



## Meth main problem drug in Loveland

While it may not be Loveland's most commonly used illegal drug—that's marijuana—meth is without doubt Loveland's most problematic. It's at the top of the charts for being harmful not only to its users, but to the rest of the community, explained Loveland Police Sgt. Brent Newbanks, who serves on the Larimer County Drug Task Force. "Particularly in Loveland, it's the #1 drug of choice," Newbanks said, in comparing methamphetamine use here to other areas of Larimer County. If there's any good news here about meth use, it's that it's not

often found in the Loveland schools, although Newbanks explained that teenage meth users have typically already quit school.

Learning more about the local methamphetamine situation is beneficial for both Loveland City Council and Loveland citizens in helping to deal with the problem. City Council identified its need for more information and possible further efforts at its retreat and at a recent Study Session. This month, City Update focuses on meth to broaden the community's understanding.



More on Meth: Page 2

## Water conservation not just for residents

From auto flush valves to computerized control of irrigation, the City is working to conserve water. Water conservation saves money and helps preserve a valuable resource.

"It's the right thing to do," noted Ken Cooper, facilities operation manager. "In our environment here it's important to all pitch-in on water conservation. We certainly want to lead from the front on that."

For example, the City has saved tens of thousands of gallons of water by using water from the pool at the Chilson Center to fill the nearby Foote Lagoon in the Civic Center Complex. Dave Bothell, parks and public grounds supervisor said when the City uses irrigation water wisely it saves money,

helps to educate people on water conservation and can better serve parks users.

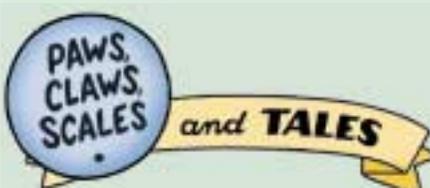
"We pay utility bills just like everyone else does," said Bothell. "We get our monthly water bills and it comes directly out of our operating budget." By promoting water-wise landscapes in parks and public spaces, it not only reduces the City's water bill but also helps illustrate techniques, designs and plant choices that can work at home too.

Conserving water in landscaping requires a multi-level approach according to Bothell. Applying the right amount of water to playing fields and other park spaces keeps users safe and programs

(continued on page 4)



INSIDE	
Addiction meth's worst trait	Page 2
Meth's misery can spread	Page 2
Cleaning up the mess of meth	Page 3
Prevention, enforcement tactics used	Page 3
Fourth of July celebration hits high note this year	Page 2
July 4th Schedule and Closures	Page 2
Time again to fight the bite!	Page 3
Keeping the lights on	Page 4
Thrifty Light Quiz	Page 4
Manager on the job	Page 4



**@ The Loveland Public Library**

Looking for free entertainment for the kids this summer? Look no further than the Loveland Public Library. Kids can earn prizes for daily reading as well as enjoy numerous live animal programs throughout June and July. The Traveling Storyteller, sponsored by The Friends of the Library Foundation, will also present six programs each week in parks around Loveland. Call the Youth Services Desk at 962-2587 or click Youth Services on the library page at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org).

## Addiction is meth's worst trait

Perhaps meth's worst trait is its almost instant addiction ability. For the sake of one "high," one tryout, one mistake in judgment, lives can change dramatically. One dose can create an addiction that can cause a lifetime of chemical highs and quality-of-life lows to the user and those around him/her.

From taster to junkie in an afternoon. Swallowed, smoked, snorted, injected. Pills, powder, chunks, colored or clear. Its use and substance comes in many varieties.

Keeping the supply coming quickly becomes the user's top priority, ahead of spouse, kids, job, school, safety and personal health. Crime—sometimes violent—is the frequent route taken to buy more. Home-based labs can be created, although "home cooking" has declined in the past year or two thanks to Mexico's success in smuggling in large quantities.

A meth user is often:

- nervous
- can't sit still
- paranoid
- losing weight
- has rotting teeth
- unemployed
- a school dropout
- violent



### Meet Jennifer, a meth user

Shown here are mug shots of Jennifer when she was first arrested, then 18 months later after another arrest. To view the effects of meth on other users, visit the Multnomah, Ore. Sheriff's office web display at [www.facesofmeth.us](http://www.facesofmeth.us).

