

# LHA Today

From left are Bob Freese, LNE teacher, and senior students Xavier Dowding, Brady Detweiler, Logan Langel and Callie Showers.

## LHA, LNE build 31ST HOME for family

For the past three decades, the partnership between Lincoln Housing Authority and Lincoln Public Schools has helped low-income families achieve homeownership by providing them with a new home. This year will mark the completion of the program's 31st home, located at 1028 Furnas St.

Constructed by residential construction students from Lincoln Northeast High School (LNE), this year's home boasts three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a detached two-car garage. It also has an unfinished basement.

Throughout the school year, LNE students gain valuable hands-on experience by working on tasks such as framing, drywall, trim, painting and

cabinetry, all under the guidance of teacher, Bob Freese. Licensed contractors complete electrical and plumbing work.

Many students enroll in the class because they're interested in the construction field after high school. LNE Senior Callie Showers is taking the class to explore her passion for construction management.

"I've learned how to do everything safely," she said. "Also, I see how crucial it is to get everything laid out and centered, which is important for the overall function of the house."

Many students take the class to gain valuable life skills, while also giving back to the community.

Once the house is completed, it will



Lincoln Northeast High School students are building a home for a family in need at 1028 Furnas Ave.

be sold to an eligible family involved with LHA. The price hasn't been set, but interested LHA families can determine their eligibility to purchase the house by contacting Susan at [SusanT@L-housing.com](mailto:SusanT@L-housing.com). Applicants are encouraged to take homeownership preparation classes through NeighborWorks at [nwlincoln.org/our-work/homeownership/education.html](http://nwlincoln.org/our-work/homeownership/education.html).



# FSS program helps people attain self-sufficiency

A safe and stable home is essential for families to thrive, promoting better physical, mental and developmental well-being. Since its inception in 1993, Lincoln Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program has empowered hundreds of families to achieve their long-term goals.

A free, voluntary program, FSS is for LHA tenants which guides individuals in taking meaningful steps toward their goals, such as building an emergency fund, paying off debt, preparing for homeownership, or pursuing education and job training. Participants must be motivated to become self-sufficient and committed to taking the necessary steps to achieve their goals.

FSS Coordinators Amy and Courtney provide individualized support and assistance to meet these goals, including pointing people to educational programs, career assessments, job training, child care, counseling, case management, credit counseling, homeownership preparation and coordination with other service providers and agencies.

LHA can provide direct financial assistance to help FSS participants. In 2024, FSS participants received more than \$18,500 to help with costs associated with education, GED testing, transportation, child care and other costs.

The FSS program can last up to five years, and individuals continue to receive housing assistance as long as they are eligible.

When rent increases due to higher earnings, a percentage of the increase may be placed in an escrow savings account for participants. The money in the account, plus interest, is received when the FSS participant has successfully reached their goal. Program graduates can use the escrow fund how they



FSS Coordinators Courtney and Amy can help you meet your goals. wish, but many use it for education, debt reduction, reliable transportation and homeownership. In 2024, 15 FSS graduates collectively received more than \$90,000. Two graduates went on to purchase their own homes.

**In 2024**  
**FSS participants received:**  
\$18,599 in direct assistance to achieve their goals  
  
**15 FSS graduates received:**  
\$90,829 in escrow funds

For more information about FSS and to see a video explaining the program, newsletters and more, visit [www.L-housing.com/FamilySelfSufficiency.html](http://www.L-housing.com/FamilySelfSufficiency.html).

To apply, contact Amy at [AWagner@L-housing.com](mailto:AWagner@L-housing.com), 402-434-5527, or Courtney at [Courtney@L-housing.com](mailto:Courtney@L-housing.com), 402-434-5529.

## Rental Listings for those with LHA voucher

Free to all Lincoln Housing Authority participants, LHA has a new online Rental Listing portal in which landlords may include up-to-date rental listings accepting vouchers.

To view current listings, visit [www.L-housing.com/RentalAssistance.html](http://www.L-housing.com/RentalAssistance.html) or scan the QR code and click on the "Rental Listings" building icon. Participants may also stop by the main office for a copy of the Voucher Friendly Landlord list that may have additional contacts. This list is generated every Tuesday.

