

City moving forward with sustainability strategy

For the past several months, Loveland's city government has been organizing data, gathering public input and discussing a strategy to deal with an expected \$3 million annual gap in upcoming years between incoming revenue and the cost of providing services. Last month, Loveland City Council adopted a general strategy for eliminating that gap. No new taxes are recommended.

Relative to other communities in the state and nation, Loveland has suffered a much smaller downturn in revenue. However, for the City's General Fund that pays for most services except

utilities, projected annual revenues will not be sufficient to cover the projected annual expenditures – a deficit. The 2012-2020 projected annual deficit would amount to about 5 percent of the General Fund.

While 5 percent is significant, it

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More about sustainability strategy inside

Major firm selected for ACE project

The rejuvenation of the Agilent property into a high-tech aerospace and clean energy complex took a giant step forward last month. A major national development firm was selected to take the lead in bringing numerous firms—and jobs—to the 300 acre complex.

The Agilent campus was selected in April to become the Aerospace and Clean Energy Manufacturing and Innovation Park (ACE) from among about 40 site applicants from around Colorado. The project is under the direction of the Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology (CAMT) in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The rebirth of the Agilent property is expected to bring dozens of firms to the campus and generate as many as 7,000 jobs there as the development matures in the coming years.

United Properties, with offices in Denver, was selected as CAMT's development partner. Based in Minneapolis, the firm has developed

more than 10 million sq. ft. of office, medical office, retail and industrial properties during the past 25 years.

United Properties was founded as a real estate investment company in 1916 by the Hamm family, owners of Minnesota's famed Hamm's Brewing Company. The company was purchased in 1998 by the billionaire Pohlada family, owners of the Minnesota Twins baseball team.

The overall plan is for the City of Loveland to purchase the Agilent campus (June 23, 2011 closing scheduled) for about \$5.8 million and then quickly resell most of the property to the developer for \$4 million. United Properties would purchase the existing buildings and adjacent property while the City would retain about 130 acres of open land and substantial water rights shares, all valued at about \$1.8 million.

Using patents provided by NASA, the firms at the site would develop, manufacture and market products and services related to the aerospace and clean energy industries.

Annual DTBD a great success

The Drug Take Back Day (DTBD) event on April 30 was a great success. The Loveland Police Department collected 182 pounds of prescription and over-the-counter unused and unneeded medications from area residents. This weight was the weight of the drugs only and did not include the weight of the containers.

These annual DTBD events help residents dispose of unused drugs safely and help keep potentially dangerous drugs out of the hands of children.

For more information on DTBD, contact Officer Mary Marchio, 962-2229.

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Newest addition to bike trail is open

A new section of the Loveland Recreation Trail has opened and is in use by Loveland's bike riders and pedestrians.

An underpass was constructed under US 287 at 64th Street and the new trail was completed east of the underpass to County Road 13. This new 1.25 mile stretch now connects to the existing trail running through Boyd Lake State Park.

The new section is part of the City's Recreation Trail, which is now 17.5 miles in length. When finished, the trail will total more than 20 miles in length and will encircle the entire city.

This most recent addition of trail cost \$1.64 million and was funded in part through several federal grants and Conservation Trust Funds (Colorado Lottery proceeds).



PWP is a free program that helps manage the high demand for electricity during summer months. For more information call 962-3000 or visit www.cityofloveland.org/PWP

City moving forward with sustainability strategy

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certainly is not a crisis. However, unless a strategy is adopted and steps are taken to address the situation, noticeable reductions in City services could result.

In developing the strategy for City finances for the coming years, city council adopted principles to be upheld. The principles support maintaining a sustainable financial basis for public safety, quality of life, fairness, efficiency, reasonable expectations and flexibility.

The strategy the city council adopted reflects those principles and offers a balance between expenditure reductions and revenue increases, as both the council and the public have indicated as desirable. The \$3.1 million recommended actions for 2012 consist of 81 percent cost reductions and 19 percent in revenue increases.

