I. CITY CLERK

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL

PRESENTATIONS
1. Lincoln Area Agency on Aging
2. Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department

MAYOR
*1. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor presents 2008 Award of Excellence to police officer Cynthia Koenig-Warnke.
*2. NEWS RELEASE. Census workers set to canvass community.
*3. NEWS RELEASE. Fair Housing Conference planned for April in Lincoln.
*4. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor will attend the Lincoln Police Department’s media briefing on Thursday, March 26, 2009, 8:45 a.m. at LPD, 575 South 10th Street, to announce how LPD will use federal Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.
*5. NEWS RELEASE. West Stanton to be renamed “Mike Scholl Street” to honor fallen marine.
*7. NEWS RELEASE. Community to receive increased grant funding for public safety.
9. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler will announce City’s workforce initiatives funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at a news conference, Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 1:30 pm, at 555 South 10th Street.
10. NEWS RELEASE. Partnership between City and Attorney General to create sustainability initiative.
11. NEWS RELEASE. Stimulus funds to create jobs for low-income youth.
12. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler will hold a news conference on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 10:00 am at the Center Park Garage to announce efforts to promote biking, physical activity and clean air.
13. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor cuts ribbon for new downtown bike corral.
14. NEWS ADVISORY. Lincoln Emergency Communications Center and local emergency responders will conduct an active shooter exercise Friday, April 3, 2009, 9 am to 1 pm at 3820 N. W. 46th Street.
DIRECTORS:

BUILDING AND SAFETY
*1. Response to Mike Terrell on the removal of campaign signs for Mr. John Haltom.

CITY LIBRARIES
1. Bennett Martin Public Library to host bilingual “Prime Time Family Reading Time” starting on April 4, 2009.
   a) NEWS RELEASE. Prime Time Reading Program Returns to Lincoln.

FINANCE/BUDGET
*1. March sales tax reports reflecting January activity:
   a) Actual compared to projected sales tax collections;
   b) Gross sales tax collections (with refunds added back in), 2003-2004 through 2008-2009;
   c) Sales tax refunds, 2003-2004 through 2008-2009; and

FINANCE/TREASURER

PLANNING
1. The March 2009 Planning Department newsletter has been posted to the planning web page.

PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION
*2. Use Permit No. 105A. Expansion of commercial floor area, No. 84th and Holdrege Streets. Resolution No. PC-01160.

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES
1. Assurity Redevelopment Agreement Memo from Greg MacLean, Public Works & Utilities Director.

III. COUNCIL RFI’S & CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

JONATHAN COOK
*1. Letter from Carolyn and Dave Nelson stating reasons to keep the South Branch Library open.

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN
*1. Letter from Darrel and Isabel Diedrichs, retired, requesting the Bethany Library be kept open. Possibly shorten the hours or open on fewer days.
*2. Letter from Linda Rizbe giving reasons to keep the Bethany Library open, with background of Bethany Library use.
DAN MARVIN
1. The Arbor Day Foundation Recognizes 147 Utilities with Tree Line USA Honors. Lincoln Electric System honored.

KEN SVOBODA
*1. Letter from Barb requesting fund be provided for the Lincoln Municipal Bank and the Arts Programs. Attending the Municipal Band concerts since 1993, which are enjoyable for young and old alike.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL
*1. Email from Melissa M. Mosier. Concerned with the possible closing of two Lincoln City Library branches. Consider all alternatives such as community members willing to staff the branches as volunteers.
*2. Email from Mark Terrell on Dr. John’s campaign signs. (Refer to reply under Building and Safety)
*3. Email from Ardiss Cederholm. Do not cut funding to the Lincoln Arts Council, including the Lincoln Municipal Band which is largely attended and supported by the community.
*4. Letter to Council on dangerous driving situations at some drive-in restaurants in Lincoln. (Each Council member received individual letter)
5. Email from Wanda F. Maier. City Police set speed trap which has nothing to do with safety.
6. Correspondence from Pat Tetreault. Do not close the Bethany and South Street Libraries and pools. Impacts people with the least the most and also impacts quality of life and neighborhoods.
7. Email from Janeen Ward. Do keep the South Branch Library open. Libraries are important to vibrant communities.
8. Email from Michael Loll listing reasons to keep the Bethany Library open. Interesting we can spend millions on a new jail and on researching a downtown convention center but think of closing community libraries.
9. Memo from Jeff Klintberg. Support the Lincoln Municipal Band funding, or if possible increase funding.
10. Email from James L. Ferguson. All citizens should return to and share the principles of our nation’s foundation.
11. Email from Josh Hayes. Do not tear down Bethany Library. Used frequently and if destroyed would affect everyone in the City.
12. Email from Ben Ferguson. Return to many of our nation’s principles which have been forgotten, ignored, or dismissed.
14. Letter from Carol Zanetti. Please find a way not to close the South Branch and Bethany Libraries. With families feeling the economic crunch the South Branch serves a diverse segment of our community. (Each Council member received individual letter on April 2, 2009)

V. ADJOURNMENT

* Held Over from 03/30/09
DATE: March 31, 2009  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Chris Beutler will announce the City's workforce initiatives to be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment (stimulus) Act at a news conference at **1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 1** in the **Mayor's Conference Room, 555 S. 10th St.**
Mayor Chris Beutler and Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced a partnership that will create the Cleaner Greener Lincoln Initiative. The Attorney General's Office is providing $50,000 from a lawsuit settlement to launch the initiative. The City also will use about $2.4 million in stimulus funds to support the effort. Those funds are available through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.

