

**DIRECTORS' MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2005 - 11:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 113**

**I. MAYOR**

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Mayor Presents September Award Of Excellence - (See Release)
2. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Seng will discuss the new countdown crosswalk signals recently installed at N. 27<sup>th</sup> & Holdrege Streets at a news conference at 2:45 p.m., Tues., Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> -(See Advisory)
3. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Countdown Crosswalk Signals Installed At Busy Intersection-Expert on "walkable" communities in Lincoln for announcement -(See Release)
4. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Seng will discuss plans for an improvement project on East "O" Street at a news conference at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> - (See Advisory)
5. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Wastewater Maintenance Workers Stop Overflow Caused By Sewer Line Stoppage -(See Release)
6. NEWS RELEASE - RE: 33<sup>RD</sup> & "F" Street Intersection To Close Monday - (See Release)
7. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Mayor Announces Expedited Construction For East "O" Street Widening -(See Release)
8. Washington Report - October 7, 2005.

**II. DIRECTORS**

**HEALTH**

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Last Household Hazardous Waste Collection For The Year Is Scheduled For October 22, 2005 -(See Release)

2. Physician Advisory from Bruce Dart - RE: Influenza Update -(See Advisory)
3. Report - RE: Health Department Report - September, 2005 -(Copy of Report on file in the City Council Office.) (See Report)
4. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Flu Shots Available For High Risk Persons -(See Release)

### **PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES**

1. Public Works & Utilities ADVISORY - RE: Pine Lake Road Widening Project 700014 - 40th-61st Street - 56<sup>th</sup> Street; Shadow Pines - Thompson Creek -(See Advisory)

### **WOMEN'S COMMISSION**

1. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Eleanor Roosevelt Visits Nebraska-Professional actress tours state with one-act monologue -(See Release)
2. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Candlelight Vigil Remembers Lives Lost To Domestic Violence -(See Release)
3. NEWS RELEASE - RE: Council Of Women Leaders To Network At Beacon Hills -(See Release)

## **III. CITY CLERK**

## **IV. COUNCIL**

### **A. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **JONATHAN COOK**

1. Request to ~~Harry Kroos, Public Works & Utilities Department-Sidewalks~~ - RE: Sidewalk ramps in Near South -(RFI#128 - 10/10/05). — **1.) SEE RESPONSE FROM HARRY KROOS, PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DEPARTMENT RECEIVED ON RFI#128 - 10/11/05.**

## **V. MISCELLANEOUS -**

1. E-Mail from Patricia Kitchen - RE: Comments about Lincoln's Police Dept. and the policy of not having Officer available to help direct traffic when a funeral procession is moving thru this City -(See E-Mail)
2. Letter from Al Koontz - RE: Wal-Mart in the 84<sup>th</sup> & Adams area -(See Letter)
3. E-Mail from Melissa Koci - RE: The other day I attended a funeral for my cousin..... -(See E-Mail)
4. Letter from Concerned Citizen - RE: Our local Fire Department -(See Letter)
5. Faxed MEDIA RELEASE from Lori Seibel, Executive Director, Community Health Endowment of Lincoln - RE: Community Health Endowment Announces Funding Priorities for FY2005-06 - (See Release)
6. Letter & Article from Nancy Russell - RE: The Convention Center idea for Lincoln -(See Material)

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

lincoln.ne.gov

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 10, 2005

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

### **MAYOR PRESENTS SEPTEMBER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Mayor Coleen J. Seng today presented the Mayor's Award of Excellence for September to David Bernt of the Public Works and Utilities Department. The monthly award recognizes City employees who consistently provide exemplary service and work that demonstrates personal commitment to the City. The award was presented at the beginning of today's City Council meeting.

Bernt was nominated in the categories of productivity and customer relations by City Traffic Engineer Randy Hoskins. Bernt has been employed with the Engineering Services Division since 1974 and has held the position of Senior Engineering Specialist since the year 2000.

About two years ago, Bernt was put in charge of upgrading and extending the existing traffic signal interconnection cable. The task was to replace the existing cables, which were slow and sometimes unreliable, with fiberoptic cable. Bernt took it upon himself to learn about all aspects of high-speed communication. This led him to recommend using wireless technology to interconnect signals using radios. With this approach, Engineering Services has been able to increase the distance covered for interconnection, without the higher costs of installing fiber.

Bernt saw opportunities beyond the interconnection of traffic signals. He partnered with other City and County departments to provide them with these communication tools:

- High-speed communication has been provided to six downtown parking garages and lots.
- Others now have access to the City Internet on City-owned lines including several Parks and Recreation facilities, Public Works maintenance shops, Fire and Rescue Station #1, the Lancaster County Youth Services Center and the City-County Health Department.
- The UNL Police Department is now connected with the Lincoln Police Department.

Bernt worked with the Lincoln Electric System to identify cases where sharing fiber or installing new fiber would benefit all involved, allowing for installation costs to be shared. He also has worked with private firms to establish high-speed communication links for little or no cost to the City.

"Dave has been instrumental in piggybacking on contracts by other utilities, to extend lines at lower costs than could be done as a separate project," wrote Hoskins. "By breaking the contracts into pieces that can be handled by more specialized contractors, Dave has been able to save the City considerable amounts of money." Hoskins said on the recent Capitol Parkway signal project alone, Bernt's efforts saved the City about \$200,000.

- more -

**Mayor's Award of Excellence**

**October 10, 2005**

**Page Two**

"He takes pride in keeping himself abreast of the latest technology and then applying it to improve productivity," Hoskins said. Bernt was instrumental in devising a system which gives engineering field inspectors wireless access to the City's Internet services. This system allows the inspectors to update project logs, exchange e-mails and get additional information without having to drive back to the office. In the same way, traffic signals City-wide can be controlled from these locations, allowing for quicker and more accurate responses to traffic incidents and unusual situations.

The other categories in which employees can be nominated are loss prevention, safety and valor. All City employees are eligible for the Mayor's Award of Excellence except for elected officials and some managers. Individuals or teams can be nominated by supervisors, peers, subordinates and the general public. Nomination forms are available from department heads, employee bulletin boards or the Personnel Department, which oversees the awards program.

All nominations are reviewed by the Mayor's Award of Excellence Committee, which includes a representative with each union and a non-union representative appointed by the Mayor. Award winners receive a \$100 U.S. savings bond, a day off with pay and a plaque. Monthly winners are eligible to receive the annual award, which comes with a \$500 U.S. savings bond, two days off with pay and a plaque.



# NEWS ADVISORY

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

**DATE:** October 10, 2005

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Coleen J. Seng will discuss the new countdown crosswalk signals recently installed at **North 27th and Holdrege streets** at a news conference at **2:45 p.m. Tuesday, October 11** on the **northwest corner of the intersection**. If the weather is bad, the news conference will be in the Police substation at that location. The Mayor will be joined by Mark Fenton, a nationally recognized expert on "walkable" communities who also hosts the PBS program "America's Walking."



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

lincoln.ne.gov

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 11, 2005

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Charlotte Burke, Lincoln-Lancaster Co. Health Dept., 441-8011

## **COUNTDOWN CROSSWALK SIGNALS INSTALLED** **AT BUSY INTERSECTION**

*Expert on "walkable" communities in Lincoln for announcement*

Mayor Coleen J. Seng today unveiled the new countdown crosswalk signals installed recently at the intersection of Holdrege and North 27th streets. The signal has a countdown timer that shows pedestrians how many seconds they have to cross the street before the signal changes to "don't walk."

"These countdown signals will improve safety for pedestrians," said Mayor Seng. "This is an extremely busy intersection, with 51,000 vehicles using it every day. With Clinton Elementary, CEDARS Northbridge, the People's Health Center and the Salvation Army all located near this intersection, we also have many children who cross those busy streets. Unfortunately, we've had a number of accidents there involving pedestrians and bicycles. This new type of signal is one step we can take toward making our community more pedestrian friendly."

In the past five years, North 27th and Holdrege has been the site of 34 pedestrian/vehicle crashes. Fifteen (44 percent) of those involved children age 14 and under; six involved people ages 15 through 29; eight involved people ages 30 through 45; and five involved people over age 45.

The eight countdown signals at Holdrege and North 27th Street cost about \$250 each. The signals also will be installed at pedestrian-activated crosswalks near four elementary schools. The City has previously installed pedestrian countdown signals at 12 intersections. The new signals are funded through a Federal Preventive Health and Human Services Block Grant awarded through the Nebraska Health and Human Services System's Cardiovascular Health Program to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. The City Public Works and Utilities Department installed the signals.

"Studies in 2004 showed that 15 percent of all Lancaster County residents and 23.8 percent of our high school students surveyed do not engage in the recommended amount of physical activity," said Mayor Seng. "This signal project highlights the importance of federal, state and local governments working together to make walking and biking safer and more convenient for citizens of all ages."

- more -

**Countdown Signals**  
**October 11, 2005**  
**Page Two**

Mayor Seng said the need for these types of improvements is outlined in the City-County Transportation Plan. In particular, the plan's objectives for pedestrians, bicycles and trails calls for improving school crossings.

Also attending the signal unveiling was pedestrian advocate Mark Fenton, the host of "America's Walking" on PBS and former editor of "*Walking*" magazine. Fenton is a nationally recognized authority on public health issues related to physical activity and the need for community, environmental, and public policy initiatives to support physical activity.

"These timers are a great safety measure, and they show that pedestrians aren't an afterthought," said Fenton. "I'm pleased that your plan shows more of these measures to be installed in the City. The timers not only reduce the likelihood of pedestrian injuries and collisions but encourage people to get out and enjoy the health benefits of daily walking."

While in Lincoln, Fenton is working with the School Health Advisory Committee of five Lincoln middle schools; meeting with a subcommittee of the Board of Health and Planning Commission that is working on using land use planning to improve physical activity; and making presentations to several other local organizations.



# NEWS ADVISORY

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

**DATE:** October 12, 2005

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Coleen J. Seng will discuss plans for an improvement project on East "O" Street at a news conference at **10 a.m. Thursday, October 13** at **Perkins Restaurant at 48th and O" streets.**



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

lincoln.ne.gov

## PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Wastewater Division, 2400 Theresa St., 68521, 441-7961, fax 441-8735

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 12, 2005

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Brian Kramer, Supt. of Wastewater Collection, 441-7961

Roger Krull, Asst. Supt. of Wastewater Collection, 441-7961

### WASTEWATER MAINTENANCE WORKERS STOP OVERFLOW CAUSED BY SEWER LINE STOPPAGE

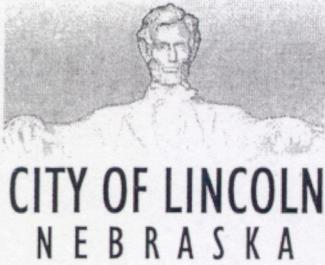
The Wastewater Division of the City Public Works and Utilities Department earlier this week repaired a stoppage in a sewer line that led to an overflow and release of wastewater. Officials said an accumulation of greasy deposits and small wooden sticks entered the wastewater collection system causing a stoppage October 10 in a sanitary sewer line near West Mathis Street between N.W. 41st and N.W. 42nd streets. The result was an overflow and release of wastewater into Oak Creek, which flows into Salt Creek.

The Wastewater Division's answering service received a call about odor in the area the evening of October 9, and staff discovered the stoppage and overflow the morning of October 10. City crews immediately began work to contain and stop the overflow and remove the obstruction in the line. Normal service was restored about 4 p.m. on October 10. The volume of overflow was estimated at about 4,000 gallons.

City crews inspected Oak Creek and Salt Creek downstream of the overflow and did not observe any detrimental effects. They also reported the results of their inspections to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

Roger Krull, Assistant Superintendent of Wastewater Collection, said most stoppages in Lincoln's wastewater system occur from oil and grease deposits from restaurants, commercial businesses and private residences. The source of this obstruction is still under investigation.

For more information on this notification or the Lincoln Wastewater operations, contact Krull at 441-7961 or Brian Kramer, Superintendent of Wastewater Collection.



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

[lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov)

## **PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**

Engineering Services, 531 Westgate Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68528, 441-7711, fax 441-6576

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 12, 2005

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Charles Wilcox, Public Works and Utilities, 441-7532

### **33RD AND "F" STREET INTERSECTION TO CLOSE MONDAY**

Beginning at 9 a.m. Monday, October 17, the intersection of 33rd and "F" streets will be closed for about one week, weather permitting, due to ongoing storm sewer construction. The project is scheduled for completion in November 2005.

During this road closure, southbound motorists on 33rd Street will be re-routed west on Randolph Street to 27th Street, south to Capitol Parkway, then east/southeast to "A" Street, continuing east to 33rd Street. Northbound traffic on 33rd will be re-routed east on "A" Street to 40th Street, north to Randolph Street, then west to 33rd.

Additional information can be found on this and other City Public Works and Utilities construction projects by visiting the City Web site at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov).



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

[lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov)

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 13, 2005

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831  
Holly Lionberger, Public Works and Utilities, 441-8400

### MAYOR ANNOUNCES EXPEDITED CONSTRUCTION FOR EAST "O" STREET WIDENING

Mayor Coleen J. Seng announced today that a section of "O" Street from 45th to 52nd streets will close for improvements for about one year beginning in March 2006. During construction, traffic will be detoured to "R" Street on 44th and 52nd streets. Mayor Seng said the decision to go with a one-year schedule was made after extensive public input. A previous project that widened "O" Street from 52nd Street to Wedgewood took two years.

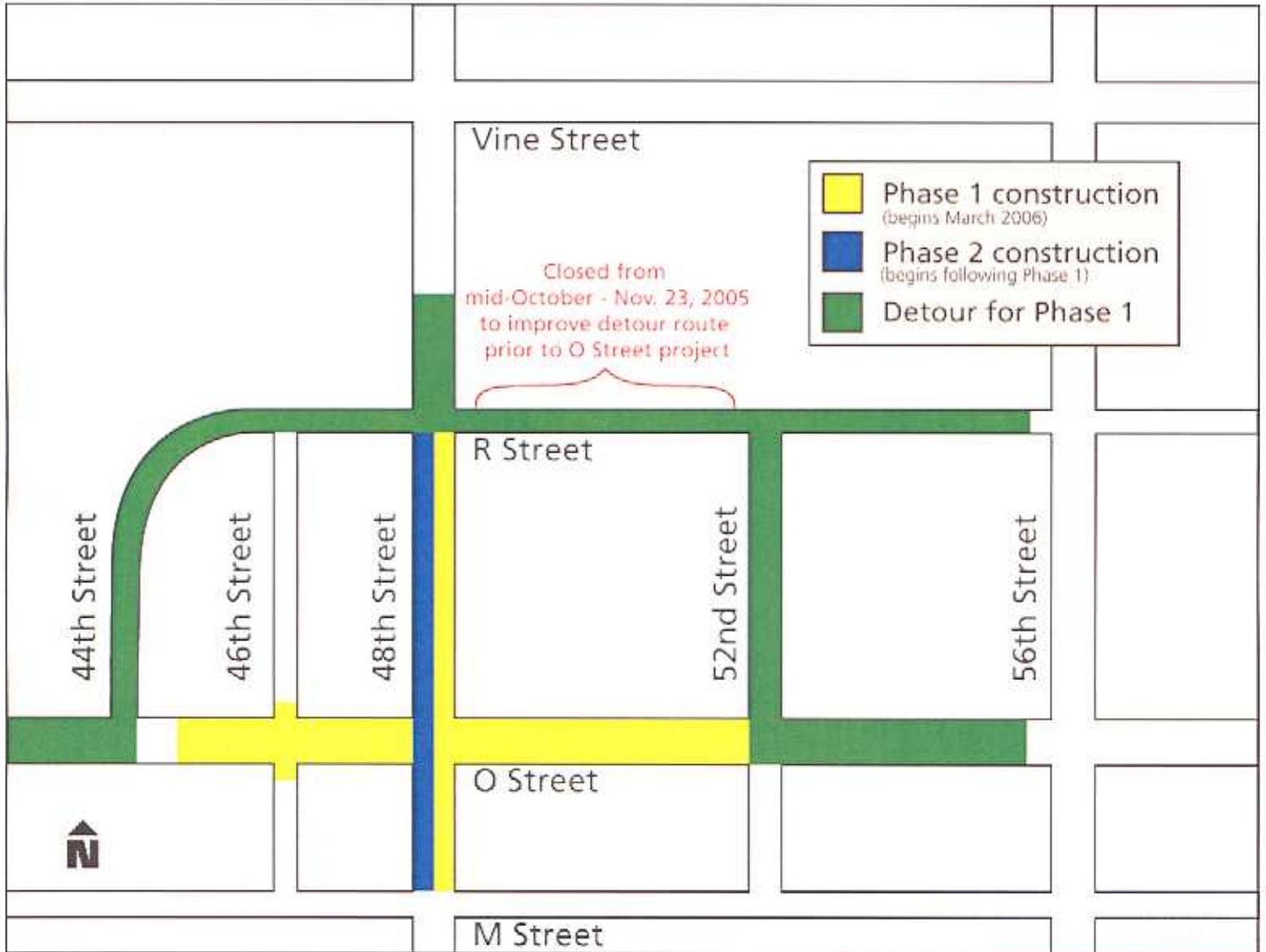
"This project will improve both traffic flow and safety on this busy stretch of 'O' Street, and it will be done in half the time of the previous project," said Mayor Seng. "With the number of vacant properties on this section of 'O' Street, we felt it was important to reduce the disruption to the remaining businesses. The majority of those from the affected businesses and area neighborhoods favored the one-year option. Frankly, the faster it can be completed the better. The goal is to get it done as soon as possible and get it ready for new businesses."

