FNL an asset to northern Colorado

Whether you've never flown, have thousands of frequent flier miles or own a Cessna or Lear jet, the Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport (FNL — the official aviation designation for the airport) provides benefits to the northern Colorado area.

The businesses on and adjacent to the airport provide hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in wages, according to a 2002 economic study conducted by the Colorado Aeronautics Division. Those wages are spent throughout the community and support other businesses and the salaries of those employees.

Since the 2002 study, airport use has expanded, including airline service to Las Vegas. A new update of the economic study is planned for next year.

The airport is a valuable asset to the current and future economy of the area and costs very little in local dollars. Federal and state sources pay almost all the expenses.

For more details about FNL, turn the page.

Help your home be energy smart

Can you stay warm and cozy this winter and still save money on heating bills?

You can if you're willing to evaluate how your home loses heat and then make the necessary adjustments to keep the heat inside.

Take the following steps to improve your home's energy efficiency:

• **Stop the leaks.** Holes and cracks that allow heated air to escape from inside the house in the winter and the reverse during summer months can account for up to 30 percent of home heating and cooling costs. Windows and doors, duct work, light switches and electrical outlets, and gaps around plumbing pipes are all common places for leaks to occur. Walk around the inside of the house with a burning incense stick. The direction of the smoke from the stick will tell you when you've found a leak. Plug leaks with caulk, weather stripping or expanding foam.

• **Make it an open and shut case.** Install quality window coverings and open them on sunny days. The sun's warmth will help heat your home. Close the shades or drapes at night or on cold, cloudy days to help insulate your house against the cold.

• **Trap the heat.** Make sure that attics, walls, crawl spaces and any place in your home that separates inside and outside is adequately insulated. R-values are used to measure insulating materials' ability to resist heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends the following R-values for Colorado homes:

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This year have a green Christmas

Ahh, the holidays — we love to get together and spread the good cheer and holiday spirit the season inspires. But, the holidays also inspire more trash production and energy use.

By some estimates Americans produce between five and six more tons of trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's than they do the rest of the year. Obvious culprits are gift wrap, Christmas cards, packing materials such as Styrofoam peanuts and Christmas trees and other decorations that often end up in the landfill.

Energy use also generally goes up during the holidays. While most people are already using more energy to heat and light their homes in the cold winter months, energy use is compounded at Christmas time when power-hungry decorative lights are hung indoors and out.

How can we enjoy all the season has to offer and still help preserve the planet? Fortunately, there’s a lot we can do.

To reduce trash output reuse old gift wrap or make sure that the new wrap you purchase is made from recycled paper. Take leftover Styrofoam peanuts to your neighborhood mailing outlet to be reused. Try to buy gifts that are less packing-intensive such as gift certificates or movie or concert tickets. Give consumable gifts such as food, beverages, baked goods or other useable items like candles or lotions.

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Economic Gardening Program is a unique resource available through the program. Businesses at the Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport (FNL) can assist with any of these needs. More than a dozen businesses directly related to aviation are located at the airport and serve the needs of pilots, passengers and other northern Colorado businesses.

FNL is also the home of a fire tanker aircraft that’s called into use for wildfires and other emergencies. The airport is also used for air ambulance service, especially beneficial to the new nearby Medical Center of the Rockies, and for transport of organs and tissue for transplants.

A 2002 study indicated that the businesses on or adjacent to FNL support more than 600 jobs and $14.2 million in annual financial benefits to northern Colorado. The airport’s economy has grown substantially since then. An update of the study will be conducted in 2008.

A community grows—so grows its airport.

Looking ahead two decades

The cities of Fort Collins and Loveland—joint owners and operators of the airport—recently completed an update of the airport’s master plan. The plan looks ahead to the airport’s 60th birthday in 2023, anticipating future aviation needs.

The master plan update focuses on the physical realities and consideration of the facility’s surroundings. Some of the master plan’s highlights are summarized below:

- The airport will continue its current role serving general aviation activity with some commercial service.
- The type and size of aircraft currently served by the airport—from single engine propeller-driven planes to narrow-body jets—will remain unchanged.
- Between now and 2023, landings and takeoffs will increase by about 2023.

Program helps local businesses grow

Small businesses usually don’t have the resources—especially the financial resources—for in-depth research and data analysis. A variety of free services for Loveland businesses are available through Loveland’s Economic Gardening Program, aimed at helping local businesses grow and prosper.