Remember: Please be aware of any type of rental scams

and never pay deposits with bitcoin or gift cards.



Please note: Properties on the directory have NOT been pre-approved by the Lincoln Housing

Authority. All units must meet Lincoln Housing Authority program requirements, pass rent reasonableness, and meet Housing Quality Standards before assistance may begin.



Scan QR code to view current rental listings



# Reading Matters:

# Books are important to a child's success

LHA's Reading Matters program distributed a total of 112 free books to families who attended one of six events at different locations across Lincoln in December.

Reading Matters exists to encourage early literacy for children. Research consistently shows that the presence of books in the home plays a pivotal role in a child's academic success. Having access to a variety of books fosters vocabulary development, improves attention span, and enhances job prospects later in life. Children exposed to books and reading from an early age are more likely to develop strong literacy skills, which directly correlates with better academic performance and higher self-esteem. These children tend to excel in school, as strong reading and writing abilities lay the foundation for improved analytical and critical thinking skills.



Lincoln City Libraries and Linked2Literacy came to two events to encourage visitors to use their services.

Through Linked2Literacy, all children in Lancaster County ages 0-5 are eligible for Dolly Parton's

Imagination Library. This program provides children access to books at an early age, promotes literacy and cognitive development, stimulates creativity and encourages a desire to read. Children enrolled will receive their first book in six to eight weeks, and then a book monthly until the child's 5th birthday. To sign up, visit [imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability](http://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability) or scan the QR code.



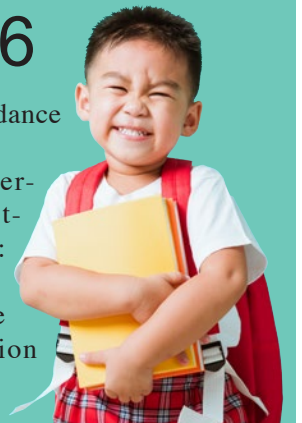
## LPS kindergarten registration 2025-26

If your child will be age 5 on or before July 31, it's time to register them for kindergarten. Go to [lps.org](http://lps.org) and click on the red "Enroll Your Student" button. You'll also find information necessary for registering, required documents needed and answers to frequently asked questions.

For parents unable to register their child online, contact the elementary school in your attendance area. Questions about kindergarten registration

should also be directed to the child's attendance area school.

For more information about kindergarten registration and assessment testing for incoming students, please go to: [home.lps.org/studentservices/kindergarten-registration-assessment](http://home.lps.org/studentservices/kindergarten-registration-assessment). This website also includes information on translation services.



# Legal Clinic at the Center for People

The Nebraska State Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) is offering a free legal clinic for low-income Nebraskans to receive confidential, limited scope legal advice from a volunteer attorney. Additional legal resources and information will be available.

The clinics are offered the first Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon at the Center for People, 3901 N 27th St.

The legal clinic cannot provide legal services for criminal or appellate matters or for any matter someone already has legal

representation. Civil legal matters for which referrals, information, and/or advice can be given include, but are not limited to: immigration, family law matters, i.e. divorce, child custody, etc., small claims, landlord/tenant, estate planning, i.e., power of attorney and health care power of attorney, and employment law.

For more information, visit [www.nevlp.org/clinics.html](http://www.nevlp.org/clinics.html).



## Free tax preparation services offered

As the April 15, 2025, tax deadline approaches, consider using free community tax preparation services through the Lincoln EITC Coalition's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

VITA offers no-cost federal and state-tax preparation and filing for low- to moderate-income households. VITA sites operate in various Lincoln area locations from January to April.

For more information, call 211 or visit [vita.unl.edu](http://vita.unl.edu). To make an appointment, go to [vita.unl.edu/signup](http://vita.unl.edu/signup) beginning Jan. 15.

Note: The scope of work that can be done within the VITA site is defined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). If your return is considered "out of scope" for this site, VITA volunteers will not be able to prepare your return.

