

LFR: One department, many services

Loveland has had a fire department since 1883. In fact, beginning in 1898, there were two separate fire departments. But instead of cooperating, they competed—the first company to arrive at the scene would prevent assistance from the second, while the second sometimes sabotaged the efforts of the first.

Happily, things changed in 1911 when a combined Loveland Volunteer Fire Department was created. Since then, the paid department was established, equipment has been added and fire stations built.

(Visit the Loveland Museum/Gallery



Sequel building on a weekend to enjoy the new Fire History Exhibit.)

Today, Loveland Fire and Rescue (LFR) provides many services to many people over many square miles.

The department is organized into two major divisions—Fire Suppression (continued on page 3)

[More about LFR inside](#)

Recycling carts coming to rest of City

Approximately 14,500 remaining City Solid Waste customers will soon receive new, blue recycling carts. The delivery of these carts will complete the city's roll out of the new recycling collection system.

"The biggest change will be the collection schedule," said Bruce Philbrick with the Solid Waste

Division. "We will empty recycling carts every-other-week, as opposed to weekly. We encourage everyone to keep an eye out for the mailer containing their collection calendar." Carts will be delivered on Feb. 5, 12 and 26. Trash will continue to be collected weekly.

The recycling carts should provide most households with adequate capacity to store recyclables in between the every-other-week collections.

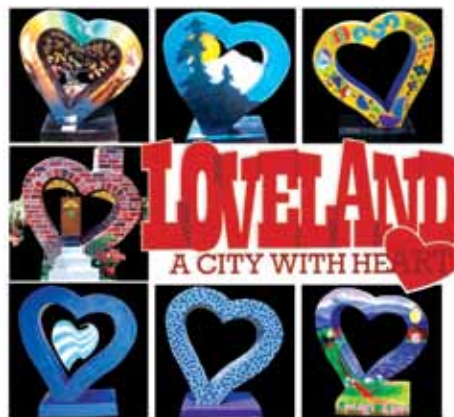
To view maps, collection schedule calendars, and a comprehensive list of acceptable recyclables, go to the Solid Waste Division pages at www.cityofloveland.org or call 962-2529.



Loveland – always full of HeART

Engaging Loveland, Inc., in partnership with Loveland businesses, individuals and cultural arts organizations has been sponsoring *Loveland: A City with HeART* since the 5-foot tall, 3-dimensional hearts were installed at various locations throughout the city in 2008 and 2009.

The *City with HeART* project was designed to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds, locally and world-wide, to reinvent and celebrate the image of the heart through heart sculptures. To celebrate that idea in Loveland, local artists were invited to create heart designs that were representative of the city and its surroundings. Designs include scenes and images familiar to Lovelanders



including mountains, aspen leaves, sunsets, cherry trees and Lake Loveland.

Each heart is made of fiberglass and was constructed by America's Fiberglass Animals at an approximate cost of \$1000 each. To stand up to (continued on page 4)

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City's first coat drive warms hearts... and bodies



In the early winter, a city attorney's wish to donate his children's too small coats evolved into what became the City's first annual coat drive.

Over the course of just several weeks, employees throughout the City joined forces to distribute large, clean bins, loaned from the Solid Waste Division, to numerous city departments so that employees could find a bin close by to make donations.

In just two short weeks, employees donated more than 400 men's, women's and children's coats. Hats, gloves, scarves, boots and other clothing items were also collected.

All of the donations were taken to the House of Neighborly Service on Dec. 23rd so they could be distributed before Christmas. The donations directly

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Rescue is its last name

It's not only flames that bring out the fire department.

Loveland Fire & Rescue includes 37 specially trained members of the Special Operations Team (SOT) that assist in situations ranging from persons falling into a frozen lake to being buried in a collapsed building...and more.

