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# THE LOVELAND City Update

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## Keeping you in touch with government

Communications with the community has been, is, and will continue to be a vital element of the City of Loveland's goal of maintaining an open and accessible government.

Despite Loveland's growth from a town to a city, and even with its new identity as a major northern Colorado economic center instead of "second cousin" to its neighbors, the City's efforts toward easy, effective and neighborly communications maintain its long-standing small town feel.

Whether it's a question about a library book, a concern about your water bill or a suggestion about future City policy, residents are able to pick up the phone and speak directly to the staff member involved. Avoiding red tape and getting a resident, business person, visitor or the news media directly to the staffer with the answer or the ear for a suggestion remains a City priority.

And thanks to today's technology, more communications avenues exist. Thousands of e-mails are sent and received every day. The City's website [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org) provides thousands of pages of information about the City, plus online functions that bring City services to your desktop.

*City Update* this month offers a look at the many ways the City communicates with its citizens.



*More on keeping in touch on page 2*

## GreenSwitch: A cheaper renewable energy option

Help ensure a clean environment for future generations ...for less. The City of Loveland has reduced its charge for renewable energy from \$2.50 per 100 kilowatt-hour (kWh) block to \$1.50 per block.

Along with the lower price comes a new name, the GreenSwitch, a renewable option for Loveland. While currently still powered by wind energy, the GreenSwitch option has the potential to be fueled by solar, geothermal, biomass generation and small hydroelectric systems as well.

The change comes as Loveland's wholesale power supplier, Platte River Power Authority, prepares for a growing demand of renewable energy in the area. To meet this demand, Platte River will supplement the wind energy generated from its wind farm in Medicine Bow, Wyoming, with renewable energy credits generated from sites in nearby western states. Since 1999, Loveland residents and businesses have had the option of purchasing their electricity from a clean and renewable resource, wind energy. And purchase they have. To date, Loveland

citizens have bought nearly 6 million kWhs of wind energy. That's equivalent to:

- Burning 9 million fewer pounds of coal, or
- Planting 8,570 acres of trees, or
- Driving 60 million fewer miles, or
- Eliminating 66 million pounds of carbon dioxide from the air!

GreenSwitch energy is sold in 100 kWh blocks. For each block of GreenSwitch energy that citizens purchase, \$1.50 will be added to their monthly City of Loveland utility bill. Citizens can

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## Help lead your community

*Join a City of Loveland Board or Commission*

- Affordable Housing Commission
- Citizens Finance Advisory Commission
- Communications Technologies Commission
- Disabilities Advisory Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Police Citizen Advisory Board
- Transportation Advisory Board

Apply online:  
[www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org)  
City Government button  
Info, application at 962-2303



## Many methods used to provide information to community

Person-to-person. From a book, magazine or newspaper. On TV or radio. Using a computer. All of the above. Some of the above. We get our information in a variety of ways.

Providing information to the community using different communication avenues to reach different people is important to the City of Loveland. Keeping residents informed about City services offered, current and future policies, financial considerations and enjoyable opportunities such as concerts, recreation, arts, the library and more is an ongoing endeavor.

Different communications tools are used to reach a broad spectrum of the community with the timing of the message also being a consideration. The information may need to be communicated immediately, soon or long-term; to thousands of residents or just a few.

### Immediate

Dialing 911 is the most immediate method for communicating with the City. Any day at any time, callers can

express their needs or concerns with a dispatcher who then immediately communicates with the specific personnel required to address the caller's needs.

Other rapid communication tools are available to reach more people quickly. If needed, the City can provide new or updated information to its website [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org) in just minutes.

That's also the case with the City's radio information station, 1610 AM that broadcasts continually within about a 5-mile radius.

Using the Emergency Phone Notification System, a recorded telephone message can be sent to specific neighborhoods, selected areas of the city or all of Loveland. Internally, with just a couple of clicks, an e-mail can be sent to the computers of the City's more than 650 employees.

### Timely

On a timely but less immediate basis, probably the most often viewed sources of information about Loveland government are the local newspapers.

The City and the media maintain their separation while cooperating to provide and respond to informational needs.

Through press releases and outgoing calls and e-mails, the City provides information to the media to be shared with the community. And the City maintains a very open-door attitude toward the media; calls, e-mails and interviews occur daily between the media and City staffers.