A full-time research specialist is now available through the program. The Economic Gardening Program is a unique partnership for local businesses provided by the Loveland Center for Business Development, Loveland Chamber of Commerce and City of Loveland.

The program provides:

- Competitive intelligence
- Customer profiles
- Demographic trends
- Marketing lists
- Website optimization
- Industry trends
- Financial analysis
- Evaluation of marketing materials

An introduction to the program’s services is provided at noon on the first Tuesday of every month at the Loveland Chamber of Commerce, 5400 Stone Creek Circle.

For more information, call the Economic Gardening office at 744-4795 or visit www.LovelandEconomicGardening.com.

Annual holiday ornament on sale

The 2007 Loveland Holiday Ornament is on sale for $15 at many area retailers. This year’s ornament, “Curly Christmas,” was designed by local artist Rosetta whose favorite subject is animals—especially felines. This beautiful pewter ornament is great for collectors, cat-lovers or anyone who appreciates fine art.

Proceeds benefit the Loveland Winter Holiday Council, the organization that helps pay for holiday banners, lights and other decorations in downtown Loveland and elsewhere.

For more information on where to purchase this year’s and previous year’s ornaments go to www.lovelandochristmasornament.org or call 622-2425.
FNL by the numbers

- 110,000 takeoffs/landings in 2007
- 8,500 feet; length of main runway
- 2,200 feet; length of crosswind runway
- 1,100 acres; total airport property
- 1963 year FNL opened
- 225 planes based at airport
- 150 approx. seat capacity of Airbus, MD-80, 727, 737 airliners that can use FNL
- 122.7 Radio frequency for FNL traffic
- 4 weekly airliner flights to Las Vegas
- #4 Fire Station 4 serving FNL and east Loveland

Occasional charter airliner flights, including CSU opponents and fans

Celebs FNL used by George W., Rush Limbaugh, Rudy Giuliani, Donald Trump, Lance Armstrong, General Schwarzkopf

Airport keeping up with maintenance

Use and growth bring the need for maintenance, repairs and improvements for the Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport (FNL). Last year brought major enhancements to the taxiway that parallels the 8,500 ft. main runway. Portions of the taxiway were dug up and reconstructed and the entire taxiway received an asphalt overlay. The south end of the taxiway was widened with a “run-up” area allowing pilots to exercise their plane’s engines without causing a bottleneck for other taxiway users.

The entire taxiway lighting system was replaced and a new lighting control system for both the taxiway and runways was installed. A new navigation light system used to guide landing planes was also installed.

The concrete area where airliners park for passenger boarding and exiting was reconstructed. Total cost for the work was about $5 million, with Loveland’s share only about 1.5 percent. The remainder came primarily from the FAA.

Looking ahead, the taxiway will be extended next year leading to an area where new hangars will be built. The city owns and leases 40 hangars. More than 100 plane owners are on the waiting list. Private firms own and lease other hangars at the airport, paying ground lease fees to the airport. More privately owned hangars are also slated for construction.

Construction work is also planned around the hanger areas to improve drainage.

50 percent to about 150,000 per year.

- The main runway may be lengthened by 1,000 feet to the south to better serve airliners and corporate jets that require weight reductions or longer runways on hot summer days.
- A shorter, parallel runway will be constructed for use by small planes and especially for pilot training use.
- A control tower will be constructed and operated. (Less than 10 percent of U.S. public airports have control towers.)
- Expansion of the passenger terminal and parking area may be needed.
- Additional aviation-use businesses and facilities are likely.
Help your home be energy smart
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• Embrace change. Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) in frequently-used light fixtures. Changing just five bulbs in your home can save as much as $60 per year.
• Install a programmable thermostat. A thermostat that’s programmed to turn the heat down when you’re away from home during the day or in bed at night can save as much as 20 percent on your utility bill. A thermostat with a ‘smart’ feature can save as much as $60 per year.
• Maximize efficiency. Repairing or replacing old or poorly functioning heating systems is cost-effective. To function properly, heating and cooling systems must work together and be sized correctly. The most common problem is using an oversized system, which may not cycle off long enough to keep the thermostat set point. Heating and cooling systems must be sized correctly. The most common problem is using an oversized system, which may not cycle off long enough to keep the thermostat set point.

This year have a green Christmas
(continued from page 1)

To reduce energy use over the holidays and all year-long, call Loveland Water and Power at 962-3000 or visit the Water and Power webpage at www.cityofloveland.org.

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