

## Bus routes expanded; ridership grows

Loveland's efforts to better meet community transit desires have been successful. Ridership during 2008 increased by 21 percent.

More buses, more routes and more destinations serviced more riders; a total of more than 135,000 passenger rides on the City's three regular (fixed) bus routes last year.

Major changes in the bus system were launched in August. A third Loveland bus route began and the two existing routes were modified. Overall, service was expanded to the north, south and east while at the same time making the routes more convenient for the riders.

The new Orange Route offers new, more direct north-south service. The Green and Blue routes were each revised and expanded a bit to serve east and west Loveland, respectively. All three buses meet at two central locations for passenger transfers.

And to misquote presidential candidate and newspaper editor Horace Greeley, the transit system now enables Loveland riders to "Go east, young man" into Horace's namesake community. The Loveland system connects at Centerra with the new 34 Xpress route into Greeley.

The FoxTrot bus to Fort Collins continues to run every hour, with its

transfer station now at the Orchards Shopping Center.

Even more of Loveland's most popular destinations—for work, play or shopping—are served by the bus system. Medical visits, grocery shopping, recreation centers, schools and many other locations are available by bus.

Schools are especially popular because students who don't live far enough away to qualify for school bus service are frequent riders of City buses. Getting to and from class on a non-yellow bus is convenient, warm and very inexpensive.

In addition to the fixed route services, the City's Paratransit buses continue to be busy, providing door-to-door service for qualified riders. Almost 11,000 Paratransit trips were provided to senior citizens and persons with qualifying disabilities.



*More about City buses inside*

## Fire hydrant flushing begins in April

The City of Loveland Water Department will begin the annual fire hydrant flushing program April 13, 2009.

Flushing hydrants helps keep the interior of the pipes clean, helps maintain excellent water quality and ensures hydrants are operating properly.

Discoloration of household water can occur during the flushing process. Although it is not recommended to use for laundry due to possible staining of clothes, it is safe to drink.



The flushing program will begin on the west side of Loveland and work eastward. Each area of town will be notified before the flushing begins.

### 2009 Flushing Schedule:

- April 13-17 – NW Loveland - north of Hwy. 34 and west of Colorado Ave.
- April 20-24 – SW Loveland - south of Hwy. 34 and west of Colorado Ave.
- April 27-May 1 – NE Loveland - north of Hwy. 34 and east of Colorado Ave.
- May 4-8 – SE Loveland - south of Hwy. 34 and east of Colorado Ave. (this includes downtown; flushing occurs over night)
- May 11-15 – Denver Ave. east to Centerra

For more info, call 962-3720.

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## Pancake Breakfast & Plant Sale

Bring the whole family 8-11 a.m., Sat., April 18 to the Chilson Senior Center and enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, ham, juice, and coffee, and enjoy the morning's entertainment. Then browse through the Plant Sale to find just the perfect piece of greenery to enhance the home, landscape, or office.

Adult tickets: \$4 advance, \$5 at door. Children 12 and under: \$2.50 advance, \$5 at door.

## "Money Talks" Investing 101

Laurel Kubin, director of the CSU Extension and Susan Linden, MBA will co-facilitate an Investing 101 presentation, April 14. Points covered will include the difference between saving and investing, asset allocation, personal risk tolerance and long-term planning.

The Money Talks presentation is a free, monthly series offered through the Loveland Public Library. The program begins at noon in the Gertrude B. Scott Room at the library.

Investing 101 will also be presented at 6:30 p.m. on April 14. Beverages are provided for both lectures and attendees are welcome to bring their lunch at noon. For more information call 962-2402.

## Bus rides a bargain for passengers

“Step right Up. Have I got a deal for you! 92 percent off on your transportation needs. That’s right, just 8 cents on the dollar.”

Sales of cars, motorcycles, scooters, bicycles and almost everything else that brings a person from Point A to Point B would skyrocket at discount prices like that. Yet that’s the real deal for Loveland transit system customers...bus riders.

