



2005 was a very good year for Loveland

Welcome to 2006 in Loveland

In bidding farewell to 2005, *City Update* would like to recap some of the accomplishments of your local government during the past year.

Perhaps the best good news is that there's no bad news. 2005 was a good year for the City and for the services and facilities it provides to its citizens. Virtually all the services provided to Loveland residents and businesses continued without change. If there were changes, they tended to be enhancements rather than reductions.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said for other private and public sector organizations around northern Colorado, Colorado in general, or for the nation as a whole. Quality of life, as provided by local government, maintained a high level here.

List of Accomplishments

On the pages that follow, *City Update* offers a list of some of the new, revised, enhanced and otherwise different services provided in 2005. 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 listed below provided in 2005.

"Business as usual" for your City government

62,000+ Loveland residents receiving City services

(Numbers may include approximations for totals through Dec. 31)

- 3.9 billion gallons of water treated
- \$404 million permit valuations for new buildings
- \$141 million in City finances administered
- 675,000 borrowings of library items
- 628,995 water and electric meter readings
- 442,000 attendance in recreation and athletic programs
- 344,000 utility bill payments processed
- 310,000 visits to Chilson Rec Center
- 169,000 items in library
- 149,500 calls to public safety dispatchers
- 130,000 rounds of golf played
- 7,368 bus route loops completed
- 5,100 responses by Loveland Fire & Rescue
- 3,065 potholes filed
- 690 regular full and part-time City employees
- 323 miles of operational sewer line
- 302 centerline miles of City streets maintained
- 287 acres of parks, plus 3 golf courses
- 220 indoor and outdoor public artworks
- 80 intersections controlled by traffic signals
- 31 square miles within Loveland city limits
- 21 years since any City sales tax increase
- 0 homicides; police officers seriously injured

Turn the page 2 for more City of Loveland accomplishments

Take charge with programmable thermostat

With as much as half of household energy costs going to heat and cool your home, it makes sense to consider a programmable thermostat.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, you can save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling bills simply by turning the thermostat back 10 percent to 15 percent for eight hours. A programmable thermostat can do this automatically.

With a programmable thermostat, you can adjust the times you turn on the heating or air-conditioning in your home via a pre-set schedule. For example, if you typically leave home on week days for nine to 10 hours, a programmable thermostat can be set to turn the heat down or the air conditioning up while you are away. And, it can be set to turn the heat up or air conditioning down in

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Loveland councilor elected to national board of directors

Ward III City Councilor Walt Skowron has been elected to the board of directors of the National League of Cities.

The National League of Cities is the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States.

"I look forward to working with other NLC executive leaders to improve the economic vitality and quality of life in America's cities," Skowron said.

Sales tax rebates total \$93,000

For 2005, 760 Loveland households received rebates for City food sales tax they paid. The rebates, available to lower income individuals and households, averaged \$122.97 per household.

While the average rebate amount increased \$13.55 over 2004, the number of households receiving rebates decreased from 1,197 the prior year. Eligibility changes included residing within the city limits and age/disability requirements for one-person households.

The 2005 food sales tax rebates totaled \$93,459.81.

Many accomplishments achieved during 2005

2005 was a busy and productive year for the City. In addition to continuing the wide variety and high quality of services that have become customary from year to year, numerous additional accomplishments were achieved.

City Update is proud to present a summary of these accomplishments.

Unpleasant PARTY

Loveland police officers, along with doctors, nurses, lawyers, insurance agents and even morticians participated in PARTY-- Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth. Local ninth graders visited McKee Medical Center for in-depth presentations about possible consequences of poor decision making.

New lift station

Sewer service maintenance needs will decrease and end-user reliability increase thanks to a new, large wastewater lift station and 30-inch sanitary sewer serving the southeast portion of town. The \$2.6 million station and sanitary sewer line replaces a temporary lift station and allows abandonment of an outdated, lower capacity lift station.

Let there be light

Residents can now report Loveland streetlights that are not working properly by accessing the City of Loveland's Internet site. This online function provides a fast and easy way to notify the City and accelerate the repair process.

Outdoor art market

The 5th Street Art Market was introduced during summer Thursday evenings to give local artists an opportunity to show and sell their work in an informal setting. The interaction and commerce was enjoyed by buyers, sellers and passers-by near the Museum/Gallery.