“The Cleaner Greener Lincoln Initiative is a comprehensive effort to make Lincoln government more energy efficient, save taxpayer dollars and leave our children with blue skies and a healthy, green landscape,” Beutler said. “The combination of these funding sources gives us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to implement a sustainability program that provides for our community's environmental needs while encouraging job growth.”

“I'm pleased to partner with Mayor Beutler and the City of Lincoln to help develop and implement environmental programs,” said Bruning. “This important effort is good for the environment, good for Lincoln and good for Nebraska.”

The Mayor has chosen Milo Mumgaard, a public interest attorney, to start the new initiative. Mumgaard also will take on Denise Pearce's duties as a Senior Policy Aide during her extended maternity leave. Mumgaard was the founding Executive Director of the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest. Mumgaard most recently served as the Midwest Regional Director for State Operations for Common Cause, and prior to that as an associate general counsel for the national AFL-CIO. The Lincoln native has a law degree from the New York University School of Law, and was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“I look forward to helping build upon the great work toward sustainability already launched by Mayor Beutler and City government and the partnerships among business, industry, government and the nonprofit sectors,” Mumgaard said. “I'm anxious to get going.”

- more -
Goals of the Cleaner Greener Lincoln Initiative will include:

- Implementation of a landfill gas and recovery program to turn pollution into an energy solution.
- Exploration of alternate fuel solutions to substitute for the over one million gallons of gas the City burns annually in order to clean the air and save taxpayer dollars.
- Growing the City's recycling program to reduce the need for future landfill space.
- Expansion of energy audits of local government buildings to reduce energy waste and preserve tax dollars for other uses.
- Creation of new opportunities for walking and biking to support our fellow citizens who want to use green modes of transportation, and improve their health at the same time.
- Promotion of positive incentives for local businesses to embrace energy efficiency.
- Removal of the City government impediments to green building and encourage LEED standard buildings.
Mayor Chris Beutler today announced that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will provide $408,803 for a summer jobs program for low-income youth ages 14 to 24. SummerWorks will fund about 200 jobs with the City of Lincoln and other public and nonprofit agencies in Lancaster and Saunders counties.

“The nationwide unemployment rate for 16- to 24-year olds not attending school is 70 percent,” said Mayor Beutler. “This is a great opportunity for young people to gain experience at meaningful jobs and to increase their income. It also helps the City get summer work done during a tough budget year.”

Applicants must meet eligibility requirements for the jobs, which will last from May through September. The application is available online on the City Web site, lincoln.ne.gov – click on “employment” then Summer Youth Employment Application. For more information, call 441-4922.

The federal workforce stimulus also is providing the City of Lincoln with about $516,000 more in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds. Some of this money will be used to cover tuition and books for those training for a first career or re-training for a new career.

“Our local economy continues to fare better than the national economy, but we also have experienced many layoffs, and many families are struggling,” Beutler said. “These funds will be used quickly and effectively to assist those most impacted by the recession.”

More information on these WIA funds is available by calling 441-7111.
DATE: April 1, 2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Chris Beutler will announce several efforts to promote biking, physical activity and clean air at a news conference at **10 a.m. Thursday, April 2** at **Center Park Garage downtown.** We will meet on the west side of 12th, about half a block north of “N” St.
MAYOR CUTS RIBBON FOR NEW DOWNTOWN BIKE CORRAL

Several events coming up to promote biking and physical activity

Mayor Chris Beutler today cut the ribbon for the City's first bike corral, a secure long-term parking facility, in downtown Lincoln. The corral is on the 12th Street side of Center Park Garage and has room for more than 40 bicycles. The need for such a facility was identified by a 2004 survey conducted by the Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force.

“Residents indicated they would be more likely to bike to work if they could lock up their bikes in a secure place close to work and out of the weather,” Mayor Beutler said. “Encouraging more people to bike instead of drive promotes a healthier, less congested and cleaner city. I want to thank the public and private interests that worked together to introduce this new concept to the community.”

The project was an effort of the Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) and the City departments of Planning, Public Works, Health, and Urban Development. A portion of the funding was provided as a result of a supplemental environmental project with NEBCO, Inc. The corral makes use of space in the garage that was otherwise unusable. A small monthly fee will be charged for bike parking. There will be no charge for those who currently pay for monthly vehicle parking and choose to ride a bike periodically.

