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THE LOVELAND City Update

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City Code concerns blossom in springtime

Ah, springtime. Its arrival is heralded by the sounds of birds chirping, sprinklers spraying, motorcycles rumbling and hammers pounding.

Loveland's lifestyle gets kick-started with residents and pets walking and jogging, basement treasures offered at garage sales and do-it-yourself projects launched for everything from back porches to old Porsches. It's also the time when City Code officers' phones light up.

This month's *City Update* takes a look at some of the common City Code violations that can put a frown on a neighbor's face and ensure job security for the enforcement staff.



City Code issues simplified: Page 2

Enjoy a tour of Loveland gardens

The Department of Water and Power is happy to sponsor Loveland Youth Gardeners' 3rd annual Garden Tour on Saturday, June 24th from 9am to 3pm.



This self-guided tour will showcase 6 home gardens in downtown Loveland, the Loveland Youth Garden and the City's own Jeff Peterson Xeriscape Garden. The gardens demonstrate a variety of mature landscapes that have been updated to be water-wise and low-maintenance. In addition, "art for the garden" by local artists will be featured, as well as a silent auction of hand-painted benches.

Tickets are \$12 (free for children under 6 years old) and will be available starting May 13. For more information on tickets and the Jeff Peterson Xeriscape Garden, visit www.cityofloveland.org/wp/Xeriscape/Xeriscape.htm.

Plan ahead for safe landscaping

You can avoid landscape conflicts with utility equipment by planning and planting with care.

The average yard or easement can contain utility equipment including transformers, electric utility boxes, underground or overhead cable, fire hydrants, meter pits, meter readouts and manholes.

The result of blocking this equipment with landscaping materials, plants or structures can range from inconvenient to deadly.

To plan landscape projects safely:

- Call for free utility line locates (1-800-922-1987) at least two days

ahead of digging. Don't dig until utilities are marked.

- Don't plant trees next to or under power lines. Tree limbs interfering with electrical lines are leading cause of power outages.
- Avoid planting trees close to sewer lines, often located in easements at the back of lots. Tree roots can interfere with those lines, plugging or crushing them.
- Leave two feet of clearance around all utility boxes; allow at least eight feet in front of utility box doors.

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Yard Waste Pickup Service has begun

Don't trash your clippings.

Sign up for Yard Waste Pickup Service and place your clippings in a cart for weekly pickup. Grass clippings, leaves, garden trimmings and smaller branches are acceptable for pickup

\$6/month thru November.

Call 962-2529

Dive In! Winona Pool opens May 26



1615 4th St SE

Open daily thru August 20

Noon - 5pm *plus*

Mon. & Wed. 'til 7pm

669-6907

Pool rental information -

962-2727

City Code: Know who to call?

Loveland's City Code covers a multitude of subjects, but can be summarized simply by saying it's focused on the health, safety and quality of life of Loveland's citizens.

The code relates to citizen's residence, the neighborhood and other issues that affect people, pets and possessions.

Because of its breadth, oversight by officials is also broad. It can be confusing for the average citizen to know who to call for information, advice or complaints.

The City has recently combined some operations to simplify things, but there's still some complexity.

Generally speaking, if the concern relates to:

- **Private property** - call the City code office at 962-2506
- **Public property** - call the police at 667-2151
- **Animals** - call the Larimer Humane Society at 226-3647

On Private Property

Permit Needed?

Alterations to the structure of a building are subject to Building Code and require a building permit. Cosmetic changes, such as paint, floor covering, cabinets and finish work don't require permits.

Common do-it-yourself projects requiring permits include basement finishes, decks, additions, conversions and alterations. Examples of alterations and conversions include changing a garage or porch into a living area.

City building officials are emphatic about the need for homeowners' projects to attain permits and undergo inspections. Work that doesn't meet code can result in a fire, flooding or structural collapse.



Even high-quality but non-permitted work can cost the homeowner big bucks. Many home sales have fallen through when the buyer learns of non-permitted improvements and pulls out of the deal. And after-completion permits may require opening up walls or floors to enable inspectors to determine if work such as electrical wiring or plumbing was done properly.

In the Yard

Outside the home City Code also applies. Motor vehicles on private property are governed by code regulations. Licensed vehicles such as cars, trucks, motorcycles and motorhomes are allowed on residential property.

One unlicensed vehicle on residential property is also permissible but must be covered by a car cover or tarp. (Additional homeowners association restrictions may also apply).

There are no code restrictions for the presence of trailers, boats, snowmobiles, ATVs and similar items on private property, though here again, homeowners association rules may apply. Camping and travel trailers on private property may not be occupied, even for just a day or two.

Other outside-the-home code ordinances govern trash, old appliances, furniture, scrap building materials, other refuse, tall weeds, fence height, mosquito habitats and other concerns.

Home Businesses

Home businesses are a viable option for people who are looking to provide a product or service from their home. While operating an auto muffler shop is out of the question, a number of home businesses are allowed to operate in Loveland. What is and is not permitted depends on the zoning laws for your area.

