I. CITY CLERK

II. MAYOR
   1. NEWS RELEASE. 911 Center recognized for child protection efforts.
   2. NEWS RELEASE. Open House planned for flood insurance rate maps/study, on Wednesday, September 7, 2011.

III. DIRECTORS

   CITY LIBRARIES
   1. NEWS RELEASE. Storyteller Diane Wolkstein to visit Lincoln City Libraries on Thursday, September 8, 2011.
   2. NEWS RELEASE. Read to a Dog at the Library. A wonderful opportunity for children, ages 6 to 12, who have experienced reading difficulties or who want to practice their reading.

   PLANNING DEPARTMENT
   1. Administrative Amendment No. 11045 approved by the Planning Director on August 26, 2011.

   WEED AUTHORITY

IV. COUNCIL MEMBERS

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CITIZENS
   1. InterLinc correspondence from Dawn Steffen regarding a specific RFP on engineering selection for an intersection project.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Emergency Communications/911, 575 S.10th St, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 31, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Julie Righter, Communications Manager, 402-441-7252

911 CENTER RECOGNIZED FOR CHILD PROTECTION EFFORTS

The Lincoln Emergency Communications Center has been recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) as an NCMEC 911 Call Center Partner. To become a partner, the Center completed training and adopted best practices to be ready to respond to a call reporting a missing, abducted or exploited child. The Center was recognized earlier this month at the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials Conference in Philadelphia.

NCMEC officials said the Lincoln Emergency Communications Center is one of a growing list of professional 911 agencies who have demonstrated a commitment to improving the standard of care for children in across the country. More information on NCMEC is available at www.missingkids.com.

More information on Emergency Communications/911 is available at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: 911).

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PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
Watershed Management, 555 S. 10th St., Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7548, fax 402-441-8609

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 1, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Ben Higgins, Senior Engineer, 402-441-7589

OPEN HOUSE PLANNED FOR
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS, STUDY

The public is invited to an open house on the revised Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Study for Lancaster County and incorporated communities. The open house is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 7 at the Lower Platte South Natural Resource District office, 3125 Portia St., with a presentation beginning at 5:30 p.m.

A representative from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will attend the open house to discuss the revised maps and study. Representatives from the City of Lincoln and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources will also be in attendance.

The majority of the flood map revisions are in Lancaster County communities other than Lincoln. Creeks in and adjacent to Lincoln, including Beal Slough, Cardwell Branch, Stevens Creek, Deadman’s Run and Salt Creek (within the City limits); were revised during the last FEMA floodplain map update in February 2011 and there are no additional changes in these creeks with this latest floodplain map revision.

For more information, contact Ben Higgins with Public Works at 402-441-7589 or visit lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: watershed).
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 31, 2011

CONTACT: Vicki Wood, Youth Services Supervisor, Lincoln City Libraries

EMAIL: v.wood@lincolnlibraries.org

PHONE: 402-441-8565

STORYTELLER DIANE WOLKSTEIN TO VISIT LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

Diane Wolkstein will present an hour of stories from all over the world on Thursday, September 8, 6:30 p.m., Gere Branch Library, 2400 So. 56th Street, Lincoln, Neb. The storytelling is intended for elementary-aged children and their families.

Diane Wolkstein’s worldwide performances, recordings, and 24 award-winning books have helped create and sustain the renaissance of the modern storytelling movement. From amusing children’s tales to epic adventures for adults, Wolkstein has performed and collected stories on five continents. Her lively and illuminating presentations have become as legendary as the annual storytelling performances she has given in New York’s Central Park for the past 30 years.

Her performance at Lincoln City Libraries is part of a Nebraska visit that includes two days of presentations at three LPS high schools (Lincoln Southeast, Lincoln East, and Lincoln High) and a performance at Mahoney State Park for the 10th Annual Moonshell Storytelling Festival on Saturday, September 10th.

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Barbara Hansen
Administrative Aide
Lincoln City Libraries
402-441-8512
Read to a Dog at the Library

Local therapy dog organization, Healing Heart Therapy Dogs, provides a wonderful opportunity for children ages 6 to 12 who have experienced reading difficulties or who just need to practice their reading. Therapy teams are partnered with children who polish their skills by reading aloud to a dog. Children read to dogs in 20-minute shifts, once a week for six weeks. Pre-registration is required.

Beginning the week of September 19, children may read to a dog at the following locations during the noted time periods:

Eiseley Branch Library
1530 Superior Street
Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Gere Branch Library
2400 S. 56th Street
Saturdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
or
Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

South Branch Library
2675 South Street
Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Walt Branch Library
6701 S. 14th Street
Mondays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

To register, please call Marla at 402-450-1081. Sign up early, the schedule fills quickly.

