Interchange improvements ahead

In 1963, when I-25 grew northward to connect with US 34 to Loveland, John F. Kennedy was President and agriculture was the mainstay of the town of 12,000. The cloverleaf design for the occasional vehicles getting on and off the freeway worked well.

Since then, Loveland's population has grown more than five-fold and the I-25/US 34 interchange area has become a busy part of Loveland—the volume of traffic has outgrown the cloverleaf design. With speeds of 75 mph and more, a constant flow of vehicles using the same piece of roadway to enter and exit the freeway has become a safety issue.

That's about to change. Construction has begun for $8.7 million in major improvements for the interchange. Two “leaves” of the cloverleaf design (continued on page 2)

Annual survey results positive again

It's been a tougher than usual economy in Loveland since 2008, but local residents say the overall quality of life here remains high. That's the result indicated by the annual citywide survey this year.

Again, Loveland residents have given high marks to City government services, facilities and opportunities despite current economic challenges. Responses to individual survey questions as well as overall trends show continued satisfaction.

This summer, the City again sent its 24-question survey to 3,000 local addresses and received 870 questionnaires back, a 29 percent response. Only about 380 responses were needed for a 95 percent confidence interval of +/- 5 percentage points.

With the exception of 2007, the City has mailed out the annual Quality of Life Survey since 2004. In 2007, the City hired a consulting firm to administer a broader, more in-depth survey. Another in-depth survey is likely in 2012.

Of the 24 questions, responses to 8 showed a significant satisfaction increase—3 percentage points or more—and 3 showed a significant decrease.

Due to the repetitive nature of the survey, trend lines were included in the survey report this year. Trends were shown for each individual question, plus a trend line for all the questions combined was also included.

In addition to responding to questions, the survey provided respondents an opportunity to write comments. More than 340 comments were received.

Saving energy just makes cents

You don't have to read by candlelight or keep the thermostat at 60 all winter to save energy. Making even a few small adjustments at home can have a measureable impact on your home's energy consumption—and on your wallet.

Sealing: A home’s ‘envelope’ refers to its doors, windows, floors, walls, ceiling and attic—anywhere outside air can get in or inside air can get out. When there are air leaks or poor insulation, the envelope is not energy efficient.

(continued on page 4)
Interchange improvements ahead (continued from page 1)

Entering the freeway will change very little. Eastbound US 34 motorists heading south toward Denver will continue to use the current entry ramp while northbound motorists will continue to use the existing cloverleaf, but with an extended acceleration lane. Westbound US 34 motorists heading north will use the existing ramp while southbound drivers heading to Denver will use the existing leaf, again with an extended acceleration lane.

For the motorist

Currently, two leaves of the cloverleaf are used for entering the freeway and two for exiting, with entry and exit roadway sections being shared under the bridges. While exiting motorists are using the shared section and braking, entering motorists are pressing hard on the accelerator.

During busy times, multiple vehicles with a variety of braking and accelerating characteristics—cars, trucks, semis, motorcycles, etc.—are engaged in this slow down/speed up choreography. Frazzled nerves, close calls and accidents occur.

The new design will separate the on/off traffic. Exiting and entering traffic will each have its own roadway sections to slow down or speed up. No more sharing.

13 things you should know about the interchange improvements at I-25 and US 34

1. The cloverleaf interchange has been in service since the early 1960s. Before that, it was a large traffic circle called a rotary.
2. Currently at the interchange, 40,000 vehicles per day use US 34 and 70,000 vehicles per day use I-25. By 2020, those numbers will increase to 66,000 and 86,000, respectively.
3. The improvements focus on safety, especially the sections on I-25 and US 34 where vehicles are entering and exiting using the same stretch of roadway. Bottlenecks and accidents are the result.
4. On I-25, the project will remove two loop ramp exits, reconstruct two off-ramps and lengthen the entry acceleration lane. On US 34, two traffic signals will be added.
5. The majority of work will be complete by Thanksgiving 2010, with almost all of the work done with traffic flowing. Closures will be limited to nights.
6. Cost of construction and management for the project is $8.75 million.
7. Several contractors will be heavily involved in the construction, thereby supporting and creating many jobs.
8. No debt will be incurred. All project funding already exists, the result of Centerra developments.
9. Landscaping improvements will make the interchange more visually attractive. Future additional aesthetic improvements are possible but not currently scheduled.
10. Future I-25 improvements will remove the other two loop ramps and have directional ramps. Future US 34 improvements will include interchanges at Rocky Mountain Avenue and Centerra Parkway
11. Future improvements will bring total cost to $350 million or more. They will be built in phases and design has not begun.
12. Your patience during the project will be greatly appreciated and you’ll be rewarded with a safer, smoother flowing and far less stressful intersection.

2010 Census - It’s Easy, It’s Safe, and It’s Important

On April 1, 2010 the nation will conduct a complete count of every man, woman and child living in the United States. Everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age or legal status, deserves to and should be counted. The Census, which is held every ten years, is simply a count of every living person in the U.S.—nothing more, nothing less.

Answers are strictly confidential and are protected by law. No person or agency—not the Internal Revenue Service, Immigration & Naturalization Service or even the President himself, can solicit or look at anyone’s answers.

The upcoming Census will tell us how much we’ve grown in the last ten years and give residents a snapshot of the Loveland community as it is right now. Loveland has been participating in the national Census since 1880.