For a dramatic look at the effect of meth on a user's body, visit "Faces of Meth" assembled by the Multnomah County, Ore. sheriff's department. [www.facesofmeth.us](http://www.facesofmeth.us).

## Meth's misery can spread to many

The effects of meth are rarely limited to just the user. The need for meth can become a user's primary focus, which can result in everything and everyone around him being drawn into the ugliness. Because many meth users already have an ongoing drug problem, their situation isn't new to those around them, but another major step downward.

Frequently unemployed and unemployable, crime is required to finance their addiction. Fraud and forgery, with the help of a personal computer, are now commonly used to fund addictions. Fraudulent checks and IDs are often created using other persons' bank account data. Thefts of blank checks or other banking information from car break-ins or unlocked vehicles are not uncommon.

Vehicle thefts from citizens or from the "customers" of dealers who are owed

money are also commonplace. Theft of items from citizens' cars—especially when left unlocked—occurs, too. Fortunately in Loveland, burglaries are relatively infrequent.

Meth users' propensity toward violence increases, which can have devastating effects for a citizen in the wrong place or a cop doing his job. Violence between meth users isn't unusual. Weapons are frequently carried by meth users.

Often overlooked are the effects of meth on children, not as users, but as bystanders caught in the circle. The health and wellbeing of children can be totally disregarded in the parents' unrelenting need for the drug. Exposure to the chemicals and fire dangers of meth production and use in the home can be extremely harmful both to users and non-users.

## Prevention, enforcement

So what's being done? A great deal of effort, manpower and money is aimed at the meth problem in Loveland and Larimer County, both for prevention and enforcement. But is it enough? As long as the problem exists, the answer is obviously no.

Involved in both prevention and enforcement is the Larimer County Drug Task Force, (LCDTF) comprised of members of enforcement agencies from throughout the county. The 17 member force, including an Air National Guard staffer, deals with drug concerns of all varieties, and considers meth a top priority.

Unlike the police departments of major metropolitan areas, the law enforcement departments of northern Colorado don't have separate squads for homicide, vice, drugs, etc. Instead, the LCDTF enables several agencies to combine their drug efforts, pooling resources and working cooperatively.

## Fourth of July celebration hits high note this year

While Loveland already boasts the best annual fireworks display in the area, this year's show promises to be even better. For the first time ever, the fireworks celebration at North Lake Park will have a musical accompaniment.

94.3 Max FM Radio will broadcast a special Fourth of July musical mix. Just before the show starts, attendees can tune-in the broadcast on their own radios. The play list will include some patriotic songs as well as other selections specifically chosen for this event.

The musical addition is being made possible through the generous donation of a group of small area businesses who

have pooled resources to make this pyrotechnic-musical extravaganza possible.

Other enhancements to this year's show will include a huge opening montage and an even more grand finale. Like last year, fireworks will be launched from the swim beach to ensure a safe deployment for a show of this magnitude. Viewers can watch from Lake Loveland or from other area parks.



### July 4th North Lake Park Schedule and Closures

- The swim beach area parking lot will be closed all day.
- The swim beach, basketball, handball, baseball and playground areas will close at 4 p.m.

## Cleaning up the mess of meth

While meth use has clear physical, mental and financial consequences to the user, the problem reaches much further. “Meth impacts more than just the user. It’s a community health and safety issue,” said Loveland Fire Chief Mike Chard. “People on meth don’t often get better. The problem perpetuates itself and poses a threat to the health and safety of neighbors, the community and the environment.”

Chard, who’s been a paramedic for 23 years and certified in hazardous materials removal for 15 is all too familiar with the fall-out of meth production and addiction. The problem, he explained, is that meth can be produced almost anywhere—in houses, garages, car trunks, rental trucks, storage facilities and backyard sheds. Toxic waste created in the process can turn up

in apartment dumpsters, open spaces or even backyards, putting unsuspecting neighbors and people in the community at risk—including children.

Disposing of these chemicals safely is where the fire department comes in. Once suspects are arrested and the meth lab shut down, first-line responders are dispatched to clean up the mess.

