DIRECTORS’ MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008
11:00 a.m.
COUNTY/CITY BUILDING
CONFERENCE ROOM 113

I. MAYOR -

*1. NEWS RELEASE. Reservations Due Friday for Mayor’s Arts Awards.
*3. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Announces Winners of Annual Water Conservation Art Contest.
*4. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Calls for Voluntary Water Conservation.
*5. NEWS RELEASE. Lincoln Water, Wastewater Utilities Rate High in National Survey.
*6. NEWS RELEASE. City Receives Two Awards for Workplace Safety.
*7. NEWS RELEASE. Results Announced for Clean Your Files Week.

Received Week of June 2, 2008
1. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule. Week of May 24 through May 30, 2008. (Scheduled Forwarded to Council Members on May 23, 2008)
2. NEWS ADVISORY. News Conference, Thursday, May 29, 2008 at 10:00 am at 555 South 10th Street. Mayor Beutler Will Release Findings on Citizen Input on the City Budget.
3. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Says “Priority Lincoln “ is Shaping Budget Decisions.
4. NEWS RELEASE. Star City Shores to Open Memorial Day Weekend. (Forwarded to Council Members on May 23, 2008)
5. NEWS RELEASE. Plan Early for 4th of July Block Parties.
6. NEWS RELEASE - RE: City Issues Guidelines For Clean-Up Of Trees And Branches.
7. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Residents Can Apply For Rain Garden Grants.

II. DIRECTORS -

FINANCE/BUDGET
*1. May Sales Tax Reports:
   (a) Actual Compared to Projected Sales Tax Collections;
   (b) Gross Sales Tax Collections (With Refunds Added Back In) 2002-2003 Through 2007-2008;
   (c) Sales Tax Refunds 2002-2003 Through 2007-2008; and

FINANCE/TREASURER’S OFFICE
PLANNING
*2. Reply to Susan Schultz Regarding Special Permit 08015.

Received Week of June 2, 2008
1. 2008 Comprehensive Plan Annual Review:
   • Comp Plan Amendment No. 08002 (84th and Van Dorn Street)
   • Comp Plan Amendment No. 08004 (62nd and Old Cheney Road)
   • Comp Plan Amendment No. 08005 (N.W. 48th and W. Holdrege)
   • Comp Plan Amendment No. 08006 (S.W. 12th and W. Denton Road)
   • Comp Plan Amendment No. 08011 (City Annexation Policy)

2. E-Mail & Pictures from Susan Schultz - RE: Bill #08R-82: Special Permit #08015 - Pending List.

Planning Commission Final Action ..... 

Public Works & Utilities

Urban Development
1. Public Information Open House, Thursday, June 5, 2008 at Cedar’s Northbridge Community Center, 1533 No. 27th Street. Programs and Projects Planned for 2008-2009 Fiscal Year.

III. City Clerk -

IV. Council Requests/Correspondence - None

V. Miscellaneous -

*2. Letter from Judy Halstead, Lincoln Action Program - RE: Resignation of Executive Director Sue Hinrichs. (Delivered to Council Members, 05/19/08, a.m., Prior to Meetings)
*3. InterLinc Correspondence from Kaylene Martin - RE: Before and After School, and Other Programs, Being Eliminated.
*4. InterLinc Correspondence from George Buckner - RE: Have Option of Receiving or Declining to Receive Phone Books.

**Received Week of June 2, 2008**
1. E-Mail from Joan Anderson - RE: Community Learning Centers Provide Activities and Education for Parents and Children. Very Sad to Hear City Funding May Be Cut.
2. E-Mail from Shannon McGovern - RE: Jail Financing.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

*HELD OVER FROM MAY 26, 2008.*
DATE: May 23, 2008
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule
Week of May 24 through 30, 2008
Schedule subject to change

Monday, May 26 - City offices closed for Memorial Day
- Memorial Day Candlelight Service - 8 p.m., Veterans Memorial Garden, Antelope Park
  (east of Auld Rec Center, 3140 Sumner)

Tuesday, May 27
- Empty Bowls lunch to benefit the Food Bank - 11:30 a.m., Embassy Suites, 1040 “P” St.

Thursday, May 29
- KFOR Morning Show - 7:45 a.m.
- “Governor’s Premiere” of “Beef State” program (fund-raiser for NET Foundations) - 6:30 p.m.,
  Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, 333 S. 13th St.

Friday, May 30
- Lincoln Business Journal awards breakfast - 7 a.m., Cornhusker Marriott ballroom
- Read to 90 Arnold Elementary first-graders - 11:30 a.m., Lincoln Children’s Zoo, 1222 S. 27th St.
DATE: May 28, 2008
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center has completed its report on “PRIORITY LINCOLN: We’re listening,” an effort to get citizen input on the City budget. Mayor Chris Beutler will release the findings at a news conference at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 29 in the Mayor’s Conference Room, 555 South 10th Street.

PRIORITY LINCOLN had three main components:
• A scientifically valid telephone survey of 600 randomly selected participants.
• A series of four town hall meetings.
• An online survey.
Mayor Chris Beutler today said the success of the PRIORITY LINCOLN public process will be measured by how well City leaders use what they have learned to shape the budget for 2008-2009. About 2,000 people participated in the process, and Beutler promised that the City budget will reflect the “hopes and aspirations” of citizens for Lincoln’s future.

“By engaging the public in a conversation about Lincoln’s budget, we have elevated the community interest above the narrow demands of the special interests,” said Beutler. “The public participation process demonstrated clearly that before we cut services or raised revenues, the public expected us to leave no stone unturned in finding efficiencies and cheaper ways of doing business.”

The PRIORITY LINCOLN process started in March, and the City released the results of the scientific phone survey of 605 residents in April. The report issued today also includes findings from a follow-up discussion with 51 phone survey participants; a non-random survey filled out by nearly 1,300 residents; a series of town hall meetings attended by about 200 people; and a small focus group.