Lively Saturday nights

The Chilson Recreation Center hosted the very successful "Kids Nite Out" program Saturday nights for youth ages 10-14. Supervised social and recreational activities were enjoyed by some 300 youth each week.

Taft Avenue

After twenty years of discussion and a decade of preparation, construction is complete for the first phase of the Taft Avenue widening project. The \$6.9 million project has resulted in a safer, easier and more attractive roadway with a fifth lane, turn lanes, bike lanes,



sidewalks, water lines, storm water pipes, underground electrical lines and landscaping. The intersection at 8th Street was greatly improved, too.

You're reading it

"City Update" is the result of merging the two newsletters previously included with utility bills. This larger, full-color, professionally designed newsletter goes to 31,000 Loveland addresses and costs less to produce than the newsletters it replaced.

Fitness for seniors

The SilverSneakers® Fitness Program began in October and is coordinated in partnership with a senior's private health plan. As part of their health care benefit package, seniors get free use the Chilson Center and fitness classes. A special SilverSneakers strength and conditioning class is offered, too.

Power pole inspection

The City of Loveland's Power Division began a citywide pole inspection program. Approximately 800 power poles were tested during 2005 to determine if they needed to be treated or replaced. During the next five years, all of the power poles in the system will be tested to prevent unplanned failures and outages.

Play ball

The Centennial Park Ball Field Renovation Project resulted in major improvements to the fields and central plaza area. The players and spectators at the 30-year-old facility enjoyed improvements to dugouts, turf, backstops, bleachers, restrooms and concession area.

Sculpture city

Loveland's international reputation for its large, excellent public art collection—especially sculpture—was reinforced again in 2005 with the addition of more than a dozen new pieces. The new works can be found at Benson Park and other City sites throughout Loveland.



Jam prevention

Traffic flow design plans for large special events at The Ranch were created and ready for use if needed. The plans help prevent traffic jams in and around the Centerra area for events such as the motorcycle rally.

High school law school

Police officers and the Thompson School District worked together to revitalize the Law Related Education Program. The officers taught more than 100 classes at

Loveland high schools aimed at expanding knowledge and understanding of the law, and reducing delinquent behavior.

Extreme makeover

The city's website—www.cityofloveland.org—underwent a major revision that has improved ease of use and appearance. Additional online services and hundreds of pages of additional information were also added.

Helping neighbors

The Human Services Office granted \$665,000 to 35 not-for-profit local agencies who assist needy Loveland residents with housing and many other services.

Command vehicle

Thanks to a \$280,000 grant through Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention, the Loveland Mobile Command Vehicle was delivered recently. It is designed for use in major situations and special events, and will be available to law enforcement agencies throughout northern Colorado.



Library technology upgrade

Nearly 50 computer systems for public use were replaced at the Library, providing faster service, eliminating glitches, and making them friendlier to users' fingers and eyes. The PCs are used for searching the library's collection, surfing the Internet, emailing and more. Software for word processing, presentations, publishing, spreadsheet and other functions was also added to all the machines.

DUI enforcement

Loveland is tough on drunk drivers. The Loveland Police Department is 4th in Colorado in DUI arrests. The number of arrests is up more than 20 percent over 2004.

Fast and easy

Permit fees for new buildings may now be estimated online at the City's website. The service saves time and money, and prevents surprises.

Year of change

Several changes have occurred within Loveland Fire and Rescue. The department has a new fire chief, has reorganized internal services and combined operational crews to create the Special Operations Team.

Among the best

Thanks to the Fleet Maintenance Division that keeps all the City's cars, trucks and special equipment on the job, Loveland was named to "The 100 Best Fleets in North America" list for the second consecutive year.

On display

Informative displays about the City budget, services to seniors, arts in Loveland and more were viewed by thousands of visitors to the library, recreation center and city hall.

Flood prevention

The Stormwater Division designed and constructed a large concrete culvert to replace an old, failing metal culvert along Wilson Avenue. A sink hole was forming in Wilson Avenue as a result of the failing culvert and additional capacity was necessary under Wilson Avenue to convey stormwater that otherwise would have flooded local residential properties.

