DIRECTORS’ MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2008
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
11:00 A.M.

I. MAYOR
*1. Testing of drinking water samples for Total Coliform and E. Coli bacteria by the Colilert® method of analysis.
*2. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor presents October award of excellence to a Street Maintenance Operations division of the Public Works and Utilities Department.
*3. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler will participate in CenterPointe’s groundbreaking for new housing project for people with disabilities on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at 3161 Overland Trail.
*4. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler and the Joint Antelope Valley Authority invite members of the media, including editors, news directors and managers, to a guided bus tour highlighting Antelope Valley Project’s latest developments.
*5. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor encourages public to tour antelope Valley improvements.
*6. NEWS RELEASE. Dart named president elect of National Health Board.
*7. NEWS RELEASE. Public invited to meeting on Antelope Valley waterway and park. September 16, 2008, 4 pm to 7 pm, at 2143 “O” Street.
*8. NEWS ADVISORY. Residents encouraged to plant trees this fall.

Received Week of 09-22-08
1. NEWS RELEASE. Candidate debates set for September 22, 2008.
2. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor encourages citizens to volunteer for graffiti “Clean It Up” day.
3. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler will name new Library Director at a news conference on Thursday, September 18th at 2:30 pm at 555 S. 10th Street.
4. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Beutler names library veteran Leach as new director.
5. NEWS RELEASE. Notice of Holdrege Street bridge near 18th temporarily closed.
6. NEWS RELEASE. Holdrege Street bridge near 18th temporarily closed.

CITY OMBUDSMAN
*1. Reply to Mark and Barbara Dunning, from Lin Quenzer, regarding email to Mayor Beutler and Lincoln City Council on refund request for a street tree.

Received Week of 09-22-08
1. Thank you email from Mark Dunning for prompt help with declination of tree.

II. DIRECTORS

FINANCE/TREASURER

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
*1. Last chance in 2008 to drop off and pick up usable latex paint.
NEWS RELEASE. Clean up litter from shorelines of local lakes. Join volunteers worldwide as part of the International Coastal Cleanup.

CITY LIBRARIES (Received Week of 09-22-08)
1. NEWS RELEASE. One Book - One Lincoln Discussion Groups.
2. NEWS RELEASE. Fire Fighters Visit Library Storytime.

PLANNING

PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION
*1. University of Nebraska Technology Park 3rd Addition Final Plat #08037. Generally located at Discovery Drive and West Highland Boulevard.

PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING (Received Week of 09-22-08)
1. ADVISORY. Storm water project to start. Project #702384.
   a. Area map for Project #702384.

III. CITY CLERK

IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE

JONATHAN COOK (Received Week of 09-22-08)
1. Letter from Raymond D. Crisp. Consider using the proposed $600,000 stimulus package as an Urban Improvement Program (UIP).

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN
*1. Email from Tom White with concerns for development of new subdivisions and infrastructure for the City, other than antelope Valley and the Hay Market.

V. MISCELLANEOUS
*1. Letter from Marc LeBaron supporting the Antelope Valley redevelopment project. (Each Councilperson received letter on September 5, 2008)
*2. Email from Scott Baird. On behalf of the Near South Neighborhood Association do support design standards in the Antelope Valley project.
*3. Correspondence from Julie Sand, through InterLinc, regarding Dr. John’s store on 48th and Vine. Find a way to control this type of business in the future, and this type of store belongs in a different location.
*4. InterLinc correspondence from Rob Mizerski. City should have more important items to work on instead of an ordinance to ban indoor furniture on the outside of a home.
*5. InterLinc correspondence from Walter A. Canney. LES continues to remain below much of the country in rates and key operating expense ratios.
*6. Email from Paul Horton. Tackle real issues, not legislating against upholstered furniture on porches.
*7. Email from Heidi Burklund. We do not need a furniture ordinance.
*8. Letter from Lincoln Action Program announcing Vi See to position of Executive Director effective October 1, 2008.

