

**DIRECTORS' MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113, 11:00 A.M.**

**I. MAYOR**

- \*1. NEWS RELEASE. Lincoln Fire and Rescue to Co-Sponsor 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Fun Run/Walk Zoo Day.
- \*2. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler's News Conference on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 7<sup>th</sup> and "J" Streets to Discuss Changes for the City's StarTran Bus System.
- \*3. NEWS RELEASE. Online Budget Survey Available Until End of Week.
- \*4. NEWS RELEASE. Changes Coming to StarTran Bus System, June 5, 2008.
- \*5. Washington Report, May 2, 2008.

**Received Week of May 19, 2008**

- 1. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler's News Conference, Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 555 So. 10<sup>th</sup> Street to Release Final Report of Task Force on Road Design Standards.
- 2. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Beutler's Public Schedule Through May 23, 2008.
- 3. NEWS RELEASE. Open House Planned on Storm Drain Improvements in the Area of 45<sup>th</sup> Street and Ginny Avenue and 46<sup>th</sup> and LaSalle Streets.
- 4. NEWS RELEASE. Open House Planned for 17<sup>th</sup> and Holdrege Overpass Study.
- 5. NEWS RELEASE. Events Planned for EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Week.
- 6. NEWS RELEASE. Open House Planned on Salt Creek Trunk Sewer Project.
- 7. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor Releases Report on Road Design Standards.
- 8. Washington Report, May 9, 2008.

**II. DIRECTORS**

**CITY ATTORNEY (Received Week of May 19, 2008)**

- 1. Memo from Assistant City Attorney, Joe Rupp Regarding Penalty Provision in the Weed Abatement Ordinance.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

- \*1. Memo from Don Herz, Finance Director. Audit Advisory Board.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

- \*1. RELEASE. Latex Paint Exchange May 17, 2008. Take or Bring Paint to Pfizer.

**Received Week of May 19, 2008**

- 1. NEWS RELEASE. Pets and Hot Weather.

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

- \*1. Annexation by Ordinance. Ordinance No. 19071, Effective: May 6, 2008, 62.91 Acres Map.

**Received Week of May 19, 2008**

- 1. Cedar Cove Addition, Final Plat #08010. Generally Located at No. 91<sup>st</sup> Street and Leighton Avenue.

2. "What's Up in North Lincoln" and What's Up in South Lincoln" Information and Maps Available on the Planning Department Web Site Under Director's Corner.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION**

- \*1. Special Permit No. 08020. Salvage Operation, 7701 Cornhusker Highway. Resolution No. PC-01119.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES**

- \*1. ADVISORY. Water Main Project #702713. Paving Unit #140, North 36<sup>th</sup> Street; Vine - W Street.

#### **Received Week of May 19, 2008**

1. ADVISORY. 45<sup>th</sup> and Ginny Area Storm Drainage Improvement Project. Project #702385.
  - (a) Vicinity Map for Project #702385.
2. ADVISORY. 17<sup>th</sup> and Holdrege Overpass Study. Project #702615.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES/STAR TRAN**

- \*1. Memo on Star Tran's New Routes Beginning Thursday, June 5, 2008.
  - (a) Brochure on StarTran's New Routes.

#### **WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY (Received Week of May 10, 2008)**

1. Combined Weed Program for City of Lincoln. April 2008 Monthly Report.
2. Comments on Hearing on Change of Height for Weed Abatement by Russell Shultz, Superintendent.

### **III. CITY CLERK**

### **IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **JONATHAN COOK**

- \*1. Chief Tom Casady's Reply to Letter Written to Councilman Cook from Dr. Laura LaDue Regarding The Xebra, by Zap, Vehicle Being Legal to Drive on Streets.

#### **JOHN SPATZ (Received Week of May 10, 2008)**

1. Reply from Steve Owen, Superintendent of Water Distribution, on Larry Craig's Water Leak at 1547 North 32<sup>nd</sup> Street.

### **V. MISCELLANEOUS**

- \*1. Email from Shawn Ryba. Attend City Council Meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> to Oppose the Proposed Weed Ordinance Change.
- \*2. Email from Peggy Struwe, Hawley Area Neighborhood Association President Stating Opposition to the Change in the Weed Ordinance.
- \*3. Email from Jeffery Mathison. Question on Why His Children Will No Longer be Bussed to School.

#### **Received Week of May 19, 2008**

1. Email from Shannon McGovern Questioning What is Being Done to Bring Motorsports to Lincoln, Nebraska.
2. Reply to Mr. Mathison from Bill McCoy, Director of Operations at Lincoln Public Schools, Regarding Bus Transportation for School Children.
3. Email from Douglas Kerns Opposing the Change in Weed Height Limits. (Delivered to

Council Members on 05/12/08 before Formal Meeting)

4. Correspondence from Ted Scott Opposing Ordinance Allowing Weeds to Grow to 12" Height.
5. Email from Robert D. Kuzelka in Support of Amendments to 8.46.010 and 8.46.020.
6. Email from Willis Scofield, 40<sup>th</sup> and A Neighborhood Association Member. Opposed to Raising Weed Height to 12 Inches.
7. Letter from Marjorie Postma Regarding Taking Action on Growth, and Height, of Various Weeds.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**\* Held Over from May 12, 2008.**

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# NEWS ADVISORY

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MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

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

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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

**DATE:** May 14, 2008

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

Mayor Chris Beutler will release the final report of the his task force on road design standards at a news conference at **10:15 a.m. Thursday, May 15** in the **Mayor's Conference Room, 555 South 10th Street.**



# NEWS ADVISORY

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

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**DATE:** May 14, 2008

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

**Mayor Beutler's Public Schedule**  
**Week of May 17 through 23, 2008**  
*Schedule subject to change*

***NOTE: The public schedule is being sent early this week because Diane Gonzolas and Dave Norris will both be out of the office May 15 and 16. Media inquiries should go directly to Rick Hoppe at 441-7511 or 430-2505. Diane also can be reached by cell phone at 525-1520.***

Saturday, May 17

- KFOR LifeLong Living Festival, Community Services Awards - 10 a.m., Ag Hall, State Fair Park

Monday, May 19

- Friendship Force international visitors from Australia - 4 p.m., Mayor's Conference Room, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th St.

Thursday, May 22

- KFOR Morning Show - 7:45 a.m.
- KLIN Morning Show - 8:10 a.m., Broadcast House, 4343 "O" St.
- News conference - 10 a.m., topic and location to be announced
- AARP Consumer University, proclamations - 11:45 a.m., Holiday Inn Downtown, 141 N. 9th St.

Friday, May 23

- Nebraska Holocaust Memorial luncheon, remarks - 1:15 p.m., Champions Club (west of Memorial Stadium)



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

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

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## **PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 13, 2008

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Holly Lionberger, Public Works and Utilities, 441-7711  
Dawn Steffen, HWS Consulting Group, 479-2200

### **OPEN HOUSE PLANNED ON STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENTS**

The public is invited to an open house Monday, May 19 to learn about upcoming storm drainage construction in the area of 45th Street and Ginny Avenue and 46th and LaSalle streets. The public may attend the meeting at any time between 5 and 6:30 p.m. at Pound Middle School, 4740 S. 45th Street.

The project will increase drainage capacity and help alleviate upstream flooding at several low-lying areas. It is being funded through the storm water bond voters passed in May 2007. The first phase of construction was completed last year, and the second phase is scheduled to take place this summer.

