



City performing well, survey says

Residents again gave the City high marks for providing Loveland residents with high-quality safety, water, power, leisure opportunities and more, according to the annual Quality of Life Survey mailed out in July, 2006. The City has surveyed Loveland residents for the past several years, asking them about city government services and issues related to living in Loveland. This year's results were very similar to the results from last and prior year surveys.

Residents responded positively to 22 of 24 questions on the 2006 survey, including an 80 percent or better rating on 12 of the questions. Normal minor fluctuations occurred on almost every question when compared with last year's numbers, with 15 questions getting equal or slightly higher marks and 9 slightly lower.

The two greatest fluctuations dealt with shopping opportunities and alternative transportation, both increasing about 5 percentage points. Even the lowest scoring questions pertaining to local development and jobs edged up a percentage point.

In addition to the service quality questions, respondents were asked to offer some demographic information including age, length of Loveland residency, place of work, etc. New this year was a question



about Internet usage. About 80 percent of respondents use the Internet and most reported using it frequently.

The survey was mailed to 3,000 Loveland addresses that were equally distributed throughout the city. Approximately every seventh address received a survey questionnaire.

The response rate was 28 percent, with 839 questionnaires mailed back to the City. Only 382 responses were required to achieve a 95 percent confidence level with a +/- 5 percent error range.

In addition to responding to the 24 questions, survey recipients were encouraged to offer handwritten comments and suggestions, with more than 1,500 received. Those comments along with the complete survey report are available on the City's website www.cityofloveland.org in the News Desk section under the Other Publications link.

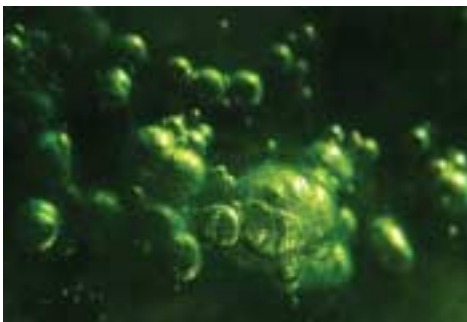
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Treatment plant keeping an eye on algae

The Water Treatment Plant is working hard to keep Loveland's good-tasting water tasting good. In past years, algae growth has caused the water to have an "off" smell and taste.

Although algae do not harm the quality of the drinking water, the taste can make it unpleasant to drink. Algae are microscopic plants that grow in surface waters.

There are certain times of the year when conditions such as the availability of light and nutrients converge to encourage higher than normal algae growth. "Algae bloom," as this rapid growth is referred to, usually occurs in the spring, late summer or early fall.



Blooms occur primarily in water sources such as rivers and reservoirs. Since the City of Loveland uses surface water as its raw water source, City operators and analysts carefully monitor for increases in algal growth.

During algae bloom season, laboratory technicians analyze water on a daily basis. The City proactively tests for algae from just above its water treatment plant to above Estes Park.

"Some years you don't see an increase at all," said Ruth Hecker, City Water Quality Specialist. "But when there is an increase, there are certain things that can be done to avert problems with taste and odor."

When algae numbers start to rise, water plant staff takes steps to diminish the effect of increased algae growth on the water quality.

Mitigating steps include:

- Lowering the inlet tower water intake elevation at the City's raw water

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Race is on for Ward 1

On November 7th, two men will be vying to represent Ward 1 on City Council. Cecil Gutierrez, a former assistant principal for the Thompson School District, and Daryle Klassen, former Larimer County commissioner and former owner of KLOV radio station successfully petitioned to get their names on the November 7th ballot.

Only Ward 1 residents will be able to vote for these candidates. A map indicating Ward 1 boundaries is available in the city council section of the City web site www.cityofloveland.org. For more information on the November election contact the City Clerk's Office, 962-2000.

2006 Survey Results

2006 Quality of Life in Loveland

(numbers are percent of total respondents)