Loveland's cable TV channel 16 is another source of timely information. City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on channel 16. Every meeting is recorded and rebroadcast several times, plus video tapes of the meetings are available for viewing at the Loveland Public Library. An ongoing bulletin board of City government related messages is presented on channel 16.

The City website is another major source of current information. New information is added daily from City departments ranging from City Council agendas to new shows coming to the Rialto Theater.

## Inquiring minds want to...save

Considering the purchase of a new home? Today's homeowners face both high housing costs and high energy costs. Here are 10 questions to ask to help ensure your purchase is energy efficient.

1. Was the sun considered in the design of this house? Designing houses with the sun in mind reduces energy bills and creates better comfort in all seasons.
2. Do the home's windows have low-e or solar-control coatings? High performance windows improve comfort and reduce energy bills.
3. What is the rating level of the insulation installed? Sufficient insulation for our climate will help a house stay cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
4. Is the house built tight? A tightly built house will enable better control of energy use. Controlled ventilation is important to ensure clean indoor air.
5. How will the house stay cool in the summer? Correct solar orientation, solar-control windows, landscaping, insulation and energy-efficient appliances will all help a home stay cool.
6. What type of heating equipment will be installed and is it properly sized for the house? Bigger isn't necessarily better. Ask how the equipment was sized for the house and if test results are available for the home's heating equipment.
7. Does the house include a programmable thermostat? A programmable thermostat can make saving energy simpler. Heating and cooling bills can be reduced by as much as 10 percent a year by turning the thermostat back 10-15 percent for eight hours a day.
8. Are the home's appliances up to the government's ENERGY STAR standards? Consider two price tags in

purchasing appliances - the cost of the unit and the cost to operate it.

9. Does the home have features that will help control the cost of heating water? Water heating is the third largest energy expense in a home, typically accounting for about 13 percent of the utility bill. Purchasing an efficient water-heater can lower your bill.
10. How was energy use considered in the home's light design? Incorporating daylighting design and efficient lighting fixtures can reduce the cost of lighting a home.



## Vandals target City parks

Ongoing vandalism to City parks and facilities is causing headaches for parks workers who must deal with the disappointing aftermath.

Among the parks that have seen regular damage this year are the Jeff Peterson Xeriscape Garden at First Street and Washington Avenue and Kroh Park on north Lincoln Avenue.

The Jeff Peterson Xeriscape Garden is a demonstration garden designed to

educate visitors about water-wise plants and landscaping while beautifying the neighborhood. It contains information about the seven principles of xeriscape gardening - a landscaping approach that requires less water - and signs identifying the plants used there.

Signs in the xeriscape garden seem to be the main target of vandals. "Luckily, the plants have survived pretty well," said Nancy Schmachtenberger, City

horticulturist.

Kroh Park has also had a particularly rough time with vandalism as well.

Fireworks in the bathrooms and graffiti have been bigger than usual problems. It's very disturbing when you go to open up the restrooms and find someone has come and destroyed City property that belongs to the community," Schmachtenberger said.

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New to the City website in the police section is frequently updated information on registered sex offenders and location of calls for service.

### Long-term

General and specific information of a wide variety where timeliness is not as significant is offered in several ways. Again, today's technology has made the City website the single greatest information source.

[www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org) contains thousands of pages of new and past information about the City. Every department, division and office uploads information. The entire Municipal Code, building permit requirements, electricity rates and years of City Council meeting minutes reside on the web. So does information on Loveland Museum/Gallery exhibits, upcoming soccer lessons for kids, cemetery fees, recycling, library cards and much, much more.

Again internally, the City's intranet, interoffice mail delivery, computer network and e-mail system enable City employees to efficiently share information.

The City mails newsletters to both general and special interest audiences. Newsletters and brochures that include upcoming offerings at the Rialto, museum/gallery, library and Parks and Recreation Department are mailed quarterly or more often. *City Update* provides news from a variety of departments that goes to 32,000 local addresses every month.

Also on a monthly basis, the City presents *Dateline: Loveland* in the Loveland Reporter-Herald newspaper. The full-color, almost full-page *Dateline: Loveland* presents City information to the entire community.

