

Buildings, polluted ground removed in downtown redevelopment effort

So long, Leslie.

Most Loveland motorists have by now noticed that the former Leslie the Cleaner dry cleaning store and the former second-hand store to its north with the giant painted faces are gone. During the past few years, the City of Loveland purchased those properties on the north side of 3rd and Lincoln as well as the former used car lot/filling station on the corner across 3rd Street. The City of Loveland purchased these 'problem' properties with the intention of eliminating the problems so that the properties would be attractive for future mixed use development—commercial and residential. The purchases along Lincoln Avenue are part of the City's effort to foster downtown redevelopment.



What was the 'problem' with the newly demolished buildings that enabled the City to buy a corner property on one of Loveland's busiest streets for a measly \$55,000? The problem wasn't the building but what was underneath. The ground under the Leslie's and 'Faces' buildings was polluted with toxic chemicals from the dry cleaning process plus old buried gasoline and oil tanks from the buildings' previous uses of a gas station and auto repair. The ground



needed to be dug out and replaced, bringing the cost of the Leslie property to about \$555,000.

Most of the cost was offset by a federal environmental cleanup grant of \$313,000. The City's total cost was about \$242,000.

Because of the pollution and associated cost, the contaminated property would have been very unattractive to a private developer. The federal grant to the City will enable the City to re-sell the property at a cost that will make private redevelopment feasible.

With the property refreshed, the City is looking for 'vertical development' on the properties, perhaps a five story apartment or condo building with retail or offices on the ground floor. The City's effort toward downtown redevelopment focuses on increased residential density because "retail follows rooftops" as a City planner explained. And currently, there's a greater demand for residential than commercial, he explained.

On the south corner of 3rd street, we knocked down the old buildings some time ago and the property is being used for public parking. The Leslie's and 'Faces' properties will become a temporary walkway and sculpture exhibit area. Its temporary design will enable everything to be easily removed to allow for a high-density development.

So, developers, if you're looking for a great location-location-location, the City has a couple of prime downtown corner lots available!



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At Museum/Gallery

The Art and Craft of Skiing Through Feb. 3

The Art and Craft of Skiing exhibit offers a nostalgic display of ski artifacts from the Museum collection along with beautiful, hand-painted ski maps of some of Colorado's most coveted resorts. James Niehues has been painting aerial views since 1986; each view is hand painted by brush and airbrush using opaque watercolor to capture the detail and variations of nature's beauty.

Calling all talented seniors

Loveland residents age 50 and over are invited to show off their talents and compete in the Chilson Senior Center's annual talent show, 1-3 p.m., Wed., Jan. 31. Sharon Sheets, local actress and performer will emcee and also perform for this fun and entertaining event.

While the judges are deciding on who wins the prizes, attendees can enjoy some delicious desserts. Prizes will be awarded to the top three contestants.

Interested performers should call 962-2428. The program will be limited to the first ten 3-5 minute acts who call. A rehearsal will be held at 2 p.m., Mon., Jan. 28. Residents interested in attending as audience members can register starting Dec. 6 at the Chilson Senior Center.

Tickets to the event are \$6 or \$4 with a SAC card. There is no charge to compete in the talent contest.

Region's forensic science experts to share new crime lab next year

Stay tuned. Coming next year is *CSI: LariWeld*.

Next year law enforcement agencies from Larimer and Weld counties will have their own \$4 million crime lab. Technicians and officers from the sheriff's departments of the two counties, the police departments of Loveland, Greeley and Fort Collins and forensic scientists from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will work together under one roof in a new, specially-designed crime lab building.

For the past few years these experts have worked together as a consortium, each handling their specialty at their own location. Because each agency doesn't have experts in all the forensic sciences, they call upon each other for assistance. For example, the Loveland Police Department has a fingerprint expert but not a ballistics expert.

