



## Loveland's had another good year

2007 has begun. Y2K has become a distant memory.

Happily, 2006 was another good year for Loveland. Employment held steady, the City's revenues remained strong and there were even more places to play, dine and shop.

Virtually all the services provided to Loveland residents and businesses continued without change. Any changes tended to be improvements or expansions.

Quality of life maintained a high level here in Loveland.

### List of Accomplishments

On the pages that follow, *City Update* recaps some of the new, revised, enhanced and otherwise different services provided in 2006. But before you scan the list of what was new and different, please note that the list is in addition to the "day-to-day" services provided during 2006.

The numbers below paint a picture of "business as usual" for your City government:

#### "Business as usual" for your City government

**64,000+** Loveland residents received City services in 2006!

*(Numbers may include projected approximations for services received through Dec. 31)*

- 4.5 billion** gallons of water were processed for citizens' use
- \$145,631,810** in City budget net revenue
- 686,000** items checked-out from the Loveland Public Library
- \$656,737** in grants to 37 non-profit agencies
- 396,000** *City Update* newsletters sent to residents
- 356,924** utility bill payments processed
- 310,000** visits by residents to the Chilson Recreation Center
- 169,000** calls to public safety dispatchers
- 130,000** rounds of golf played on City courses
- 75,000** hours 'worked' by City volunteers
- 42,500** seats filled at Rialto Theater events
- 40,672** tons of solid waste collected from Loveland households
- 23,000** youth attended Loveland Public Library programs
- 8,300** Museum-sponsored Foote Lagoon concert-goers
- 7,344** bus route loops completed
- 5,342** responses by Loveland Fire & Rescue
- 1,900** blocks of wind energy purchased
- 1,084** fewer City street potholes that needed repair
- 1,402** drainage catch basins inspected/cleaned by streets department
- 710** full and part-time benefit-eligible people employed by the City
- 491** City vehicles plus 109 Thompson R2-J school buses maintained
- 285** indoor and outdoor public artworks
- 22** years since any City sales tax increase
- 0** homicides; police officers seriously injured

Turn the page 2 for more City of Loveland accomplishments

## Avoid freeze-ups when the mercury falls

Things change when the temperature drops below freezing – you can see your breath, the cat won't go out and, if the mercury dips low enough and stays that way long enough, you might find your water lines turn to ice.

There are a few steps homeowners can take to keep the water flowing on even the coldest days:

- Make sure that any water pipes in exterior walls are adequately insulated.
- Remove hoses from outside hose bibs

when cold weather is forecast.

- Leave a trickle of water running if you've already experienced a pipe freeze up.

Frozen pipes can happen to anyone, said Dallas Post, water operations supervisor, depending on the weather conditions. "If we get an extended cold spell, pipes will freeze in both new homes and old."

The City's water department fields lots of calls when the temperature drops, Post

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## Things to do for Valentines Day

One of these City events might just fill the bill for your Valentine. SweetNight, the annual Valentines Day Friends of the Library Foundation fundraiser, will be held 7-10 p.m. Fri., Feb. 2 at the Chilson Senior Center. SweetNight will feature music and dancing plus a silent auction to benefit the summer Traveling Storyteller in the Parks program. Tickets at the library, 962-2712 or at the door. The Chilson Senior Center will host a Sweetheart Dance, 2-5 p.m., Wed., Feb 14. Enjoy the Colorado Sunshine Band, refreshments and door prizes. \$5 at the door; \$4.50 with Senior Activity Card. 962-2423. The Loveland Museum/Gallery is offering youth arts and crafts classes to make Valentines. 2:30- 4:30 p.m., Wed., Feb. 14 for grades 2 – 5. \$10, register by Feb. 7. 962-2410.

## 1610 AM radio for special info

An easy and fast way to learn if your child's school is closed in the event of a snow day is to tune into 1610 AM Radio. 1610 AM is the City's 24/7 low-power information radio transmitter for emergency or special-situation information. It offers a repeating loop of recorded messages. The broadcast area covers about a five-mile radius from the center of Loveland.

# Many accomplishments achieved during 2006

## Smooth interaction

A business ombudsman is now on board. Perhaps ombudsperson would be a more politically correct way of stating that a City staffer—currently a woman—serves as an advocate for local businesses to prevent, smooth out or solve issues with the City. Healthy businesses are healthy for Loveland.

## Now wireless

The Loveland Public Library now offers patrons an in-house wireless Internet connection. Patrons can now bring in their own laptops and other equipment and instantly access the Internet.

