

## Downtown continues to change

As your young nephew grows and matures, you may not notice the changes taking place if you see him frequently. On the other hand, if he lives on the East Coast and you haven't seen him for several years, you'll likely be a bit "wowed" when you encounter a young man who's 8 inches taller with a broad chest and some whiskers sprouting on his face.

Perhaps a similar analogy holds true for Loveland's downtown. We see it frequently so we tend not to notice the individual changes that have taken place; changes that are far less dramatic than a new development rising from what was recently an open field.

But like the nephew from Baltimore, a great many changes have occurred



downtown during the past several years. And like the nephew from whom you may receive graduation and wedding announcements in the years ahead, more changes downtown are likely. This month's City Update provides a summary of what's occurred downtown during the past few years and what's being considered for the years to come.

[More about downtown inside](#)

## If we can't reach you, we can't alert you

### Sign up for emergency notifications

A new emergency notification system enables Larimer County residents to receive emergency notifications on their cell phones, work phones, via text messages and e-mails in addition to receiving phone calls on their traditional home phones.

This free, expanded service requires signing up at the Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA) website, [www.leta911.org](http://www.leta911.org). Residents who don't sign up will still receive notifications on their traditional home phone but nowhere else.

### Choose how, where

The enhanced system provides residents with choices of how to be notified and the locations to be contacted about. That means notifications can be sent to your home



phone, cell phone, work phone and e-mail about situations near your home, work or child's school.

To receive notifications about more than one location, additional signups are required. For example, to receive alerts about home and child's school, two registrations are needed; once using the home address and another signup using the school address.

### Mobile lifestyle

The previous emergency notification *(continued on page 4)*

## Light your home with a twist

One of the simplest and least expensive ways to reduce energy use at home is to switch out standard incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). To help Loveland residents make the switch, Loveland Water and Power, in cooperation with Platte River Power Authority, is presenting the annual Lighting with a Twist promotion.

Loveland residents can purchase select CFLs at reduced prices at participating area retailers including: Lighting Designs, Lowe's, Orchard's

Ace Hardware, Sam's Club, and The Home Depot.

CFLs are now a proven technology in lighting that offer a number of beneficial features including reliable lighting, energy and cost savings, excellent longevity and convenience.



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## Pay utility bill online

Loveland area residents can now pay their utility bills online with a credit or debit card. Customers without access to the Internet can call Utility Billing to pay by phone. The Utility Billing Division also continues to accept cash, checks and money orders.



The new *BillPay* service accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discover cards. A \$3 convenience fee per transaction applies to card use.

*BillPay* also provides online account viewing, giving the customer the ability to view statements and to review payment, service and consumption history. In addition, during the payment process, customers may make a voluntary donation to the *Help A Neighbor in Distress* program (HAND) that helps pay the bill for qualified applicants who face a loss of City utility service.

For *BillPay* information and services, click on Pay/View Utility Bill from the Online Services button at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org) or call 962-2111.

## Downtown Past

In order to understand and appreciate what the City has done downtown in recent years and what efforts may occur in the future, it's important to first understand the basics.

Bottom line is the City does not own or control the buildings and businesses downtown. They are privately owned by many individuals and firms. The City cannot decide what businesses will operate, what rents will be charged or who the renters shall be.

However, the City can and actively does work to spur quality private investment downtown. And the City has spent more than \$18 million downtown during the past 5 years to improve the property it does control—streets, sidewalks, alleys, plazas, parks and the utilities above and below ground.

