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CONGRESS

House moves forward with FY 2008 spending bills, but vetoes are expected down the line.

The House Appropriations Committee kicked into high gear this week, considering a handful of FY 2008 spending bills either on the subcommittee or full committee levels (see related stories below). The panel, which doled out allocations to each subcommittee this week, is moving to meet House leadership’s goal of approval of 11 of the 12 FY 2008 measures prior to the July 4 recess (only the Defense measure will not be considered).

However, even as the bills moved through the process, the White House reiterated its warning that it would veto any bills that exceed its proposed domestic discretionary cap. The FY 2008 congressional budget resolution allows for approximately $20 billion more in domestic discretionary spending than was requested by the President. In relative terms, the $20 billion difference represents about 2 percent of the domestic discretionary budget, and much less than the $90 billion in “emergency” FY 2007 spending the President recently requested and received for military operations alone.

While admitting that they may not have the votes to override vetoes, Democrats in Congress have been united in their desire to challenge the President on spending, and as a result, the FY 2008 budget is not expected to be completed until well after the official start of FY 2008 on October 1, 2007. The budget veto threats, the implosion of a bipartisan immigration agreement to hold in the Senate (see related story), continued debate about the Iraq war, congressional oversight investigations of Bush Administration actions, and multiple corruption-related matters have served to ratchet-up the partisan tone in Washington to unusually high levels.

The House will continue to focus on FY 2008 appropriations next week, taking up four measures (Homeland Security, Energy and Water Development, Military Construction, and Interior-Environment), while Senators will debate a comprehensive energy package on the floor. If debate on that measure stalls, the Defense Department authorization bill will be considered, as well as a vote of “no confidence” in Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

JOB TRAINING

House bill would boost job training programs.

The Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies of the House Appropriations Committee approved a FY 2008 spending bill that would boost overall funding for the Department of Labor by 1.8 percent over FY 2007 levels. The bill provides a sharp contrast to the Administration’s proposal to reduce the agency’s overall funding by 6.1 percent from FY 2007.

Job Corps, which has been a favorite of appropriators from both parties in recent years, would be among the biggest beneficiaries of this increase. The bill would increase funding for Youthbuild by $20 billion more in domestic discretionary spending than was requested by the President. In relative terms, the $20 billion difference represents about 2 percent of the domestic discretionary budget, and much less than the $90 billion in “emergency” FY 2007 spending the President recently requested and received for military operations alone.

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21.2 percent from FY 2007 to $60 million but would provide level funding of $125 million for Community-Based Job Training Grants, an Administration initiative that the President’s budget targets for a 25 percent increase.

Following the Administration’s lead, the bill would combine the Prisoner Reentry and Responsible Reintegration of Youth Offenders Programs into a single Reintegration of Ex-Offenders Program funded at $69 million in FY 2008, the same level of funding that the two programs combined received in FY 2007. The bill now heads to the full Appropriations Committee, which is expected to mark it up next week as part of the House leadership’s effort to clear all 11 appropriations bill before the July 4 recess.

In a related development, the U.S. Conference of Mayors is urging congressional appropriators to revive funding for a separate summer youth jobs program at the Department of Labor. Several years ago, Congress combined the popular program with the larger youth job training program, but local workforce agencies were having trouble funding summer jobs programs through that funding source because of its focus on serving out-of-school youth.

**HUMAN SERVICES**

The bill would increase HHS budget by 6.5 percent. The Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies of the House Appropriations Committee approved a FY 2008 spending measure that would provide the largest annual spending increase for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in recent memory. The measure contrasts starkly with the Administration’s budget proposal, which calls for a decrease of 1.3 percent in overall HHS funding from FY 2007. It also sets up a showdown with the President, who has vowed to veto any FY 2008 spending measure that exceeds his request.

In general, programs of interest to local government would benefit significantly from the Subcommittee’s actions, including several that have been targeted for elimination or steep cuts in recent years and in the Administration’s budget.

**ENVIRONMENT**

The bill includes a “Sense of the Congress” statement that global climate change is a reality and would direct EPA by July 1, 2008 to issue a proposed rule on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Those debates are likely to resurface when the full House considers the bill next week.

**ARTS & RECREATION**

The House Appropriations Committee approved a FY 2008 Department of the Interior spending bill that would provide increases for several programs of interest to local governments.