Representatives from the City of Lincoln, HWS Consulting Group and Bookstrom Construction will be available to discuss the project and answer questions.

More information on the open house is available by calling Dawn Steffen, HWS, at 479-2200. More information on the projects is available on the City Web site at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) (keyword: projects).



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

[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:** May 13, 2008

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Kris Humphrey, Public Works and Utilities, 441-7592

### **OPEN HOUSE PLANNED FOR 17TH AND HOLDREGE OVERPASS STUDY**

The public is invited to an open house Tuesday, May 20 to discuss the future of the overpass at 17th and Holdrege streets. Citizens can attend the meeting any time from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Police substation on the northwest corner of 27th and Holdrege streets. Parking is available in the lot at the station.

The existing bridge at 17th and Holdrege streets is deteriorating, and the replacement or removal of the bridge is recommended. The City has initiated a study to determine the best option for the future of the overpass. Options include removal, replacement or closure, and the City's study team is seeking public input on the decision. At the open house, the public can learn more about the options and give their opinions.

For more information, contact Kris Humphrey, the City's project manager at 441-7592 or Jon G. Olsen with Olsson Associates at 458-5614.



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

lincoln.ne.gov

## LINCOLN FIRE AND RESCUE

1801 "Q" St., Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-8350, fax 441-7098

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 14, 2008

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Assistant Fire Chief Rich Furasek, 441-8354

### EVENTS PLANNED FOR EMS WEEK

Lincoln Fire and Rescue has planned several special events in honor of National EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Week May 18 through 24. This is the 35th year the American College of Emergency Physicians has designated a week to honor EMS workers who devote their daily lives to responding to medical emergencies.

Lincoln Fire and Rescue and the Lincoln Emergency Communications/911Center will honor individual life-saving efforts at a recognition event at **1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20** at the **Peoples Choice Federal Credit Union, 2500 "N" St. (lower level)**. More than 100 "Phoenix Award" certificates will be presented by Fire Chief Niles Ford to 911 dispatchers, firefighters and paramedics who were responsible for saving the lives of 28 citizens last year.

"EMS teams are trained, equipped and devoted to providing lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Fire Chief Niles Ford. "This week, we recognize everyone who plays a role in our City's emergency response system – physicians and nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators and administrators. I'm very proud of the role that Lincoln Fire and Rescue plays on this truly outstanding team."

The public is invited to open houses at all 14 Lincoln fire stations from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 24. The events include tours and free blood pressure checks. Locations are:

Station 1 - 1801 "Q" St.	Station 8 - 2760 S. 17th St.
Station 2 - 1545 N. 33rd St.	Station 9 - 901 N. Cotner Blvd.
Station 3 - 121 S. 2nd St.	Station 10 - 1440 Adams
Station 4 - 5600 S. 27th St.	Station 11 - 3401 N.W. Luke
Station 5 - 3640 Touzalin Ave.	Station 12 - 2201 S. 84th St.
Station 6 - 5051 S. 48th St.	Station 13 - 1700 S. Coddington
Station 7 - 1340 S. Cotner Blvd.	Station 14 - 5435 N.W. 1st St.

The theme of this year's EMS week is "EMS: Your Life is Our Mission." For more information on this and other Lincoln Fire and Rescue programs, visit the City Web site at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) (keyword: fire).



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

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

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## **PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**

Wastewater and Solid Waste, 2400 Theresa Street, Lincoln, NE 68521, 441-7961, fax 441-8735

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 14, 2008

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Steve Masters, Public Utilities Administrator, 441-7588

## **OPEN HOUSE PLANNED ON SALT CREEK TRUNK SEWER PROJECT**

The public is invited to celebrate the completion of the Upper Southeast Salt Creek trunk sewer project and the restoration of prairie grass with a walk through the project area in Wilderness Park Tuesday, May 20. The event begins with a short welcome at 5 p.m. near the north end of the project site. Those attending can enter the park by turning east onto an access road off of South 14th Street. Parking is available at the end of the access road, and signs will be posted.

The project has extended the Salt Creek Sanitary sewer system to provide additional capacity for the future growth of Lincoln. A route runs from 14th Street and Yankee Hill Road south along the railroad tracks and ends about 500 feet south of Rokeby Road. The trunk sewer passes through a section of Wilderness Park that was overgrown with brome grass and scrub trees. The area is now in the process of being restored to prairie grass.

Those wanting to attend can contact Suzy Thompson at Olsson Associates at 458-5947 or by e-mail at [sthompson@oaconsulting.com](mailto:sthompson@oaconsulting.com). More information on the project is available at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) (keyword: projects) and click on the "Wastewater and Solid Waste" section.



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

[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:** May 15, 2008**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Trish Owen, Mayor's Office, 441-7511

Greg MacLean, Public Works and Utilities, 441-7566

### MAYOR RELEASES REPORT ON ROAD DESIGN STANDARDS

Mayor Chris Beutler today released a road design task force report that recommends the City consider simplified and less costly designs for some road projects in order to stretch available funds. The Mayor created the technical task force on road design standards late last year to look at the City's current standards and propose changes.

"One of the most important functions of City government is to provide a safe and efficient system of streets and roads," said Mayor Beutler. "I charged this task force with looking at how we can use our road dollars more efficiently, while maintaining the quality and safety of our system. I am pleased to accept and endorse this report, and I thank the task force members for their hard work. They did a tremendous job in addressing many road design and construction issues taking into account the critical shortage of funds needed to build roads in our community."

The task force included City staff and community members with expertise in development, road construction, engineering and planning. A complete list of members is in the final report, available on the City Web site at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov).

City Public Works and Utilities Director Greg MacLean was a member of the task force. He said some roads planned to be four lanes may need to be phased in. The task force also recommended the City continue to aggressively pursue new revenue sources for road construction. "Safety was a top priority for the task force," said MacLean. "We concluded that in some cases, changes may cause driver inconvenience or increased travel time, but they did not decrease safety."

The task force also recommended:

- Continuing support for the Rural to Urban Transition Streets or RUTS program.
- Delaying the construction of turning lanes or storm sewers on some projects in order to build more streets.
- Striking a balance between construction costs and future maintenance expenses.

"We will now begin implementing the task force recommendations on those projects where they are appropriate and do not compromise safety," said Beutler. "They will help us reach our goal of building new roads to provide for future growth and new jobs."



**INSIDE:**

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**Washington Report**

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## DEMOCRATS BICKER OVER WAR FUNDING BILL

### BUDGET

Democrats fight among each other over war supplemental. Debate over the FY 2008 supplemental appropriations bill for overseas military operations has been heated in recent days, but as opposed to the traditional White House versus Congress haggling, most of the heat is being generated internally among Democrats.

The President has requested \$108 billion in additional defense spending, but Democrats in both the House and Senate intend to add some domestic spending to that total. In a signal that this is the last war supplemental that they expect to receive from this President, House leaders intend to add \$66.3 billion in FY 2009 defense funds to the bill to fund the war through the spring and give the new President some breathing room. In addition, the House version of the supplemental also will include expanded educational benefits for veterans, an extension of unemployment insurance, a delay in implementation of new Medicaid regulations, and language shifting financial responsibility for Iraq reconstruction to the Iraqi government.

The Senate supplemental is expected to include the House add-ons, as well as: \$490 million in additional funds for the Justice Department Byrne State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance program; \$451 million for the Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program; \$275 million for food safety programs; \$400 million for rural schools, and \$1.2 billion for federal science research initiatives.