Received Week of 09-22-08

1. Email from Karen Bowling, Nebraska Family Council, in support of ordinance which would ban indoor furniture being used outdoors. Also, compliment Mayor Beutler’s commitment to Lincoln’s core neighborhoods.
2. InterLinc correspondence from Serena Reeves, Hartley Neighborhood Association, in support of ordinance prohibiting indoor furniture being used outdoors.
3. Email from Todd Cuddy. Against proposed ban on indoor furniture outside.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

* Held Over from September 15, 2008
CANDIDATE DEBATES SET FOR SEPTEMBER 22
Debates to be aired on 5 CITY-TV

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster County invites the public to a series of seven debates Monday, September 22, featuring candidates on the ballot for the November 4 general election. Linda Duckworth, President of the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha, will open the debates at 12:15 p.m. with the presentation, *Lady Arrested for Voting! The Life and Times of Susan B. Anthony*.

The debates will run from 1:15 to 8:30 p.m. All events will take place in the Bevins Family Life Center on the main floor of Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 “M” Street. 5 CITY-TV also will record the debates for showing on cable channel 5. In the schedule below, the candidates are listed in the order of their opening statements.

1:15 to 1:45 p.m. – County Commissioner District #2, partisan: Larry Hudkins (R), Barbara Baier (D)

2 to 2:30 p.m. – County Commissioner District #4, partisan: Bernie Heier (R), Nancy Intermill (D)

3 to 3:30 p.m. – NU Board of Regents District 1, nonpartisan: Earl Scudder, Tim Clare

3:45 to 4:45 p.m. – Unicameral District #21, nonpartisan: James Jeffers, Ken Haar

5 to 6 p.m. – Unicameral District #25, nonpartisan: Travis Wagner, Kathy Campbell

6:15 to 7:15 p.m. – Unicameral District #27, nonpartisan: Colby Coash, Dan Marvin

7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Unicameral District #29, nonpartisan: Tony Fulton, Susan Scott

A debate among the candidates for the U.S. Senate was cancelled because candidates Mike Johanns (R) and Scott Kleeb (D) were unable to attend; the other candidates are Steve Larrick (G) and Kelly Renee Rosberg (N). A debate between the candidates for Congressional District #1 was cancelled because Jeff Fortenberry (R) is required to be present in Congress for voting; the other candidate is Max Yashirin (D).
To reach the Bevins Family Life Center from the west doors, use the elevator (“M” button). If entering the church through the south door, go up the interior stairs and walk away from the sanctuary. Parking is available across 11th Street or in the parking garage one block south of the church. Metered space on the street or free space in the garage under the church (enter from 11th Street) may be available.

Debate co-sponsors include the Mayor’s Commission on Women; the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging; the National Council of Negro Women (Lincoln Section); the North 27th Street Business and Civic Association; and Saint Paul United Methodist Church. Funding for debates is provided by the League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, with some monies provided by co-sponsors.

Audience members are asked to not wear or otherwise display items indicating support of specific candidates while in the debate area.

For a schedule of air times, see the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov and click on the 5 CITY-TV logo. The debates also will be available through video-on-demand through the Web site.
Mayor encourages citizens to volunteer for Graffiti “Clean It Up” Day

Mayor Chris Beutler encourages residents to volunteer for the 2008 Graffiti “Clean It Up” Day from 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, September 20. The event is a City-wide effort to paint over graffiti and is organized by Lincoln Under Care (LUC), a local anti-graffiti coalition.

“Graffiti invites more vandalism and crime by sending a message that no one cares about the neighborhood,” Mayor Beutler said. “Cleaning up graffiti can be costly, and that's why efforts like this are so important. I hope this is the first of many such projects. By helping individual property owners clean up graffiti, we help the entire community.”

Individuals and groups are encouraged to sign up by contacting Nancy Engel, AmeriCorp VISTA, at 441-5658 or nengel@lincoln.ne.gov. Individuals who register to volunteer will be assigned to a team. Children and youth will need adult supervision. Individual painters will need to sign a waiver of liability when they pick up their paint.