The City sought advice through three focus groups, numerous door-to-door surveys and public meetings. Access will be maintained for all businesses during construction. The cost of the project is estimated at \$18.5 to \$20 million.

"The availability of 'R' Street as a convenient detour route also was one of the reasons I selected the one-year schedule," said Mayor Seng. In anticipation of detour traffic using "R" Street, the City will make lane, pavement marking and traffic signal improvements prior to the "O" Street construction.

The "O" Street project includes street widening; intersection improvements, including new traffic signals and dual left-turn lanes; and water main improvements. Improvements also will be made to 48th Street from "M" to "R" streets. The next step is to complete the design work and bid the project. The contract will include incentives to expedite the construction schedule.

For more information about this project, see the City Web site at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) or contact Holly Lionberger, project manager for the City of Lincoln, at 441-8400; Tom Leikam, Olsson Associates, at 458-5619; or LaDawn Capek Sperling, Olsson Associates, at 458-5610 or [ostreet@oaconsulting.com](mailto:ostreet@oaconsulting.com).





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**Washington Report**

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**HOUSE PANEL CONSIDERS EMINENT DOMAIN BILL**

**EMINENT DOMAIN**

House panel marks up eminent domain measure. The House Agriculture Committee became the first congressional committee to formally consider legislation in response to the recent Supreme Court decision regarding local government use of eminent domain powers for economic development.

The legislation (HR 3405) would prohibit local government from using federal funds from a variety of programs if the community uses eminent domain powers to transfer a property from one private entity to another private entity. A substitute amendment approved by the committee at the markup includes exceptions to the prohibition for transfers for the following purposes:

- Use by a public utility;
- A road, or right of way or means, open to the public or common carriers, for transportation;
- An aqueduct, pipeline, or similar use;
- A prison or hospital, or
- Any use during and in relation to a national emergency or natural disaster declared by the President under other law.

According to Committee Chairman Robert Goodlatte (R-VA), the substitute would also cap the prohibition on use of federal funds to two years per violation, and would immediately remove the prohibition if the property in question was returned to the original owner. Also, the measure would make it easier for landowners to use the courts to contest the taking of their property.

The last exception is clearly targeted at the rebuilding process in communities that were severely damaged by recent hurricanes. The federal programs subject to the law include the Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG) program and Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) at HUD; programs at the Economic Development Administration in the Department of Commerce; the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program at HHS; the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund at the Treasury Department, and the Empowerment Zones Program.

The legislation has not been scheduled for a floor vote, and it is likely to compete with a measure being developed by House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), who would like to have primary jurisdiction over the issue.

**BUDGET**

House Speaker proposes spending cuts to pay for hurricane relief. House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) announced a proposal this week that would provide offsets for some of the billions that the federal government is expected to spend on hurricane relief.

While details of the plan were not readily available, it does not appear to include a proposal to cut or eliminate projects from the recently approved transportation bill.

While a number of rank-and-file conservatives in the House have been calling for spending reductions to pay for the disaster relief, the Hastert announcement was the first from congressional leadership. President Bush has also urged spending reductions but has yet to come forward with a specific plan.

The Speaker's proposal would include \$50 billion in savings from mandatory programs, up from the \$35 billion reconciliation package that had been planned before the hurricanes. Hastert also proposed that any expansion to the Medicaid program for

previously ineligible hurricane victims be offset, although he did not offer specifics. He also declined to offer specifics of a plan for an across-the-board cut to discretionary spending, although House Budget Committee Chair Jim Nussle (R-IA) has proposed a 2 percent cut that would save \$17 billion. Defense spending would be subject to that across-the-board cut, which is certain to elicit strong opposition. The Speaker also indicated he would like to officially de-authorize “wasteful and unnecessary” programs that appropriators have zeroed out funding for in recent years to ensure that they do not return.

Hastert has briefed Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) on his plan, but Frist had no comment on it. Such a plan is likely to face significant opposition in the Senate.

## HOUSING

House approves three housing-related bills for Katrina victims. Under suspension of the rules, the House approved three measures this week that would loosen federal housing rules for victims of Hurricane Katrina that are now homeless. They would:

- Allow HUD to waive a number of requirements under the Section 8 rental assistance program relating to income eligibility, tenant contributions toward rent, verifications of income, and portability. The measure (HR 3894) would also prevent HUD from terminating Section 8 contracts with housing units that were damaged or destroyed by Katrina.
- Allow HUD to suspend requirements under CDBG for Katrina-affected communities, such as the 15 percent cap on public services, as well as public hearing requirements for the use of funds (HR 3896).
- Allow rural public housing funds at the Department of Agriculture to be converted or reprogrammed as rental assistance for Katrina victims, and allow a rural housing loan program to be used for home repair as well as new construction (HR 3895).

Meanwhile, Democrats continue to criticize the Bush Administration proposals for long-term housing solutions for

hurricane victims. Last month, the President urged Congress to approve his “urban homesteading” plan through which Katrina evacuees would be allowed to build homes on vacant federal properties. No grants or loans would be provided to eligible participants, but HUD would be authorized to provide unspecified incentives to private lenders if they provide loans at below-market rates. Opponents of the proposal say that it would serve too few people and impose heavy financial burdens on those who use it. The Administration has identified 4,000 properties for the program, while estimates are that over 300,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by Katrina.

The proposal has yet to be introduced in Congress.

## TAX AND FINANCE

Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement (SSTA) goes into effect, although it is not yet ready for full implementation. The SSTA is the result of a five-year effort among state tax administrators to simplify the collection of sales taxes in order to convince merchants to collect sales and use taxes from remote sales, such as Internet and catalogue purchases.

Representatives from over 40 states took part in the development of the SSTA, and to date, 19 states have approved legislation necessary to implement the program. They are: Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Wyoming, and West Virginia.

Since participation in the collection of sales taxes on remote sales in the eligible states is voluntary, the SSTA hoped to induce merchants to join by offering a one-year amnesty for sales taxes that were uncollected prior to the company registering as an SSTA participant.

Actual collection of sales taxes is not likely to begin until sometime in 2006, as the SSTA is still in the process of certifying software companies that would provide collection and remittance services for the retailers. Also at issue is

how states will remit the collected sales taxes to local governments. Organizations such as the U.S. Conference of Mayors are promoting the development of a system that would allow local governments to receive those collections in “real time” rather than passing through the state level.

The SSTA effort is in response to a 1992 Supreme Court decision that prevented states from forcing remote sellers to collect sales and use taxes unless they have a physical presence in that state. However, the Court also contended that it was the duty of Congress to ultimately solve the problem, as it falls under their jurisdiction over interstate commerce. It is the hope of the SSTA that a successful voluntary effort that reduces burdens on remote sellers will result in Congress granting states the power to realize billions of dollars in uncollected sales taxes.

Additional information on the project can be found at:

<http://www.streamlinedsalestax.org/>

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Stevens outlines plan to use spectrum auction revenue to fund public safety communications. In a speech at a meeting of the nation’s television broadcasters, Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK) says that he wants to use some of the revenue from spectrum auctions resulting from the switch to digital television to upgrade 911 emergency telephone networks, improve the national emergency alert system and help public safety agencies buy upgraded communications equipment.

Under the Budget Resolution, the Commerce Committee must by October 19 report legislation that creates \$4.8 billion in savings or new revenue. The Commerce Committee bill will then be combined with bills reported by other Committees into a Budget Reconciliation Bill that will make sweeping changes to mandatory spending programs and tax policy.

To meet that goal, Stevens plans to move legislation that will require television broadcasters to switch from analog to

digital broadcasts by a specific date, most probably by the end of 2007. As a result of that switch, a large portion of the spectrum between 700 and 800 megahertz will be freed up for other uses. That part of the spectrum is considered especially valuable because it travels long distances and is able to penetrate walls and other barriers. A portion of the spectrum will be reserved for public safety communications and the remainder will be auctioned off to wireless communications providers. That auction is expected to garner a \$10 billion windfall for the federal government, much more than the \$4.8 billion that the Commerce Committee is expected to produce. It is these additional funds that could be committed to public safety improvements.

Stevens's optimism might be premature. The Budget Resolution calls for \$35 billion in cuts to mandatory spending programs, including Medicaid and Food Stamps, a figure that draws anger from Democrats and causes considerable angst for many moderate Senate Republicans. With the House leadership now calling for an additional \$15 billion in cuts to mandatory spending and a two percent across-the-board cut to FY 2006 discretionary spending to offset the cost of rebuilding the Gulf Coast, Stevens's colleagues might have other ideas for the \$5.2 billion windfall from the spectrum auctions.

## TRANSPORTATION

Declining gasoline consumption threatens highway and transit spending. With the price of gas hovering near \$3 per gallon and expected to stay there for the foreseeable future, transportation officials are increasingly concerned that declining gasoline consumption threatens federal highway and transit spending. The Congressional Budget Office projects that fuel tax receipts will rise a little over three percent per year for the next ten years, far less than the spending increases called for in the new transportation law.

Since the 1950's (1980's for transit), federal surface transportation spending has come from the Highway Trust Fund, which garners its revenue from the 18.4 cent per gallon federal tax on gasoline. Many economists believe that high gasoline prices will lead to widespread changes in consumer behavior and many households will switch to more fuel efficient cars,

drive less and even switch to transit. Even before the recent surge in gasoline prices, transportation experts were predicting slow growth of only three percent a year in federal gasoline tax revenues between 2006 and 2010. That long term forecast already had policy makers seeking a new source of revenue to finance federal highway and transit spending. Some transportation advocates, led by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) have been calling for large-scale federal bonding to create revenue for the Highway Trust Fund for several years but Congress has met the proposal with skepticism.

The recently enacted Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) established a National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission to investigate Highway Trust Fund revenue and consider alternative approaches to generating revenue. Appointed by the Secretaries of Transportation and the Treasury and the congressional leadership, the 15-member Commission must issue a report within two years of its first meeting and no later than 2016.

In the meantime, many transportation experts predict that federal highway and transit spending will have to be cut from the levels outlined in SAFETEA-LU as soon as FY 2007. The law assumes at least three percent yearly growth in Highway Trust Fund revenues and its spending levels are closely tied to those revenues and leave little room for even a small shortfall.

## UPDATES

The following are updates from stories covered in previous issues of the Washington Report.

### Homeland Security

The House approved the conference report to the FY 2006 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill (HR 2360) this week. The measure makes changes to the manner in which DHS formula funds are

distributed to states, allowing the Secretary to direct more funding based on threat and risk. However, the overall funding levels for these programs were cut significantly. *Details available in September 30 Washington Report.*

### Violence Against Women Act

The Senate approved legislation (S 1197) to reauthorize programs under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) this week, authorizing \$3.5 billion through FY 2010 for several Justice Department programs under the Act. VAWA provisions were included in a larger Justice Department reauthorization bill approved by the House last week, although the House bill only authorizes \$2.65 billion in spending. The Senate does not plan on acting on the Justice Department reauthorization, so sponsors of S 1197 are hoping that the House will accept Senate language to prevent the VAWA law from expiring. *Details available in September 30 Washington Report.*

### Energy Bill

The House approved legislation (HR 3893) that is designed to promote the expansion of domestic oil refining capacity. Local government organizations are opposing provisions of the bill that would eliminate local authority over siting of refineries and relaxing Clean Air Act requirements to speed refinery construction. The Senate is not expected to act on the bill, as it faces bipartisan opposition in that chamber. *Details available in September 30 Washington Report.*



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG



LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
3140 N Street, Lincoln NE 68510 • Phone: 441-8000  
Fax: 441-8323 or 441-6229

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 10, 2005  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Beth Mann, 441-6235  
Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator

## **LAST HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FOR THE YEAR IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 22, 2005**

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department is holding its last Household Hazardous Waste Collection for the year on Saturday, October 22, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the State Fair Park 4-H Youth Complex. The collections are for residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County. They are for households only; not for businesses.

“I hope that all the citizens of Lincoln and Lancaster County will take advantage of this last collection of the year,” said Beth Mann, Household Hazardous Waste Program Coordinator. “It’s the time of year when children and pets are inside homes and garages more. So now is the perfect time to get rid of any household hazards that are potential health and safety risks.”

There are several automotive products in garages that contain hazardous chemicals. These include upholstery cleaners, window cleaning products, brake fluids, carburetor cleaners, power steering fluid, Freon, cleaning and degreasing solvents, transmission fluids, wax and grease removers, spray paints, mixed or old gasoline, and mercury switches. Lawn care products including the EPA banned chemicals and pesticides that contain DDT, chlordane, silvex, Pentachlorophenol (PCP), Dursban, and indoor use Diazinon should be brought to the collection.

Other household hazardous waste items include solvents such as mineral spirits, turpentine, paint thinners, varnishes, stains, polishes, and waxes, pool cleaning chemicals,

-more-

muriatic acid, oil-based paints, roach powder, flea and tick powders, rat poisons, charcoal starter fluids, mercury containing items including thermometers, and items containing PCBs such as ballasts from old fluorescent lamps and small capacitors from old appliances.

***Latex paint should not*** be brought to these collections. Small amounts of latex paint can be dried and put in the trash. Items that can be recycled locally, and will not be accepted at the collections, include electronic equipment, fire extinguishers, motor oil, antifreeze, propane cylinders, mercury thermostats, and batteries including lead acid, button, mercury and lithium. Other items that are not accepted include medicines, fertilizers, explosives, or ammunition. For recycling information and for advice on how to dispose of unacceptable items contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8021 or visit our website at <http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/health/environ/poll/>.

October 11, 2005

To: All Physicians, Administrators and Laboratory Personnel

From: Bruce Dart, MS, Health Director

Subject: Physician Advisory

### **INFLUENZA UPDATE**

Flu vaccine for the 2005-06 flu season should be readily available to meet community needs. Fluvirin vaccine produced by Chiron is expected to begin shipping this week. All other vaccine manufacturers are presently shipping vaccine.

The 2005 recommendations include five principal changes or updates:

- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that persons with any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration be vaccinated against influenza.
- The ACIP emphasizes that all health-care workers should be vaccinated against influenza annually, and that facilities that employ health-care workers be strongly encouraged to provide vaccine to workers by using approaches that maximize immunization rates.
- Use of both available vaccines (inactivated and LAIV) is encouraged for eligible persons every influenza season, especially persons in recommended target groups. During periods when inactivated vaccine is in short supply, use of LAIV is especially encouraged when feasible for eligible persons (including health-care workers) because use of LAIV by these persons might considerably increase availability of inactivated vaccine for persons in groups at high risk.
- The 2005--06 trivalent vaccine virus strains are A/California/7/2004 (H3N2)-like, A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like, and B/Shanghai/361/2002-like antigens. For the A/California/7/2004 (H3N2)-like antigen, manufacturers may use the antigenically equivalent A/New York/55/2004 virus, and for the B/Shanghai/361/2002-like antigen, manufacturers may use the antigenically equivalent B/Jilin/20/2003 virus or B/Jiangsu/10/2003 virus (see Influenza Vaccine Composition).

On Monday, October 17, 2005, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department will begin providing flu vaccine to individuals at increased risk of complications due to influenza. These include:

- persons aged 65 years and older, with and without chronic health conditions

- residents of long-term care facilities
- persons aged 2—64 years with chronic health conditions
- children aged 6—23 months
- pregnant women
- health-care personnel who provide direct patient care
- household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children aged <6 months

The Department also will make available to high risk adults and children, Pneumococcal Polysacchride vaccine. Anyone under 19 years who is at high risk must provide a written physician order in order to receive either the Flu vaccine or Pneumococcal Polysacchride vaccine.

Those persons on Medicare Part B can receive both Flu and Pneumococcal Polysacchride vaccine at no cost by showing their Medicare card. Any high-risk adults and children not on Medicare will be charged a flat fee of \$20.00 for Flu vaccine and \$32.00 for Pneumococcal Polysacchride vaccine. The entire “Prevention and Control of Influenza Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)” can be viewed or downloaded at the website below:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5408a1.htm>

### **Menactra Meningococcal Vaccine Alert**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are alerting consumers and health care providers to five reports of Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS) following administration of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine A, C, Y, and W135 (trade name Menactra), manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur. It is not known yet whether these cases were caused by the vaccine or are coincidental. The FDA and the CDC are sharing this information with the public now and actively investigating the situation.