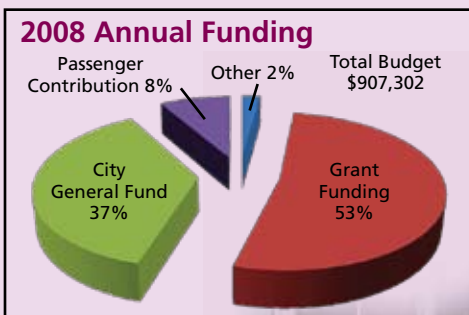
The individual cost to riders when they reach into their pockets to pay the bus fare or buy a multi-trip bus pass is just a smidgen of the actual cost for the service. Out-of-pocket fares make up only 8 percent of the total cost of the City of Loveland Transit operating budget.

Where does the rest come from? Basically, City and federal funds.

Federal monies pay more than half the cost with Loveland General Fund monies paying more than a third.

On a typical day, six buses are running 7 - 12 hour shifts. Three are the Blue, Green and Orange fixed route buses and three provide door-to-door Paratransit service for seniors and residents with disabilities.

During 2008, 135,917 total rides for fixed route and Paratransit were provided at a cost of \$907,302, resulting in an average cost of \$6.67 per rider. Doing the math,



8 percent of \$6.67 equals a 53-cent average fare paid by riders.

A more exact breakdown shows the average fixed route rider cost was \$5.49 while the Paratransit cost was \$28.69 – no, that’s not a typo.

Actual fare costs vary widely. Different fixed route fares are offered for individual trips, multiple passes, students, seniors and others. Highest cost is \$1.25 for an individual ride, lowest cost is free for young children, and a popular option for students is a year-long unlimited-ride pass for \$25.

Paratransit fares have fewer options and cost a bit more, but still far below the actual cost. These costs range from \$2 to as low as \$.94 per ride with a multi-ride pass.



### Bus Fares

<b>Adult (19-59)</b>	\$ 1.25 \$22.50 – 20-ride pass \$30.00 – Monthly pass \$ .60 – Low Income \$12.50 – Low Income 20 Punch
<b>Student (6-18)</b>	\$ .50 \$25.00 – Annual Pass \$12.50 – Low Income Annual
<b>Child (0-5)</b>	Free
<b>Seniors &amp; Person with Disabilities</b>	\$ .60
<b>Paratransit</b>	\$ 2.00 Regular \$ 1.00 Low Income \$37.50 20-punch pass \$18.75 Low Income 20 Punch

## Building inspector probably saved lives

A Loveland city government building inspector has received an award for likely saving the lives of a local resident and her pets. Loveland Mayor Gene Pielin presented a plaque at Tuesday night’s city council meeting honoring the action of Building Inspector James Arnot.

In mid-December, Arnot went to the Loveland home of Pat Bethke to perform a routine scheduled air conditioner inspection. Bethke welcomed Arnot, pointed him to the crawl space entry and said that he shouldn’t be afraid of her dog because Tilly was not feeling well, hadn’t eaten for a couple of days and didn’t want to wake up.

Upon entering the crawl space, Arnot immediately noticed that the furnace’s flue had been completely dislodged from the vent and was filling the house with carbon monoxide. He exited the crawl space and shut off the furnace.

Arnot asked Bethke if she felt nauseous, fatigued or was having

headaches. She didn’t complain of those symptoms but Arnot thought she appeared a bit disoriented.

Arnot began opening the home’s windows and doors to ventilate the structure, advised Bethke to leave the residence with Tilly and her cat Killer, and assisted Bethke in phoning a local mechanical contractor who was immediately dispatched to repair the furnace flue.

All members of the household recovered from the incident and Arnot received a card of thanks from Bethke.

Later, it was presumed that a workman who had been in the crawl space a

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## Get ready for springtime sports

Registration is underway for Parks & Recreation springtime sports for youth and adults.

Sports include:

- Lacrosse (NEW!): ages 8-11, 4-week class April 1-22
- In-line hockey: ages preschool – 10th grade, starting March 23
- Gymnastics: ages 1½-16, starting April 13
- Tennis: ages 3 to adult, starting April 13
- Summer softball: adults, registration begins March 30
- Sand volleyball: adults, registration begins April 27

For more information see the spring *Leisure Times* brochure or call 962-2440.