Teams must have the property owners permission to paint, and private property will not be charged for the cleanup.

Paint will be available from the supply that was recycled during the Lincoln-Lancaster County’s paint exchange. Property owners may prefer to provide matching paint.

Citizens wanting to report new graffiti on their property can call the Lincoln Police Department at 441-7204 with the location and a description. Individuals who know of areas that could be painted on “Clean It Up” Day can contact Engel with the address and specific location.

For more information on graffiti and the City’s graffiti ordinance, visit the City Web site at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: graffiti).

MEDIA NOTE: Teams will pick up paint at 9 a.m. at StarTran, 710 “J” Street.
DATE: September 18, 2008
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Chris Beutler will name a new Library Director at a news conference at 2:30 p.m. TODAY, September 18 in the area outside the Mayor’s Office, 555 South 10th St.
NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 18, 2008
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

BEUTLER NAMES LIBRARY VETERAN LEACH
AS NEW DIRECTOR

Mayor Chris Beutler today announced his appointment of Pat Leach as Director of Lincoln City Libraries effective Monday, September 22. Leach has worked full-time in the City library system since 1981 and has served as Youth Services Supervisor since 1997. She will follow Carol Connor, who retired this month after 30 years as Library Director. The Mayor said Leach’s passion, experience and vision will help move the library system forward.

“Pat knows that libraries go beyond four walls,” Beutler said. “She understands the role of technology in modern libraries and the need for 24-hour virtual services. She will provide the management skills and budget oversight needed to continue our tradition of outstanding library services.”

Leach, began her career with Lincoln City Libraries in 1979 when she worked as a part-time assistant as a college student. In 1981, she started full-time as an assistant and served as South Branch Supervisor, Circulation and Youth Services Librarian and Acting Public Services Supervisor before taking her current position. As Youth Services Supervisor, Leach plans programming and creates collections for young people and is part of the library’s management team.

“A great city deserves a great library, and I’m proud of the role that libraries play in upholding literacy, providing equal access to information and enriching people’s lives,” Leach said. “I am truly honored by my selection. I know that great people work for Lincoln City Libraries, and together, we’ll make the most of the opportunities on the horizon.”

Leach has a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and master's degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois. She has been a book reviewer for the Lincoln Journal Star and the School Library Journal and has made many presentations at State reading and library associations.
Beutler thanked members of the hiring committee who worked on the selection process. Four members of the committee were chosen by the Mayor and four were chosen by the Library Board. The appointment requires City Council approval.

Leach will earn $92,000 a year.

Hennen’s American Public Library ratings ranked Lincoln City Libraries in the top seven in its population category for 2004, 2005 and 2006. (No rankings were made in 2007, and the 2008 rankings are not yet available.) More information on the Lincoln City Libraries is available at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: library).
HOLDREGE STREET BRIDGE NEAR 18TH TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The bridge on Holdrege Street near 18th Street was closed today until further notice because of safety concerns. A detailed inspection of the bridge in nearing completion, but officials say initial findings have caused “sufficient uncertainty” in the ability of the bridge to safely handle current traffic loads. Motorists are encouraged to use Vine Street or other alternative routes.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Public Works and Utilities Director Greg MacLean will be available at 2:30 p.m. TODAY at 17th and Holdrege to brief the media on the closure.
HOLDREGE STREET BRIDGE NEAR 18TH TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The bridge on Holdrege Street near 18th Street was closed today until further notice because of safety concerns. A detailed inspection of the bridge in nearing completion, but officials say initial findings have caused “sufficient uncertainty” in the ability of the bridge to safely handle current traffic loads.

The bridge will remain open to pedestrians and bicycles. Motorists are encouraged to use Vine Street or other alternative routes.

The bridge was built in 1936. It has been inspected every two years, and the last inspection was in December 2007. The last repairs were done in 1980. Last night, the City placed cones to prevent traffic on the southern side of the bridge.