House leaders were expected to bring their supplemental straight to the floor for a vote this week. However, those efforts were stymied by a group of fiscally conservative Democrats who are insisting that the

additional spending be offset. The result has been unusually public bickering among the various factions of House Democrats. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) is now working to broker a compromise that would allow the bill to come to the floor next week.

Meanwhile, in the Senate, Democratic leaders plan to wait for House consideration of their bill and then attempt to bypass committee consideration and move their measure straight to the floor as well. This has angered Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd (D-WV), the longest serving Senator in history and a stickler for tradition and rules. Byrd has not been seen in public much these days because of health issues, but has managed to release statements expressing his frustration and maintaining his intent to markup a supplemental bill next week in his committee.

### HOUSING

House clears housing measures. Despite a White House veto threat, the House cleared two housing measures this week that their sponsors hope will address the foreclosure crisis and stabilize the housing market.

By a vote of 239-188, the House passed legislation (HR 5818) that would authorize \$7.5 billion in grants and \$7.5 billion in loans for the acquisition and rehabilitation of foreclosed homes. Under the bill, funding would have to go towards rehabilitation of housing for families earning less than 140 percent of median income. The bill would direct half of the funding to very low-income families (less than 50 percent of area median income), of which half would go towards housing for extremely low-income families (less than 30 percent of area median income).

As introduced, the bill would have largely directed funding to the states, with only the

25 largest cities in the country guaranteed a share of the funding, with that share sub-allocated by the states based on foreclosure rates and other criteria. During Financial Services Committee and floor consideration of the bill, funding eligibility was expanded to require state sub-allocation of funds to the nation's 100 largest cities, cities with a population of over 50,000 and a foreclosure rate that exceeds the state foreclosure rate by 25 percent and the nation's 50 largest urban counties.

The House also passed an omnibus housing bill (HR 3221) that combines a slew of bills previously approved by the House with a bill (HR 5830) approved by the Financial Services Committee last week that would authorize the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to refinance \$300 billion in mortgages facing foreclosure. As approved by the House, HR 3221 would allow FHA to refinance mortgages facing foreclosure only if the lender agreed to absorb the difference between the outstanding loan amount and the actual value of the home. FHA refinancing would only be available for pre-2008 mortgages on owner-occupied primary residences.

As passed by the House, HR 3221 also incorporates legislation (HR 1427) that would overhaul and modernize FHA and tighten federal oversight of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and a tax bill (HR 5720) approved by the Ways and Means Committee last month.

The tax title includes a temporary expansion in the mortgage revenue bond cap and expansion of the eligible uses of those bonds to refinance sub prime loans and allows homeowners who do not itemize their deductions on their tax return to take a deduction of \$350 (\$700 for couples) to offset state and local property taxes. Additional highlights of the tax title of the bill include:

- A tax credit for first-time homebuyers earning less than \$70,000 of up to \$7,000 to assist with downpayment costs (which would have to be paid back over 15 years without interest);

- A temporary increase, through 2009, of the cap on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit from \$2.00 per person residing in the state to \$2.20;
- Simplification of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, and
- Temporarily allowing municipal bonds guaranteed by Federal Home Loan Banks to be tax-exempt even if they are not used for housing (designed to help state and local governments obtain financing for infrastructure).

House passage of the bill sets the stage for a House-Senate Conference Committee. The Senate has passed a much more modest version of HR 3221.

Given the differences between the two bills, conferees will have a lot of decisions to make and will have to make those decisions under threat of a veto and under the reality that the Senate is unlikely to grant final approval to a bill as sweeping as the one passed by the House.

## TRANSPORTATION

Senate FAA bill shelved; House Amtrak bill introduced. Passage of a multi-year extension of programs at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) now appears unlikely this year. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) pulled the measure (HR 2881) from the Senate floor this week after a procedural vote failed to garner the necessary votes to move consideration of the bill forward.

Senate Republicans have been effectively filibustering the bill over objections to certain tax provisions added to the legislation by the Senate Finance Committee, including the \$1.7 billion tax credit for the New York "Liberty Zone," and the \$5 billion transfer of funds into the Highway Trust Fund to prevent it from running out of funds in FY 2009. Congress is now likely to approve a simple one-year extension of the current FAA authorization before it expires in June.

Meanwhile, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) introduced the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (HR 6003) this week. This legislation appears to have bipartisan support on the committee, but many provisions differ from the version (S 294) of the Amtrak reauthorization approved by the Senate last year.

The bill would authorize over \$14.4 billion for Amtrak over a five-year period, with \$3 billion in FY 2009 alone. By comparison, the White House requested \$800 million for Amtrak in FY 2009, while the railroad itself requested \$1.7 billion.

A major difference with the Senate bill is a provision to construct a high-speed rail line between Washington, D.C. and New York City with private funds. A Senate aide has reportedly indicated that there is "no appetite" in the Senate for such a proposal, so it is likely to be a major sticking point in House-Senate conference negotiations.

Other provisions of the House bill include:

- \$1.75 billion over five years for states and Amtrak for purchase and construction of up to 11 new high-speed rail corridors;
- \$6.7 billion would be available for capital grants to Amtrak;
- \$3 billion for Amtrak operations (some Amtrak employees have not received a pay increase in over 8 years), and
- \$2.5 billion for grants to states to help pay for the necessary facilities and equipment to provide new or improved intercity passenger service.

Oberstar has tentatively scheduled a markup of the bill in his committee for May 14.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Senate sets cloture vote on collective bargaining; House approves changes to illegal immigration assistance program.

The Senate is scheduled to hold a procedural vote on Monday that would clear the way for consideration of legislation (HR 980) to require states and local governments to offer collective bargaining rights to public safety officers.

The legislation was approved by the House last year over the strong objections of local government organizations and Senate leaders have attempted to bring the measure up for a vote in that chamber on several occasions over the last few months but have been rebuffed when opponents raised objections. Senate leaders have now apparently decided to attempt to overcome those objections with a cloture vote that would limit debate on the measure and bring it up for a formal vote. Cloture motions need 60 votes to succeed.

If the cloture motion is successful, the legislation is expected to pass the Senate easily, as most Members (even ones sympathetic to arguments that it represents a significant federal intrusion on local matters) are not anxious to vote against a priority of police and fire unions in an election year.

The White House has threatened to veto the measure should it reach his desk.

Meanwhile, the House this week approved legislation (HR 1512) that would expand the Department of Justice State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). The SCAAP program provides for federal reimbursement of states and counties for the cost of incarcerating undocumented persons convicted of a felony or at least two misdemeanors, in the event that federal agencies do not take custody.

SCAAP had historically repaid detention costs for illegal immigrants charged with a crime, regardless of whether they were later convicted. But the Justice Department interpreted language in the agency's FY 2006 appropriations bill as prohibiting reimbursements for those not convicted of a crime. HR 1512 would reverse that interpretation and restore federal reimbursement for those taken into custody whether they are convicted or not.

Identical legislation (S 2587) has been introduced in the Senate.

## FARM BILL

Conferees negotiate final farm bill; White House vows veto. House and Senate conferees on legislation (HR 2419) to reauthorize agriculture, nutrition and rural development programs completed work on a Conference Report this week.

The White House immediately issued a veto threat, saying that the Conference Report does not sufficiently reduce farm subsidies or lower income caps for subsidy recipients. Although the alliance of conservative budget hawks and urban liberal lawmakers who want higher funding for nutrition programs will likely oppose the Conference Report, conferees from both parties expressed confidence that the House and Senate will approve the \$300 billion, five-year bill by veto-proof margins.

