

# Downtown

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Wilson said Lincoln could support one large retail area, and the community generally preferred malls.

Wilson called the concept of downtown Lincoln as a major retail center "very good," but said it was realized at the wrong time.

"I think the shopper in Lincoln was very pleased with the Gateway Mall and would not have wanted to support another retail base," he said.

Until 1989, the main function of the downtown association was to promote its existing businesses to potential customers. But the association realized that it had to change its focus.

"We needed to get very involved in what we thought downtown was and what it needed to become," Shields said.

The association began working with city and county government and members of the downtown business community to rejuvenate downtown Lincoln.

The DLA and its associates created the Business Improvement District in 1989. Shields said the district allowed businesses to tax themselves in order to finance downtown's rejuvenation.

However, the district's main focus remained on promoting downtown Lincoln as a retail center. In 1992, the association reassessed its situation, and "kind of stopped and started over," she said. The association explored the idea of promoting downtown Lincoln as a more broadly based facility and shifted its focus to that.

## Lincoln's advantages

Lincoln was more prepared than most cities to revitalize its downtown, Shields said. Its central location between the university and the Capitol helped.

"There are so many components to downtown," she said.

The location is closely related to the other major reason for downtown's success — its "mixed-use" function that provides more than just major retail, she said.

Downtown visitors find a variety of things to meet any want or need, such as entertainment, dining, lodging and a multitude of small retailers.

Those businesses attract enough consumers that downtown can thrive without major retailers, she said.

## New growth

"I moved downtown in 1988, and the streets were quiet at night. That's not true anymore," said Kay Davis, director of finances and administration for the DLA, and president of the Downtown Neighborhood Association.

She's not complaining. Davis said there were more retail, entertainment and restaurants downtown than when she first moved here. That's important because downtown residents need to have those services nearby.

"I think people who live downtown are different from people who live in the suburbs," she said. "Downtown people get out more often to use downtown services."

The shortage of major retailers has allowed more growth for smaller businesses, she said.

That growth is the product of much time and money. The DLA, local government and members of the business community put in "hundreds of hours to establish a strong position for downtown," Shields said.

The work has paid off.

"In the last two years, we have filled close to 250,000 square feet of space," she said.

But downtown rejuvenators aren't satisfied with their accomplishments. They plan to do more.

Another parking garage, Carriage Park at 12th and L streets, is almost complete.

Other improvements are needed as well. A downtown grocery store was high on the list of priorities.

She stressed the importance of maintaining the quality of downtown Lincoln. Other growth is important in Lincoln, but it shouldn't be at downtown's expense.

"We (the community) just want to be sure that as we grow, we don't inadvertently turn our back on the existing community," she said.

# Rock lots may be paved

By Rebecca Oltmans  
Staff Reporter

Paving the largest rock lot on campus should be a priority parking project for the university next summer, according to recommendations the Parking Advisory Committee made on Tuesday.

During its meeting, the committee recommended that three lots on campus be paved next summer. The recommendations will be given to Jack Goebel, the vice chancellor of business and finance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Mike Cacak, director of transportation and parking services at UNL, said the 500-stall commuter and resident lot at 19th Street between U and R streets especially needed paving. The lot, which is the largest unpaved one on campus, does not drain well after rainstorms.

"The water just sits there," Cacak said.

Other lots recommended for paving were the commuter lot at 10th and V streets and a resident lot at 21st and Vine streets.

The cost of paving the rock lots is about \$1,000 per stall, Cacak said.

The committee also recommended putting in more lights on the north side of the East Campus loop.

During the meeting, Cacak also commented on the one-year contract the university has made with StarTran to provide students free bus services.

So far, he said, the contract has been successful, Cacak said. The number of riders has increased on the Holdrege route that runs between City Campus and East Campus.

So many students have been using the route that a third bus will be added on Nov. 28 to run Monday mornings between 9:30 and 12:30, Cacak said.

# Man reported dead was just sleeping, police say

From Staff Reports

A man reported dead in a bus shelter near the Nebraska Union on Tuesday was just taking a nap.

The Lincoln Fire Department's Engine No. 1 and Eastern Ambulance were called to the bus shelter west of the union around noon.

The two vehicles responded to an emergency call about a person who was not moving in the bus shelter.

Upon arriving at the scene, firefighters and paramedics found that the person was sleeping.

"It happens," Lincoln Fire Chief Michael Merwick said.

The call on Tuesday was not unusual; the department handles a number of false calls each year.

Emergency services most likely were called out Tuesday because the caller probably didn't want to wake up a stranger, Merwick said. He said people found it easier to call emer-

gency services.

Merwick said the department frequently received false calls for cases in which someone refused treatment, was passed out from intoxication or was sleeping in public.

After determining that the person does not need help, Merwick said, the paramedics turn around and head back to the station.

## POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Monday

7:32 a.m. — Security alarm, accidental trip.

7:36 a.m. — Fire alarm, Animal Sciences Building, accidental trip.

2:26 p.m. — Bike stolen, Westbrook Music Hall, \$315 loss.

9:34 p.m. — Vandalism/criminal mischief, 17th and Vine streets, car window broken, \$200 damage.

Beginning midnight Tuesday

12:29 a.m. — Larceny, University Health Center parking lot, gate arms taken, \$25 loss.