While the arrangement is more efficient than taking evidence back and forth to the CBI crime lab west of Denver, the new Northern Colorado Regional Crime Lab, located between Loveland and Greeley along Hwy 34, will bring all the NoCo experts together under a single roof in a building specifically designed for evidence examination.

The staff and all its work will be assisted by the CBI in obtaining accreditation through a national forensic science accrediting body. Needless to say, with all the experts in close proximity, their expertise can be shared more easily, evidence transportation needs will be reduced and overall turnaround time will improve. In addition, forensic biology and DNA are expected to be performed in the regional lab using an

examiner from the CBI and one from the regional lab.

What type of investigative work will take place in the new lab?

- Fingerprint examination
- Imprint evidence such as footprints, tire tracks, etc.
- Firearms including ballistics, ammunition identification, and serial number restoration
- Tool mark identification
- Drug chemistry
- Digital information recovery from computers, phones, cameras, DVRs, etc.
- Forensic biology including blood and other fluid identification and DNA analysis
- Vehicle examination

After the second year, the five northern Colorado agencies will each allocate about \$70,000 per year for the maintenance and operation of the lab. A \$500,000 federal grant has been secured to cover those costs the first and second years.

So beginning next fall, evidence examination of almost all types will be faster and more efficient right here in northern Colorado. But as a Loveland police captain said, please don't expect everything to be solved in an hour like on TV.

And to be fair, because the new building will be constructed and owned by Weld County, they ought to get top billing. Perhaps make that *CSI:Weldimer*.

SWAT team at army base to practice critical skills

The Loveland Police Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team recently spent four days capturing barricaded suspects, rescuing hostages and shooting shooters. The team, including Loveland Fire Rescue Authority and Thompson Valley EMS ambulance personnel, engaged in a variety of scenarios during drills at the U.S. Fort Carson Army base in Colorado Springs.

The training maneuvers included repelling down the side of a building, entering a building with a suicidal gunman, snipers hitting their targets and more. Realism was added to the drills with some participants returning paintball gun fire.

The exercise simulated office buildings, homes, a hospital, a hotel and a public transit bus. These settings are used regularly by the Army and were easily adapted to meet the SWAT team's training needs.

This training period enabled the team to do many repetitions in a variety of scenarios. The week was part of the on-going training that keeps the team ready for a critical incident response here in Loveland.



New and improved facilities for LFRA

Loveland residents along with Loveland Fire Rescue Authority (LFRA) personnel will soon benefit from a fire station renovation on the northeast side of town, and from a new fire station being built on the northwest side of town. The new and improved stations will meet the community's overall fire-rescue needs targeted for the next fifty years.

Station 6, located at 4325 McWhinney Blvd., is undergoing major renovations to expand and improve the facility. The building, originally constructed in 2004, was designed to house one engine company. However, future expansion plans were included as the need for greater services in the area grew.

Now that Loveland's population base has spread east towards I-25 and both commercial and residential building have expanded significantly, it was

determined that this was the year to expand Station 6 in order to continue providing quality services to area residents.

To make the building more energy efficient the design incorporates natural light, high-efficiency HVAC units and some low-flow water-saving toilets. The renovation is planned for completion by the end of the year and the anticipated total project cost is \$930,000. All project costs will be paid using existing LFRA capital expansion fees.

Station 2 currently located in North Lake Park is now too small, too inefficient and in the wrong location to meet targeted response time goals.



Relocating and building a new Station 2 became a priority for the LFRA and was identified by City Council as one of their two top public safety capital priorities for 2012.

The new station will be built about one mile west of the current Station

(continued on page 4)

It's not like what's on TV, but gang activity exists in Loveland

They are here. There hasn't been much increase but their presence can't be eliminated. Their activity doesn't resemble the violence depicted on TV but police are actively attentive to the situation. That's how the head of the police department's Street Crimes Unit summarizes the gang situation in Loveland.