Statements of Loveland Community Attributes	2006 Strongly Agree/Agree	2005 Strongly Agree/Agree	2006 Strongly Disagree/Disagree	2006 No Opinion
Loveland delivers reliable electricity.	95	94	1	4
My family feels safe in our community.	93	91	3	4
Loveland's neighborhoods, parks and thoroughfares are clean.	89	89	6	5
Residential recycling and trash services meet customer needs.	89	81	6	5
City provides quality parks and trails.	89	90	4	7
Loveland provides quality drinking water.	88	90	6	12
Sewer system in Loveland works reliably.	88	89	4	8
The City provides quality Fire/Rescue services.	87	86	1	12
There are plentiful opportunities to enjoy the arts.	84	88	4	12
The City provides quality Police services.	83	82	7	10
Water runoff from storms is controlled and minimizes flooding.	82	82	6	12
There are sufficient opportunities to gather as a community. (Festivals/Community Events)	81	82	7	12
Street surfaces are drivable and safe.	79	78	16	5
There are abundant recreational opportunities for all members of my family.	77	79	9	14
I feel well informed about City services.	76	76	10	14
Loveland is attracting shopping opportunities our community desires.	75	69	14	11
The library services provided to our community are current and meet our community needs.	75	76	8	17
I can travel by car to locations in Loveland with minimal delays.	71	70	23	6

Statements of Loveland Community Attributes

Statements of Loveland Community Attributes	2006 Strongly Agree/Agree	2005 Strongly Agree/Agree	2006 Strongly Disagree/Disagree	2006 No Opinion
Alternative transportation options are usable and provide options to driving my car (i.e., buses, bike lanes, sidewalks).	60	55	19	21
The City provides activities and services needed by senior citizens.	60	62	5	35
There are sufficient opportunities to participate in Loveland Government.	57	58	10	33
The City provides quality youth activities.	53	50	14	33
The City Council is approving development that enhances the quality of life in our community.	47	46	31	22
Loveland is attracting jobs that pay well from employers that offer benefits.	29	28	44	27

Internet Usage

(numbers are percent of total 2006 respondents)

How often do you use the Internet?	Daily 2-3/week	Weekly/Monthly	Rarely/Never	No Response
How often do you use the Internet?	73	7	18	2

Demographics for Respondents

	2006	2005
Lived in Loveland for more than 10 years	64%	56%
45 years old or older	74%	71%
Live on the west side of town	69%	65%
Work in the Loveland area	26%	36%
Retired or not employed outside the home	37%	38%

We've got the power: Community-owned utilities

Public power is a powerful concept in more ways than one. Community-owned utilities serve up reliable, efficient, low-cost electricity. They represent local people working together to meet local needs.

Low-cost electricity is perhaps the most important benefit this municipal utility provides to Loveland residents. Loveland has the fourth lowest residential rate in the state. You'd have to move to Fort Morgan, Longmont or Gunnison to find cheaper electrical power.

In 2006, a Loveland resident pays 5.795 cents per kilowatt-hour. That's 35 percent less than the average customer of an investor-owned utility, who, according to the American Public Power Association, pays 9.0 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Nationwide, there are 2,011 public power systems. More than half of them -1,400-serve communities of 10,000 or fewer. In Loveland, there are plenty of other benefits to having a municipal utility.

These include:

- **Responsiveness to customer concerns** - every citizen is an owner with a say in the utility's policies
- **Quick service** - utility crews are in the community and can respond rapidly when problems arise
- **Respecting community values** - Loveland's municipal utility emphasizes conservation and renewable energy resources
- **Keeping the money here at home** - a larger portion of capital investments,

revenues, salaries, payments-in-lieu of taxes stay in Loveland

- **Enhancing economic development** - low-cost power and local control appeal to businesses



Beware the phantom of the power load

When is off not really off? Many home electronic devices, office equipment and kitchen appliances continue to draw electricity even after the OFF button is pressed. This phantom power load might be drawing just a few watts of power for each piece of equipment but over time it adds up.

The EPA estimates that Americans shell out \$1 billion a year to power televisions and video recorders while they're turned off. In fact, the typical household wastes enough energy in this fashion to light a 100-watt light bulb 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

What can you do to protect your home and check book from the power phantom?

- Use power strips - the on/off switch on a power strip or surge protector

provides an off that is truly off.

Turning off the power strip eliminates phantom power consumption.

- Unplug power adaptors - experts call power adapters and battery chargers "wall warts" because of their phantom power sucking abilities.
- Purchase consumer electronic products with Energy Star ratings - this equipment should use less energy when off, while maintaining features like clock displays, channel settings and remote control functions.
- Have computer monitors switch to sleep mode (or turn them off) rather than using a screen saver - a computer that stays on 24/7 can actually draw as much power as an efficient refrigerator. Power down computers when not in use.

Residents secure, says LPD survey

What are Loveland residents' perceptions about their personal safety here in Loveland? Are they concerned about specific criminal activities in their neighborhood? Have their viewpoints changed?

The answers to these and other questions were sought this spring in a survey mailed by the Loveland Police Department to 1,800 Loveland residents. A total of 469 responses were received, creating a statistically reliable survey +/- 5 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

Overall, residents indicated that they feel safe living in Loveland with no significant change in that level of security since 2000.