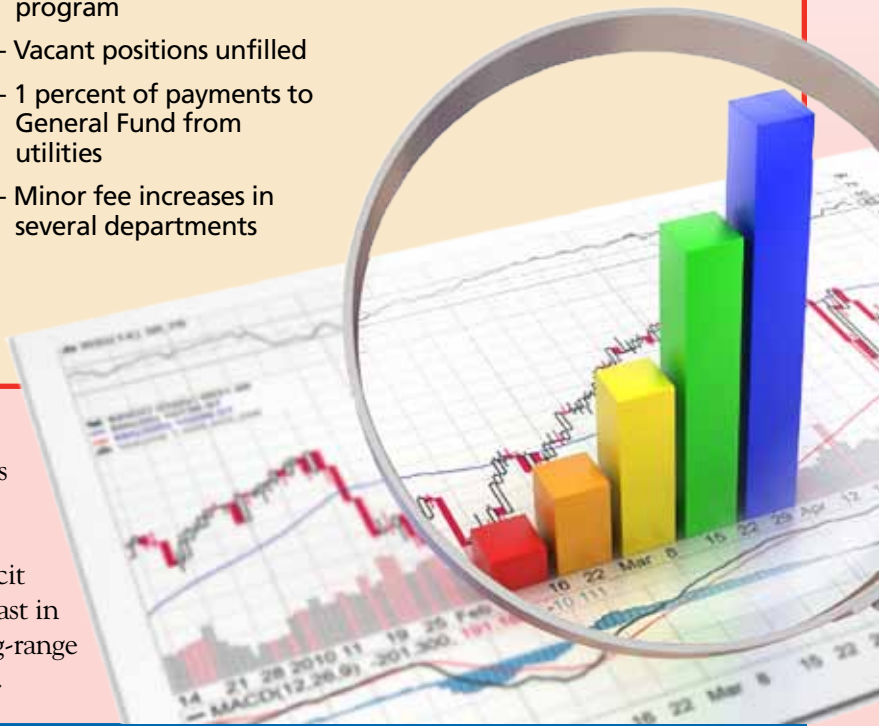
The actions support recommendations and priorities determined by forums, surveys and other input during the past several months by the public, city employees and city council. Both specific short-term actions and broader long-term measure considerations were adopted for the strategy. Taken

together, these measures address the projected structural deficit that was forecast in the City's long-range financial plan.

Financial sustainability strategy first year measures

The recommendations include both expenditure reductions and revenue enhancements. First-year measures totaling \$3.1 million are:

- \$285,200 - Efficiency options suggested by employees
- \$903,750 - Reductions to employee benefits
- \$109,720 - Improved fleet management, equipment pooling, sale of units
- \$ 30,000 - Reduction of city council's budget
- \$510,000 - General Fund services austerity and efficiency
- \$150,000 - Voluntary employee severance program
- \$134,000 - Vacant positions unfilled
- \$651,600 - 1 percent of payments to General Fund from utilities
- \$343,900 - Minor fee increases in several departments



Centerra and the MFA have brought major changes

It's difficult now to remember the Centerra area just six or eight years ago when it was mostly open land, before that section of Loveland had its own name. Today, everything out there seems like just a normal part of the day-to-day lifestyle of Loveland. Most folks seem to enjoy and appreciate those elements of Loveland's lifestyle. Others preferred Loveland before Centerra matured.

There seems to be little disagreement that it has kept money in town and brought money to town. Could it have happened or would it have happened without the very complicated, interrelated acronyms and terms

that are involved: Urban Renewal Authority (URA), Metro Districts, Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Public Improvement Fee (PIF), Public Improvement Corporation (PIC), Millennium Agreement, Master Financing Agreement (MFA) and others? Perhaps yes, perhaps no; though it certainly would have taken much longer to develop without those agreements that detail the partnerships between the City, the developer and the Metro Districts. For example, the MFA serves as the financial umbrella over all these acronyms and terms, directing where the monies come from and where they go.

The reality is that the partnerships between the City, the developer and all the other stakeholders have brought residences, shopping, industry, offices, park land, restaurants, movies, car dealerships and thousands of jobs. It has generated major tax revenues for Loveland and Colorado that support a multitude of public services.

Although the sales tax and URA/Metro District boundaries don't coincide exactly, last year alone the Centerra area, including the Promenade Shops, generated about \$5 million in sales tax revenue to the City, about 16 percent of the 2011 citywide budget of \$30 million. This revenue likely would have gone to neighboring communities if these retail stores didn't exist in Loveland.

Plus, shoppers residing outside Loveland and even beyond Colorado visit these Loveland stores, adding to tax revenues and supporting jobs here. And that \$5 million was just Loveland's share. Even more went to the state and county.

It has also brought millions of dollars of public improvements, both new and long overdue. Street, power line, water, sewer and stormwater improvements now serve the area. In addition, major improvements to the I-25 interchanges at Crossroads and US34 have been



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Financial sustainability strategy long-term measures

There are several longer term measures that will be studied in greater depth for feasibility of implementation during the next ten years. No new taxes are recommended.

- Consider placing a continuation of the TABOR exemption of the November, 2011 ballot. The lower revenues of the past few years have reduced the TABOR cap, preventing the City from spending revenues it might receive above the cap as the economy improves.
- Construction of the long-planned large Meahaffey Park has been on hold, not because of the costs to build it but because of the annual quarter-million dollar cost to operate and maintain it. The Parks and Recreation

Department has identified savings and efficiencies in other areas of its operations that will

offset the annual operations and maintenance (O&M) for Meahaffey Park, thus the park project will go forward.