The studies were coordinated by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. Other partners included the University of Nebraska - Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research, which conducted the scientific phone survey; Leadership Lincoln, Inc., which conducted the town hall meetings; and the Lincoln Community Foundation, which funded the majority of the project.

Alan Tomkins, Director of the Public Policy Center, said safety and security were identified as the highest priorities. Economic opportunities also ranked high, but Tomkins said many believed that area should be handled by the philanthropic and business communities, not the City. The results showed strong support for the PRIORITY LINCOLN process, and many expressed appreciation for being asked for their input. The report is available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov.

“A surprising finding was that residents want to maintain the current array of services and activities, and they said they are willing to pay more taxes to keep services from being cut,” said Tomkins.

Beutler said the City is working on innovative ideas and new efficiencies, but those won’t be enough to fund all the services Lincoln residents value.

- more -
“The community’s high level of support for City programs means that we can no longer reject out of hand any suggestion that maintains services,” said Beutler. “It’s clear that people feel there is a minimum level of service they expect, and they may be willing to make sacrifices to maintain the services they value. With a nearly $6 million deficit, we have to be honest with the public, talk about what the City will lose with cuts and decide whether those services are worth paying more money to keep.”

Beutler said the emphasis on safety and security will continue, but with a new twist. “We will make an unprecedented effort to measure how successful we are at keeping you safe,” said the Mayor. “We will continuously examine indicators such as the violent crime rate, our success in resolving criminal cases, and motor vehicle crashes that result in injury. This will help us better focus our limited resources on those efforts that make a difference in keeping your family safe.”

The Mayor said a key to the economic growth the public expects is faster service from City government on development projects. “Time is money, and my proposed Development Services Center will cut red tape and keep builders building rather than managing their projects at City Hall. In the upcoming budget, we will commit significant new dollars toward a study and implementation. Our citizens have signaled they want new action on jobs and growth, and with the Development Services Center, they will have it.”

Beutler said the City also has responded to the PRIORITY LINCOLN findings in other ways. His office has contacted non-profits to explore innovative solutions to provide human services at a lower cost. And he said the City is looking for ways to save money in those outcomes and services identified by the public as lower priorities.

“We have tough choices ahead,” said Beutler. “But thanks to the input of more than 2,000 citizens, we have the guidance we need to make the right decisions for our future.”
STAR CITY SHORES TO OPEN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Star City Shores at 27th and Highway 2 will be open for Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting. Hours will be 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 24 through Monday, May 26.

Star City Shores will be closed again Tuesday, May 27 but will be re-open for the summer season along with all other City public pools Saturday, May 31. The one exception is Woods Pool, 3200 “J” St., which will not open as previously announced due to a mechanical issue. Woods Spraypark will open on Saturday, May 31.

For more information, call the City Aquatics Office at 441-7960 or visit the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: pools). Season pool passes also are available online.
PLAN EARLY FOR 4TH OF JULY BLOCK PARTIES

It may seem a little early to be planning your 4th of July celebration, but the City of Lincoln is encouraging residents to be aware of regulations and deadlines for holiday block parties. To help the Public Works and Utilities Department officials meet the increased demand over the holidays, neighborhoods are required to submit their applications at least two weeks before the event.

Applications for block parties to be held between July 3 and July 6 must be received by Engineering Services no later than Friday, June 27. A $45 fee must be paid by check or money order when the application is filed. The fee helps the City cover the cost of delivering and picking up barricades. Barricades are normally delivered to the address listed on the application one day prior to the event and picked up the day after. Because of increased holiday demand, barricades may be delivered and retrieved on the day of the event.

The following regulations apply to block parties:

- Roadway closures are limited to one City block in length or from the roadway intersection to the nearest adjoining intersection.
- Block parties are limited to six hours, including cleanup.
- Block parties must start after 10 a.m. and end no later than 10 p.m.
- All residents along the roadway area to be closed must be surveyed for approval.
- Applicants are responsible for all cleanup and damages to City property within the permit boundaries.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on all City property.

Information on block parties and a permit application form are available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: block party). Applicants also may call the Engineering Services office at 441-7711.
CITY ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR CLEAN-UP OF TREES AND BRANCHES

As residents clean up from weekend storms, the City is reminding residents of how to properly dispose of fallen trees and branches. Different guidelines exist for trees on public property and those on private property.

Residents who have safety concerns about any fallen tree or branch should call the Lincoln Police non-emergency number at 441-6000. Residents who have downed utility lines or tree limbs resting on utility lines should contact the Lincoln Electric System at 365-2412 or 888-365-2412.

Public trees are those that are in the public rights of way, generally between the sidewalk and the curb. Residents are encouraged to contact Community Forestry at 441-7025 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays to report damage to street trees. (Residents who have structural damage from a street tree should call the Lincoln Police non-emergency number at 441-6000.)

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department is asking Lincoln residents to help clear fallen limbs from street trees on public rights of way. Small branches and limbs can be left for pick up by refuse haulers on the normal day of garbage service. For large limbs from public trees, Community Forestry staff will leave logs in the right of way next to the sidewalk, and these can be picked up by residents to use as firewood.

Parks and Recreation Director Lynn Johnson said the Community Forestry handles nearly 2,500 calls a year regarding broken or fallen tree limbs. He said the assistance of the public can help the Department reduce fuel consumption and equipment operating costs.

Johnson said trees along a section of south 13th Street sustained significant damage. **South 13th Street between Van Dorn and South Streets will be closed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 28 to allow for tree and limb removal.**

- more -
All trees not on the public rights of way are the responsibility of the property owner. Waste haulers differ on requirements and collection fees for disposal of branches. In general:

- Smaller trees, brush and branches (under four inches in diameter) from public or private property can be cut into lengths of four-feet or less, secured and left for pickup by refuse haulers. Haulers may charge additional fees for branch collection.

- Large trees and branches (more than four inches in diameter) on private property can be cut up and remove by a licensed tree arborist or taken by the homeowner for disposal.