More specifically:

- 94.5 percent feel safe and secure in their neighborhood
- 60.1 percent were concerned about road rage
- 68.2 percent were concerned about identity theft

- 63.8 percent indicated little concern about drugs being sold in their neighborhood
- 62.6 percent believed gang activity never occurs in their neighborhood
- 77.2 percent indicated that police visibility was among the top three methods for improving public safety
- 73.1 percent did not avoid any area of Loveland, day or night.

Additionally residents reported that:

- Preparation by the police department is important for a natural disaster (78.6 percent), terrorist activity (64.7 percent), pandemic medical illness (61.1 percent).

Like the previous survey three years ago, the most frequently perceived crimes in Loveland were speeding and barking dogs.

The entire survey report is available from the Surveys & Reports link in the Police Department section of the City website www.cityofloveland.org.

City stormwater survey results are in

For the last several years the City of Loveland's Stormwater Utility has been surveying citizens on issues relating to stormwater quality and drainage. Getting community input helps the stormwater staff focus its community-awareness programs and educational efforts on the importance of keeping our waterways healthy and free of pollutants.

This year, 230 randomly-selected individuals responded to questions about the city's stormwater system, the dangers illicit discharges pose, what can be safely poured down a storm drain and where the materials end up.

An illicit discharge is the dumping of pollutants or non-stormwater materials into a storm drain. Dumping used motor oil into a storm drain constitutes an illicit discharge.

For more information and to view complete survey results go to the Public Works Department webpage, select the Stormwater Division and follow the links to the Annual Stormwater Survey.

2006 Loveland Loves to Read

The Loveland Loves to Read Program is now in its third year and going strong. The program was modeled on one that started in Seattle in 1998.

The concept in Seattle, Loveland, and other towns and cities that have adopted the format is to have people in a community read a book and then get together to talk about it, according to Janice Benedict, Adult Services Librarian at the Loveland Public Library. The Loveland program has chosen to focus on area authors whose work is associated with Colorado, northern Colorado or Loveland itself.

This year's book selection is *The Meadow* by noted author and poet James Galvin. His book's setting is the Colorado-Wyoming border. It chronicles a hundred-year history of a small mountain ranch and its inhabitants.

The *New York Times Book Review* said, "Gifted poet James Galvin blends fiction and fact into a haunting story...this careful, honest, passionate exploration gives *The Meadow* its power and beauty."

This year, Loveland Loves to Read is teaming up with *The Writers on the Plains* project sponsored by Colorado State University and will feature some special presentations on the craft of writing. A couple writing seminars will be offered as well as a writing contest for adults and high school students. A cash prize of \$100 will be awarded in each division.

A number of small, informal public book discussions on *The Meadow* will be held at the following locations:

Date	Time	Location
Oct. 3	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Gertrude B. Scott Room, Loveland Public Library
Oct. 3	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Gertrude B. Scott Room, Loveland Public Library
Oct. 4	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Library Board Room, Loveland Public Library
Oct. 10	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Anthology Book Company, 422 E. 4th Street
Oct. 12	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Circle Moon Coffee House, 842 N. Cleveland
Oct. 13	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	City News, 6th & Cleveland
Oct. 14	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Barnes & Noble, 5835 Sky Pond Drive, Centerra

Additional Loveland Loves to Read Events:

- Writing Seminar – "Writing Place," – Oct. 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
 - History of the northern Colorado plains – Oct. 17 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
 - James Galvin Author event – Oct. 19 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
 - *Writers on the Plains* presents James Galvin – Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m.
 - James Galvin Writers Seminar – Oct. 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - Classic Western Movie night – Oct. 25 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- All events are free and open to the public. Register for the writing seminars and writing contest at the Loveland Public Library. For more information, call 962-2402.

Used book sale benefits library

The Friends of the Library Foundation will hold its annual used book sale at the First National Bank West Exhibition Hall at the Ranch, Larimer County Fairgrounds and Events Complex, Oct. 27 through 29.

The members-only sale is Fri., Oct. 27 from 5 to 9 p.m. Only Friends of the Library members may attend on the opening evening. The sale is open to

the public on Sat., Oct. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sun., Oct. 29 from noon to 4 p.m. Parking and admission are free to the public.

Thousands of books of all kinds will be available at very reasonable cost. Proceeds from the book sale benefit the Loveland Public Library. Anyone wishing to volunteer for the book sale or other library activities can call 962-2712.