Great care must be taken to ensure the safety of those in the immediate environment (such as neighbors) as well as those who do the actual clean up due to the poisonous vapors and potential fire danger. Doing the job right requires a highly-trained team that follows carefully orchestrated procedures to secure and dispose-of the hazardous waste.

After the fire department removes the toxic chemicals, structures must undergo

a professional cleanup by an industrial hygiene company and be approved by both the health department and City building department before a new certificate of occupancy can be issued.

Chard estimated that the Fire department gets called out to deal with six to eight meth sites per year. While the problem is not as severe as some cities he’s lived in, any meth presence poses a danger to the community.

“Meth is a migratory disease,” he said. “Meth producers will go where it’s easier to set up shop.” Chard recommends a multi-pronged effort by law enforcement and vigilant citizens. Clues to watch for include an unusual amount of activity at a house, strange smells emanating from a structure and large quantities of chemicals such as stove lighter fluid and lye.

## nt tactics used

### Prevention

Even with a great deal of effort aimed at prevention, a significant meth problem still exists. Prevention takes a variety of formats, including:

- **Educational presentations**—More than 125 presentations last year to school gatherings, community groups, business groups and others. Presentation requests are welcome.
- **Drug Endangered Children**—direct and indirect prevention efforts for children left behind, exposed to chemicals, in unsafe environments. Interaction with child protection agencies.
- **Hotel/motel program**—Training and education to lodging management on how to recognize/prevent use of rooms for drug use/manufacture. I-25 is regarded as a significant drug transportation route.
- **Retail inventory control**—Already very successful in Loveland. Encourages retailers

to keep over-the-counter drugs used in meth preparation behind the counter where it’s not easily accessible by thieves.

- **Legislative involvement**—Close attention to statehouse drug prevention efforts, such as lab cleanup and inventory control legislation.
- **School Resource Officers**—Continuing efforts by local in-school police officers toward prevention education, including one-on-one work with at-risk kids.

### Enforcement

Needless to say, arrests and apprehensions by police occur often as part of their day-to-day patrol and response duties. Other efforts aimed specifically at drug enforcement include:

- **Drug Tip Program**—Response to tips discussed or messages left 24/7 at 416-2560.
- **Criminal Interdiction group**—Frequent formal gatherings of enforcement

personnel from a variety of area agencies to share information, suggestions, technology updates, training sessions.

- **Information sharing**—Communication within and between law enforcement personnel of information and behavior likely associated with drugs. Patrol officers especially important here.
- **Coalitions**—working with neighboring cities and counties to share info and resources.
- **Undercover operations**—Much surveillance used in targeting and arresting higher-impact users and dealers.
- **Quiet apprehension**—Individual users taken into custody leading to surveillance, intelligence and arrest of other offenders.
- **Advanced technology**—Ever-increasing use of latest technology, including digital audio and video equipment and the Internet.

## Time again to fight the bite!

Warm weather has arrived and mosquito season is upon us. That means it’s time to protect yourself and your family against the threat of West Nile Virus. Minimize the chances that you or your family will be bitten or bothered by following these simple self-protective/mosquito population-reduction guidelines:

### You and your family:

- Limit your outdoor activity at dawn and dusk—this is when mosquitoes that may carry West Nile Virus are most active. If you must be out at that time wear long sleeves and pants and use a mosquito repellent.
- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent

containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus on all exposed skin before you head outdoors. For more information on the safe use of repellent see: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect\\_repellent.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm)

- As much as possible, plan outdoor activities for daylight hours or later in the evening.

### Your home:

- Drain standing water around your home since that is where mosquitoes lay eggs—this includes flowerpots, buckets, wading pools, rain gutters, tires, toys, puddles and birdbaths.
- Keep shrubs, bushes and trees pruned—



this allows light and airflow and gives mosquitoes fewer places to hide during the day.

- Reduce all dense under-growth around your home and keep the lawn mowed short.

(continued on page 4)

## Keeping the lights on

Loveland's line crews take a power outage personally. "They really care about the city and it makes them angry when they have an outage," explains Dan McQueen, operations supervisor.