Home businesses in residential areas must not adversely affect the character or quality of the neighborhood in which they are located. In other words, home businesses must keep a low profile, so-to-speak.

No signage or advertising can be used, no additional off-street parking is allowed and commercial vehicles associated with the business are strictly prohibited. In addition, anything that might compromise or endanger the health and welfare of the community such as hazardous chemicals or other toxic substances is illegal.

For information on all the subjects mentioned above, call the City Code office at 962-2506.

What You Said...

(Comments from the 2005 City Survey)

City services and the quality of life here in Loveland received good marks in last year's City Survey sent to 3,000 residents. In addition to answering the questions, respondents penciled in many comments, some noting concerns and misunderstandings of City Code, especially on issues that commonly occur during the spring.

Examples included:

- "The weeds in some people's yards are terrible."
- "We're sick of looking at that beat-up old vehicle in their yard."
- "We can hardly sleep at night because of loud mufflers and booming car radios."
- "I'm tired of people not leashing their dogs. It's not fair to those of us who do."

This month's City Update provides clarification of these and other springtime-related City Code concerns.

Loveland Community Night Out strengthens neighborhoods

The third annual Loveland Community Night Out (LCNO) evening of block parties is Wed., June 21st from 6 to 10 p.m. Once again you and your neighbors will have the opportunity to get to know each other better, as well as meet Loveland police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, city council members and other city staff and volunteers who work to keep Loveland a healthy and safe place to live.

LCNO is designed to strengthen neighborhoods and create awareness and partnerships between area communities and the public service providers who support them.



To host or attend a block party in your neighborhood or for more information, contact Officer Dave Sloat, Loveland Police department, 962-2229.

On Public Property

With some exceptions, City Code dealing with public property is enforced by the police department. The most frequent concerns deal with vehicles.

Motor vehicles

Regarding motor vehicles, the law is simple. If a motor vehicle doesn't have a current, valid license plate, it shouldn't be on the street and may be towed and impounded. Even with a valid plate, a vehicle that appears abandoned and has sat unmoved for more than three days may be impounded.

Trailers

Trailers are easy, too. No plate equals not legal. And a trailer in the street not hitched to a tow vehicle is illegal too, even with a valid plate.

Noise

Loveland passed a new noise ordinance last year. It abandoned the use of a decibel meter and made noise enforcement a judgment call by police officers.

In simple terms, if noise is excessive and intentional, that constitutes a violation. For example, a loud vehicle operating normally is not in violation. However, the same vehicle revving its engine or "burning rubber" is illegal.

Similarly, an ongoing loud stereo blasting neighbors is a violation, as opposed to loud music from a vehicle at an intersection while waiting for the traffic light to turn green.

Concerns about any of these subjects should be addressed to the police department at 667-2151.

Temporary Signage

Temporary signage issues are handled by the Code Office at 962-2506, not the police department.

The most frequent concern is—you guessed it—garage sale signs.

Temporary signs for garage sales, lost pets,

homes for sale or rent, open houses and others may be placed only on the property of the owner, not on the corners of the block, not on any public signpost and not in the public easement area between the sidewalk and the curb.

Code enforcement officers—who now work weekends—may remove the signs and tickets may be written. (Enforcement is especially easy because the signs have an address or phone number right on them!)

The City supports business and free enterprise, whether it's the sale of a \$350,000 home or an old sofa at a garage sale. But improper signage can impede pedestrians, block motorists' line of sight and simply make a neighborhood look trashy.

Don't cause your neighbors to call 962-2506 to report infractions.

Pets

A number of codes exist to address pet issues to keep Loveland safe, healthy and peaceful.

Pet owners are required to prevent their animals from disturbing the peace and quiet. Disturbances include loud and persistent barking, baying, howling, yipping etc. If a complaint is filed pet owners may receive a warning, then a citation.

Pet owners are required to leash pets at all times when not confined on private property. This includes cats, too.

Pet owners who fail to remove animal waste on streets, sidewalks, parks, recreation areas (including water) and on private property are in violation of city code. The City provides animal waste bags and trash receptacles at stations



along all city recreation trails. Horses are not allowed on recreation trails.

Owners may be ticketed if their pets are a public nuisance or a safety or health hazard. This can include running up and scaring or jumping on a person, injuring a person or another animal, or damaging property.

Number of pets per household is limited according to the owner's ability to maintain healthy living conditions. Owners must also be able to keep their animals from disturbing their neighbors.

Remember, every cat and dog is required to have had a rabies vaccination, be licensed and always wear tags indicating this.

For information or to report violations, contact the Larimer Humane Society at 226-3647.

Entire Municipal Code
online at
www.CityofLoveland.org
click on
City Government button

Getting a read on things

Back in 1979, when Kent Meyer first started reading electric and water meters for the City of Loveland, he was one of two meter readers. Today it takes a crew of 10.

Meyer, crew supervisor of meter readers, said meter readers may visit 225 to 400 homes each day. A meter reader can usually read 225 to 250 homes a day in the older parts of town, where meters are frequently located in back yards, sometimes even on back porches. Meters for homes in newer areas are often more accessible, allowing meter readers to visit up to about 400 in a day.