The Conference Report would reduce direct subsidy payments to farmers by \$313 million over six years and would bar payments to farmers making more than \$750,000 in annual farm income and farmers making over \$500,000 in annual non-farm income.

The bill would provide a \$10.4 billion increase for nutrition programs over ten years and would increase the \$10 per week Food Stamp benefit minimum to \$14 and index it to inflation.

The bill would increase conservation programs by \$4 billion, including \$1.3 billion to enroll new land in the Wetlands Reserve Program, a doubling of funding for the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program and a \$2.4 billion funding increase for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. However, total acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program would decrease from 39 million acres to 32 million acres.

Conferees hope to have the bill on both the House and Senate floors by May 14, which could give Congress a chance to override the President's veto before farm state lawmakers head home for the week-long Memorial Day recess.

## ENVIRONMENT

Boxer, EPA spar over perchlorate regulation. Representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) told the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee this week that the agency would decide by the end of the year whether to regulate the contaminant perchlorate in drinking water.

What annoyed EPW Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) was the EPA assertion that there was a "distinct possibility" that the department would choose not to regulate perchlorate. Boxer maintained that EPA had waited long enough to make a decision and should not delay any longer. She said that the panel will markup within the next month legislation (S 150) that would require EPA to set a perchlorate standard, as well as a bill (S 24) that would require that local water agencies monitor drinking water for perchlorate and inform the public of any contamination.

EPA officials maintain that they are using a "science-based framework" to consider perchlorate regulation, as laid out in the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act. Republicans on the EPW Committee echoed the sentiment that Boxer's legislation would politicize matters related to environmental protection.

## FLOOD INSURANCE

Senators debate National Flood Insurance Program. The Senate is expected to wrap up consideration next week of legislation (S 2284) that would reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

The bill would extend the program -- which will expire in October 2008 -- through 2013. The most significant provision of the reauthorization bill would forgive an \$18 billion debt that the program suffered after it was overwhelmed by claims after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. During floor debate, Senators waived a rule that requires offsets for that \$18 billion debt forgiveness.

Senators rejected an amendment that would have expanded coverage from the program to include wind damage. The insurance industry and the White House strongly opposed the provision, which is included in the House version of the bill (HR 3121).

The flood insurance bill will also serve as a vehicle for a bipartisan plan to help lower escalating energy prices. Senators are expected to vote on an amendment next week that would halt oil shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve when oil is above \$75 a barrel. The White House opposes the proposal.

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications for the Source Reduction Assistance Grant Program. The purpose of this program is to fund pollution prevention, source reduction, or resource conservation projects. These projects must be designed to reduce or eliminate pollution with the use of raw materials, energy, water, and other natural resources. There is \$1,090,000 available, 40 expected awards, and a maximum of \$130,000 per award. Applicants are required to provide a five percent cost match. Applications are due June 9, 2008. For more information, see:

<http://www.epa.gov/p2/pubs/grants/srap08.htm>

### Housing and Urban Development

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is accepting applications for the FY 2008 Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) program. In the past, HUD has combined the announcement of HOPWA renewals with first time program applicants, but in FY 2008 Congress included language to allow HUD to separate the NOFA for renewals and the NOFA for new programs. In the FY 2008 funding year, there is an estimated \$8 million available for new projects, and on average, HUD selects 20 to 22 projects per year. The deadline for all applications is July 18, 2008. For more information see:

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=41541>.

Joe Rupp/Notes  
05/13/2008 11:57 AM

To Tammy J Grammer/Notes@Notes  
cc John V Hendry/Notes@Notes  
bcc  
Subject weed abatement penalty

History:  This message has been replied to.

Council members:

As the attorney assigned to review the weed abatement ordinance, Mr. Hendry informed me that a question arose at the Council meeting as to whether there was a penalty provision in the ordinance. The ordinance does have a penalty provision in section 8.46.060, which provides:

*Any person upon whom a duty is placed by the provisions of this chapter who shall fail, neglect, or refuse to perform such duty, or who shall violate any order authorized by this chapter, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not to exceed \$100.00. Each day that a violation of this chapter continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense and shall be punishable as such.*

This penalty may be utilized in addition to the City's authority to remove the weeds and assess the cost thereof against the property.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks.

Joe Rupp  
Assistant City Attorney



# NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 14, 2008  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Jim Weverka, Animal Control Manager, 441-7900  
Kris Johnson, Animal Control Officer, 441-7900

## PETS AND HOT WEATHER.

As the summer months begin it's important to remember that while you and your pet may be enjoying the warm weather, your pet may also be at risk due to these conditions. As the temperature increases Animal Control receives more calls from concerned citizens reporting pet neglect, including animals who are left outside without any access to shade or water. Animal Control would like to remind people of the potential risks that are associated with hot weather, as well as some tips on prevention.

Because your dog can not perspire as humans do, they have to pant to cool themselves. If the air that they are taking in is too hot, then panting has little cooling effect and the dog quickly overheats. Pets who have dark hair or black skin, are older, overweight, in generally poor health, and/or have a short muzzle/nose are at a higher risk of suffering from heat exhaustion.

There are steps you, as a pet owner, can take to prevent this risk. Follow these simple precautions to keep your pet healthy during hot weather:

- **Leave your pet at home when temperatures are high. Never leave it in a vehicle.**
- Provide adequate **shade** (other than a doghouse). Using a tarp over kennel pens that do not have shade is important.
- Provide a **constant supply of fresh water that is easily accessible** to your pet throughout the day. Partially bury a bucket in the soil, put weights in the water container, or fasten the bowl to a fence or post to prevent spilling. Automatic watering devices can also be used.
- Provide your pet with a **small wading pool** to keep its body cool. Change the water a minimum of every three days to prevent the spread of mosquitos.
- **Kennel pens** are the best method of confining a dog outside. It is illegal to use choke chain collars for tethering as they can choke a dog if it becomes hooked or tangled.
- **Walk your dog during the cooler part of the morning or evening.** In the afternoon, hot asphalt can easily burn a dog's paws.
- Put **sun screen (that is specifically to be used on animals)** on your pet's nose and ear tips, particularly if it is fair-haired.

Pets and Hot Weather.

May 14, 2008

Page 2

- **Good grooming** can ward off summer skin problems, especially for dogs with heavy coats. **Shaving the hair to one-inch length**, never down to the skin because it prohibits sun protection for you dog, which helps prevent overheating. Cats should also be brushed often.
- **Check your pets for fleas and ticks.** Contact your veterinarian for treatment and preventative medication.
- Stay alert for **signs of overheating** in pets, which include **excessive panting, drooling, mild weakness, along with an elevated body temperature.**
- Contact your veterinarian regarding special and specific advice for your pet.

On a hot summer day, the inside of a car heats very quickly. Many people think their dog will be okay in a car if they leave the windows open, but even with the windows wide open, the car can quickly become hot enough to cause heatstroke, brain damage, and even death.

On an 85° day, for example, the temperature inside your car, even with the windows slightly opened, will reach 102° in 10 minutes. In 30 minutes that temperature will rise to 120°. Even on a mild, 72°-degree day, the temperature inside your car can rise dramatically.

Your dog's normal body temperature is 101.5° to 102.2°F. Your dog can withstand a body temperature of 107° to 108°F for only a very short time before suffering irreparable brain damage, heat stroke, or even death.