Line crews make sure that electricity is always flowing to homes and businesses through the 30,000 meters that pepper the city. "We're responsible for maintaining good quality power for the city of Loveland and Big Thompson Canyon area," McQueen says.

McQueen oversees the efforts of 15 workers – four line crews and one trouble-truck crew.

Crews are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure that electrical power flows.

It is at once dangerous and fulfilling work, McQueen says. "We're in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the world."

Safety is a constant focus for these highly-trained workers. "I'm proud to say that our group here has a very good safety record," McQueen says.

Crew members receive safety equipment and protective clothing and gear as well as regular safety training. "Our biggest concern is the safety aspect of it. We're trying to keep everyone safe and send them home at night to their families."

Electric line men undergo a four-year apprenticeship that includes both classroom and on-the-job training. Most on the city's crew are full-fledged journeymen. Crew leaders all have

journeyman status and at least five years of experience.

Training is ongoing and everybody works on it, McQueen says. "The crew leaders train the journeymen, the journeymen train the apprentices with the oversight of the crew leaders."

Safety isn't the only challenge for line crews. Uninformed citizens who hide or bury City electrical equipment make it difficult for line crew workers to find and repair problems.

"If people would be kinder with their landscaping it would allow us to do our work in a more efficient manner," McQueen notes.

The City's line crews want to fix problems and take care of power outages as quickly as possible. Citizens who hear or see something they think might help can call 962-3580.



## Take the Thrifty Light Quiz and save money on energy-saving light bulbs!

For several years, the City of Loveland has sold compact fluorescent light bulbs for use in front and back porch lights. Did you know that these lights can also be used inside?

For a limited time, you can save one dollar each on two energy-saving light bulbs when you take the online Thrifty Light quiz. Just sign onto [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org), navigate to the Water and Power section and learn how Thrifty Lights can save money and the environment, and get a coupon.

Without a coupon, you can purchase Thrifty Lights for \$4 at the Utility Billing Office, 500 E. Third St. or 200 N. Wilson Ave. More information at 962-3566.



## Business Development Manager on the job

Loveland's continuing effort toward quality job opportunities and economic health is again in high gear with the arrival of Betsy Hale as the City's new Business Development Manager.



Hale will serve in an ombudsman capacity, furthering relationships between businesses and the City. Her duties will include assisting current businesses in the

community, participating in Loveland's Economic Gardening Program, reporting on business development efforts and participating in promoting Loveland.

She will also respond to information requests from business prospects or site selectors and process incentive requests through executive management and City Council.

She comes to the City with 18 years of business management experience, holds a Bachelors degree from Cornell University and a Masters degree from Colorado State University.

## Water conservation not just for residents

(continued from page 1)

functioning well.

"If you over-water or under-water a facility you can impact programs by having unsafe conditions." Also, using high quality, healthy plants, appropriate fertilization and aeration help create landscapes that require less water.

This year the City is implementing an irrigation control program which will allow remote control of irrigation systems during storms. The around-the-clock system will monitor rainfall, temperature and wind to ensure that sprinklers aren't running during heavy rainfall, low temperatures or high winds. Bothell said the City is also

incorporating drought-resistant plants and native dryland landscaping in areas that don't need irrigated turf, such as medians between parking lots and areas adjacent to roadways. In combination with that, planters requiring irrigation are grouped so that they can be watered with water-conserving drip-irrigation systems rather than by overhead sprinkler systems.

Even small conservation efforts can add up to significant savings. Restrooms in most City facilities have water-use controls installed. These include auto-flush valves on toilets and urinals and flow-control units on faucets.

## Time again to fight the bite!

(continued from page 3)

### In your neighborhood:

- Report any standing water in your area—this includes standing water in parks, golf courses, agricultural fields and/or suburban detention basins or non-flowing ditches.
- Call the City of Loveland Mosquito Control Program, 962-2583 to report standing water or for other mosquito-related concerns.

For more information on protecting yourself and your family see:

- [www.fightthebitecolorado.com](http://www.fightthebitecolorado.com)
- [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/prevention\\_info.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/prevention_info.htm)

*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).