



www.cityofloveland.org

THE LOVELAND City Update

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Emergencies uncommon here, but...



The Loveland area has been fairly fortunate. In the past four decades, only twice have major emergencies resulted in casualties and significant damage to property and possessions.

The 1976 flash flood in the Big Thompson Canyon took 145 lives and destroyed or damaged more than 700 homes and businesses. The two-week Bobcat wildfire of June, 2000 scorched 10,600 acres, claimed 22 structures but thankfully resulted in no serious injuries.

But something could happen tomorrow. Mother Nature and human beings are unpredictable. This month's *City Update* focuses on emergency preparedness; what the City is doing and what residents should be doing in case a disaster or major emergency occurs.

More emergency preparedness info inside

Garden-in-a-Box makes water-wise landscaping simple and fun

The City of Loveland has partnered with the Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC) to help provide Loveland residents with tools to implement "water-wise" landscaping. Through programs like Garden-in-a-Box, for the past 33 years the Boulder-based non-profit has helped lead Colorado residents, businesses, and governments towards a sustainable future.

CRC discovered long ago that many people are interested in low-water landscaping, yet they are often overwhelmed by plant selection and do not have the expertise, time or money to invest in the design process. Through Garden-in-a-Box, residents are provided with an easy and affordable way to learn about and install beautiful xeriscapes.

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 every spring,



and each one has between 32 and 38 plants that come in 4 or 2 inch pots, depending on the design.

Through the City of Loveland and CRC's collaborative partnership, the gardens are provided at rates significantly below retail cost, from \$55 to \$110, 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 and are reserved on a first-come first-serve basis.

All gardens must be picked up Sat., May 17 at Loveland Water and Power's Service Center at 1st Street and Wilson Avenue. 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) 441-3278 ext. 17 or by visiting CRC at www.conservationcenter.org/Garden-in-a-box.htm.



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Pancake breakfast & plant sale April 19

Come for a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, ham, juice, and coffee, then browse for that perfect piece of greenery for your home, landscape, or office. A clown and other entertainment make this a great way to spend the morning for the entire family.

The event goes from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Chilson Senior Center, 700 E. Fourth St. Tickets are available at the Senior Center or on the day of the event. Adults: \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door; Children (12 & under): \$2.50 in advance; \$3 at the door. Call 962-2783 for more information.

TIRE D OF WINTER?

ENJOY UNLIMITED CHILSON VISITS
Spring Break April 4-13, 2008
Youth-\$10 Adult-\$15

Activities: Swimming, Basketball, Weights, Carifit, Ping Pong, Archery

REMINDER: ADULT ONLY HOURS
Monday - Friday
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

CHILSON SENIOR CENTER
700 East Fourth Street, Loveland
970-662-2783

Preparedness attention grows

In the past few years, the City of Loveland has substantially increased its efforts toward emergency preparedness. More staff hours, planning, equipment and funding have been invested in disaster preparedness.

What could happen here in quiet, pleasant Loveland, you ask? One never knows. That's why preparedness takes a broad look at "what if."

Yes, some things can be eliminated; hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, for example. But many other possibilities exist and must be taken into consideration: blizzards, tornadoes, wind storms, lightning strikes, floods, drought, landslides, wildfires, earthquakes, dam breaks, pandemics, hazardous material spills, power outages, technology interruptions, water contamination, civil unrest, and of course, terrorist attacks or other intentional acts.

Loveland currently has two Fire and Rescue officers fully devoted to emergency preparedness and management. Basically, 100 percent of their time is focused on preparedness for Loveland—creating plans, determining feasibility of response and recovery actions, developing and updating Loveland's Emergency Operations Center, training City staff, preparing and executing emergency simulations and exercises, and seeking and receiving ongoing training for themselves.

Loveland's Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) has undergone expansion and updates. LEOP is a broad plan dealing with who, how and what resources to employ for emergency/disaster prevention, response, control, restraint, mitigation and recovery. The updated LEOP works in conjunction with the Northern Colorado Hazard Mitigation

Are you prepared? Self-sufficient?

Self sufficiency is the key to self-preservation and household sustainability during a widespread situation or disaster. The better prepared a household or business is, the better it can deal with an extraordinary circumstance.

