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Spring brings more pleasantries and more municipal code violations

Ahh, spring. Summer's on its way. Temperatures are increasing, days are longer, birds are nesting, tree limbs are budding. All good.



Boat trailers are emerging, do-it-yourselfers are fixing cars and houses, grass is growing taller, garage sales are appearing, more dogs are walking their owners. Sometimes not so good.

Like all cities, Loveland has official

rules, regulations, laws—called municipal code—that govern major issues such as zoning, water rights, local taxes and much more. The code also covers a variety of lesser issues that often impact the average Loveland homeowner or resident.

Many of the things a citizen may see or encounter while taking a stroll through the neighborhood are regulated by City code to make that neighborhood safe, attractive and pleasant.

This month's *City Update* offers a summary of code issues that become especially apparent during warmer months. Turn the page to see a list of code concerns for the average resident as well as who to call for more information or to report a violation.

[More about City codes inside](#)

Fire station to undergo expansion, remodel

Construction to expand and remodel Fire Station 6, located at 4325 McWhinney Blvd., could begin as early as June.



The original station design included plans for an eventual expansion to keep pace with population growth in that station's response area. Since the east side of Loveland has grown, especially in terms of multi-story and multi-family dwellings, it was determined that the time to expand Station 6 was this summer.

The existing structure, built in 2004, is about 9,500 sq. ft. and currently houses a single engine company. The expansion will add about 2,700 sq. ft., primarily on the east side of the building. An existing 1,000 sq. ft. will be remodeled and a new main entrance will be built.

As a result of the expansion, Station 6 will soon be able to house an aerial truck company, which will further bolster operations for fighting fires in this more densely populated service area.

An emphasis on design will ensure that the remodel will be in step with the Centerra environs.

The fire station will remain fully operational throughout the construction process and the project is expected to be completed in November. For more information, call the Fire & Rescue Authority at 962-2497.

Make landscapes beautiful, sustainable

The Center for Resource Conservation (CRC) in cooperation with Loveland Water & Power (W&P) is back, offering Loveland residents an opportunity to efficiently beautify their landscapes this spring.



The ever-popular Garden-in-a-Box program helps Loveland residents plant beautiful, low-maintenance

xeriscapes without the headache of all the research and planning. These professionally designed, pre-planned xeriscape gardens come with plants, design layout, and planting and maintenance instructions.

Four designs are available. Each one has between 27 and 47 plants that come in 2.5 or 4-inch pots, depending on the design. Through W&P's collaboration with CRC, the gardens, which cover about 100 square feet, cost from \$60 to \$150 – significantly below retail price.

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'A lasting impression' is goal of Public Works Day

Come learn about how the City's Public Works department is 'Creating a Lasting Impression' in our community, at the Ninth Annual Public Works Day celebration, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tues., May 15 at Fairgrounds Park. Fun, educational booths and activities will instruct and entertain everyone who attends.



Public Works Day is open to all local elementary schools, day care facilities and home-schoolers. Large groups such as day care facilities or home-school groups should RSVP at 962-3342.



Common Municipal Code Concerns

Below are some of the most common issues and concerns of Loveland residents related to Loveland Municipal Code, especially those that are often associated with warmer weather.

Please understand that the information provided here is of a general nature and that the actual municipal code language is more complex and precise. Loveland staff and police do not patrol the city looking for code violations, but instead follow up on concerns voiced by citizens.

Possible City Code concerns?

To report a violation or seek further information, as a general rule:

- If the issue is on public property: **Loveland Police Dept. (LPD)**, 667-2151, police@ci.loveland.co.us
- If on private property: **City Code Enforcement (CCE)**:
North of Eisenhower Blvd: 962-2600 frazes@ci.loveland.co.us
South of Eisenhower Blvd: 962-2689 shannm@ci.loveland.co.us
City Building Division (CBD), 962-2505, blldiv@ci.loveland.co.us
- If it involves an animal: **Larimer Humane Society (LHS)**, 226-DOGS, info@larimerhumane.org