Like the other Fire Suppression personnel, SOT members are all highly trained in firefighting. But in addition, they offer services to Loveland citizens that usually don't involve flames. Their specialties include:

- Water Rescue – SOT performs dive, swiftwater and ice rescue operations for the numerous lakes, ponds, streams and the Big Thompson River in the Loveland response area.
- Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) Response – identifying, isolating and controlling hazardous material releases. These incidents are often very lengthy and personnel-intensive due to the impacts of haz mat to life and the environment.
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) – these operations include rope rescue, trench rescue, building collapse rescue, confined space rescue, large animal rescue, industrial/farm rescue and heavy vehicle extrication operations.
- Tactical Firefighting/Rescue – Tactical Fire Personnel provide the Loveland Police SWAT Team support in the areas of firefighting, decontamination, high angle rope

operations and forcible entry.

SOT personnel are spread out 24/7 with Fire Station #2 serving as its headquarters. The team also includes six Thompson Valley EMS Paramedics who provide advanced life support capabilities and two Berthoud firefighters who provide SOT knowledge and skills to the Berthoud area, and also respond to incidents in Loveland.

In 2010, SOT will complete a 6-day in-house training academy.

SOT has built many strong relationships with other emergency response agencies in northern Colorado. The value of these relationships has been proven at several major incidents in northern Colorado.



City receives stimulus monies to explore smart metering technology

For decades we've enjoyed plentiful and inexpensive power. But in the last several years, the tide has turned. Nation-wide, energy is becoming more and more expensive to produce and the additional issues of sustainability and environmental awareness have added new dimensions and challenges for power utilities. It is all these concerns that have provided the impetus for a new Loveland Water & Power pilot program to begin in 2011.

Recently, Loveland Water & Power, along with three other Front Range communities, was awarded federal stimulus monies to explore the development and implementation of smart metering technologies that could eventually be integrated into our current power delivery system and ultimately, into an upgraded, smart grid.

The term 'smart grid' refers to an electrical system wherein the power utility can actually digitally monitor and communicate with power systems



and appliances in individual homes and businesses to track power usage, identify areas that need improvement, and increase efficiency. The ultimate goal of a smart grid is greater reliability, lower cost to the consumer and improved energy efficiency. Smart metering is one component of a smart grid.

The federal government is promoting smart grid technology and smart metering as part of its overall goal to modernize the nation's electric transmission and distribution system.

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"Money Talks"

Are your kids financially fit?

If you want your children to know how to spend money wisely, keep track of their money, save for big expenditures and get paid what they are worth, don't miss the next Money Talks at noon, Tues., March 9, and at 6:30 p.m., Wed., March 10 in the Gertrude Scott Room at the library.

Presenter Laurel Kubin will discuss a variety of financial skills children should learn at each stage of development from preschool, on. She will also share free resources and games that make learning about finances fun.

Snacks and beverages served. For more information call 962-2402.



Changes now, ahead for LFR?

Yes and perhaps. Two major areas of Loveland Fire and Rescue (LFR) are experiencing change.

For one area, the change has already occurred. For the other, it remains a maybe—currently under consideration.

Yes

Here's the yes: The LFR Prevention Division has been modified to become the Community Safety Division (CSD) with both continued and new responsibilities.

Changes have been made for a growing city while meeting budget challenges. Three prevention staff members now

respond to fire calls, working side by side with the Fire Suppression crews. This provides additional firefighting, investigation and code enforcement support without hiring additional personnel.

For CSD, life safety education remains a vital component. Fire staffers continue their educational, training, inspection and enforcement efforts with residents, schools, businesses and developers to help ensure fire prevention and safety. CSD focuses on “our family helping your family, through education and awareness.”

Maybe

And here's the maybe: LFR may become a Fire Authority. At the request of Loveland City Council and the Loveland Rural Fire Protection District, a comprehensive study is being conducted to determine if establishing a Fire Authority would be the most effective

governance option for the department.

A Fire Authority is a functional consolidation between fire-related emergency services agencies where both parties share in the governance and the control of strategic and operational planning. This governance change could result in greater citizen service and enhanced firefighter safety, along with a more effective overall structure.

The Fire Authority would create a partnership between the City and the Rural Fire District where a board of directors would be responsible for oversight and management of fire related issues. The formation of a Fire Authority could also lead to better emergency services in the city and the district, with greater cost effectiveness than managing two separate agencies.