Most notably, the bill would provide $50 million, $20 million more than FY 2007, for the state grant program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is used to acquire environmentally sensitive land and land for recreational purposes. The state grant program has seen its funding level dwindle considerably in recent years and has never been funded at its fully authorized level. The bill would also increase funding for the Historic Preservation Fund by $30 million over FY 2007 to $102 million.

After several years of level funding, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) would both see their funding increase under the bill. Each agency would receive $160 million, a $35 million increase for NEA and a $19 million increase for NEH.

The House is scheduled to consider the bill next week, where it will be subject to debate and amendments on issues ranging from climate change to offshore oil and natural gas drilling to whether to fund a study about removing a dam in Yosemite National Park.
TRANSPORTATION

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passes SAFETEA-LU technical corrections bill. On Wednesday, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved legislation to make a few minor technical corrections to the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

In addition to freeing up approximately $37 million for transportation research programs, the bill would extend the life of the 12-member National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission by six months, which would allow them to further explore highway funding alternatives. To date, nothing tangible has come from the committee, though it has spent a considerable amount of time discussing how public-private partnerships (PPPs) could bring new funding to our nation’s highway system.

On June 4, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) released a position paper on PPPs, stating that States should regulate public-private partnership toll facilities to protect the public from potential monopolistic price gouging and ensure that all needed maintenance will be provided through the life of the concession agreement.

The Commission’s final report due date was extended from July 2007 to December 31, 2007 and lawmakers provided an additional $2 million for its costs. The report is expected to initiate a debate about ultimately changing the funding mechanism that pays for highway programs. Lawmakers anticipate that issue to be a major component of the next highway bill. The current law expires in FY 2009.

Meanwhile, the DOT named nine U.S. cities as semifinalists in the Urban Partnerships Program aimed at cutting traffic jams in the most congested U.S. cities. The semifinalists that could participate in the new DOT Urban Partnership program are: Atlanta, Dallas, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Miami, New York, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle. According to a DOT press release, the nine cities represent one-third of the traffic congestion in the top 85 U.S. metropolitan areas and embody one-fifth of all U.S. travel.

The Urban Partnership Program aims to invest up to $1.1 billion in new funding to address highway traffic congestion at approximately five of these locations. The program is designed to reduce congestion by building new high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes. The lanes would give free access to buses and high-occupancy vehicles but would charge lone drivers a varying toll based on traffic volumes.

By early August, up to five of the nine semifinalists will be announced as winners and participants of the new program.

IMMIGRATION

Senate immigration bill scuttled. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) pulled comprehensive immigration legislation (S 1348) from floor consideration late this week after he and Republican Senators could not agree on a timeframe for a final vote on the measure.

The legislation represented a fragile compromise brokered between the White House and a bipartisan group of Senators. The most controversial components of the plan were the creation of a program that would allow a path to citizenship for a significant number of the 12 million illegal immigrants currently residing in the country as well as a “guest worker” program. Conservative Republicans decried anything remotely resembling amnesty for illegal immigrants, while some Democrats echoed the worries of organized labor regarding the effect that a guest worker program would have on wages.

The compromise held together for two weeks of Senate floor debate and several “poison pill” amendments were turned back, but eventually the bill became less attractive for many Senators on both sides of the aisle. But when Reid moved to cut off debate on the measure and schedule a final vote for the end of this week, a majority of Republicans balked and asked for more time to consider their proposed amendments. When no schedule for a final vote could be negotiated, Reid pulled the bill from the floor, maintaining that conservative Republicans never had any intention of allowing a final vote on the measure.

Leaders on both sides of the aisle expressed optimism that the Senate could return to the measure sometime this summer, but as the summer progresses and FY 2008 budget matters dominate floor activity, success becomes less likely.

CLIMATE CHANGE

House subcommittee approves information sharing measure. The Energy and Environment Subcommittee of the House Science and Technology Committee approved legislation (HR 906) that would require that information from the U.S. Global Change Research Program be made available to state and local governments.

The U.S. Global Change Research Program was created in 1990 as a vehicle to coordinate climate change research among federal agencies. While that information has been useful to the federal government, little of the research was being shared with state and local governments, or the general public. The legislation would direct the President to conduct a formal assessment process to determine the needs of appropriate Federal, State, regional, and local authorities and other interested parties regarding the types of information needed by them in developing policies to reduce vulnerability to global change.