"Fortunately, Loveland hasn't seen a significant increase in gang activity, however, gang members and gang activity continue to be present in the city," said Loveland Police Department (LPD) Sgt. Aaron Belk. "LPD and specifically the Street Crimes Unit continue to monitor and identify any gang-related activities and take enforcement actions whenever possible. Through this constant vigilance, we've seen little or no increase in gang related issues."

LPD has documented 280 gang members with some level of activity in Loveland, with 151 listing a home address here within the last five years. They represent a variety of gangs including Bloods, Crips, Gangster Disciples, 18th Street, Brown Pride, White Fence Gang, GKI, Aryan Brotherhood, 211 Crew, Skinheads, Sureno, Norteno, Juggalo, and motorcycle gangs including Hell's Angles, Sons of Silence, Banditos and others.

The true number of active gang members in Loveland at any given time is constantly changing; not all the gang members here have been documented, some are no longer active, some have recently moved in, some are here briefly, some have moved away and some have been incarcerated.

Gang members are committing crimes in the City of Loveland but the



majority of these crimes include minor assaults and property damage often related to drug trafficking. During the first three quarters of 2012, 115 known gang members were jailed for miscellaneous offenses; some were jailed more than once. Other gang members were arrested and released pending charges, or issued summonses and released to help prevent jail overcrowding.

Within the last two years the LPD SWAT team has responded to two incidents of fugitive gang members who barricaded themselves inside residences to avoid capture and both were successfully captured without injury to innocent citizens or the officers involved. Other gang members have been caught committing gun related offenses including one robbery. And one gang member, a convicted felon, was found in possession of a stolen sawed-off shotgun.

Members of various gangs live in a variety of areas throughout the

community. Unlike many big cities, in Loveland the gangs are not territorial, not trying to control specific areas. Members of different gangs may live in close proximity to each other within the same neighborhood without confrontation.

But gang members do commit crimes and can be armed. LPD aggressively prosecutes known gang members when caught committing crimes and shares information on known and suspected gang activities with other local agencies. And when guns are involved, LPD calls upon the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms to prosecute appropriate gang-related gun crimes at the federal level.

Gang activity can begin at a young age. LPD's School Resource Officers (SRO) are often the first line of defense against gang activity as they see new trends develop in the schools. They can interact with the gang members as students, not as suspects. When needed, however, the SROs are called to assist the Street Crimes Unit with gang enforcement.

LPD faces challenges in all areas of law enforcement in Loveland, as the city's population growth rate has outpaced staffing rates. But monitoring of gang members and enforcement of gang activity is an ongoing effort by LPD to help maintain citizens' high quality of life in Loveland.

The Street Crimes Unit offers educational presentations throughout the year about gangs to a variety of groups within the community. For more information, contact the Loveland Police Department at 667-2151.

Investment in outside expertise brings public safety rewards

The cost of hiring an expert can pay off royally. The City of Loveland's fire department called in an expert to assist with acquiring equipment needed for the fundamental safety of its firefighters and the community it serves.

The City hired a grant writing expert and reaped more than \$1 million in federal grants to purchase the much-needed equipment.

Just like households and businesses across the nation, the economy of the past few years took its toll on the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority (LFRA). Budget restrictions prevented replacement of critical equipment.

Dr. Beverly Browning at eCivis was contracted to assist the City in preparing proposals to FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grants program. Two large grants were awarded to LFRA.



external defibrillators (AED's). This equipment replaced obsolete and failing equipment critical to firefighter and citizen safety.

The second grant award was \$682,686, which the City of Loveland matched with \$170,671 for a project total of

The first grant award was \$447,542, which the City of Loveland matched with \$111,885 for a project total of \$559,427. This grant was used to purchase 108 self-contained breathing apparatus and 16 automated

\$853,357. This grant was used to purchase new-technology 800 MHz radios, replacing older radios that were obsolete and unable to be repaired.