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Barbara Hansen
Administrative Aide
Lincoln City Libraries
402-441-8512
Memorandum

Date: August 30, 2011

To: City Clerk

From: Teresa McKinstry, Planning Dept.

Re: Administrative Amendment approvals

cc: Jean Preister

This is a list of the Administrative Amendments that were approved by the Planning Director from August 23, 2011 thru August 29, 2011:

**Administrative Amendment No. 11045** to Use Permit No. 154D, Wilderness Hills Commercial Center, approved by the Planning Director on August 26, 2011, requested by Olsson Associates, to allow additional uses in the Town Center of the use permit, except those with drive-thru facilities. The land use table was also amended to clarify the allowed uses throughout the center. Property is generally located at S. 27th St. and Yankee Hill Road.
Proposed changes to Weed Abatement and Interlocal Agreement

Lancaster County Weed Control along with Chris Connolly at the City Attorneys office and Brittany Behrens at the County Attorneys office have been working the last few months on some changes to the Weed Abatement Ordinance and the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the County.

The first is the “Notice of Potential Lien” in the Ordinance. Presently when we do a force control the landowner receives a bill and we post it on our website as a possible weed special assessment. http://lincoln.ne.gov/aspx/cnty/weeds/assess.aspx This allows Title Companies to go and check to see if there are any possible assessments against a certain property. The problem is that this does not always happen; some properties are sold between the time we do enforcement and the time it is filed against the property at the Councils December meeting.

The new process follows closely what State Law requires by having us file a “Possible Notice of Unpaid Assessment” with the Register of Deeds office within 5 days of doing the enforcement. This will put a red flag on each property we have enforced on. All title companies check with Register of Deeds, so this will eliminate any properties being sold in that time period without clearing the lien. We will still present the unpaid enforcements to the Council at the December meeting to officially make it a lien against the property, but at least it will the close the 5 to 6 month period loop hole that is there now.

Another positive change is in the interlocal agreement on the mowing of large properties. This will allow large properties to follow more closely what Parks and Recreation are doing in the city parks. It would allow us to not conduct control activities on lots of one acre or more if such lots meet the following conditions:

- Grassy areas are kept free of weeds
- Mowed when vegetation is mature in the fall
- The lot is mowed back no less than 50 feet from streets, residences, or businesses at all times

One other notable change is the “posting” of sites. This will allow the Authority to post the notice in a conspicuous location on the property. This will be a valuable tool in notifying landowners that choose not to pick up their certified mail. It will also be a visible sign to let the neighbors know that something is being done about the problem.

Inspection Activity

It was my understanding that about the time schools started the weed complaints would slow down…. but with all the rain we are still receiving between 20 and 30 complaints a day. This with our regular workload is keeping us very busy.

Our inspectors have completed 4,209 inspections within the City of Lincoln. Weed Abatement accounted for 3,537 inspections and another 672 on Noxious Weeds in the city. We’ve sent 945 legal notices and had to do 239 force controls for a total of $34,199.01 paid out to contractors.

September Planned Activities

- 2 NWCA booth at State Fair
- 5 Labor Day
- 8 Management Team
- 9 NE Invasive Species Council
- 13 UNL invasive species class
- 20 Lower Platte WMA
- 22 SE NACO at Mahoney
- 29 Problem Resolution Team
InterLinc: City Council Feedback for General Council

Name: Dawn Steffen
Address: 7300 N. 15th Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68521
Phone: 4025802981
Fax: 
Email: dawnsteffen@live.com

Comment or Question:
Hello Council,

I am writing today after learning about the RFP named: "Engineering Design Contest/Selection Process Overview, 701156 ? 14th/Warlick/Old Cheney Intersection Project". To be brief, this RFP will award 3 different firms with up to $125,000 EACH to re-design the exact same roadway intersections/segments.

Only 1 firm will win, leaving the other 2 with a total of $250,000 for designs and time that is completely wasted. Ultimately giving the city nothing in return for that $250,000. I worked for an engineering firm for many years, I understand the process and work that goes into trying to not only win a project, but design improvements. This new selection process of awarding $250,000 to firms that will not be used is a waste of tax dollars and is making a joke of the industry. I also know enough about Public Works to know that they don't just have $250,000 sitting around to devote to this.

I am very concerned about the process this RFP has created and even more disturbed that it has been approved by the mayor.

Please Council, do not let $250,000 go down the drain.

I am respectfully requesting a formal response because I feel this is a process that could set standards for the future and make a big impact on the overall budget of our city.

Quite Respectively,

Dawn Steffen