

Know the code? It's beneficial

It's not a secret code. No security clearance or Captain Marvel Decoder Ring is required. Quite the opposite. The more you know about the Loveland Municipal Code, the better. Knowledge of the code is encouraged and access to the code is easy.

What is the Loveland Municipal Code? It's all the local rules, regulations and laws of Loveland city government. Different portions apply to different people and situations.

For example, the regulations pertaining to zoning, water rights, permanent signage and plumbing can be of great interest to developers and builders. The average homeowner, however, likely will find it valuable to be familiar with the code regarding pets, overgrown lawns, signs tacked to poles, trashy yards, unlicensed cars and more.

Residential areas are busy places during the warm-weather months. Neighbors are outdoors with their dogs, working on an old Ford, preparing for a garage sale or sprucing up their yards.

In most cases, all this and more is done



Where's the Code?
Simply click on the drop-down
City Government button
at the top of
www.cityofloveland.org

according to City code, with care and respect for neighbors. But sometimes not. All it takes is one neighbor unfamiliar with City code to undue all the "attaboys" earned by everyone else on the block.

This month's *City Update* takes a look at the Loveland Municipal Code. No, not all the details of the 500+ page document, but quick summaries of those sections of interest to the average citizen.

[More about City codes inside](#)

W&P's message of conservation seeping into daily practice

In addition to providing high-quality water 24/7, Loveland Water and Power (W&P) spends a good deal of time promoting water conservation and best practices through a variety of year-round activities and programs.

W&P's annual Garden-in-a-Box (GIAB) program, for example, coordinated the delivery of 125 pre-planned garden units to homeowners this year and had a waiting list to boot. "We're very excited about the success of the program," said Sarah Smith, water resources engineer and GIAB coordinator. "It seems that people are embracing the importance of conserving water through xeriscaping, which uses low-water tolerant plants."

W&P also sponsors the annual Children's Water Festival in cooperation with the City's Stormwater Division, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Thompson School District. At this year's event, the festival hosted a total of 940 area fifth graders.

Students were treated to a day of interactive activities, highlighting

Recommended lawn watering guidelines

The following guidelines will help you keep your lawn healthy while using water efficiently:

- Test grass to see if it needs water by stepping on it – if it stays flat, it's time to water.
- The best time of day to water is early morning when water is less likely to evaporate.
- If the weather is cool and cloudy, delay watering.
- Avoid watering when it's windy – wind carries precious water away.
- Use sprinklers that are as low to the ground as possible.
- A good soaking is required to nurture deep root growth but don't over-do it.

why water conservation is important and providing examples of how to use water efficiently such as turning off the faucet while brushing teeth, and

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City awards grants to local agencies

A wide variety of Loveland not-for-profit human services agencies have received more than \$700,000 in grants from the City and a federal department. The agencies assist Loveland individuals and households in need.

The City of Loveland provided \$450,000 in City general funds for the Human Services Grant Program. An additional \$322,818 comes to Loveland via the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Forty-four individual grants totaling \$772,818 were awarded to about two dozen local agencies that provide services and assistance to low-income households.

Grant applications are reviewed by the Human Services Commission and the Affordable Housing Commission. The commissioners make funding recommendations for approval by the City Council.

This year, the City received 57 grant applications requesting a total of \$1.2 million.

City codes help ensure safety, health, esthetics

On Private Property

Permit Needed?

Alterations to the structure of a building are subject to Building Code and require a building permit. Cosmetic changes, such as paint, floor covering, cabinets and finish work don't require permits.

Common homeowner do-it-yourself projects that require a permit include basement finishes, decks, additions, and conversions and alterations such as changing a garage or porch into a living area.

City building officials are emphatic about the need for homeowners' projects to attain permits and undergo inspections. Work that doesn't meet code can result in a fire, flooding or structural collapse.