The Mayor also announced upcoming events to promote bicycling, physical activity and cleaner air:

- **“Green Wheels Week”** April 20 through 24 is sponsored by the Nebraska League of Conservation Voters as part of its Earth Week observance. (Contact Julie Diegel, 613-8519)
- April 22 is the **Nebraska Safe Routes Spring Bike and Walk to School Day.** (Contact Kelly Morgan, 476-7331)
- Local Kiwanis Clubs are sponsoring 20 **Bike Rodeos** in May at elementary schools across the City. (Contact Loren Isom, 438-0459)
- May 11 through 15 is **National Bike to Work Week**, and Friday, May 15 is **National Bike to Work Day.** (Contact Mike Heyl, 441-3889)
- Lincoln's first **Biketacular** event is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 30 at McPhee Elementary School. (Contact June Griffin, 613-2304)
- Sunday June 28 is the sixth annual **“Trail Trek”** celebration of Lincoln's trail system led by GPTN and the **Lincoln Journal Star.** (Contact Jim Carveth, 488-2101)
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Emergency Communications/911, 575 S.10th St., Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7005, fax 476-0528

DATE: April 2, 2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Julie Righter, 911 Communications Manager, 441-7252

The Lincoln Emergency Communications Center and local emergency responders will conduct an active shooter exercise from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 3 at 3820 N.W. 46th. Media are invited to attend from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The exercise will take place in a vacant building owned by the Lincoln Airport Authority, which will be set up as a school. The exercise will be based on an active school shooting scenario with multiple simulated victims.

This exercise will provide the media the opportunity to inform the community about the capabilities of the Nebraska Telecommunicator Emergency Response Team (NE-TERT). The NE-TERT team was recently formed with funding from a Department of Homeland Security grant and includes more than 20 dispatchers from across the state.

In addition to NE-TERT members, the exercise will include the Lincoln Police Department, Lincoln Fire and Rescue, the University of Nebraska Police Department, the Southeast Rural Fire Department, Lancaster County Emergency Management and the City Radio Shop.

This exercise is being held on the final day of a five-day course designed to provide hands on exposure to incident command and communications unit functions during major events with an emphasis on interoperability and radio control.
CONGRESS

Budget matters continue to top congressional agenda. Committees in both the House and Senate considered budget resolutions this week (see related story below), as Members look to get through one more week of work before a two-week congressional recess.

Congress also managed to finally approve a massive public lands bill (HR 146) that has been the subject of parliamentary maneuvering since January. The bill is a compilation of over 150 separate bills that create new wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, historic sites, scenic trails, and other protected lands. While virtually all of the bills were approved by the House in 2007 or 2008, their passage in the Senate had been held up by Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK), who objected to them for a variety of reasons and prevented them from becoming law. Sponsors of the omnibus bill were finally able to exhaust the parliamentary obstacles to passage and it was overwhelmingly approved in both chambers and sent to the President.

The Senate is expected to consider the budget resolution all next week. In addition to the budget resolution and national service bills, the House may also take up a measure (HR 1256) to allow the federal Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco products.

BUDGET

House and Senate panels approve FY 2010 budget blueprints. The House and Senate Budget Committees each approved a version of a FY 2010 budget resolution this week, formally setting in motion the FY 2010 budget process. The Obama Administration had presented Congress with an outline of its FY 2010 budget last month, but details will not be forthcoming until April.

The resolutions split approximately $3.5 trillion in FY 2010 discretionary and mandatory spending into broad-based categories that cover multiple agencies, which congressional appropriators then split among the 12 appropriations subcommittees with various federal agencies under their jurisdiction. While some budget resolutions recommend spending for specific programs, they are only suggestions that are not enforceable. Only the bottom line on overall spending is enforced.
The budget resolution sets broad outlines on spending and tax measures under which the spending and tax-writing committees must operate when considering FY 2009 funding for specific programs and tax legislation. The most significant debate of the budget resolution is expected to be whether it allows for the use of a somewhat arcane process known as “reconciliation” for considering major health care, energy, and education programs – all Obama Administration priorities for the year. Most importantly, when an issue is considered under reconciliation, Senate filibusters are prohibited, which would remove the most significant barrier – securing 60 votes to end filibusters -- Senate Democrats face in moving legislation through that chamber.

However, the use of reconciliation is not without risks, as it is often seen as an affront to the Senate tradition of granting significant powers to the minority. Perhaps forgetting that reconciliation was last used to gain approval of Bush Administration tax cuts in 2001 and 2003, Republicans have been complaining loudly that using reconciliation for Obama priorities would be disastrous and in direct opposition to the President’s pledge of bipartisanship. In fact, a number of Senate Democrats have expressed reservations about using reconciliation as well.

The House Budget Committee resolution that was approved this week on a party-line vote includes reconciliation instructions, while its Senate counterpart – also approved on a party-line vote – does not. However, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has indicated that reconciliation is not off the table, and that it could end up in the final version of the budget resolution that comes from a House-Senate conference committee.

The budget resolution – which does not require Presidential approval – is statutorily required to be approved by April 15, but it has been many years since Congress met that deadline. Both the House and Senate are expected to debate their respective versions on the floor next week with a goal of having a conference report ready for congressional approval following the Spring District Work Period, April 4 though 20.

**TRANSPORTATION**

LaHood grilled by Senate committee; DOT amends NEPA guidelines.

Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee this week on the upcoming reauthorization of national surface transportation laws. The current law expires on September 30.