Fees are charged at the two City disposal sites:

- **5101 North 48th Street** (about one-half mile north of N. 48th and Superior streets): This site is for those using small vehicles (one ton and less) and trailers (60 sq. feet and less). Loads must be tied and/or tarped to avoid additional fees.

- **6001 Bluff Road** (one mile north of Interstate 80 and Highway 77): This site is for those using larger vehicles or trailers as well as any landscaping, lawn care, handyman or property management businesses. Fees are charged based on vehicles size. Loads must be tied and/or tarped or the load will be refused access.

These sites are open weekdays from 6:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.; Saturdays from 6:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sundays from 6:45 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 441-8102 or 441-8104 or see the City Web site, lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: landfill).

Tree debris also can be taken to **Hofeling Enterprises**, 2200 S. Folsom Ct. (438-8733), from 8 a.m to 5 p.m. weekdays. The site also will be open Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1. Hofeling will accept tree debris at no charge today and Wednesday. The charge is $10 per pickup load after Wednesday.

Yard waste (leaves, grass clipping) cannot be thrown away with regular trash. For information on yard waste disposal, see lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: yard waste).
RESIDENTS CAN APPLY FOR RAIN GARDEN GRANTS

Beginning June 2, Lincoln residents are invited to apply for a grant through the City Rain Garden Project. The grant would cover 80 percent of the cost for installing a rain garden, a depressed areas with native vegetation designed to filter pollutants from driveways, patios, roofs and lawns.

The City is able to offer the program because of a $145,000 grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The funding will allow for the installation of about 90 rain gardens over the next two years. Matching funds will be contributed by the City of Lincoln, the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

Rain gardens help keep streams and lakes clean by removing up to 90 percent of nutrients and chemicals and 80 percent of sediments from stormwater runoff. As part of the program, a water quality study will be conducted to analyze the impact of the gardens on stormwater runoff pollution. For this study, the City is looking for a group of neighbors on the same street who are willing to install rain gardens.

Applications for rain garden grants are due June 30 and are available on the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: rain garden); at the Old Cheney Farmer’s Market through June 29; and at Waterfest at Holmes Lake Park June 14. Only hard copies will be accepted. They can be dropped off at or mailed to City of Lincoln Watershed Management, attn: Amanda Meder, 901 N. 6th St., Lincoln, NE 68508. For more information, call 441-7075.

A number of rain gardens will be made available to Lincoln schools and commercial properties to educate individuals on stormwater quality issues. The project will include a public education program on the impact of stormwater runoff on lakes and streams.
BUDGET
Senate approves pared-down war supplemental. The Senate overwhelmingly approved a $165 billion FY 2008 supplemental appropriations bill this week that includes funding requested by the President for overseas military operations. However, a number of additional domestic spending items approved last week by the Senate Appropriations Committee were removed.

With the President vowing to veto any supplemental measure sent to him with domestic spending he did not request (for example, $10 billion for disaster recovery), Senate leaders looked to refine the measure to include domestic priorities that would be difficult for the President to reject. The measure approved by the Senate includes a high-profile provision to provide expanded educational benefits to veterans as well as $1 billion in additional funds for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Removed from the Senate bill were policy provisions approved by the House such as language to begin withdrawal of troops from Iraq by the end of 2009. Also stripped from the bill was an additional $490 million for the Byrne State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance program, and an extension of unemployment benefits. Both were in the Senate Appropriations Committee version of the bill.

The Senate bill must now be considered again in the House, where some Members are not likely to be pleased that some of their priorities were removed. In addition, the group of conservative House Democrats known as the “Blue Dogs” are likely to object to the omission in the Senate bill of revenue offsets for the veterans education initiative.

The House version included a 0.47 percent surtax on adjusted gross income in excess of $500,000 for individuals or $1 million for joint filers to pay for the program.

House action will not occur until after the Memorial Day recess.

CLIMATE CHANGE
Lieberman, Warner and Boxer unveil latest version of cap and trade bill. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) and Senator John Warner recently released a new version of climate change legislation (S 2191).

The bill would cap greenhouse gas emissions and create a market for greenhouse gas emissions allowances. Boxer remains committed to bringing the cap-and-trade bill to the Senate floor the week of June 2, a date she feels will give Senators and other interested parties time to evaluate the legislation and develop amendments.

Overall, the bill aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by two percent a year between 2012 and 2050. It would cap greenhouse gas emissions from “covered entities” at 19 percent below current levels in 2020 and 71 percent below current levels in 2050, with a goal of reducing United States greenhouse gas emissions from all sources, capped and non-capped, by 65 percent below current levels by 2050.
Under the bill, “covered entities” unable to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions would be forced to buy emissions allowances or to purchase offsets, with allowances becoming scarcer, and thus more expensive, each year. The bill would establish a “Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Market” to manage the auction and trading of greenhouse gas emission allowances, with the proceeds of those auctions going towards a wide array of energy efficiency, energy research, workforce training and environmental programs as well as transition assistance to carbon-intensive industries. 

The bill defines “covered entities,” which would be subject to its annually-reduced caps on greenhouse gas emissions as:

- Any entity that uses more than 5,000 metric tons of coal per year,
- All natural gas processing plants outside of Alaska,
- Natural gas producers in Alaska,
- Any entity that owns title to natural gas at the time it is imported into the United States,
- Any entity that manufactures petroleum coke, petroleum-based or coal-based fuel the combustion of which will create greenhouse gas emissions,
- Any entity that holds title to petroleum coke, petroleum-based or coal-based fuel the combustion of which will create greenhouse gas emissions at the time it is imported into the United States,
- Any entity that manufactures or imports more than 10,000 “carbon-dioxide equivalents” per year and
- Any entity that manufacturers hydrochlorofluorocarbons.

Unlike the original measure, the new measure does not include owners and operators of large vehicle fleets in its list of “covered entities.” The earlier definition including large vehicle fleets would probably have brought many local governments under the umbrella of those forced to annually reduce their emissions or purchase emissions allowances.

