

In Loveland, green is the theme

Loveland is a community that values its environment. Residents, businesses and City government are actively working to preserve this area's natural beauty and natural resources. In conjunction with Earth Day this month, a review of the City's dedication to being green seems fitting.

Many City departments actively engage in environmental causes and practices. Loveland Water and Power's

GreenSwitch program is growing by the day as more residents and area businesses make the switch to clean, renewable energy, and the City's Solid Waste division has been nationally recognized for its outstanding recycling programs. Loveland's parks, streets, the library and other City facilities also actively implement environmental practices. Read on to learn what else the City does to be green.



Turn the page to learn how City departments go green

Don't be fooled by mosquito look-a-likes

As warm weather nears, insects will begin to hatch out. Some, often mistaken for mosquitoes, are midges. Midges are flies that are closely related to mosquitoes. They strongly resemble mosquitoes but do not bite or carry harmful disease. They generally emerge any day of the year when the air is warm and are most commonly seen in the spring and early fall.

Males often cluster in large swarms, usually in bright sunlight and around water where the females lay their eggs. Since most species are attracted to light, midges are often found around windows and doors of houses. Though they may be annoying, they're harmless.

Mosquitoes, on the other hand, do bite and do carry West Nile Virus (WNV). To protect yourself and your family from WNV, remember the 4 Ds:

- **D**rain all standing water around your house weekly



Mosquito



Midge

- **D**usk & **D**awn are when mosquitoes are most active, so limit outdoor activities at those times
- **D**EET is an effective ingredient in insect repellants—follow label instructions carefully
- **D**ress in long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk or in areas where there is a lot of mosquito activity

Police K-9 academy training a 10

Kyro, Rocco and D'jango are not members of a new boy band. They're not cousins of the Ninja turtles, nor are they mob guys.

On the contrary, they are good guys—very good guys—of the four legged variety. All three are highly trained police dogs that work along side their handlers to help their human counterparts keep us safe.

For more than twenty years the Loveland Police Department has been employing



(continued on page 4)

INSIDE

City operations committed to protecting environment

Page 2-3

Audiences enjoying GreenSwitch

Page 2

Major firm makes the switch

Page 2-3

Garden-in-a-Box easy, water-wise

Page 3

Public Works Day May 23

Page 4

Fewer weeds, significant savings

Page 4

Annual book sale May 19

Page 4

DOW urges residents

Page 4

2007 Colorado Governor's Art Show

Page 4

Celebrate Loveland's diversity

The fifth annual Loveland Cinco de Mayo celebration marks the 1862 Battle of Puebla between France and Mexico and honors the strength and diversity in our community. This free community celebration is family-oriented and alcohol and tobacco-free. The event will be held noon-5 p.m., Sun., May 6 at the Civic Center.

Activities include:

- Aztec Ceremony
- Games and activities for children
- Games, art, food, beverages
- Spanish and Latin American dance
- Dance lessons
- Mariachi Band
- Salsa Tasting Contest
- Community resource booths
- Blood pressure checks, hygiene supplies

For more information, call 613-5775 for info.

The City of Loveland proudly sponsors events celebrating the rich cultural diversity of our community.

City operations committed to protecting environment

Open space preserved

Since 1996, a total of 1,932 acres have been preserved using Loveland's portion of the .25 percent Larimer County Open Space Sales Tax. This open land plus Loveland's parks, golf courses and recreational trails continue to host a variety of wildlife and serve as valuable natural corridors. Wildlife observed in these areas include deer, elk, owls, eagles, hawks, bear, coyote, fox, squirrels, ducks and geese.

So long, sand

The Streets Division hasn't used sand and salt on Loveland's snowy roads for more than 15 years. Instead, other products are used that are both more effective for traction and more environmentally friendly. Vehicle tires ground the old sand/salt mix into dust that polluted our local air and traveled through the stormwater system into our waterways.

Street crews now apply two different winter road deicers; a granular complex chloride called Ice Slicer that is less corrosive than traditional rock salt, and a liquid magnesium chloride product called Apex that is treated with an inhibitor to substantially reduce its corrosiveness.

Partnering With Power

Loveland's demand for power during the summer months is growing at a rapid pace mainly due to the increasing number of air conditioning units in the city. Loveland now offers Partnering With Power, a free and voluntary program that helps manage high demands for electricity by cycling residential air conditioners for brief intervals during high-demand periods. The device impacts home climate very little but relieves demand on the power system greatly.

To join hundreds of Loveland

residents already signed up for Partnering With Power, call 962-3720.