During the hearing, LaHood reiterated the opposition of the Obama Administration to any proposal to raise the federal excise tax on gasoline sales, which is currently the major source of revenue for the Highway Trust Fund. Several committee members took exception to LaHood’s remarks, insisting that a revenue increase may be necessary to pay for the Administration’s “wish list” for the transportation bill. Most Senators on the panel agreed that the infrastructure needs were so great that no option should be taken off the table at this time. EPW Chair Barbara Boxer (D-CA) has expressed her own discomfort with raising the gas tax in these difficult economic times, but has suggested at a minimum indexing the tax to inflation.

LaHood also informed the EPW Committee members that the Department of Transportation has completed its draft of key principles for transportation reauthorization, and forwarded them to the White House for review. LaHood did not indicate an overall figure for the new measure, but EPW Ranking Member James Inhofe (R-OK) indicated that the new measure would need to authorize between $400 billion and $500 billion to accomplish necessary improvements and maintenance in the transportation sector nationwide.

Meanwhile, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a joint rule this week, which will take effect on April 23, that amends federal environmental review procedures for highway and transit projects. Specifically, the new rule amends the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures for both road and transit projects, with the intent of bringing the regulations in both agencies in line with SAFETEA-LU.

The new rule creates several new types of categorical exclusions, as prescribed by SAFETEA-LU. These exclusions eliminate the necessity of an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA) for specific types of projects. An EIS or an EA is typically required under NEPA. Some examples of these exclusions include intelligent transportation infrastructure or intelligent transportation systems, traffic control and detector devices, and systems associated with collecting tolls and monitoring carpool lanes.

However, the rule does not address congestion pricing and converting high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes into high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes, indicating that additional changes to NEPA regulations may come in a future rulemaking. The rule can be found at: [http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-6144.pdf](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-6144.pdf)

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

House Judiciary Committee approves community policing authorization bill

On Wednesday, the House Judiciary Committee voted 17-7 to approve the “COPS Improvements Act of 2009” (HR 1139). The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant program provides grants to state, local and tribal governments to hire additional law enforcement officers and prosecutors.

HR 1139 would authorize $1.8 billion for each fiscal year from FY 2009 through FY 2014 and expand eligibility for COPS grants to include the awarding of grants to pay or train officers hired to perform intelligence, anti-terror, or homeland security duties. In addition, the bill would create a Community Prosecutors Program which would address counter-terrorism, violent crime, and localized violent crime problems.

HR 1139 would also provide grant awards to hire school resource officers and to establish a school-based partnership with a local law enforcement agency to combat crime, gangs, drug
For funds distributed by formula that federal employees think a grantee may spend on a project that is “imprudent” or does not meet the goals of ARRA, the memorandum requires federal agencies to immediately consult with the White House Office of Management and Budget about the project and how to proceed. The memorandum instructs federal agencies to withhold distribution of formula stimulus funds for suspect projects for up to 30 days to allow more public scrutiny.

In cases, where a federal employee or agency believes that a grantee is using formula funds on a project that ARRA specifically prohibits from receiving funding (casino, gambling establishment, aquarium, zoo, golf course or swimming pool), the memorandum instructs the employee or agency to immediately contact the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board and to “take appropriate corrective action.”

The memorandum’s directives on federal employees and agency contact with registered lobbyists include:

- Prohibiting federal employees from speaking with registered lobbyists about a specific project to be funded with ARRA funds.
- Dictating that having federal employees ask every person they speak with about a specific ARRA-funded project whether they are a registered lobbyist.
- Requiring all federal employees to document in writing every conversation they have with a registered lobbyist about general ARRA issues.

For funds distributed by formula that

memorandum may set a precedent that will lead to severe limits on their future ability to contact federal agencies on any matter, including detailed and technical ones, thereby limiting the amount of information available to federal officials when they are making policy decisions.

**STIMULUS WATCH**

Weekly update on stimulus activities. New information released this week regarding available funding through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA).

**Department of Energy**

State and local formula allocations for the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant program:

http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/grantalloc.html

DOE also released a special report titled “The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at the Department of Energy”:


**Department of Health and Human Services**

HHS announced the release of $338 million to expand services offered at the nation’s community health centers:


**Department of Housing and Urban Development**

HUD announced $2.985 billion in Capital Funds to public housing authorities participating in the public housing program:


**Department of Justice**

Applications for the Research and Evaluation of Recovery Act State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance program:


**Department of Labor**

Senior Community Service Employment Program allocations:

http://www dol gov/opa/media/press/eta ETA20090293.htm

activities and other problems around schools. COPS also would be expanded to award grants for the establishment and implementation of innovative drug reduction programs that reduce and prevent illegal drug manufacturing, distribution, and use as well as to establish criminal gang enforcement task forces. In addition, grants would be available for a new Troops-to-Cops program that would help with the transition from the Armed Forces to a career in law enforcement.

The committee-approved measure would also authorize $350 million a year for law enforcement agencies to acquire or upgrade technology and equipment as well as training funds.

The Judiciary Committee rejected an amendment that would have decreased funding back to the previous bill’s level of $1.15 billion. During the 110th Congress the House passed a similar reauthorization with bipartisan support, but several Republicans opposed the legislation because of the increased cost.