Other big changes in the latest version of the bill are a provision that would provide incentives for states that have developed their own greenhouse gas cap-and-trade programs to opt into the federal cap-and-trade program, the addition of $800 million in tax breaks (“to be developed by the Finance Committee”) designed to address high energy prices, an increase in emission allowances for manufacturers facing competition from foreign firms not faced with greenhouse gas emission limits and language allowing the President to suspend the cap-and-trade program for up to six months during national emergencies.

In addition, the new version of the bill includes a significant increase in the recipients of funds accrued from the federal sale of greenhouse gas emission allowances, including funding dedicated to the newly authorized Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), a local government priority, and funding for mass transit. The Committee estimates that total funding for the EECBG under the bill would be $136 billion between and 2012 and 2050 and that funding for mass transit under the bill would be $171 billion over that same period of time. The bill also sets aside a portion of auction funding, estimated at $911 billion between 2012 and 2050, for grants to electric and gas utilities to help them protect consumers from increased energy costs and promote alternative energy and energy efficiency.

The bill’s prospects on the Senate floor are unclear. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) remains committed to bringing the bill to the floor the week of June 2. However, it will probably face dozens of amendments as well as a filibuster and Reid has not committed unlimited time to the bill. In addition, the House has not begun consideration of a similar bill and President Bush would likely veto any cap-and-trade bill that managed to reach his desk. In the end, even the bill’s sponsors concede that they are laying the groundwork for consideration of a cap-and-trade bill next year, when a President firmly committed to signing a cap-and-trade bill will occupy the Oval Office.

**TRANSPORTATION**

House panel moves Amtrak reauthorization. The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee approved legislation this week that would reauthorize Amtrak for five years, and provide the cash-strapped agency with a total of $14.4 billion, including $6.7 billion in capital grants and $3 billion for operating assistance.

The most contentious provision of the bipartisan Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (HR 6003) would allow private companies to bid on a new high-speed rail line between New York City and Washington, DC, and offer $350 million annually in grant funding. This provision was crucial in securing bipartisan support for the bill but is likely to see opposition in the Senate.

The Railroads Subcommittee approved the measure by voice vote earlier in the week, and the full T&I Committee approved the measure by voice vote just prior to adjournment for the Memorial Day recess. The Senate approved its version of Amtrak reauthorization in October of 2007.

The House leadership indicated this week that HR 6003 is among the bills that are likely to see floor action prior to the traditional August congressional break. It has been more than 10 years since a full Amtrak reauthorization was enacted, and the supporters of the agency have battled repeated efforts by the Bush Administration to shutter it.

Additional details on HR 6003 can be found in the May 9 Washington Report.

**HUMAN SERVICES**

Senate approves measure to encourage federal agencies to donate surplus food. The legislation (S 2420) was passed by voice vote this week and authorizes “executive agencies and contractors of executive agencies, to the maximum extent practicable and safe, to donate excess, apparently wholesome food to feed food-insecure people in the United States.”

The Department of Agriculture created a program in the 1990s which encouraged
the practice, recovering over 3 million pounds nationwide from federal cafeterias, farms, research centers, and military bases in 1998 alone. The program has been dormant in recent years and bill sponsors thought that jump-starting it would assist local food pantries across the country where donations are down, attendance is up, and food prices are at all-time highs.

The bill also includes a provision that protects donors from liability for tainted food if it is “apparently wholesome food” and given in good faith.

The House approved similar legislation (HR 4220) last December.

**UPDATES**

The following are updates on some items that have been pending in Congress for some time but have not yet been completed.

**Collective Bargaining**

Debate was postponed on legislation (HR 980) that would mandate that states and local governments enter into collective bargaining agreements with police, fire, and emergency medical services employees. Senate leaders are looking to forge an agreement with Republicans on the number of amendments that would be offered to the measure, but the recent health problems of Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) have also played a role in the delay. Kennedy was managing the bill on the Senate floor and supporters believe his presence in negotiations is crucial (see May 16 Washington Report for additional details).

**Tax Credits**

The House approved legislation (HR 6049) this week that would provide a one-year extension for a number of popular tax credits, as well as tax incentives for the production and use of renewable energy sources by businesses and individuals. The Senate Finance Committee is expected to consider its version ($2886) of a tax “extenders” bill in June, but there are differences with the House measure. The most significant objections are to the House proposal to offset the $55 billion cost of its bill (see May 16 Washington Report for additional details).

**Budget Resolution**

House and Senate negotiators have reached an agreement on an FY 2009 budget resolution and both chambers will consider the measure when they return from a week-long Memorial Day recess. Sponsors had hoped to get the resolution approved this week, but the glitch in the Farm Bill mentioned above postponed action. The resolution does not require Presidential approval and sets the broad outlines for FY 2009 under which the appropriations and tax-writing committees must operate. The resolution will call for $24.5 billion more in domestic discretionary spending than proposed by the President (see March 14 Washington Report for additional details).

**VoIP 911**

House and Senate negotiators are reportedly close to an agreement on legislation that would allow companies that provide telephone services via Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to have access to traditional phone company infrastructure for the purpose of providing 911 emergency services. Each chamber has approved a version of the bill, but had been unable to resolve differences on the legal definition of VoIP technology and whether to limit the way telephone companies can use 911 customer information.

**Farm Bill**

The President vetoed the $290 billion Farm Bill sent to him by Congress this week, but both the House and Senate quickly voted to override the veto on Thursday. However, a drafting error during the enrollment of the bill resulted in 34 missing pages (regarding international food aid and trade) in the measure sent to and vetoed by the President, so the House was forced to vote to approve the bill in its entirety again on Thursday. The Senate will not take up the bill until after the Memorial Day recess, and some opponents have said they would try to amend the new bill. If the Senate ultimately approves the new bill, it is likely to be vetoed again and Congress will attempt another override (see May 16 Washington Report for additional details).

**GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Department of Transportation**

DOT has announced a Notice for the Clean Fuels Grant Program for FY 2008. This program provides funding for non-attainment or maintenance areas in achieving or maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone or carbon monoxide. Also, DOT will fund emerging clean fuel and advanced propulsion technologies for transit buses and markets for those technologies. There is approximately $28.7 million available in discretionary funding for FY 2008 and requires a 10 percent local share of the total project cost. The deadline for all proposals is July 21, 2008. For more information please see the Federal Register Thursday, May 22, 2008 pages 29843-29846.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Lancaster County Board

FROM: Marvin Krout, Director of Planning

SUBJECT: 2008 Comprehensive Plan Annual Review:
- Comp Plan Amendment No. 08002 (84th & Van Dorn St.)
- Comp Plan Amendment No. 08004 (62nd & Old Cheney Rd.)
- Comp Plan Amendment No. 08005 (N.W. 46th & W. Holdrege)
- Comp Plan Amendment No. 08006 (S.W. 12th & W. Denton Road)
- Comp Plan Amendment No. 08011 (City Annexation Policy)

DATE: May 21, 2008

COPIES: City Council (w/o attachment)
- Mayor Chris Beutler (w/o attachment)
- Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
- Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Aide
- Stephen Henrichsen (w/o attachment)

Attached for your information are copies of the Factsheets for the above-referenced Comprehensive Plan Amendment requests, pursuant to the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Annual Review, which are scheduled for public hearing before the City Council on Monday, June 9, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

These proposed amendments are within the regulatory jurisdiction of the City Council and are being routed to the County Commissioners for information purposes; no County Board hearing or action is required. These proposed amendments will also be discussed at the City-County Common meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at 8:30 a.m.

If you have questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact Steven Henrichsen in the Planning Department (441-6374).
I spoke to you earlier about highway safety, and the probable problems that will arise from that type of excavation. Here are some photo's I was able to get yesterday while the state was cleaning up the mess under the underpass by the Pla-Mor. A gentleman stopped me, to say I was not allowed to take photo's. He then took a few for me, as I explained the situation of which I wanted them for. He was also concerned what that would do to that section of highway. Please keep in mind, they were almost finished when I arrived there, on my way to a doctors appointment.

Susan Schultz
7300 W. O St
Lincoln, NE 68528
Each year, the City of Lincoln Urban Development Department develops a one-year Action Plan with goals and objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. Public input and opinion are critical parts of the Action Plan process. In 2008-09, Lincoln will receive federal entitlements totaling $2,830,736.

How will that money be put to work?

Come to the Public Information Open House on Thursday, June 5, 2008 at Cedar’s Northbridge Community Ctr. 1533 N. 27th Street from 4:30 to 6:00 pm

Urban Development Department staff will be available to discuss the programs and projects planned for the 2008-09 fiscal year and to listen to your feedback. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Kathy Northrop at 441-7861 or knorthrop@lincoln.ne.gov.
I am saddened to know that city funding for Community Learning Centers may be cut. These programs for kids and parents are very important because they provide activities and education that otherwise would probably not be available.

I believe that prevention is worth a pound of cure. If the City of Lincoln can prevent an at risk child from going on the wrong path to gang violence, drugs, etc. through the CLC then the money is well spent.

I also believe the citizens need to know that the City values programs for kids—our future.

Thanks for reading this.

Joan Anderson
I am writing in opposition of the city of Lincoln helping Lancaster county in financing a new jail unless the Nebraska Crime Commission mandates it. As a tax paying citizen of Lincoln and Lancaster county. I would like this to be part of public record on the new jail issue.

'Since 2002, the Nebraska Crime Commission’s Jail Standards Division has marked the county out of compliance for holding more than the approved 237 inmates at the downtown jail. Although rarely used, jail standards officials have the authority to force compliance by ordering a county to build a new jail.'
Quoted from this article:
http://journalstar.com/articles/2008/05/03/news/local/doc481ceb0a133c7066180457.txt

'Lancaster County leaders may be looking to their city counterparts for help in financing a new county jail, but that won't mean the city will put more money toward the complex than it has been.'
Quoted from this article:
http://www.journalstar.com/articles/2008/05/22/news/local/doc4834b551a457a076430984.txt

ATTENTION: Mayor and City council members

First of all I Shannon McGovern do not write in support or opposition without research, facts, analysis, thought and consulting.

For those of you that are new into your chairs (seats) this year. Please take the time to do your homework on the Lancaster county board of commissioners before financially supporting them on this new jail issue. Look close into the location that has been chosen and paid for. Who benefited from the land sale? The Lancaster county board handles 13% of the counties property taxes last I checked. So about 90% of Lancaster county is Lincoln. I believe the county board and city council should be combined after reading through the 2007 budgets.

The Lancaster county board of commissioners has had many opportunities to bring in or approve new business and recreational activities over the years. They make it very difficult and have discouraged many from coming into Lancaster county. The drag race track is what I have followed the closest. So I will use it for an example.

The fact is a private investor came forward wanting to privately fund a Drag racing facility. He had chose a location from the Lancaster county motor sports locations map. The map that stemmed from the motocross track that was turned down from a south location years ago. Turns out the board and 14 acreages and homes within a mile did not want it close to them.

Why was another location not chosen or recommended to take advantage of a privately funded
The private investor asked for nothing but approval from the planning commission and county board.

My point is that having a drag racing facility would have brought in 10-23 million in tourism dollars the first year open from 1 national event. Please take a moment to look over the Economic Impact Report completed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It has been attached also.

http://nemotorplex.com/reports/ECONOMIC%20IMPACT%20STUDY.doc

The county board sure put together a taskforce for motorsports. Why is there not a jail taskforce? The tax payers would feel much better about this spending with a jail taskforce in place.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or further information.