The City has used and continues to use a variety of tools to encourage quality development and redevelopment of downtown. These include mixed-use zoning, an Urban Renewal Authority, fee exemptions, a façade improvement program and public/private partnerships. Examples of the results include the square-block Lincoln Place project, the State Mercantile building at 4th and Cleveland plus others under construction like the KL&A

### Projects completed or funded during past 5 years

Project	Funding	Description
Mr. Neats purchase	\$475,000	Possible future pedestrian plaza
Home State Bank purchase	\$1,100,000	Addition to Museum/Gallery
Lincoln Place streetscape	\$1,000,000	Streetscape improvements
Specialty street sweeper	\$100,000	Better suited to downtown use
Lincoln Ave. pilot streetscape	\$364,000	Lincoln Ave. improvements, 2 blocks
DOLA/CSU streetscape plan	\$6,000	Streetscape design by CSU
Façade Program	\$155,000	Subsidies for improvements to buildings
Parking study	\$60,000	Downtown parking recommendations
Paving of 4th and RR parking lot	\$161,000	More useful, attractive
Parking lot identification signs	\$6,000	Directions to lots
Streetscape Master Plan	\$200,000	Downtown infrastructure design
Lincoln Hotel renovation	\$199,000	State grant for building rehab
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,826,000</b>	
<b>Strategic Capital Initiatives</b>		
Fairgrounds Park	\$10,078,000	Multi-facility park now open
Downtown storm water project	\$4,388,000	Flooding, drainage issues eliminated
Downtown RR crossing improvements	\$120,000	Smoother, more attractive
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,586,000</b>	
<b>Other Downtown Investments</b>		
1st and RR Tap Fee Deferral	\$60,000	Incentive to Park Place Plaza
Planter maintenance, annual	\$12,000	Ongoing costs
Street light maintenance, annual	\$8,000	Ongoing costs
KL&A incentive	\$50,000	For downtown engineering firm office
Special downtown staffing	\$72,000	Downtown is a priority
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$202,000</b>	
	<b>\$18,614,000</b>	

Engineering building in the old Buggy Top Building, and the mixed-use Park Place Plaza on First and Railroad.

The City has spent big dollars in improving the downtown storm drainage system, improving streetscape aesthetics, maintaining parking lots and commissioning studies for further

streetscape and parking improvements. The City has purchased two buildings; one for the Museum/Gallery expansion and another possibly to be torn down and replaced with a plaza. And, of course, the opening of Fairgrounds Park last month is expected to bring many more people downtown.

## What is your home's energy rating?

Cold weather will be here before we know it. Is your home ready? A good way to find out is to do a home energy audit. While hiring a professional home energy auditor is always an option, homeowners themselves can effectively measure their home's energy consumption, detect problem areas and make needed improvements.

Start with your home's furnace. A well-maintained heating system will always run more efficiently than a neglected one. Check and replace your furnace's filter. Most filters need to be replaced at least every other month. During periods of heavy use, filters may need to be changed monthly – check the manufacturer's manual for recommendations. An annual check up by a professional is also a good way to keep your system running smoothly. Also, old furnaces use a lot more energy than new ones. If your furnace is 15 years old or older, consider replacing it with a new, energy-efficient model.

Next, check the insulation. No matter how well your furnace works, it can't keep a poorly-insulated home warm. The insulation rating for Colorado is



R-49 for attics, R-13 to 21 for walls, depending on width, and R-19 for crawl spaces. Many homes—especially older ones may be insulated according to the recommended ratings that were in place when the home was built. By today's standards that amount of insulation could be inadequate.

Air leaks are an obvious energy-loss culprit. To find them check for gaps

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## 7th Annual Halloween Family Fun Festival

Dress in your Halloween best and join the Loveland Museum/Gallery and downtown merchants at Peter's Park, 503. N. Lincoln from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sat., Oct. 25 for food, fun and treats! This is a free event for the whole family.

- Costume contest
  - Downtown trick-or-treating
  - Vendor booths, children's activities
  - Food
  - Cowboy Craig's Trick-roping
- Costume contest entries must be received by 12:15 p.m. Call 962-2410 for event details or 962-2562 for vendor and sponsor information.



## Downtown Future

The future of Loveland's downtown has been and continues to be a major focus for City Council. More than a dozen new projects are being considered. Project priorities, timeline and funding play important roles during the evaluation process as approval is considered.

Topping the list is consideration of streetscape enhancements and parking improvements. As of this writing, studies or plans for both have been approved or are in progress.

The Streetscape Master Plan will explore different possibilities and create a consensus design for downtown infrastructure and aesthetic improvements. The parking study has been tracking space availability, prime-use periods, lot use, parking management options and garage possibilities.

