

Retreat helps plot Loveland's direction

As they've done for many years, Loveland's City Council members along with the top City staff managers recently got together for a two-day retreat.

Away from their offices and phones, the City's leaders spent a Friday and Saturday focusing on Loveland's goals and priorities for 2006 and beyond.

Both days, everyone gathered just west of town at the Sylvan Dale Ranch, where with the assistance of a professional facilitator, they discussed numerous current and future issues. The discussions led to determining a statement of goals and creating a list of issues for further discussion and possible action.

"The annual retreat provides the opportunity for council and executive staff to communicate about the issues expected to be a priority in the coming year and then establish a plan for addressing those issues," said Assistant City Manager Renee Wheeler, a retreat participant. "One of the most valuable outcomes is clarification of expectations. This retreat is all about ensuring that policy makers and policy implementers are on the same page."

Overall objectives were established for 2006 plus about 20 specific issues were discussed, ranging from regional transportation to dangerous dogs. In discussing the issues, each was linked to one of the primary objectives and assignments were made to City departments for further involvement and an approximate timeline for future discussion by City Council.



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Stay out of "hot water" on your energy bill

Water heating accounts for about 18 percent of your energy bill, surpassed only by space heating and cooling. Besides foregoing warm showers, there are a couple of measures you can take to save on your energy bill.

Option 1: Tank-less heaters may produce savings

In some applications tank-less or instantaneous water heaters can save energy by heating water on the spot. These heaters eliminate the need for a storage tank and subsequently the heat loss associated with stored hot water.

How they work:

When the hot water tap is turned on, cold water travels through a pipe into the tank-less water heater. An electric (or gas) element heats the water. At a rate of one to five gallons per minute, the tank-less heater provides a constant supply of hot water, enough to provide for most hot water needs.

An additional tank-less heater can meet multiple demands for hot water in a large household. For instance, separate water heaters can be connected for appliances



such as washing machines, dishwashers or even hot tubs.

If a tank-less heater operates at 100 percent efficiency, the savings over a typical electrical hot-water storage system are likely to be in the 4 to 12 percent range. However, researchers have found that tank-less heaters are most likely to operate with 94 to 96 percent efficiency.

As a result, in a typical two bathroom home housing a family of four, the savings provided by a tank-less heater are likely to be small. More savings will befall a single

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Mark Your Calendar!

Friends of the Library Foundation **Spring Used Book Sale**



Friday - Sunday, April 21-23
McMillan Bldg.
at Old Fairgrounds

5 - 9 pm Friday
Members' Preview

9 am - 3 pm Saturday
Public Sales

Noon - 4 pm Sunday
Bagful Sales

Friends of the Library memberships available at the Friday Preview or now at the library

Retreat focuses on objectives and goals for 2006

The 2006 City Council/ Executive Staff Retreat was organized in inverted-pyramid style, beginning with the general and narrowing down to more specific discussion. After a brief welcome and overview of the retreat's agenda, the interaction began.

City Council began by determining major objectives for 2006. They are:

- Promote economic development
- Improve transportation
- Effective and efficient government
- Open and accessible government

City Council then discussed a number of individual issues and set 2006 goals for each. They are grouped here by general objective, summarized and presented with this year's goals.

Effective and Accessible Government

Financial Master Plan

The Finance Department continues to develop and refine the City's 5 and 10-year financial plans for both operations and capital projects.

Goal for 2006: Refine the 5-year capital plan and discuss with City Council the revenues needed to support the projects.

Lodging Tax Ballot Question

Council will initiate a planning process to determine the feasibility of placing a lodging tax on the 2007 ballot. Prior lodging tax ballot issues were defeated.

Goal for 2006: City staff will meet with the business community to assess their interest and support. In addition, staff will work to identify a dedicated program supported by lodging tax proceeds.

Combined Fire Authority/District

Loveland and neighboring fire departments support each other with mutual aid. Regional growth and changing boundaries complicate coverage and financial jurisdictions.

Goal for 2006: Loveland Fire Department staff will investigate the interest of neighboring departments in forming a regional authority/district.

