

## Another conservative budget for 2009

Let's put the bottom line at the top: For 2009 – and many prior years – the City of Loveland will have a balanced budget. The City will not spend more money than it receives.

And like many prior years, the City's 2009 budget continues to be conservative. The quantity and quality of current services will be maintained and some new projects that have been anticipated and planned for some time will begin. There are no "eye openers" in the 2009 budget.

Comparing apples to apples – the 2009 adopted budget to the 2008 adopted budget – for our growing city, the 2009 budget is 3.8 percent higher. However, compared to the 2008 revised budget that includes unspent rollover money

from the previous year – apples to oranges – the \$175.6 million 2009 adopted budget is 11 percent lower than the 2008 revised budget of \$196.7 million.

The 2009 budget with its maintenance approach will continue to support the Loveland City Council's objectives; focusing on economic development, transportation, open and accessible government, and effective, efficient government. Loveland's "hold the line" budget philosophy has been quite successful during the past few years.

"Loveland's economy continues to perform better than other municipalities both nationwide and in our region," said Loveland City

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*More about the 2009 budget inside*

## What to do when the leaves fall

Autumn is here and that means those beautiful red and gold leaves on the trees will soon be on lawns and sidewalks. The Solid Waste Division recommends that residents bag their leaves and take them to the City's Recycling Center at 400 N. Wilson Ave. for recycling.

"Recycling is the best and most environmentally responsible solution," said Bruce Philbrick, solid waste superintendent. Recycling leaves also keeps them out of the storm water system, said Philbrick.

"We want to remind residents that it is a violation of municipal code to sweep or rake leaves from the yard into the street," Philbrick added.



"It clogs stormwater collection systems and also negatively affects stormwater quality."

Another option is to sign up for the City's weekly curbside yard waste collection service that runs through the end of November.

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## Make Christmas tree 'greener'

Many Loveland residents have already made the switch and replaced their standard incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) to reap the terrific energy and cost-savings CFLs provide.

Another lighting technology also making inroads in the energy and cost-savings domain is light-emitting diodes (LEDs).



*Christmas tree with LED lights*

LEDs are commonly used to light watches, clocks and calculators, and in the last several years, have emerged as a new option for holiday lighting.

In contrast to incandescent bulbs that produce light through a heated filament that glows, light from LEDs results from energy produced by

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## Governor presents arts award



Mayor Pro Tem Dave Clark, left, chats with Governor Bill Ritter after Ritter presented the 2008 Governor's Art Award in honor of the City of Loveland's support of art and culture. The presentation noted that art in Loveland enhances the quality of life and economic vitality of the community.

Learn About  
Holiday Happenings



at [www.LovelandHolidays.com](http://www.LovelandHolidays.com)

## Another conservative budget for 2009 (continued from page 1)

Manager Don Williams. “While we have not escaped the impacts of downturns in the building industry, our financial outlook remains stable. Our conservative philosophy has enabled us to weather this storm without the service reductions we’ve read about elsewhere.”

Williams emphasized that the budget is a plan, not an unchangeable directive. The 2009 budget has been under development for a year – long before the emergence of national economic woes in recent weeks. Adjustments to actual spending could occur during the year if revenues decrease.

### Economic considerations

In preparing the budget, the City has taken into consideration various economic facts and assumptions.

Although the inflation rate in the Loveland area has been and is forecasted to continue to be less than the national rate, a 3.2 percent Consumer Price Index increase is anticipated for 2009. Thus, a 3.8 percent increase in Loveland’s 2009 budget barely offsets the likely inflation rate.

Regarding unemployment, the Loveland/Fort Collins region continues to enjoy low unemployment rates. However, underemployment continues to be a

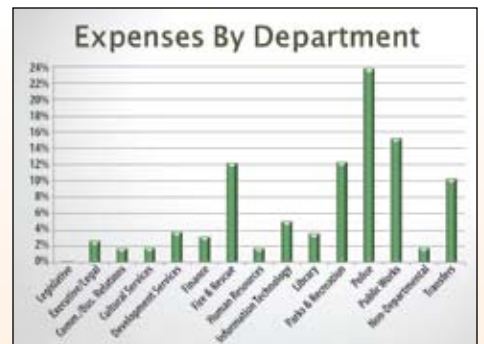
concern for the region with its highly skilled workforce. The availability of this workforce is promoted by Loveland in seeking to attract firms offering higher paying jobs with strong benefit packages.

The 3 percent sales tax the City receives on retail purchases continues to be the primary revenue source for the General Fund budget that supports police, fire, parks, recreation, culture, the library and more. The 3 percent rate has remained unchanged for more than 20 years.

Sales tax revenues have grown substantially during the past several years thanks to a strong economy and all the new stores that now enable local residents to shop here in Loveland.