- In 1880, Loveland’s population was 236
- In 1940 Loveland’s population was 6,145
- In 1980 Loveland’s population was 30,244
- In 2000 Loveland’s population was 50,608—just over the 50,000 mark

The level of participation directly affects the city’s ability to access federal monies for numerous programs and projects including Education, Roads, Trails & Open Space, Veteran’s Programs, Transportation, Programs for Elderly, Human Services, Parks and Affordable Housing.

The count also provides demographic information for businesses interested in locating in Loveland, as well as determining Loveland’s political representation.

"Money Talks"

Will you need long-term care?

Long-term care can range from limited home help to extended nursing home stays. The costs particularly for nursing home care can be enormous.

In the Jan. 12 and 13 Money Talks programs, Laurel Kubin will discuss how to decide whether or not you need insurance to pay for possible long-term care, what the common policy features are, and how to pick the right provider.

Money Talks is free and presented at noon, Jan. 12 and at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 13. Both programs are presented 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.
Over the holidays, make sure that the spirit of the season kindles your heart—not your home. According to the National Fire Protection Association, December and January are the peak months for the overall number of home fires, deaths and injuries, and after kitchen fires, Christmas trees and other holiday decorations are often the culprits.

To ensure a joyous and safe holiday season, follow these important safety tips:

**The Christmas tree**
- Keep tree base immersed in water
- Use flame retardant decorations and paper
- Unplug lights when leaving home and at night before going to bed
- Inspect Christmas lights for frayed or cracked wiring, broken plugs and defective sockets
- Recycle your tree soon after the holidays—before the needles dry out

For more information on fire safety at the holidays and year-round, contact Loveland Fire & Rescue, 962-2537 or visit the Fire & Rescue webpages at www.cityofloveland.org.

---

**Christmas Tree Recycling**
The Loveland Parks and Recreation Department is recycling Christmas trees at no charge at three drop-off locations. Signs will direct participants to appropriate drop-off areas at each location.

- Centennial Park—W. First and Taft (in the parking lot north of First St., west of Swift Field)
- Loveland Recycling Center—off 1st Street & Wilson Ave.
- Kroh Park—N. Hwy. 287 and 52nd St. (adjacent to Habitat for Humanity)

Trees can be dropped daily, sun-up ‘til sun-down between Dec. 20 and Jan. 31. Please remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights, nails, screws, wire, tree stands and bags.

Christmas tree recycling provides mulch for trees and planter beds in City parks. Last year, more than 5,000 Christmas trees were chipped and recycled into 500 cubic yards of mulch.

For additional information, call the Parks and Recreation, 962-2727.

---

**Dalí – One Man – Four Exhibits**

Salvador Dalí, best-known for his groundbreaking surrealist work, is the subject of four exhibits at the Loveland Museum/Gallery.

**Dali Illustrates Dante’s Divine Comedy**—thru Jan. 31

Dali created a series of 100 watercolor paintings, illustrating Dante’s epic poem. The paintings were reproduced into 3,500 hand-carved wood blocks, on display in the Main Gallery.

**Dalí’s Vision**—thru Jan. 31

Also in the Main Gallery is an exhibition of selected work featuring books and other illustrations in their original format, including Alice in Wonderland, Paradise Lost and Don Quixote.

**Philippe Halsman Photographs of Salvador Dalí**—thru Jan. 31

These famous photographs, produced (continued on page 4)
Saving energy just makes cents

Homes that are not well sealed can cost ten percent more for energy, annually.

In Colorado, where extreme summer and winter temperatures are common, good insulation is a must. Buildings in northern Colorado have a recommended R-49 insulation rating. If a home’s insulation is not up to the R-49 standard, it’s losing warm air in the winter and cool air in the summer. A well-insulated home is the first, best step to saving energy and money on heating and air conditioning.

Heating: A well-maintained heating system will always run more efficiently and save more energy than a neglected one. Replacing the furnace’s filter is the first step to improving efficiency. Most filters need to be replaced at least every other month. During periods of heavy use, filters may need to be changed so infrequently.

Lighting: Compact Fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) are now well-established in the home lighting market, and for good reason. Incandescent bulbs generally last less than 1,000 hours while CFLs can last up to 10,000 hours (based on one year of use at three hours per day). CFLs also use much less electricity—approximately 75 to 80 percent less than regular bulbs, which can help lower utility bills. CFLs are now available in a variety of shapes and sizes to fit any lamp or fixture inside or outside the house. They are ideal for use in vaulted ceilings and other hard-to-reach areas since they need to be changed so infrequently.

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are another up-and-coming lighting technology that provides very energy-efficient lighting. Currently, the most common use for LEDSs in the residential market is holiday tree lighting. Soon, LEDs will be available for a variety of home lighting needs.

When it’s time to buy new appliances, go with those that have the Energy Star® certification. Energy-Star approved appliances use electricity more efficiently than their non-approved competitors.

Turning them off: Even after hitting the OFF switch, many appliances such as TVs, computer monitors, printers, DVD players, stereos, microwaves and even some coffee pots, still draw power. Simply unplugging them prevents this ‘phantom’ power loss. Power strips are another good way to prevent phantom power loss.

In addition, helping every member of the family get in the routine of turning off lights, TVs, computers and appliances when not in use will also help save energy and money during the winter and year-round.

Subscribing: Take advantage of City energy-saving programs. The City has programs in place that are designed to help Loveland Water & Power customers get the best possible service at a very affordable cost, while being as energy efficient and environmentally sensitive as possible.

For more information on saving energy and money, go to www.cityofloveland.org or call Loveland Water & Power, 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.