Thank you for your time,
Shannon Mcgovern
402-730-0111
ADDENDUM
TO
DIRECTORS’ AGENDA
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008

I. MAYOR -
   1. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule Week of May 31 through June 6, 2008 - Schedule subject to change.
   2. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Mayor Invites Public To Groundbreaking For MoPac Trail Bridge - Magazine to present 30 new bikes as part of BikeTown USA.
   3. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Public Invited To Comment On Use Of Federal Funds.
   5. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Unauthorized Petitioners Could Face Trespass Charges.

II. CITY CLERK - NONE

III. CORRESPONDENCE -
   A. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE - NONE
   B. DIRECTORS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS -
      HEALTH -
      1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Lincoln & Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards.
      PLANNING -
      1. Letter from Donald W. Piening and Letter from Susan Schultz - RE: Opposition to Special Permit #08015 (Bill #08R-82: Council Pending List-No Date Certain)
   C. MISCELLANEOUS -
      1. Media Release from Lori Vrtiska Seibel, Community Health Endowment (CHE) - RE: Community Health Endowment Announces Funding Awards.
Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule
Week of May 31 through June 6, 2008
Schedule subject to change

Tuesday, June 3
- Mayor’s Arts Awards, remarks - 5:30 p.m., Lied Center, 301 N. 12th St.

Thursday, June 5
- KFOR Morning Show - 7:45 a.m.
- Nebraska Boys State, remarks - 8:15 a.m., Love Library, room 102, UNL
- Lincoln - Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards, remarks - 11:30 a.m., Champions Club (west of Memorial Stadium)
- Groundbreaking for Mopac Trail Bridge, remarks - 5 p.m., trail corridor, east side of 27th at about Apple St.

Friday, June 6
- Grand opening of TADA Theatre, remarks - 7 p.m., Creamery Building, 701 “P” St.
Mayor Chris Beutler invites the public to the groundbreaking June 5 for the new Mopac Trail bridge that will be built over North 27th Street at about Apple. The ceremony begins at 5 p.m. on the trail corridor on the east side of the future bridge. Parking is available in the Heartland Optical parking lot or on 30th Street south of Apple.

After the groundbreaking, Bicycling magazine will announce Lincoln’s recipients of 30 new Coasting bikes as part of their BikeTown USA program. The magazine recently announced that Lincoln is one of five cities in the nation chosen for the program. The magazine will track the recipients for three months to see how the bikes affect their lives, and the results will be featured in stories in Bicycling and on Bicycling.com.

“Lincoln is a great biking city, and it’s terrific to receive this national exposure,” Beutler said. “The new Mopac bridge will provide a key link and make our outstanding trail system even better. I want to again thank the Great Plains Trails Network for its hard work to help us fund this project.”

GPTN provided $125,000 in private donations for the bridge, which is estimated to cost about $1.9 million. The city received a federal enhancement grant for $500,000, and the rest will be paid for from funds received through tax increment financing.

The bridge will provide the final link in the Mopac Trail through Lincoln and will connect with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln downtown campus and the Antelope Valley trail system. The Mopac trail also is a vital link in the future Quad States Trails network.

More information on the groundbreaking and the project is available by calling Terry Genrich at 441-7939. For more information on the City’s parks and trails, visit the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: parks).
PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS

The public is invited to an open house the evening of Thursday, June 5 to discuss the City’s use of $2.8 million in federal entitlements to be administered by the City Urban Development Department in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The meeting is from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at CEDARS Northbridge Community Center, 1533 N. 27th St.

Each year, the Urban Development Department develops a one-year action plan to define goals and objectives for the federal entitlements for the upcoming fiscal year. Public input and opinion are critical parts of the action plan process. At the open house, Urban Development staff will be available to discuss the proposed programs and projects and listen to feedback. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information on the open house, contact Kathy Northrop at Urban Development at 441-7861 or knorthrop@lincoln.ne.gov.

- 30 -
SELLON COMPLETES LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
AT NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY

Lincoln Fire and Rescue (LFR) Chief Niles Ford announced today that Deputy Chief Bruce Sellon has successfully completed the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Sellon participated in an intensive two-week leadership course for each of the four past years at the Academy.

Sellon’s research project topics included paramedic staffing, wellness programs and hazardous materials training. In 2007 his project involved defining and developing a professional standard of conduct for LFR. It received a perfect score and will be eligible for the 2008 Outstanding Research Award.

“We are very proud and excited about the commitment of our employees to better their knowledge, skills, abilities and competence,” said Chief Ford. “Continued training is important to Lincoln Fire and Rescue as we work to provide the best possible service to our community.”

Other current LFR officers who have completed the entire Executive Fire Officer Program are Assistant Chief Rich Furasek and Deputy Chief Danny Wright. Assistant Chief John Huff and Deputy Chief Dean Staberg have completed all the course work. Captain Kim McKay, Deputy Chief Leo Benes and Captain Tim Linke are currently enrolled, and Deputy Chief Jeanne Pashalek is in the application process.

For more information on LFR, visit the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: fire).
UNAUTHORIZED PETITIONERS COULD FACE TRESPASS CHARGES

Mayor Chris Beutler today announced that the City will begin enforcing trespassing complaints against unauthorized petition circulators and blockers on private property. After a review of these types of disputes, City Attorney John Hendry has concluded that petition circulators and blockers do not have the right to remain on private property once they have been asked to leave by property owners or managers. Enforcement will begin at 8 a.m. Monday, June 2.

The Mayor said local businesses contacted him about the impact the activity is having on sales. “While the petition process is an important Nebraska right, that process should not be conducted at the expense of private property owners who have a legitimate interest in the control over their property,” said Beutler. “Businesses have a right to do business, and sales are critical to profits and jobs. Their customers should not have to fight their way past circulators and blockers just to get their shopping done.”

“We would like to thank Mayor Beutler for his pro-business decision to remove petitioners who are collecting signatures by standing in front of the entrances and exits of Lincoln retail stores,” said Kathy Siefken, Executive Director of the Nebraska Grocery Industry Association. “Some customers have been so offended by the tactics used by the signature gatherers that they have taken the time to locate the store manager or owner to let management know how thoroughly upset they were by the incident. We thank Mayor Beutler for taking a strong position on this issue and his willingness to protect citizens from being harassed by the signature gatherers.”