While it is legal for any owner of a dog to allow the dog to ride in any motor vehicle, including a bed of a truck, Animal Control does not suggest you take your pets with you in your vehicle. It's especially dangerous to leave a pet in a truck bed since they are often dark colors, which get very hot. Also, dogs that are left in the back of pickup trucks may also bite strangers who come near the vehicle, which can lead to a \$250 fine.

Treatment for a pet that you suspect is suffering from heat illness:

- **Act quickly** and **immerse the pet in cool water** (standard room temperature) if possible.
- Apply **ice packs** to the **neck and head.**
- Take your pet to the veterinarian **immediately.**

When enjoying the summer months to come, remember while you may think it's better to take your dog with you, you should leave your dog at home where it is safe.

###

Lincoln-Lancaster County 555 South 10th Street / Suite 213 Eugene W. Carroll, Chair  
Planning Department Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 City-County  
Marvin S. Krout, Director 402-441-7491 / fax: 402-441-6377 Planning Commission



MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

lincoln.ne.gov

May 9, 2008

Mike Johnson  
Olsson Associates  
1111 Lincoln Mall, Ste. 111  
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Cedar Cove Addition, Final Plat #08010  
Generally located at N. 91<sup>st</sup> Street and Leighton Avenue

Dear Mike,

Cedar Cove Addition generally located northeast of N. 84<sup>th</sup> Street and Leighton Avenue was approved by the Planning Director on May 8, 2008. The plat and the subdivision agreement must be recorded in the Register of Deeds. The fee is determined at \$.50 per **existing** lot and per **new** lot and \$20.00 per plat sheet for the plat, and \$.50 per **new** lot and \$5.00 per page for associated documents such as the subdivision agreement. If you have a question about the fees, please contact the Register of Deeds. Please make check payable to the Lancaster County Register of Deeds. The Register of Deeds requests a list of all new lots and blocks created by the plat be attached to the subdivision agreement so the agreement can be recorded on each new lot.

Pursuant to § 26.11.060(d) of the Lincoln Municipal Code, this approval may be appealed to the Planning Commission and any decision of the Planning Commission to the City Council by filing a letter of appeal within 14 days of the action being appealed. The plat will be recorded with the Register of Deeds after the appeal period has lapsed on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the recording fee and signed subdivision agreement have been received.

Sincerely,

Brandon M. Garrett, AICP  
Planner

**CC: Breck Collingsworth  
Cedar Cove Townhomes  
8040 Eiger Drive  
Lincoln, NE 68516  
City Council  
Dennis Bartels, Public Works & Utilities  
Terry Kathe, Building & Safety  
Sharon Theobald, Lincoln Electric  
Jean Walker, Planning  
File**

Q:\PC\FP\08000\FPPL08010 Cedar Cove Addition AL.bmg.wpd



**Jean L Preister/Notes**  
05/15/2008 03:07 PM

To Mayor/Notes@Notes, City Council Members,  
CouncilPacket/Notes@Notes  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fw: "What Up" updates

----- Forwarded by Jean L Preister/Notes on 05/15/2008 03:03 PM -----



**Jean L Preister/Notes**  
05/15/2008 03:03 PM

To Mayor and City Council  
cc  
Subject "What Up" updates

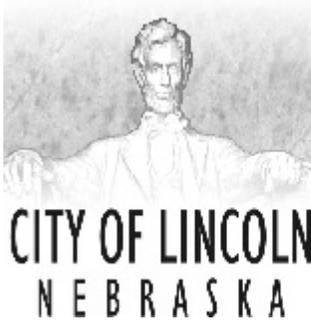
The "What's Up in North Lincoln" and "What's Up in South Lincoln" information and maps have been updated on the Planning Department Web site under "Director's Corner" --

[http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/director/wu\\_north.pdf](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/director/wu_north.pdf)

[http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/director/wu\\_south.pdf](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/director/wu_south.pdf)

--Jean Preister, Administrative Officer  
City-County Planning Department  
441-6365

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# PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES ADVISORY

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

lincoln.ne.gov

May 13, 2008

## **45th and Ginny Area Storm Drainage Improvement Project Project #702385**

The City of Lincoln, with HWS Consulting Group and Bookstrom Construction, will be hosting a public information open house to discuss the improvements to the 45th and Ginny Storm Drainage Area. This meeting will be held on Monday, May 19, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Pound Middle School, 4740 South 45th Street.

The project area is located along Ginny Avenue from south of Gertie Avenue, proceeding northeast to 46th Street and Linden, ending just west of 47th Street. This project includes the installation of almost 2,700 feet of large storm sewer designed to increase capacity to help alleviate upstream flooding at several low-lying areas. The estimated \$1.1 million project has been funded by the storm water bond that voters passed in May 2007.

Phase 2 construction will begin this summer. Phase I was completed last summer. Information on scheduling, phasing, and detours will be provided at the open house. The contractor, Bookstrom Construction, will be available to answer questions.

For more information, you can contact one of the following people:

Holly Lionberger  
Engineering Services  
Phone: (402) 441-8400

Dawn Steffan  
HWS Consulting Group  
Phone: (402) 479-2200

### Vicinity Map





# PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES ADVISORY

MAYOR CHRIS BEUTLER

lincoln.ne.gov

May 14, 2008

## **17th and Holdrege Overpass Study Project #702615**

The City of Lincoln Department of Public Works and Utilities and Olsson Associates would like to take this opportunity to invite you to an open house regarding the 17th and Holdrege Overpass Study.

The public is invited to an open house on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 to discuss the future of the overpass at 17th and Holdrege Streets. Citizens can attend the meeting any time from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Police substation on the northwest corner of 27th and Holdrege Streets. Parking is available in the lot at the station.

The existing bridge at 17th and Holdrege Streets is deteriorating, and the replacement or removal of the bridge is recommended. The City has initiated a study to determine the best option for the future of the overpass. Options include removal, replacement or closure, and the City's study team is seeking public input on the decision. At the open house, the public can learn more about the options and give their opinions.

For more information, please contact:

Kris Humphrey  
City of Lincoln Project Manager  
(402) 441-7592

Jon G. Olsen  
Olsson Associates  
(402) 458-5614

# Combined Weed Program

## City of Lincoln

### April 2008 Monthly Report

### Inspection Activity

260 inspections on 260 sites were made during the month.

### Noxious Weeds

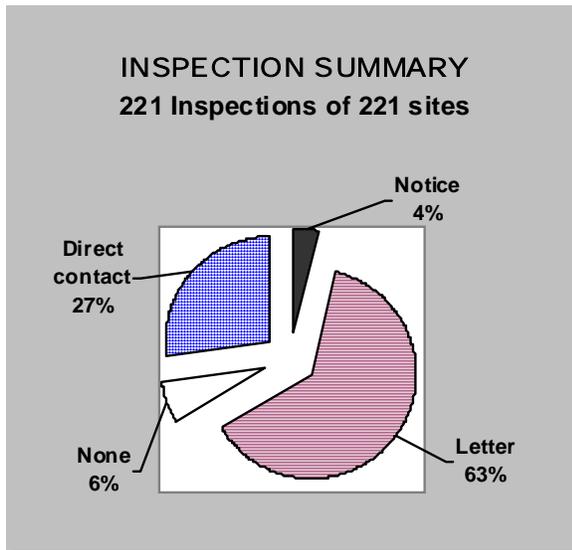
- Made 260 inspections on 260 sites on 1,411 acres.
- Found 221 violations on 247 acres.
  - 206 musk thistle
  - 14 leafy spurge
  - 1 phragmites
- Found no violations on 13 sites.
- Sent 8 notices, 128 letters, and made 56 personal contacts.
- Control is pending on 221 sites.

properties had to be force controlled last year. Inspections will begin May 19.