Employee Health Care Costs

Health care benefits costs for City employees is increasing rapidly. The Human Resources staff continues investigating various approaches to this issue.

Goal for 2006: Staff will provide recommendations on how to contain costs, perhaps by looking at national organizations as cost containment models.

Performance Measures Program

A Citywide performance measures program will move from pilot to organizational implementation in 2006.

Goal for 2006: A framework will be created to facilitate tracking, data collection and reporting.

Boards and Commissions Review

Periodically, City Council reviews its Boards and Commissions to ensure that the groups' purposes are clear, the work is substantive and they are effectively supporting the City Council.

Goal for 2006: The mission, purpose, work plan and accomplishments of the Boards and Commissions shall be reviewed to ensure they remain relevant.

Landscaping/Irrigation Requirements

There is a perception and concern that the requirements for landscaping of open and common areas in new developments are having a detrimental impact on water use and water conservation.

Goal for 2006: The City will review landscaping requirements and their impact on water use, and discuss options for continuing to promote quality developments while lessening water usage impact.

Dangerous Animals

The City has become aware of several situations where potentially dangerous animals are impacting neighborhoods and residents.

Goal for 2006: A review of existing ordinances is suggested with recommendations as to how ordinances could be strengthened to deter ownership of dangerous animals in Loveland.

Improve Transportation

Regional Transportation Authority

Northern Colorado communities are considering the formation of a Regional Transportation Authority to fund significant regional transportation projects.

Goal for 2006: Among northern Colorado communities, the RTA discussion has stalled. Loveland supports an RTA and will pursue identifying the outstanding issues and begin a dialogue with other stakeholders.

Impact Fees

Impact fees paid by new developments support capital expansion and maintenance, including roads. Impact fee methodologies and the competitive level of Loveland's fees are of ongoing interest. Further evaluation of the transportation impact fee methodology is desired.

Goal for 2006: The Transportation Master Plan is being updated, and as part of this process, the transportation impact fee will be analyzed. Council wants a briefing on proposed 2007 impact fees.

Downtown Street Design Review

Staff is currently assessing options for the re-design of streets in the downtown to foster more effective traffic flow and continue to promote a healthy downtown.

Goal for 2006: Options for downtown streets re-design shall be reviewed by

Don't trash your yard waste

It may only be March, but the growing season and yard work is just around the corner. What do you do with grass clippings, leaves, garden trimmings and branches?

Please don't put them in the trash.

Instead, subscribe to the City yard waste cart service or drop the material off free-of-charge at the City's recycling center.

The City's curbside yard waste cart service begins Monday, April 3. Beginning that week, subscribers to the service can set out their yard waste carts for weekly collection along with recyclable materials and trash on their regular collection day.

The service costs \$6 per month and runs through the end of November. To order a cart, call Utility Billing at 962-2111.

Residents subscribing to yard waste cart service are asked to observe the following guidelines:

Acceptable

Grass clippings
Leaves
Garden trimmings
Branches

Unacceptable

Sod or soil
Food wastes
Pet wastes
Plastic bags
Ashes (hot or cold)
Oversized branches

Loaded carts must weigh less than 250 lbs and the lid must close.

Free yard waste drop off is offered at the Loveland Recycling Center, 400 N. Wilson Ave. Residents will be asked to present their current yard waste permit or show proof of Loveland residency.

The center is open:

April-November

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.,
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun.

December-March

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.,
9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun.

The same acceptable/unacceptable guidelines for yard waste cart service apply to the recycling center. Please keep your branches separate from the other yard wastes.

For further information, call the Solid Waste Division at 962-2529 or visit www.ci.loveland.co.us/PublicWorks/SolidWaste

staff. Council shall provide direction to staff on any changes that may be needed.

Promote Economic Development

Economic Development Position

A new economic development staffer will become an ombudsman to the business community, address business attraction and retention issues, work to help businesses move through the City's processes, and more. This replaces focus primarily on business attraction.

Goal for 2006: The staff will update the City Council on the new program direction and seek more detailed direction from Council on how to handle incentives for small businesses that create jobs but have little impact on sales tax revenue.