Moving from study and design concepts to blueprints, construction and completion would require major investments of time, effort and finances. City staff and City Council will continue to gather data and evaluate possibilities for downtown Loveland's future.

## Groups focus on downtown

Several groups help direct downtown vitality. Some folks ask "Why more than one? Can't they all work together?"

The simple answer is each group serves its own function. This is typical of successful downtowns where one group may deal with revitalization while another group provides business development and marketing.

The following groups are the most active in Loveland:

- **Loveland Downtown Team:** The team studies downtown issues and makes policy recommendations to Loveland City Council. The group includes city councilors Dave Clark, Cecil Gutierrez, Larry Heckel, and Carol Johnson plus a half-dozen citizens representing downtown property owners, business owners and residents. The team is now in its second year.
- **Association of Downtown Merchants:** A new organization, the ADM serves to market downtown and host small-scale events with the main goal of increasing foot traffic. The ADM will take over hosting the monthly

"Night on the Town" (every second Friday) and sponsored the "Feet on the Street" sidewalk sale in September. A major goal of ADM is creating a unified downtown gift card.

- **Downtown Loveland Association:** The DLA is an all-volunteer community association whose purpose is revitalizing the heart of Loveland by attracting more attention, more businesses, more events and more visitors to downtown Loveland. The DLA worked with the City to design parking lot signs, took care of flower beds for several years, is advocating holiday lighting downtown and hosts monthly networking gatherings. [www.downtownloveland.org](http://www.downtownloveland.org)
- **Engaging Loveland:** Its mission is to expand upon and create choice events and activities throughout the Loveland community. Downtown events during 2008 include SummerFest, Parade of Years, the Old-Fashioned Corn Roast Festival and Loveland: A City with HeART. [www.engaginglovelandinc.org](http://www.engaginglovelandinc.org)

## Downtown Info and Feedback

Participate in survey on Streetscape Master Plan

Updates on What's New

Visit the Development Services webpage at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org)

## Make a difference – adopt a roadway

The City of Loveland Streets Division's Adopt-A-Roadway program is a great way for local organizations and citizens to get involved in keeping our roadsides clean and safe. Businesses, civic and professional organizations, environmental groups, academic institutions, homeowner's associations, 4-H groups, scout troupes and Loveland residents are all encouraged to participate.



Groups adopt a roadway for a minimum of two years and generally take care of a one to two mile section of road. Adoptable roadways are typically arterial streets carrying large volumes of traffic and must be located within Loveland City limits.

Adopting groups receive safety training and are provided reflective safety vests, trash bags and other necessary support. The City recognizes roadway adopters by posting signage on their assigned roadways.

Adopting a roadway is easy. Once a group is formed they can contact the Adopt-A-Roadway administrator to fill out paperwork and determine specific needs. All groups must have at least one adult, age 18 or older.

For more information, call 962-2529 or go to the Solid Waste Division on the City's website; [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org).

A similar program helps keep local waterways clean. For information on Adopt-A-Waterway, contact the stormwater management office at 962-2772.

## "Money Talks"

### Is group investing for you?

Investment clubs are a great way to learn some investment basics without risking large sums of money. On Nov. 11, a panel of investment club investors will speak about the ups and downs of investment clubs, the friendships they've made and the fun they've had learning about investing.

Money Talks is a monthly series presented by the Loveland Public Library. The program is in the Gertrude B. Scott room of the library and begins at noon. Beverages are provided and sack lunches are welcome. For more information call 962-2402.



## Need a car seat?

Safe Kids Larimer County is pleased to offer classes for families in need of a car seat/booster seat for their child. Registration is required and distribution is limited to one seat per family, per year. Class Cost is \$10. Classes are offered in both English and Spanish. Se habla español.



