

Coming soon to your neighborhood: Snowplows on City trash trucks

As you read this in December, you may have already benefitted from a major new service throughout Loveland. Beginning this winter, when the city is hit with a major snowfall, trash trucks with snowplows will clear the centers of residential streets.



Following a successful trial program last year, the Streets Division will now use City trash and recycling trucks equipped with newly-purchased snowplow equipment to open up residential streets. When a big storm hits, the plows will be affixed to ten trash trucks that will then plow the center third—not curb to curb—of the residential streets.

It's important to remember residential street clearing is third priority. First priority is the city's highways and main avenues—287, 34, 402, Taft, Wilson, etc. Second priority is heavily-used two-lane collector streets, school bus routes and streets that serve commercial/industrial zones—W. 22nd, Duffield, Colorado, Silver Leaf, Rossum and others.

The trash-truck plows will be called out only when the snowfall exceeds six inches deep, the weather forecast is poor and the higher priority streets are already passable.

Some history

Making use of the trash trucks—an existing City resource—to clear snow in Loveland was inspired by similar use of refuse trucks back East

in cities like New York, Milwaukee, Baltimore and others. Loveland may be the only small city west of the Mississippi doing this.

Loveland residents may painfully remember the winter of 2006-07 when snowstorms fell one after another during a prolonged cold spell. City crews were so busy keeping the main roads open they couldn't attack the residential streets. Residents may have been just a block or two from a plowed roadway but couldn't get there without a big-league, 4-wheel-drive vehicle.

In just a couple of days, the vehicles that did travel the unplowed residential streets packed down the snow, plus the ongoing freeze-thaw-freeze weather pattern resulted in roadways that resembled frozen and badly rutted lakes. The city called out its heavy-duty equipment plus spent about three-quarters of a million dollars hiring private contractors with road graders and front-end loaders. The results were not only costly but disappointing. Even the heavy equipment couldn't scrape up the ice.

(continued on page 2)

[More about snowplows inside](#)

Ceremony marks Madison/Eisenhower CFI



City Engineer Dave Klockeman addresses the media, community members and a number of individuals involved with the project during the ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 26 marking the opening of the new continuous flow intersection (CFI) at Madison and Eisenhower. One of only four CFI designs in the nation, the \$4 million project opened five weeks ahead of schedule.

INSIDE

Plowing priorities: All streets are not treated equality

Page 3

Snow Squad needs volunteers

Page 3

Will you know what to do if it's lights out?

Page 2

Sales tax rebate totals highest ever

Page 2

PWP rewards customers for saving big bucks

Page 3

Automated fare boxes now in buses

Page 3

Annual holiday ornament on sale now

Page 4

Gift brings smiles, clean water

Keep your neighbors smiling and your neighborhood's stormwater runoff clean. Pick up a free "Scoop the Poop" pet waste bag container at the Loveland Stormwater Engineering Division, 410 E. 5th Street.

This clever gadget contains about 2 dozen plastic bags for use in picking up pet waste. Clip it to a belt loop, leash or whatever's handy when out for a stroll with your pooch.



No schedule change for trash pickup first week of 2011

City offices will be closed Mon., Jan. 3, 2011 but this closure will not affect City of Loveland trash and recycling collections. All residents are asked to set out their carts on their assigned pick up day as they normally do.

For more information, call the Solid Waste Division, 962-2529.

Snowplows on trash trucks *(continued from page 1)*

Last year, the Streets Division tried an experiment. They purchased a snowplow and mounted it to one trash truck. When the first big storm occurred, they tried it in one neighborhood. It worked. When the next big storms hit, they tried it again. It worked each time.

So last spring, for less than one-third the cost of the bill for 2006-07, the City ordered more plows. There was no cost for trucks because the City already has a fleet of trash trucks. The new plows have a long lifespan.

Pros and cons

Our world is imperfect. There are always tradeoffs. Positives and negatives. That reality exists with this new program, too, but the positive will far outweigh any negatives.

The big positive is obvious—citizens will be able to drive down their small residential streets to the main streets. People will be able to get to work, school, shopping, the movies, wherever. 4WD won't be required. Even after a major snowstorm, everyone's lifestyle may suffer a bit of a delay but won't come to a halt.