The next step for this legislation is consideration by the full House Science and Technology Committee. No companion legislation has been introduced in the Senate.
METH LABS
Measure to establish guidelines for methamphetamine laboratory cleanup approved by Senate panel. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee cleared legislation (S 635) this week that would require that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provide law enforcement agencies with a set of voluntary guidelines for the cleanup of sites where meth labs have been found.

According to sponsors of the bill, initial cleanup actions are generally limited to removal of hazardous substances and contaminated materials that pose an immediate threat to public health or the environment. It is not uncommon for significant levels of contamination to be found throughout residential structures after a methamphetamine laboratory has closed, partially because of a lack of knowledge of how to achieve an effective cleanup. However, data on methamphetamine laboratory-related contaminants of concern are very limited, and cleanup standards do not currently exist.

The legislation authorizes $2.5 million annually over two years for the effort and will next be considered on the Senate floor. Similar legislation (HR 365) was approved by the House earlier this year.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
Department of Transportation
The Federal Transit Administration has announced the final guidance on New Starts/Small Starts Policies and Procedures that includes changes to information required for the evaluation of projects. Changes were also made to the overall evaluation scales for New Starts and Small Starts programs. In addition, the notice mentions that the deadline for projects to be considered in the New Starts and Small Starts 2009 Annual Report of Funding Recommendations is September 7, 2007. Any projects in the “pipeline” that required changes from last year are required to submit the new information by July 30, 2007. The notice can be found on pages 30907-30914 of the June 4, 2007 Federal Register or at:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 8, 2007
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Mike Heyl, 441-3889

FOOD THAT'S IN WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT

For twenty-seven years, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department has been the sponsoring agency to provide summer meals to Lincoln's low income children. The 2007 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) begins on June 11th at 24 sites in Lincoln's highest need areas. Lt. Governor, Rick Sheehy, Health Director, Bruce Dart, Nebraska Department of Education Commissioner, Doug Christensen, members of the Roughriders Motorcycle Club, and other local agency representatives will officially launch Lincoln's program at Brownell Elementary School, 6000 Aylesworth Avenue, on June 11th at 11:30a.m.

"Providing thousands of breakfasts and lunches for ten weeks in the summer to children from 2 to 18 years requires a great deal of collaboration among many agencies," says Dr. Dart. The USDA funds the program through the Nebraska Department of Education. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) coordinates the program in Lincoln and is sponsoring the largest number of sites of any Nebraska sponsor. The Nutrition Services Department of Lincoln Public Schools prepares the meals for delivery to the sites by Health Department staff. The LLCHD provides training to agencies for the food distribution and offers health education on a variety of topics to the children. SFSP community partners include Russwood Chrysler and the United Way of Lincoln-Lancaster County.
This year's slogan for the SFSP is “Food that's in when school is out!” With summer meals, children that participate in the program are assured that they are getting the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow during vacation when they do not eat at school. In 2006, 42,000 meals were served to Lincoln children through the SFSP. More are anticipated to be served this summer with an expected increase in breakfast service.

Volunteers from the philanthropic Roughriders Motorcycle Club will be distributing meals throughout the summer at the Brownell site. Most other food service sites are located in schools or at service agencies that provide summer programs for children. These partners donate the use of their facilities, as well as staff and volunteer hours, to help ensure the program's continued success in providing meals to needy children. Through a donation from the United Way of Lincoln-Lancaster County, three additional sites have been established in areas not otherwise served by a children's program.

For more information about food service sites and hours of operation, contact the Health Department at 441-8045.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 11, 2007
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Dan N. King, Environmental Health Educator, 441-8084
Beth Mann, Environmental Health Specialist, 441-6235

CLEAN OUT YOUR GARAGE AND GARDEN SHED CHEMICALS

Household Hazardous Waste Collections
Scheduled for June 22 and 23

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department has scheduled back-to-back Household Hazardous Waste Collections for June 22 and 23. The Friday, June 22 collection will be located at Union College, 52nd and Cooper from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The second collection on Saturday, June 23 will also operate from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and will be held at Nebraska Wesleyan University in the parking lot at 56th and Huntington. The collections are limited to residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County. They are for households only; not for businesses.