Renowned recycling

Loveland has been nationally recognized for many years as a leader in recycling, and its recycling program continues to grow. Much of its success is linked to making recycling simple and convenient for Loveland's residents.

Weekly curbside residential pickup of recyclable materials includes glass bottles and jars, metal cans, plastic bottles, newspapers, magazines, office paper, direct mail, phonebooks, paperboard and cardboard. Many other items can be dropped off right here in town at the Recycling Center, 400 N. Wilson, including yard debris, wood waste, tires, TVs, scrap metal, appliances, motor and cooking oil, clothing and shoes, and more.

The City also recycles Christmas trees. Every year residents drop off thousands of Christmas trees that get milled into mulch for City parks.

Roundabouts

Roundabouts are not only green, but also "un-red." They offer environmental benefits, and more importantly, safety considerations that result in far fewer accidents with injuries.

Speeds for vehicles moving through a roundabout are much slower than through stop sign or stop light intersections. Roundabout accidents tend to be slow-speed sideswipes rather than 30-50 mph "T-bone" collisions.

Also, because roundabouts don't require full stops, emissions normally produced from rapid acceleration are far less. And since idling time is reduced, less fuel is burned.

Walking the talk

Conservation is a good idea and Loveland's Water and Power Department makes certain to apply it to itself. The City's Service Center is now 100 percent powered by GreenSwitch energy, has a xeriscaped front lawn and is beginning to retrofit all of its lighting to be more efficient. Employees are even reusing office paper before recycling it. The community is welcome to visit the Service Center, 200 N. Wilson Ave., and discover what can be done in homes and businesses to conserve Loveland's valuable resources.

Contaminants, keep out

What flows down the City's stormwater catch basins is not cleaned or treated before it's returned to the City's waterways. The Stormwater Maintenance Division works to keep out contaminants by sweeping arterial street gutters 12 times a year, sweeping residential street gutters 4-6 times a year; vacuum-cleaning all 1,422 catch basins at least once a year and by vacuum-cleaning the 15 stormwater quality structures four times a year.

Parks aplenty

The City's most obvious contribution to keeping Loveland green is its parks. Loveland residents and visitors can enjoy 28 developed parks on 318 acres. In addition to lush grass, beautiful trees, shrubbery and flowers, the parks offer 20 softball fields, 25 playgrounds, 14 picnic

A round of applause for GreenSwitch

Local audiences are enjoying cleaner air thanks to recent commitments to renewable energy. The Larimer County Fairgrounds and Rialto Theater have made the switch to GreenSwitch, Loveland Water and Power's renewable energy option.

Larimer County made the switch for 100 percent of the 4-H building and 10 percent of the Budweiser Events Center to be powered with GreenSwitch. In addition, individual entertainers at the event center can choose to fuel their shows with GreenSwitch renewable energy.

The Rialto's switch to renewable energy is possible because of a unique partnership between industry, art and government. Over the next year, longtime area business Praxair will purchase enough renewable energy to cover the Rialto's energy usage 100 percent.

"We are excited that Praxair has chosen to support the Rialto, the performing arts in Loveland and a healthier environment by donating GreenSwitch energy to the theater," said Jan Sawyer, Rialto Theater manager. "It's wonderful to have our historic building powered by the energy solutions of the future."

By choosing pollution-free renewable energy, the Ranch and the Rialto are reducing their environmental footprint and helping protect the planet while keeping the community entertained. Now that deserves a round of applause.

For GreenSwitch energy information, call 962-3000 or visit the Water and Power section of www.cityofloveland.org.

GreenSwitch

Major firm makes

Setting the pace for Loveland area, [Firm Name] has switched to 100 percent GreenSwitch energy. "As a leader in our industry and with a responsibility to invest and contribute to the community everyday," said James Donnan, president. "Our partnership with Loveland Water and Power's commitment to 100 percent renewable energy is an important one on all levels and we hope to encourage other Loveland businesses to do the same." Kroll Factual Data is purchasing 100 percent of renewable energy every month from GreenSwitch at Hahn's Peak Drive.

shelters, four outdoor racquetball courts and 21 tennis courts.

And let's not forget Loveland's three public golf courses, 15 miles of recreation trails and almost 2,000 acres of natural open space.

The parks and golf courses are kept green primarily through the use of untreated water for irrigation and the sprinkler systems. The water is used judiciously, with constant attention to the health of the vegetation balanced with conservation of water resources.