Affordable Housing

The City formed an affordable housing advisory committee that is working on recommendations for the City Council to consider.

Goal for 2006: The affordable housing advisory committee will present options for City Council to consider for possible further action.

Fort Collins/Loveland Airport IGA

Loveland and Fort Collins will need to update their intergovernmental agreement for operating the airport. There are currently no significant differences of agreement.

Goal for 2006: A presentation on overall airport finances and development opportunities around the facility is requested.

Engaging Loveland

The Engaging Loveland group has identified the need for resources to coordinate ongoing special events and community programs that support the economic health of the downtown and City in general.

Goal for 2006: Engaging Loveland is requesting City funding to create a position to coordinate events and activities. The Council asked for an overall plan on funds use and projects coordination.

Other

No Smoking Ordinance

Community members have requested that the City evaluate options for pursuit of a no smoking ordinance.

Goal for 2006: City Council wants to evaluate options for limiting smoking in the community: develop a recommended ordinance; a City sponsored ballot question; or a community sponsored ballot question.

Fairgrounds Planning

The City has developed plans for the redevelopment of the fairgrounds site. There are two funding issues to address this coming year; the funding for Phase I improvement and the potential funding for a community center on the site.

Goal for 2006: The staff will make presentations on Phase I funding options and community center funding options.

Methamphetamine

Meth use in the community continues to be a concern. The City currently participates in several ongoing programs designed to address this issue.

Goal for 2006: The City Council wants to be updated on ongoing efforts to address this serious issue in the community.

From the Mayor:

Retreat Very Beneficial

Our annual City Council/Executive Staff retreats provide a multitude of values to the participants and the community.

Goal setting, strategies, vision achievement, idea development and effective communication are important benefits of the two-day gathering.

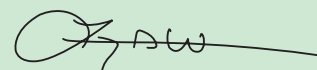
Setting goals for the upcoming year is a primary objective for the retreat. The City Council and Executive Staff discuss what they believe the community would like to see accomplished.

Some goals are short-term and will be accomplished within the upcoming year. Others, such as finalizing a 10-year financial plan, involve long-term strategy for providing assurances of a quality community. The long-term strategic goals are aimed at turning the community vision into tangible projects and services.

To accomplish the community vision, council and staff must work closely together and share the same vision and

goals. The annual retreat enables both groups to determine expectations and mutually establish a timeline for achieving those expectations.

With the council and all members of the Executive Staff present, this forum facilitates discussions that can span several City departments. It also promotes an open, informal exchange of ideas that does not take place during the course of official City meetings throughout the year.



Larry Walsh
Mayor of Loveland



Bye bye, cardboard: Curbside pickup returns

Cardboard pickup is back.

Now you can recycle cardboard plus paperboard and phone books for pickup at the curb. Just set them out on trash day.

Cardboard:

Remove packing materials and flatten. Place flattened boxes under or between your recycling bins, or stuff in one unflattened box. Small amounts of cardboard can go into recycling bin. Pizza boxes are acceptable, but please empty them.

Paperboard (Cereal, Shoe, Gift Boxes):

Remove liners and flatten.

Place in blue recycling bin. Sorry, no paper milk cartons or drink boxes.

Phonebooks:

Place in blue recycling bin.

Got questions? Call 962-2529.



Bestselling author to speak at Rialto

Spend "An Evening with Sandra Dallas," bestselling Colorado author on Monday, April 10. The free event begins at 7 p.m. at the Rialto Theater. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library Foundation, Dallas will speak about her books, the characters she creates as well as her writing career.

Dallas has authored "The Chili Queen," "The Persian Pickle Club" and four other bestselling novels. She has also authored numerous non-fiction works.

Please reserve your free tickets at the Rialto Theater Box Office, 962-2120.

Crew of four keeps trees in shape

They may be the original tree huggers.

Loveland's crew of utility arborists is at work summer or winter, five days a week, to ensure that trees planted around the city remain healthy and out of the way of power lines.

They love their work and they love trees.

The program today – run by a team of four – has its roots in supervisor Irv Dees' experiences as a 45-year employee of the City. Years ago, when there was trouble with trees, Dees recalls, the City hired contractors to take care of it. Today the utility arborists trim trees year round on a two-year cycle, through a program Dees designed.