Most routes include both water and electric meters. Most meters are read once a month, every month, summer or winter, rain or shine. As of February there were 30,565 electric meters and 23,413 water

meters, "and it's growing every day," Meyer said.

The crew also includes a field service representative who checks for leaks when customers have high water usage and maintains the city's free porch light program in older parts of town.

Weather tops the list of challenges facing meter readers in doing their work. Reading meters is great on a day with beautiful weather, Meyer said. "But they're out there when it's cold and snowy and rainy, too."

Dogs run a close second. "We have quite a few meters located in back yards," Meyer said.

Meter readers will sometimes knock on the front door to ask for help if pets appear



threatening. Utility customers who aren't home to help may receive a postcard asking them to read the meter, mark the card and return it.

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Loveland 2006 Summer Events

Foote Lagoon Concerts

500 E 3rd Street

7-9 p.m., FREE

June 15 Funkiphino (70s & 80s funk)

June 22 Lisa Bell & Crescendo
(Jazz & Swing)

June 29 Chris Daniels & The Kings
(jump/swing/rock/blues)

July 6 The Elders (Celtic Rock)

July 13 Celeste Krenz
(Folk/Country vocals)

July 20 Sweet Sunny South (Bluegrass)

July 27 Cool Shooz
(Awesome a cappella)

In case of rain, concerts will be moved to Roberta Price Auditorium, Thompson Valley High School, 1669 Eagle Dr.

Tunes At Noon

Peters Park, Loveland Museum/Gallery
Corner of 5th and Lincoln

12—1 p.m., FREE

June 14 Harold Payne
(singer/songwriter)

June 21 Brad & Kathy Fitch
(Estes Park crooners)

June 28 Déjà Vu Quartet (a cappella)

July 5 Jerry Barlow (Celtic guitar)

July 12 Rosann Winn
(singer/songwriter)

July 19 The Two of Us
(Beatles tribute)

July 26 Dog Mountain
(Bluegrass/Blues)

In case of rain, concerts will be moved into the museum auditorium.

Concerts are supported by a grant from the Colorado Council on the Arts.

Cherry Pie Celebration & Street Dance

Peters Park, Loveland
Museum/Gallery
Corner of 5th and Lincoln

Celebrate Loveland's heritage with cherry pie, ice cream, and dancing in the street to the music of Fat City Mardi Gras Band and Shawn Waggoner & the Tumblyweeds.

July 16 6—9 p.m.

Admission free, pie & ice cream for sale.

4th of July Celebration

North Lake Park
Hammond Amphitheater

3:00-5:00 p.m. Wendy Woo and the Woo Crew
(Contemporary)



5:15-7:15 p.m. The Indulgents
(Celtic Rock)

8:00 – 9:15 p.m. Loveland Concert Band
(Celebrate the 4th)

Fireworks Show

Teen Battle of the Bands

North Lake Park
Hammond Amphitheater

August 2 3 pm – 9 pm

Free live music featuring young, local talent. Please call 970.962.2562 for entry information.

For info:
Loveland Museum/Gallery
970-962-2410

Annual Fishing Derby June 3rd and 4th

Loveland's annual Fishing Derby for children and seniors will take place June 3rd and 4th at the duck pond at North Lake Park. The Derby, now in its 20th year, is sponsored by the Loveland Police Department and made possible through the generous donations of about three dozen local businesses.

Children aged 14 and younger, and seniors 60 and over can enjoy time with their families and friends while fishing. Drawings for fishing rods, reels, tackle

boxes and other fishing gear will be held plus a special prize for largest fish caught.

In anticipation of the Derby, the duck pond will be stocked with more than 4,000 trout including some extra-large, 'trophy-sized' fish.

More than 1,000 youngsters enjoy this event annually. There is no cost to participate and fishing licenses are not required. Children and seniors just need to show up with their rods between 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat., June 3rd or between



7 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun., June 4th. For more information call 962-2277.

Plan ahead for safe landscaping (continued from page 1)

- Don't obstruct the view of a fire hydrant. Hydrants must be visible so they can be located quickly in an emergency. Leave a three-foot clearance.
- Keep landscaping back at least one-foot from meter pits; leave clear access from sidewalks or curbs.
- Trim bushes and greenery to allow a clear view of meters and meter pits.

Getting a read on things (continued from page 3)

Some customers are on a customer call list, receiving phone calls a day in advance of when their meters are to be read.

Landscaping, too, can present challenges. "If customers have tree branches or bushes blocking their meters, doing a little trimming around the meter makes it more accessible to meter readers," Meyer said

In addition to reading meter routes each month, the crew routinely delivers late notices, verifies readings and takes readings for customers moving into or out of their residences.

Chilson Recreation Center 3-Month Summer Passes



Available ONLY:
May 15th-June 16th
Get Yours Today!
or Call 962-2383 for Information
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. Visit the City's website at www.cityofloveland.org.