HR 1139 currently has 45 cosponsors. A companion bill (S 167) in the Senate has been referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**STIMULUS & LOBBYING**

Obama issues guidance memorandum limiting agency contact with lobbyists. President Obama issued a guidance memorandum to all federal agencies designed to ensure responsible spending of all funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

The memorandum includes a number of directives for federal employees and agencies distributing ARRA funds, most notably one that bars federal employees from speaking with registered lobbyists about specific projects and another that requires federal employees to document in writing the details of any conversation they have with a registered lobbyist about general ARRA policy.

The memorandum directs all federal agencies to distribute discretionary funding using transparent, merit-based selection criteria to projects that meet the goals of ARRA: delivering pragmatic results, achieving economic stimulus, and achieving long-term public benefits.
Department of Transportation

Environmental Protection Agency
National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program:

GRANTS & NOTICES
Department of Justice
The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office is accepting applications for the 2009 COPS Secure Our Schools (SOS) Program. This discretionary grant program provides funding to local governments for security measures such as the placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures; security assessments; security training of personnel and students, and coordination with local law enforcement. The COPS Office anticipates distributing 160 awards for a total of $16 million. Grantees are required to contribute a local cash match of 50 percent toward the total cost of the approved grant project during the two year grant award period. The deadline for applications is May 8, 2009.

Health and Human Services
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for the Offender Reentry Program. The purpose of this program is to expand and/or enhance substance abuse treatment and related recovery and reentry services to sentenced juvenile and adult offenders returning to the community from incarceration for criminal offenses. SAMHSA is expected to distribute $8.2 million through 21 awards. The deadline for applications is May 21, 2009.
Lincoln City Libraries' Bennett Martin Public Library will host bilingual "Prime Time Family Reading Time." This Nebraska Humanities Council family literacy program is designed to help strengthen participants' interest and skills in reading with opportunities for Spanish and English speaking parents and their children. Program starts April 4th. See attached for details.

Barbara Hansen
Administrative Aide
Lincoln City Libraries
402-441-8512
Did you know that many of our branch libraries are now open from 12 to 8 p.m. on Sundays? Call me for details.

- Prime Time Reading Program Returns.pdf
PRIME TIME READING PROGRAM RETURNS TO LINCOLN

Prime Time Family Reading Time, a Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) family literacy program designed to help strengthen participants’ interest and skills in reading, will return to Lincoln with opportunities for Spanish- and English-speaking parents and their children.

Lincoln City Libraries’ Bennett Martin Public Library will host the bilingual series on six consecutive Saturday afternoons from April 4 through May 9. Each program begins with a light meal and continues with storytelling and discussion based on award-winning children’s books. The program is free and open to the public, but there is a waiting list to participate.

The six-week series is offered to families with children ages six to ten. It includes sessions on fairness, dreams, ingenuity, greed and curiosity. All books are read and discussed in both English and Spanish.

Discussion leader Joel Gajardo and storyteller Ricardo Garcia will introduce parents to the benefits and pleasures of reading and discussing stories with their children. Families will also learn about library resources and services. Separate pre-reading activities will be available for younger siblings.

“It’s so important for children to learn the joys of reading early in life, especially when it involves reading and discussing books with their families,” said NHC Senior Program Officer Erika Hamilton, state coordinator of Prime Time. “A love for learning through reading has a positive impact on how well a child does in school.”

In a 2008 survey of Nebraska families who participated in Prime Time, 87 percent indicated that the program changed the way they read and discuss books together, 68 percent improved their attitude toward the library, and 98 percent showed interest in participating again in Prime Time or similar family reading and educational programs.

Initially developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, 48 bilingual and English-only Prime Time series have been held in 15 Nebraska libraries, five schools and one community center in the last five years, including programs in Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, South Sioux City, Norfolk and Scottsbluff. This will be Lincoln’s seventh bilingual Prime Time.

Prime Time is sponsored in Nebraska by the NHC with major funding from the State of Nebraska, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and Nebraska Library Commission. Primary sponsors and funders for Prime Time in Lincoln include Lincoln City Libraries, Everett Elementary School and Karen Colleran. The NHC is a private, statewide, non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, contact Janine Copple at (402) 435-5612.

# # #
From: Michele M. Abendroth  
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 3:58 PM  
Subject: Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department Newsletter

The **March 2009 Planning Department newsletter** has been posted to our web page. The file is in pdf format and may be accessed at lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/news/index.htm.

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter or would like to speak to Planning staff, please feel free to call the Planning Department at 441-7491.

**Michele Abendroth**  
Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department  
555 South 10th Street, Suite 213  
Lincoln, NE  68508  
402-441-6164

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MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
CC: Dave Landis, Director, Urban Development
From: Greg MacLean, Director, Public Works & Utilities
Date: April 1, 2009
Subject: Assurity Redevelopment Agreement

The proposed Agreement represents an important anchor project in the heart of our investments in Antelope Valley. This Department is grateful for the close working relationship that exists with the Assurity Design Team and Urban Development in bringing this project forward.

Unique to this project is the need to coordinate design and project implementation with the Antelope Valley, 19th Street, ‘Q’ to Vine Street construction project. Numerous issues have been resolved through the design and redevelopment negotiations involving stormwater, flood plain, utilities, access, parking and traffic engineering.

New challenges will occur with the construction of the private and public facilities in this area. The work that represented in this Agreement sets the stage for a positive partnership as we advance to construction.