OK, now the cons. Plowed snow has to go somewhere. Clearing the center of the street means the plowed snow will pile up—windrow is the proper word—against parked cars and across driveways. Shoveling will probably be required to get through the windrow.

City crews will open the residential streets, but they can't shovel 25,000 driveways. That's the tradeoff for not missing work, not running short of groceries or medications, not missing your child's piano recital or that concert at the Rialto.

Good neighbors

Adversity often brings people together. A windrow may bring a young, able bodied person together with a neighbor who is no longer young or whose body is not very able.

Residents who know that a neighbor next door or down the street may have difficulty clearing the windrow may want to help. Consider taking the initiative by knocking on their door and asking if they need help. Better yet, after you finish reading *City Update* and before the next snow falls, knock on that door and volunteer to help out for the entire winter season.

And the trash?

Depending on the day of the week and/or the time of day when the large storm hits, residents' trash and recycling may be delayed or even canceled for that week's pickup. With a big storm, the truck drivers will be called upon to do double duty; clearing snow and picking up the carts. Snow clearing will have priority over cart pickup.

For residents whose pickup day follows the snow clearing, please place carts

further out in the street than normal, possibly as far out as the windrow to make them more accessible to the trucks for pickup. Snowstorms, especially the large ones that will bring plowing by trash trucks and the resulting windrow, make pickup a major challenge.

Please remember

On a citywide scale, this new effort will be a new experience for everyone, residents and snow crews alike. Please keep in mind:

- The residential streets will only be plowed following a major storm; six inches at least.
- The plowing will leave a windrow and shoveling will likely be needed.
- A neighbor may need some help.
- Street clearing may interrupt trash pickup schedules.
- It's a new program. It won't be perfect, some tweaking will surely be required.
- Most importantly, enjoy a safe and pleasant winter!



Will you know what to do if it's lights out?

No one likes it when the power goes out, especially Loveland's Water and Power department. Fortunately, due to Water & Power's extremely high rate of uninterrupted power delivery—99.99 percent—an outage is a very rare occurrence here. But that doesn't mean it can't happen. Even a very robust, reliable system can experience an occasional glitch and that means lights out for what could be 30 seconds, three minutes, three hours or more.

In the very rare event that the power goes out, especially in cold weather, do you know what to do to keep your family comfortable and safe?

In any outage there are a few steps homeowners should immediately take. First, try to determine the source of the outage. The outage could be your house only, due to a blown circuit or fuse, so first check your electrical panel. If it's clear the outage is more widespread—street lights and neighbors' homes are also dark, report the outage to the power department. A handy way to get that number in a



hurry is to look at your utility bill.

As with any unforeseen event, advance planning can make a world of difference in your safety and comfort, no matter how long the outage. Residents should have the following on hand and have planned for contingencies.

Items to have on hand for a power outage:

- Several working flashlights and extra batteries (flashlights are much safer than candles and can even be handled by young children).
- A battery-powered camping lantern with extra battery.

(continued on page 4)

Sales tax rebate totals highest ever

This year, 932 Loveland households received a total of more than \$140,000 through the long-standing Food and Utility Sales Tax Rebate Program. As the name implies, the program awards rebates to low-income families to offset sales taxes paid on their food purchases and utility costs.

	2009	2010
Rebates issued	932	760
Food Rebate issued	\$106,144	\$93,702
Utility Rebate issued	\$37,280	\$30,400
Total benefit	\$143,424	\$124,102
New applicants	364	171



The rebate averaged \$154 per household; \$114 for the food rebate and \$40 for the utility portion. All

(continued on page 4)

Plowing priorities: All streets are not treated equality

Priority One: Four-lane arterials that carry the most traffic, plus important two-lane thoroughfares. This includes state highways 34, 287 and 402 plus Loveland's other main streets such as 29th, 1st, Taft, Wilson, Madison and 14th St. SW. Roads to hospitals, fire stations, and police stations are kept open.

Priority Two: Collector streets school bus routes and streets which serve commercial/industrial zones get plowed next. Examples are 18th, 22nd, Van



Both ends working

When the snow falls, Loveland's dump trucks are equipped stem to stern to clear the roadways. On the front is a heavy duty snowplow and on the rear is a spreader for the de-icer loaded in the truck's dump box.