## Door-to-door service without the meter running

Loveland residents age 60 and older or residents with a qualifying disability can get door-to-door transportation service and there's never a meter running. For a flat rate of no more than \$2 per trip, a City of Loveland Transit Paratransit bus will take riders anywhere in Loveland.

Paratransit riders can reserve a ride up to 14 days in advance. At least one day's advance notice is highly recommended because the service is booked on a first come-first served basis. Unlikely but possible are same-day transportation requests that on

rare occasions can be accommodated if a prior reservation is cancelled.

Individual or group rides are provided, depending upon time and destination. Group rides are provided several times a week to popular destinations such as the Chilson Senior Center, grocery stores and general merchandise stores.

Paratransit is frequently used by residents for transportation to medical appointments or dialysis treatments, but ride requests are not limited to special purposes. Rides within Loveland are provided for any reason; to visit family, lunch with a friend,

downtown shopping, going to the movies, whatever.

Providing this type of service is a federal requirement for communities that provide fixed route bus service and receive funding from the federal government. The minimum requirement calls for paratransit service within  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles of the fixed route system but Loveland exceeds this by providing service throughout the entire Loveland city limits. Six days a week, up to three Paratransit buses provide service about 12 hours a day.

## Transit plan moving forward

The cities of Loveland and Fort Collins along with the Poudre School District (PSD) are working on a Strategic Transit Plan for public transportation in the area. The three-tiered approach will offer suggestions ranging from simple modifications to current operations to major changes to be accomplished during the next 10 years or so.

Needless to say, many factors come into play. Perhaps none is larger than dealing with the program's wishes verses funding realities.

While the different government partners are working together to foster regional connections and program efficiencies, adoption of the plan and implementing its recommendations is not an all-or-nothing necessity. The cities can independently select whether or not they wish to or are able to move ahead with specific elements of the plan.

The plan is primarily an update of Fort Collins' 2002 transit plan and Loveland's 2004 plan. Many committee meetings and public input opportunities have occurred since the effort began last summer, with more to come as the plan proceeds toward review and approval by the Fort Collins and Loveland city councils this summer.

A professional consulting firm paid by both cities is preparing the plan.



## Seventh Annual Waterway Cleanup - April 18

In celebration of Earth Day, April 22, the City's Stormwater Division is once again sponsoring the Seventh Annual Waterway Cleanup. This annual event gives citizens the opportunity to actively improve local water quality, beautify natural areas and be good stewards of the community.

Last year, 281 volunteers spent the morning clearing and removing approximately seven tons of trash and debris including 88 shopping carts, 14 tires, 6 bikes and a box spring from designated waterways within city limits.

This year event coordinators are hoping to remove even more trash from area waterways. Volunteers will meet at designated locations at 9 a.m. rain or shine.

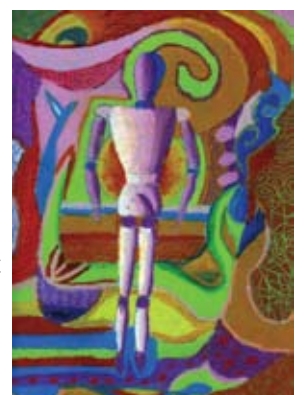
For more information or to volunteer e-mail [stormwater@ci.loveland.co.us](mailto:stormwater@ci.loveland.co.us) or call 962-2772.



## Students exhibit wild world of art

Support Loveland and Berthoud's youth artistry and celebrate *National Youth Art Month* with the annual Thompson School District student art show. "Wild, Wild World of Art" displays artwork of R2-J students in grades 1st through 12th and will feature two and three-dimensional works of art including photography, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, collage, painting and drawing.

The show runs through March 29 at the Loveland Museum/Gallery. The Thompson School District Art show is a part of the ArtSteps program.