The older radios often malfunctioned and were then taken out of service leaving the staff at risk. Forty-five mobile radios, 108 portable radios, 7 station base radios, and 8 desktop mobile radios are being purchased with this grant.

The City's net investment of \$8,500 for eCivis' expertise resulted in \$1,130,288 of federal funding enabling the replacement of \$1,412,784 of life safety equipment. LFRA was successful in securing significant public safety improvements without requesting anything more from the citizens of Loveland or the adjacent Loveland Rural Fire Protection District served by LFRA.

Colorado artist Dave Yust brings prints to Museum/Gallery

Rarely does one get the opportunity to step inside the mind of an artist, but beginning Nov. 10, visitors to the Loveland Museum/Gallery can join Colorado artist Dave Yust on a journey through his artistic career.

Dave Yust 40+ Years of Printmaking: A Retrospective will be in the Main Gallery and display more than 100 of Yust's prints and paintings. The exhibition explores several periods of his career and culminates in a new print series based on his characteristic heart shape.

Born and raised in Wichita, Kan., Yust fostered an appreciation for art at a young age and spent his childhood weekends studying with the renowned Swedish painter Birger Sandzén. He moved to Colorado in 1963 and in 1965 accepted a position as an art



Dave Yust, *Circular Composition #109 (Change in Scale #93) Intense Blue, 1977*, 1-color lithographic.

instructor at CSU's Art Department. His artwork has been featured in nearly 400 art museums and exhibitions

around the nation and his paintings have been selected through the Art in Embassies Program in Washington, D.C.—a program that showcases the work of American artists in diplomatic facilities worldwide.

The exhibit runs through Feb. 17. For more info go the Museum/Gallery web pages at www.cityofloveland.org or call 962-2410.

Hearts After Dark: A Museum Social

6-8 p.m., Fri., Feb. 8

Take a free tour of the Main Gallery and experience the beauty of the heart shape through the art of Dave Yust. Enjoy a cash bar, live music and sweet treats. Enjoy this free event during *Night on the Town*.

New and improved facilities for LFRA (continued from page 2)

2 at the southwest corner of 29th and Wilson. The City is close to having a contract in place to purchase three acres of land at this location at a cost well under market value. Once finished, the station will be about 12,000 sq. ft. and closely resemble Fire Station 6 after its remodel and expansion.

The new Station 2 will be a two-company station, which means it will operate with an engine company



and heavy rescue that will serve as a primary vehicle for special operations and technical rescue as well as providing support for rural district fires.

LFRA is working on a request for proposal to hire design and engineering services to design the station in 2013 and build it in 2014, with a scheduled completion for the last quarter of 2014. The Station 2 project will be LEED certified and include many energy saving features.

The total project budget is \$2.9 million and will be paid using existing LFRA capital expansion fees.

Emergency Information Sources

— Keep this list handy —

Some or all of these sources may be utilized during an emergency or special situation. The nature of the situation will dictate what sources will be utilized. Setup and staffing for some resources will not occur immediately.

City of Loveland Info Sources:

www.cityofloveland.org Official City website
1610 AM radio City's AM radio station
Phone 962-2020 Info line/call center
Phone 911 ... Emergency police/fire (non-emergency: 667-2151)
Channel 16 cable TV City cable TV channel
Emergency Notification Phone calls, e-mails
 Signup at www.LETA911.org

Emergency Alert System (EAS)

..... Emergency messages on TV & radio

City of Loveland Twitter Brief messages

City of Loveland Facebook Brief messages

Other sources:

www.larimer.org Larimer County

Phone 211 Assistance agencies

www.firstcall211.org 211 website

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* Eligible households shall be determined based upon utilities provider.



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 City's website at www.cityofloveland.org. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, Andy.Hiller@cityofloveland.org. The City of Loveland is committed to providing an equal opportunity for citizens and does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, or gender. The City will make reasonable accommodations for citizens in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at bettie.greenberg@cityofloveland.org or 962-3319.