Traffic volume on the bridge was 5,200 vehicles per day in 2007. Volume has dropped from 17,300 vehicles per day due to the Antelope Valley Project and the closure of Holdrege west of 17th Street.

Public Works and Utilities Director Greg MacLean said the bridge is eligible for federal replacement funds, but the availability of those funds is uncertain.

The inspection now under way is separate from a study Olsson Associates is conducting on the future of the bridge.
CONGRESS
Congress returns from summer recess to a compressed pre-election agenda. The two political conventions in late August-early September provided members of Congress a longer-than-usual summer recess this year, and no sooner had they returned than talk began about when the House and Senate would adjourn again.

Members also returned to Washington to hear a sobering report from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicting that the budget deficit for 2008 would balloon to a near-record $408 billion. That amount is more than double the $161 billion deficit from 2007, and it will rise from 1.2 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) to nearly three percent of the GDP.

Many rank-and-file Members are eager to return to their districts as soon as possible in preparation for November elections, and most observers believe this current session will not last into October. And while no one prefers a post-election lame duck session, it may be a necessity if partisan politics continue to block consideration of “must-pass” legislation.

Heading the list of must-pass legislation is a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government running after October 1 in the absence of the approval of a FY 2009 budget. With the possible exception of the Defense Department measure, Congress is not expected to approve any of the twelve FY 2009 spending measures prior to the start of the new fiscal year. As a result, a CR that would fund federal agencies at or near their FY 2008 levels is expected to be approved at some point this month.

However, questions remain about the length of the CR, as well as what exactly it would include. If congressional leaders plan to forego a lame duck session, then the CR could potentially stretch well into 2009, possibly even the entire year. And since it may be the only piece of legislation that will be approved prior to the end of the session, there will be proposals to add other provisions to the CR, such as:

- A $50 billion economic stimulus package being crafted in the House that may include items such as another extension of unemployment benefits; $25 billion for infrastructure improvements; low-income energy assistance, and Medicare and Medicaid assistance for States;
- A package of popular expired tax breaks, such as the research and development tax credit and brownfields remediation tax credit and a “patch” to provide relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT);
- Lifting the ban on offshore drilling in coastal areas – an issue that Republicans have grasped and may even threaten to shut the government down over unless it is addressed, and possibly
- Amtrak legislation that would authorize additional funds for the struggling passenger railroad system.

In the end, the White House may object to any and all of these proposals and threaten to veto any CR that includes items not requested by the President.
TRANSPORTATION
Congress clears measure to replenish Highway Trust Fund; House approves Mexican trucks measure. Both the House and Senate approved legislation (HR. 6532) to transfer $8 billion from the General Fund to the near-depleted federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF). The votes come on the heels of an announcement late last week by Transportation Secretary Mary Peters that the HTF would run out of money by the end of the September. Prior to that announcement, the Bush Administration had opposed proposals to use General Funds to assist the HTF.

The HTF is a separate account of the Treasury’s general fund that provides funding for federal surface transportation programs and is funded by the federal excise tax on gasoline sales. However, the recent rise in energy prices has contributed to a significant drop in fuel sales and revenues from the gas tax have tapered off as a result.

Although there was nearly universal support for HR 6532, three Republican Senators mounted an effort to slow the bill’s progress, but withdrew their objections after being pressured by their colleagues on both sides of the aisle, State governors, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the White House. Senators Judd Gregg (R-NH), Tom Coburn (R-OK), and Jim DeMint (R-SC) agreed to a deal in which they were given 90 minutes to debate the bill, but could not offer amendments. The three had expressed concern that the transfer of funds would set a dangerous precedent and should be offset by cuts in other areas of the budget.

The President is expected to sign HR 6532 into law once it reaches his desk.

