Wanted: Many good men and women

It’s the government of your City. Your involvement is encouraged and there are numerous ways to become involved—often or infrequent, in depth or just a bit, formal or informal. Hundreds of Loveland citizens are actively involved—serving on a committee, helping out at an event, assisting at a City facility, etc. Thousands are passively involved by simply staying informed about their community—scanning a local newspaper, viewing a display at the library, reading this newsletter, etc. The elected officials and the staff of your city government actively encourage your participation in your local government. The greater the involvement, the more your local government is of, by and for its citizens.

Get involved, play a role, offer your opinion, provide your expertise. Turn the page to learn some of the many opportunities for becoming more involved with your city government.

Utility increases begin Jan. 1

Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, Loveland utility customers will notice a slight increase in their utility bills. Several factors have brought about the increase.

Platte River Power Authority (PRPA), Loveland’s power supplier, is experiencing significant cost increases that it is passing along to Loveland and the three other municipalities it serves: Fort Collins, Longmont, and Estes Park.

In addition, the cost for materials needed to keep Loveland’s electrical system running at optimum efficiency, have also dramatically increased. According to Jim Lees, Utility Accounting Manager, the cost for basic electrical materials such as cable, conduit and transformers has risen anywhere from 22 to 186 percent over the last four years, resulting in a near tripling in price in some cases.

Fortunately, what most utility customers will actually experience in terms of a rate increase will be fairly minimal. For example, residents using 700 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per month (an average

Snow fleet grows; priorities remain

A new truck with a snowplow and spreader has been added to the city’s snow removal fleet for this winter, bringing the total number of snowplow-equipped vehicles for clearing Loveland’s roadways to 15.

When there’s snow in the forecast, plows and spreaders are mounted to the trucks, chemicals are loaded and the snowfighting team awaits their call, day or night.

The thorough training and well-established route assignments of the City’s Snow and Ice Control Plan are put to work. Anti-icing, plowing, de-icing and other efforts take place depending on the many challenges and variables Mother Nature provides.

The teams go to work in each of the six segments of the city spelled out in the snow plan, each following specific routes in accordance with snow control priorities. The nature, duration and intensity of the storm and

BillPay is fast and easy

Loveland area residents can now pay their utility bills online with a Visa, Mastercard or Discover credit/debit card. Cash, checks or money orders may still be used for payment. A $3 convenience fee per transaction applies to card use. Customers without Internet access can pay their bills by phone with a credit/debit card—962-2111.

For more information about BillPay, click on Pay/View Utility Bill from the Online Services button at www.cityofloveland.org or call 962-2111.

“Money Talks” Weather the financial storm

In a storm, sailors trim the sails and batten down the hatches. In economically challenging times, you need to do the same. On January 13, from noon to 1 p.m., Laurel Kubin, Director of Larimer County Extension, will share tips on how to trim expenses, cut spending and stay within your budget.

This program is part of the free, monthly Money Talks series presented by the Loveland Public Library. Money Talks is held in the Gertrude B. Scott room of the library. Beverages are provided and attendees may bring their lunch.
Help recycle more glass

Loveland now has three drop-off locations for glass recycling. The City recently learned that only 30 percent of the glass bottles and jars collected from curbside bins are actually recycled due to breakage in hauling off the glass. The broken glass ends up going to landfills instead of being recycled.

However, if Loveland residents take their glass to a drop-off center, 100 percent of the glass will be recycled back into new bottles and jars. The glass drop-off locations are:

- The City of Loveland Recycling Center, 400 N. Wilson Ave.
- Wal-Mart, 1325 N. Denver Ave. (bin in NW corner of parking lot)
- Kroh Park, 5200 N. Garfield Ave. (in parking lot next to Habitat for Humanity)

All glass containers should be rinsed. Remove caps and lids. Please, no ceramics, bake-ware, Pyrex, drinking glasses, windows, mirrors or light bulbs.