In preparing the 2009 budget, a conservative perspective was used in acknowledging that the sales tax growth rate may not be as strong as in previous years. The dramatic increase in new Loveland stores has subsided while new large shopping venues are opening in Fort Collins and Timnath.

Total sales tax revenues for 2008 are projected to be 7.2 percent higher than in 2007. The new budget uses a conservative 4.0 percent rate increase for 2009.



### Where it goes

This chart indicates by percentage the expenses for City services funded primarily by revenues from sales and property taxes. Costs for Loveland’s utilities—water, wastewater, power, storm water—are paid by user fees for those services, not by tax revenues.

## 2009 budget highlights

### Revenue

- A continuation of the annual 1 percent increase in water rates to provide funding for future storage.
- An increase in electricity rates due to higher wholesale costs; 4.2-4.5 percent.
- A 10 percent increase in trash collection rates; \$.50-\$1.50 per month depending on container size.

### Expenses

- Maintain current service levels in all departments.
- Continue commitment to the Transportation Program.
- Construct Chilson Recreation Center expansion.
- Design the library expansion.
- Design the development of Mehaffey Park.
- Continue Downtown Improvement Program projects.
- Design the Service Center expansion to house Streets, Transit and Solid Waste personnel and equipment.

## Don't let FOG blur vision or pipes

All of us have inadvertently poured a little cooking oil down the drain. But out of sight should not be out of mind. Fats, oil and grease (FOG) can cause big problems for homeowners, especially around the holidays when large meals, often including roasted or fried meats, are prepared.

FOG can build up in a home’s pipes, clogging interior sewer lines and resulting in big messes and even bigger repair bills (clogged pipes in residences are homeowner’s responsibility). Garbage disposals do not effectively process or remove grease that’s gone down the drain.

FOG can do even more damage if it spreads to the sewer lines in the streets. The result can be a serious overflow or backup of sewage which can pose a health hazard as well as potentially increasing costs for sewer service due to increased cost to the utility for maintenance and repairs.

To safely dispose of FOG during the holidays and year-round, pour oil from greasy skillets, broiler pans and roasters into an old soup can or other closable



container. Allow it to cool and harden, then throw it in the trash. Also, wipe off greasy dishes and utensils with paper towels before loading them into the dishwasher.

It is a misconception to assume that a good dose of hot water will break down the grease if some does manage to get down the drain. Grease and oil are hydrophobic. No matter how much hot water follows, they will stick to pipe’s interiors and continue to build up until a blockage occurs. The best and safest bet is just keeping fat, oil

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## Signed up yet?



### Emergency notifications By cell phone, e-mail

Larimer County residents can now sign up to receive free 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 phones but nowhere else. Since the program was announced in late September, more than 8,000 signups have been received.

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**Revenue growth**

City sales tax revenue has shown modest but significant growth over the past several years. A 4 percent increase is projected in the 2009 budget. City sales tax is the primary revenue source for the General Fund that pays for police, fire, library, parks, recreation and more. The sales tax rate paid on purchases has not increased for more than 20 years.



**Your property tax**

Owners of homes and other real estate pay property taxes every year. The City of Loveland receives about 12 percent of the taxes paid, with greater portions going to the local school district and the county.

**Notable Projects, Programs for 2009**

- Mobile computers for fire vehicles; providing building plans, maps, communication tools . . . . . \$186,000
- Fire truck replacement . . . . . \$475,000
- Library expansion design . . . . . \$1.4 million
- Design of 40-60 acre Mehaffey Park in NW Loveland . . . . . \$600,000
- Expansion of Chilson Recreation Center . . . . . \$7 million
- Recreation Trail expansion near Boyd Lake . . . . . \$1.1 million
- Open Lands acquisition . . . . . \$1.7 million  
(Funded primarily from Loveland's portion of the Larimer County Open Space sales tax, plus development fees.)
- Downtown improvements . . . . . \$740,000
- City buildings maintenance projects . . . . . \$500,000
- Service Center expansion . . . . . \$1.7 million
- Annual street maintenance program . . . . . \$3.4 million
- Transportation program . . . \$4.6 million; primarily for new roads, including widening Taft Ave. (An additional \$12 million will be spent for major improvements to the interchange at I-25/ Hwy. 34. These improvements are funded by fees from purchases within the Centerra Metro District and therefore not included in the City budget.)
- Wheeled recycling carts for single-stream pickup. . . . . \$146,000
- Storm Water engineering, construction, oversizing programs; equipment . . . . . \$1.5 million
- Water Utility projects . . . . . \$7.5 million
- Wastewater Utility projects . . . . . \$1.8 million
- Electric Power Utility projects . . . . . \$7 million
- Airport improvement projects . . . . . \$1.6 million
- Overall City personnel net increase . . . . . .74 Full time equivalent staffer

**NOTE:** The City of Loveland maintains a balanced budget. Therefore, the funding for all these projects and programs either already exists or will be received through normal sources as these projects occur.