The City has added video information to

the web site and channel 16, both locally produced and acquired videos from sources like NASA, the American Cancer Society and Larimer County government. Information is displayed in City buildings on bulletin boards, display panels and computer monitors.

Still haven't found the info you need? Just pick up the phone or send an e-mail and a staff member will answer your question, listen to your concern or suggestion or provide you with the pamphlet, form or brochure you need. Whether electronically, on paper or face-to-face, we look forward to providing the information you're seeking.

### Emergency info sources

In an emergency or other special situations, the City will provide information to the community using its most immediate communications tools:

- [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org) . . . . . official City website
- 1610 AM . . . . . City AM radio station
- Channel 16 . . . . . City cable TV channel
- To your phone . . . . . EPN auto-caller

Please familiarize yourself with these information services.

## City eases back-to-school transition

Some students look forward to back-to-school and some don't. Either way, the City has made some changes and improvements that will make the transition easier and safer.

The City's Traffic Division has been working for months to replace nearly all of the signs in every school zone throughout the city. The new signs are fluorescent yellow and very visible to drivers and pedestrians. There are also new traffic signals at several intersections and flashing zone timers have also been adjusted to optimize traffic flow and safety.

For students who are interested in riding the City of Loveland Transit (COLT) buses to and from school,

annual student passes can be purchased at the City of Loveland Transit Office at a discounted student rate or students can pay fifty cents per trip. To purchase a student COLT pass call 962-2700.

Once students are at school they will learn and benefit from the on-site involvement of the City of Loveland Police Department. School Resource Officers (SRO) will be introducing some exciting new resources this fall including website information on activities for youth, school safety, Internet safety, teen driving and parenting links.

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**Easier to See** - A City staffer installs one of many new school zone signs. Most of the old signs have been replaced this summer. Fluorescent coloring makes the signs more visible to motorists.

## Food sales tax deadline Sept. 29

Completed applications for the City of Loveland Food & Utility Sales Tax Rebate Program must be returned by September 29, 2006 to be eligible for the rebate payments.

The program issues food and utility sales tax rebates to individuals and families who qualify according to HUD income guidelines. A total of

\$100,000 has again been authorized to fund the rebate program. Rebate amounts are based on an estimate according to family size and income level.

Applications forms may be picked up at the Loveland Public Library, 300 N. Adams Ave; the City Clerk's Office in the Municipal Building at 500 E. 3rd St.;

and the House of Neighborly Service, 565 N. Cleveland Ave.

Completed applications must be returned to the City of Loveland, City Clerk's Office, 500 East 3rd Street, Suite 230, Loveland, CO 80537 by the September 29, 2006 deadline. For information, call 962-2361.



Applications accepted beginning Aug. 1  
Details, forms on web:  
[www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org)  
Finance Department main page

## Use City facilities for your event

The City makes meeting and public use space available for the convenience and benefit of the entire community. Rooms for meetings, conferences and special events such as weddings or private parties are available throughout the city and can be reserved through their respective departments.

### **Chilson Recreation Center, 700 E. Fourth Street**

The Chilson Recreation Center has a number of meeting rooms and classrooms available for rent for groups up to 450. Rates vary depending on room dimensions and time and length of event. A fully-equipped commercial kitchen and audio/video equipment are also available for rent. All room rentals require a damage deposit and set-up/tear-down fee. For more information call 962-2458 or email: [chils@ci.loveland.co.us](mailto:chils@ci.loveland.co.us).

### **Civic Center Foote Lagoon, Corner of Second & Washington Streets**

The Foote Lagoon Amphitheater can be rented for private special events for groups up to approximately 300 (stair-step seating). The \$75 use fee and \$50 deposit are due at the time of reservation. Cancellations are subject to a \$10 cancellation fee. For more information call 962-2392 or email: [weavej@ci.loveland.co.us](mailto:weavej@ci.loveland.co.us).

### **Loveland Public Library, 300 N. Adams Avenue**

The Gertrude B. Scott Room, located within the Loveland Public Library, is available for rent for groups up to 80. The \$30 use fee \$25 deposit are due at the time of reservation. Cancellations are subject to a \$10 cancellation fee. A full-service kitchen adjacent to the room is included in the rental fee. For more information call 962-2392 or email: [weavej@ci.loveland.co.us](mailto:weavej@ci.loveland.co.us).

