

September 2026

LHA Today

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Ibrahim Abdalla and Mansik Adam stand outside their new home, marking a major milestone toward their goal of homeownership through LHA's Family Self-Sufficiency program. They stand with their family living in the home, their children: Adam and Aya; niece, Areen, and Adam's mother, Fatima.

The first step toward a DREAM

For Ibrahim Abdalla and Mansik Adam, their new home represents more than a place to live. It symbolizes their family's dedication, hard work and achievement of the first milestone in two major goals they set for themselves.

The home was built by Northeast High School residential construction students through a partnership between Lincoln Housing Authority (LHA), Lincoln Public Schools and NeighborWorks Lincoln. It was purchased through LHA's homeownership program and is part of the Prairie Roots Community Land Trust, helping it maintain its long-term affordability.

Abdalla and Adam participated in LHA's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program, which helps families pursue long-term goals with guidance and encouragement along the way. Their goals

were to purchase a home and eventually to pass the United States Medical Licensing Examination and become practicing physicians — previously Abdalla was a general surgeon, and Adam was a general practitioner in Sudan.

"By the grace of God, we have now achieved the first of these goals," Abdalla said.

Reaching that goal required prioritizing their needs and carefully managing their budget and time. One of their biggest challenges was finding a home that fit their budget and was in the right neighborhood. LHA and NeighborWorks helped them navigate the process and ultimately made homeownership possible.

"Owning a home means everything to us," Abdalla said. "It provides stability, our own personal space, peace of mind

and a cozy place for our children to build their dreams and memories."

When the family received the keys, they were filled with overwhelming happiness. They began moving in that same day and completed the move within a two days.

"The joy we felt completely wiped away all of our exhaustion," Abdalla said.

Their experience also taught them an important lesson: keep taking steps toward your goals, even when the process is challenging.

For families working toward greater self-sufficiency, Abdalla encourages them to consider the FSS program and the support it provides.

"I encourage everyone to experience the feeling of having their own home," he said.

Summer full of possibilities

July brought a summer full of big adventures, creative projects and plenty of opportunities to learn for 92 students who participated in the Expanding Horizons Summer Clubs program at Arnold Community Learning Center (CLC).

From July 6-24, students spent their mornings learning, exploring and making new friends. Each day included breakfast, reading activities, hands-on clubs and lunch.

And there was no shortage of choice of adventures! Younger students in grades 1-3 could explore everything from Space Camp and Ocean Explorers to Rainforest Romp, Outdoor Explorers, Nebraska Animals and Inventor's Playground. They also got creative with Art Exploration, Crafty Kids, Book Theater and Props, and STEAM and Stories.

Students in grades 4-6 had their own lineup of exciting clubs, including Comic Club, Chemistry Explorers, Puzzle Masters, Outdoor Explorers, Space Camp, Crafty Kids and Eagle's Big Top Circus.

Whether they were solving puzzles, creating art, discovering science or exploring the great outdoors, students spent July expanding their horizons — and having plenty of fun along the way!



Reporting maintenance issues for LHA properties

For tenants living in LHA-owned properties, maintenance requests can be made by phone at 402-434-2610 or online at www.L-housing.com by clicking "Online Maintenance Request." Always report problems promptly. Appointments are not made; a maintenance repair worker will enter the unit during normal working

hours to complete a service request.

After-hours emergency maintenance requests also should be reported by calling 402-434-2610. The on-call maintenance repair worker will assess the situation and determine whether the problem requires immediate attention or can be repaired during the next working day.

If you live in a house or duplex, you **MUST** remove hoses from the outdoor faucet from September through May, when there is danger of freeze to avoid frozen pipes.

Heating and Air Conditioning

- No heat — furnace won't come on.
- Central A/C — not cooling. On-call maintenance repair worker will not come out after or around dark.

Appliances

- Refrigerator not cooling.
- Stove or oven not operable (Not considered emergency Sunday afternoon-Thursday).

Plumbing

- Sewers — main is backing up.
- Broken water lines — supply only.
- Faucets — excessive leaking.
- Plugged stool — If plugged by toys, soap, combs, etc., tenant will be charged.
- Broken or leaking kitchen sink drain.
- Water heater — no hot water.