“These will be the last Household Hazardous Waste Collections until September 8, 2007,” noted Dan King, Environmental Health Educator. “Now, is the perfect time to get rid of old outdated chemicals that have been stored in garages, garden sheds, and basements. Take an inventory of the items that you have and read the product labels to help determine the proper way to use, store and dispose of the chemicals. If the label contains the words CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER, FLAMMABLE, or POISON it has toxic or hazardous properties and needs to be brought to one of the collections for proper disposal.”

Latex paint should not be brought to these collections. Partially-full cans of latex paint can be dried and put in the trash. Other items that cannot be brought to the collection, but can be recycled in Lincoln include: batteries, automotive oil, antifreeze, fire extinguishers, propane
cylinders, mercury thermostats, computers and electronics. Also not accepted at the collections are medicines, fertilizers, explosives or ammunition. Items accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste collection include: old pesticides, mercury-containing items including thermometers and fluorescent bulbs, turpentine, paint thinners, stains, oil-based paints, pool cleaning chemicals, flea and tick powders, rodent poison, charcoal starter fluids, mixed or old gasoline, upholstery cleaners, grease removers and brake and power steering fluids. Banned chemicals such as Diazinon for indoor use, Dursban, DDT, and Chlordane can also be brought to the collection.

For collection event details, recycling information, advice on how to dispose of items that are not accepted, and alternatives to hazardous products contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8021 or visit their website at, http://www.lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: households).
June 12, 2007

Pam Dingman
EDC
2200 Fletcher Ave., Ste 102
Lincoln, NE 68521

RE: Wilderness Hills 1st Addition, Final Plat # 06042, Generally located at S. 27th Street and Whispering Wind Boulevard.

Dear Pam,

Wilderness Hills 1st Addition generally located at S. 27th Street and Whispering Wind Boulevard was approved by the Planning Director on May 21, 2007. The plat and the subdivision agreement will be recorded in the Register of Deeds on June 12, 2007. The fee is determined at $.50 per existing lot and per new lot and $20.00 per plat sheet for the plat, and $5.00 per page for associated documents such as the subdivision agreement. The fees will be charged to your account. If you have a question about the fees, please contact the Register of Deeds.

Sincerely,

Christy Eichorn
Planner

CC: Lincoln Federal Bancorp, Inc
City Council
Dennis Bartels, Public Works & Utilities
Terry Kathe, Building & Safety
Sharon Theobald, Lincoln Electric
Jean Walker, Planning
File

Q:\PC\FP\06000\FPPL06042 Wilderness Hills 1st Add AL.cje.wpd
June 12, 2007

Mike Eckert
Civil Design Group
3901 Normal Blvd., Ste 203
Lincoln, Ne 68506

RE: Baron's Ridge 3rd Addition, Final Plat #07032. Generally located at N.W. 1st Street and W. Highland Boulevard.

Dear Mike,

Baron's Ridge 3rd Addition generally located N.W. 1st Street and W. Highland Boulevard was approved by the Planning Director on May 21, 2007. The plat and the subdivision agreement must be recorded in the Register of Deeds. The fee is determined at $.50 per existing lot and per new lot and $20.00 per plat sheet for the plat, and $5.00 per page for associated documents such as the subdivision agreement. If you have a question about the fees, please contact the Register of Deeds.

The plat will be recorded with the Register of Deeds on June 12, 2007.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Tom Cajka
Planner

CC: Southview Inc.
   City Council
   Dennis Bartels, Public Works & Utilities
   Terry Kathe, Building & Safety
   Sharon Theobald, Lincoln Electric File

Q:\PC\FP\PDL\07000\PDL07032 Baron's Ridge AL.cje.wpd
ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT #540614
4TH STREET; A - J STREET

The City of Lincoln Public Works Engineering Services Department would like to take this opportunity to update you on an upcoming project in your area. TCW of Lincoln, Nebraska has been awarded the contract for this project.

This project will be constructed in three phases. The following is an overview of the phases:

• Phase 1 - The initial portion of Phase I will include the construction of the new storm sewer outlet pipes that run along 4th Street and connect with the existing storm sewer trunk line along the adjacent streets. Paving will begin after the storm sewer is in place along the 4th Street corridor. The intersections at A, D and J Streets will remain open to traffic. To maintain access to businesses and residences along the west side of 4th Street, a temporary crushed rock road will be constructed.