When	Where
Tues., Sept. 9, 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Loveland Fire Station #6, 4325 McWhinney Blvd., Loveland
Fri., Sept. 26, 9-10 a.m.	The Family Center/La Familia, 309 Hickory St., Fort Collins
Tues., Oct. 14, 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Salud Family Health Center, 1635 Blue Spruce Dr., Fort Collins
Fri., Oct. 31, 9-10 a.m.	The Family Center/La Familia, 309 Hickory St., Fort Collins
Tues., Nov. 11, 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Loveland Fire Station #6, 4325 McWhinney Blvd., Loveland
Fri. Nov. 21, 9-10 a.m.	The Family Center/La Familia, 309 Hickory St., Fort Collins
Tues., Dec. 9, 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Salud Family Health Center, 1635 Blue Spruce Dr., Fort Collins
Fri., Dec. 19, 9-10 a.m.	The Family Center/La Familia, 309 Hickory St., Fort Collins

Space is limited. Please call 48 hours in advance to register - 495-7508.

## Ski Swap set

For Nov. 14-15

Want to buy or sell ski or sports equipment? The Loveland Parks & Recreation Department is holding its 26th annual Ski & Sports Swap 6-9 p.m., Fri. Nov. 14 and 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sat., Nov. 15 at Hatfield Chilson Recreation Center, 700 E 4th Street. For more information, call 962-2432.



## If we can't reach you, we can't alert you (continued on page 1)

system only called residents on traditional home phones. These days, many residents have done away with landlines and use cell phones exclusively. Plus, mobile offices and busy lifestyles require that citizens receive information when they're on the go.

By providing cell phone, e-mail address, business phone number and other information, residents are better able to receive emergency alerts from safety and public health officials. Emergency notification is a free service provided by LETA. There is no cost to sign up or receive messages, although

with a cell phone, normal call and text messaging charges from the phone company may apply.

### Who is LETA?

LETA is a partnership of 23 government and public safety agencies of Larimer County. LETA supports 9-1-1 emergency communications to make emergency notification throughout Larimer County consistent and effective.

For more information, and to sign up for the enhanced service, visit [www.leta911.org](http://www.leta911.org).

### For Your Refrigerator – Clip and Post

## 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 Info Sources:

[www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org) Official City website  
 1610 AM radio City's AM radio station  
 Channel 16 cable TV City cable TV channel  
 Phone 962-2020 Info line/call center  
 Phone 911 Emergency police/fire

### Emergency Notification

Phone calls/e-mails: [www.LETA911.org](http://www.LETA911.org)

### Emergency Alert System (EAS)

Emergency messages on TV & radio

### Other sources:

[www.larimer.org](http://www.larimer.org) Larimer County website  
 Phone 211 Area assistance phone info line  
[www.firstcall211.org](http://www.firstcall211.org) 211 website

## Light your home with a twist

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Incandescent standard 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). That extended life means real cost and energy savings for homeowners because CFLs use much less electricity—approximately 75 to 80 percent less than standard bulbs. Their superior longevity also means fewer trips up the ladder to replace short-lived standard bulbs on vaulted ceilings and other hard-to-reach places.

If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a CFL, it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars annually ([energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)).

Retailers participating in Lighting with a Twist will indicate which bulbs will be included in the promotion. No paperwork or coupon is required.

Because CFLs do contain a small amount of mercury they must be disposed of properly. Ace Hardware and Lighting Designs accept CFLs for recycling at no charge, or they can be recycled at the Larimer County landfill.

For more information on saving money and reducing energy use with CFLs, or for more information on Lighting with a Twist, call Loveland Water and Power, 962-3000.

## What is your home's energy rating?

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along junctures of the walls and ceiling and along the edge of the floor. Make sure cold air is not coming in through electrical outlets, switch plates, window frames or through window-mounted air conditioners. Also, make sure that weather stripping around doors is keeping cold air out and warm air in. A good way to test for small leaks is to light an incense stick and see if the smoke moves to one side or vacillates. A damp hand is a good way to test too. If you have a leak your hand will feel cool where the leaking air hits it.

Being conscientious, and helping family members be conscientious about turning off lights, TVs, computers and appliances when not in use will also help you save money and energy during the winter and year-round.

For more information on home energy audits, 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](mailto:hillea@ci.loveland.co.us). Visit the City's website at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org).