Meanwhile, the House approved legislation (HR 6630) this week that would block long-haul Mexican trucks from U.S. roadways. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) created a framework by which Mexican trucks would be allowed to onto American highways, and a pilot program established last year by the U.S. Department of Transportation implemented allowances for border crossings. However, many Members of Congress are concerned that safety regulations in Mexico for trucks are not stringent enough and their presence endangers U.S. drivers.

President Bush is expected to veto the measure should it reach his desk, but the House vote provided a significant veto-proof margin.

ENERGY
Budget impasse sparks action on energy issues. Both the House and Senate are scheduled to vote next week on energy bills that would loosen the 26-year old ban on oil drilling in the nation’s coastal waters.

In the House, the bill is designed as a compromise and will include a variety of other provisions in addition to allowing states to authorize some offshore drilling. Other provisions of the bill include a requirement that drilling leases be used by a date certain or forfeited and a provision that would mandate that 15 to 20 percent of the nation’s electricity be generated by renewable resources by 2020.

The Democratic leadership hopes next week’s vote will stave off a budget showdown that threatens to shut down the federal government when the fiscal year ends in three weeks. Republican legislators have almost unanimously agreed to oppose a continuing resolution needed to keep the government operating unless the offshore drilling moratorium is lifted. With the number of rank-and-file Democrats prepared to abandon the leadership on the drilling issue growing, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) was forced to relent and craft a compromise.

The Republican leadership has criticized the bill coming to the floor next week because it would continue to prohibit drilling within 50 miles of shore; and it would not allow all states to receive a portion of the royalties from drilling leases in their waters, thus removing a major incentive to allow drilling. They also point out that the bill would largely exempt Pelosi’s home state of California, where most viable drilling locations are within 50 miles of land, from the moratorium. However, with both parties wary of fallout from a government shutdown so close to Election Day, a House compromise on offshore drilling remains likely.

In the Senate, what began in early August as the “Gang of 10” senators committed to a compromise on drilling and other energy issues has increased its ranks to include 20 senators. In addition to limited offshore drilling, the compromise package includes $84 billion for investment in renewable energy offset by the repeal of tax breaks for the oil and gas industry. In addition, Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and Ranking Member Charles Grassley (R-IA) plan to offer a stalled package of renewable energy tax breaks, including renewal of tax credits for wind and solar power and a new tax credit for plug-in hybrid vehicles.

At this point, it remains unlikely that the “Gang of 10” has corralled enough votes to bypass procedural hurdles to their compromise bill. With many senators immune from the immediate election heat facing their House counterparts, they face less pressure to reach a deal on drilling and overall energy issues.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FCC moves to preempt local zoning authority. Under cover of the annual August lull and with most of official Washington having decamped for political conventions or election campaigns, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a proposed rule (WT Docket 08-165) that would preempt local zoning authority for cellular telephone towers. Issued at the behest of the cellular telephone industry, the proposed rule would require local governments to approve all cellular telephone towers within 45 to 75 days and would grant automatic approval to all applications after the 45 to 75 day “shot clock” expires.

Local government organizations have expressed outrage at the proposed rule, arguing that it is a bald faced attempt by the cellular telephone industry to undermine local authority in the waning days of an Administration when the nation’s attention is focused on...
elections. They also decried the short comment period, arguing that the FCC is trying to game the docket in favor of industry comments. This week, the FCC agreed to extend the deadline for comments from September 15 to September 29, which should give local officials time to file comments.

Local government organizations argue that the proposed rule is a solution in search of a problem, pointing out that hundreds of thousands of cellular telephone towers have been built and that a new one is placed into service almost daily in the United States. They also argue that the arbitrarily short timeline outlined in the proposed rule ignores the complexity of cellular telephone tower placements, which often require extensive engineering studies and surveys, and that the short “shot clock” appears designed specifically to undermine the due process inherent in most local zoning regimes.

In addition, they argue that the proposed rule also directly contradicts clear congressional intent to preserve local government zoning authority over cellular telephone towers. Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (PL 104-104) specifically protects local zoning authority for cellular telephone towers and related Conference Report language specifically directs the FCC to refrain from rulemakings on this issue.