Public Works & Utilities recommends approval of the Agreement.
The Arbor Day Foundation Recognizes 147 Utilities With Tree Line USA Honors

More than 78 million Americans enjoy the beauty and benefits of urban trees that are owned and protected by Tree Line USA utilities.

This year, the Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters, is recognizing 147 utility companies with Tree Line USA designation for 2009.

Utility companies earn Tree Line USA recognition by meeting three requirements: a program of quality tree care, annual worker training in tree care practices, and a tree planting and public education program.

Tree Line USA utilities bring their communities many environmental and economic benefits, including reducing energy costs and beautifying public spaces.

Tree Line USA utilities include utilities in every state and territory in the United States. They benefit from the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree Line USA program because trees are essential to America’s communities — utilities, cities, and towns — and bring their communities together.

John Roseman, chief executive officer of the Arbor Foundation, said, "The Arbor Day Foundation is proud to recognize so many Tree Line USA utility companies who realize that trees play an important role in the overall health, safety, and beauty of our homes and communities."

The Tree Line USA program includes both investor-owned and public utilities of all sizes, ranging from those serving thousands of homes to single-family communities to those serving millions across several states. These companies have demonstrated a creative commitment to public health, tree planting, and quality tree care.

For example, one Tree Line USA utility supports an energy conservation program to help homeowners reduce heating and cooling costs through sensible plantings. Another utility revises an urban oasis residents to workshops on proven planting techniques and tree planting basics.

Several Tree Line USA companies put special emphasis on plants to utilities friendly trees near lines and help keep trees planted away from lines.

"Exemplary tree care remains at the forefront of health communities and company programs as demonstrated by the success and growth of the Tree Line USA program and the utility companies involved," Roseman said.

Proper tree care plays an important part in a utility’s ability to provide reliable service. Utilities that preserve community trees while providing reliable service achieve long-term operational savings and help keep trees live on tree lines.

More information on the Tree Line USA Program and the Tree and Utility National Conference is available by calling the Arbor Day Foundation at 888-4-植樹 or visiting arbor.org.
Please consider that the Lincoln City Police have set up a speed trap on Van Dorn and 79th and it has nothing to do with safety. They pulled me over, using a radar gun stated I was going 45 in a 35 mph zone. Two policeman, a woman in one car and a man in another car sitting near the corner off of Van Dorn, around noon today, just racking them in. I was 'waved' over by the female cop, and talked to by the male cop. There was another car parked in front of my car, and before they were done with me had 'waved over ' two more cars. Ticket: 25.00, court cost 44.00 or take the safety class for 75.00 and it won't go on your license. All this in a 10 minute period. this is nothing more than extortion. The police have nothing better to do than this? The public is getting tired, sick to death of government bureaucracy. This is just harassment. Wanda F. Maier
Dear City Officials,

I am writing to ask you to reconsider the closing of Bethany and South Libraries and pools. I do understand the financial issues but closing services impacts those with the least the most and impacts the quality of life and neighborhoods. In addition, cutting jobs, while it cuts costs in the short-term, ends up in a spiral downward of more people needing services and assistance, less money to spend, fewer people paying taxes and fewer people purchasing goods in an economy based on consumption.

Pat Tetreault
6501 X Street
Lincoln, NE  68505

"The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness."  Barack Hussein Obama

http://www.peacejam.org/humanrights.htm
Council Members,

As a kindergarten teacher, and a resident of the Near South neighborhood, I want you to consider keeping the South Branch Library open.

Libraries are important to vibrant communities. South Branch Library has a high amount of foot traffic, and patrons would have to travel far to another library. In tough economic times, people turn to libraries for information and entertainment. With the expansion and revitalization efforts of the core neighborhoods of Lincoln, I hope you will keep in mind preserving South Branch Library.

Janeen Ward
1727 Garfield Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
Dear Council,

I would like to voice my opinion regarding the closing of Bethany Library for financial reasons.

We live in the area (70th and O) and visit often. It is close enough to us that my wife will often walk with the kids to the library to check out books. Without this library, the closest one will be Gere which at 56 and Van Dorn is not within easy walking distance.

Although Gere is a wonderful library, it is often nice to have a small library to visit. We have three boys ages 3 to 8 and they like to go their own directions. Bethany Library is small enough that we can let them explore themselves yet still keep an eye on them.

I find it interesting that we can spend millions of dollars on a new jail (some research suggests that we are OVER spending by millions as well), spend millions of dollars researching a downtown convention center which is only on temporary hold, and offer large tax incentives to business to relocate within the city, but yet we cannot find the relatively small amount of money needed to operate a neighborhood library. I would think that just the mistakes we made on city fire trucks alone would pay for the operation of this library.

The community helped to build this library and now the city wants to close it. I would submit that communities will be less likely to help in the future if their efforts are dismissed when financial times get a little tough.

I would recommend that the council look at areas where government has become too top heavy and begin cut backs or freezes there. Just like many corporations, we have to many highly paid administrative officials whose jobs overlap or are simply unneeded.

The library was built because there was a need to provide educational materials to a geographical group. If we close this library, are we sending the message that this need no longer exists?