## Eastside water

Construction began for a 2 million gallon elevated water storage tank and supporting water transmission lines east of I-25. The tank will support the development demands of the east side of Loveland while improving overall system reliability.

## Popular changes

Modifications to the City's two regular bus routes produced a 47 percent increase in ridership, to more than 100,000 rides in a given year for the first time ever. The routes were changed to provide expanded service to the eastern portion of

Loveland, eliminate poor performing sections and add more transfer locations.



## Safety team

The fire department's Special Operations Rescue Team is fully operational. The team's additional rescue services serve a greater range of emergencies and provide a greater level of public safety.

## Incentives bring jobs

The expansion of the Enterprise Zone along Hwy. 402 will increase the likelihood of finding a buyer for the Agilent property and perhaps bring new jobs. The Enterprise Zone designation provides incentives to private enterprise to expand or locate in that area.

## Been sweeping

The City's street sweepers cleaned major streets and highways within Loveland an average of 12 times during the year. Residential streets were swept an average of four times.

## Faster service

Information Technology upgraded network infrastructure to bring additional City facilities online and provide faster and less costly connectivity



for facilities such as outlying fire stations and the new Loveland Sports Park.

## High numbers

Cultural Services participants and donors set new records in 2006. Attendance reached an all-time high at events including summer concerts, the Halloween festival and Children's Day, as did the number of individuals donating items to the museum's permanent collection.

## Helping hand

Needy residents throughout the community benefited from housing assistance and other help due to grants from the City to three-dozen local not-for-profit agencies.

## Room remodeled

The Loveland Public Library's children's story area was remodeled and beautifully decorated with murals thanks to funds donated by the Erion Foundation. The room is now called the Mrs. Runschmunkel's Reading Room in memory of Lynn Erion Ehlers and her imaginary childhood friend.

## Showtime simplicity

Enjoying events at the Rialto Theater has become even easier. 2006 marked improvements in handicap accessibility, new front doors and another ticket window. Online ticketing begins this month.

## 56 acres of fun



Construction of the Loveland Sports Park was completed in 2006 with a grand opening in June. This 56-acre park includes multi-purpose fields for soccer, football and lacrosse, as well as a lighted, artificial turf championship field. There are also basketball courts, picnic areas and a fantastic skate park area.

## Broad look ahead

The first two major phases of the 10-year update to the Comprehensive Master Plan were concluded. A schedule was developed in partnership with a steering committee and includes budget ranges, timing, and partnerships that will be critical to implementing plan objectives.

## Call mapping

A new page on the City web site—[www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org)--enables citizens to enter an address to quickly determine how many police calls were received in that vicinity during the past year. This automated feature provides quick response to citizen inquiries and reduces office staff time.

## Fiction footwork

Finding fiction in the Loveland Public Library is easier on your eyes and feet. In April, the library got new carpet and fresh paint, and the adult fiction collection department was separated into four sections—general fiction, mysteries, science fiction/fantasy and westerns.

## 16 has more

Programming on City cable TV channel 16 was expanded in 2006 with NASA's space travel education program "Destination Tomorrow," the "Public Safety Hour" and a multipart "Loveland Area Artists" series. The expanded programming, plus ongoing City meetings and the longstanding "Loveland's Talking" are broadcast at virtually no additional City costs.

## Historic preservation



After some controversy, a successful resolution was reached to protect the Loveland Feed and Grain. This resolution allowed the owner to sell to a local investment interest. This project is now backed by strong community involvement to generate funding for its preservation and reuse.

## Accredited again

The Loveland Police Department was granted the coveted national accreditation for the fifth time. Every three years the agency undergoes a comprehensive on-site inspection by national assessors to determine if it is operating in adherence to established standards.

## Plant improvements

The City's Water Treatment Plant started construction on \$7.3 million in improvements to meet service demands and comply with EPA/State mandated water quality and treatment regulations. The 2006 efforts are part of an additional \$2.5 million in improvements planned during the upcoming five years.

## Stone shown



For the first time anywhere, an exhibit of stone sculpture by 17 master sculptors from the nation of Zimbabwe was shown at the Loveland Museum/Gallery. Dozens



of pieces ranging in size from about 10 inches to 10 feet tall are presented for viewing in a 3-month exhibit that continues through Feb. 11, 2007.

**The winner is...**

Loveland's bus system COLT was named Small Transit System of the Year by the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies. COLT earned the award for providing innovative and creative services to the community, being responsive to customers and community needs, and for effectively supplying safe and reliable service.