Because of the potentially serious nature of this matter, the FDA and the CDC are asking any persons with knowledge of any possible cases of GBS occurring after Menactra to report them to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) to help the agencies further evaluate the matter. Individuals can report to VAERS on the web at [www.vaers.hhs.gov](http://www.vaers.hhs.gov) <http://www.vaers.hhs.gov> or by phone at 1-800-822-7967.

The five cases of GBS reported following administration of Menactra occurred in individuals living in NY, OH, PA, and NJ. All five patients were 17 or 18 years of age and developed weakness or abnormal sensations in their arms or legs, two-four weeks after vaccination. All individuals are reported to be recovering or to have recovered. More than 2.5 million doses of Menactra vaccine have been distributed to date. The rate of GBS based on the number of cases reported following administration of Menactra is similar to what might have been expected to occur by coincidence; that is, even without vaccination. However, the timing of the events is of concern. Also, vaccine adverse events are not always reported to FDA so there may be additional cases of which they are unaware at this time.

PC Mayor Coleen J. Seng  
 Board of Health  
 Steven Rademacher, MD, Medical Consultant  
 Thomas Stalder, MD, Medical Consultant  
 James Nora, MD, Medical Consultant  
 Joan Anderson, Executive Director, Lancaster County Medical Society

**DEPARTMENT REPORT  
SEPTEMBER, 2005**

**HEALTH DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

- The Health Director and staff attended numerous planning meetings to provide assistance for the Hurricane Katrina evacuees. The People's City Mission brought evacuees to Lincoln on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Staff provided assistance to the evacuees to assure their medical needs were addressed. The Department remains available to assist if additional evacuees would be re-located to Lincoln.
- The Health Director attended the Public Health Association of Nebraska Annual Conference in Grand Island, Nebraska. Dr. Walter Tsou, President of the American Public Health Association, was the keynote speaker. The Health Director provided a presentation on "Relationship Dynamics: A Study of Local Health Department and Community Stakeholder Perception Factors in Local Health Delivery Systems".
- The Health Director has been selected as a Scholar for the National Public Health Leadership Institute. He will serve on a team with two of his fellow Nebraska Health Directors, Kay Oestmann, Director of the Southeast District Health Department and Jeff Kuhr, Director of the Three Rivers Public Health Department. The National Leadership Institute is a year long learning process and will allow participants to share professional experiences, expand their knowledge and skills and interact with others in the field of public health leadership and organizational development. Participants will participate in three onsite meetings and several distance based learning events over the year. Supporters and partners in the program include the Centers for Disease Control, the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, and the Center for Creative Leadership.
- The Health Director attended the following during the month: Health Partners Initiative Community Forum, Free to Grow Presentation, Lancaster County Board Meeting, General Assistance Access Issues Meeting with County Officials, Community Health Endowment Board of Trustees Retreat, NEAPHI Executive Committee Meeting, Mayor's Press Conference for the Diabetes Program "123 Action Now" Kickoff, Volunteer Physician Registry Meeting with the Lancaster County Medical Society, and Citizens Against Racism and Discrimination meeting.
- The Health Director is meeting with the Mayor's Office and Parks & Recreation officials regarding citizen complaints of large flocks of Starlings in the City. The Health Director will make site visits to determine the severity of the situation and what can be done to remedy the situation.
- The Employee Relations Committee hosted Staff Development Day on September 28<sup>th</sup> for all LLCHD staff. Ron Willis, Green Porch Swing Productions, was the featured speaker. The title of his presentation was "It Can Be a Real Zoo Around Here!". The seminar focused on individual differences and provided examples to bring out the best in others, while taking advantage of strengths in the workplace and home.
- Employee of the Month - Gail Johnson - Environmental Public Health Division

**ASSISTANT HEALTH DIRECTOR**

- The Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (LB 692) Report was completed and submitted to Dave Palm, Office of Health, NE Health and Human Services System. The Department received \$672,032 this past fiscal year. That includes \$150,000 public health infrastructure funding and \$520,032 in program and project funding. As you know, the LB 692 funding is a result of the Legislature’s position on appropriating the tobacco settlement dollars back into public health. This decision has had a major impact on public health infrastructure across the state.
- The Department continued to provide support and follow-up with Katrina evacuees relocated to Lincoln. On September 19, public health nurses and other LLCHD staff were at the site where Katrina evacuees were located as a result of the People’s City Mission bus trips to the southern flooded states and cities. As of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, there were approximately 110 families that were known to be in Lincoln. As of 9/23 we are on stand by for another possible 200 evacuees as result of the pending Rita hurricane.
- Dr. Ed Schneider and other local health care providers came to aid the evacuees by providing much needed eye care services and assistance with glasses and eye exams. There has been a “single point of contact” system set up that recognizes the roles of the various players with the Red Cross being the primary coordinator of shelter services. Over 50 families have been matched up with case managers and care coordinators as of 9/23. Public health departments have become much more sought out and consulted on these and other major disasters and large scale events. They almost always have some effect on individual and public health.
- The AHD was elected President of Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach Board of Directors. The Health Department has public health nurses and health educators at the Kitchen and on the Mobile Health Clinic. The goal is to outreach and assist in barrier reduction and access to health care. We encourage the establishment of a medical home for the individuals we see at Matt Talbot and elsewhere.
- The AHD attended the Health Partners Board meeting and provided a follow-up report on the Access to Health Care Conference on August 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be four outcomes pathways developed in the health area including one on medical home. The Health partners board will apply for funding to develop the model.
- Work is complete on the Employee Position Descriptions (EPDs) regarding the addition of language that will evaluate employee performance relative to workplace diversity. Staff from the City/County personnel office reviewed the language and agreed it would be an excellent addition to the EPDs. Other City and County Departments will likely implement similar language and use the Health Department’s work as a model.
- The AHD continued to meet with AED funders and coordinators for the purpose of evaluating the project and look at a long term sustainability plan. The LLCHD, Health Partners Initiative, Lancaster County Medical Society and Dr. Andrew Merliss, Bryan LGH represent the Task Force reviewing the project and making a recommendation back to the full AED

Consortium. There is a Heart Rescue grant due to Medtronic's the end of this month that would fund the project or another year.

## **RESOURCE & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR**

### **Building Expansion Update**

- The east portion of the south parking lot will be completed the week of October 3, 2005. It is anticipated the new lot, east of the new building will be built immediately following the completion of the south parking lot.
- An additional eight (8) parking spaces will also be built on "N" Street for employee use. Public Works will sign these 8 spaces for 30 minute parking only. This will allow employees that are in and out of the building frequently throughout the day the opportunity to have easy access to short-term parking.
- The north and new east parking lots will be completed by December 2005. It is anticipated they will be able to be used when we take occupancy of the new building the end of March 2006.
- LLCHD staff and City Information Services staff have been meeting to establish the computer and printer and power needs for the building. All divisions are participating in the planning.
- The new building floors will all be poured by the end of September. The roofing will be completed in October.
- An agreement has been reached with neighbors Speedway Properties (formerly B & J Properties) to acquire the property on "O" street necessary to move the entrance to the east and to construct the required right turn and decel lane. The Public Building Commission approved the transfer at their meeting on September 22, 2005. The City Law Department will prepare the documents for the transaction.
- The storm sewer and sanitary sewer lines are being placed and will be completed in October.
- The lower lever mechanical rooms are being drywalled. It is anticipated the change over to the new heating/cooling system will occur over the Thanksgiving four day weekend. Preparations to temporarily relocate Animal Control to the training center for the four days are being made at this time.

### **Kenneling and Cat Pilot Project**

- The Resource and Program Development Coordinator has been assisting the Health Director with meetings and contacts with potential kennels. Currently there are potentially three providers who may be interested in the kenneling contract. A request for proposals will be issued for the kennel providers.
- The RPDC has been working with Beth Boal of the Cat House on the pilot project for a Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return program for feral cats in Lincoln. Williams Cleaners and Don's Upholstery have agreed to traps on their properties near 48<sup>th</sup> and Huntington. The trapping

will begin in October and will be completed when the colony is finished. Policies and procedures will be approved by LLCHD prior to the start of the trapping. Dr. Becky Arnold from All Feline Vet Clinic will be the vet used by the Cat House for the services.

- The RPDC has been researching costs for kenneling animals if the City owned and operated the service.

### **Other**

- The RPDC continues to coordinate state legislative efforts for LLCHD, meets biweekly with the other city agency legislative liaisons, and is monitoring the Medicaid Reform Council and other interim study activities and sharing that information with relevant divisions.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

- In September, Animal Control Officers responded to 2,054 requests for services (requiring 2,338 visits or investigations) which included 58 bites and 17 attack investigations, 105 injured animal rescues, 101 cruelty/neglect investigations, 268 dead animal pickups, 30 home deliveries of at large animals, 107 wildlife removals, and 389 license/rabies vaccination follow ups. As of July 31, Animal Control Officers have responded to 20,878 calls in FY 2005 as compared to 23,811 for the same period in FY 2004 or a decrease of 11.1% due primarily to a reduction in license follow ups and an unfilled Animal Control Officer vacancy.
- A total of 413 animals (212 dogs, 192 cats, and 9 other animals) were impounded in July. Year to date, the number of impounded animals is 9.1% lower than the same period last year. The average claim rate of impounded animals at the shelter is 41.4%.
- Additionally, 4,569 licenses were sold or issued, 131 lost and found reports were taken, and 4,569 phone calls for service, animal complaints, or information were handled or processed in September. Legal action taken by officers in July was the issuance of 48 court citation and 378 warning/defect tickets.
- For fiscal year 2004-05, bites decreased 2.5%, from 560 to 546.
- An American Bulldog owned by Thomas Gaster had been declared a dangerous dog on April 21, 2005. On August 22, 2005, it was involved in another unprovoked attack inflicting a puncture wound to a female victim. Subsequently, the owner could not be located. On September 8, the dog bit the same victim at the residence of the owner's father. Animal Control Officer Kurt Dodd and the Manager decided to make contact at the residence. While Animal Control staff waited around the corner, an LPD officer made initial contact to determine if the owner and dog were present. When notified by radio, staff made contact with the owner, and impounded the dog. The owner was notified in writing the dog was considered a vicious animal and would be held at the shelter pending any appeal. The owner was cited for failure to observe (August 22 incident), unlawful bites, no dangerous dog signs, and failure to register. The dog was euthanized at the owner's request on September 26.
- Animal Control Field Supervisor Scott Lowry received military orders in early September to report for duty in the Gulfport, Mississippi area which had been damaged by Katrina. The orders are for a period of 30 to 60 days. Officer Lowry is a member of the Air National Guard

and is a Security Police Officer.

- The Ricky Meyer court case (145 cats impounded August 2004) has been transferred back to the City Attorney Office for filing on Municipal Code violations. The County Judge ruled on a motion that Mr. Meyer had been cited on Municipal Code violations and not been made aware that charges could be filed on State Statute cruelty violations by the County Attorney's Office. The Judge had previously dismissed a motion on illegal search as probable cause existed and a search warrant was not required.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

### **ACCESS MEDICAID**

#### **Population Focused Projects and Activities**

- Call volume this month was 1,688, which is an increase of 251 calls over last month.
- 42 clients accessed Nebraska Health Connection/Kids Connection services in the office, which is an increase of 13 clients as compared to July.
- The Client Resource Specialist (CRS) completed 34 home visits in an effort to reach 49 clients. The CRS was successful in interacting with 25 clients who as a result were enrolled and received Managed Care education for the month of August.
- The Client Resource Specialist also attempted to reach Medicaid Managed Care clients by telephone to encourage enrollment. Of 29 possible participants called, 55% (16 total) were reached successfully and enrolled by a PHN.
- Public Health staff members attended meetings and contributed expertise to the following this month: Community Early Childhood Coalition, LLCHD Domestic Violence Committee, Lincoln Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition, Headstart Excite Policy Committee meeting, LLCHD Breastfeeding Committee, and the Bryan LGH Medical Center Emergency Department Case Management Committee.

#### **Community Linkages:**

- Access Medicaid provided outreach at several locations throughout the month of August. A number of community activities gave the CRS (Community Resource Specialist) the opportunity to provide formal presentations or informal opportunities for staff and/or clients to receive managed care education or ask questions. The CRS interacted with 1478 clients at outreach activities. Visits were made to Nebraska Urban Indian Medical Center, Clinic with a Heart, RSACC, Quinn Chapel Health Fair, Bryan LGH Health Fair, LMPEP, OASIS, Clinton Back to School, and LAP Back to School Fair.
- The CRS began weekly visits to Lincoln Medical Education Partnership (LMPEP) clinic in August in preparation for the program's third weekly outstation.
- Access Medicaid Public Health Nurses (PHN's) have provided staffing for 2 hours each week at People's Health Center and 3 hours weekly at Nebraska Urban Indian Medical Center. During the month of August, nurses assisted 66 clients, which is an increase from last month. The PHN's performed enrollment/transfer activities, updated health questions, provided managed care education and answered questions about how to obtain transportation services, eligibility for Medicaid coverage, mental health services, and how to obtain referrals to see

other providers. Arabic, Spanish, Sudanese, and Dinka interpreters were utilized to assist with the interview. Informational materials were available to all clients at each clinic.

- There were no funding requests in August. The Access Medicaid program will be an exhibitor at the Minority Health Conference in Omaha. CRS staff will staff this event and many different agencies attend.

### **New Opportunities**

- The Program Manager continues to serve as the Chair of the PHAN (Public Health Association of Nebraska) Conference Planning Committee. That conference is a statewide conference that will be held in Grand Island on September 22 and 23. The Assistant Supervisor will be presenting a session on Health Literacy at the Fall PHAN Conference.
- Assistant Supervisor attended two full-day trainings as part of the PHN Emergency Response Team.
- The Program Manager attended a Medicaid training.
- The Program Manager has been representing the CHS Division at Medicare, part D meetings and trainings.

### **Data Collection/Outcomes**

- 18,250 total clients eligible for Medicaid Managed Care with 17,581 active with a PCP and health plan. This represents an increase of 74 clients as compared to July who are active with a PCP and health plan.
- 931 new clients are eligible for Medicaid Managed Care in Lancaster County.
- 726 clients voluntarily enrolled with a doctor (PCP) and health plan via face to face or telephone contact, representing an increase of 35 clients.
- 83 clients were auto assigned reflecting a 10% auto assignment rate.
- There were 1,688 incoming calls in August. Staff answered 1,574 calls. This reflects a 7% call abandonment rate.

### **Program Highlight**

- The Clinical Practice Improvement Project on Immunizations continues to move forward. The group met in August and refined the evaluation process for the PHN interventions and continues to work toward development of the provider intervention portion of the project. New health education materials developed for the project have been delivered and are being utilized for clients.
- Work is being done in cooperation with the State Systems staff to work on several requests for changes to reports and on the computer screens. These changes are scheduled to roll out in November.

- Work continues to be done to bring the program into compliance with CMS regulations—the guidebook was updated, the matrix is currently being evaluated, and the outreach #1 mailing will change to include these pieces.

## **CHS PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **Community Activities**

- PHN attended the CRIB, Community Resources for Infants and Babies (CRIB) Meeting in August. The CRIB applied for an implementation grant which was not funded, therefore the coalition will be exploring other alternatives. The meeting this month centered around defining the Mission and Vision. Seeking substantial funding via grants was also discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for September.
- PHN attended a Substance Abuse Action Coalition meeting on August 8, 2005. The group is currently exploring various ways to publicize the messages of alcohol awareness. Some success has been seen with windshield flyers as well as with informational flyers about penalties for buying alcohol for anyone underage. This message was well received by owners and managers of liquor stores.
- The Substance Abuse Action Coalition will train CHS staff on brief intervention with suspected alcohol and drug abuse clients in September.

### **Department Activities**

- This month at the QI Council, there was discussion on the best ways to roll out the values as identified through the interviews done in June. Several ideas are taking shape. The council is also preparing to identify the next project that the Council will undertake. It is hoped that past efforts will blend with new projects. In the absence of the chair, PHN provided leadership as chair-elect at one meeting.

### **Division Activities**

- Three months of data has been entered and some preliminary analysis done for the Primary Care Clinic. A brief report was prepared for the Public Health Clinic Supervisor and the Division Manager. Ultimately, six months worth of data from March through August will be collected as a baseline.
- PHN prepared a spread sheet system that could be used by the Public Health Clinics to allow for tracking of data. Monthly reports for the past year were used to mine data for the example and to discover the types of data currently collected. Control charts for the monthly attendance at STD clinics were prepared for the supervisor as it has been indicated that numbers have been increasing. Comparisons were made to vital statistics population growth in the age groups most likely to be using STD clinics.
- PHN is meeting with Information and Fiscal Services to prepare for divisional database needs when resolution is reached on the previous attempt.