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Michael Loll

Feeling the pinch at the grocery store? Make meals for under $10.
While You Were Out

Jeff Kinsberg

Please support the Lincoln Municipal Bands. Funding is possible. Increase it!
Dear Councilman,

On January 13, 2009, a member of the Northwest Lincoln church of Christ sent you a letter along with a DVD titled, "The Silencing of God". I would like to take a moment to ask you to please watch this invaluable DVD if you have not already.

As an informed citizen, I share your concern for our nation and its well being. Many principles of our nation’s foundation have been forgotten, ignored, or dismissed. These are principles that led our forefathers to construct the greatest nation in history. I strongly believe that all citizens and especially the leaders of Lincoln should return to and share these principles if we are to continue to have a functional and prosperous government.

Please seriously consider how important our founding father’s principles are to you and devote some time to understanding what they believed. A little bit of your time now can go a long way for the future of Lincoln.

Thank you for your dedication to making Lincoln a great city. The sacrifices you make are noticed and appreciated.

Sincerely, James L. Ferguson
I used this library frequently when I was younger, unless the city is in need for emergency funds it shouldn't tear down any libraries. Libraries keep children away from vandalism, or misbehaving due to a lack of entertainment. Helps many children continue to learn how to read as well as continue to read. Tearing down a library is like destroying an opportunity for higher learning. Children more now than ever need libraries to get them away from televisions, increase vocab, reading comprehension, learn more of the world. If you're fine with destroying that, then you're fine with destroying opportunities for your children, grandchildren, their friends, future coworkers, anyone you or your family may encounter. Lincoln may not be a very small town, but it's small enough to affect everyone. Please take that information into the upmost consideration before you tear down a library.

UNL college student
Dear Councilman,

On January 13, 2009, a member of the Northwest Lincoln church of Christ sent you a letter along with a DVD titled, "The Silencing of God". I would like to take a moment to ask you to watch this invaluable DVD if you have not already. I realize that a leader's work is never done and that you may often be short on time. If that is true for you, it would be worth at least looking at the 2nd session on the DVD. I found all of the information presented to be of great value, but the 2nd session would be sufficient.

As an informed citizen, I share your concern for our nation and its well being. Many principles of our nation’s foundation have been forgotten, ignored, or dismissed. These are principles that led our forefathers to construct the greatest nation in history. I strongly believe that all citizens and especially the leaders of Lincoln should return to and share these principles if we are to continue to have a functional and prosperous government.

Please seriously consider how important our founding father’s principles are to you and devote some time to understanding what they believed. A little bit of your time now can go a long way for the future of Lincoln.

Thank you for your dedication to making Lincoln a great city. The sacrifices you make are noticed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ben Ferguson
Duncan Aviation - Information Technology
402-479-4198

He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.—King Solomon
March 31, 2009

Jack Mulligan
SWT Energy, Inc.
8800 S 55th St.
Lincoln, NE 68516
Cell: (402) 521-0006

Ms. Robin Eschliman
Lincoln City Council
555 S 10 St.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Councilwoman Eschliman,

I do marketing for SWT Energy, which is a Lincoln company that makes, sells and installs solar and wind applications for energy production. Particularly, I thought you might be interested in looking at some of our systems for both short and long term energy cost reductions for city facilities.

Wind gets all the attention, mostly because of some state and national political considerations, but reality is that solar applications have a far better pay-off, especially hot water systems (solar-liquid thermal). Fire stations, which are basically small dormitories, may be able to make great use of solar water heating, as would pools. And, these systems can also be used for adjunct building heat.

While the state publicizes its’ rank of sixth best wind potential in the US, most Nebraskans are unaware the state is rated ninth best in solar potential.

Photovoltaic installations (electricity generation) surpass wind, as the maintenance issues inherent in wind-turbines, as well as the sighting issues—roof top mountings and residential lot sights are not realistic— are naturally turning people toward PV: But PV is still expensive, and you would need a grant to reduce the costs to where you would match or exceed the 30% federal credit businesses and home-owners have to encourage installation.

However, you may want to look at this since fossil-fuel electricity will rise, possibly radically, over the near and distant future. LES will not be able to cut benefits, lay-off workers, or defer expenses for many more years, then rate increases like those originally requested this past year will get passed.

Photos 1 and 2 on the next page are of a home here in Lincoln where we completed installation last month of a 3.5 kW PV system. The panels’ productivity is guaranteed for twenty-five years, but no one really knows the true productivity horizon because there is nothing in the system that is susceptible to critical failure (mountings rated for 120 mph winds).

Photos 3 and 4 are examples of the longevity of solar thermal (air or liquid) systems. These are both homes in the area that have nearly thirty-year-old solar liquid systems. They came to us to update controls and replace old parts. These systems continue to be productive well past any payback consideration.

Photos 5 shows the coil system installed in the forced air venting for home heating by hot water, and 6 gives you an idea how little space extra water storage and system controls take up.

Solar air systems, as seen in photo 8, are for space heating. This photo is of a commercial building by Princeton, Nebraska that is utilizing solar air heat by running it through a radiant-heating design in the floor. They are partnering this up with PV track racks, photo 7, which track the sun during the day and, thus, produce 25% more electricity.

