Gang: A group of three or more individuals with a common interest, bond, or activity, characterized by criminal or delinquent conduct, and who refer to themselves by a group name or designation.

Colorado Revised Statutes 19-1-103(52)

Loveland, consider this a wake-up call. Gangs are here.

The good news is that their activities and criminal actions are not of the highly violent nature depicted on prime time TV…yet.

But they are here and their numbers are growing. They total not a few dozen but hundreds. The Loveland Police Department (LPD) contains files on about 300 positively-identified gang members. Some are gang members contacted by police while in town

Tips for lawn watering season

Get the most with the least this summer by following these watering tips:

• Don’t overwater—Bluegrass lawns need an average of 1.5 inches of water per week during June. Remember to subtract rainfall received to determine how much watering is really needed.

• Water infrequently but thoroughly to promote vigorous root growth.

• Water late in the evening or early in the morning to deter evaporation.

• Attend a free landscaping and watering series workshop; Wednesdays, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., April 14 to Sept. 1, at 220 Water Ave., in Berthoud. Topics include xeriscape, home irrigation systems, cost effective water conservation and rain gauge installation. Details at www.cityofloveland.org/dep/water/Conservation/watercon.htm or call 962-3000.

Enjoy a night out with neighbors

The seventh annual Loveland Community Night Out (LCNO) evening of block parties will be held 6-10 p.m. Wed., June 16. Once again neighbors will have the opportunity to get to know each other better, as well as meet Loveland police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, city council members, city staff and volunteers who work to keep Loveland a healthy and safe place to live.

LCNO is designed to strengthen neighborhoods and create awareness and partnerships between area communities and the public service providers who support them.

To host or attend a block party in your neighborhood or for more information, contact Officer Dave Sloat, Loveland Police department, 962-2229 or visit the police section of www.cityofloveland.org to watch the slide show.

CFI project soon to begin

CFI is coming…probably. Although the final decisions and contracts haven’t yet occurred, by the time you receive next month’s City Update, it’s likely that the shovels will have hit the ground for the construction of the Continuous Flow Intersection at Madison and Eisenhower.

If you don’t remember what the CFI is all about, visit the City website at www.cityofloveland.org and click the “Unusual Intersection Planned” link. Text and videos explain how traffic flow will be improved north, south, east and west.

Here are the remaining steps:

• Finalize land transactions
• Send out construction bids
• Receive bids, review, select contractor
• City Council awards project
• Construction begins in June

During construction, Eisenhower will remain open with only some minor lane closures. A block or two of Madison north and then south will be closed to through traffic but open to residences and businesses.

The north leg of the project is expected to be open in September, with everything completed in November. Details and drawings are available on the web pages.
Gangs exist here: community awareness needed

here and others are full-time Loveland residents. Without a doubt, there are more local gang members not yet officially recognized, noted or photographed.

Loveland’s gang members aren’t segregated into specific neighborhoods; the Suresnos live here, the Nortenos there, the Juggalos beyond the highway, the Skinheads over yonder. They are integrated into neighborhoods and residential complexes throughout Loveland. Sometimes a single household, sometimes a pocket of several households. Perhaps a block or two from your house, around the corner or just across the street.

Stemming the tide of gang influx into Loveland and growth of membership from within the current population is a major goal of the Loveland Police Department. Community awareness and communication are necessary ingredients for the department’s success. The department’s success is the community’s success.

Joint effort

Effort by both the police and community is needed to prevent further establishment of gangs and creation of gang strongholds. Making Loveland an unfriendly environment for gangs will encourage them to move elsewhere.

The fact is, very strong anti-gang efforts elsewhere in the region have resulted in the establishment of gangs and creation of community awareness needed to prevent further gang members not yet officially recognized.

New projection system improves accuracy, efficiency

For the last 21 years, the City’s Power Division has relied on what is known as a lighted map board—a 9-foot by 20-foot, floor to ceiling-mounted board with small illuminated lights—depicting how power is flowing throughout the city.

While this ‘old-school’ system worked relatively well, it was incapable of providing more in-depth information that would enable crews to trouble-shoot more efficiently, and dispatchers to pinpoint areas needing attention more quickly.

When it came time to replace the old board, the City opted to take a new approach utilizing a computer-powered projection system. Loveland Water & Power has been using geographical information systems (GIS) to map all of its electric sub stations, transmission circuits, primary and secondary power lines, transformers, switches and customer service lines for more than 15 years.

GIS allows power utilities and numerous other entities that require mapping technology, to project real-time, physically precise images of whole systems with great accuracy. Projecting what Water & Power’s GIS software was tracking on a large scale seemed like the best option to most efficiently monitor the system.