Many people seem to expect government to be their caretakers during a disaster. Certainly, great effort will be made to respond and assist as much as possible. But reality and people's expectations may not match.

Loveland has a total of about 200 trained first responders, including police, fire and ambulance staff. Loveland's population is more than 65,000. Plus, another 25,000 people live in the rural areas outside Loveland and normally receive assistance from the Loveland fire department.

In a widespread emergency, 200 responders can't individually serve 90,000. And of the 200, it's likely that many will be impacted themselves by the emergency and thus become unable to respond. Their bodies, homes and work buildings aren't impervious to disasters any more than residents'.

Therefore, individual preparedness is imperative.

- Make a plan
- Get a kit
- Stay informed

Plan, a broader geographic response plan incorporating Fort Collins and Larimer County resources.

The LEOP includes action plans for operating Loveland's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), a 13-workstation facility. At each workstation, department managers direct incident command, police, fire, public works, water and power, public

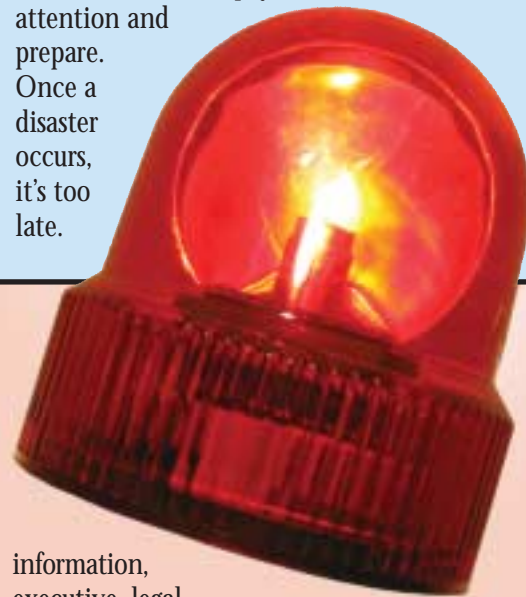
If an emergency threatens or occurs, is your household prepared to either evacuate or remain for a significant period of time? If electricity, water, heat and transportation disappear, can you deal with it?

Some emergency planners believe today's urban society is less ready and more vulnerable than decades ago when civil defense and cold war threats brought greater awareness and preparedness. Plus, today's easier lifestyle fosters complacency.

Communication is just a button or click away. Our faucets always work and power outages are very rare and very brief. Supermarkets, convenience stores and restaurants are close by and always open. Life is good in Loveland.

The fact is that rural residents tend to be better prepared. Power is less reliable, many have their own water sources, pantries tend to be well stocked, and tractors and trucks are often nearby.

Now is the time to pay attention and prepare. Once a disaster occurs, it's too late.



information, executive, legal, financial and other operations in times of emergency.

Downtown Parking: What's Your Opinion?

The City wants to know what you think about parking downtown.

- Are the slots too narrow?
- Time allotments too short?
- Too few parking places for disabled?
- Do you have trouble even finding parking downtown?

This is the time to let your voice be heard. If you think parking downtown is great, we'd like to know that too. To share your thoughts go to www.cityofloveland.org and select the "Downtown Parking Survey" link, or pick up a survey at the Planning Department, 500 East Third St. or call 962.2577.



Annual waterway cleanup April 19

In celebration of Earth Day, the City's Stormwater division is sponsoring the sixth annual Waterway Cleanup, rain or shine, Sat., April 19 from 9 a.m. to noon.

This annual clean up event gives citizens the opportunity to actively participate in improving local water quality, beautifying natural areas and being good stewards of Mother Earth.

Last year, more than 170 volunteers spent the morning removing nearly ten tons of debris from waterways within city limits. Even more trash removal is anticipated for this year.

For more information or to volunteer call 962-2764.



Preparedness Resources

For detailed information for making a household or business more self-sufficient for a disaster, please visit:

www.Ready.gov –Federal Dept. of Homeland Security.