Please bring the following to tax preparation sites:

- Photo ID for all tax return signers. Both spouses must sign if filing jointly.
- Social Security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number letters for everyone on the return.
- W-2s from employer, W-2Gs for gambling income, and 1099 forms for miscellaneous income, including interest, dividends, unemployment, pension, 401(k) distribution and other income.
- Child care receipts, including provider's tax ID and address.
- Statements of any student loan interest, mortgage interest and property tax.
- 1095s showing credible health insurance coverage.
- Records of revenue and expenses for self-employment or home-based

- business.
- Checking or savings account information for direct deposit/debit.

- If you plan to visit a VITA site, please bring a copy of last year's tax return.

### FREE Community Tax Preparation 2024 Federal and Nebraska State Returns

#### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site Schedule

Must have an APPOINTMENT

Schedule an appointment at <https://vita.unl.edu/signup/> beginning January 15th

When scheduling your tax preparation appointment, please choose a site location, date, and time.

All sites listed below will be face-to-face and require an appointment.

Virtual preparation is available, in addition to facilitated self-assistance (FSA), limited walk-ins.

All sites will follow local health department guidelines.

	SITE NAME	ADDRESS	Hours	DATES AVAILABLE
<b>MONDAY</b>	American Job Center	1330 N Street Suite A	10:00AM to 3:00PM	Feb 3rd-Apr 7th (Closed Feb 17th)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Victor Anderson Library	3635 Touzalin Ave	4:00PM to 6:00PM	Feb 4th - Apr 1st
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Loren Eiseley Library	1530 Superior Street	4:30PM to 6:30PM	Feb 5th - Apr 9th
	Asian Community And Culture Center	114 N 44th Street, Ste A	10:00AM to 12:00PM	Feb 5th -Mar 26th
	Southeast Community College	8800 O Street, T-102	2:00PM to 4:00PM	Feb 5th- Apr 9th (Closed Mar 12th)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Southeast Community College	8800 O Street, T-102	2:30PM to 5:30PM	Feb 6th- Apr 10th (Closed Mar 13th)
	Loren Eiseley Library	1530 Superior Street	1:00PM to 4:00PM	Feb 6th - Apr 10th
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Nebraska East Union	1705 Arbor Dr	10:00AM to 3:00PM	Feb 1st- Apr 5th (Closed Mar 15th & 22nd)
<b>SUNDAY</b>	Bennett Martin Library	14th & N Street	1:00PM to 3:00PM	Feb 2nd - Mar 30th
	Good Neighbor Center	2617 Y Street	1:00PM to 3:00PM	Feb 2nd - Mar 30th

\*East Campus: Enter on Holdrege and 35th.

\*Southeast Community College-Lincoln Campus Room T-102. Park in the North Parking Lot and Enter thru Door 10

Lincoln Public Schools and/or UNL are closed due to bad weather and all VITA sites are closed. In case of bad weather, tune to KFOR 1240 for cancellations. For more information call 2-1-1, visit [www.vita.unl.edu](http://www.vita.unl.edu)



Contact information If you have questions, contact Lincoln VITA (Tax Credit Alliance of Nebraska) Visit us at [tcan@unl.edu](mailto:tcan@unl.edu) or 402.472.0857

Scan to schedule your appointment today

## Legal Aid can help with domestic violence

Legal Aid of Nebraska's Raising Effective Advocacy for Crime Victim Health and Safety (REACH) Initiative provides free civil legal services to victims of domestic violence and victims of elder abuse and financial exploitation to address immediate health and safety needs.

The most common issues the program can assist with are divorce, paternity, custody and protection orders including domestic abuse, sexual assault and harassment protection orders.

Legal Aid assists victims of elder abuse and financial exploitation across all 93 counties in Nebraska. Services provided include sharing legal information, referrals, legal advice, self-help resources and direct legal representation.

For more information, visit [www.legalaidofnebraska.org](http://www.legalaidofnebraska.org).



## Nebraska Child Care Tax Credit

The Nebraska Child Care Tax Credit goes into effect for the 2024 tax year. Parents and guardians with one or more children in child care may be eligible, but must apply before filing their Nebraska state income tax return to claim the refundable credit. The credit can be claimed online now through the Nebraska Department of Revenue at: [bit.ly/Child-Care-Tax-Credit-Refundable](https://bit.ly/Child-Care-Tax-Credit-Refundable).