“This new projection system adds checks and balances that the old light board just couldn’t,” said Tom Greene, utility information manager with Loveland Water & Power. “Our ability to project a much more accurate image of what’s happening in the field increases the system’s robustness, saves time and research for the crews, and helps our dispatchers more effectively hone in on potential problems before they happen.”

“Money Talks”

Estate Planning

Forty percent of Americans age 50 and over don’t have a will. When they die their families often find themselves having to pick up the pieces to deal with their estates—sometimes at great personal expense. Estate planning helps ensure that heirs inherit what was intended for them and can save surviving family members time and money.

Money Talks, presented by Loveland Public Library staff, will explore the elements of estate planning including power of attorney, property ownership, wills, probate, estate taxes and gifts, trusts, and tips on choosing an attorney.

Money Talks is free and presented June 8 at noon and again June 9 at 6:30 p.m. Money Talks is funded by a Smart Investing @ your library grant. Snacks and beverages provided. For more information call 962-2402.
The Loveland Fishing Derby will be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat., June 5 at the Duck Pond at North Lake Park. The event is for kids under the age of fifteen.

This outstanding event is the result of a collaboration by Colorado Youth Outdoors who will teach kids how to clean and cook their fish, the Loveland Fishing Club who will handle event registration, tackle, competition measurement and fishing tips, the Colorado Division of Wildlife who will provide the fish and explain Colorado law and fishing ethics, and the Loveland Kiwanis Clubs who will sell family-priced food (proceeds to benefit Kiwanis youth programs in our community).

For more information call 962-2277 or go to www.cityofloveland.org/police/policemain.htm.

Four new road signs with yellow flashing lights have been installed in Loveland. No, they don't mark school zones, sharp turns in the road or upcoming traffic signals. Instead, they encourage drivers to listen to the radio.

Since 1999, the City of Loveland has been operating the low-power informational radio transmitter on 1610 AM. Listeners hear no hip-hop, political discussions, infomercials or Michael Jackson musical biographies. 1610 AM is far less exciting. It provides information aboutLoveland road construction and detours, information for visitors to town, and information on special situations and emergencies.

That's where the flashing yellow lights come into play. The yellow lights are affixed to signs urging motorists to tune into 1610 AM. The lights are activated and flash only when there's a possible or actual emergency situation.

Information about the situation would be broadcast on 1610 AM. Loveland police encourage residents to call the Street Crimes Tip Line at 962-2831 with information about gangs.

NOTE: All these photos are local photos from Loveland police records. There are many more, including those too graphic to include here.

Gangs exist here: community awareness needed (continued from page 2)

Gangs exist here: community awareness needed (continued from page 2)

By being aware and alert to the existence of gangs and gang activity, community members can be of great assistance in reducing the gang presence in Loveland. It is especially important for parents to be alert to early signs of gang association by their children and children’s friends.

Gang members aren’t shy. They use a variety of methods to identify their gang affiliation, including:
- Tattoos
- Numbers
- Apparel colors
- Hand signs
- Graffiti
- Whistles

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Incurring costs
Happily, Loveland isn’t yet suffering the fear, heartache and grief caused by intense gang violence. But even lesser gang activity brings economic costs to families, either directly or indirectly.

A break-in and theft in a car or home costs the victim money and long-term uneasiness. Gang presence can slash property values, drive customers from businesses, require graffiti cleanup and increase government costs.

Loveland police will continue to use its resources to make Loveland an unfriendly place for gangs. An uncomfortable lifestyle for gang members helps maintain the high quality of life here for the rest of the community.

If there’s an emergency
Loveland Fire and Rescue Division Chief Merlin Green points out the yellow lights on a sign calling attention to 1610 AM radio.

In the event of an emergency, the yellow lights will flash, encouraging motorists to tune into the Loveland information radio station.

Gangs exist here: community awareness needed (continued from page 2)

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Information about the situation would be broadcast on 1610 AM.
It is one of the first places where information would be placed, it can be frequently updated and is accessible to anyone with an AM radio within about a 7-10 mile radius of North Lake Park where the transmitter is located. The signs and lights were paid for through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security that was obtained by Loveland’s fire department emergency management staff. The signs are placed for motorists entering Loveland along Wilson, Taft and Hwy 402. Additional signs are planned for Hwy 34 and Hwy 287. The flashing lights will be activated occasionally for system tests. A test is planned for late May. But you don’t have to wait for the lights. Tune in anytime to 1610 AM.