Miscellaneous

- Broken window — needs boarding up.
- Forced entry — door kicked in, broken frame.
- Lock out — tenant charge.
- No electricity.
- Smoke alarm sounding.
- Other emergencies as determined by on-call staff or maintenance supervisor where life, health or property are endangered.

New van keeps LHA senior residents on the move

Getting where you need to go is a little easier for residents at LHA's Burke Plaza, Crossroads House and Mahoney Manor thanks to a new transportation van — and residents helped make it happen.

Resident councils at the three properties rolled up their sleeves and worked to raise funds toward the purchase of the new van. Their efforts, combined with generous support from the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation, Lincoln Community Foundation, Lincoln Housing Authority, LHA employees and other sources, helped bring the project to life.

The van provides residents with transportation for more than just special outings. It is used for group trips, routine grocery shopping and other errands, helping residents stay active, independent and connected to the community. Many residents do not drive or own their own vehicles, so having reliable, consistent transportation to the grocery store provides the



Bernie, volunteer driver, helps Russell get into the van.



Mahoney Manor residents go shopping.



opportunity to live independently.

"It's nice to get out and get what we need," Sandy said.

For Bernie, who has volunteered as

driver for more than four years, the new van is a welcome upgrade.

"It's a smoother drive and is much more comfortable," he said.

Celebrating volunteers who make a difference

A great community is built by the people who care about it — and at LHA's Burke Plaza, volunteers help make the building more than just a place to live.

Throughout the year, resident volunteers organize events, activities and opportunities for neighbors to connect, creating a welcoming and active community for seniors living independently. From bringing residents together for special celebrations to helping plan activities, they help make life at the properties more fun, social and connected. Their time, creativity and willingness to lend a hand make a meaningful difference for their neighbors.

Volunteers were recognized and honored at a special event with catered Olive Garden and fruit-filled cheesecake in appreciation of all they do throughout the year. Thank you to these



Burke Plaza volunteers were celebrated for their work in creating a positive place for many seniors to call home.

dedicated volunteers for helping make LHA communities places where neighbors become friends!

Make your voice heard, join the Resident Advisory Board

Residents can help shape the programs and policies that affect Lincoln Housing Authority tenants by serving on the Resident Advisory Board.

The board provides input on LHA programs, policies and plans. Members

meet two or three times from October through December, with meetings lasting up to two hours. LHA can help with transportation and child care expenses, if needed.

Any participant in an LHA rental

assistance program is eligible to serve on the board.

Interested in getting involved? Contact Susan at Susant@L-housing.com or 402-434-5528 to request an application or learn more.

Arnold students get a head start on reading

There's nothing quite like the excitement of picking out a book that's yours to keep — and Arnold Elementary students experienced that excitement on Aug. 10 during the school's Back-to-School Open House.

Through LHA's program, Reading Matters, students were invited to browse a collection of books and choose a free book to take home. By the end of the event, 396 books had found new homes!

The giveaway was designed to encourage a love of reading and help students start the school year with a book they're excited to read. Whether it was a funny story, an adventure, a favorite character or something brand new, every student had the chance to find a book that caught their eye.

A big thank-you goes to LHA employees Dayna, Amy W., Amy V. and Ruby, who helped make the giveaway a success. Their time and enthusiasm brought plenty of smiles and helped put books into the hands of Arnold students.



Learn to prepare taxes and help the community

Help your neighbors and get your taxes prepared for free with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program through University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the IRS.

VITA is a nationwide program that partners with community groups to offer IRS-certified, free tax return preparation and assistance. The UNL Center on Children, Families, and the Law coordinates several tax preparation sites throughout Lancaster County.

The program seeks volunteers to help low- to moderate-income families, senior citizens, disabled individuals, and people who speak English as a second language, complete their tax returns for free. Volunteers also can use the program to prepare their own returns.

Volunteers receive IRS-certified training on how to prepare tax returns using a computer and tax software, including electronic filing. Instruction will cover both federal and state

tax returns. Online training will occur between November and January. Classroom training also may be available. Once certified, volunteers can spend as little as three to four hours per week volunteering in February, March and April. Volunteers can help by preparing tax returns, or by being a greeter, site coordinator or quality reviewer.

For more information or to volunteer, visit <https://tcen.unl.edu>, call 402-472-0857, or email vita@unl.edu.

