**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 according to City code, with care and respect for neighbors. But sometimes not. All it takes is one neighbor unfamiliar with City code to undo 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.

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**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 why water conservation is important and providing examples of how to use water efficiently such as turning off the faucet while brushing teeth, and (continued on page 4)
City codes help ensure safety, health, esthetics

On Private Property
Permit Needed?

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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 because of his work can cost the owner big bucks.

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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 load 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.

(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?

 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.

(continued on page 4)

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.

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.
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.

City codes help ensure safety, health, esthetics (continued from page 3)

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.

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.

W&P’s message of conservation seeping into daily practice (continued from page 1)

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.

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2008 - Historical Product Content Label

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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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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.

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.