Parents may be eligible for the refundable Child Care Tax Credit if their child or children are age 5 or younger. Households can receive a refundable tax credit of up to:

- \$2,000 per child, if total household income is no more than \$75,000; or
- \$1,000 per child, if total household income is more than \$75,000 but less than \$150,000 (MAGI).

Eligibility also includes:

- The child is enrolled in a licensed child care program, OR
- The child receives care from a license-exempt child care provider who participates in the child care subsidy, OR
- The total annual household income is less than or equal to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

For more information, visit [NebraskaChildCareTaxCredit.org](http://NebraskaChildCareTaxCredit.org).

## MyLink provides community resources information

The MyLink mobile app lets users access community resources and services from organizations and programs in Lincoln, all while maintaining anonymity. It's free, user-friendly, and consistently updated with reliable information.

Resources are provided on various topics, including: child care, children and family, disability services, domestic violence, education, employment, food, tax preparation, health, housing, legal, senior services, transportation and more.

The app can be downloaded for Android and Apple phones. Once downloaded, it doesn't require an internet connection or data plan to look up information within the app. The information also is available on the web at [mylnk.app](http://mylnk.app). It is offered in 10 languages: Arabic, Dari, English, Kurdish Kurmanji, Kurdish Sorani, Pashto, Somali, Spanish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.



# Lincoln Bike Kitchen provides bikes and repairs for those in need

Riding a bike is a classic childhood experience, offering kids a fun and adventurous way to explore the world around them. For some, riding a bike is not just a pastime, but their only means of transportation to work, school or the grocery store.

Lincoln Bike Kitchen (LBK), 308 S. 21st St., is a nonprofit, run by volunteers, which provides refurbished bikes and parts to the community. In 2024, LBK donated 1,600 bikes to the community.

Children ages 3-14 can receive a free child-size bicycle through LBK by submitting a request online. All requests are subject to availability.

For adults ages 15 and up who need a bike to get to work or school, LBK partners with community organizations



to provide a bike for daily transportation needs. Sponsors — such as an agency staff member, doctor, pastor/priest or counselor — must make the request and confirm the need for a bicycle due to financial need. All requests are subject to availability.

LBK also offers free bike repairs Monday evenings from 5-7. Repairs should take one hour or less, and often include flat tires, worn out chains, derailers that won't shift, grease and lubrication. LBK keeps most parts on hand, but can also assist if a person brings their own parts. Services are free, and donations are appreciated.

More information and requests for bicycles can be made at: [www.lincolnbikekitchen.org](http://www.lincolnbikekitchen.org).



## Job and bid opportunities

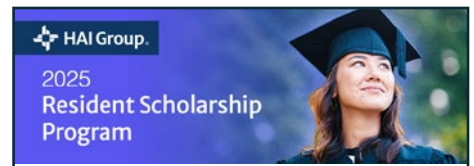
Under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Lincoln Housing Authority is required to publicly post employment and bid opportunities.

To learn about employment with LHA, visit [www.L-housing.com/Employment.html](http://www.L-housing.com/Employment.html).

LHA regularly issues public bid notices and request for proposals (RFPs) for ongoing repair, renovation and new construction projects. Review a list of current bid opportunities at [www.L-housing.com/Vendors.html](http://www.L-housing.com/Vendors.html).

The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 created the Section 3 program to create long-term economic opportunities for low- and very-low-income residents and businesses.

The ultimate goal is, to the greatest extent feasible, have an investment of federal funding in local housing and community development projects that also result in economic opportunities for area residents and businesses. This may be in the form of employment, job training, or contracting opportunities. If you are a contractor or person looking for work, please register using the QR codes. When an opportunity develops, you will be contacted.



## Apply for resident scholarship for education

Lincoln Housing Authority tenants can apply for the 2025 HAI Group's Resident Scholarship Program. The deadline is May 30.

There will be 20 scholarships, valued at \$6,000 each, awarded nationally in a drawing this spring. LHA residents have been awarded this scholarship in the past.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or a permanent resident in the country with a green card; and lives in a public housing authority or property with a Housing Choice Voucher. The applicant also must be attending an accredited or licensed technical school, two- or four-year college or university; or master's degree or PhD program for the fall 2025 semester.