Subject	The Code	Who to call
Properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All grass, weeds, etc. taller than 8 inches must be mowed. • Miscellaneous debris and other visible rubbish is a code violation. 	<p>CCE</p> <p>CCE</p>
Trailers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the street, all trailers must have license plates. • On the street, unhitched trailers are permitted for one hour. • On private property, trailers may be unhitched and don't require license plates. • Campers/motor homes cannot be occupied on private or public property, except in licensed facilities. 	<p>LPD</p> <p>LPD</p> <p>CCE</p> <p>CCE</p>
Recreational Vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boats, snowmobiles, motorhomes, etc. are OK on private property but may violate homeowners association covenants. 	CCE
Vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's OK to repair a vehicle on private property, but if unlicensed, it must be covered when not in use. • Any motor vehicle on a public street must be properly licensed. • Only one unlicensed vehicle may be visible on private property and it must be covered. • A vehicle on public property that has not moved for 72 hours may be considered abandoned and may be towed away. 	<p>CCE</p> <p>LPD</p> <p>CCE</p> <p>LPD</p>
Signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sign pertaining to the site on which it is located—for sale, garage sale, etc.—is permitted. • Any sign on any pole on public property is prohibited. • Many home businesses are welcome in Loveland. Signs are not permitted. 	<p>CCE</p> <p>CCE</p> <p>CCE</p>
Building Permits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing a basement, enclosing a porch and building a deck are examples of common improvements that require a building permit. • Installing original sheetrock is considered a structural change and requires a permit. Replacing sheetrock does not. • Replacing gutters or shingles may require a permit. Please inquire. • If proper permitting and procedure has not been followed, walls will be opened to permit inspections. • A permit is needed for storage sheds that exceed 200 sq. ft. • A permit is not required for backyard playground equipment. 	<p>CBD</p> <p>CBD</p> <p>CBD</p> <p>CBD</p> <p>CBD</p> <p>CBD</p>
Animals  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pit Bulls are permitted, however, threatening behavior by any breed of dog is prohibited. • Except for enclosed yards or the Loveland Dog Park, all pets—including cats—must be leashed or tethered. • Any pet disturbing the peace or causing a nuisance is a code violation. • Pet waste on public or private property other than the owner's must be promptly removed. • All dogs and cats must carry a license and vaccination tags. Therefore, naked pets are prohibited.☺ 	<p>LHS</p> <p>LHS</p> <p>LHS</p> <p>LHS</p> <p>LHS</p>

NOTE: These city code statements are accurate as general rules as of April, 2012. Some exceptions and variations may exist. City code can be changed by Loveland City Council.

Eligible for Food and Utility Sales Tax rebate?

Qualified households may be eligible to receive a rebate from the City for food and utility sales taxes paid in 2011. To qualify, applicants must meet HUD income requirements. Residents should note that this program is taking place earlier than it did last year.

To get an application go to:

- City of Loveland
500 E. Third Street
- City Clerk's Office (and)
- Utility Billing
(on rack in front of cashier)

- On the City's website:
www.cityofloveland.org
- Loveland Public Library
300 N. Adams Ave.
- House of Neighborly Service
565 N. Cleveland Ave.

Applications will be accepted through May 31, 2012:

In person:

9 a.m.-12 p.m., Monday-Thursday
House of Neighborly Service
565 N. Cleveland Ave.

By mail:

City of Loveland
FSTRP, 500 E. Third St.,
Loveland, CO 80537

Should qualified applications exceed budget limitations, rebates will be issued on a first-come basis.

Last year's program resulted in 967 households receiving food and utility rebates totaling \$144,045, averaging \$149 per household. Food rebates totaled \$105,365 and utility rebates totaled \$38,680.

For more information call 962-2361.

Blood drive at LPD is state's most successful

Loveland's blood donors are the best in the state. Bonfils Blood Center recently announced that the blood drives held at the Loveland Police Department building resulted in more blood donated than any other government entity in the same category in Colorado during 2011. Through the five blood drives held at the Loveland Police Department last year, 400 people donated, rendering 307 total units of blood, which has the ability to save or enhance more than 900 lives.