**Twice the wind**

Loveland residents and businesses have more than doubled their commitment to renewable energy. Signups for GreenSwitch wind-powered electrical energy have reached almost 2,000.



**Academy grads**

The Loveland Police Department celebrated 12 consecutive years of hosting Citizen Police Academies by graduating 30 more students. The academy classes run nine weeks in duration, one night a week and cover a host of law enforcement topics including crime scene evidence collection, SWAT tactics, arrest control training, traffic enforcement and more.

**Gardening successful**

In cooperation with the Loveland Chamber of Commerce and the Center for Business Development, a pilot Economic Gardening program was



successful. This program targets small businesses to ensure they remain a viable source of investment and job growth in the community.

**Flooding goodbye**

The Dotsero Stormwater Improvement project was a huge success for the City of Loveland. This project reduced flooding on South Dotsero Avenue by replacing the old dysfunctional infrastructure with new inlets, outlets, piping and pond bank protection. The in-house design and construction teamwork resulted in thousands of dollars of savings.

**More video**

The City made greater use of videos to provide information to the public. In addition to the Two Minutes Max videos that began last year, several other informational videos were either locally

created or acquired from elsewhere and made available on the City's web site and/or cable TV channel 16.



**Safe buildings**

The likelihood of fires in Loveland continues to decrease. Thanks to diligent work and the addition of a new fire inspector in 2006, the number of fire safety inspections at local businesses and buildings serving the public dramatically increased in 2006. A new self-inspection program for small, low-risk businesses has allowed greater attention to businesses with complicated issues.

**Easy alleys**

In a single year, more than 20 percent of the City's gravel alleys were rebuilt with a soil stabilizer to improve stability, ride-ability, and to reduce future maintenance efforts. Two alleys in the downtown district were paved.

**Curbside cardboard**



Recycling continues to grow in Loveland. Corrugated cardboard, paperboard and phone books have been added to the residential curbside recycling collection service. And TVs, cooking oil, clothes and shoes are now accepted at the City's Wilson Avenue recycling center.

**Ready if needed**

The City's Emergency Operations Center has been redesigned for ease of operation and effective communications and technology use. Emergency planning continues its frequent revision and updating along with cooperation and coalition with other local, county and regional agencies.

**Mr. Bestwrench**

The City's Vehicle Maintenance shop continues to be ASE Blue Seal Certified, meaning that there's an ASE certified mechanic for every service provided.



The staff's top mechanic is certified in 54 technical areas. The shop maintains and repairs City vehicles and school district buses.

**Jobs online**

Folks looking for a job with the City can see what's available and apply without leaving their chair, thanks to a new automated online Human Resources jobs database. The ease and efficiency helps attract outstanding candidates from both near and far.

**Millions in improvements**

Construction has begun on \$3.1 million in improvements and expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. An additional \$9.4 million in improvements is planned for the next five years to help keep pace with anticipated growth and mandated regulations. Odor control project funding has also been approved.

**Stormwater ponds**

Construction of two 30 acre-foot regional detention ponds with 60-inch diameter outlet pipe in southwest Loveland is nearing completion. Planting for wetland vegetation and trees will begin this spring.

**Staying cool**



Public education programs by the Fire Prevention Bureau have reached more than 6,000 members of the community in 2006. Prevention works far better than hoses.

**Rialto Seats**

Seats in the Rialto Theater were occupied 42,500 times – a new record – for shows and other events in 2006. And grant money was received toward the campaign now under way to replace all those old and worn seats.

**Advancing Loveland**

The Advancing Loveland partnership brings together business advocates from the City, state, county and other agencies. This partnership provides a forum for the City's Business Development partners to brainstorm, update peers on projects and identify opportunities for future efforts.

**Staying informed**

The Public Information Office used several resources to keep the community informed about the goings-on of their City government. In addition to news releases and other forms of interaction with the media, information was regularly provided to residents via the City Update newsletter, Dateline: Loveland newspaper page, cable TV channel 16, radio 1610 AM radio and the City web site.

## City water projects: A look back and a look ahead

2006 was a busy year for major water-related capital improvement projects, and Loveland's Water Utilities has more in store for 2007. A look back on last year's projects includes new water storage facilities, additional water lines and the upgrade and expansion of the water treatment plant.