Much has changed since Loveland's first fire department arose in 1883. For today's fire department in this new decade, significant change may again occur.



LFR: One department, many services (continued from page 1)

along with the Community Safety Division. A total of 65 paid career and 25 volunteer personnel make up the department.

The Suppression Division is the largest and most apparent. The men and women are the firefighters who staff Loveland's six firehouses 24/7 and respond to fire calls, accidents and other situations that threaten the health and

safety of persons living, working or traveling through the city.

Staff members undergo hundreds of hours of training every year to both sharpen and expand their skills in dealing with a variety of situations. Those situations are never routine and are often dangerous to community members and the LFR personnel involved.

LFR protects the 65,000 citizens and the structures within Loveland's approximately 35 square miles, plus the adjacent and rural areas beyond the city limits; a total of nearly 22,000 people in the Rural District and a total of 280 square miles of terrain of extreme variation. LFR's “office” includes flat land, foothills, lakes, a river, cliffs, forests, an airport and city streets.

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Celebrate Kids at 7th Annual Children's Day

Families can enjoy a day of fun and activities at the annual City of Loveland Children's Day, 1-4 p.m., Wed., March 3, at downtown City facilities.

Activities include:

- ‘Touch-a-truck’ - police cars, fire engines, trash trucks, road graders and more at Fire Station #1 (410 E. 5th St.).
- Free cartoons and popcorn at the Rialto Theater (228 E. 4th St.).
- Story time and bus safety puppet show at the Loveland Public Library (300 N. Adams St.).
- Stormwater safety with H2O Jo, walk-to-school safety with Smart T. Fox Jr., and autographs with Miss Loveland Valentine at the Museum/Gallery (503 N. Lincoln Ave.).
- Swimming, running and hoops all day, free, with a paying adult, plus free arts & crafts at the Chilson Recreation Center (700 E 4th St.).



- Prizes awarded by collecting stamps on a Children's Day passport.

The City of Loveland, with the help of the Thompson School District, has been celebrating Colorado Children's Day since 2002. Children's Day is the result of the long-time dream of Loveland resident Annie Hall. Through her efforts, the day is now celebrated in other cities throughout Colorado. Hall is working to make Children's Day a nationally recognized holiday. For more information call 962-2410.

Improv comes to the Rialto—March 19

The wacky and delightful Chicago City Limits, founded in Chicago in 1977 by actors participating in the well-known Second City workshops, has received rave reviews from critics and audiences alike.

The show combines sketch comedy, musical theater and audience-inspired improvisations. As the majority of the show is created on the spot from audience suggestions, each performance is a unique collaboration between actors and audience—no two shows are alike. Sketches are as fresh as today's headlines, taking aim at the faces, places and events of the day.

The show will be held at 8 p.m., Fri., March 19. Tickets: \$20 adult, \$15 senior/student. For more information call 962-2120.



City and Bonfils work together to meet demand for blood

For more than eight years City employees have shown up with bare forearms extended whenever Bonfils Blood Center comes to the Police Department to set up shop. This solid eight-year relationship between Bonfils and the City is due in great part to the efforts of Police Chief Luke Hecker and his wife Tami.

Years ago, one of the Heckers' children was found to have an immune system deficiency that required him to receive regular supplementation with a blood byproduct called Gammimmune. The Heckers felt compelled to do whatever they could to ensure that the blood supply in northern Colorado was plentiful for their son as well as for area hospitals. Tami contacted Bonfils Blood Center and spearheaded a relationship between Bonfils and the City which now produces approximately 375 pints of blood per year.

"This has been wonderful for us," said Tiffany Anderson, marketing and communications director with Bonfils. The Heckers started something which is now self-sustaining. We've come to count on City of Loveland employees and Loveland community members to help us meet the never-ending demand for blood and they've never let us down."