Many more rides

The City of Loveland Transit (COLT) bus system provided more than 100,000 rides in 2005, a 29 percent increase. COLT provides safe, reliable transportation throughout Loveland.

Senior living

The City gave the green light and a sizeable financial contribution for the construction of the Mirasol Community. The development will include 104 housing units and an activities building for mixed income residents age 55 and older.

Parking permitted

In the heart of downtown, creativity and utility have been combined with the placement of several artistic bike racks.



Popular Picasso

The 75-piece, 2-month Pablo Picasso ceramics and prints exhibit at the Museum/Gallery was a hit. The accompanying exhibit, *More Than One Picasso*, which featured 40 regional artists' renditions of Picasso-like work, was equally successful.

Windy savings

Loveland's residents and business purchased an additional 174 blocks of wind energy this year, adding 17,400 kw of wind energy to our consumption this year. Loveland's wind energy purchases save coal and reduce carbon dioxide in the air.

Center established

The Development Review Center was created to provide collaborative staff reviews on applications for new developments; from a single building to an entire subdivision. Staff and developers work shoulder-to-shoulder to iron out the many interconnected facets of new developments.

Then and now

The Rialto Theater celebrated its 85th anniversary in May with a weekend of activities. The downtown theater, reopened after renovation in 1996, continues its popularity. Attendance increased another 10 percent in 2005 and the Rialto was voted Loveland's best theater by local newspaper readers.



Info via video

The public information office began producing Two Minutes Max videos shown on cable TV channel 16 and the City website. The brief videos provide information on a variety of City services and issues.

Online jobline

Considering a job with the City? The Human Resources Department has simplified the process with improvements to online descriptions, hiring status and applying. And BTW, the City was named the best employer in Loveland by local newspaper readers.

Looking ahead

Financial planning projections through the year 2015 are detailed in the recently-released 2006 Financial Master Plan. In addition to looking ahead ten years, the plan includes five years of financial history used for future strategic planning and decision making.

Greater capacity

The City's Wastewater Treatment plant's capacity was increased by 25 percent to 10 million gallons per day. Construction costs were approximately \$7.1 million. The improvements also enable the City to meet the more stringent effluent water quality discharge requirements of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.



Do it yourself

Like the self-checkout lanes at the supermarket, the library has added an automated self-checkout system. It's quick and easy to use for patrons, and also helps free up circulation staff for other duties.

Traffic lights

Traffic flow and safety benefit from new traffic signals installed in the Centerra area, plus at the Taft/8th St. intersection. Children also benefit from the creation of two new school zone areas, complete with flashing lights.

Shovels bring smiles

The Snow Squad now has 60 volunteers who will assist elderly or disabled residents in 120 nearby households. The volunteers clear the walkways after Mother Nature visits Loveland.

Old fairgrounds

The old county fairgrounds site along the Big Thompson River has received conceptual plans approval for renovation. The plans call for inclusion of a dog park, softball fields, concert venue, picnic shelters, inline skating, disc golf, river interaction and a plaza area.

Helps us help you

Many technology infrastructure and software upgrades occurred to ensure the reliability, security, and integrity of city data while allowing users to maximize their productivity. Responsible technology spending and reliable solutions benefit both City employees and the citizens we serve.

Nearing completion

Construction is nearly complete and the grass fields are maturing for the new Loveland Sports Park in the eastern portion of the city adjacent to Boyd Lake Avenue. Opening this summer, visitors can enjoy soccer, football, lacrosse, inline skating, skate boarding and basketball facilities. Playgrounds and picnic shelters will also be available.



Future fillups

The City has its own "gas station" for City vehicles, allowing bulk fuel purchases that save money. The Service Center Fuel Island was upgraded with today's technology ensuring fuel service with proper environmental considerations for many years to come.

Assistance provided

The City's Paratransit bus service provided rides to a client list of more than 700 elderly and disabled residents. For many residents including those in wheelchairs, this door-to-door service is their only form of local transportation.

Best dam spillway

A new culvert and emergency spillway for the Esterdoll Lake dam was designed and constructed by the City Stormwater Division. In order to construct the new Boise Avenue roadway, the dam improvements had to be completed first.