We are in the process of testing a vertical axis turbine, photo 9, that has some big brothers, and we have a standard horizontal axis turbine on a maintenance-friendly hydraulic tower coming in for Northeast Community College next month. We have researched and dealt with many turbine companies and wind is the most problematic energy source, personal or utility scale.

Solar technology and products are simple, proven, and by far, require the least maintenance or repair.
SWT's owner, Randy Schantell, received a degree in Architecture from UNL, has years of building experience, and an energy analysis background from his time as an energy auditor for the Nebraska Energy Office.

His knowledge of energy systems, his design abilities, and his background in construction combine to give SWT the edge in bringing these free-fuel concepts to you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack Mulligan
Dear Ms. Eschliman,

When I moved to Lincoln from Seattle seven years ago to help my son and his wife with their new family, one of the first things I looked for was the branch of the City Library in my neighborhood. Little did I know that, only one year later, I would be forced to leave my new position at the Lincoln Police Department due to a neurological disability, and would come to rely on this wonderful resource even more.

While I commend the larger library branches for the services and resources they offer, I found the smaller South Branch Library much more accessible to my needs: it’s quieter (very important to my condition), close to home, and has everything the larger branches offer and anything I need. And whenever South Branch doesn’t have what I am looking for, I simply “reserve” it from another branch and pick it up there. I use this service quite frequently.

I have come to love South Branch Library, not only for my own needs, but as a smaller and more comfortable and convenient place to take my now 6- and 3-year old granddaughters. South Branch Library staff members always greet me by name, and are happy to go above and beyond whatever request I have, from placing a “hold” to ordering a new book or CD.

Please find some way not to close the South Branch and Bethany branches of the Library. South Branch especially serves a lower-income and culturally diverse segment of our community. It’s a very difficult time financially for everyone these days, but families especially are feeling the crunch. Speaking for my own family, we use South Branch Library many times each week. We simply would not use the City Library system as often if we were forced to use other branches.

Thank you,

Carol Zanetti
3517 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

Home: (402) 488-0105
Cell: (402) 570-8790
Email: czanetti@neb.rr.com

cc: City of Lincoln Mayor and Members of the City Council
ADDENDUM
TO
DIRECTORS’ AGENDA
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009

I. CITY CLERK - None

II. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MAYOR & DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL -

MAYOR -

1. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler’s Public Schedule Week of April 4 through April 10, 2009 - Schedule subject to change.

2. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Mayor’s Statement On NSAA Decision To Move State Volleyball.

3. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Beutler and the University of Nebraska Athletic Department will announce plans for the Fourth of July weekend at a News Conference at 11:00 a.m. TODAY, 04/06/09 at Level 6 of West Memorial Stadium.

DIRECTORS - None

III. COUNCIL RFI’S & CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS - None

IV. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS TO COUNCIL - None
DATE: April 3,  2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Beutler's Public Schedule
Week of April 4 through April 10, 2009
Schedule subject to change

Monday, April 6
- City-County Common meeting - 8:30 a.m., County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St., room 113
- Face the Chamber with U.S. Senator Mike Johanns - noon, Country Club of Lincoln, 3200 S. 24th St.

Tuesday, April 7
- KLIN - 8:10 a.m., Broadcast House, 4343 “O” St.

Thursday, April 9
- KFOR Morning Show - 7:45 a.m.
- Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture Series: Kenneth M. Price, “The Making and Remaking of Walt Whitman in a Digital Age” - 3:30 p.m., Nebraska Union, 14th and “R” streets
- Lincoln Barristers Association meeting, dinner and program - 5 p.m., Nebraska Club, 233 S. 13th St., Suite 2000
“This has been a good news - bad news kind of day for Lincoln. We started with news that Forbes Magazine named Lincoln as the top metropolitan area in the Midwest for business and careers. Our national ranking has gone from 18th last year to 5th this year.

“Then early this afternoon, we received word that our State Volleyball tournament, which has been in Lincoln for nearly three decades will be going to Grand Island for the 2010 and 2011 seasons. One NSAA Board Member cited Lincoln's lack of movement toward a new arena as a factor.

“Of course we are disappointed in the NSAA's decision. But more than that, this decision should strengthen this community's resolve to make the West Haymarket project a reality.

“Today's action makes it crystal clear that every year we wait, we cost the community millions of dollars in revenue – revenue that we can use to keep our community strong and position us for future success.

“Our reasons for postponing the planned spring vote on the arena were sound. It was and is more prudent to wait until the national economy turns around. It is in our best interest to wait until ISG is able to make a decision on partnering with us on the project.

“At the same time, Lincoln has continued to move forward on planning for the West Haymarket Project. Today's NSAA decision underscores the importance of those efforts. Lincoln Nebraska needs a new arena to replace Pershing. We are in the best position of any City in the Midwest to take on a project of this scope. We must take action as soon as it becomes economically feasible. And we need community support to make that happen.”
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

DATE: April 6, 2009
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Chris Beutler and the University of Nebraska Athletic Department will announce plans for the Fourth of July weekend at a news conference at 11 a.m. TODAY, Monday, April 6 at Level 6 of West Memorial Stadium. Media can park in the West Stadium parking garage and enter through the West Stadium press box (central) doors.