In the last ten years, the Loveland PD drive has collected 3,370 units of blood that was sent to local hospitals, other hospitals within the state, to the military and even for disaster relief.

Blood facts:

- The need for blood is constant
- Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs a blood transfusion

- Blood donation is one of the easiest ways to volunteer for the community
- Blood donation typically takes just an hour
- Blood donation is completely sterile and safe

This very productive 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 Hecker's children was found to have an immune system deficiency that required him to receive regular supplementation with a blood byproduct called Gamimune. 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.

According to 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," Hecker said.

After about five years, with full backing of the City 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. Blood donation is something a lot of people can do to help," said Hecker.

For more information on Bonfils, go to www.bonfils.org or call 303-363-2300.

Final downtown stormwater construction ahead

The final and largest phase of the Washington Avenue Outfall project in central downtown Loveland is nearly complete. Project work resumes in May and will be completed this fall. This final phase of construction caps off a four-phase, 13-year project.

For many years, downtown Loveland has experienced problems

with flooding due to an outdated infrastructure that couldn't adequately convey stormwater from the downtown area to the Big Thompson River. The \$3 million investment in the Washington Avenue Outfall project is providing drainage improvements to the infrastructure that will dramatically reduce the

amount and frequency of flooding in central downtown.

In addition to pipeline, inlets and waterline, the City installed some innovative stormwater quality treatment measures to help remove pollutants from stormwater before it reaches the Big Thompson River.

Fire hydrant flushing under way



Fire hydrant flushing helps keep the interior of the pipes clean, helps maintain

excellent water quality and ensures hydrants are operating properly.

Flushing hydrants can cause water discoloration. Although it is not recommended to use for laundry due to possible staining of clothes, the water is safe to drink.

Hydrant flushing will start on the west side of Loveland and work eastward.

Notices for areas of town due to undergo flushing will be posted in the Loveland Reporter-Herald. For further info, call 962-3720.

Dispose of yard debris wisely

Yard debris cart service for the 2012 growing season has begun.

Subscribers to the service can set out yard debris carts for weekly collection on their regular trash collection day. The price of this optional subscription service is \$7.50 per month, through the first week of December.

Residents subscribing to the service are asked to observe the following guidelines for acceptable/unacceptable



materials in the yard debris carts:

Acceptable:

- Grass clippings, leaves, garden trimmings and small branches (cut to fit into cart)
- Loaded cart must weigh less than 250 pounds
- Cart lid must close

Unacceptable:

- Soil
- Food wastes
- Pet wastes
- Plastic bags
- Trash, rocks or metal
- Ashes (hot or cold)
- Oversized branches, stumps or lumber

For more information or to subscribe to yard debris cart service, call 962-2529.

Make landscapes beautiful, sustainable (continued from page 1)

"When many people think of xeriscape they often think of dull colors and stick-like plants. Garden-in-a-Box is a great opportunity to purchase a variety of lush plants and expert-designed plans at a great price for a beautiful blooming garden all season long," said Sarah Smith, water resource engineer with Loveland Water and Power.

To reserve a Garden-in-a-Box, Loveland residents must pre-order and pre-pay. Kits are limited and are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are now being accepted.

Gardens may be picked up the morning of Sat., May 19, at the Service Center, 200 N. Wilson Ave.

On the day of pick-up, volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about planting the Garden-in-a-Box. No gardens will be available for sale on the day of pick-up.

All orders, requests and questions should be directed to CRC, (303) 999-3820 ext. 212 or visit CRC's website at www.conservationcenter.org.

Late April activities and events

Editor's Note: Because Loveland residents receive *City Update* throughout the month along with their utility bill, it is always our intention to include information only about events that occur the following month. However, sometimes—like this month—we include events occurring in the latter part of the current month because the events had not been finalized early enough to include them in the prior month. We acknowledge that for residents who receive their *City Update* late in the month, some events may have already occurred. We apologize for any inconvenience. We'd rather most residents learn of these late-month events through *City Update* than not include them at all.

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast & Plant Sale – April 21

Enjoy a delicious breakfast and then browse for the perfect piece of greenery to enhance the home, landscape, or office.