Helping youth grow through Scouting

The Cornhusker Council, Scouting America, invites families in Lincoln and southeast Nebraska to discover how Scouting helps youth build character, confidence and lifelong skills.

Serving thousands of young people across the region, the Cornhusker Council provides programs that foster character, citizenship, leadership, personal fitness and a strong sense of responsibility. Through outdoor adventures, service projects and hands-on learning, Scouts develop resilience, leadership skills and values that help prepare them to become engaged, capable community leaders.

In a world of increasing screen time, social media pressures, bullying and negative peer influences, Scouting offers young people a positive environment where

they can grow, build meaningful relationships and develop the skills they need to navigate life's challenges.

"Parents want opportunities that help their children grow into confident, caring and capable adults," said Jeffrey Johnson, Scout Executive/CEO of the Cornhusker Council. "Scouting gives youth the chance to make real friendships, learn practical life skills and experience adventures that prepare them for success in school, work and life."



Recruitment events are conducted throughout the community each fall, giving families the opportunity to meet local volunteers, learn more about Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA, and find a unit that fits their family's schedule. For more information, contact info@cornhuskercouncil.org or 402-488-6020.

Girl Scouts Community Outreach troop offers fun, friendship



Girls entering kindergarten through fifth grade can make new friends, try new activities and discover what it means to be a Girl Scout through a Girl Scouts Community Outreach troop.

The troop meets at Hilltop House, 1020 Hilltop Road, from 1-2:30 p.m. Upcoming meetings will give girls plenty of opportunities to get creative and have fun:

- Sept. 19: Self-Care Sesh — Make lavender eye patches.
- Oct. 24: Halloween Party — Make glow-in-the-dark slime.
- Nov. 21: Holiday Party — Cookies and cocoa.

The Community Outreach troop is a great way for girls to experience Girl Scouts, learn new skills and enjoy hands-on activities in a welcoming environment. Girls who join this troop have their membership included.

Interested in joining? Contact Amy Sparks, outreach specialist with Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska, at asparks@girlscoutsnebraska.org or 402-779-8229.



Medicare Open Enrollment begins Oct. 15

Medicare Open Enrollment period is an important time for seniors to review health and prescription drug coverage for the coming year. It runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 each year, giving Medicare participants the opportunity to compare plans and make changes to their coverage.

During this period, Medicare prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans may announce changes that will take effect the following year. Reviewing plans each year can help ensure coverage continues to meet each person's health needs and budget.

If choosing a new prescription drug or Medicare Advantage plan during Open Enrollment, the new coverage will take effect

Jan. 1. The previous plan generally will end automatically Dec. 31. Medicare Advantage participants also have another opportunity to make certain coverage changes during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period, from Jan. 1-March 31.

To compare Medicare prescription drug or Medicare Advantage plans, visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) and use the Plan Finder tool. You can create a Medicare account to manage your information, but an account is not required to compare available plans.

For free, unbiased help understanding your options or enrolling in a plan, contact Nebraska SHIP at 402-471-2841. Medicare enrollment clinics also may be offered throughout the community during the enrollment period.

Smart Schools from ALLO Fiber

Many students today grow up in a fully connected world. But not every family has reliable internet access at home, which can create barriers to learning. ALLO's Smart Schools initiative helps bridge that gap by providing students with access to the internet beyond the classroom, giving them greater opportunities to learn, research and complete assignments wherever they are.

ALLO partners with Lincoln Public Schools and other districts to provide students and educators with access to the internet through communitywide Wi-Fi. Districts can authenticate school-issued devices, often

Chromebooks, to connect to the Smart Schools network and access ALLO's internet through SmartTown communities across the state. SmartTown leverages local business and residential access points to help keep students connected wherever learning happens.