Even high-quality but non-permitted work can cost the owner big bucks. Many home sales have fallen through when the buyer learns of non-



Code violation

One person received non-critical injuries plus a major financial headache when this deck collapsed recently at a Loveland home. The deck was constructed without a building permit and without being inspected by City building officials.

permitted improvements and pulls out of the deal. Obtaining a permit after a project has been completed may require opening up walls or floors for inspectors.

In the Yard

Outside the home, City code also applies. Only one unlicensed motor vehicle is permitted outdoors on residential property and it must be covered by a car cover or tarp.

Licensed vehicles are permitted on residential property. These include cars, trucks, motorcycles and motor homes. Homeowners association restrictions may exist, however.

There are no code restrictions for the presence of trailers, boats, snowmobiles, ATVs and similar items on private property, though here again, homeowners association rules may apply. Camping and travel trailers on private property may not be occupied, even for just a day or two.

Other outside-the-home code ordinances govern trash, old appliances, furniture, scrap building materials, other refuse, tall weeds, fence height, mosquito habitats and other concerns.

Home Businesses

Home businesses are a viable option for people who are looking to provide a product or service from their home. While an auto muffler shop is out of the question, a number of home businesses are allowed to operate in Loveland. What is and is not permitted depends on the zoning laws for your area.

Home businesses in residential areas must not adversely affect the character or quality of the neighborhood. In other words, home businesses must keep a low profile, so-to-speak.

No signage or advertising can be used, no additional off-street parking is allowed and commercial vehicles associated with the business are strictly prohibited. In addition, anything that might compromise or endanger the health and welfare of the community such as hazardous chemicals or other toxic substances is illegal.

For information on all the issues mentioned above, call the City code office at 962-2506.

On Public Property

With some exceptions, City code dealing with public property is enforced by the police department. The most frequent concerns deal with vehicles.

Motor vehicles

Regarding motor vehicles, the law is simple. If a motor vehicle doesn't have a current, valid license plate, it shouldn't be on the street and may be towed and impounded. Even with a valid plate, a vehicle that appears abandoned and has sat unmoved for more than three days may be impounded.

Trailers

Trailers are easy, too. No plate; not legal. And a trailer in the street not hitched to a tow vehicle is illegal too, even with a valid plate.

Celebrate 70 years of Thiebaud

Wayne Thiebaud: 70 Years of Painting, is a collection of more than 100 paintings and drawings illustrating artist Wayne Thiebaud's seventy year study of people, land/cityscapes and still-lives. The exhibit runs through Aug. 16 at the Loveland Museum/Gallery.

Thiebaud, a working artist at the age of 88, is often identified with the Pop Art movement because of his use of light, color and texture. His paintings reveal his interest in the interplay between realism and abstraction and he is perhaps best-known for his interpretations of delectable-looking desserts.



For more information on the exhibit, slide show or guided tour of Thiebaud's work, call 962-2410.

Comment on police performance

The Loveland Police Department (LPD) will hold a public assessment session as part of its re-accreditation process, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Police and Courts Building, 810 E. 10th St. in Loveland.

The on-site assessment gives LPD employees and members of the community the opportunity to comment on police performance and assess whether LPD is meeting its professional standards in the areas of policy and procedures, administration, operations and support services.

LPD employees and the public can also call in their comments at 962-2207 on Sun., Aug. 23 between 9 and 11 a.m. All verbal comments should be limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's compliance with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement's (CALEA) standards. Written comments can be sent to CALEA, 10301 Eaton Pl. #100, Fairfax, VA, 22030-2201.

For more info, call 962-2684.

"Money Talks"

Smart Investing in Bonds

Investing in bonds can be a smart move when diversifying an investment portfolio, but it pays to know the ins and outs before taking that first leap.

The August 11 Money Talks, presented by Laurel Kubin and Susan Linden, will look at risk identification on high-return bonds, different types of bonds, how they're rated, how they respond to changing interest rates, and the variety of ways to buy them. The program will also discuss corporate and municipal bonds and treasuries.

Money Talks is free and presented at noon and 6:30 p.m. in the Gertrude B. Scott room of the Loveland Public Library. Beverages are provided and attendees are welcome to bring a bagged lunch or supper. For more info, call 962-2402.