For more information or to apply, visit [www.haigroup.com/scholarships](http://www.haigroup.com/scholarships).



Business/Contractor Registration Worker Registration

# Community Action can help with past due bills

Individuals facing difficulties paying rent and utilities can seek assistance through various programs designed to provide

financial relief. One such program is Community Action's Emergency Services, which is for qualifying individuals whose rent and utility payments are past due.

Inability to pay rent and utilities contributes to homelessness. Through the provision of one-time financial assistance, Community Action's Emergency Services program can immediately prevent households from entering homeless situations and through the use of case management, ensure they remain in stable housing.

Households must complete an



application over the phone to be eligible by calling 402-471-4515 and following prompts to the appropriate needs

office. When applying over the phone, be prepared to leave a message for the Emergency Services staff and someone will return your call. Calls will be returned in the order they are received, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., each week. Applicants will be notified by phone the outcome of their application.

For more information about the program and eligibility, contact Sarah Fentress, Emergency Services administrator at 402-875-9392 or sfentress@communityactionatwork.org; or visit [www.communityactionatwork.org/programs/homelessness-prevention](http://www.communityactionatwork.org/programs/homelessness-prevention).

# Free diapers and support for families in need

Diapers can be a financial burden for many parents, adding to the stress of everyday expenses. Not having enough diapers can put a baby's health in jeopardy.

However, the Center for People provides support by offering free diapers to families in need, ensuring their children's health and well-being are prioritized. Parents with Clarity cards are eligible to receive two bundles of diapers per month.

Clarity cards are used to access Center for People's programs, and are recognized by nonprofits across Lincoln. The card determines which services best meet each individual's needs. For more information and to sign up, visit [centerforpeople.org/center-card](http://centerforpeople.org/center-card).



# Support program can help quit smoking

Quitting smoking is one of the best decisions a person can make for their health. While quitting can be challenging, it's never too late to start. The key is persistence — each day without smoking is a step closer to a healthier life.

It's common to try to quit several times before it finally happens. Once you've made the decision to quit, having the right tools can help in achieving success. Combining counseling and FDA-approved quit medication can double a person's chance of quitting tobacco.

To get help:

- Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669) to speak with an English-speaking counselor, or 1-855-DÉJELO-YA (335-3569) to speak with a Spanish-speaking counselor. Free Quitline services are available 24/7 in over 200 languages. Qualified callers may be eligible to receive a free

supply of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) mailed directly to their home.

- Text QUITNOW or DÉJELOYA to 333888 to receive texts with a link to the Quitline's online registration page and encouragements throughout the quit journey. (Data and message rates may apply.)
- Don't want to call? A web-based coaching option is available. After enrolling on the QuitNow website, a coach can be reached via the chat link to provide support when needed.

For more information, visit [dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/I-Want-to-Quit-Tobacco.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/I-Want-to-Quit-Tobacco.aspx)



**Lincoln Housing Authority**  
PO BOX 5327, 5700 R STREET  
LINCOLN NE 68505-0327

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MAIL USA

**ALL SCHOOL GRADUATION PARTY**  
CLASS OF 2025  
**TUESDAY MAY 27TH**  
3:00 - 7:00 PM  
ANTELOPE PARK  
3200 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR.  
LINCOLN, NE 68502

St. Monica's  
Life Changing Ministry for Women

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF LINCOLN/LANCASTER  
COUNTY

LINCOLN PARKS  
FOUNDATION  
We love our parks.

Let's Celebrate the class of 2025 by bridging the gap between graduates, their families, and our communities' robust resources so they can access the support they need to succeed.

## Party to help graduates into success

Marvilee, a Lincoln agency helping families suffering from substance abuse, will host an all-school graduation party for 2025 graduates. The event takes place May 27 from 3-7 p.m. at Antelope Park, 3200 Memorial Park Drive.

This event is for all graduates, but especially those who may not otherwise have a celebration party. This event will engage family and friends with the community's resources, giving graduates a platform to access jobs, education, health care, mentorship and other resources for success.

For more information or questions, call 402-890-8723, email [mysonnymarvinlee@gmail.com](mailto:mysonnymarvinlee@gmail.com) or visit [www.marvilee.org](http://www.marvilee.org).