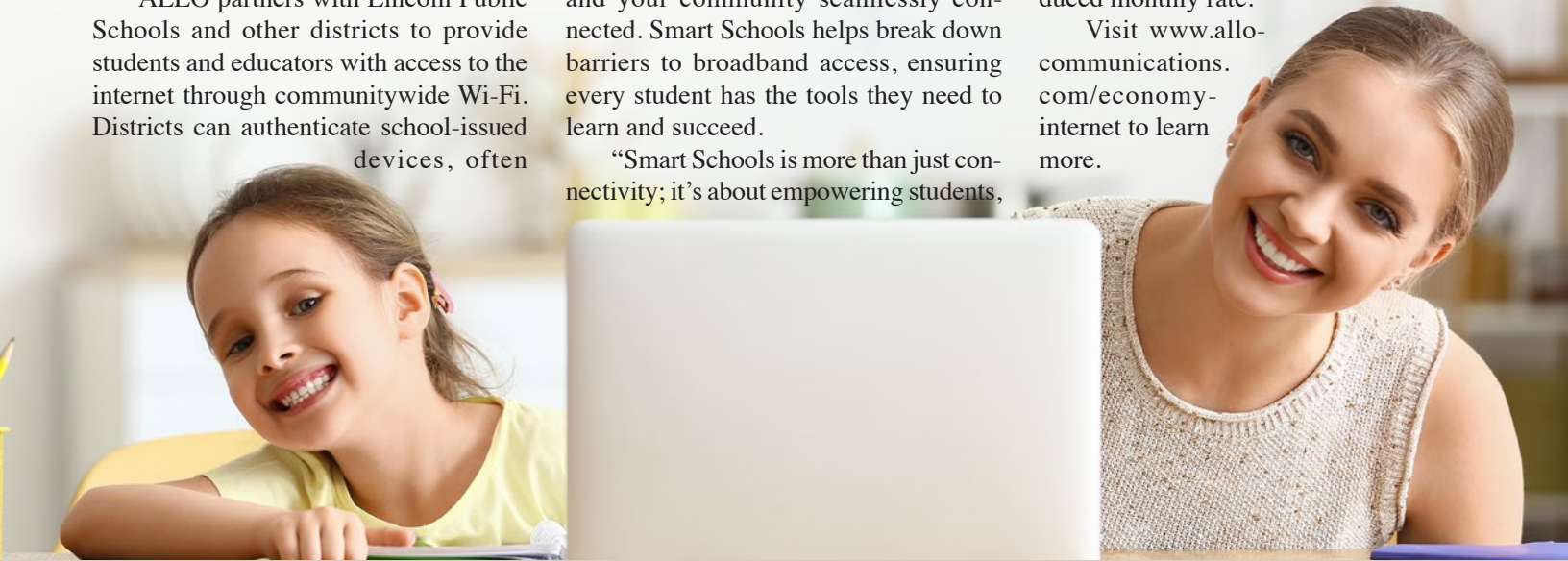
With nearly 100,000 ALLO access points throughout Lincoln, ALLO's fiber-fast internet keeps families, classrooms and your community seamlessly connected. Smart Schools helps break down barriers to broadband access, ensuring every student has the tools they need to learn and succeed.

"Smart Schools is more than just connectivity; it's about empowering students,

supporting educators and closing the learning gap across Lancaster County," said Brad Moline, ALLO founder.

Connecting students to the tools they need to learn is just one way ALLO is working to strengthen the Lincoln community. For households looking for an affordable home internet option, ALLO's Economy Internet service offers eligible residents reliable fiber internet at a reduced monthly rate.

Visit www.allo-communications.com/economy-internet to learn more.



Apply for free and reduced-price lunch this year

Families with students at Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) can apply for free or reduced-price school meals through a simple application process.

To qualify, households must complete an application and meet income eligibility guidelines. If your household income falls within the free meal limits, student(s) will receive breakfast and lunch at no cost. If your income qualifies for reduced-price meals, lunch will cost 40 cents and breakfast 30 cents per student. Online applications and more information can be found at home.lps.org/ns/free-reduced. Paper applications can be requested by calling 402-436-1746 or picked up at your school office or the LPS District Office, 5905 O St. Applications are valid for the entire school year; however, a new application must be submitted each year to maintain eligibility.

Applications can be completed at any time due to job loss, a decrease in income, or a change in household size. Until eligibility is determined, families are responsible for paying the full meal price students incur.

If you need help applying, call 402-436-1746 or email free-andreduced@lps.org liaison. If you need bilingual assistance, contact the English Language Learners Office at 402-436-1997.

Some LPS schools offer free lunch

Some Lincoln Public Schools qualify for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a special USDA meals option for schools with a high percentage of free lunch enrollment. CEP schools serve free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of free and reduced-price meal application status.