City has wind energy for sale

The answer to the search for clean, renewable energy sources is, at least in part, blowing in the wind.

Wind power is the fastest-growing energy source in the United States and it is available for purchase by Loveland residents. Loveland Water and Power offers wind power in 100-kilowatt-hour blocks. Purchase of one block adds \$2.50 to residential energy customers' monthly bills. Platte River Power Authority, Loveland's wholesale electricity provider, generates wind power at its 10-turbine wind farm near Medicine Bow, Wyo.

Wind power is increasingly popular because it is a renewable – meaning it can't be used up – source of energy. And, generating electricity from the wind reduces consumption of fossil fuels and the air-polluting emissions that result.

Some consumers opt to pay a few dollars more for wind-generated electricity because they want to support this approach.

Frequently asked questions about wind energy include:

- **Why does wind energy cost more than conventional electricity?** The cost of wind-generated electricity reflects the costs of buying and maintaining wind turbines as well as transmission and distribution costs. These costs are still slightly higher than those of other means PRPA uses to generate electricity.
- **How is the consumer cost of wind energy determined?** The premium



charged for wind energy is essentially the difference between the price of regular energy and the price of wind energy.

- **Why is Xcel Energy's wind energy premium lower than Loveland's?** That's because much of the electricity Xcel produces is generated using natural gas. As the price of gas rises, the difference in cost between the two types of electricity becomes smaller and the wind premium drops. At PRPA, meanwhile, energy costs stay relatively stable due to stable coal costs.

It's important to consider the entire cost of electricity (conventional plus wind premium) to accurately compare.

To arrange to purchase wind energy, sign up online at www.cityofloveland.org, or call Mary Wyatt, Loveland Utility Conservation Coordinator, 962-3566.

Maps have morphed to become GIS

Geospatial technology has transformed the concept of maps. Today, geographical information systems (GIS) can locate everything from an underground utility cable to the nearest coffee shop with the click of a mouse button.

"In simple terms, technology is now used to track where things are or where they happen in the world," said Steve Holmes, who directs the City's GIS operation. Holmes explained that the technology links mapping with databases, allowing software programs to pinpoint the locations of physical objects.

For example, using maps and aerial photography, the City's system is used extensively by various departments, including Water and Power, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Fire, Police and other offices. The GIS system is used to show locations of electric and other utilities; park locations, trails and equipment; routes for buses and snow plows; lot boundaries and zoning; 911 call locations and crime analysis.



Take charge with programmable thermostat

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time to heat or cool the house for your return.

You can use the thermostat to adjust heating and air conditioning needs at night and during vacations, as well. Most programmable thermostats can store and repeat multiple daily settings, allowing you to fine-tune energy use.

According to the government's Energy Star program, programmable thermostats can save as much as \$100 per year when used properly.

Combat high prices by learning to conserve

The bad news is, fuel prices are expected to rise this winter. The good news? There are a variety of ways consumers can trim costs.

The American Public Power Association is predicting consumers, on average, will spend about 50 percent more for natural gas this winter. Other consumer fuel prices are on the rise as well: coal, up 16 percent; heating oil, 34 percent; electricity, 11 percent.

Although Loveland's energy prices are not on the rise, you can take control of energy bills by controlling energy use. For more information:

- Start with the federal government's Easy Ways to Save Energy campaign. Visit www.energysavers.gov for tips and information.



- Join Energy Star's "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign. The City of Loveland sells thrifty light bulbs for \$4 each. These are long-lasting, compact florescent bulbs for

use in outdoor and indoor fixtures. Purchase the bulbs in the utility billing offices at 500 E. Third Street or 200 N. Wilson Ave.

- Visit the City of Loveland website at www.cityofloveland.org. Check out the water and power pages (under City Departments) for tips on saving energy on everything from air conditioning to water beds, dishwashers to washer-dryers.
- Call the City's utility conservation office at 962-3566 to request the free brochure: "Energy Savers: Tips on Saving Energy at Home."
- Find more resources at the Alliance to Save Energy website: www.ase.org.

Correction

In last month's article about space heater costs, the cost to run a space heater 24 hours a day for an entire month was miscalculated. Cost would be about \$67.