A copy of the proposed rule can be found at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1913A1.pdf

A copy of the notice extending the comment deadline can be found at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-2070A1.pdf

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**GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

**The Institute of Museum and Library Services:** IMLS is accepting applications for FY2009 Museums for America (MFA) grants. The funding is designed to help with projects such as ongoing museum work, research and other behind-the-scenes activities, planning, new programs, purchase of equipment or services, and activities that will support the efforts of museums to upgrade and integrate new technologies. The deadline for all applications is **November 1, 2008.** Applicants can apply for funding in one of three categories: Engaging communities (education, exhibitions, and interpretation), Building Institutional Capacity (management, policy, and training), and Collections Stewardship (management of collections). IMLS has $17 million to award and estimates it will make 150 grants ranging from $5,000 to $150,000. There is a 100 percent match requirement. For more information, see: http://www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/pdf/MFA_2009.pdf.

**Environmental Protection Agency:** EPA is accepting applications for Brownfields Job Training Grants, which fund environmental job training projects that facilitate the assessment, remediation, or preparation of brownfield sites. Applicants must be serving a community that is receiving, or has received, financial assistance for brownfields assessment, revolving loan fund, cleanup, site-specific response work, and/or EPA-funded targeted brownfields assessments. Applicants may apply for up to $200,000. Although there is no matching or cost-share requirement, applicants who propose a local match or commitment of resources will be reviewed favorably. A total of $2.5 is available and there will be an estimated 13 awards. The deadline for the application is October 15, 2008. See the following link for additional information: http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-08-10.pdf
You are most welcome. I'm glad I could be of service.

Sincerely,

Lin Quenzer
Ombudsman, City of Lincoln
Office of the Mayor
555 South 10th Street, Suite 208
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 441-7511
lquenzer@lincoln.ne.gov

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One Book – One Lincoln Discussion Groups
Library Announces Discussions to Enhance Enjoyment of The Thirteenth Tale

The main goal of One Book – One Lincoln Community Reading Program is to encourage residents to read and openly discuss the same book. Talking about the great stories of our time with others adds richness and depth to the experience of reading. Join members of the community discussing The Thirteenth Tale during September and October. Everyone is welcome, no need to pre-register.

Monday, Sept. 29, 2:30 p.m.
Gere Branch Library
2400 S. 56th St.

Thursday, Oct. 2, 9:30 a.m.
Lee Booksellers
Edgewood Center
56th and Nebraska Hwy. 2

Friday, Oct. 3, 10:30 a.m.
Bethany Branch Library
1810 N. Cotner Blvd.
Books Talk Discussion Group

Tuesday, Oct. 7, Noon
Bennett Martin Public Library
Courtyard Garden (4th floor if raining)
Bring a sack lunch

Wednesday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
SouthPointe Pavillions

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.
The Mill
4736 Prescott Ave.

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 1 p.m.
Sunrise Coffee Company
Piedmont Shops
1265 S. Cotner Blvd.

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.
A Novel Idea Bookstore
118 N. 14th St.

Thursday, Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m.
Savannah Pines Adult Community
3900 Pine Lake Road

Monday, Oct. 20, 2:30 p.m.
The Cup
643 S. 25th St.

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
5150 O St.

Monday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m.
Eastridge Presbyterian Church
1135 Eastridge Drive
Huxtable Lounge
Twilight in the Gardens Community Discussions
Please invite a friend or your entire book group and join us in one of three fabulous Lincoln Garden locations for a book discussion. Each of our gardens has its own unique feel and history that provides a special setting to discuss this year’s book. Bring a chair or blanket and picnic supper if you wish. These groups will not meet if there is rain on that date.

Thursday, Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m.
Lincoln Sunken Gardens
27th and Normal Blvd.

Monday, Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m.
Hazel Abel Park
18th and E. St.