- CHS Staff Development in August was a Divisional staff meeting and a presentation by Shannon Williams and Thurman Hoskins of the Public Health Clinic on the SISTA project.
- Creation of Monthly Reports spread sheets and Casework spread sheets for Fiscal Year 05-06 for Home and Community was accomplished and a presentation on their use given to staff at a Team meeting.
- A quarterly meeting was held with the Staff Development committee, where recent comments regarding the programs were shared. The committee decided to design a survey for the staff to give their ideas for future programs. An additional meeting is planned to finalize the tool. PHN also shared the survey with Division Manager and obtained input.
- The Evidenced Based Practice Committee for Home and Community met to review the design of the Fussy Baby Survey, relating to issues of allergy and protein intolerance in infants. PHN presented the information on the Fussy Baby Survey to several Home and Community staff. The supervisor is supportive of this effort and plans were made to begin the survey. The information on the survey was also shared with the Division Manager and the other supervisors so that they will be aware of the project. They were also invited to participate in the project either as the plan was presented or with alterations to suit the needs of their sections.

### **Program Highlight**

- Charts regarding General Assistance in the Public Health Clinics and Maternal Home Visitation performance in the Home and Community programs were created for the visual impact of the improvements in these areas in the last year. The charts were converted to poster size for the Division Manager to use during the CHS report at the monthly all staff meeting.

## **HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES**

### **Healthy Pregnancies/Healthy Children**

- The HCB team works to assure that all women have healthy pregnancies and that all children have healthy birth outcomes in Lancaster County, via a two-pronged approach; (1) home visitation of high-risk families and (2) population-based interventions to improve the overall wellness of men and women of childbearing age (ages 14-44).

### **Home Visitation**

- This month 636 high-risk mothers/infants were visited/assessed. An additional 105 families were assessed by telephone. A total of 190 referrals for services were received this month. This was the highest number of referrals received in FY 2004-2005.

### **Home visitation example**

- PHN made first postpartum visit to a mother and newborn whom she had visited two times during her late pregnancy. The mom was abnormally subdued and very quiet during the visit.

At previous visits she was more animated. The client became very tearful, and stated that she just wasn't "doing very well". Her symptoms were assessed. Findings indicated possible postpartum depression. The PHN called the client's physician and an appointment was scheduled for the next morning. Upon PHN follow up later that day and in the absence of the client's partner, the client began to describe verbal and physical violence perpetrated by her partner/the baby's father. The violence was apparently triggered by the birth of their daughter. The PHN discussed safety issues and resources and helped the client to develop two safety plans which she could utilize if and when she made the decision to leave her partner. The PHN facilitated a call to Friendship Home to describe their services to the client. The PHN offered follow up visits at the client's physician's office or an alternate site as needed.

### **Wellness in Childbearing Years**

- Two specialized population education/support groups for mothers and children met this month. Madres Saludables, a health promotion program for Hispanic mothers, served 57 women and 83 children this month. The Iraqi Mother's Support Group served 7 women and 6 children this month. Both programs provide baseline health screening for women, health education topics/activities, and an opportunity for social support among women trying to navigate complex community systems (e.g. medical, transportation, etc.) and combat isolation as a barrier to health.

### **Vulnerable Populations**

#### **Ethnic/Racial Minorities:**

- The second Minority Health Grant/Mobile Health Clinic was held this month at the Cristo Rey Catholic Church. Thirty six (36) people were assessed and referred to a medical home. The new PHN for the Minority Health Grant was hired this month. She will work closely with the Mobile Health Clinic Coordinator to develop sites, promote use and evaluate findings for the Adult Health Screening portion of Minority Health Grant outcomes.

#### **Children**

- Reviewed and made recommendations on 25 criminal histories for LLCHD's Small Family Child Care and Child Care Connection programs.
- The fall School Nursing Inservice was held in August. The topic, "Biopreparedness for School Nurses" was well received. LLCHD partnered with LPS and UNMC to present this opportunity. There were 126 nurses attending and reviews were excellent.

#### **Health Stations**

- A total of 262 people were assessed and referred to needed services at community health stations this month.

#### **Homelessness**

- Thirty two (32) people utilized LLCHD specialized health stations serving the homeless this month for health assessments and/or health education. Sites include; the City Mission (8),

Matt Talbot Kitchen (8), and the Gathering Place (16).

**PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC**

**Population Focused Projects and Activities**

- 1,026 Individuals received vaccines in the Public Health Clinic
- 152 Individuals seen in the Primary Care Clinic
  - 8 PCC chronic disease clients referred to Peoples’ Health Center
- 16 Children seen in the Child Health Clinic
- 6 Women seen in the Every Woman Matters Breast and Cervical Screening Clinic
- 20 Individuals received prescriptions through the Grapevine Program
- 8 Individuals were referred to PHC through the Minority Health Grant
- 3,104 Call received through Information and referral Services
- 1,032 Individuals called related to Medicaid Access to Care
  - 144 Families were assisted in establishing a medical home
  - 145 Pregnant women were served
- 1,037 Rides were approved for transportation
  - 5 Volunteer physicians provided 32 hours of service to clients seen through the Primary Care Clinic

**Total numbers of calls to Information and Referral Services**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
Transportation	749	24.13 %
CDC/Nuisance Disease	36	1.16 %
Child Health Clinic	112	3.61 %
Every Woman Matters	18	0.58 %
General Assistance	62	2.00 %
General Information	25	0.81 %
Grapevine	44	1.42 %
HIV	67	2.16 %
Immunizations	569	18.33 %
Information Call	365	11.76 %
Internal Referral	107	3.45 %
Medicaid	196	6.31 %
Patient Assistant Program	44	1.42 %
Primary Care Clinic	409	13.18 %
Primary Care Mission Clinic	24	0.77 %
Repeat Caller	13	0.42 %
Referral to Other Agency	47	1.51 %
Referral to People’s Health Center	18	0.58 %
Referral to Urban Indian Center	1	0.03 %
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	135	4.35 %
Using Interpreter	23	0.74 %
Transfer Call	40	1.29 %
<b>Totals For Report</b>	<b>3,104</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Activities**

- PHN provided case management assistance to clients requesting prescription refills. There was a total of 44 refill requests made to staff through local pharmacies.
- 168 prescriptions were received from drug manufacturers and processed through the Patient Assistance Program.
- Staff contacted 41 clients to pick up their medications.
- Staff participated in the community wide diabetes coalition meeting and attended two Treatment and Management meetings, one internal meeting and a collaborative workgroup meeting.
- Public Health Nurses are continuing to orient newly hired nurse at the Youth Services Center and assisting with the workload until the second nurse has completed orientation.
- Staff continue to work with evaluating the data that is now available from the Primary Care Clinic.
- Staff attended bioterrorism workshops.
- PHN attended BryanLGH Medical Center Emergency Department Case Management Program committee meeting.

**Program Highlights**

- A record number of pregnant women that were served in the Presumptive Eligibility Program this month. One hundred forty-five women were served. This shows an increased of 40% over last month. This is the largest number of women that have been served by this program in a one month period.
- A 48 year old male reports to the Primary Care Clinic for his first appointment. He presented a copy of a chest x ray received through an employment physical. Findings showed a 2 cm nodule suspicious for lung cancer. The PCC physician reviewed the client's history and ordered a CT scan of the chest. The client was reluctant to have any medical testing/treatment done because he is uninsured. The client is employed and is just over the General Assistance income guidelines at the time of the appointment. The Public Health Nurse did intensive case management with the client regarding the need to have the tests in order to have a diagnosis made. The PHN provided referral services and advocated with GA on behalf of the client. The client did become eligible for GA. A CT scan was ordered through the Grapevine Imaging, which confirmed the x ray findings. The PCC physician then ordered a pulmonology referral. The client was anxious about mounting medical costs and plans to work out a payment plan with the hospital and specialist. He remains employed at this time.

**DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION**

- Direct dental care was provided for 514 patients for 641 client visits during the month of August 2005.

**COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES****Screening/Treatment/Referral Services**

- 60 clients were screened and referred: 37 clients were screened through the LLCHD Dental Clinic; 23 clients were screened on the MHC; 11 clients were referred to the UNMC College of Dentistry for grant funded services; 12 clients were referred to the UNMC College of Dentistry on standard fee; 11 clients were referred to the LLCHD Dental Clinic; 6 clients were referred to speciality dentists; 1 client were referred to a private dentist; and 3 clients were referred to other.

### **Mobile Health Clinic Site visits/services**

- Total contacts for August 2005 - 92 clients/11 site visits

### **Dental Services**

- Total Mobile Health Clinic Contacts for August 2005 - 29 clients/6 site visits
- Screened 4 clients and provided 2 consultation at the People's City Mission (1 site visit).
- Screened 1 clients and provided 3 consultations at the Lincoln Action Program (1 site visit).
- Screened 5 clients and provided 1 consultations at the Matt Talbot Kitchen (2 site visits).
- Screened 9 clients at Zion Church (1 site visit). **Minority Health Grant Clinic**
- Screened 4 clients at Shamrock Court (1 site visit). **Minority Health Grant Clinic.**

### **Speciality clinics**

- Total MHC Contacts for August 2005: 63 clients/5 site visits.
- Russ's Market in Havelock: Adult Risk Assessment/Health Screenings - 8 clients (7 clients had abnormal results or elevated risk factors; 4 clients referred to People's Health Center. Race/ethnicity: 8 Caucasian.
- Walgreens @ 27<sup>th</sup> & Vine; Adult Risk Assessment/Health Screenings - 6 clients (6 clients with abnormal results or elevated risk factors; 4 clients referred to private providers. Race/ethnicity: 4 Caucasian, 1 African American, 1 Asian.
- Christo Rey Church; Adult Risk Assessment/ Health Screenings - **Minority Health Grant Clinic**: 35 clients (31 clients with abnormal results or elevated risk factors; 21 clients referred - 4 referred to Primary Care Provider, 15 to People's Health Center for medical home, 1 to Urban Indian Health Center, and 1 to People's Health Center & UNL. Race/ethnicity: 35 Hispanic.
- Bag 'N' Save; Adult Rick Assessment/Health Screenings - 10 clients (9 clients with abnormal results or elevated risk factors; 4 clients referred - 1 to People's Health Center, 3 to Primary Care Provider. Race/ethnicity: 9 Caucasian, 1 African but specified not African American.
- Super Saver @ 48<sup>th</sup> & O St.; Adult Risk Assessment/Health Screenings - 4 clients (3 clients

with abnormal results or elevated risk factors; no referrals. Race/ethnicity: 2 Caucasian, 1 Asian, 1 African American.

### **ORAL HEALTH PRESENTATIONS**

- Total Audience Reached: 259
- Orientation to 20 UNMC Dental Hygiene Students on clinical rotation.
- Clinic Back-to-School Health Fair for approximately 200 participants.
- Oral health education and risk assessment contacts during MHC site visits for Chronic Disease Prevention: 39 clients/4 site visits; Russ's Market in Havelock - 8 clients; Walgreens - 12 clients; Bag 'N' Save - 10 clients; Super Saver @ 48<sup>th</sup> & O St. - 9 clients.

### **WIC PROGRAM SERVICES**

- WIC Caseload for the Month of August: 3,342
- The average caseload is up by 100 over FY 2004. The annual plan for FY 2006 has been to the State WIC Program; WIC staff will continue to focus on increasing breast-feeding duration and improving BMI of children two to five years of age, who are at risk for obesity.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- One dental student from the UNMC College of Dentistry rotated through the Dental Clinic.
- Two dental assisting students from Southeast Community College rotated through the Dental Clinic.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

#### **AIR QUALITY PROGRAM**

- Technical assistance was provided to 323 individuals via phone and 16 information packets were mailed. 17 field investigations were conducted
- Staff attended a meeting with Dr. Dominique Cheenne to discuss development of an updated community noise map for the City of Lincoln. Dr. Cheenne is a consultant in the field of acoustics and has offered to conduct this project on a pro bono basis.
- NESHAPS Asbestos compliance checks were completed at seven demolition sites and two remodel sites and one landfill inspection.
- Conducted IAQ investigations for UNL, driver license bureau, 12 residences and 4 businesses, including three nails salons. Included were completion of testing at the driver license bureau for chemical odors from new license plates. Test results indicate that the chemicals present in the adhesive should pose no health hazard. Conducted 12 residential IAQ investigations or

unknown odors and mold concerns. Found positive mold issues in all 12 residences investigated and provided solutions in all cases.

- A meeting with NPPD was attended to discuss Sheldon Station compliance with the Clean Air Mercury Rule. NPPD will be conducting additional stack testing for mercury to determine current levels of emissions from their baghouse controlled cyclone boilers.
- Review of the construction permit application submitted by Goodyear for a new spreader commenced. The new unit is subject to the MACT standard for fabric coating. Installation of a regenerative thermal oxidizer is proposed in order to comply with the standard. The oxidizer will control VOC/HAP emissions with an efficiency of 98% removal.
- Staff issued a modified construction permit for LES Salt Valley Generating Station. The permit allows operational flexibility in running the simple cycle turbine with natural gas for limited hours without the oxidation catalyst or selective catalytic reduction.
- Source inspections were conducted at ConAgra, Sandhills Publishing, Lester Electric, Goodyear, Quebecor, Lincoln Plating, Cather, Magellan Pipeline, and Dobson Concrete.
- Staff issued eight noise variances.
- 734 hours of Carbon Monoxide (CO) sampling and 742 hours ozone data sampling were conducted. 15 PM2.5 samples were taken. All were within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- The EPA 2003 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) air emissions within Lancaster County revealed a drop in air pollution emissions. Four (industries/ factories) were contacted. Reasons for the decreased air pollution ranged from pollution prevention, out sourcing of product lines, to just a drop in production.

## **CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

- "Navigate Your Way to Safe & Healthy Child Care" program provided the following child care health consultant visits: Merry Manor, Westminster, Superior Development Center, Agape Child Care, and Loving Hearts.
- A mailing was sent to all licensed child care professionals encouraging them to read *The Summer the Town Bit Back* to children in their care. A cover letter and parent information card was developed for parents regarding how to prevent becoming infected by the WNV and how to apply insect repellent to children. The information card was developed for facilities to copy and distribute to families along with one free copy of the book.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

- Staff responded to a number of calls this month including an oil/solvent dumping at Holmes Lake, a waste oil dumping, a hydraulic fluid spill, one oil spill, an anhydrous ammonia leak and a fertilizer spill.
- Staff participated in the final evaluation for the Air Guard's 72<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team. This

exercise allowed local agencies to work with the CST. LLCHD was also evaluated by the EPA Region 7 On Scene Coordinators and the evaluations were quite good.

## **FOOD PROGRAM**

- 1,845 invitations were sent to Food Managers and Restricted Food Managers for the Sick Employee and Norovirus Information Food Manager Seminar to be held September 21, 2005 at the Lancaster County Extension Office. This seminar will provide information needed to make the decision when to let employees work or when to send them home if they are ill.
- 35 complaints on food establishments were received, with 3 reports of possible foodborne illnesses.
- On Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005, staff was called the Hy-Vee at 70<sup>th</sup> and O St to assist in a refrigerant leak.
- There were 1042 foodhandlers trained in good hygiene and sanitary practice.

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- The West Nile Virus presentation was shared with 453 citizens of Lincoln and Lancaster County at over 30 events and meetings.
- The local Free To Grow partners received an award (1 of 6 awarded nationally) for the success of this community-police partnership in dealing with problem properties in north central Lincoln with a high number of rental properties. LLCHD staff were members of this effort.
- Staff answered 70 calls concerning special waste disposal, form completion, and other technical questions, provided immediate assistance to 3 walk-in clients and had one on-site technical assistance visit.
- There were 186 solid waste nuisance complaints received.
- 18 referrals were made for illegal dumping clean-ups along County roadside right-of-ways.
- Staff issued 50 special waste disposal permits, sent out 24 permit renewal notices to Group 5 generators and 12 permit expiration notices to generators that had not renewed their permits.
- Staff conducted 10 salvage yard inspections and re-inspections.

## **WATER QUALITY**

- Staff met with City Parks and Recreation management to discuss mosquito control at Bowling Lake. A back-pack larvicide applicator was used to treat the shallow lake which is undergoing renovation. Residents in the area were concerned for their health.
- Staff met with Burlington Northern/Santa Fe yardmaster to discuss mosquito control along railroad right-of-ways in the city limits.