According to Chief Hecker, getting the relationship established was a lot of work but also very much a labor

of love. "Tami spent a lot of time on the phone helping to put this thing together but she knew it was important, not only for our son but for northern Colorado. As our population grows, so does our need for blood."

After about five years, with the full backing of City Manager Don Williams to continue sponsorship of the blood drives, Tami knew she could remove herself from the coordination process. "Tami and I are very pleased that there are a good number of Loveland donors who regularly contribute. It's the one thing people can do that directly contributes to saving other people's lives. We are all obligated to preserve human life and this is something a lot of people can do to help," said Hecker.

Bonfils comes to the City five to six times per year and consistently sees around 65 employees per session, as well as area residents. "I think the hallmark of any good program is that it lives beyond its original motivation and beyond its founders. That's what this has become and we couldn't be happier about it," Hecker added.

Next Police Blood Drive
Tues., March 2, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Police and Courts Bldg. 810 E. 10th St.
Additional donation dates
and locations:
Bonfils, 1-800-365-0006,
www.bonfils.org.

City's first coat drive warms hearts...and bodies (continued from page 1)

benefited HNS's clients, who were very glad to receive them according to Glorie Magrum, HNS Director.

"Our needs have increased across the board this year," Magrum said. "We're seeing 100 new families per month, and with this cold weather, the coats from the City could not have come at a better time. The City coat drive has

just been wonderful for our clients."

Diana Montgomery, Chairperson of the Coat Collection Committee, was equally pleased. "This was our first year to collect coats, so we didn't know what to expect but the amount of coats we received was awesome! We look forward to doing this again next year."

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The other major arm of LFR is the Community Safety Division (CSD) division. While Suppression's focus is on dealing with incidents that have occurred, CSD aims at prevention and preparedness. Their goal is for Loveland to remain a safe place to live, visit, work and play.

The staff works to promote residential and commercial fire safety, and offers fire and life safety education. Ensuring that buildings and developments meet fire safety code is another important

task, as well as investigation in the aftermath of an incident.

In addition to the paid staff, LFR recruits, trains and administers about 20 combat volunteers. The volunteers undergo the same training as paid Suppression staffers and are assigned to shifts at the fire stations working side-by-side with the career staff.

Ladder trucks, laptops and learning are all critical components of LFR's efforts for the Loveland community.

Loveland – always full of HeART

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the elements, artists used a durable paint designed for automotive use. Each heart was hand-painted and took anywhere from 4 to 8 weeks to finish. The hearts were then clear coated courtesy of Ozzie's Body Shop & Towing.

"What I really enjoy about the hearts project is that it promotes all areas of our community, not only through the strategic location of each, but through the artists' concepts," said Kim Vecchio, executive director of Engaging Loveland. "The project is similar to others in other cities but unique to Loveland due to our hearts theme."

The 18 hearts can be viewed at various locations throughout Loveland. Additional hearts will be constructed and installed as new sponsors join the project.

For more information on the *Loveland: A City with HeART* project go to www.engaginglovelandinc.org or call 970-980-4764.

City receives stimulus monies to explore smart metering technology

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\$3.4 billion have been allotted to accomplish this complex task. The City of Loveland has been awarded \$150,000—half of the total cost of the pilot project.

"We're excited about this opportunity to start testing some of these new smart meter technologies," said Adam Bromley, electrical engineer with Loveland Water & Power. "But we're taking a conservative approach. Our pilot program will help us determine whether smart metering is something we want to integrate into our overall operation."

The pilot program will include approximately 1,000 Loveland residences and businesses in strategic locations throughout the city to glean as much data as possible on the effect of the new smart meters. "Our goal is two-fold; to help educate our customers on their electricity use so they can pin-point areas for improvement, and ultimately to help them save money," Bromley added.

For more information on improving energy efficiency, go to the Water & Power pages at www.cityofloveland.org, or call 962-3000.

City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. Residents receive City Update on various dates throughout the month depending on their utility billing cycle. Timeliness of the information may be affected by recipients' bill distribution schedule. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, hillea@ci.loveland.co.us. Visit the City's website at www.cityofloveland.org.