Thursday, Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m.
UNL-East Campus
Maxwell Arboretum and Garden Gazebo
38th and Holdrege

There are many wonderful communities in Lancaster County that participate in One Book - One Lincoln and are regular Bookmobile stops. We are offering discussions in two such communities. This is a chance to come together and make new reading friends. We hope you can join us.

Thursday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m.
Media Center
Waverly Intermediate School
14621 Heywood Street
Waverly

Monday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.
Hickman Haven Manor
730 Larkspur Drive
Hickman

If your family, book group, business, or friends would like to get together and make your own discussion group, the library has staff who can attend your gathering to assist with the discussion. Call Pat at 441-8564 to schedule.

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FOR RELEASE: September 17, 2008

CONTACT: Pat Leach, Youth Services Supervisor
PHONE: 402-441-8565
E-MAIL: p.leach@lincolnlibraries.org

Fire Fighters Visit Library Storytime
Lincoln City Libraries

Firefighters with Lincoln Fire and Rescue are special guest readers at preschool storytimes at Lincoln City Libraries throughout 2008. Children and firefighters alike have been enjoying their time together.

Deputy Fire Chief, Jeanne Pashalek, says, “A large part of our job is the interactions we have with the community at various levels, not just emergency services. We take pride in our commitment to public education and this is just an example of how we can reach out and impact people of all ages in the community. We are looking forward to the opportunity to read to the preschoolers at our local libraries.”

In honor of the visits, the preschool storytime will feature a firefighter theme.

Lincoln City Libraries’ preschool storytime is a half-hour of books and activities for children ages three, four and five, presented free of charge. It supports early literacy by offering vocabulary development, experiences with a variety of literature, and participation in language-related activities. Pre-registration is not required for preschool storytime. Newcomers are always welcome!

The schedule of firefighter visits, September through November is:

- Thursday, September 18, 10:30 a.m.
  Bethany Branch Library
  1810 No. Cotner

- Wednesday, October 15, 10:30 a.m.
  Eiseley Branch Library
  1530 Superior

- Tuesday, October 21, 10:30 a.m.
  Gere Branch Library
  2400 So. 56th

- Wednesday, November 5, 10:30 a.m.
  Walt Branch Library
  6701 So. 14th

- Wednesday, November 12, 10:30 a.m.
  South Branch Library
  2675 South Street

The full schedule of preschool storytimes is available at the library’s Web site, www.lincolnlibraries.org

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Lincoln City Libraries fosters the power of reading and provides open access to all forms of information to enrich people’s lives every day.
Next week the City of Lincoln Public Works and Utilities Department will be starting a storm water project in your area. We are issuing this advisory because your neighborhood will be affected by this construction.

- **The reason for the work and limits of the construction are as follows:**
  This construction will add new pipes and inlets to the existing storm water system which will increase the capacity and improve storm water drainage. The limits of construction will be from 51st and Hillside west ½ block, then south down the alley approximately 200'.

- **Construction Schedule:**
  The contractor for this project is Skoda Construction. Their schedule will begin with sawing the pavement and delivering materials (which will affect parking) during the week of September 22, 2008. Weather permitting and barring unforeseen conditions, they plan to be completed with the project in approximately three to four weeks.

- **Temporary Inconvenience:**
  The City of Lincoln realizes this construction project may temporarily inconvenience you. The contractor will try to maintain access to individual properties but at times may have to close the access during that portion of the project. Please contact the contractor if you need special access arrangements or if you need to schedule fence removals.

- **Commonly Asked Questions:**
  Q: Will this project cost me directly?
  A: No not directly, but as a taxpayer we all share in the costs of community improvements.

  Q: If my driveway or sidewalk is damaged or removed, will it be replaced?
  A: Yes.

  Q: If my lawn is disturbed by the construction activities, will it be restored to its original condition?
  A: Yes, the earthwork will be completed as needed and vegetation will be restored in the disturbed areas.

