Happier days may be here again after Agilent site selected for ACE

It’s almost empty now, but several years ago the Agilent campus in Loveland was home to thousands of quality jobs and an annual payroll of $140 million. If everything falls into place, all that and more could return to Loveland.

It’s been big news in Loveland that the Agilent site was given the nod as the candidate to become the Aerospace and Clean Energy Manufacturing and Innovation Park (ACE). Businesses in the new ACE facility would have access to thousands of NASA patents with the intention of developing, manufacturing and marketing new products worldwide.

While high-fives are certainly appropriate, it’s too soon to start popping champagne corks, City leaders explained. Like purchasing a house—an 800,000 sq. ft. house—there’s a lot yet to do before all parties can close the deal and celebrate.

Loveland beat out 40 other locations in being chosen as the candidate site, mainly because the Aligent property is move-in ready, very affordable and even expandable if needed. This time around, instead of just one company occupying the site, as many as 100 firms may cohabitate, sharing the facility and creating a synergy.

To make it all work, the City of Loveland has agreed to purchase the Agilent property, partner with a developer and sell the property to the participants. The City does not intend to be a long-term owner of the property. The City is not offering cash incentives, but instead agreeing to buy the property at a bargain price and pass it along at a bargain price.

(continued on page 2)

After keeping power, water flowing, utilities’ top man himself moving on

Since 1972, Ralph Mullinix has been instrumental in providing Loveland with reliable and low-cost utilities, retiring as the Water and Power Department’s director May 6.

Prior to becoming Director of Water and Power in 1993, he served as water and wastewater utilities director for 15 years. During that time, he also served eight months as interim city manager and a stint as interim fire operations manager.

Outside of the office, he’s served the community as a member of directorial boards for the arts, the hospital, a coal mine and electric generating firm.

Ralph said he’s very thankful for all the support he’s received over the years from the entire Loveland community. He’s looking forward to very positive things both for himself and Loveland’s utilities.

He’s seriously thinking about purchasing a small motor home and hitting the road with his bicycle, golf clubs and fly rod. He’s planning on spending the cold weather months in South America.

He’s emphatic about his forecast for the future of Loveland’s utilities. “Going forward, we have in place good programs, good staff, and strong support of city council and the utilities commission,” Mullinix said. “I think this community will continue to enjoy high quality, high reliability and low costs for a long time to come.”

(continued on page 2)
Aah, May has arrived. The sounds of mowers and motorcycles are frequent on weekends, knees are visible as shorts replace jeans, and those orange cones have sprouted from asphalt and concrete all around town. Yep, cone zone season is in full swing.

Improvements to Loveland’s streets and intersections are an annual warm weather occurrence. This year is no exception. Wider streets, new sidewalks, improved traffic signals, a bus terminal and miles of pavement resurfacing are ahead.

Here’s a preview of cone-interaction locations:

• Thanks primarily to a federal grant, Garfield Avenue will receive a right-turn lane for southbound traffic turning onto westbound Eisenhower. The project will widen Garfield for the entire block north of Eisenhower, with new curb, gutter, sidewalk and a traffic signal upgrade installed as well. The project will take about two months to complete and detours are likely.

• More than a half-mile of Wilson Avenue will get wider with the addition of a second northbound lane between 14th Street SW and 1st Street. Curb, gutter, sidewalk and a bike line will also be added. The project is planned for late summer into fall. The bus stop there will be closed during construction. Another bus stop will be available about a quarter-mile north. As part of this project, another half-mile of sidewalks will be added in four areas nearby where sidewalks currently don’t exist.

• Another right-turn lane project is planned this summer at the Agilent site. A right-turn lane at the Agilent corner from westbound 14th SW onto northbound Taft will be constructed along with new traffic signal poles and wiring there.

• To accommodate growth and expansion of local and regional bus service, a regional bus transfer facility will be constructed in the Orchards Shopping Center this fall. The expanded facility will allow for ease of access, traffic flow and pedestrian safety. The project is funded with a state FASTER grant and local match.

• Forty traffic signals throughout town will get new, modern, computer-based controllers connecting them to a central monitoring system.

Despite dry spring, orange sprouts are everywhere

Happier days may be here again after Agilent site selected for ACE

(continued from page 1)

Valued at $23 million in 2009, the City has worked out an agreement to buy the 300+ acres with four buildings totaling 810,000 sq. ft. for $5.5 million. The City will use existing funds for the purchase. No debt, taxes or fees would be required.

When the project moves forward, the City will sell the primary campus and buildings while retaining approximately 150 acres as open space along the existing recreation trail, plus holding onto significant water rights that come with the property. Bottom line is that the City will gain in-town open space plus achieve a significant addition to its water supply, while the community will gain thousands of jobs and the huge economic benefit those jobs will bring to Loveland and the region.

It’s expected to take about 90 days to complete the agreements. Upon completion, companies will start moving in and hiring will begin. There will not be a mass influx of firms and jobs. The companies will set up shop at ACE one at a time over many months and years ahead. But there could be some firms in the site as soon as mid-summer.