Glass will continue to be accepted at the curb; however, only 30 percent of this glass actually gets recycled. For more information, please contact the Solid Waste Division at 962-2529.

Utility increases begin Jan. 1

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residential monthly usage, will see their monthly electric bill increase by about $1.43. Some of Loveland’s larger commercial customers will see a larger monthly increase, but it is still not expected to be dramatic.

Water bills are also going up slightly. Commercial and residential customers will see a 1 percent increase for water. Proceeds from that increase will be used to pay for future water resources projects.

These proposed utility increases are subject to approval by City Council, which will do a final review of the proposal in December. For more information on Loveland Water & Power, please visit the Water & Power web pages at www.cityofloveland.org or call 962-3000.
Sculptures of “Water and Power” make purpose unmistakable

Visitors to Loveland should have no trouble figuring out what happens at the offices of Loveland Water & Power at 200 N. Wilson, thanks to the recently-installed sculptures by Loveland-born artist, Mark Leichliter. “Water & Power” are two, twenty-five foot, steel sculptures marking the main entrance to the Service Center and conveying the clear message that modern civilization – high-quality drinking water and electricity.

The sculptures were funded through the Art in Public Places fund which allocates monies for art on City property to be enjoyed by the entire community. In addition to the artist and his team who constructed the sculptures, landscapers, irrigation specialists and masons were integral to creating the elaborate foundation upon which the sculptures stand.

“We are thrilled with the new installations,” said Suzanne Janssen, public art and business services manager for the City of Loveland. “These sculptures are a wonderful addition to our public art and will be enjoyed and admired throughout the northern Colorado community.”

“Water & Power” were officially dedicated to their new home at a public celebration last month. For more information on the Art in Public Places program, go to the Cultural Services web pages at www.cityofloveland.org. More information on Loveland Water & Power, go to the Water & Power web pages at www.cityofloveland.org, or call 962-3000.

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The Parks and Recreation Commission (9 voting members) – advises the City Council and City staff with regard to the maintenance, administration, expansion and development of the City's parks and recreation programs.

The Planning Commission (9 voting members) – reviews maps, plats, zoning ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and planning matters and makes recommendations to City Council. It also serves as the ex-officio Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City regarding Title 18 – Zoning. The Planning Commission is involved in revising and updating the Master Plan, the Sign Code, Development Standards, Landscaping Standards and other development matters.

The Police Department Citizen Advisory Board (9 voting members) – serves in an advisory capacity to the Police Department and City Council concerning police related issues such as the Police Master Plan, policies and procedures and to support communication and education between the community and the Loveland Police Department.

The Senior Advisory Board (15 voting members) – serves as a coordinating agency for all matters concerning senior services and activities as well as planning, developing and encouraging new senior citizen programs as needs dictate, as well as establishing and maintaining communications with local, state and federal government agencies concerning senior citizen issues.

The Transportation Advisory Board (7 voting members) – advises City Council on all matters pertaining to modes of transportation and makes recommendations on the Transportation Master Plan, transportation policies, budget and capital improvement plans for the City's Engineering, Streets and Transit divisions.

The Visual Arts Commission (9 voting members) – oversees the City's Arts in Public Places Program and makes purchases for and maintains the City's art collection.

The Youth Advisory Commission (12 voting members) – serves as a link between City Council and the youth of Loveland, lobbies for youth interests and makes recommendations to City Council on programs and activities, ordinances and amendments for youth-related issues.

Hundreds receive sales tax rebates

Almost $125,000 was rebated to Loveland residents for the 2008 Food and Utility Sales Tax Rebate Program. 761 local families received rebates averaging $163 per household. The rebates totaling $124,357 included $93,917 for food sales tax rebates plus $30,440 for utility rebates. The 2007 total was $95,100 distributed among 666 households. The annual Food and Utility Sales Tax Rebate Program issues rebates to low-income individuals and families who qualify according to HUD income guidelines and policies set by the City Council.

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, hillaec@ci.loveland.co.us. Visit the City's website at www.cityofloveland.org.