- Following a directive by the LLCHD staff, C.P. Properties removed silt from a storm water liner at Wilderness Ridge. A dump truck, tractor with front-end loader and two specially equipped skid-steer loaders were used in the effort.
- Staff are abating a mosquito breeding site with larvicide due to inaction on the part of property owners after the owners were instructed to drain the standing water. The abatement costs will be assessed to the property taxes.
- Staff met with Storm Water Management staff and attorneys representing the homeowners association and the storm water contractor to resolve erosion and mosquito breeding issues
- Numerous complaints for mosquitoes are being reported in the area of Whitehead Wetlands at 27<sup>th</sup> and Fletcher Avenue.
- Staff are reviewing mosquito surveillance data to determine whether spraying should be implemented
- A permit application was denied for a proposed golf clubhouse which would also serve as a full service kitchen and banquet facility. The applicant had proposed a sub-surface septic system. Board of Health policy requires any new food service facility to be connected to a lagoon.
- A meeting was held at the NDEQ at which the owner agreed to install a lagoon. NDEQ agreed also to do the engineering review for the proposed lagoon. The On-site Wastewater lagoon Permit was issued for the construction of a lagoon.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH & LAND USE PLANNING**

- Staff conducted (23) land-used reviews and provided written comments to the Planning Department.

### **Land-use Reviews of Note:**

- A proposed residential rural development. An eight inch high pressure underground petroleum pipeline traversed the eastern and norther edges of this proposed development. In the event of a spill or leak of a flammable liquid, the United States Department of Transportation's 2000 Emergency Response Guidebook recommends immediately establishing an isolation area of at least 80 to 160 feet in all directions to protect public health. For a large spill of a flammable liquid, this guidebook recommends an initial downwind evacuation for at least 1000 feet. Therefore, given this information, LLCHD recommended establishing a buffer of 160 feet on each side of this pipeline. While there are no current regulations that prohibit the location of occupied structures within certain distances of underground petroleum pipelines, LLCHD recommended that occupied structures not be located within the 160 feet of this pipeline. At the very least, prospective buyers or lessees of the lots should be informed regarding the presence of the underground petroleum pipeline and LLCHD's recommended 160 foot buffer.
- A proposed mixed-use development. Review of this development revealed that noise pollution can be a concern when locating residential zoning adjacent to commercial zoning.

Lincoln Municipal Code (LMC) 8.24 Noise Control Ordinance does address noise pollution by regulating source sound levels based upon the receiving land-use category or zoning. However, LLCHD does have case history involving residential uses and abutting commercial uses in which the commercial source does comply with LMC 8.24, but the residential receptors still perceive the noise pollution as a nuisance. LLCHD strongly advised the applicant to become familiar with LMC 8.24. LLCHD advised against locating loading docks, trash compactors, etc. adjacent to residential zoning. Therefore, creative site design should be utilized to locate potential sources of noise pollution as far as possible from residential zoning, a potential concern relative to noise pollution.

- Staff created a map using GIS depicting the unpaved roads within the city limits of Lincoln.

## **HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION**

- The Division Manager assisted in the refinement of the goals and objectives presented to the Joint Committee on Land Use Planning and Public Health for their September 13 meeting. The goals relate to ways to increase physical activity levels to reduce the prevalence of obesity in the County. The built environment plays a role in the increases seen in the rates of obesity during the past decade.
- The Division Manager and QI/QA Coordinator sent content to Snitily Carr for the development of the Action Now diabetes website, 123ActionNow.org, which became operational on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The website is under construction and content will be added soon. Once fully developed in mid-October, it will provide local information on community resources and the Action Now coalition, as well as provide easy links to the best material from outside sources such as the American Diabetes Association, the CDC and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.
- The Division Manager received a CDC scholarship to attend the Community Health Assessment Conference in Seattle, WA to learn more about communities and states use of health data, community assessment and strategic planning efforts such as MAPP and PACE EH. Some valuable information about process and expectations was gleaned from the presentations.
- The CODES online query system has been added to the Department's intranet site, allowing staff to define their own, two-by-two analysis and generate graphs and tables. The query tool development was a joint project between HDE and Information and Fiscal Management. The YRBS survey data will be the next database for which an application will be developed, followed by BRFSS data and Vital Statistics.

## **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE**

- Staff from the Communicable Disease (CD) Program participated in the planning and making of an educational video on West Nile Virus for the government access channel.
- A CD nurse, Lindsay Carnahan, completed the two-week Applied Epidemiology course taught in September by CDC epidemiologists. All communicable disease program nurses have now completed both basic and applied epidemiology courses.

- Staff investigated several cases of pertussis this month. There have been seventy-seven (77) confirmed cases of pertussis reported in Lancaster County so far this year. The recent introduction of pertussis vaccine for adolescents and adults is not likely to impact the current outbreak being seen locally as it will take several years before the levels of immunity reach high enough levels to impact transmission.
- The CD program supervisor was involved in planning for the upcoming flu season. The Department has ordered 7000 doses of flu vaccine for the 2005-2006 Flu season. The Department will begin vaccinating high risk individuals in mid October and will not begin to offer flu shots to lower risk individuals until November.
- A presentation was given at a nationwide conference on the role of the local health department in a food borne illness outbreak. This was done as part of a food safety conference given by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure.
- The Supervisor was one of the presenters at a workshop put on by the Department's food section for food service managers.

## **GRANTS/SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### **Immunization Action Program (IAP)**

- A number of outlets were identified for future educational presentations, including two local mosques, several churches serving minorities/immigrants, and several community centers. Discussions with several of these groups about specific topics and the best way to reach clients/participants have begun.
- An article was submitted and published in the *Lincoln Journal Star's* free monthly publication "Star City Health" in recognition of Immunization Awareness Month in August. The article reminded families of the importance of keeping immunizations up-to-date for all members of the family, adults as well as children. Information about the upcoming adolescent pertussis vaccine was provided.
- The Lincoln Information and Vaccination Effort (LIVE) Coalition billboards continue to be displayed at several locations in the City.
- LIVE Coalition members staffed a booth at BryanLGH Kids' Health and Safety Fair and at the Lincoln Action Program's Back to School Fair in August.
- Planning continued for inclusion of the LIVE Coalition in a school health nurses' conference (with an immunization update session) to be held in Lincoln in January 2006.

### **Perinatal Hepatitis B Program (PHBP)**

- Two cases were opened and two cases closed in September. The current caseload is 18.
- Information and education was provided to two local health care providers during the month of September.

**TB Program**

- The TB Program currently has six individuals on Direct Observation Treatment (DOT).
- A total of eight consultations on TB were provided in August to staff, local health care providers and the public.
- Staff contacted with a man who was reported to have been exposed to TB on a plane trip to investigate if anything needs to be done to protect him or others.

**MMRS (Metropolitan Medical Response System)**

- MMRS planning and equipment, mainly communications, was used during the August 5 Exercise with the Civil Support Team (CST). This was used for communications with the hospitals.
- The decon trailer assigned to the Nebraska Air National Guard was repaired after it was severely damaged while in transit. There was structural damage to the trailer tongue, tow chains, electrical wiring, and hitch lock assembly. The vendor repaired the damage at no cost.
- The MMRS Coordinator participated in planning and preparation for the Sept. 13 Homeland Security Exposition. The Exposition was the fruition of a February plan made by the MMRS Media Committee.
- MMRS provided a decon trailer for the Firth Volunteer Fire Dept for Panama Days. The Department set up the tent and displayed it to the public.
- Local contact information for a BT or chemical event was printed onto labels that were affixed to BT and chemical agent guides produced by the Center for Biopreparedness. The guides are to be distributed to area hospitals, EMS, labs and other health care entities.
- MMRS took the first steps to form a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) for Lancaster County. This will be included as part of a new contract/grant with Volunteer Partners (VP). VP received a similar contract over two years ago to create Emergency Volunteer Centers (EVC) for use in case of a large disaster. The EVC concept was utilized after the Hallam Tornado of May 22, 2004. The EVC concept was very effective in managing volunteers in the wake of the disaster and providing an ample paper trail of all volunteer activity for FEMA reimbursement. VP should provide equally positive leadership for the MRC project. Their contract/grant will also include funds for continued EVC work and another project to help with county disaster drills.
- The MMRS Coordinator and Doug Ahlberg, Director of Emergency Management, attended the Region VII Health and Medical Conference in Independence, Missouri. The MMRS Coordinator gave a presentation on the MMRS program and its accomplishments.

**EPIDEMIOLOGY/GIS**

- Staff analyzed Essential Services specific to MAPP database and prepared a presentation model for the Board of Health.

- Staff mapped pediatric/pedicycle related crashes in Lincoln from 2000-2005 on the request of HPO staff and developed a density model for identifying hot zones for crashes.
- Age group deaths 0-14 due to unintentional injuries from 1999-2003 were analyzed by staff.
- Staff developed an online form and database for evacuee screening.
- Staff members demonstrated use and implementation of E-beam digital display for virtual private network and meeting sharing.
- Staff deployed CODES online query tool on the intranet and sent invitations for testing the tool to uncover any unknown/unforeseen bugs in the system.

## **QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

- QI Intern, Ashley Grygor, began work on 9/1/05. She is a graduate student at Wesleyan and is studying Forensic Science, the laboratory track.
- Mark Stubbs of the American Diabetes Association was recruited to join the ActionNOW! Coalition.
- Clinic quality improvement/assurance project continues. Preliminary reports from the Primary Care Clinic corroborate with the recent audit done by the State Diabetes Program in that our patients appear to be “sicker” than they were last year and sicker than the average, probably in part because we are making every effort to be the provider of last resort (before the Emergency Room), NOT the medical home of our clients. We continue developing reports concerning three main streams of information: (1) demographics (with more detail and utility than reports we have generated in the past), (2) measures of client outcomes (such as A1c’s, blood pressures, BMI’s, etc), and (3) measures of our quality of care (A1c’s taken at appropriate intervals, smoking, domestic violence, and ER use screens done or not, etc).
- Mobile Health Clinic program evaluation involvement continues. We are seeking to develop easier ways of gathering and inputting data, making reports. Also, we would like to develop an easier search capacity for “regular” clients who visit the MHC.
- Strategic planning regarding Core Competencies Learning Objectives under IFM Division Manager’s direction continues on the workplan.
- Working with the QI Council on strategic plans for heightening the visibility of the 10 Essential Services and the National Public Health Standards.
- The development of the Spanish Action NOW! logo was facilitated by the QI Coordinator.

## **HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH**

### **ADOLESCENT AND FAMILY HEALTH**

- Staff continue to create new printed resource material for the Lincoln Fatherhood Coalition. A resource guide and three other brochures have been developed to distribute through Health Department programs and coalition members. The coalition is planning ongoing programs including an incentive reading program for fathers and their children at City libraries, father/child interactive workshops at Hobby Town, and an annual event at the Children's Museum where dads get in for free.
- Staff will co-facilitate a Developmental Asset Training for Lincoln Community Learning Centers. Attendees will learn how to incorporate asset development into their everyday lives and help enrich their interaction with youth they have contact with.
- Staff continued to coordinate the smoking cessation project. Promotion is increasing in the MUA to encourage more minority populations to take advantage of the free services. Cessation classes and support groups will rotate on a monthly basis among People's Health Center, Salvation Army and Malone Center. Narcotics Anonymous has also agreed to promote this free resource.
- Staff presented information to 5 middle school health teachers about Adolescent & Family Health programs and resources.
- Staff participated in a State Tobacco Cessation planning meeting to discuss potential programming in the State. The current State plan does not include cessation, and there is a growing need as communities work toward smoke-free environments.

### **CHRONIC DISEASE & EVERY WOMAN MATTERS**

- During August, 9 enrollment packets were distributed to eligible women, 10 re-screening cards were issued, 18 contacts were made to enrolled women needing screening, 119 contacts were made to women needing rescreening, and 7 contacts were made to women needing mammography.
- The August Recall Management Report indicated that in May, 15 women were enrolled but not screened, 124 women needed rescreening, and 13 needed mammograms done. 12 of these women were Spanish-speaking and 6 were Vietnamese speaking.
- Staff provided EWM information to 9 women at the Indian Center, 5 women at Lancaster County Corrections, and 4 women at the Clinic With A Heart.
- Staff did follow-up contact and provided additional program materials to Plaza Pharmacy, SuperSaver Pharmacy (48<sup>th</sup> & O), SuperSaver Pharmacy (27<sup>th</sup> & Cornhusker), Jerusalem's, Walgreen's (27<sup>th</sup> & Vine, and Lincoln Action Program. Several diversity posters and EWM brochures were provided to Jai-Jai's salon. These businesses are very helpful with the dissemination of EWM material to customers.
- Health education information was provided to 28 people (EWM/Tobacco/Colorectal Cancer) on the Mobile Health Clinic at Russ's in Havelock, Walgreen's (27<sup>th</sup> & Vine), Bag N'Save, and Super Saver (48<sup>th</sup> & O).

- A Koman grant focused on breast cancer awareness is being prepared. As the EWM grant was cut by 25% for the current year (Statewide and, therefore, locally), alternate funding is essential for program continuity and staff positions.
- Coalition for Older Adult Promotion (COAHP): 23 agency representatives and individuals attended the August meeting which included a presentation on the “3 Ds: Depression, Delirium and Dementia.”
- The Executive Committee continued to plan for the Annual Meeting in October at which Congressman Tom Osborne will keynote a presentation on “Issues Facing Older Adults”.
- Mobile Health Clinic: 5 adult health screening clinics were held in August, one of which was designated as a Minority Health grant clinic. 28 persons received screening at the 4 basic clinics (7 of the 8 seen at Russ’s Market in Havelock had abnormal clinical results or risk factors, 6 of the 6 seen at Walgreen’s @ 27<sup>th</sup> and Vine had abnormal clinical results or risk factors, 9 of the 10 seen at Bag ‘n’ Save @ 46<sup>th</sup> and Vine had abnormal clinical results or risk factors and 3 of 4 seen at SuperSaver @ 48<sup>th</sup> and O had abnormal clinical results or risk factors. At the Minority Health grant clinic: 31 of the 35 persons seen at Cristo Rey Church had abnormal clinical results or risk factors. Of the 35 persons seen, 15 were referred to People’s Health Center. This clinic was held on Saturday after a morning church service.
- Staff continue to participate in several Risk Assessment, Referral, and Prevention meetings with partners at which Manual, Website Updates, materials, and media campaign were discussed. The website and media rollout will occur on September 15 with a press conference featuring Mayor Seng, Bruce Dart, Dr. Les Spry, and a person living with diabetes.
- Cancer: Staff met with June Ryan, HHSS Comprehensive Cancer Program about future funding opportunities and the EWM Colorectal Cancer Grant which has been funded. This grant will expand distribution of FOBT kits to EWM providers throughout Nebraska for EWM clients and their partners. A meeting that will include Lancaster County Crusade as well as provider representation is being organized.
- Lancaster County Crusade Against Cancer: The Steering Committee held a planning meeting for Crusade funding for the next year as the 3 year Cash Fund grant will end on September 30, 2005. Input from committee members was reviewed to determine resources and funding for the next fiscal year. At this time, LMEP has agreed to be the fiscal agent for continuing Crusade efforts.
- Targeting In On Cancer, Year 2: Staff met with Dr. Anderson regarding funding received for an expansion of the Targeting In On Cancer effort. Although last year this project focused on cancer awareness, prevention and screening in the African American population, the Lincoln Community Cancer Awareness Committee will be expanded to include representatives from the Hispanic, Vietnamese and American Indian populations. The Coordinator will contact community persons and arrange for a first meeting in September. Two awareness events are to be conducted in the coming year, one in the fall and one in the spring.
- Minority Health Grant: An activity report was submitted by all partners for the first month of grant activities. 104 services (health, dental, medication, smoking cessation) were provided to people of a racial/ethnic minority in the first month of the grant period. Several meetings were

held with staff from the Policy Center to assure consistency of data. Meetings were held with staff from Peoples and from the St. E's and LLCHD tobacco programs to clarify certain data elements. A partner meeting was held to provide update information and to solicit input on grant activities. It was agreed that quarterly meetings will be sufficient in the future.

### **EARLY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COORDINATION**

- During the month of August 2005, there were 51 referrals made to the Early Development Services Coordination Program. Of the 51 referrals, 23 were younger than 2 years of age (program target population). In comparison, the average number of referrals for the month of August for the past nine years (Sept. 1995- August 2004 time period) is 27. These referrals were received from: parents - 17; physicians - 10; other health - 7; other agency - 16 (14 CAPTA); and E.D. transfer - 1. Reasons for referral include the following concerns: speech/language/hearing - 26; hearing only - 1; overall development - 4; motor - 5; diagnosed condition - 4; behavior - 0; and substantiated abuse/neglect - 11. Ages at referral: less than 1 year - 11; 1-2 years - 12; 2-3 years - 20; and 3 years (eligible to 8/31) - 8.
- The Early Development Services Coordination (EDSC) Program participated in the following public awareness and community activities: 1) Early Childhood Development Posters were provided to the following: the Respite Advisory Committee for Southeast Nebraska; the EDSC Staff meeting presenter, Mary Phillips, Lincoln Public Schools, Early Childhood Special Education Supervisor; the Lincoln Interagency Respite Committee; and the SESAME meeting members. 2) Vietnamese Development Wheels and Early Development Network brochures were provided to the Asian Community Center, along with a discussion about the Program. 3) Development Wheels and Program brochures were provided to the Lincoln Action Program, Early Head Start for distribution at the BryanLGH Health Fair. 4) Program representation was at the following: the Results Matter in Nebraska: Measuring Early Childhood Outcomes Meeting ; the Lincoln Public Schools Staff Development Sessions with guest speaker, Nicole Roper on the topic of Supporting Language in Natural Environments; and the Take A Break Advisory Council meeting at the YWCA.