First priority (photo at left)

Loveland's major streets get major attention during snowstorms. State highways like US287 shown here downtown are the first to be plowed and maintained. Next come collector streets and other important roadways. Residential streets are lowest priority, but now using trash trucks equipped with snowplows, may have center lanes plowed after major snowfalls only – i.e. more than six inches.

Buren, 8th, 10th, Dotsero, Colorado, Duffield, Carlisle and Silver Leaf.

Priority Three: Remaining streets including residential, are not routinely plowed and de-iced because their lower traffic volumes and traffic speeds do not typically warrant the expense. However, when snow accumulations are such that residents will have difficulty driving to the nearest designated plowed route—usually six inches or more—trash trucks with snowplows may be deployed to clear

a path down the center of each street. Snow depths, daytime temperatures and the time of year will be factored into the decision to plow or not plow residential streets.

Remember:

- Residents are responsible for opening up their own driveways.
- Residents are responsible for clearing their sidewalks within 24 hours after the snowfall.



Snow Squad needs volunteers

The City of Loveland Snow Squad program needs volunteers to help shovel snow for low income, disabled residents. City regulations require that sidewalks be cleared within 24 hours after a snowfall.

There is currently a waiting list of residents in-need, several of whom are in hospice care and therefore not able to shovel the sidewalks at their homes. Volunteers are asked to commit to a full season of shoveling.

To help a neighbor in-need this winter, or for more information, contact Snow Squad at 962-2764.

PWP rewards customers for saving big bucks



Some lucky Loveland residents will soon be rewarded for saving electricity and money through Loveland Water & Power's Partnering with Power (PWP) program.

The summer of 2010 saw record demand for power due to hot temperatures and increased air conditioner use throughout the city. Fortunately, thanks to the 3,300 residents participating in PWP, these peak demands were not only manageable, but reduced power

(continued on page 4)

Automated fare boxes now in buses

City of Loveland Transit (COLT) recently upgraded its old, manual fare boxes to automated, electronic boxes in all of its City buses. The new fare boxes are able to quickly count change and electronically scan bus passes, much like credit card readers do.



The new boxes greatly enhance ease-of-use and convenience for transit riders by enabling them to pay their bus fare with a quick swipe of a card versus waiting to have an old punch-pass punched or other pass checked by the driver. The change counter also speeds fare collection by eradicating the arduous process of change counting for passengers and drivers alike.

"We're very happy to be able to

provide even better customer service to our passengers with our new electronic fare boxes in place," said Transit Manager Marcy Abreo. "The new boxes will help us achieve better on-time performance, improve administrative efficiency and provide a much more user-friendly system for both passengers and drivers."

In addition to the electronic fare boxes, COLT is now offering several new passes to further enhance ease-of-use and provide more pass options and flexibility for passengers.

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Pass*	.. \$25.00
Adult Annual Pass* (new) \$180.00
Senior Annual Pass* \$25.00
Student Annual Pass* \$25.00
10 Day Pass \$12.50
20 Day Pass \$22.50
Monthly Pass \$30.00

*Photo Required

To purchase a bus pass, go to the COLT office, 410 E. Fifth St. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring a current ID. Cash and checks are accepted.

For more information, call COLT, 962-2700.

Annual holiday ornament on sale now

The 2010 Loveland Holiday Ornament is on sale now for \$25 at area retailers.

This year's ornament, "Holiday Hearts," was designed by local artist Cammie Lundeen—a well-known wildlife sculptor who designed the Holiday Council's very first ornament twenty years ago in 1990. This beautiful pewter ornament is great for collectors, horse-lovers or anyone who appreciates fine art.

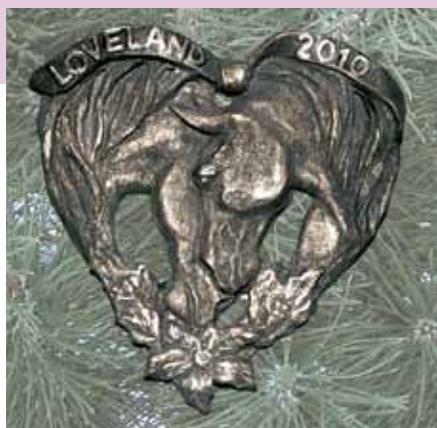
Proceeds benefit the Loveland Winter Holiday Council – the organization that helps pay for holiday banners, lights and other decorations in downtown Loveland during the holidays.