### Phragmites New Noxious Weed



Phragmites was designated a noxious weed April 15. Several sites of this wetland plant have been found in Lincoln.



### Weed Abatement

Advance work orders have been prepared on 171 properties that have been habitual problems. Foreclosures are expected to be an increasing problem. Fifty-six foreclosed

### APRIL Activities

- 1-2 Spring Training Hastings
- 5 Threats to Ne Rivers Mtng
- 14 Musk thistle inspections begin
- 14 Streambed Ownership Workgroup
- 16 Meeting with Farm Service Agency
- 17 LPMA Meeting
- 29 Interview project coordinator

### Planned MAY Activities

- 6 Riparian Veg Management Task Force
- 9-12 Vacation
- 12 Council Hearing
- 19 Begin City Weed Abatement inspections
- 22 LPWMA Mtng 10:00 AM



Comments on Hearing on Change of Height for Weed Abatement  
By Russell Shultz, Superintendent

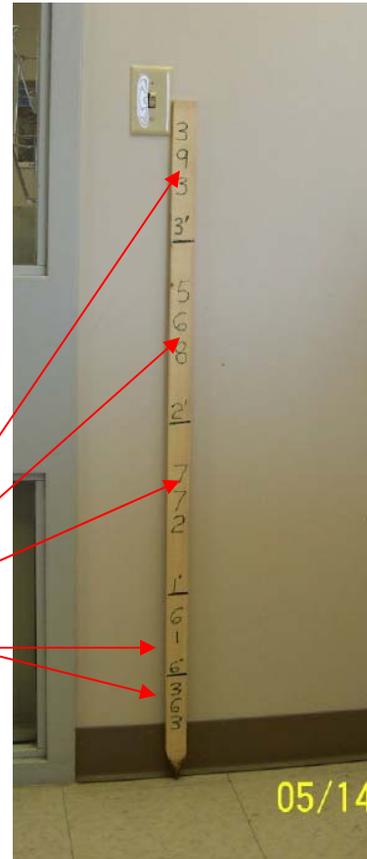
Those offering testimony in regards to the proposed height change presented concerns about weed and worthless vegetation overgrowth that was in excess of 12 inches (as indicated by the pictures they were showing) and the response time. They expressed opposition to changing from the 6 inch height, but did not provide a strong basis for their opposition. Making changes that would target weeds and worthless vegetation in excess of 12 inches and improve response time is in keeping with my thoughts.

The 6 inch height requirement results in complaints that are either cut before they are inspected or in all but 5% of the time after a letter is sent. There was a total of 1,732 complaints on 1,503 sites, Complaints on 424 of the sites resulted in 363 sites found not to be in violation and 61 sites that had vegetation growth of 6 to 11 inches. All but three of these violations were cut at the time of the follow-up inspections. (The figures given here and later are average per year figures based on the three past years.) The non-violation sites plus the 6 to 11 inch sites utilized about 515 inspections of the total of 5,000 available inspections. They utilized over 10% of the inspections (4,957 inspections) on 3% of the violations (1,834 violations). Changing the height requirement to 12 inches, would increase efficiency, direct efforts at the more severe weeds and worthless vegetation.

There was an annual average of 1,834 violations over the past three years as a result of 4,957 inspections on 2,198 sites. The breakdown by height follows:

Inches	Annual Average Sites	%
0 to 6	363	16.5
7 to 11	61	3
12 to 23	772	35
24 to 35	568	26
36 +	393	17.5

The violations over 12 inches accounted for 97% of the violations. These violations were inspected as a result of 1,139 complaints and 695 sites observed by inspectors.



### Present Situation

There are at least 10,000 ownership parcels that have vegetation growth from 6 to 11 inches. Much of the City owned property is at this height or higher. The city and other publically owned properties are not exempt from the weed abatement ordinance. Most of these parcels will get onto a regular mowing schedule by the end of May. At this time there probably will be around 2,000 parcels that have vegetation over 12 inches high. Even the parcels that have been mowed may now be over 6 inches do to the rainy weather. **Remember the weed abatement ordinance deals with weeds and worthless vegetation; it is not a lawn or turf height ordinance.** Our present budgeted staff is able to respond to all the complaints being received now along with the violations being observed. We attempt to address the parcels with weeds and worthless vegetation that will not be cut without a notification. There needs to be further

discussions with neighborhood associations in how to deal with initial and follow-up mowings of lawns and other concerns.

**Sites with 6 inch growth on May 14, 2008**



Speedway Motors



Oak Lake



Median Highway 2



Pheasant Run Entrance

These areas have been mowed at least once this year and will have scheduled mowings. They are not considered weeds and worthless vegetation.

**Sites with 12 inch growth on May 14, 2008**



East Campus



40<sup>th</sup> & Highway 2

These sites are or will be mowed and are not considered needing notifications.

**Curb to Sidewalk Plantings**



Plantings are allowed on city right-of-way between the sidewalks and gutter if they are kept weed free and are not over 30 inches in height. This is administered by the City Arborist

## Parcels with over one foot vegetation



City Park considered to be prairie



BNSF Railroad Property that has received a notification

## Weeds and Worthless Vegetation



These sites have weeds and worthless vegetation and the owners have been notified. This type of vegetation overgrowth is considered for priority action.

### Actions Needed

1. Discussions with neighborhood associations about their concerns. Such discussions need to have broad participation.
2. Review of operations to improve response time.
3. Review weed abatement ordinance for changes to improve response time and dealing with repeat violators.



Steve R Owen/Notes

05/13/2008 10:38 AM

To jspatz@nasbonline.org

cc Jerry Obrist/Notes@Notes, Steve Masters/Notes@Notes,  
Greg S MacLean/Notes@Notes, Linda K

Quenzer/Notes@Notes, Trish A Owen/Notes@Notes, Karen  
bcc

Subject Water Service Leak - 1547 N32nd

Councilman Spatz:

Jerry Obrist asked me to follow up directly with you on your request for information regarding the above.

Mr. Craig's description of events regarding his water service is accurate. Based on the location of the leak we are certain that the leak is originating from his privately owned water service and not the City's water main. Based on our inspection, the leak appears to be between the stop box and water main. The service was installed in 1925 and is constructed of galvanized iron (from the house to stop box) and lead (from stop box to water main) materials. At over 80 years old, the service has likely reached its useful life and replacement is now necessary.

As you may know, lead is not an acceptable material for water services by current standards due to health concerns. As a result, Public Works (PW) requires the entire lead supply pipe from the stop box to the water main to be replaced; it can not be repaired. Considering the age, PW would strongly recommend that the galvanized portion of the service also be replaced at the same time. A reputable plumbing contractor will likely make this same recommendation.

We certainly recognize the expense associated with these repairs. PW has been trying to inform customers about ownership and responsibility for water and sewer services in bill stuffers. Nevertheless, this can be a very significant and unanticipated expense for a homeowner. We normally refer disadvantaged customers to programs offered through Urban Development and it appears Mr. Craig has made this contact and does not qualify.

We are willing to work with Mr. Craig on a schedule for repair beyond the 10 days. However, if the leak worsens we may have to insist on a quicker schedule. If the service breaks or leaks to the extent that is causing immediate damage, PW may have to excavate the tap at the water main which can be very costly for the homeowner especially if done on an emergency basis. There is also risk involved if the leak begins to damage the right of way, curb and street as the property owner is responsible for any damage associated with leakage. Also note that water leakage is noticeable to citizens and there is an expectation by the public that PW resolves these quickly to avoid water loss. It is a delicate issue for PW when trying to work with a customer but yet address leaks in a timely manner and reduce potential for damage to public property.