### **HEALTHY HOMES**

- Healthy Homes began in August 1993. Since then we have had 2,457 families referred to Healthy Homes. 145 families are actively participating, 97 families are in process of being contacted. We received 29 new referrals this month. The number of contacts to our participating families made by Healthy Homes staff in the month included: 119 home visits, 354 telephone contacts, and 118 accompany clients to physician visits/other community services and agencies.

### **INJURY PREVENTION**

- Staff is working with Lincoln on the Move, NHHSS, Public Works Traffic Engineering and EPH to coordinate installation of count-down pedestrian crossing flashers at 27<sup>th</sup> and Holdrege Streets. This area was identified as high-risk due to the numbers of pedestrian injuries occurring during the 2000-2004 period.
- Staff and Fire Grant intern assisted in coordination of Fire Safety Festivals in conjunction with

the Back-to-School Nights at Elliott Elementary and LAP's Back-to-School Fair at Pershing auditorium. The Fire Safe House was a featured attraction at both events, and over 800 smoke alarms were distributed to high-risk populations.

- Staff and Safe Kids co-chair met with Jody Geer, RN, LLCHD and April Wetgand, OTR, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, who are taking the leadership with development of a Safe Kids Home Safety Task Force. Over 60% of all injuries to children 14 years of age and under occur in the home. Discussion included the scope of which injuries on which the Task Force would focus, and who else from the community should be involved with this group.
- The Child Pedestrian Safety Task Force provided educational activities for 30 children at the F Street Recreation Center. Activities included an interactive computer exercise that allowed the kids to safely navigate a child through a neighborhood, choosing the safe route, and then the kids were taken across intersections of 13<sup>th</sup> & F and 13<sup>th</sup> & G to show them how to safely cross these dangerous intersections.
- Staff facilitated a meeting with a representatives from Performance Dodge, Toyota, Lexus and the Child Passenger Safety Task Force. Performance Dodge desires to be a full partner through sponsoring several child safety seat events at their dealerships each year. The first of these events is tentatively scheduled for November.

### **LINCOLN ON THE MOVE**

- There were 1,588 breakfasts and 3,712 lunches served through the Summer Food Program during ten calendar days in August for an average of 530 meals per day. There were less than 20 sites operating in August. There were slightly more than 34,000 meals served from June 6 through August 12 at 27 sites across the City. The annual audit that is performed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) at the end of the program each year was held on August 29 and 30.
- A joint effort between the Lincoln on the Move program and the LPS District Office to promote better nutritional habits and improved physical activity habits among students at 5 Middle Schools in Lincoln was started in August with preliminary meetings with staff from the program and Principals at Goodrich, Lefler, Mickle, Pound, and Scott Middle Schools. Student Councils from those schools will form School Health Advisory Committees to work with specialists from LPS and with staff from LLCHD to survey their peers to determine existing nutritional and physical activity habits. The Councils will then develop messages that will encourage/support students to adopt/maintain better nutritional and physical activity habits during the school day.

### **TOBACCO**

- Staff presented to 18 adults and gave out 20 quit kits at Touchstone. Staff attended the Clinton Elementary School health fair, with 300 children and 600 adults attending and 4 referrals made to cessation classes offered at St. Elizabeth's and BryanLGH's Intervent; LAP Back to School health fair; assisted with preparation for the LMEP ice cream social/health fair 100 adults/children with 12 referrals to St. Elizabeth's classes and one to Bryan's Intervent; and the F Street Health Fair with 88 children.

- Staff received and followed up on complaints in August from the public regarding smoking. To date, there have been only 50 complaints and 26 tickets (January 1 to August 31).
- Staff are directing the majority of their efforts toward cessation, youth prevention of tobacco use, and smoke free homes and vehicles.
- The Lancaster County Sheriff's office conducted a compliance check on September 7<sup>th</sup> where 7 out of 27 businesses sold, a 25.9% noncompliance rate.

## **INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

### **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

#### **Permits Plus**

- LLCHD staff requested that the Nuisance Complaint composition be modified to allow it to be used for all Complaints based on a subtype.
- Staff prepared for an on-site training to be provided by Accela staff, but was cancelled because Accela staff were deployed to New Orleans to implement their Wireless application.
- IM staff developed an "illegal dumping" document to be used with the Complaint composition.
- Food establishment fees were updated by LLCHD staff and sent to Accela to be incorporated into Permits Plus.

#### **Community Health Services (CHS) Division**

- Immunization recall project. IM staff have been working with CHS staff to verify the Spanish and Vietnamese recall scripts are accurate.
- Equipment was returned to CMHC Company because a contractual settlement had been met.
- Child Health Clinic and Every Woman Matters superbill screens were implemented and data entry has begun.
- Visual Centaurus was modified to add codes that would enable staff to track number of I&R calls received for the Diabetes Project.

#### **Help Desk Activities**

- 175 Help Desk calls were received 8/27/05–9/18/05.
- IM staff conducted a successful Lotus Notes 6.5 upgrade class to approximately 220 staff.
- The NEDSS web application (Guardian) was updated to improve the performance.

#### **Web Work**

- Per the Water Team's request, a link was setup from the City Children's Environmental Health webpage to the on-line book "The Summer the Town Bit Back" as an educational tool for West Nile Virus.
- The Food Handler class schedule was updated.

#### **Iris**

- Staff provided technical assistance to migrate from a peer-to-peer network to a terminal services network in the Respite western area.
- A quarterly update of Iris data was uploaded to the city Interline website.
- Staff added keywords to the database, maintained by LLCHD, to improve Iris referrals for Southeast Nebraska residents routed through the 211 Call Center.
- A new Respite contract was signed between LLCHD and the State. LLCHD staff will provide technical assistance during the contractual year of July, 2005-June 30, 2006.

### **Other Items**

- Section staff participated in a NAPHIT membership webinar “Applying Project Management Principles in Public Health Departments”.
- Zhong Xu, System Specialist, assisted the Food Team with Chinese translation services for an Administrative Hearing.

### **State / National activities**

- The Division Manager was one of five National Public Health Information Technology (NAPHIT) presenters at the Second Health Information Technology Summit in Washington DC, “The Role and Experience of Public Health Department CIOs in Current HIT Initiatives”.

### **FISCAL OPERATIONS**

- **Reports completed**
  - Monthly report spreadsheets for FY 2006 for the Director, Division Managers and Board of Health have been created.
  - Annual inventory
  - WIC audit on checks
  - Semiannual School & conference
- **Grants**
  - Successful completion of Summer Food Grant Audit
- **Old Fiscal Year activities**
  - Finished FY 2005, requisitions, vouchers, IDC, journal entries, and deposits. All completed in advance of deadlines.
- **New Fiscal Year activities**
  - Made form and cash register changes for Dental and CHS fee increases.
  - Obtained new revenue codes for new EPH fees and met with EPH staff to coordinate receipt of new revenue
  - Division Manager met with staff from the Planning Department to coordinate the collection of the Area Development fee using Permits Plus and JDEdwards applications.
  - Began preparation of FY 2006 files





# NEWS RELEASE

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
3140 N Street, Lincoln NE 68510 • Phone: 441-8000  
Fax: 441-8323 or 441-6229

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 12, 2005  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Bruce Dart, MS, (402) 441-8001  
Health Director  
Tim Timmons, RN, (402) 441-8056  
Communicable Disease Program Supervisor

## **FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE FOR HIGH RISK PERSONS**

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department will begin providing flu shots on Monday, October 17, 2005. The Department's priority at this time is high risk individuals only.

Individuals considered at high risk include the following

- persons aged 65 years and older, with and without chronic health conditions
- residents of long-term care facilities
- persons aged 2—64 years with chronic health conditions
- children aged 6—23 months
- pregnant women
- health-care personnel who provide direct patient care
- household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children aged <6 months

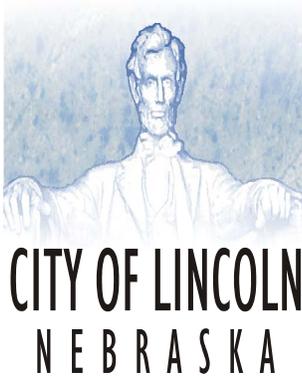
Pneumonia shots will also be available to those individuals over 65 years of age or to those persons under 65 years who are otherwise at high risk. Flu shots will cost \$20.00 and pneumonia shots will cost \$32.00 unless Medicare Part B eligible. Individuals need to bring their Medicare cards with them.

Please note that high risk children 2 years to 18 years of age must have a written order from their doctor to receive a flu or pneumonia shot at the Department.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department is located at 3140 N Street and is open from 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m, Monday through Friday. Immunization services are also available on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. The Department's Flu Hot line is available to provide local flu vaccine availability information. The hot line number is 441-0358.

Influenza (flu) is a highly infectious disease of the lungs, and it can lead to pneumonia. Every year in the United States, on average 5% to 20% of the population gets the flu; more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications and about 36,000 people die from flu.

The best way to prevent this illness is by getting a flu vaccination each fall.



# PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES ADVISORY

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

[www.ci.lincoln.ne.us](http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us)

October 13, 2005

## **Pine Lake Road Widening Project 700014 40th - 61st Street 56th Street; Shadow Pines - Thompson Creek**

The Pine Lake project phase from 40th to 56th Street has a substantial completion date of November 21, 2005. This is the date that was set as the deadline to open Pine Lake Road to traffic. We have accomplished our goal of opening the roadway 6 weeks ahead of schedule which reduces the length of time the traveling public is impacted. In order to open the road to traffic, the Contractor was required to construct certain items of the contract prior to November 21, 2005. This includes public utility work, traffic signals, paving, sidewalks, and pavement marking, but does not include landscape items such as seeding and sodding. The contractor, Constructors, is planning to finish final grading and weather permitting, will do the seeding and sodding before November 21st (the area of final grading, seeding and sodding is to the limit of construction easements and includes the City right-of-way).

The City would like property owners to be patient of these final issues. Hopefully seeding and sodding can be completed before this date, but if not, it will be completed in the spring. The City and the Contractor realize the concerns of the property owners and the issue of the fences. The Contractor and the City do not want to damage any private property such as fences or landscape shrubs installed before completion of the project.

If you have any questions, please contact the project manager, Charlie Wilcox, at 441-7532.

Charlie Wilcox, Project Manager  
Engineering Services - City of Lincoln  
441-7532 or 440-6067  
[cwilcox@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:cwilcox@lincoln.ne.gov)



# NEWS RELEASE



MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

[lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov)

LLWC Ž 440 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 100 Ž Lincoln NE 68508 Ž (402) 441-7716

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

October 10, 2005  
Marj Manglitz, Coordinator, 402/464-3607  
Bonnie Coffey, LLWC director, 402/441-8695

## **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT VISITS NEBRASKA**

*Professional actress tours state with one-act monologue*

During October, the one-act monologue featuring the life and times of Eleanor Roosevelt comes to Nebraska. Performed by professional actress and playwright, Elena Dodd, the First Lady of the mid-1940's is brought to life to speak to modern-day audiences about human rights issues that still linger world of politics, social issues and cultural inequalities.

The one-woman theatrical production, *Meet Eleanor Roosevelt*, has toured hundreds of public and private schools, colleges, libraries, churches, historical groups, nursing homes, and retirement communities across the nation. It has been presented at the United Nation's (UN) Fourth World Conference on Women in China, Democrats Abroad in Paris and Heidelberg, United Nations Association, Girl Scout Conferences, New Hampshire Chautauqua, League of Women Voters, and at Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill home in Hyde Park, NY.

The theater project conveys the association's founding principles, explains current economic and political realities, and helps audiences of all ages understand how UN goals apply to today's global issues. Roosevelt's influence and stature have continued to grow. The heart and soul of Roosevelt remains a powerful inspiration to leaders in both the civil rights and women's movements.

This is the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the United Nations. The hundreds of programs, funds, initiatives, and resources of the UN have been a driving force toward a more humane, healthy and prosperous world for all future generations. Although presentations are free, the general public is encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for the Lincoln Food Bank or local pantry program as an act in the spirit.

This event is cosponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council, Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, United Nations Association and Lincoln Public Schools's *Bringing American History Scholarship Into the Classroom* (BAHSIC) project.

Dodd is scheduled to present in Nebraska, from Oct. 10 - Oct. 27, 2005. Her itinerary includes presentations in a wide array of community forums and educational institutions. Most of the presentations features Roosevelt as a middle-aged woman who advocated for Universal Human Rights. Unless otherwise noted, call Marj Manglitz at 402/464-3607 for more information.

Dodd's tour schedule as follows:

- Oct. 11 The Legacy, 5700 Fremont, Lincoln, NE; 1-2:30 p.m. For more info, call 464-5700.
- Oct. 12 The Legacy, 5600 Pioneers Blvd, Lincoln, NE; 1-2:30 p.m. For more info, call

436-3000.

- Oct. 13 The Legacy, 7200 Van Dorn St., Lincoln, NE; 1-2:30 p.m. For more info, call 484-8888.
- Oct. 14 St. Joseph's Catholic school at 10 a.m., York, NE; and repeat performances at the York Senior Center, 1053 Main St., York, NE; shows at 12:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Oct. 15 Nebraskans for Peace annual dinner meeting held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 16<sup>th</sup> & A St., Lincoln, NE; Noon to 2 p.m.
- Oct. 16 Red Cloud Opera House at Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation, 413 North Webster Street, Red Cloud, NE, at 2 p.m. For more info, call 402-746-2641.
- Oct. 17-22 Lincoln Public Schools classroom tours.
- Oct. 18 Lincoln Woman's Club, 407 S. 14<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE; evening performance.
- Oct. 21 Live from the Mill, 8<sup>th</sup> & P St., NET Radio's cultural arts program, 9 a.m.
- Oct. 23 The Loft at the Mill, 8<sup>th</sup> & P St., Lincoln, 2-5 p.m. Sponsored by the Angels Theater Company. For more information, call Judith Hart at 474-2206.
- Oct. 24 United Nations Association banquet, UNL East Campus Student Union, 33 & Holdrege St., Lincoln. RSVP by calling Mary Lutz, 464-3571, cost \$15.
- Oct. 25 Wayne State College, Office of Multicultural Affairs, 1111 Main St., Wayne, NE, evening performance. For more information, call toll free to 800/228-9972.
- Oct. 26 University of Nebraska-Omaha Women's Studies program at Eppley Auditorium, 1804 Capitol Ave., Omaha, NE, at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 27 Mayor's committee on International Friendship & Lincoln Council for International Visitors, The Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S. 13<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE; 5 p.m. For more information, call 430-8410.

Elena Dodd graduated from Wellesley College and earned a master's in American Literature from Boston University and a master's of Fine Arts in Writing from Vermont College of Union Institute and University. Her special interest in American playwrights led to working with new scripts in experimental groups in Boston. Previous performances as American historical characters include abolitionist Sarah Grimké at the University of Michigan, and Harriet Beecher Stowe at the John F. Kennedy Library. She is currently an actress and writer with The Streetfeet Women, a Boston-based multicultural ensemble.



# NEWS RELEASE



MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

lincoln.ne.gov

LLWC Ž 440 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 100 Ž Lincoln NE 68508 Ž (402) 441-7716

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

October 5, 2005  
Sue Anderson, R/SACC, 402/476-2110  
Bonnie Coffey, LLWC director, 402/441-8695

## **CANDLELIGHT VIGIL REMEMBERS LIVES LOST TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

*A woman is beaten every nine seconds in the United States. One out of every four women will experience violence in a relationship during her lifetime.*

*The U.S. Surgeon General identified battering as the single largest cause of injury to women, affecting 4 million women each year, resulting in millions being spent by employers in lost work wages and productivity issues.*

*Approximately 683,000 women are forcibly raped each year across the nation. According to the Uniform Crime Report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 30% of women killed in the United States die at the hands of a husband or boyfriend. In 1990, more than 800 women were killed by their husbands; 400 more were killed by their boyfriends nationwide.*

In an effort to raise public awareness in the Lincoln and Lancaster County area, the 8<sup>th</sup> annual **Candlelight Vigil** will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2005, to remember those lives lost to domestic violence and the long-term effects it has in our homes, schools and on family members.