For more information call the Holiday Council, 622-2425.

Holiday Hearts ornament is available at these retailers:

Art of the Rockies Gallery
Columbine Drugs
Judy's Hallmark
Loveland Museum/Gallery
UPS Stores on Denver Ave. and Eagle Dr.

Loveland Visitor's Center
Mail Mart & Gift Shop
McKee Medical Center Gift Shop
Otteman Arts
Rosemary's Hallmark
Rose Flowers & Gifts
The Anthology Book Store



Will you know what to do if it's lights out? (continued from page 2)

- A battery powered cell phone charger (cell phones lose their charge quickly so having a battery-powered charger is a good failsafe).
- Foods that do not require cooking such as canned goods (meat, fruit, vegetables) cereals, crackers, cookies, even shelf-safe milk (make sure you have a non-electric, hand-crank can opener in the house because along with the rest of your appliances, your electric can opener will be on the blink).
- It's always a good idea to have some bottled water for a variety of needs.
- A battery-operated radio.

In the event of a prolonged outage:

- If you have a regular wood stove or fireplace, you can use it for heat, however, a lot of wood-fireplaces may actually pull more heat out of the house, so know how efficient your fireplace is before you try to use it as a heat source.
- Dress the family in warm clothing.
- Keep the refrigerator and freezer shut as much as possible to preserve food (perishable food will usually be OK for hours if the cold air stays trapped).
- Make sure you have contingency plans for family members who rely on electrically-powered medical devices.
- Check in on elderly neighbors to make sure they have what they need and are staying warm.
- If the temperature in the house is significantly dropping, it's a good idea to run a trickle of water from

faucets to keep pipes from freezing.

What not to do during a power outage:

- Never use kerosene heaters, BBQs or any type of outdoor appliance in the house or garage – all emit carbon monoxide.
- Don't burn charcoal – it too emits carbon monoxide.

Before the power comes back on:

- Unplug some of your major appliances and electronics such as computers, TVs and stereos to protect them from a power surge that could occur when power is restored.
- Better yet, to ensure sensitive electronics such as TVs and computers are well-protected, no matter what, have them on surge protectors at all times.

A few final tips:

- Call emergency services only if you have a bonafide emergency.
- Never go near downed power lines but if you see some, do call 911 and alert Water & Power.
- If you have to go out, drive carefully because traffic signals could also be out.
- If traffic signals are not working treat all intersections as four-way stops.

To report an outage on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., call 962-3581. At all other times, call 663-1043.

For more information on power outages go to the Water & Power webpages at www.cityofloveland.org.

Sales tax rebate totals highest ever

(continued from page 2)

recipients received both rebates.

While the total dollars were the highest ever awarded by the City of Loveland, the number of households receiving rebates and the average rebate amount were higher in prior years. In 2004, 1197 families received rebates and in 2009, the average household received \$163.

The program is evolving every year. Loveland citizens continue to express appreciation to the City for providing the Food and Utility Sales Tax Rebate benefit.

PWP rewards customers for saving big bucks

(continued from page 3)

demand by 66,370 kilowatt-hours, resulting in \$101,110 in savings for Water & Power.

Thanks to programs like PWP and the residents who participate, Loveland is able to keep residential power rates very low. Loveland currently has the second lowest residential power rates in the state.

To thank these customers for their participation, beginning this month, PWP will have a drawing to select two PWP participants who will receive a \$25 credit on their utility bill. During peak power months—May through September—four winners per month will be selected.

PWP is a free, voluntary program offered through Loveland Water & Power. Residents on the program have an automatic cycling unit installed on their air conditioners, which cuts power usage while still keeping cool air moving through the house. Power demand is lowered, but residents' homes stay cool and comfortable.

For more information on PWP or to enroll, and to find out the names of drawing winners, go to www.cityofloveland.org/pwp or call 962-3000.

City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. Residents receive *City Update* according to their utility billing cycle. Timeliness of the information may be affected by recipients' billing schedule. *City Update* is also available around the first of every month on the News Desk page at www.cityofloveland.org. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, hillea@ci.loveland.co.us.