**Business expo draws hundreds**

More than 400 Loveland business owners and managers attended the 6th Annual City of Loveland's Resource Expo and Business Appreciation Event last month at the Ranch. This year's event featured a motivational presentation by keynote speaker, former CSU Football Coach Sonny Lubick.

The Resource Expo included 25 vendor booths, which ran the gamut from non-profit organizations offering low-interest loans and free data mining services to free business plan consulting and no-cost employee training and recruiting services. Loveland's Economic Gardening Program and the Loveland Center for Business Development also had booths there.

In addition to numerous business tips, employees from the City's Water and Power Department made suggestions on how businesses could lower

their utility bills and conserve energy, and City code enforcement staff advised local business owners on sign and zoning codes.

Joining the City as event hosts this year were Home State Bank, Embassy Suites Loveland, McKee Medical Center, LBN Insurance, and Comcast.



**Quality leadership recognized**

Loveland business owners and officials attended the 6th Annual City of Loveland Business Appreciation Breakfast and Business Resource Expo. Many smiles and nods of agreement were evident as keynote speaker, Sonny Lubick, addressed the crowd. Lubick spoke of the similar qualities of behavior and character needed in leading a successful business and successful sports team.

**Among the best**

The Loveland Reporter-Herald newspaper recently published its annual Reader's Choice Awards for Loveland's "best of" and "favorite" in numerous categories. More than 400 Reporter-Herald readers sent in ballots listing their favorites in Loveland. The following are City facilities that made this year's list:

**Best of/Favorite:**

- Place to skateboard – Loveland Sports Park
- Fitness center – Chilson Recreation Center
- Fun event for children – Fishing Derby
- Art gallery – Loveland Museum/Gallery
- Place to take out-of-towners – Benson Sculpture Park
- Place for entertainment – Foote Lagoon concerts & Library Park
- Fitness instructors – Chilson Recreation Center
- Employer – City of Loveland
- Place to walk your dog – Recreation Trail system
- Local events – The Old-Fashioned Corn Roast Festival
- Golf course – Marianna Butte Golf Course
- Fitness classes – Chilson Recreation Center

## Safe and healthy

Smarty Fox gives a high five to some kids on their way to school as they participate in the *T-n-T Tuesdays* program. *T-n-T Tuesdays* encourages youngsters to use their own "Tires-n-Tennies" to walk, bike, scooter or skateboard to school safely instead of riding in a vehicle.



### What to do when the leaves fall

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These 96-gallon carts, delivered to residents' homes, can be filled with leaves and other clean (no dog droppings, rock, soil, sod, or other litter) yard wastes.

The carts are emptied on residents' trash collection day. Cost for curbside yard waste collection is \$7.50 per month. The service is offered April through November.

Cart customers who plan to use the carts again next spring are asked to keep the carts during the winter months.

The City's Recycling Center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. – Fri., and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the weekends. Residents may dispose of leaves at no charge.

For more information call 962-2529. To request a yard waste cart call 962-2111.

### Have you signed up yet?

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#### 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; one using the home address and another signup using the school address.

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.

Sign up today at [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: signup [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

### Make Christmas tree 'greener'

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electrons. As the electrons in LEDs move from areas of high energy to low energy, they lose energy. The byproduct of this energy loss is light.

LEDs offer a host of benefits. They are much more durable than standard Christmas light strings because they have no moving parts, no filaments to burn out and no glass lamps to break.

Plus, they are constructed of a plastic resin that's much less likely to break than regular Christmas lights when dropped or crushed. And even if one light on your LED string goes out, the whole string doesn't go dark as often happens with standard Christmas lights.

Another benefit is their minimal heat production. They are cool to the touch even after being on for a long time.

This makes them much safer for little elves who like to touch the lights on the tree. It also helps prevent natural trees from drying out and greatly reduces the risk of Christmas tree fires that are responsible for approximately 200 house fires annually and \$6 million in property damage.

Perhaps LEDs' best feature is their energy and cost-savings for the consumer. They have exceptional longevity, lasting up to ten times longer than conventional incandescent light strands.

And they use about 90 percent less energy than standard bulbs to produce the same amount of light. Less energy use means lower cost for holiday lighting, which means you and your Christmas tree can have an even "greener" Christmas.

For more information on saving energy during the holidays and year-round, contact Loveland Water & Power, 962-3000 or visit the Water & Power web pages at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org).

### Don't let FOG blur your vision on keeping pipes clear

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and grease out of the system from the get go. You can dispose of turkey fryer oil at the City's Recycling Center, 400 N. Wilson Ave.

This holiday season, a little vigilance at the sink can mean clearer pipes and lower maintenance costs down the line. For more information on keeping drains clear, call Loveland Water and Power, 962-3000, or visit the Water & Power web pages at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org).

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).