Working in conjunction with the annual YWCA's Week Without Violence activities, the Candlelight Vigil brings together men and women in all walks of life and all ages to show their support in putting an end to domestic violence in our community. This event is cosponsored by the Rape Spouse Abuse Crisis Center (R/SACC), the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) and BryanLGH Medical Center who donated 170 glow sticks for the event. The Candlelight Vigil is one of many events held throughout the Lincoln community in recognition of October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

*Last year, more than 13,000 client-related phone calls were answered in Lincoln and Lancaster County by R/SACC staff and volunteers to intervene in a crisis situation or to answer non-critical questions about domestic abuse. R/SACC received 330 police calls requesting advocates to assist in domestic violence or sexual assault cases; 125 advocates were dispatched to assist victims in hospital emergency rooms.*

The Vigil will convene in front of the R/SACC office, 2545 N St. The Ceremony is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. on the front porch of the renovated home that serves as its business office. Guest speakers for the program will include representatives from R/SACC, Friendship Home, the Lincoln Police Department's Victim Witness Unit, Mayor Coleen J. Seng and a reading from survivors' voices. The program will end with the display of glow sticks, singing and a moment of silence for those women who have died as a result of domestic violence. This event is free and open to the public.

Working as a division of the Mayor's Office since 1976, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission strives to fulfill its mission of advising City and County officials of social, economic and legal barriers that prevent women from choosing their roles in the family, the labor force and society in general, and working toward the elimination of those barriers.



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

[lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov)



Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission ǯ 440 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 100 ǯ Lincoln NE 68508

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

October 10, 2005  
Bonnie Coffey, 441-8695  
Diane Mullins, 441-7717



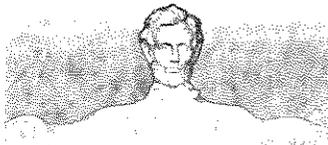
## COUNCIL OF WOMEN LEADERS TO NETWORK AT BEACON HILLS

Women represent 51% of Lancaster County, women who are leaders in their cultural communities, in their careers, in their faith communities, in their neighborhoods, in their clubs and organizations. The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) believes that every woman leads and guides.

In keeping with the mission and strategic plan of promoting women's leadership roles within the community, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission invites area women to their semi-annual networking group for women, the *Council of Women Leaders*. This event provides an informal venue to meet other women in the community for future leadership development and valuable connections.

Open to the general public, women are invited to help strengthen the community of women in Lincoln and Lancaster County on **Thursday, October 27, 2005 beginning at 5:30 PM**. The *Council of Women Leaders* will meet at the **Beacon Hills Restaurant, located at 5353 N. 27<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, Nebraska**. Check-in time is 5:15 to 5:30 p.m. Dinner is provided at the cost of \$10 per plate. For more information, call the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission at 441-7716. Registration forms can be mailed upon request, faxed, picked up or downloaded from "[www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/women/forms.htm](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/women/forms.htm)" Reservation deadline is Friday, Oct. 21, 2005.

The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission is a City-County agency housed in the Office of the Mayor. LLWC is dedicated to identifying, representing and serving the diverse needs of women in Lincoln and Lancaster County, raising awareness regarding deficiencies in policy that negatively impact women, advising City and County officials on public policy issues, educating the public regarding these issues through a network of coalitions, and serving as an advocate for change by empowering all women in our community and working to improve their lives. LLWC works to assure that the women of Lincoln and Lancaster County have full participation in the issues that have an impact on their lives.



**CITY OF LINCOLN**  
**NEBRASKA**

**MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG**

[www.ci.lincoln.ne.us](http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us)

Engineering Services  
Public Works and Utilities Department

531 Westgate Blvd.  
Suite 100  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68528  
402-441-7711  
fax: 402-441-6576

October 11, 2005

Carole Closter  
1420 'C' Street Apt. E  
Lincoln, NE 68502

Dear Ms. Closter:

The Mayor's Office, the City Council and the Public Works & Utilities Department share your concerns with sidewalk repair work. Unfortunately, the community has not supported the two bond issues proposed to fund an accelerated program for sidewalk repair. This has placed limitations on our efforts to initiate and complete repairs in the older neighborhoods with significant repair needs.

The Public Works & Utilities Department is completing the sidewalk repair survey for the area in the Near South Neighborhood from 21st to 27th, between South Street and 'A' Street. This office is assessing the cost for a repair project in this area as well as other projects identified for repair in this current fiscal year. The cost for repairs this past year exceeded earlier estimates. This as well funding concerns this past fiscal year, has delayed the anticipated start of repair work in this area.

At this time we will have funds available to include construction of curb ramps at a number of locations in the immediate area north and east of Milder Manor. This curb ramp construction will be initiated in the spring of 2006. The contract for sidewalk repairs and curb ramp construction will not be completed in the entire area from 21st to 27th, between 'A' and South Street, until the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Please contact my office at 441-7541 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Harry Kroos  
Engineering Services

cc: Mayor's Office  
City Council  
Karl Fredrickson  
Roger Figard  
Nicole Fleck-Tooze  
Randy Hoskins  
Scott Opfer



JCookCC@aol.com  
10/07/05 04:36 AM

To tgrammer@ci.lincoln.ne.us, HKroos@lincoln.ne.gov  
cc KFredrickson@ci.lincoln.ne.us  
bcc  
Subject RFI- sidewalk ramps in Near South

Tammy,

Please submit this e-mail with attached PDF as an RFI. Thanks.

Jonathan

\* \* \* \* \*

To: Harry Kroos  
From: Jonathan Cook  
Re: Sidewalk ramps in Near South

Harry,

Exactly one year ago I submitted an RFI regarding sidewalk ramps in Near South based on a request from Carole Closter. Attached is a recent letter from her. She also spoke to me at this week's Near South Annual Meeting. She wanted me to follow up on the sidewalk ramp construction schedule.

Could you please reply to her letter with a copy to me? Thank you.

Jonathan Cook



- Carole Closter letter.pdf

RECEIVED  
SEP 22 2005  
CITY COUNCIL  
OFFICE

Sept 21, 2005 Cook

Dear Mr Cook:

At last fall's Near South potluck I gave you a map showing where there were no curb cuts in that neighborhood.

Now I'm reviewing Harry Kroos' letter of Nov 4, 2004 regarding sidewalk repair. His letter states "A to South, 21st to 27 is tentatively" identified for repair 2005-2006, work beginning this Oct.

Will this schedule be followed?

Curb cuts are not present at many streets. Sidewalk surfaces have 3 inch holes or drops.

My mother has been a patient at Milder Manor 6 years and is in a wheelchair. She wishes I could push her around the neighborhood, but so many times we end up stranded and have to backtrack or use the busy streets (Sumner is bus route).

Please let me know if repairs will begin in October.

Thank you.

Carole Closter  
1420 C St Apt E  
Lincoln NE 68502

402-475-9219



**DO NOT REPLY to this-  
InterLinc  
<none@lincoln.ne.gov>  
10/08/05 08:50 AM**

To General Council <council@lincoln.ne.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for  
General Council

Name: Patricia Kitchen  
Address: 6449 Cascade Drive  
City: Lincoln, NE 68504  
  
Phone: 402-476-8763  
Fax:  
Email: bucksiel@alltel.net

Comment or Question:

Good Morning; I need to make a comment about the City of Lincoln's Police Dept. and the policy of not having an Officer available to help direct traffic when a funeral procession is moving thru this city. On Thursday after my daughter's funeral at St Luke ME. Church at 17th & Superior (a young woman which means a large congregation in attendance)..the procession went to Wyuka Cemetery...of course they drove "O" St. to get there..Officer Nelsen Badge #1503..pulled my daughter's mother-in-law and brother-in-law's car over for running a red light. There was a Butherus FUNERAL Flag on the car and the lights were on (as directed by Butherus)...and, the ticket was dismissed late yesterday afternoon. But my comment is that I think something is very wrong in a city the size of Lincoln now..not to have escort or someone to stop traffic to let this funeral pass thru..these two family members didn't get to be at the cemetery for the service and I feel really sad about that. Mr. Love of Butherus said they had just been in Seward for a funeral and had an outstanding escort to the cemetery..He said Lincoln Police used to do their paperwork while they waited for the procession to reach the point where the escort would take over-so there was really no loss of time..the bad thing was we passed a Quick Shop just before this happened and two Police Cars were sitting there--probably coffee break time! Can't we turn this around somehow before there is a really bad accident? Sorry for the length of this message..Pat Kitchen

RECEIVED

OCT 07 2005

CITY COUNCIL  
OFFICE

Oct. 5, 2005

Ken Svoboda  
City Council Office  
County-City Building  
555 S. 10th St.  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Councilman Svoboda,

In recent months, the Lincoln City Council and Planning Commission have deliberated the merits of allowing a Wal-Mart in the 84th and Adams area. Now I understand that another Wal-Mart may be built southwest of the city, essentially allowing Wal-Mart to surround the city.

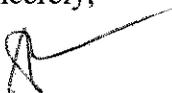
Two concerns: First, I believe the 84th and Adams site is unsuitable for a Wal-Mart, particularly given the residential area, the church and the cemetery in that neighborhood. If we're forced to accept another Wal-Mart, I'd much rather see it much further north, on the west side of 84th and north of Havelock Ave. While the zoning for that area may be industrial, I believe it would be much more conducive to Wal-Mart's needs, to the neighborhood, and to the city's tax base by allowing more residential growth around 84th and Adams.

On a second concern: I've enclosed an article from this past Sunday's Journal Star regarding Wal-Mart and other "big box" retailers. I've highlighted some of the text. One only needs to see the empty storefronts in Beatrice, Fairbury, York and other communities to see what these big stores can do to a community's core business and retail sector. Are we in Lincoln cashing in on the short term excitement of hosting a third and maybe fourth Wal-Mart, while selling out our community's long-term prosperity? Would we rather have two more Wal-Marts or dozens upon dozens of locally-owned Mom and Pop businesses that otherwise could not compete with Wal-Mart.

Perhaps it's time to step back, review the Maine studies, or to conduct some studies of our own.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,



Al Koontz  
4830 Fleetwood Circle  
Lincoln, NE 68516

# Maine town fights fast-food invasion

Ogunquit might be the next to ban 'formula' businesses if voters approve it.

BY CLARKE CANFIELD  
The Associated Press

OGUNQUIT, Maine — You won't find McDonald's golden arches or pink-and-orange Dunkin' Donuts signs in this seaside town. It'll stay that way if voters approve a proposed ordinance that would outlaw chain restaurants.

Ogunquit is the latest town nationwide to consider a law over-so-called "formula" businesses. From Maine to California, more than a dozen municipalities now have laws that ban or restrict chain restaurants, motels, retailers and other establishments.

Supporters of the chain restaurant ban say they don't want their seaside town to turn into just another congested strip of Subways, Applebee's restaurants and Burger Kings.

"This is a pristine and special community that we are stewards of," said Mary Breen, the owner of a high-end bakery who spearheaded a petition drive to get the question on the Nov. 8 ballot. "It's not about finance and marketing, it's about preserving this small fishing and arts community."

Opponents say Ogunquit's existing ban on drive-throughs and its design review process are enough to help the town maintain its character.

Market forces — not government regulation — should determine which restaurants locate in town, said Brian Aronando, who owns Art and Soul art gallery with his wife.

"I think an antiformula ordinance goes too far and isn't necessary to address the problem," said Aronando, who is on the town planning board.

As chain stores have spread in recent years, so has the movement

to control them on the local level, said Stacy Mitchell, a senior researcher with the nonprofit Institute for Local Self-Reliance.

In the mid-1980s, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif., became the first city to enact a formula restaurant ban. Since then, other communities in California, Washington, New York, Florida, Rhode Island and Maine have passed similar laws, she said.

Local communities are given a lot of leeway over local zoning and land-use issues, and there have been few challenges of the laws. In Coronado, Calif., land owners sued over a formula retail ordinance but lost in a state court, Mitchell said.

In New England, Bristol, R.I., last year adopted an ordinance restricting formula businesses in the town's historic downtown. York, which is next to Ogunquit, last year banned formula restaurants.

The issue is about more than just signs or drive-throughs — it's about economics, Mitchell said. Studies show that more money stays within a community when it is spent at locally owned businesses, she said.

A 2003 study in Maine, for instance, showed that 45 cents of every dollar spent at local businesses in three midcoast towns stayed in the communities and another 9 cents stayed in Maine. By contrast, the study found that only 15 cents of every dollar spent at national big-box retailers stayed in the state, she said.

While Mitchell supports the free-market concept, she also thinks communities have a responsibility to plan.

"This isn't a free-for-all, because there are costs and benefits borne by the community as a whole," she said. "There is a point where the community has to say, 'What direction are we going?'"

Ogunquit, a community of 1,200 year-round residents on the southern Maine coast, is a popular summer destination known for its quaint bed and breakfasts, art gal-

leries, restaurants, summer playhouse and white-sand beaches.

Breen, who started the Bread and Roses Bakery in 1989, became alarmed last spring when rumors spread that a Dunkin' Donuts was coming to town.

She and others circulated a petition and collected 125 signatures to force a vote on whether to ban formula restaurants, defined as establishments with the same name, employee uniforms, color schemes, architectural design, signage or similar standardized features as another restaurant regardless of location or ownership.

While chains might be appropriate elsewhere, Breen said they don't belong in Ogunquit.

"Once you have a Dunkin' Donuts, you're going to have a

TCBY, a Subway and a McDonald's," she said.

Dick Grotton, president and chief executive officer of the Maine Restaurant Association, said if people don't want chain restaurants in town, they won't support them.

"It doesn't get done by the ballot box. People vote with their feet," he said.

But if the town doesn't approve the ban, Ogunquit could end up looking like just any other place, Breen said. On a recent bike ride from Boston to the Cape Cod Canal, she said she counted 54 Dunkin' Donuts signs.

"It's changing the whole color of our landscape," she said. "I don't have anything against Dunkin' Donuts or other restaurants, but where are the local flavors?"

Barstool Headquarters.  
hundreds to choose from!

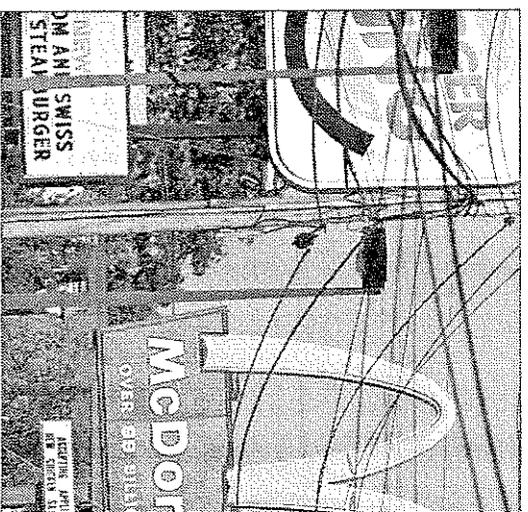
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Pastel Classics

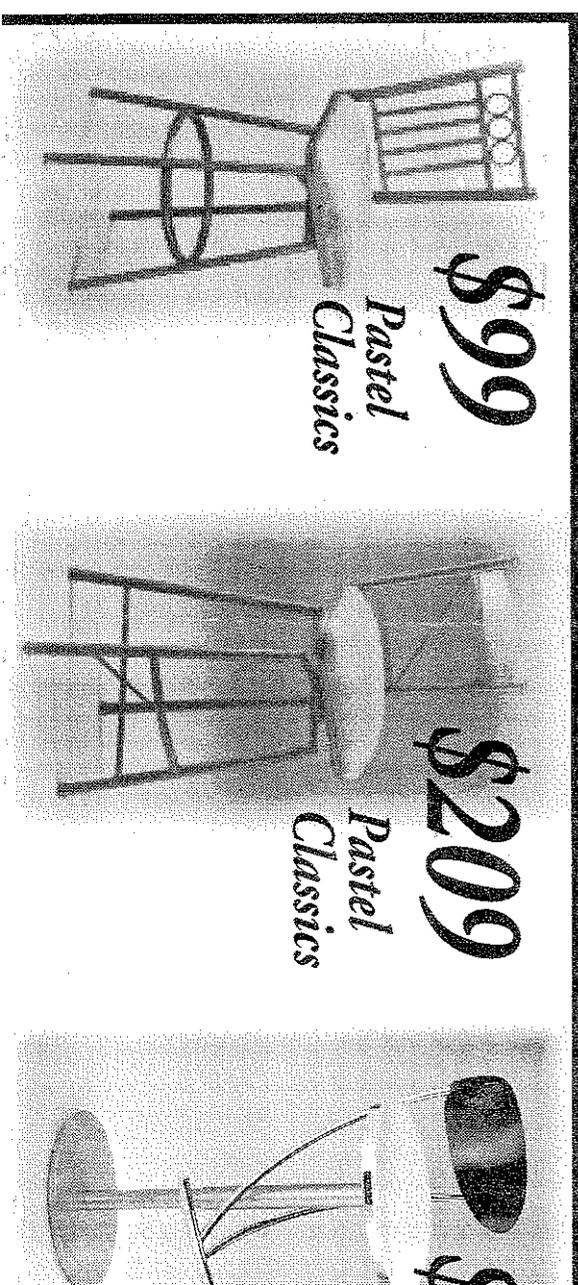
\$209

Pastel Classics

\$



A series of fast-food chain restaurants are seen near 21. Mary Breen, the owner of a high-end bakery, is petition drive to get voters to approve a proposed ordinance chain restaurants.