That means every tree that might affect the City's power lines – suburban, rural or mountain – gets a check-up and trim every two years. "Trim trees – that's all we do," remarks Utility Arborist Dave Van Dorin with a smile.

Van Dorin and Dees are joined by Mark Lyman and Jeff Garcia.

And actually, the four do a bit more than trim trees.



The team responds when motorists complain that trees or shrubbery are obstructing vision at an intersection. The City's arborists also operate a replanting program. For \$50 per tree they'll help homeowners replace dead or dying trees located between sidewalks and streets.

Because they work with trees that may come in contact with power lines, the four are acutely aware of the dangers when trees and electricity meet. They are trained in CPR, enjoy a strong 21-year safety record, and don't hesitate to advise homeowners when their landscaping may be dangerous.

For instance, people who build treehouses in trees beneath power lines will likely hear from the City's utility arborists.

If the best part is the trees, sometimes the hard part is dealing with residents who believe that trimming will hurt the trees. "Most people do understand the need for the work," Dees notes. And, for the most part, the utility arborists and the citizens they serve share an important point in common, Dees says. "People love their trees, especially around here."

Strongest man is here in Loveland

Ever watch the World's Strongest Man competition on TV? Well, we think the all-time champion is here in Loveland.

Sixty-four year old Tim Turner has just retired after 46 years with the City's Solid Waste Division.

Yes, Turner has been lifting and tossing trash bags, trash cans and trash carts into garbage trucks here in Loveland for 40 of those 46 years.

On TV, if the guy can lift a heavy stone or a drag a steel anchor a few feet he's considered a strongman. Well, by our calculations, Turner has lifted a bit more. During his career as a valuable and well-liked City employee, he's rid Loveland of more than 100 million pounds of trash. No, that's not a typo!

Can't get your mind around that number? Perhaps this will help:

- 29,850 2006 Ford Mustangs.
- A football field piled 198 feet high.
- Dumping an average Loveland household's weekly trash for 75,958 years.

We wish Tim many uplifting years of an entirely different nature.



Correction

The January *City Update* included an article that stated there were no homicides in Loveland in 2005. In fact, 30-year old Jennifer Jarvis was the victim of a murder/suicide March 8, 2005. *City Update* apologizes for the error.

Stay out of "hot water" on your energy bill

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person or couple, who will typically have lower hot-water demands.

Tank-less heaters also may produce energy and cost savings when installed in a second residence where hot water is stored in a hot water heater for long periods.

For more information on tank vs. instantaneous water heaters, visit the Water and Power section of www.cityofloveland.org.

Option 2: Bundle up your water heater

A blanket for your hot water tank and hot water pipes can help reduce heat loss and save money on energy costs, while still keeping the hot-water flowing.

To tell if you could benefit by wrapping it in an insulating blanket, touch your hot-water heater. If it's warm to the touch it needs additional insulation. Adding

insulation can reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent, resulting in a 4 to 9 percent monthly cost savings.

Insulating a water heater tank is simple and inexpensive. The savings will cover the cost of the insulation in about one year. Pre-cut tank blankets or jackets typically cost between \$15 and \$20. They are available from home improvement and hardware stores.

Some tips:

- Read and follow the instructions carefully when installing a water heater tank blanket.
- Avoid setting the thermostat above 130°F on an electric heater when a blanket is installed as the wiring may overheat.
- When installing a new heater, consider placing a piece of rigid insulation underneath it. This helps prevent heat

loss into the floor and saves an additional 4 to 9 percent of the energy needed to heat your water.

- Water heaters less than 7 years old probably won't need to be insulated, although wrapping the hot and cold water pipes connected to the heater will still provide benefits.

Option 3: Change your ways

- Set your water heater thermostat to 120°F.
- Fix leaky faucets promptly.
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Select short cycles and cold water rinse in the laundry.
- Only run full loads in the dishwasher.
- Consider water conservation when purchasing a new dishwasher or clothes washer.
- Look for the EnergyGuide label.