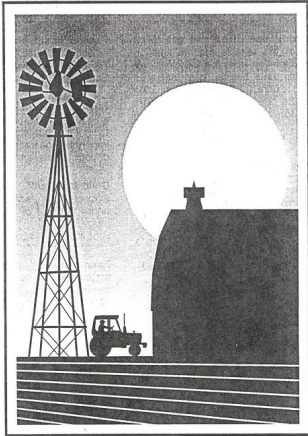




Community Focus

Free Tax Assistance

Free tax assistance will be available in Lincoln and other cities across Nebraska through the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. Most libraries, senior centers, and community centers will be providing this free community service. In Lincoln, the YWCA, Salvation Army, Cristo Rey Center, and East Park Plaza Shopping Center will be participating in the VITA program. VITA will also be offering free electronic filing at some of the locations. This federally funded program is an excellent opportunity for free assistance with your federal and state tax questions and filing of returns. Times and locations for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program are available through April 15 except where noted. (GB)



Monday		Wednesday	
East Park Plaza 220 North 66 Street	12-3 p.m.	YWCA 15 & N Street	6-8 p.m.
Northeast Senior Center 6310 Platte Avenue	1-3 p.m.	South Street Library 2675 South Street	10 a.m.-12 noon
East Park Plaza 220 North 66 Street	6-8 p.m.	Thursday	
Hispanic Center 2300 O Street (Spanish & English)	5-6:30 p.m.	Lake Street Senior Center 2400 South 11 Street	10 a.m.-12 noon
Bethany Library 1810 North Cotner	5:30-6:30 p.m.	F Street Rec Center 1225 F Street	11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Joann Maxey Senior Center Newman Methodist Church 2242 R Street	10-11:30 a.m.	Gere Library 2400 South 56 Street	6-8 p.m.
Calvert Rec Center 4500 Stockwell Street	12:30-2:30 p.m.	Malone Community Center (Electronic) 2032 U Street	5-7 p.m.
Tuesday		Friday	
Asia Community Center 140 South 27 Street	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Gere Library (Electronic) 2400 South 56 Street	1-3 p.m.
Good Neighbor Center 2617 Y Street	1:30-3 p.m.	Department of Health & Human Services 1050 N Street	2-2 p.m.
Bennett Martin Library (Electronic) 14 & N Streets	6-8 p.m.	Hispanic Center 2300 O Street (Spanish & English)	1-4 p.m.
Gere Library 2400 South 56 Street	7-8:30 p.m.	Saturday	
Elliott School (Electronic) 225 South 25 Street	4-6 p.m.	Air Park Rec Center (February Only) 3720 Northwest 46 Street	1-3 p.m.
Lincoln Action Program 210 O Street	1-3 p.m.	Guideness Foundation (February Only) 220 North 66 Street	1-4 p.m.
Wednesday		Hispanic Center 2300 O Street (Spanish & English)	9-11 a.m.
Anderson Library 3635 Touzalin Avenue	6-8 p.m.	Cristo Rec Center (Electronic) 1335 North 30 Street (Spanish & English)	2-4 p.m.
Salvation Army (Electronic) 2625 Potter Street	12-2 p.m.		



Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Awards Request for Nominations

Nominations are being sought for the 2001 Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Awards. Lancaster County residents are encouraged to recognize local efforts to preserve and better the environment by nominating an individual, school, organization or business for an environmental award.

The awards recognize local efforts in the following categories:

Pollution Prevention: Preventing pollution and waste from being created, emphasis on toxic reduction.

Waste Reduction and

Recycling: Reduction in the amount of waste sent to the landfill.

Water Conservation: Reduction in water use through utilizing water conservation equipment or planting drought tolerant plants.

Cleanup/Beautification: Improvement in an area's visual quality.

Residential/Commercial Development: Reducing waste during construction, utilizing drought tolerant landscaping, energy efficient and green building techniques.

Environmental Education/Awareness: New or unique efforts for providing or supporting environmental education

programs; increasing awareness about local environmental issues.

Nomination forms are available by calling 441-8035. Nomination forms must be completed and returned by March 16, 2001. The date and location for the awards ceremony will be announced later. A reception with entertainment will be held in conjunction with the awards ceremony.

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Awards Program is a cooperative project of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and the Lincoln Public Works and Utilities Department. (GB)

Growing Right-or Just Growing?

As a country and a state, we are in an exciting period of physical growth and change. Change in cities and towns is inevitable, with growth occurring at a slow, constant rate in some areas and exponentially in others; and decline troubling many smaller communities as out-migration from them continues. The question of whether communities just grow, or grow right, is one that is triggering wide national attention and research.

The desire of communities to grow (and increase their tax base and economic viability) weighed against the need to manage resources and limit the impact on the natural environment and agricultural base of the state can create what at times seems like a battlefield between urban and rural areas. This fringe zone is truly a landscape in transition.

In nearly every community in the state, people can remember a time when the boundary

was closer to the center. Omaha now stretches almost to the Platte River, Lincoln's south edge is miles beyond South Street, and communities ranging in size from Kearney to Seward see their urban boundaries stretching into surrounding farmland.

The City of Lincoln recently completed a public opinion survey of planning and development issues as part of its process to revise the comprehensive plan. The results of that survey are revealing: of 22 possible planning objectives, the top four chosen by the respondents had an environmental focus. They included encouraging the city and county to plan growth to preserve natural environmental qualities; maintain and preserve existing wetlands, streams, trees, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources; preserve the quality of rural life and highly productive agricultural land in the county; and maintain a system of parks and recreation.

Limiting the further development of acreages in rural parts of the county was considered least important—yet it is the development of acreages along the fringes of urban areas that can become a major battleground.

How can communities in Nebraska get what seems to be important to their citizens—positive, sustainable growth without sacrificing for all time the agricultural base of the state and the quality of life associated with it?

Communities like Clarkson that seem to have found the key to a sustainable quality of life. They have developed businesses in proximity to residences, created walkable neighborhoods with a strong sense of identity, included open space and natural elements, and provide a variety of dwelling unit types for their residents. This is not a new planning concept, but one that is gaining nationwide acceptance

See GROWING on page 11

hey kids!



(teachers and parents, too)

here's your chance to enter a fun

photography Contest

sponsored by

The Lincoln Area Agency on Aging with assistance from the Lincoln Camera Club.

Open to ALL ages, Kindergarten to older folks!
Anyone....Anywhere!!!

Best of Show, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable
Mention prizes by age groups of: K-6, 7-12, and Adult.

****Best of Show winner is awarded \$200****

All entries exhibited at the Senior Festival, Ag Hall, State Fairgrounds,
Lincoln, NE, May 10, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

For a registration and information packet,
call (402)441-7022 (collect calls accepted).
Deadline for submission is Saturday, April 14, 2001.
...so don't delay...call today!!

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Shortcuts

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