**DO NOT REPLY to this-  
InterLinc  
<none@lincoln.ne.gov>  
10/10/05 11:03 AM**

To General Council <council@lincoln.ne.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for  
General Council

Name: Melissa Koci  
Address: 1260 Belmont Avenue  
City: Lincoln, NE 68521  
  
Phone:  
Fax:  
Email: mkoci@lancaster.ne.gov

Comment or Question:

The other day I attended a funeral for my cousin. I found out at the cemetery that my cousin's husbands MOTHER and brother got pulled over by the Lincoln Police Dept. and were issued a citation for speeding. They ended up missing the entire proceeding at the cemetery. I cannot believe that the police officer had the audacity to do this. Not to only issue a ticket, but he dilly dallyed around, took his time and they missed the whole proceeding. To me, this is totally uncalled for. Especially at a time when a family is grieving!! The only good thing about this is the Funeral Home Director and his brother had to make a special trip to the Hall of Justice to see if they could get the ticket dropped and luckily it was. Still, what a waste of time for the officer who issued the ticket, for the taxpayers that had to come all the way downtown to get it dropped and then let alone miss the whole proceeding at the cemetery. I am very, very dissatisfied with the way this was handled. Wouldn't this be a good story for the Lincoln Journal?? I think it was just a few months ago that Council Bluffs had the same type of incident and the Police Dept. (or officer) had to apologize for his actions. P.S. This was on TV AND in the newspaper!!

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 2005  
CITY COUNCIL  
OFFICE

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

Oct. 2, 2005

After viewing the KOLN/KGIN news broadcast Saturday evening I felt compelled to write to you to express a concern that I have had for a while regarding our local fire department. While I have great respect for the firefighters and the job that they do I feel that the manner in which it is done needs to be reviewed to determine whether the citizens of the community are getting the best service for their money.

I have not said anything when I see the local fire truck at Super Saver shopping for groceries and using an enormous amount of fuel to drive there when others are tightening their belts on fuel consumption. I have not said anything when I see trucks of firefighters watching sporting events and posing for advertisements which I think are inappropriate but after the spot on t.v. last night it was the last straw.

The reporter was interviewing firefighters at the downtown station and asking them their opinion on the Husker football game and such. This was done as the firefighters were on duty in the station, all with their feet up in their recliners watching the football game on a big flat screen t.v. The firefighters were popping their popcorn and did have to answer a call during the game which they were upset about but the reporter did reassure us that they were able to watch most of the game.

I know the history of firefighting and also the old rationale of 24 hour shifts for firefighters and I think that this demonstrates the need to review this policy and explore whether the taxpayer's money would be better spent on eight or 12 hour shifts. The majority of firefighters' work in this day and age is on education and prevention and these functions could be accomplished with better use of staffing on day shifts. I don't think that other city employees who were working on Saturday were sitting with their feet up, eating popcorn and watching television on big screens and question why one department can be allowed to do this.

I would request that you review the policies of this city agency to determine whether the community's needs are being met in the most fiscally responsible way. I will not sign this letter as I have a fear of retaliation by the fire department if I did. I know others who feel this same way and am encouraging them to express their concerns also.

Thank you

Community Health Endowment of Lincoln



# Media Release

**To:** Media  
**CC:** Mayor's Office, Lincoln City Council  
**From:** Lori Seibel, Executive Director, 436-5516  
**Date:** 10/10/2005  
**Re:** Year 2005-06 Funding Priorities

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## Community Health Endowment Announces Funding Priorities for FY2005-06

During FY2005-2006, the Community Health Endowment of Lincoln (CHE) will make \$1.1 million available to improve community health in Lincoln and to achieve the CHE vision of "making Lincoln the healthiest community in the nation."

Specifically, CHE will provide up to \$840,000 to fund the following community and targeted initiatives:

- **Community Initiatives** (*All eligible agencies may apply as part of an open application process.*)
  1. Innovative approaches to combat obesity and Type II diabetes in children/youth; and
  2. Capital construction, facility renovation (new construction or renovation), and equipment. *A minimum of dollar-for-dollar cash match is required.*
- **Targeted Initiatives** (*Applications are by invitation only.*)
  1. Establishment of a formal network of non-profit healthcare providers who serve uninsured populations. The formal network will be eligible for funding to support the following:
    - A formal referral system of volunteer physicians (specialty and primary care) and other healthcare providers;
    - A cost-effective and user-friendly patient tracking system;
    - Shared access to Spanish medical translation; and
    - Additional physician services.

2. A bold community effort to combat and prevent methamphetamine use in Lincoln.
  3. Staffing of the Medical Translation and Interpretation Leadership Group (*up to \$20,000*).
  4. Operating costs of a Minority Leadership Institute (*up to \$10,000*).
- **Micro-Project Funding**  
CHE will provide **\$100,000** to fund micro-projects, one-time or one-year projects of less than \$10,000. Any non-profit agency or organization in Lincoln/Lancaster County is eligible to submit an application for micro-project funding. CHE welcomes applications that address any topic with the potential to make Lincoln a healthier community.
  - **Ongoing Obligations for Multi-Year Project**  
CHE has committed **\$160,000** to fund existing multi-year projects.

*"In its six year history of giving to the community, CHE has committed nearly \$8 million in grants to improve the health of our community," according to Janet Coleman, President of the CHE Board of Trustees. "We are pleased that CHE will continue our history of giving in FY2005-06 by allocating \$1.1 million to address community health priorities."*

**For further information, or to obtain application materials, contact CHE at 436-5516. Application forms will be available on-line at [www.chelincoln.org](http://www.chelincoln.org) after November 1, 2005.**

10-10-05

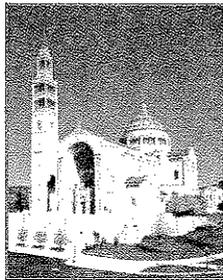
Mrs. Nancy Russell

Dear City Council:

Before considering the  
convention center idea  
for Lincoln, may I share  
some research done  
by Kaye Ferry regarding  
a proposed conference  
center for Vail? I found  
the concept interesting.

Best wishes

Nancy Russell



RECEIVED

OCT 12 2005

CITY COUNCIL  
OFFICE

Basilica of the National Shrine  
of the Immaculate Conception

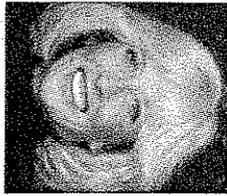
STEVE POPE  
Publisher, publisher@vaildaily.com

# COMMENTARY

DON ROGERS  
Managing Editor, editor@vaildaily.com

## \$24,087 for each person in Vail

Well, as I said last week, from here on in it's election issues. The candidates will have to wait for a while. Petitions can still be picked up at the town offices, and they



**KAYE FERRY**

don't have to be turned back in with their signatures until Oct. 7. The town clerk then has 10 days to certify the petitions, and on Oct. 17 they actually draw for placement on the ballot. Don't forget to mark your calendars. The Vail Chamber and Business Association is sponsoring a candidates forum Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Donovan Pavilion. If you have questions that you want answered, e-mail them to info@vailchamber.org, phone 477-0075, fax 477-0079, or stop in the VCBA

office in the Vail Transportation Center. So in the meantime, let's get started. I think I'll start on the conference center because I will take more than one column to summarize what has already been the topic of 14 of my columns.

For the time being, I'm not going to spend a lot of time on details. I may change my mind later, but for now I'm not going to tell you too much about how conference center space has increased by 51 percent since 2000 to 64 million square feet with another 7 million square feet under way. All while demand has been spiraling down by 30-40-50 percent from coast to coast. Or that Las Vegas and Orlando are the



### My View

The opinions expressed here are the author's only. And of course, the Brookings Institute report titled "Space Available," by professor Heywood Sanders of the University of Texas, has been quoted often, so I don't need to mention it. Because while there are those in the community that would like to discount that report, others have called it required reading for anyone contemplating entering the conference center competition. And Joe Mysak of Bloomberg News labels it "the

only ones making it. Or even worse, that large centers like Dallas are engaged in price wars, giving space away for free while using carrots like room incentives to draw groups. Incentives like \$5 per attendee per night to event planners who book their facility.

And of course, the Brookings Institute report titled "Space Available," by professor Heywood Sanders of the University of Texas, has been quoted often, so I don't need to mention it. Because while there are those in the community that would like to discount that report, others have called it required reading for anyone contemplating entering the conference center competition. And Joe Mysak of Bloomberg News labels it "the

report Wall Street doesn't want you to read," since they're content selling bonds for this influx of pie-in-the-sky hopes for economic salvation.

I don't have to remind you how we got here in the first place. We commissioned a study. Of course you know how much we've always loved paying heaps of money for studies. Well, this was no exception. Yet if you look at these studies closely, you too might ask the question posed in Forbes in their Feb. 28 issue. "Why is the Answer Always Yes?"

Logic would answer it for you if a partner in the Strategic Advisory Group hadn't. "You lose clients if you shoot down projects. Of course we have to make a lot of assumptions." No kidding. Of 75 projects analyzed by them, only four were nixed. Yet when these centers are up and running, that's when the shocking statistics See *Ferry*, page A16

# FERRY: Center

From page A13

appear. Not a single conference center built in the last 10 years has reached its projections. Not one! In fact, the closest has reached a mere 40 percent of projected revenues, others as low as 10 percent.

I certainly don't need to comment on the design. It's gone from mushroom to who knows what. Someone called it "bugly." When I looked surprised, I was told it was short for butt-ugly. I'm not sure I'd go that far, but it sure isn't my taste. I'll leave that call to you.

Then there's the plan. This thing is proposed to be built to fill the shoulder seasons (otherwise known as off, slow, mud seasons) and the summer. Which brings up all sorts of questions. Let's take spring. Even we don't stay here for that. And if a guest ever came, they'd never come back. Then there's fall. Better but still not great, even though September and October are the two biggest convention months. But just to prove a point, we went to four places after the movie the other night before we found one open for dinner. So we're left with summer. No arguments there. It's the slowest time of the year for conventions. Everyone's on family vacations.

And of course, last but not least, I don't need to mention the cost. Because I'm sure you know that while a lot of numbers have been thrown around, the real cost is \$112,295,000. That's with finance charges, etc. At those numbers, even the cheerleaders of this project admit up front, it will lose money every year. Forever.

It's part of the plan. Even if the new tax passes, it is projected and budgeted to lose money every year. Forever.

So with that in mind, what do you think will happen if anything goes wrong? Well, it's real simple. You'll get to pick up the pieces. By that I mean you'll get to foot the bill either in sales tax or property tax increases, with property tax being the most likely. Even though that will be unpleasant for the residential property owner, it'll be three times as painful for the commercial property owner because as you may or may not know, commercial property is taxed at three times the rate of residential property. Which, of course, helps explain the fact that the biggest proponents of the conference center don't live in town. They have absolutely nothing to lose. But the Vail taxpayer does.

One very interesting statistic that no one has pointed out yet is this: At \$112,295,000 and a population of 4,662 per the latest census results in 2002, that comes to \$24,087.30 for every man, woman and child in the town of Vail. Wow.

But there is another choice. I'll explain next week. Stay tuned.

To contact the Town Council, call 479-1860, ext. 8, or e-mail [towncouncil@vailgov.com](mailto:towncouncil@vailgov.com). To contact Vail Resorts, call 476-5601 or e-mail [vailinfo@vailresorts.com](mailto:vailinfo@vailresorts.com).

*Kaye Ferry is a long-time observer of Vail government. She writes a weekly column for the Daily.*

*P. Seng*

**ADDENDUM  
TO  
DIRECTORS' AGENDA  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2005**

**I. MAYOR**

1. NEWS ADVISORY - RE: Mayor Seng's Public Schedule Week of October 15 through 21, 2005-Schedule subject to change -(See Advisory)

**II. CITY CLERK - NONE**

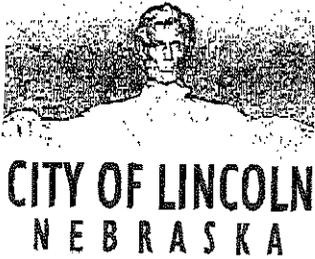
**III. CORRESPONDENCE**

**A. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE - NONE**

**B. DIRECTORS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS - NONE**

**C. MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Letter from Coby Mach, Executive Director For the Board, Lincoln Independent Business Association to Lancaster County Commissioners - RE: RUTS Position Statement - (See Letter)



# NEWS ADVISORY

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

lincoln.ne.gov

Date: October 14, 2005

Contact: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

## Mayor Seng's Public Schedule Week of October 15 through 21, 2005 *Schedule subject to change*

### Saturday, October 15

- Lincoln Karate Clinic, remarks and proclamation - 10 a.m., 237 South 70th Street (in strip mall behind HyVee)
- Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission's "Ready to Run" Workshop - 11:15 a.m., Riverview Lodge, Mahoney State Park

### Tuesday, October 18

- Realtors Association of Lincoln installation and awards banquet - 11:30 a.m., 1800 Wilderness Woods Place
- Lincoln Chamber of Commerce "Business-2-Business" Trade Show - 1:30 p.m., Pershing Center, 226 Centennial Mall South

### Wednesday, October 19

- International Credit Union Day, proclamation - 4 p.m., Mayor's Office, 555 South 10th Street
- Clyde Malone Community Center annual meeting - 6:30 p.m., Malone Center, 2032 "U" Street
- National Domestic Violence Month open house and candlelight vigil, proclamation and remarks - 7:30 p.m., Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center, 2545 "N" Street

### Thursday, October 20

- News conference - 10 a.m., topic and location to be announced
- Downtown Lincoln Association annual meeting, remarks - 11:30 a.m., Embassy Suites, 1040 "P" Street
- Community Learning Center's "Lights On" event, proclamation and remarks - 6 p.m., Haymarket Park, 403 Line Drive
- Northeast Family Center 15th anniversary celebration - 6:30 p.m., 5903 Walker



To: Lancaster County Commissioners  
From: Lincoln Independent Business Association  
Date: October 14, 2005  
Re: RUTS POSITION STATEMENT

The Lincoln Independent Business Association ("LIBA") endorses the creation of a Joint City-County Taxing Authority and implementation of a county-wide Wheel Tax.

LIBA normally seeks to avoid tax increases and new taxing authorities, but the development of infrastructure to link the County with the City is too important to the development of both entities to ignore. It is clear that prompt action now can save both the residents of the County and the City, tax dollars over the long term. LIBA is always in favor of saving tax dollars!

LIBA's recommendation is that a \$49 Wheel Tax be adopted in the county. Of the \$1.4 Million raised, \$1 million of the revenue would be used to fund the RUTS program with any remainder (approximately \$400,000) being spent on road improvements for the smaller towns and villages in the County.

It is imperative in developing this Joint Public Agency that it be a truly joint agency that is not under the sole control of either the County Commissioners or the City Council. The enabling documents for this agency need to clearly provide for the split in funding and for the joint control of the agency.

There has been some discussion of other funding mechanisms, including using county property tax rates to fund RUTS. The problem with this method is that Lincoln residents already contribute about 85% of all property tax revenues to the County. If the Lincoln Wheel Tax is expanded to fund the City's portion of RUTS, AND the county property tax is amended to pay for the County's portion of RUTS, Lincolnites would suffer from two taxes to pay for the RUTS program while County residents have only the one minor change. This sort of double taxation is unfair.

LIBA recognizes that many County residents do not feel that they should pay for Lincoln streets. But the RUTS program is to improve or create County roads and improve the transitional infrastructure from rural to urban areas. County residents will see a direct benefit from these improved roads and from the increased tax revenues that will be created from this expansion of the Lincoln urban area. With Lincoln residents funding 85% of all county roads at present, it seems like it might be time for County residents to share in this expense.

LIBA understands concerns from the County Commissioners that the Lincoln City Council controls the Wheel Tax rate, however, that issue seems small since the County is now only able to afford paving for ½ mile of road per year. The wheel tax seems to be an obvious solution to LIBA. The RUTS program benefits all Lancaster County residents.

Coby Mach  
Executive Director  
For the Board