- **Contacts for this project if you have questions:**
  Ron Skoda
  Skoda Construction
  (402) 560-5004

  Brian Dittmann, Project Manager
  City of Lincoln, Engineering Services
  (402) 525-5646
Mr. Jonathan Cook  
Member, Lincoln City Council  
County-City Building  
555 South 10th Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Jonathan,

I appreciate the City Council wanting to provide a stimulus to help people buy a home, and I also appreciate the members of the Council wanting to maintain attractiveness of homes and the city by banning in-door furniture from being seen outside of the house, particularly on the porch or lawn.

This is my request that the members also consider my suggestion that I sent to the Lincoln Journal Star not too long ago. Please consider using the proposed $600,000.00 stimulus package as an URBAN IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (UIP).

The UIP would ask people to submit proposals to improve their property by such things as insulating, installing new windows, replacing inefficient heating and cooling units, painting, re-roofing, landscaping or making any general improvements that would increase their property value, improve the environment, save energy, and beautify the neighborhoods and city.

The criteria for qualifying and awarding the grants can be worked out by a committee representing various interests. This program will help many people, businesses, the city’s entire economy and tax base, and can develop pride in home ownership, neighborhood improvement, and community development.

Please share my letter with your colleagues on the Council, and I shall be most grateful for your consideration of my proposal.

Sincerely yours,

RAYMOND L. CRISP, Ph.D.
One year ago Nebraska Family Council purchased a home on 11th & E for establishing our offices and to be a positive influence in the Everett Neighborhood. We purchased a home that sat vacant for over two years and renovated it.

Just last month we helped sponsor an Everett Neighborhood Festival with the Everett Neighborhood Association and NeighborWorks with an estimated 1,000 individuals in attendance. The prevailing comment during the festival was how the neighborhood is changing and how renovated and neat homes affect the area positively. Sgt. Bassett, from the police force, commented on the positive change in crime in the Everett Neighborhood because the hard criminals do not like order.

Councilwoman Robin Eschliman has introduced an ordinance that would ban indoor furniture from being used outdoors. We believe this is a good ordinance because a cleaner, healthier neighborhood creates a positive environment. We compliment Mayor Beutler’s commitment to Lincoln’s core neighborhoods in partnership with Stronger, Safer Neighborhoods and the Lincoln Police Department. This ordinance enhances the growing sense of pride in our urban communities.

It is our hope that you will pass this ordinance.

Al Riskowski, Executive Director
Karen Bowling, Associate Director
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Serena Reeves
Address: 426 N. 35th Street
City: Lincoln, NE, 68503
Phone: 402-580-5170
Fax:
Email: cleoreeves998@yahoo.com

Comment or Question:
From the Hartley Neighborhood Association

September 16, 2008

Dear City Council,

The Hartley Neighborhood Association supports the change in Section 21.01.185 and Section 21.01.212 of the Lincoln Municipal Code relating to Maintenance of Premises and Inadequate Maintenance to improve the overall appearance of neighborhoods regarding the use of indoor upholstered furniture outdoors. My understanding is that the ordinance would prohibit furniture designed and manufactured for indoor use only from being outdoors. I also understand that the enforcement would be on a complaint-based system only.

I believe that this ordinance change will help to address both the health and safety issues posed by upholstered furniture outdoors and the negative appearance it gives our neighborhoods. This type of furniture was not designed to sit outside where it gets wet (and molds) and attracts bugs, rats and other vermin to live in it. It is in this way that the “couches” affect the health and safety of our neighborhoods.

This is an issue that the Hartley neighborhood Association has tried to deal with on a block by block, neighbor to neighbor issue in the past with little success. It would be great to finally have city support on dealing with this issue.

Sincerely,

Serena Reeves, President
Hartley Neighborhood Association
426 N. 35th Street
Dear Respected Council Members:

I just wanted to throw in my two cents regarding the proposed ban on indoor furniture outside, in the city of Lincoln. I'm against the proposed ban. As Henry Thoreau put it... "government is best which governs least." Thank you for your time, and your service.

Sincerely,

Todd Cuddy
4400 High Street
Lincoln, NE 68506