This year, the schools include:

Arnold	Everett	Norwood Park
Belmont	Goodrich	Park
Brownell	Hartley	Pershing
Campbell	Huntington	Prescott
Clinton	Lakeview	Randolph
Culler	Lefler	Riley
Dawes	McPhee	Saratoga
Elliott	Meadow Lane	West Lincoln

Extras such as milk for a sack lunch from home or seconds will be charged at regular prices.

LPS encourages families to complete the income application to apply for free or reduced-price meals if they have a child attending another school not listed above.

Clinic with a Heart moves to new location

Clinic with a Heart provides free healthcare to those who are uninsured, underinsured or without the financial resources to pay for routine appointments. Volunteers provide short-term care for conditions that require quick attention but are not life-threatening. Similar to urgent care, Clinic with a Heart is not intended to serve as a medical home but helps connect patients with appropriate community resources.

Medical, dental, chiropractic, mental

health, vision and podiatry services are available by appointment. The clinic also offers school physicals and mental health assessments.



As of Aug. 3, Clinic with a Heart is located at 1020 South 13th St., Suite 101. Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

All services are free, although some

require a referral from a Clinic with a Heart physician. The clinic also partners with Matt Talbot Community Kitchen & Outreach Center to provide Street Medicine to individuals living on the street who need medical attention, water and snacks.

To make an appointment, call 402-421-2924. For more information, visit clinicwithaheart.org. Patient forms can be completed at clinicwithaheart.org/patients/patient-forms.

ASIAN COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER

Celebrate culture and community at Harvest Moon Festival

The Asian Community & Cultural Center's annual Harvest Moon Festival returns Sept. 26 from 4-7 p.m. at the Antelope Park Bandshell, bringing an evening of food, music, cultural traditions and family fun to the community.

The popular celebration brings people together to experience the sights, sounds and flavors of cultures from around the world. In 2025, more than 3,000 people attended the festival, enjoying family activities, multiethnic cuisine, cultural performances and live music.

Whether you come for the food, stay for the music or want to experience something new with the family, the Harvest Moon Festival offers a fun way to celebrate culture and community.



THANK YOU, SPONSORS!



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. 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.

Help shape the future of LHA

Lincoln Housing Authority (LHA) Board of Commissioners plays an important role in shaping the agency and its future. The five-member board helps establish and approve housing policies, develops strategic priorities and approves LHA's annual operating budget.

LHA currently has a vacancy on its Board of Commissioners, and one of the five seats is required by state law and federal regulations to be held by an LHA public housing resident or Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher participant.



Scan here to complete an application online.

Board members are volunteers and are not financially compensated. Members are expected to attend monthly meetings at 5:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The individual selected to fill the vacant seat will serve through July 2030.

If you are an LHA resident or participant in good standing and are interested in serving your community, an application can be completed online at www.L-Housing.com. Paper copies may also be requested

from LHA Executive Secretary Pat at 402-434-5550 or info@L-housing.com.

Completed applications must be submitted to Lincoln Housing Authority by Sept. 30, 2026.


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Community and connection at Crossroads House

Crossroads House residents are building community through events and activities that bring neighbors together.

The downtown senior high-rise's Resident Council hosts activities throughout the year, giving residents opportunities to socialize and get involved.

Monthly Crafternoons give residents a chance to gather and work on creative projects. Residents also celebrated National S'mores Day on Aug. 10 with a S'mores Night in the parking lot.

The Resident Council hosted a door decorating contest in honor of America's 250th birthday. The winning door featured a unique family connection, with each star representing a direct relative who served in the Revolutionary War.

The Resident Council also hosted a school supply drive benefiting Saratoga Elementary School.

Recently, residents celebrated the volunteers who help make those activities possible with a lunch at a nearby restaurant, Big Red Keno. The gathering recognized the important role volunteers play in making Crossroads House an active and welcoming community — organizing events and activities that create opportunities for residents to build friendships and connect.



The winning door in the Resident Council's America 250 door decorating contest features a special family connection: Each star represents a direct relative who served in the Revolutionary War.



Monthly Crafternoons offers a time to craft together, including candles with help from Archwell Health.



Residents celebrated National S'mores Day on Aug. 10 with a S'mores Night in the parking lot.



National Hydration Day was celebrated June 23 with a hydration station and prizes.



Monthly Crafternoons provides residents a chance to gather and work on creative projects.