Protecting the Big T

Through a federally mandated program, the City regulates wastewater discharged from non-residential sewer customers to prevent problems in the Loveland's sewer collection system and at its wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Non-residential sewer customers have the potential to discharge substances that could effect the environment. Regulating pollutants before they arrive at the WWTP protects the water quality of the Big Thompson River and its wildlife.

Diesel captured

At the end of a workday, the City's paving machine must be cleaned to remove any remaining hot-mix asphalt. The Streets Division captures and recycles 100 percent of the diesel fuel used in this cleaning process.

More riders, fewer fumes

Loveland's efforts to expand cleaner transportation within the community other than using the family car or truck continue to move forward. Perhaps most notable was last year's record-setting use of the City bus system, surpassing 100,000 rides for the first time. Fuel-efficient scooters seem to be gaining popularity around town and bicycles make use of the City's approximately 108 miles of designated bikeways.

Loveland continues its partnership with northern Colorado's SmartTrips – an organization dedicated to promoting carpooling, walking and teleworking as well as sponsoring the VanGo program and Bike Month.

LightenUp the bill

Are the energy bills for your business too high? Maybe it's time to lighten up. Through their LightenUP program, Loveland Water and Power and Platte River Power Authority can help maximize the value and minimize the electricity cost of lighting by providing funding and technical assistance to upgrade old, inefficient lighting technology with modern, efficient technology.

Call 962-3566 to find out how businesses can save energy and money.

Yard waste service

Being green can save some green. Subscribing to the City's curbside yard waste pickup service is not only environmentally beneficial, it can be beneficial to your wallet.

For \$6 a month, the City will provide a special yard waste cart for your grass clippings, leaves, garden trimmings and small branches. This saves space in your

more costly trash pickup cart for your non-recyclable refuse. The yard waste cart contents are composted instead of being hauled to the county landfill. With the landfill nearing capacity, the yard waste program extends the landfill's lifespan. When needed, a new landfill may result in higher trash disposal fees.

The champ?

Perhaps the library is Loveland's recycling champion. After all, its books, movies, CDs and more are all reused many times. In addition, residents may bring their magazines to the library for others to enjoy, and the library also hosts an annual used book sale—May 19-20 this year—recycling the books once again to new owners.

Filters, too

When it's time for an oil change, the City's Vehicle Maintenance (VM) shop not only recycles the oil from City vehicles, but the oil filters, too. Instead of being sent to the landfill, the oil-laden used filters are punctured, drained and crushed, then recycled. Since the program began, VM has prevented an estimated 90,000 gallons of oil from leaching into the local landfill ground and recycled 30 tons of steel. And this is in addition to the approximately 240,000 gallons of used engine oil sold to recyclers during the past 20 years.

Loveland's switching

More than ever, Lovelanders are seeing the value of clean and renewable energy for their homes and businesses. Last year alone, the community more than doubled its commitment to renewable energy with GreenSwitch. For information on how to join more than 500 residents and businesses that have made the switch, call 962-3566.

Garden-in-a-Box easy, water-wise

Landscaping in Loveland's semi-arid climate needn't be a challenge. Many beautiful plants require little water and flourish in local clay soils. By putting a few of these species together it's easy to create xeriscape, a beautiful and water-wise landscape. Loveland's new Garden-In-A-Box program takes care of the planning and design process to make establishing a xeriscape a breeze.

Sponsored by Loveland Water and Power and the Center for ReSource Conservation, a Garden-In-A-Box is a professionally designed, preplanned xeriscape garden available at near wholesale prices.

Three different xeriscape design packages are available and include plants, a design plan, instructions and further information on the fundamentals of xeriscaping. All of the plants are perennial, low-water once they are established, and prefer full-sun. Xeriscapes typically require lower maintenance than turf. The Garden-In-A-Box designs are a colorful and lush-looking option for any landscape.

Designs may be viewed and pre-ordered at www.conservationcenter.org. Call (303) 441-3278 ext. 17 for more information or a brochure.

The plants and designs will be available on Sat., May 5, at the Loveland Water and Power Service Center parking lot, 200 N. Wilson Ave. **Supplies are limited.**

es the switch

ea industry, Kroll Factual Data
enSwitch energy this year.

the community, it is our social
tribute to the public good
resident of Kroll Factual Data.

Water and Power and our
ewable energy sources is
ope our commitment challenges
the same.”

more than 250,000 kilowatts
a to fuel its three buildings on



Celebrate Public Works Day May 23

Residents are invited to celebrate Loveland's fourth annual Public Works Day, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Wed., May 23 at Centennial Park.

The event includes an equipment show, educational display booths, games, food, and various contests. More than 2,000 visitors attended last year.