So, if all goes as planned, in addition to loud booms over North Lake Park during the City’s giant Fourth of July celebration, further south some popping of champagne corks may become audible as summer heats up.
ACE: Also noteworthy:

- About 300 Agilent employees currently work at the campus’ Building E. The employees and building will remain part of the campus but that property will not be included in the City’s purchase.
- The City will resell the Agilent property for a substantial value. A sizeable up-front cash payment will be required and the City will receive long-term payments at an interest rate that exceeds the City's current rate of return on investments.
- The ACE project is expected to create a wide range of jobs including research, development, engineering, design, manufacturing, administrative, maintenance, management, clerical and others.
- The presence of numerous firms will add stability to the site. With a single large firm, the fate of the entire site can depend on the success of that single firm.
- Should the ACE agreement fall though, the City has already received proposals from five development firms to purchase the property and move ahead without the connection to NASA and ACE.
- The Agilent campus falls within a State of Colorado Enterprise Zone that offers special tax benefits as incentives for businesses to build or expand within the zone, bringing jobs and local investments.

ACE: Looking ahead

Looking for a job?

If you are seeking a job, please submit your resume electronically to the Larimer County Workforce Center at: businessservices@larimer.org. Please include the word ACE in the subject line. Contact Kathy Dotson, Business Development Manager at dotsonk@co.larimer.co.us with questions.

At this time, the information is only being collected and may be shared with possible employers at future dates if the project negotiations are successful. Submitting a resume does not guarantee any future action.

Looking for Business?

If you are a business owner, manager, contractor or other service provider who would like to discuss your products or services with ACE tenants or developers, please submit your information via phone, fax or email to: Diana McKinney Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation (NCEDC) 3553 Clydesdale Parkway, Suite 230 Loveland, Colorado 80538 970-667-0905 Fax: 970-669-4680 dmckinney@ncedc.com Please fax or email a one-page document that clearly states your organization’s name, contact information and services and products you provide. A fax is preferred.

Submittal of this information does not imply or guarantee any future action.

Annual Fishing Derby

The 2011 Loveland Fishing Derby will be 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., June 4 at the Duck Pond in North Lake Park. Saturday's event is for kids under age fifteen. All ages are welcome to fish on Sunday.

The Loveland Fishing Club will be on hand for event registration, tackle, prize drawings and fishing tips. The Colorado Division of Wildlife will provide the fish and explain Colorado law and fishing ethics. The Loveland Kiwanis Clubs will have family-priced food. Proceeds will go to Loveland Kiwanis youth programs.

For more information call 962-2277

Community Night Out

Loveland residents are invited to the Eighth Annual Loveland Community Night Out (LCNO) evening of block parties, 6-10 p.m., Wed., June 15.

Loveland residents will have the opportunity to meet Loveland police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, city council members, city staff and volunteers who work to keep Loveland a healthy and safe place to live.

LCNO strengthens neighborhoods and creates awareness and partnerships between residents and the public service providers who support them. For more information, call 962-2229.

Loveland Water & Power’s 2011 Renewable Energy Prospective

Renewable energy is clean energy that’s harnessed from the natural power of the wind, sun and earth. It can be generated from solar, wind turbines, geothermal, biomass gas or small hydroelectric systems.

Currently, Loveland receives its renewable energy from the wind. Loveland Water & Power purchases this clean wind energy from Platte River Power Authority, Loveland’s wholesale energy provider. Wind is also the energy source for Water & Power’s GreenSwitch program.

GreenSwitch provides Loveland power customers the ability to purchase electricity that’s been generated from clean, renewable sources. GreenSwitch is sold in 100 kilowatt-hours blocks for an additional $2.20, each. Many or just a few blocks can be purchased to meet specific energy requirements. Residents, small businesses or large corporations can make the switch to clean, renewable energy through GreenSwitch.

(continued on page 4)

2010 - Historical Product Content Label

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1 Eligible renewable include wind, solar, small hydro, biomass and geothermal generation facilities in operation on or after January 1, 1997.
2 Other sources include purchases and power sharing agreements from various resources.

For specific information about this electricity product, contact Loveland Water and Power at 962-2111 or 962-3000 or visit www.cityofloveland.org/GreenSwitch.

2011 - Prospective Product Content Label

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The Green-e Energy Program certifies that Loveland’s GreenSwitch Program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, call (888) 63-GREEN or log on to www.green-e.org.
Despite dry spring, orange sprouts are everywhere
(continued from page 2)

The equipment will aid signal coordination and re-timing plans starting late this summer along US 34 West, US 287, Taft and Wilson Avenues.
• Guardrail and speed warning signs will be installed at the Boyd Lake Avenue/5th Street curves protecting steep drop-offs. A $100,000 federal safety grant will fund the project.
• State and City money will pay for rebuilding old traffic signals downtown along 4th Street at US 287.
• Improvements for bike riders and pedestrians are ahead at the VanBuren/8th Street intersection. Corner sidewalk extensions, new wheelchair ramps and bike lane striping will be installed.