Sparked by the needs of rapidly growing east Loveland and funded 100 percent by development-related fees, construction of a 2-million-gallon water storage tank near Crossroads Boulevard and Interstate 25, and three miles of 16-inch and 24-inch water lines in eastern Loveland, commenced. The price tag for the projects was \$2.35 million and \$2.2 million, respectively. The Fort Collins-Loveland Water District will build a second 2-million-gallon elevated tank adjacent to the City's.

Other 2006 projects included:

- The design work on a 4-million-gallon storage tank at the water treatment plant. The treated water storage tank will cost about \$4.2 million, with about 75 percent of that cost covered by growth.
- A major upgrade and expansion at the water treatment plant to boost treatment capacity from the current peak of 24 million gallons per day to 30 million gallons per day. That project will cost in excess of \$7.36 million, Steve Birdsall, City senior water engineer, said. Growth-related fees will cover 67 percent of that cost.

Even as these projects are completed or near completion there are more projects in the planning stages as the City's Water Utilities looks ahead to future water needs.

The Water Utilities' staff employs a database of growth projections to predict and plan for water needs years into the future. Water-use patterns are part of those projections, Birdsall said. "We look at how our customers consume water and whether they're commercial or residential users, and we can apply that to projected population growth and predict where we will be in 10, 15, 20, even 40 years out." Looking ahead and budgeting for future needs is as important for the Water Utilities as it is for any household, Birdsall noted.

Because the Water Utilities prefers to pay cash rather than borrow money for projects, it's important to plan ahead, budget and save. "If we don't look ahead and gather the money through rates and growth development fees, we won't have the money to do the projects when we need it."

Already, for instance, planning is underway for the next expansion of the water treatment plant. That one will take the plant to a peak capacity of 38 million gallons per day. "Currently we are projecting that to occur in the year 2014," Birdsall said. "However, it depends on what happens with the economy and local growth trends. We re-evaluate those needs each and every year to make sure we don't spend money needlessly or before it's time."

## Police department re-accredited

For the fifth time, the Loveland Police Department has been awarded prestigious national certification by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

In 1992 the Loveland Police Department became the 239th agency out of roughly 17,500 national law enforcement agencies to be recognized. Only about 550 agencies in the U.S. have obtained this honored status.

CALEA is a national program sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs Association, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the Police Executive Research Forum. This commission has developed a comprehensive set of standards covering every aspect of law enforcement policies, procedures, practices and operations.

In order to receive accreditation, law-enforcement agencies must be able to

demonstrate that they comply with state-of-the-art standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations and support services. The Loveland Police Department, which is comprised of 128 authorized personnel, 86 of whom are sworn officers, complies with all 464 of the agency's accreditation standards.

The Loveland community is fortunate to have a nationally accredited police department. Benefits for citizens include: reduced liability exposure, quality service delivery, increased interagency cooperation and coordination, and accountability throughout the agency.

The decision to become accredited is voluntary according to Chief Luke Hecker. "We are very proud of this accomplishment because it demonstrates this department's high standards for professional excellence. And it's definitely a team effort."

## City's United Way Campaign is success!

On the job, City employees serve the community. City employees serve the community monetarily as well.

City of Loveland employees have pledged \$22,125 to the United Way of Larimer County and its 50+ agencies serving local people in need.

With participation by nearly 100 staffers, the City exceeded its goal. The 2006 campaign yielded a 20 percent increase from 2005 in number of employees pledging. Of those pledging, some employees chose to give at the Leadership level of \$500 or more for the year. Most of the participants opted to donate through payroll deductions that provide steady monthly income for agencies that rely on these funds.

Janet Meisel-Burns, the City's senior park planner and chair of the United Way Campaign was delighted with the results. "I'm very pleased with how it went this year. It was a very successful campaign and I'm proud to be part of an organization whose employees really want to make a difference in our community."

In addition, due to some additional sponsorship by other agencies, 95 cents of every dollar donated goes to direct services and only five cents support administrative costs. This is especially important in Loveland since our community sees greater utilization of United Way agencies than some other Front Range communities.



## Avoid freeze-ups when the mercury falls

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said. "Something to keep in mind...if the water is working elsewhere in your house, it's not the City's pipes that aren't working. If that's what's happening you need to call a plumber."

Post says that homeowners whose water pipes are prone to freezing can combat that by leaving just one faucet running slightly during a period of extended cold. A steady drip or small stream about the size of a pencil lead should help keep things running and not have a huge impact on the water bill.

Make sure you're ready for winter by knowing where the water shut off is. The shut off should be accessible from inside the house. "Failing that," Post said, "if necessary, call the water department to have the water shut off at the meter."