Elementary school children can take part in coloring and drawing contests. T-shirts and certificates will be awarded. Middle schoolers will create banners announcing Public Works Week, and the best banners will be hung throughout town in upcoming years.

High school students are invited to take part in the art/photography contest. Last year's winner was awarded photography equipment valued at \$1,000 and given the opportunity to job-shadow a Reporter Herald photographer.

Home-schoolers of all ages are welcome to participate, and if your group is

interested in painting a snow plow, contact us.

Local businesses help sponsor this annual event. Last year's sponsors included A-1 Chipseal, Anderson Consulting Engineers, Ayers & Associates, Coulson Excavating Company, Earth Engineering Consultants, Envirotech, Faris Machinery, Grand Rental Station, Interwest Consulting Group, J&S Contractors Supply Company, LSC Transportation Consultants, Landmark Engineering, McCandless International Trucks of Colorado, McWhinney Enterprises, Northern Engineering, Power Equipment Company, Short Elliott Hendrickson, Stantec, TCI Tire Center, Terracon, Traffic Signal Controls, United Rentals Highway Technologies, Western States Land Services and Wilson & Company. Additional sponsors are always welcome.

For more information, call 962-2627.

Fewer weeds, significant savings

Last year, administration of the City's weed control ordinance was moved into the Code Enforcement Office of the Building Division. This change will allow code enforcement officers to directly handle the administration and field work associated with overgrown weed violations throughout town. The field work was formerly managed by an out-of-town firm at a cost of about \$45,000 to the City.

In addition to the financial savings, the new arrangement should result in faster mowing of overgrown lots and acreage due to the more efficient administrative process when a violation is reported.

Colorado Division of Wildlife urges residents to get wild

As Loveland's black bear population comes out of hibernation, the Colorado



Division of Wildlife (DOV) urges residents to prepare their yards and property for their own safety and to help keep these animals wild.

Garbage draws bears to residential areas. Use bear-proof containers and don't put your trash out until pickup time.

Barbeque grills should be kept clean and fruit and berries from backyard trees and bushes should be harvested right away.

Pet food should be stored in airtight containers inside the garage.

For more information call 970-472-4300 or go to <http://wildlife.state.co.us>.

2007 Colorado Governor's Art Show

Loveland Museum/Gallery
April 21-May 27

The 16th Annual Colorado Governor's Invitational Art Show & Sale features 59 of Colorado's finest painters and sculptors. The show opens at the Loveland Museum/Gallery on Saturday, April 21 with a gala reception from 5:30 to 9:30.

Proceeds from the show provide art and academic scholarships, support local agencies such as the Boys and Girls Club of Larimer County and fund numerous Rotary projects.

The show is free and open to the public. Call 663-0919 or go to www.governorsartshow.org.



Book sale May 19-20

Mark Your Calendar! The Friends of the Library Foundation Spring Used Book Sale will be held Saturday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. at the First National Bank West Exhibition Hall at the Ranch. A members-only preview sale will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, May 18. For more information call 962-2712.

Police K-9 program a 10 (continued from page 1)

the assistance of dogs to help police do what they do, even better. "These dogs' ability to pick up scent, locate hidden items (such as illicit drugs) and track down suspects is unparalleled," said Lt. Leslie Young who oversees the program. "Even the most accomplished officer will be hard pressed to find a set of keys tossed into an open field. These dogs can find those keys in a matter of minutes," she said.

Belgian Malinois is the breed of choice for Loveland police because of their intense prey drive, Young explained. This inborn instinct to 'look until they find' makes these dogs extremely effective for police work.

"They just won't give up," said Young. "What we're doing is a game to them, but they take these games very seriously."

Malinois resemble German Shepherds but they are a distinct breed. They're smaller, quicker and more agile. Mentally, they are very high-energy and excel at obedience, tracking, and search and

rescue—all ideal attributes for the rigors of police work.

The dogs get matched with their handlers around the age of 2. After matching, the dogs and their handlers must successfully complete a ten-week training academy before they are released to work out in the community. The teams are then recertified annually on patrol and drug work for the rest of the dogs' working life. Even after retirement the dogs continue to live with their handlers as members of the family.

"It's a very intense relationship," said Rod Bretches, K-9 Academy instructor. You live and work with your dog 24/7. You really come to think of your dog as your partner just like you would a fellow human officer. After a while you begin to read each others' minds."

"These dogs are one of the most amazing tools we have at our disposal" Young added. "They really enhance our effectiveness and they're absolutely fearless."

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.