### **Loveland Museum/Gallery, 503 N. Lincoln Avenue**

The Loveland Museum/Gallery's Foote-Gallery is available for rent for groups up to 115. The use fee is \$35 during regular open hours. The use fee and \$100 deposit

are due at the time of reservation. A cancellation fee of \$25 is assessed unless cancellation is made seven days prior to the event. For more information call 962-2490 or email: [jansss@ci.loveland.co.us](mailto:jansss@ci.loveland.co.us).

### **Park Shelters**

Park shelters are available for rent through the Parks and Recreation department, 500 E. Third Street. The \$50 use fee and \$50 deposit are due at the time of reservation. The Viestenz-Smith mountain park shelter has a different rate structure. Call for information. A \$10 fee will be assessed for cancellations. For more information call 962-2727 or email: [parks@ci.loveland.co.us](mailto:parks@ci.loveland.co.us).

### **Hammond Amphitheater at North Lake Park, 29th Street & Taft Avenue**

The Hammond Amphitheater can be rented for private special events for groups up to approximately 300. The \$75 use fee and \$50 deposit are due at the time of reservation. A \$10 fee will be assessed for cancellations. For more information call 962-2727 or email: [parks@ci.loveland.co.us](mailto:parks@ci.loveland.co.us).

### **The Pulliam Building, 545 N. Cleveland Avenue**

The Pulliam Building has three meeting rooms plus an auditorium available for rent. Rates vary depending on room dimensions and time and length of event. Use fees and deposits are due at the time of reservation. A \$10 fee will be assessed for cancellations. For more information call 962-2392 or email: [weavej@ci.loveland.co.us](mailto:weavej@ci.loveland.co.us). (The Pulliam building is not air-conditioned or handicap-accessible).

### **Rialto Theater 228 E Fourth Street**

The historic Rialto Theater is a 450 seat performing arts center available to the public for rent for a variety of private parties, events and performances. Rates vary depending on room dimensions and time and length of event. Additional equipment and services such as light projection can be added for an additional fee.

### **GreenSwitch: A cheaper renewable energy option (continued from page 1)**

purchase as many blocks as they like, offsetting the carbon emissions of their entire neighborhood if they desire.

Residents and businesses can "make the switch" by navigating to the Water and Power Department's page on the City's Web site, [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org) or they can call the City's utility conservation office at (970) 962-3566 for an application.



At your service...

### **City of Loveland Lock Box Program**

Having easy access to a key reduces the likelihood of emergency service personnel damaging a home to get inside to help someone in need.

The City of Loveland Lock Box Program began in 2002 to help police officers, paramedics, and firefighters gain entry to a home in case of an emergency. These lock boxes are the same type used by Realtors.

Residents of the City of Loveland or surrounding area are eligible if they have a medical condition, are disabled, or bed ridden and might not be able to open the door if there is an emergency.

A lock box containing a door key is attached to a secure area at the home. In an emergency, if there is no response or the resident can't open the door for the emergency personnel, the Loveland Police Dispatch Center can provide the responders with the combination to the box.

For more information, call 962-2229 or visit the police section of the City web, [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org).

### **City eases back-to-school transition (continued from page 3)**

Additionally, links to alcohol/drug prevention and treatment will be available. The SROs have also created a Student Inventory Form to help identify stolen items such as cell phones, MP3 players, bicycles, etc.

As always, in addition to maintaining a safe learning environment, SROs will be contributing to school curriculum in civics and health classes, covering topics such as bullying, gangs, drug prevention, traffic safety, sexual harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence.

Due to all these additions, changes and improvements, parents will have more resources, students will be safer and better-informed, and a great school year will be had by all.

### **Vandals target City parks (continued from page 2)**

While some intrepid residents have been known to approach vandals in action, officials recommend calling the police. Gather as many details as possible.

After the police have been notified, it's also a good idea to call the parks department and report the vandalism, particularly in neighborhood parks. "The sooner we know about it, the sooner we can get in and take care of it," Schmachtenberger said.

*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](mailto:hillea@ci.loveland.co.us). Visit the City's website at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org).