Seeking a number of price quotations from reputable plumbing contractors is the best advice to offer Mr. Craig. His property value should be increased accordingly as potential buyers recognize the advantage of having a newer water service.

I'm more than happy to make a contact with Mr. Craig to discuss this issue in more detail including a reasonable schedule for replacement.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Steve R. Owen  
Supt. of Water Distribution  
Lincoln Water System  
Dept. of Public Works and Utilities  
Voice: 402.441.5925  
Fax: 402.441.8493

email: sowen@lincoln.ne.gov

----- Forwarded by Steve R Owen/Notes on 05/13/2008 08:07 AM -----

**Jerry Obrist/Notes**

05/12/2008 04:20 PM

To Steve R Owen/Notes

cc

Subject Fw: Water Main Leak

Steve, please have someone gather the information so we can respond to Mr. Spatz and advise the customer on options to fixing the service. Thank you. Jerry O.

----- Forwarded by Jerry Obrist/Notes on 05/12/2008 04:14 PM -----



**"John Spatz"**

<jspatz@nasbonline.org>

05/12/2008 08:43 AM

To <jobrist@lincoln.ne.gov>

cc

Subject FW: Water Main Leak

Jerry,

I got this e-mail from a constituent. Let me know if you have any advice I can pass along to him.

Thanks

John Spatz

**From:** Larry Craig [mailto:LCraig@neb.rr.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, May 10, 2008 11:22 AM

**To:** John Spatz

**Subject:** Water Main Leak

Dear Councilman Spatz,

I live at 1547 N. 32nd and I believe you represent my district. My problem is the water main that runs to my home is leaking. I reported it last week on Monday May 5th. Public works came out and determined it was leaking at the water stop. The stop is located next to my driveway and the main is across the street. The line was installed in 1925 and we have lived at this address since March of 1977. I was informed that it is my problem to fix and pay for, and that I have 10 days to find a plumber to make needed repairs. I stated that search the same day I reported the leak. As of today Saturday the 10th, I've had one quote, around \$3500.00 (and that does not include the needed cement work). I'm retired from Goodyear and work full time now for MedExpress, my wife is employed as a para for LPS, our combined gross income last year was about \$58,000.00. I have talked with Urban Development and make to much to qualify for any aid or assistance. Councilman, \$3500.00 is a lot of money for us, our budget is stressed and our credit cards are maxed out, plus we had filed for bankruptcy in August of 2001. I, as of now don't know how easy it will be to get a loan. We will try. But if that fails, what is left to do? To this point Lincoln Water has just set deadlines to get this done. The main sits across the street and the stop is on city right-of-way and I get stuck with the full cost of repairs. What happens if I can't raise the money? What is the city's position? What does that leave me with? I would appreciate any help or advice you can help me with. I'm not looking to dodge this, just need to have some help. My home phone is 466-7223 (I can be reached after 5:00 PM). Thank you for your time.

Larry Craig  
1547 N 32  
Lincoln Nebraska  
[LCraig@neb.rr.com](mailto:LCraig@neb.rr.com)

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Drag Tech  
<knownos500hp@yahoo.com  
>

05/09/2008 03:23 PM

Please respond to  
knownos500hp@yahoo.com

To angi\_guenther@hotmail.com, carolserv@hotmail.com,  
council@lincoln.ne.gov, dschorr@lanaster.ne.gov,  
dwinter@journalstar.com, gwinters@journalstar.com,

cc

bcc

Subject Motorsports GROWING!

I was born and raised here in Lincoln. I do not understand how a private investor wants to finance a motorsports facility 100% in my hometown. Then get pushed out of Lancaster county with his money and idea to better our community the only way he can. When I refer to he and a private investor. I am referring to Greg Sanford the owner of the Nebraska Motorplex that now is just a name. This is a message I recieved in a Myspace bulletin.

**MOROSO MOTORSPORTS PARK TEMPORARILY CLOSES DRAG STRIP AND ROAD COURSE FOR MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR RENOVATION  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, APRIL 25th, 2008**

Moroso Motorsports Park announced today that their drag strip and road course will close for renovations on May 19. Upon re-opening in the of Fall '08, the two tracks will be separated allowing them to run simultaneously. They will also be reconfigured and repaved. During the shutdown period, the kart track will remain open and available to the Public.

The new 2-mile road course will be 40 feet wide, feature several areas of paved run-off and adhere to the highest FIA safety standards. Soft wall barriers will compliment the tire barriers and concrete walls. The redone drag strip will be concrete to the 660' and have retaining walls extending to the shutdown area. Compulink will provide the fiber optic timing and scoring system. Highly-regarded industry experts Bob Harrington and Wayne McMurtry have been brought on as consultants for the reconstruction project. Harrington's expertise lies in years of unsurpassed road course development and McMurtry has a proven history developing some of the country's finest drag strips. Together, their demonstrable knowledge will provide the best of both racing worlds for Moroso's loyal drivers and fans. With one of the most well-respected track operators in the country, George Case as the new Director of Drag Race Operations, Moroso Motorsport Park has put together a winning team that will deliver on grand expectations.

"This has been a long time in the making," stated Susan Moroso Strecker, CEO of Moroso Motorsports Park. "Our customers have supported us unconditionally and we are so excited to give them the facility they deserve.

"

Moroso Motorsports Park is located on 200 acres of wooded property in NW Palm Beach County and hosts more than 850 events annually. With auto racing being the #1 spectator sport in the country, events at the Park draw an estimated one million people per year, with media coverage impacting several million more. As a result, Moroso Motorsports Park has created an economic impact on Palm Beach County and surrounding areas in excess of \$25 million.

Racers and fans can be kept up-to-date on the project by visiting [www.racemoroso.com](http://www.racemoroso.com) For more information E-mail: [Angie@RaceMoroso.com](mailto:Angie@RaceMoroso.com) • 561-622-1400 Office • 561-626-2053 Fax

What is being done to bring motorsports close to Lincoln, Nebraska?

If you have any idea please respond.

Thank you,

Shannon McGovern

402-202-1461

---

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Bill McCoy  
<[bmccoy@lps.org](mailto:bmccoy@lps.org)>

05/12/2008 06:59 AM

Please respond to  
[bmccoy@lps.org](mailto:bmccoy@lps.org)

To shawn mathison <[kcdmath@hotmail.com](mailto:kcdmath@hotmail.com)>

cc [sgourley@lps.org](mailto:sgourley@lps.org), [mayor@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:mayor@lincoln.ne.gov),  
[council@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:council@lincoln.ne.gov)

bcc

Subject Re: Bussing

Mr. Mathison,

The Board of Education at the recommendation of the citizens' task force (Student Housing Task Force) and citizens' boundary committee, conducted a study of the whole school district and implemented new attendance boundaries. This resulted in all areas being permanently assigned to a specific school attendance area and removed all temporary assignments that were in place for district efficiency to deal with overcrowded schools. I believe your residence was originally assigned to Rousseau for district efficiency and has now been permanently assigned to Rousseau.

- Board of Education Policy provides for transportation for K-8 students that live in excess of 4 miles from their assigned school (consistent with state law), special education students where required by their IEP, and for efficient use of classrooms.