Noise

Loveland has a noise ordinance. Noise enforcement is a judgment call by police officers.

In simple terms, if noise is excessive and intentional, that constitutes a violation. For example, a loud vehicle operating normally is not in violation. However, the same vehicle revving its engine or “burning rubber” is illegal.

Similarly, an ongoing loud stereo blasting neighbors is a violation, as opposed to loud music from a vehicle at an intersection while waiting for the traffic light to turn green.

Concerns about any of these subjects should be addressed to the police department at 667-2151.

Temporary Signage

Temporary signage issues are handled by the Code office at 962-2506, not the police department. The most frequent concern is—you guessed it—garage sale signs.

Garage sale signs must not be placed on public property, but may be placed Fridays on private property on corners inside of the sidewalk. They must be removed by Sunday night.

Temporary signs for lost pets, homes for sale or rent, open houses and others may be placed only on the property of the owner, not on the corners of the block, not on any public signpost and not in the public easement area between the sidewalk and the curb.

Code enforcement officers—who now work weekends—may remove the signs and tickets may be written.

CodeBusters: Who you gonna call?

Loveland’s City Code covers a multitude of subjects, but can be summarized simply by saying it’s focused on the health, safety and quality of life of Loveland’s citizens. The code relates to citizen’s residence, the neighborhood and other issues that affect people, pets and possessions. Because of its breadth, oversight by officials is also broad. It can be confusing for the average citizen to know who to call for information, advice or complaints.

The City has recently combined some operations to simplify things, but there’s still some complexity. Generally speaking, if the concern relates to

- private property, call the City code office at 962-2506
- public property, call the police at 667-2151
- animals, call the Larimer Humane Society at 226-3647.

(Enforcement is especially easy because the signs have an address or phone number right on them!)

The City supports business and free enterprise, whether it’s the sale of a \$350,000 home or an old sofa at a garage sale. But improper signage can impede pedestrians, block motorists’ line of sight and simply make a neighborhood look trashy.

Don’t cause neighbors to call 962-2506 to report infractions.

Pets

A number of pet regulations exist to keep Loveland safe, healthy and peaceful.

Pet owners are required to prevent their animals from disturbing the peace and quiet. Disturbances include loud and persistent barking, baying, howling, yipping etc. If a complaint is filed pet owners may receive a warning, then a citation.

Pet owners are required to leash pets at all times when not confined on private property. This includes cats, too.

Pet owners who fail to remove animal waste on streets, sidewalks, parks, recreation areas (including water) and on private property are in violation of City code. The City provides animal waste bags and trash receptacles at stations along all city recreation trails. Horses are not allowed on recreation trails.

Know the Code?



Take the Code Quiz at www.cityofloveland.org

Owners may be ticketed if their pets are a safety or health hazard. This can include scaring or jumping on a person, injuring a person or another animal, or damaging property.

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Take heed ‘cause the heat is on

City of Loveland police are actively participating in the 2009 Heat is On Campaign—a state-funded program for the apprehension of DUI drivers. The program is coordinated through the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Loveland officers and law enforcement agencies throughout Colorado will be out in force this summer to identify and arrest impaired drivers. The overall goal of the campaign is to decrease fatalities and injuries from drunk driving.

“Although no checkpoints are currently planned in the city limits, we will have extra officers out doing enforcement this summer,” said Loveland Police Officer Chuck Higney. “We want residents to have a safe summer and want to remind citizens to arrange for a non-drinking driver when needed. Those who fail to do so will be caught and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law,” Higney said.

Dispose of large items free

From July 31 to Aug. 30, Loveland residents will be able to take large, unwanted items to the Recycling Center, 400 N. Wilson, for disposal, with a special, one-time permit.

Each free permit allows a household a one-time drop off of up to one pickup truck load of large items not easily collected at the curb. These items will be accepted Fridays through Sundays only.

Large items should be sorted so they can be recycled or composted to the greatest extent possible. Examples

of materials accepted include old furniture, carpeting/padding, building materials, appliances and up to four standard tires.