8-11 a.m., Sat., April 21



Chilson multi-purpose rooms 1&2

\$4 - adult in advance

\$5 - adult at door

\$2.50 - child, 12 & under, in advance

\$3 - child, 12 & under, at door

Call 962-2783 for more information.

Celebrate kids at Annual Children's Day – April 25

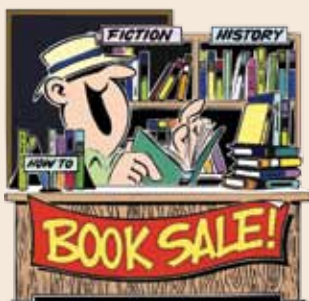


Families can enjoy a day of fun and activities at the annual City of Loveland Children's Day, 1 to 5 p.m. at designated City facilities in downtown Loveland.

Activities include free arts and crafts, cartoons at the Rialto, swimming and shooting hoops at the Chilson Center, a puppet show, the 'Touch-a-Truck' activity and so much more.

The City of Loveland, with the help of the Thompson School District, has been celebrating Colorado Children's Day since 2002. For more information call 962-2410 or visit www.cityofloveland.org.

Friends of Library Spring Book Sale – April 27-29



Select from more than 50,000 books in 50+ categories, plus music CDs, DVDs,

books on CD and cassette and other non-book items. Prices range from

25¢ to \$1 for children's books and \$1 to \$2.50 for teen and adult books. Vintage and collectible books will be available at other prices.

- 4-8 p.m., April 27, Members-only Preview Sale, (memberships may be purchased at the door)
- 9 a.m.-4 p.m., April 28, General Sale
- 11 a.m.-3 p.m., April 29, \$4 Bag Sale

The book sale will be held at the Thomas M. McKee 4-H Youth & Community Building at "The Ranch" Larimer County Fairgrounds & Events Complex, I-25 & Crossroads Blvd., Exit 259 on I-25.

Customers should bring bags/boxes for purchased items. For more information or to volunteer call 203-0904.

Concussion Prevention and Sports Wellness Fair – April 28

This informational event will be held 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Poudre Valley Medical Group South Loveland Primary Care, 1327 Eagle Drive, and will offer educational materials and activities related to:

- Concussion awareness and prevention
- Hydration during sports activities
- Wheeled sports safety and helmet usage (such as biking, skateboarding, etc.)

Children can also get sports physicals provided by local physicians.

To reserve a time slot for a pre-participation physical, call 495-7000 – space is limited. A \$20 donation to Safe Kids Larimer County is requested, but not required.

Kids can also play fun, interactive games including jumping in a jump castle plus healthy snacks will be on hand.

For more information call 495-7000.

Dispose of unwanted drugs – April 28

The Loveland Police Department will again partner with the Drug Enforcement Agency for Drug Take-Back Day. This is an opportunity for residents to surrender expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutical



controlled substances and other medications for safe destruction. Drugs will be accepted in the

Loveland Police department parking lot, 810 E. Tenth St. from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., April 28.

Good Day pharmacies will also accept medications for disposal except for controlled substances, warfarin (Coumadin) and sharps (such as syringes). The Larimer County Landfill will take needles according to their guidelines. For information go to www.larimer.org/solidwaste/haz.htm and scroll to "Sharps and Medications."

For more information on Drug Take-Back Day, call 962-2229.

Hazardous waste pick-up for seniors & disabled– May 1

Loveland's seniors and disabled can sign up for a free door-to-door pickup of household hazardous waste products



for disposal in an environmentally responsible manner. Items will be collected Tues., May 1.

Accepted items for pick-up include adhesives, aerosols, hobby supplies, automotive products, batteries, cleaners/waxes, flammables, lubricants, paints, personal products, pesticides and other household chemicals.

To schedule a pickup, call 1-800-HHW-PKUP (449-7587). Specify that this is for the City of Loveland's door-to-door pick-up of household hazardous waste materials for seniors and disabled, and leave name, address and phone number. Pick-ups will be limited to the first forty residents who call.

For a complete list of accepted materials go to www.cityofloveland.org/HHW. For more information call 962-2772.

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.