Info on preparing an at-home kit, instructional videos and summaries, creating an emergency plan, useful checklists. Additional content for seniors, persons with disabilities and pet owners.

www.Listo.gov –Spanish version of above

www.ReadyColorado.com –prepared by Denver area public/private agencies

Emergency kit info. Emergency plan suggestions for household, neighborhood, business, finances, more.

www.CitizenCorps.gov –FEMA
“Embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared.” Info and web links primarily related to pandemic flu.

www.LarimerFlu.org –Larimer County Health Dept.

Pandemic flu basics info, videos, preparation suggestions, Larimer County's pandemic flu plan

The EOC is outfitted with computers, phones, TVs, emergency radios, HAM radios and other operational materials. On a day-to-day basis, the EOC room serves as workspace for the City's development review center, meetings, trainings, seminars and workshops.

Also underway is a Community Emergency Response Team for Loveland. Still a pilot program, about 50 carefully selected residents from various

Be Prepared

Below is summary information. Please visit the Preparedness Resources websites listed at left for greater detail.

Have a Plan

- When to stay or go
- Where to go
- Contact info: family, out-of-town contact, work, school, insurance co., doctor, pharmacy

Have a Kit

- Water; 1.5 gal./person/day
- Food; non-perishable, no cooking required
- First aid supplies
- Prescription medicines
- Common non-prescription medicines
- Supplies/tools; battery-powered radio, batteries, candles, matches, multi-function knife, etc.
- Clothes, bedding
- Specialty items; for babies, elderly, pets, disabled
- Cash, credit cards
- ID
- Important papers

Be Informed

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 Sources:

www.cityofloveland.org

Official City website

1610 AM - City's AM radio station

Channel 16 - City's cable TV channel

962-2020 - info line/call center

911 - Emergency dispatch line

Emergency Phone Notification

(EPN) - Outgoing recorded calls to local phones (land lines, not cell)

Emergency Alert System (EAS) -

Emergency messages on TV & radio stations

Info Center - Primarily for news media, operations staff. Most likely to be located at City Council Chambers in Municipal Bldg, 500 E. 3rd St.

Neighborhood info centers -

Situation will determine locations

Other sources:

www.larimer.org - Larimer County website

211 - Assistance info phone line

www.firstcall211.org - 211 website

Area newspapers

Area radio

Denver TV channels

neighborhoods throughout the Loveland area are receiving basic training to help intervene in a time of community need. The program is organized using federally recognized procedures.

Loveland's emergency preparedness efforts, planning, LEOP and EOC are like a disaster insurance policy. You hope you never need it, but enjoy a greater sense of security knowing it's there.

Calling 211 provides links to assistance

In a crisis situation that affects Loveland, 911 very often is not the number to call. 911 should certainly be called in case of major injuries, medical emergencies or other significant occurrences to someone's well-being.

However, for information about location
(continued on page 4)

City recycling center accepts a number of new items

Effective immediately, the City's recycling center, located at 400 N. Wilson Ave., is adding even more new items that can be accepted for recycling. The City is able to accept these items largely due to the private sector partner in this endeavor, Waste-Not Recycling of Loveland.

Waste-Not is a renowned regional expert in receiving, processing and marketing hard-to-recycle materials. Many of the new items accepted are various computer components that can contain toxic heavy metals. Properly recycling them can prevent contamination of groundwater at our local landfill.

The items, most of which will be accepted for free, are listed below as well as any fees that apply. Fees are necessary for some items because the cost for

disassembly can exceed the value of the materials contained therein.

- Computer monitors and TVs (\$5 to \$12.50 each for Loveland residents and \$10- \$25 for non-city residents, depending on size)
- CPUs (\$2 each)
- Laptops
- Keyboards, speakers, mice and cables
- Printers and scanners (\$5 each)
- Fax machines (\$5 each)
- Copiers (\$5 each)
- Audio/stereo equipment such as receivers, amplifiers, CD players, tape decks, turntables, speakers, car stereos, etc.
- Phones: cell, home and office

- VCRs and DVD players
- Small electronics: PDAs, Gameboys, Walkmans, iPods and video game systems
- Small appliances such as toasters, microwaves, coffeemakers, blow dryers, etc.
- Hardbound and softbound books
- Plastic bags #2 & #4. Please ensure they are clean, dry and empty of all food, receipts, etc. No sandwich bags, food wrap or black/brown trash bags
- Fire extinguishers
- Propane bottles, both refillable and non-refillable

For further information, please call the Solid Waste Division at 962-2529.