Unacceptable materials include household trash, small items collected with regular household trash and hazardous wastes. Residents are strongly encouraged to read the permit instructions thoroughly. Loads containing unacceptable materials will not be accepted.

Permits are available at the Solid Waste Division office, 105 W. Fifth Street, or call 962-2529.



Got an event? Apply for a permit online

The City's online event permit system has proven a useful tool for citizens who want to hold outdoor parties or event organizers who plan large scale events within city limits. Examples include parades, athletic events, street fairs, craft shows, carnivals or any other activity that takes place on public property and/or impacts pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

Applications can be submitted up to one year in advance but not less than 20 business days before the event. Applicants must allow additional processing time if permits from other City departments and outside agencies are required.

To begin the permit process online, go to the Online Services button at www.cityofloveland.org and click on Submit Special Event Permit, or call 962-2239.

Correction to W&P's GreenSwitch Product Content Label

Some of the information in the 2008 Product Content Label, printed in the June, 2009 City Update, was incorrect. The information in the table below is accurate. For more information on purchasing clean, renewable energy through the GreenSwitch program, call 962-3000.

The Green-e Program certifies that Loveland's GreenSwitch Program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e certification requirements, call (888) 63-GREEN or log on to www.green-e.org.



2008 - Historical Product Content Label

Generation Type	GreenSwitch Program	Default
Mix		
Eligible Renewables ¹ :		
Wind (Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming)	88%	0.0%
Landfill Gas (Idaho)	12%	0.0%
Total Eligible Renewables	100%	0.0%
Coal		73.1%
Hydro		20.3%
Gas		2.5%
Other ²		4.0%
TOTALS	100%	100%

¹ Eligible renewable include wind, solar, small hydro, biomass and geothermal generation facilities in operation on or after January 1, 1997.

² Other sources include purchases and power sharing agreements from various resources.

City codes help ensure safety, health, esthetics

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The number of pets per household is limited according to the owner's ability to maintain healthy living conditions. Owners must also be able to keep their animals from disturbing neighbors.

While some birds, rodents and small nonpoisonous reptiles (six feet or less in length) are allowed to be kept as pets, raccoons, any species of cat other than ordinary domesticated house cats, chimpanzees, bears, skunks, wolves, coyotes and foxes are just a sampling of animals that are prohibited from being kept as pets.

Remember, every cat and dog is required to have had a rabies vaccination, be licensed and always wear tags indicating this.

For information or to report violations, contact the Larimer Humane Society at 226-3647.

W&P's message of conservation seeping into daily practice

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not allowing sprinklers to water the sidewalk.

"We feel it's important to educate the community about wise water use" said Larry Howard, senior water resources engineer. "We think exposing children to these concepts at a young age will increase the likelihood that they'll integrate these practices in their daily lives, now and in the future. And it's not uncommon for children to educate their parents in good conservation practices either."

Last month, W&P also co-sponsored the annual Loveland Youth Gardeners' garden tour. The tour featured a number of xeriscape gardens as well as hardscaping and garden art, which require no water at all, but still enhance the beauty of a landscape.

According to Greg Dewey, water resources engineer, Loveland is fortunate that its water supply is ample. "We want customers to know that when they need water, we've got it. But we want them to understand too, the importance of water conservation.

"Helping the public use water efficiently will help us continue to ensure that we will be able to meet our residents' water needs for many years to come," Dewey said.

For more information on water conservation go to the W&P Resource Efficiency Program pages at www.cityofloveland.org or call 962-3000.

Dinner is served



Stormwater pollution affects what you eat

Dangerous contaminants such as pesticides, motor oil, pet waste, cleaners, and other harmful pollutants get into storm drains, contaminating our waterways and polluting the environment.

It all adds up and it all comes back to you and your family.

But you can be part of the solution by keeping contaminants out of the storm drains. Learn how at www.cityofloveland.org/PublicWorks/Stormwater/StormwaterQuality.htm or call 962-2772.

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.