“Retail stores are private property,” said Jim Otto, President of the Nebraska Retail Federation. “Our customers should not have to go through an argument with petitioners before entering a retail store to shop. We sincerely thank Mayor Beutler for his straightforward solution to this problem.”

A previous petition drive led to a court ruling that the City of Lincoln was inappropriately restricting the access of circulators to public property. Beutler said that led to a cautious stance by the City with regard to petitioners on private property. Beutler asked Hendry to review the situation after businesses told him that petitioners and blockers did not comply with requests to leave their property.
LINCOLN & LANCASTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 5, at the Nebraska Champions Club. The awards ceremony will recognize businesses, organizations and individuals who have demonstrated environmental stewardship and dedication to sustaining and improving air, land, and water quality while protecting public health.

The ceremony is designed to bring public attention to those who strive to protect and enhance the beauty and livability of our community. The presentations are intended to inspire others to follow the models and examples set by these 2008 Environmental Leadership Award recipients. Award winners this year include:

- **Business and Industry - Telesis, Inc. and Veyance Technologies, Inc.**

  Telesis, Inc., the parent company for Lazlo’s and FireWorks Restaurants, Empyrean Brewing Company, and Data Security, Inc., utilizes a high level of waste management, water conservation, smart commercial development, and advocates for environmental protection to reduce their carbon footprint. Overall, Telesis’ efforts have saved over 1 million-kilowatt hours a year, equal to the energy use of about 940 homes.

  Veyance Technologies, Inc. installed a replacement rubber coating process and emission control system to effectively capture all hazardous solvent emissions. These changes exceed regulatory requirements and have reduced Veyance’s annual emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) by 70%.
• **Education** - Eastridge Elementary Green Club; Fred Hoke and Brock Peters, Stormwater Awareness Network

Eastridge Elementary student leaders established a Green Club to teach their peers about how walking, recycling, and reusing products are good for the environment and their health. This youth group is an inspiration of how mobilizing a school community can lead to healthier lifestyles for a healthier world.

Fred Hoke, with the Home Builders Association and Brock Peters with Containment Contracting provided leadership in the development of the Stormwater Awareness Network (SWAN). SWAN was instrumental in implementing construction site stormwater runoff education for area trade contractors, builders and developers to reduce soil erosion and sediment run-off into streams and lakes.

• **Community or Non-Profit Organization** - Lincoln Action Program

The Lincoln Action Program integrates environmental practices into nearly all of their programs. They have developed an extensive computer refurbishing and recycling effort, offer energy conservation and weatherization education and assistance to low-income clients, and are partners in neighborhood revitalization, as well as a new "YouthBuild" program, which combines construction education and leadership training with mentoring to low-income youth by local builders.

• **Government** - McKenzie Barry, Lower Plate South Natural Resources District

McKenzie Barry, with the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, initiates programs to reach children through experiencing nature, which is essential for healthy childhood development and environmental protection. She reaches students through a variety of hands-on environmental education programs, field trips to wetlands and prairies, and connecting youth with nature in their own schoolyards. She has started nature clubs at area schools and sponsored school “Family Nature Nights” to extend nature-awareness to the entire family.

- more -
• **Agriculture - Lyle and Alice Sittler**

Lyle and Alice Sittler have farmed for 40 years and were some of the first producers to use no-till farming and bio-solids from the Lincoln waste treatment plant as a natural fertilizer. A state-of-the art drainage system filters runoff to reduce nutrients entering Blue Stem Lake. They entered into a conservation easement with the Lower Platte South NRD to ensure their 200-acre tall grass prairie remains in its natural state.

• **Individual Citizen - Matt Kleinschmit, Pride Homes, Inc. and W. Cecil Steward**

Matt Kleinschmit, owner of Pride Homes, is dedicated to helping educate fellow builders and contractors about green building construction techniques. Matt was one of the first certified Green Build construction companies in Nebraska and is a founder of the Nebraska State Home Builders Green Build Council. He consistently builds homes that are 60 – 70% more energy efficient, compared to standard built homes.

Cecil Steward is the founder and president of the Joslyn Castle Institute for Sustainable Communities and the Nebraska Center for Sustainable Construction. Cecil is a tireless advocate for smart growth and environmental improvements to communities and lifestyles. Through his leadership he has developed numerous programs to increase the implementation and awareness of sustainable design.

This year’s ceremony will include Rod Fowler from Channel 8 KLKN TV, serving as Master of Ceremonies; comments by Chris Beutler, Mayor of Lincoln; comments by Bob Workman, Chair of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners; and a keynote address by Dr. Donna Woundenberg of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s National Drought Mitigation Center. Community leaders will provide a presentation highlighting the accomplishments of each of the award recipients.

###
May 25th, 2008

To Lancaster County Planning Commission:

This is in regards to Special Permit No 08015 for soil excavation on Lot 25 1,1 in SW 1/4 of Section 24 10-5
Lancaster County, Nebraska.

To who it concerns I am giving Susie Schultz permission to represent us on this permit. I own property S23, T10, R5, 6th Principal Meridian, Lot 55 SW.
Donald V. Piening

Donald V. Piening
OPPOSITION

BILL #08R-82: SPECIAL PERMIT NO. 08015
(Council Pending List: No Date Certain)

Susan M. Schultz
7300 W. O St.
Lincoln, Ne 68528

Owner of:
S23, T10, R5, 6th Principal Meridian, Lot 9 SE EX S66'
S26, T10, R5, 6th Principal Meridian, Lots 11, 28, &35 NE
S26, T10, R5, 6th Principal Meridian, Lots 9 & 10 NE

To whom it may concern:

Response to Special Permit #08015

I represent myself, as well as my cousin, Donald Plening (owner of: S23, T10, R5, 6th Principal Meridian, Lot 55 SW) who is a paraplegic and could not be here today. He shares the same concerns as I do on the water issues and highway safety. He no longer resides in the area, but shares concerns for the residents in the Emerald area.