Hopefully, you find this explanation to be helpful. If you wish, you reserve the right to contact your local school board member. For your area of the city I believe this would be Mr. Don Mayhew. Mr. Mayhew's e-mail address is [dmayhew@lps.org](mailto:dmayhew@lps.org).

Sincerely,

Bill McCoy, CEH  
Director of Operations  
Custodial and Transportation Services  
Lincoln Public Schools  
2200 Park BLVD  
Lincoln, NE 68502

402-436-1073, Ext 83005 [bmccoy@lps.org](mailto:bmccoy@lps.org) This e-mail (including attachments) may contain privileged or confidential information and may be exempt from public disclosure under applicable law. It is intended only for use of the individual or entity named. This message is for informational or scheduling purposes, it is not intended to circumvent provisions of the open meetings law. Unless otherwise indicated, no response is expected. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by return e-mail. Thank you

shawn mathison wrote: Mr. McCoy

We recently received a letter in the mail from you stating that would no longer be receiving bussing for our children due to the new school boundaries. Not only did this come as a surprise

but was concerning as we live south of HWY 2 and our children would have to walk over 2 miles to school each day. We neither moved nor did the school so we still live just as far as we did last year. I the tax payer wonder why this change was made and why I was not informed before the decision was made. I would appreciate a call from anyone who would have the answer to these questions.

Jeffery Mathison  
3124 Wildbriar Lane  
Lincoln Ne 68516  
314-7073

---

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"Douglas Kerns, Attorney at Law"  
<douglas\_kerns@yahoo.com>

To council@lincoln.ne.gov  
cc Rnoyes@lincoln.ne.gov, sryba@nwlincoln.org  
bcc

05/12/2008 03:57 PM

Subject Opposed to weed height limit change

Please respond to  
"Douglas Kerns, Attorney at Law"  
<attorney@kernslawoffice.com>

To: Lincoln City Council: Robin Eschliman, Dan Marvin, Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, John Spatz, Ken Svoboda, and Doug Emery.

From: Doug Kerns, Havelock Neighborhood Association

I write to oppose the change in weed height limits. I am responding the Weed Authority's arguments raised in the Saturday Lincoln Journal Star article and in an email sent to Rick Noyes from Russell Shultz:

1. In supporting the change, the Weed Authority falsely concludes that the change will reduce the number of inspections 'wasted' on sites found not to be in violation, when the height of the weeds prior to such inspections was unknown.
2. The effect of the change would more likely result in many double inspections of the same site, one inspection 'wasted' when the weeds reached 7" to 11", seemed high enough for a neighbor to report, and then after the 'wasted' inspection, a second inspection would be necessary after the weeds grew to 12".
3. The Weed Authority seems to hope that the change will reduce the total number of inspections, when it is more likely that the number of inspections will increase as many sites falling in the 7" to 11" range will soon grow beyond 12".
4. At least some of the 7" to 11" violations in 2007 would have continued to grow to 12", contrary to the Authority's argument that all of these inspections would be unnecessary.
5. For the reasons enumerated above, it is unclear whether the change will save money, and it is very possible that the effect of the change will be greater neglect of lawns, poorer appearance of neighborhoods, and increased violations and vermin problems.

Thank you for your consideration,

Douglas Kerns, Attorney at Law  
6120 Havelock Avenue, Lincoln, NE 68507  
(402) 464-5529 Fax: (402) 467-5082 Email: attorney@kernslawoffice.com



WebForm  
<none@lincoln.ne.gov>  
05/12/2008 06:24 PM

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

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for  
General Council

Name: Ted Scott  
Address: 5316 Patmore Road  
City: Lincoln, NE 68516  
  
Phone: 402-202-2482  
Fax: 403-423-2029  
Email: ted@maildataprint.com

Comment or Question:

Weed Abatement - Yes, efficiency is paramount but I don't think that the three seasonal workers will get any more accomplished if they don't have to work on weeds less than 12". If someone is going to let their weeds grow past 6" there certainly aren't inclined to cut them before they get to 12" so the argument that it's going to take less manpower to work the issue if the ordinance is changed to 12" probably doesn't hold much weight.

As far as "That's how Omaha does it" I'm really tired of the mentality, if that's how Omaha does it, that's how we should do it. If I wanted to live in Omaha and have everything like Omaha, I would. Let's do what's best for Lincoln and stop trying to do what everyone else does. How about if other cities look to Lincoln as a model of how to do things? We all need to nurture an environment that supports a great place to live instead of encouraging lazy people to let their problem grow an additional 6" before they have to think about doing something.

I have more to say but I guess you'll get the jist of my comments.

Thank you,

Ted Scott



**Robert D Kuzelka**  
<[rkuzelka@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:rkuzelka@unlnotes.unl.edu)>  
05/13/2008 07:09 PM

To: "council@lincoln.ne.gov" <[council@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:council@lincoln.ne.gov)>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject: Support of Amendments to 8.46.010 & 8.46.020

In this day of extreme water and petroleum conservation concerns how could anyone not support this excellent positive environmental amendment to the City Ordinance? I am sorry that I was not present at your meeting on 12 MAY to refute the arguments against this amendment.

In a city that prizes so highly private rights and property is strange that the original ordinance ever came about. I assume it was intended as a health and welfare protection ordinance. Since passage it has been badly misused to harass a property owner's rights to be individual and independent (not to mention environmentally sound) in their landscape management styles.

My bimonthly water/sewer bill of about \$26 shows what can be done if conservation is our goal.

VOTE YES!

I would be happy to answer any questions related to this email. I assume that you all will get copies.

Bob Kuzelka, property owner at 1935 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68502.

Robert D. Kuzelka, AICP  
Director, Environmental Studies Program  
Associate Professor Emeritus, School of Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
504 Hardin Hall  
3310 Holdrege Street (NE Corner 33rd and Holdrege)  
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Website: <http://esp.unl.edu>

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA "Pioneering New Frontiers"



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<none@lincoln.ne.gov>  
05/14/2008 09:48 AM

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

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for  
General Council

Name: Willis Scofield  
Address: 4011 Sumner  
City: Lincoln, NE 68506

Phone:  
Fax:  
Email: willisscofield@yahoo.com

Comment or Question:

Wanted to voice my opinion on raising the weed height to 12 inches. I think that would be a poor decision with the city's increased emphasis on Near South etc. I thought the city wanted all arrows in its quiver to help neighborhoods. Just because the weed dept is busy is no excuse to lower the bar. Is it possible for them to be more efficient? Or perhaps with quicker mowing by contractors the problem will not reoccur. Thanks for your time.

Willis Scofield  
Member 40th & A Neighborhood Assoc.

Lincoln City Council  
555 South 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lincoln, NE 68508

RECEIVED

May 12, 2008

MAY 14 2008

CITY COUNCIL  
OFFICE

Dear Elected Members:

Finally—the topic of lawn growth is being discussed. For several years I have complained about neighbors who ignore the problems that exist in their yards due to:

- 1.- Dandelions and other weeds that go to seed and blow over into my yard. Sometimes it involves a large part of their yard. Some of these weeds are like small bushes.
- 2.- Volunteer vines which climb over trees and everything else in their paths.
- 3.- Volunteer trees, some of which at this point are several FEET tall.
- 4.- A few years ago, a man from the weed department came out and looked and told me he was only concerned with the height of the grass. When I asked for his name — he refused to tell me his name.
- 5.- Jon Camp is supposed to be the council member for our area. It's time he and the rest of the Council take care of these problems.

Sincerely  
Marian Postma