Don't miss the Halloween Fun Festival and downtown business trick-or-treat events

The 5th annual Halloween Family Fun Festival will be held Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Peters Park next to the Loveland Museum/Gallery. The festival will feature live entertainment by local favorite Mr. Shine plus crafts and activities for kids, food (for a small fee) and a costume contest for all ages.

At the same time downtown businesses will celebrate their annual Downtown Trick-or-Treat event. Designated businesses will welcome youngsters for tricks or treats. Participating businesses will be identified by hanging signs in their windows.

The two events run simultaneously so get into your costumes and head into town for some Halloween fun! The festival is planned to run rain or shine but in case of severe weather, it will be moved to the Loveland Museum/Gallery. Fifth Street will be closed between the



Reporter-Herald/museum alley and Lincoln Avenue on Sat., Oct. 28 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the event. Please call 962-2562 for more information or for vendor booth or sponsorship information.

Zimbabwean stone sculpture coming to Loveland Museum/Gallery

Zimbabwe Stone Sculptures: Masters of the First Generation will open at the Loveland Museum/Gallery Oct. 28. The exhibit will run through Feb. 11, with a public opening reception on Sun., Oct. 29 from 1 – 3 p.m.

For the past five decades, Zimbabwean stone sculpture has been evolving into a contemporary art phenomenon that has played a significant role in the development and proliferation of African

art. The first generation of Zimbabwe stone sculptors derived their themes largely from their culture and its beliefs; nature also played an important role.

More recently, these talented artists are exploring new dimensions which often deal with current social themes. More abstract forms are emerging and broadening the scope of the collection.

The first art gallery outside of Zimbabwe to provide a permanent home for one of these pieces in the Rocky Mountain region was the Chapunga Gallery in the Promenade Shops at Centerra Lifestyle Center last February.

Chapunga Gallery Director Roy Guthrie said, "The sculpture is powerful and often stimulates a dramatic response from viewers. Zimbabwe sculpture is direct, powerfully human, seductive, beautiful and often emotive. It is truthful to its material which artists believe has an innate spiritual life force of its own, and to its subject matter."

For more information call 962-2410.



Keeping an eye on algae (continued from page 1)

storage reservoir, Greenridge Glade. This diminishes the growth of the algae layer that is typically found near the surface. The deeper reservoir water is brought through the inlet tower and sent to the water treatment plant.

- Adding copper sulfate to the reservoir surface water to reduce algal blooms. In the plant itself, operators may switch between the river and reservoir water

sources, bringing in the best possible water for treatment. Plant staff optimizes the coagulation process to settle out the algal particles in the sedimentation basin.

- Finally, powdered activated carbon is added to absorb the taste and odor compounds during the treatment process.

Recycling Center accepts cooking oil

So, you've just deep-fried your turkey and now you've got a few gallons of cooking oil that you don't know what to do with. You can now recycle it by taking it to the City's recycling center at 400 N. Wilson Ave.

It should not be poured down the drain of your kitchen sink or into the toilet. Cooking oil, fats and grease can clog your sewer system causing costly backups. Nor should it be dumped into the trash, as the Larimer County landfill strictly prohibits any liquid wastes because they can contaminate groundwater.

The City of Loveland is partnering with Rocky Mountain Sustainable Enterprises (RMSE), a local company, to receive the collected cooking oil and process it into biodiesel, a fuel that can be used in any standard diesel engine.

Loveland residents and small businesses are encouraged to bring their used cooking oil to the recycling center. Businesses with large amounts of cooking oil should work directly with RMSE.

Cooking oil should not be confused with used motor oil, that may be recycled at the Solid Waste Division shop, 105 W. 5th St., Loveland.

For further information, call 962-2529.



At your service...

This 'P.A.R.T.Y.' is not all fun and games

Since 1999, area ninth graders have been invited to attend a party with a very serious theme. "P.A.R.T.Y.", or 'Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth,' is a forum where trauma-care responders educate teenagers about the dangers risky behaviors such as alcohol-use can produce. Presenters include police officers, insurance agents, coroner investigators, morticians, emergency room nurses and survivors who were injured in accidents caused by careless or dangerous behavior.

The P.A.R.T.Y. program has been presented to approximately 6,500 high school students in the Loveland area. Again this year Loveland Police School Resource Officers will be attending these presentations with every area ninth grader to ensure they understand the potential risks careless or dangerous behaviors can cause. McKee Medical Center Trauma Coordinator Karen Lindhorst runs the program in Loveland. For more information call 635-4072.

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.