• Phase 2 - During this phase, the contractor will construct the A and J Street intersections on the 4th Street roadway including alleys and driveways on the west side. In this phase, D, F and G Street intersections will remain open to traffic. Access to businesses and residences will be provided along the completed portion of 4th Street.

• Phase 3 - The contractor will construct the D and F Street intersections. During this phase, the contractor will provide access to businesses and residences along the completed portion of 4th Street.

The contractor is scheduled to begin Phase 1 work on June 21, 2007. Before the project begins, the contractor will notify all adjacent property owners, businesses and residences along the project of the initial roadway and driveway closures that will affect access to their properties. The storm sewer work should be completed in early July with paving to begin mid-July.

All roadway paving, storm sewer, driveways and sidewalk work associated with this project are scheduled to be substantially complete by August 24, 2007. Final completion of all the work, including final clean up and seeding, will be October 5, 2007.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact the following people:

Larry Duensing, City of Lincoln Engineering Services
441-8401

Casey Thompson, TCW
475-5030
The signal is being installed now and will be operational for Target's opening.

Karl A. Fredrickson, P.E.
Director Public Works & Utilities
555 S 10th Street
Suite 203
Lincoln, NE 68508

Bus (402) 441-7566
Fax (402) 441-8609
E-mail kfredrickson@ci.lincoln.ne.us
"Jon Camp" <joncamp@lincolnhaymarket.com>

Karl:

Help! The intersection at 40th and Yankee Hill is concerning some constituents. Can something be done to install a temporary traffic light? There is currently a two-way stop for Yankee Hill traffic.

Thanks,

Jon

JON A. CAMP
Haymarket Square/CH, Ltd.
200 Haymarket Square
808 P Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

402.474.1838 or 402.474.1812
402.560.1001 (Cell)
June 12, 2007

Mr. Bob Ammon
2825 S. 25th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

RE: Request to Not Use Ornamental Street Light Poles for Traffic Signs

Dear Mr. Ammon,

Councilperson Jonathan Cook forwarded your request regarding placement of traffic signs on the ornamental street light poles in the Country Club neighborhood. Please let me explain our policy/philosophy on the use of street light poles, in general, as posts for traffic signs. First, we make every attempt to minimize the number of objects placed in the street right-of-way which contribute to visual clutter and which the property owners have to deal with as they mow and maintain this area. Over the years, we have dealt with many unhappy property owners when we have added sign posts in front of their properties. In addition, the more objects we place in the street right-of-way, means there are more things that can potentially distract or take away from the things we need drivers to pay attention too. Plus, a street right-of-way with numerous posts, poles, trees, etc. can become very unsightly.

The other primary factor which we have to consider is the fact that our operating budgets continue to shrink. We are always looking at ways to be efficient with tax dollars and by taking advantage of street light poles, we are able to reduce the front end costs associated with the installation of new signs or reduce maintenance costs when new light poles are installed and we can relocate existing signs to those new poles. The yellow warning sign you mention, is a sign which was relocated from a post to the pole.

In closing, we hope you can understand our policy and the reasons behind it on use of street light poles for traffic signs. Also know that for the most part, we do everything possible to minimize the installation of new signs and when we do have to install signs, we attempt to minimize the number of signs installed. We would not anticipate adding many more signs to your neighborhood and if we do, we will be cognizant of the neighborhood’s sensitivity to using the ornamental poles and if possible, we will avoid doing so.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us and for caring about the appearance of your neighborhood. We share your concerns and will work to avoid abusing the situation. If you should have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email at sopfer@lincoln.ne.gov or by phone at 441-7851.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Opfer, Manager
Traffic & Engineering Services Operations
Public Works & Utilities Department

cc: Trish Owen, Mayor’s Office
    Karl Fredrickson, Public Works Director
    Roger Figard, City Engineer
    Randy Hoskins, Asst. City Engineer
    Maggie Kellner
    Al Lee

RFI - Ammon - use of light poles sao mk wpd
Dear Jonathan,

Ever so briefly... the city is starting to use our ornamental lights to support traffic signs, as per the one in front of 2340 Woodsdale, which has a huge yellow diamond sign to warn motorists of the crazy intersection in front of the club.

I know it sounds like no big deal but it will spread. If you go out to the Ag College area, there are many ornamental poles out there and the city has signs on about 50% of them. It takes the "ornamental" out of them in a big hurry.