Resource efficiency survey ahead

Loveland Water and Power (W&P) wants to know what community members expect from the residential resource efficiency programs currently being offered. W&P has developed a residential survey that will be sent to a random 10 percent of homes throughout Loveland. The survey will be mailed in March and responses are requested by April 30.

Both paper and Internet versions of the survey will be offered. The survey is anonymous and begins with questions about the respondent. After the initial questions, the survey asks the customers' opinions about existing programs. The survey also includes inquiries covering a wide array of issues concerning the use of water and electricity.

Subjects of concern include:

- Residents' knowledge level regarding

available high efficiency products

- Whether financial incentives for high efficiency measures should be offered
- Whether customers would be willing to pay more in utility rates or fees to subsidize high efficiency measures for the community

Loveland Water and Power seeks to receive substantial feedback to best address the needs and desires of the community. Residents are strongly encouraged to complete and return the survey. Customers who do not receive a survey are welcome to provide feedback online at www.cityofloveland.org – go to the Water and Power Main page and click on the Residential Survey link. All feedback received by April 30, 2008 will be included in the survey results.

City horticulturists busy year-round

The City Civic Center is beautiful and serene due in no small part to the hard work of the City's parks crews that plant, weed, water and maintain not only the Civic Center, but many green areas throughout Loveland. But this hard work doesn't just happen in the warm months. "People think there's nothing for us to do in the winter because they don't see us outside working like they do in the summer but in fact, winter is a very busy time," said Nancy Schmachtenberger, parks horticulturist.

The city's Forestry and Horticulture staff generally works about a season ahead in order to be ready to go when the seasons change, so even when there's snow on the ground, parks workers are busy with budget-planning, calculating chemicals, ordering plants, supplies and equipment and even attending workshops on new varieties of plants or planting methods.

In recent years many of these educational

workshops have focused on the practice of xeriscaping ('xeri' from the Greek xeros meaning 'dry') which means to use plants which are appropriate to the local climate, easy to maintain and have low water requirements. "This is not the easiest environment for creating lush landscapes," said Schmachtenberger. "We have a short growing season and dry, arid winters so we have to make our landscapes as water-efficient as possible." According to Schmachtenberger, our challenging environment means putting exactly the right plant in the right place. When landscapes don't perform as intended they will often be replanted to optimize beauty and water-efficiency.

For more information on landscape care and maintenance, as well as helpful tips on winter care of plants and trees, go to the Parks & Recreation Forestry/Horticulture page at www.cityofloveland.org.



“Money Talks”

Love doesn't have to hurt—your wallet

Managing money is challenging under any circumstances but even more so in intimate relationships. Issues including prenuptial agreements, merging different money management styles, dealing with dual incomes and taking on a spouse's debt are serious questions for couples.

Rachel Lane, certified financial planner and co-owner of the LL Financial Group in Loveland will present ideas on how to successfully negotiate money matters in relationships and how to manage finances when relationships end. She will cover the ten most common financial mistakes made in divorce as well as tips for building and leaving an inheritance.

For Love & Money is part of the library's free monthly series, Money Talks. The program will be held at noon on Tues., April 8 in the Gertrude B. Scott room at the Loveland Public Library. Beverages will be provided.

211 provides links to assistance (continued from page 3)

and availability of resources for shelter, food, water, transportation, utilities and other assistance, calling 211 may be the answer.

The local 211 program of the United Way serves as an information hub for thousands of services and not-for-profit agencies. A call to 211 will provide information on shelter locations and availability, where to get food, clothing, medication, medical services, insurance assistance and many other resources before, during and after a disaster.

Calling 211 for this important but not life-and-death emergency information will leave the 911 lines open for critical emergency calls.

Community members who wish to volunteer their time, skills, resources, equipment and facilities to assist persons in the event of an emergency should call the 211 call center. The 211 staff will coordinate and direct volunteers to serve where they are most needed.

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.