Pastel 1 by Luis Santacruz, Winona Elememntary

## Garden-in-a-Box simple, fun

Many people are interested in low-water landscaping but are overwhelmed by plant selection and do not have the expertise, time or money to invest in the design process. To help Loveland residents plant beautiful, low-maintenance xeriscapes, the City of Loveland has partnered with the Center for Resource Conservation (CRC) to present Garden-in-a-Box.

Garden-in-a-Box is a professionally designed, preplanned xeriscape garden that comes with plants, design layout, and planting and maintenance instructions. Three designs are available to choose from and each one has between 32 and 38 plants that come in 2 or 4 inch pots, depending on the design.

Due to the City's collaboration with CRC, the gardens cost from \$65 to

\$120, significantly below retail price, and are designed to cover between 75 and 200 square feet.

To reserve a Garden-in-a-Box unit, Loveland residents must pre-order and pre-pay. There are a limited number of gardens available that are reserved on a first-come first-serve basis. Reservations are now being accepted.

All gardens must be picked up 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat., May 23, at Loveland Water and Power's Service Center. 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. 217 or visit CRC's website at [www.conservationcenter.org](http://www.conservationcenter.org).

## Greater variety accepted at recycling center

The Loveland Recycling Center, 400 N. Wilson, has again expanded its growing list of items and materials that can be dropped off for recycling.

The recycling center is now accepting used automotive oil filters and anti-freeze. Filters must be punctured on the top and drained at least 24 hours, while anti-freeze should be placed in a non-breakable container.

In addition, the center is now accepting a wider range of used electronic equipment. The following fees apply:

- Laptops - \$3 each
- VCRs, CD and DVD players - \$3 each
- Car stereos - \$3 for a complete system
- Home stereos - \$3 per component
- Large monitors 20" and greater - \$15 each

E-waste placed in trash carts for normal collection will not be accepted and left alongside owners' carts.

For more information, please visit the Solid Waste Division website at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org) or call 962-2529.



## Yard waste service begins March 30

Yard waste cart subscribers can set out their yard waste carts for weekly collection along with recyclable materials and household trash on their regular collection day beginning March 30. The fee is \$7.50 per month.

### Acceptable Yard Waste:

- Grass clippings, leaves, garden trimmings and branches (cut to fit into cart)

A loaded cart must weigh less than 250 pounds and the lid must be able to close.

### Unacceptable Yard Waste:

- Sod or soil
- Food waste
- Pet waste
- Plastic bags
- Trash, rocks or metal
- Ashes (hot or cold)
- Oversized branches, stumps or lumber

The program runs until the first week of December. To sign-up for yard-waste service call 962-2111, or for more information call 962-2529.



## Older Worker Job Fair April 22

Put your experience to work. The Larimer County Older Worker Job Fair is for adults ages 50+ who are seeking full-time, part-time, or seasonal employment.

The fair will be held 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. April 22 at the Chilson Senior Center, 700 E. 4th St. For more information, please contact the Larimer County Workforce Center at 667-4261.

## Local grant process underway

In 2009, the City of Loveland will provide almost \$700,000 to local organizations that serve low income Loveland citizens. \$450,000 will come directly from the City budget, with the remainder of the \$685,227 in total grant monies coming from the federal housing department.

The City's Community Partnership Office has received 57 initial requests totaling \$1,244,390 from local non-profit agencies that provide services such as food, shelter, case management and child care. Loveland's Human Services Commission and Affordable Housing Commission review the requests and make determinations on which agencies receive grants and how much.

Final approval occurs in June and revenue disbursements occur July, 2009 – September, 2010.

## Building inspector probably saved lives

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couple of days earlier for an annual lawn sprinkler system shutoff had probably accidentally bumped into the furnace and dislodged the flue.

In discussing the incident, Arnot said "I believe the fortunate results of this incident are more a tribute to the efforts and training of the entire Building Division staff than the performance of any one individual. The Building Division staff proudly strives to provide the greatest level of public safety possible." He said that any of the building inspectors would have done the same thing.

Arnot has been a building inspector with the City of Loveland for four years.

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](mailto:hillea@ci.loveland.co.us). Visit the City's website at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org).