I'm writing on behalf of the group; they're all upset also, in that even though they are the city's lights, we're the ones who paid for them in toto, hence the unrest.

Is there anything you could do? We'd be forever grateful for any "push" you could make to get the traffic sign, and any future ones, on their own separate poles.

Thanks, AS ALWAYS...for your many kindnesses!

Bob Annon
423-1535
Dear City Council,

I have been thinking and I have decided that families would be happier if they could get together and have fun. I feel as if there needs to be a city golf course, so that the one in Mahoney state wouldn't be the only one (also to make up for the one I just saw that someone tore down.). You have free will to choose whether or not to put in the new golf course miniature.

A caring citizen,
Malcolm,

P.S. I am a creative child and invented ideas like these:

#1:

#2:

#3:

#4:
(This could be hole #18)

P.P.S Please send a letter in response if you decide to put the miniature.
Malcolm Weinert
6140 Huntington Ave.

The City Council

golf course in! Thanks!
AD D E N D U M
TO
D I R E C T O R S’ A G E N D A
MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2007

I. MAYOR -

1. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule Week of June 16 through June 22, 2007 - Schedule subject to change.

II. CITY CLERK - NONE

III. CORRESPONDENCE

A. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

B. DIRECTORS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS -

HEALTH

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Health Department Asks for Residents’ Help to Prevent West Nile.

C. MISCELLANEOUS -

1. E-Mail from Patrick Parker - RE: Opposed to the paving of the alley between Havelock Ave. and Platte Ave.
Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule
Week of June 16 through 22, 2007
Schedule subject to change

Saturday, June 16
• KFOR interview along with June Pederson, Lincoln Area Agency on Aging, at “LifeLong Living Festival” - 9 a.m., Abbott Sports Complex, 7600 N. 70th St.
• Juneteenth celebration, remarks and proclamation - 11 a.m., Trago Park, 22nd and “U” streets.

Tuesday, June 19
• LIBA luncheon/monthly meeting - 11:30 a.m., Holiday Inn Downtown, 9th and “P” streets

Friday, June 22
• Antelope Valley Bus Tour for the media, remarks - 10 a.m., County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., room 113
• “Celebrate Lincoln” Parade of Nations and event kick-off, remarks - 6 p.m., 13th and “N” streets
Health Department Asks for Residents’ Help to Prevent West Nile

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) today asked the public for help to reduce the breeding grounds for mosquitoes that carry the West Nile Virus Disease.

Over the last several weeks the area has received significant amounts of rainfall, which has contributed to breeding areas for mosquitoes. Results from recent surveillance activities have found an increase in the number of mosquitoes that could carry the West Nile Virus.

LLCHD is asking the public to take the following preventive measures:

- Store tires, buckets and containers where they cannot collect water.
- Dump small wading pools daily, and maintain swimming pools properly.
- Maintain garden ponds and fountains, and always keep water flowing.
- Clear debris, weeds and litter from drainage ways.
- Change water in birdbaths weekly and pet bowls daily.
- Fill in low spots on your property.
- Keep rain gutters free of leaves and debris.
- Remove vegetation from sewage lagoons.

In addition to taking steps to reduce the mosquito breeding areas, the public is encouraged to take the following steps to avoid being bitten:

- Limit time outside during the dawn or dusk.
- Wear lightweight long-sleeved shirts and pants outside during hours around dusk and dawn.
- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent such as those with DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. (Be sure and follow label directions.)
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Patrick Parker
Address: 5900 Platte Ave
City: Lincoln, NE 68507
Phone: 605-662-5666
Fax: 605-662-5666
Email: girldog@gwtc.net

Comment or Question:
Dear Council Members,
I have lived in the Havelock area for several years and worked there. I am opposed to the paving of the alley between Havelock Ave. and Platte Ave. When they closed Havelock Ave. and Touzalin Ave. that only made the traffic take a short cut in the alley behind our property. Paving would only encourage drivers to go faster to beat the Burger King traffic to Havelock Ave. which is already dangerous with traffic entering from the stop sign, Burger King and increased traffic from a shortcut with gravel and holes no longer slowing this dangerous traffic down. I only pray that the city council will stop the paving of this alley to discourage more traffic to drive through the alley and pose an extreme risk to citizens and Burger King traffic.

Thank you,
Patrick Parker