My concerns are as follows:

Water Issues:

What kinds of studies have been done pertaining to moving that quantity of soil on ground water, and by whom? With today’s technology, I’m sure that we have experts that can determine the effect without risking any damage first. We just put in a new well several years ago; and have good water. What will we have after all that dirt is removed? And not only is my concern the drinking water but my crops depend on the ground water below them. If the excavation of that amount of soil diminishes the ground water or increases it too much, my livelihood could also be in jeopardy, as well as my property value. Will I be compensated if that should happen, and water provided for my home as well as my crops if needed?

Health Issues:

Air Pollution & West Nile:
I as well as other members of my family have asthmatic health issues. I’m sure the dust and diesel fumes would not be good for my husband’s health either, as he has had a serious heart attack and needs to walk daily, which was a large factor in choosing to move back to the farm. We also have small grandchildren at our home during the day. There is no way to keep them indoors all day long. While our ground is being farmed we try to stay indoors with doors and windows closed. It would indeed be unfair to need to do this for several years. Plus the need to run air conditioning all the time would be
expensive as well as not very energy efficient. How can the air pollution be controlled, and what agency will oversee it? Water holes will be a breeding ground for mosquitoes, increasing the chance of West Nile in our area. Will this be treated, and if so, by whom and how often?

**Highway Safety:**

Highway 6 is very busy weekdays and even more on the weekends, especially during the summer months. I am quite aware of the danger of entering O Street from that site, as my father farmed that ground for many years. I can't begin to tell you how often he was almost hit going or coming from that field. He always kept a pickup there to leave with, and would go back for machinery at a time when there wasn't a lot of traffic moving. These trucks will be entering and exiting the highway more often than he ever did. I fear that during the course of this operation, there could be many serious accidents causing severe injuries and possible fatalities. The area from between the Pla-Mor and east of the underpass has always been a dangerous area to enter and exit O St. It is extremely bad after rains, and snow melt. I can only imagine how soil excavation will increase the danger of accidents at that location. What sort of safety measures can be put in place to eliminate this danger, and prevent the tragic loss of life? Just yesterday, I came through that area, as the state was trying to clean the water and mud off the highway from our recent rains. With that much use, I am sure the highway will suffer; as it is not that great to begin with. What is the cost of replacement, and who will bear the expense of that? I have heard the mention of $1 surcharge for every truck, with rising costs, is that a realistic surcharge for repairs to that section of highway?

**In Conclusion:**

Our farm has always offered a peaceful setting for several generations. I would hope there has or will be extensive studies done by water management, highway safety, as well as air pollution before any permit would be approved. Also contract agreements, as well as a substantial escrow account to pay for any damages that may occur to our properties, health and natural resources if damaged from this project.

Susan Schultz
Community Health Endowment Announces Funding Awards

Following an extensive review of 53 applications, the Board of Trustees of the Community Health Endowment (CHE) is pleased to announce the funding of 16 projects, representing $371,621 in funding for FY07-08. With these awards, CHE will have provided more than $1 million in grant awards this fiscal year.

Support for a community training and education about the Delta Model, a community based treatment program for methamphetamine addiction and recovery. (Substance Abuse Action Coalition: $5,355)

Partial support for a Community Organizer who will work to improve neighborhood health, stability, and safety in the Near South and Everett neighborhoods. (NeighborWorks – Lincoln: $10,000)

Purchase of dental instruments and equipment for the People’s Health Center. (People’s Health Center: $7,500)

Support for an on-call mental health consultation for 50 case managers who serve New Americans and to provide quarterly de-briefing sessions. (New Americans Task Force: $1,500)

Development of a Multicultural Farmers’ Market in north-central Lincoln to serve low-income, refugee, and immigrant families. (Community CROS: $10,000)

Funding for a technology assessment at People’s Health Center and implementation of primary recommendations. (People’s Health Center: $10,000)
Continued support for the Medication Assistance Program to provide access to medication for low-income individuals.
(Lancaster County Medical Society: $10,000)

Development of an outreach team to assist homeless and near homeless individuals disabled by serious mental illness gain timely and efficient access to Social Security Administration benefits and/or Social Security Disability Insurance.
(Centerpointe, Inc. and Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach: $56,987 in year one; $61,693 in year two)

Matching funds for the construction of a new crisis center to serve children who have been abused, neglected or homeless.
(CEDARS Youth Services: $25,000)

Matching funds to assist in the construction of three new transitional residential substance abuse treatment facilities.
(Houses of Hope: $61,990 in year one; $61,990 in year two; and $51,990 in year three)

Matching funds for the construction of a new Child Advocacy Center that will provide expanded services for the investigation of serious physical and sexual abuse of children.
(Child Advocacy Center: $100,000 in year one; $100,000 in year two)

Matching funds for needed renovations to the Child Guidance Center facility at 2444 O Street that will allow for increased training and counseling services.
(Child Guidance Center: $43,414)

Matching support for needed renovations at the Centerpointe, Inc. outpatient facility.
(Centerpointe, Inc.: $12,875)

Matching funds to assist in the construction of a walking track at Elliott Elementary School.
(Elliott Elementary School: $8,000)

Support to Lincoln Action Program to assist in bringing a national expert on poverty to Lincoln to provide community presentations.
(Lincoln Action Program: $1,000)

Funding for clinician training and certification in the use of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy to treat clients with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
(Centerpointe, Inc.: $8,000)

Dan Anderson, President of the CHE Board of Trustees, recognized the projects, "CHE is pleased to provide support to many diverse projects and organizations working to improve the health of our community. We are grateful for the dedication these organizations show for meeting the needs of our community and addressing important health concerns."

For additional information, contact Lori Vrliska Seibel, President/CEO, 402.436.5516.