- The City owns and operates a large quantity and variety of equipment. Replacement of equipment is planned long in advance. Under the long-term plan, replacement schedules will be reviewed more closely.
- Greater effort is under way to reduce paper and postage costs. Electronic utility billing and payment options are being considered as well as other paperless solutions, including city council's materials.
- Consideration of redirecting one-time revenues such as use tax funds from current ongoing O&M use to one-time expenditures such as equipment purchase.
- Consideration of streamlining or possibly eliminating of some City boards and commissions.
- Increased self-sufficiency for the popular Rialto Theater and Loveland Museum/Gallery is targeted through greater fees and facility rental charges.
- The Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport currently receives \$85,000 from each city. The airport is expected to grow substantially in the coming years, leading to its self-sufficiency without revenues from the cities.
- Capital Expansion Fees (CEF) that pay for the installation of public improvements for those developments—streets, utility lines, sidewalks, traffic signals and signs, etc. However, CEFs don't cover the ongoing O&M costs of these improvements. Revising the CEF structure to support O&M of these improvements is being considered.
- A use tax on some elements of new infrastructure materials is also being considered.
- City revenues support the Loveland Public Library, used frequently by Loveland residents and patrons from beyond city limits. Creating a library district that would generate library funding from Loveland and the surrounding areas will be considered.

Not all that's shiny is real copper wire



As the value of copper has continued to increase over the last several years, so has the incidence of copper wire theft—even right here at home.

According to Russel Jentges, engineer with Loveland Water & Power (W&P), some of the city's electrical poles have become victim to metal thieves who steal copper wire from the electrical system and trade it in for cash at metal scrap yards.

To mitigate this problem W&P will soon be installing an equally conductive but effectively valueless wire onto city electrical poles. Copper clad steel (CCS) grounding wire is an amalgam of copper and steel from which the copper cannot be extracted. While it looks and performs like pure copper wire, it has zero recycling or trade in value.

Replacing missing copper wire with the new CCS wire will maintain the

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Chilson participation up since renovation

Since completion of the Chilson Recreation Center expansion last December, usage of the facility has significantly increased, demonstrating the timeliness of the project and providing patrons with many new amenities. Apart from class registrations and events, daily attendance was up by more than 32 percent in the first quarter of 2011 compared to last year.



On an average day, more than 1,250 guests visit this award-winning facility with their extended use pass, punch card or daily admission. Kids' Nite Out, a popular contracted program for 2nd-8th graders, is held each Saturday night during the school year, now with an average attendance of 320 kids per night—a steep climb from an average of 230 attendees last year.

Guests are also taking advantage of

the available party packages in the new party room that has direct access to the pool. Since January, there has been an average of eight parties each weekend, so parents are urged to make reservations well in advance.

For those who haven't yet seen the expanded and renovated facility, upgrades include a new leisure pool complete with play features, bay for basketball, lazy river and speedslide;

a dedicated gymnastics center; more spacious cardio and weight rooms; a dedicated indoor cycling studio; and an expanded dance/aerobics studio.

Although the major renovation

and expansion is complete, there are ongoing improvements in store for Chilson. During the next few months, the existing line of Cybex circuit weight equipment will be replaced with an updated line, and several cardio pieces will be replaced, plus an additional six pieces will be added to the floor. Additional updates are also planned for the Senior Center later this year.

Sketch pad and sensors are frequent tools for detective

One Loveland police detective wears a couple of unusual hats. When he's not involved in property crime investigations, he's usually piloting a pencil or keyboard as the department's sketch artist or polygraph examiner.

A Loveland police officer for the past 22 years, Det. Chris Kamoske took on the role of working with witnesses in sketching suspects' faces more than a dozen years ago. A bit of an artist in high school and college—though he majored in law enforcement—it was a couple of years after he became a Loveland officer that his sketching skill was recognized and he attended special trainings on creating composite sketches.

"They noticed I doodled real well," Kamoske said with a smile. He attended standard and advanced classes with an internationally known forensic artist, where he was one of very few actual policemen in the class. Most students were professional portrait artists seeking to expand their career skills.

A very important component of a successful forensic sketch is the ability to interact with the witnesses to assist in lowering their stress levels and enabling them to calmly and objectively move through the event, remembering details before, during and after the actual incident. Remembering glimpses of the suspect before or after being approached can be more constructive than trying to remember facial details during the actual confrontation.



The sketch process begins with use of a generic identification book with hundreds of examples of different types of facial features; head shapes, eyes, eyebrows, noses, chins, etc. From there, Kamoske said "it's a bit like building a Mr. Potato Head," where Kamoske and the witness start with a general composite image then exchange and tweak the individual features.

Kamoske's sketches have frequently proved successful in helping to identify suspects. So successful in fact, that he's called upon to assist other agencies throughout the state and region.

In terms of time spent, the polygraph—lie detector—exams are both more frequent

and time-consuming. Overall, he may do two dozen sketches a year each requiring 2-3 hours. The polygraph exams, however, can each take twice as long and he usually does two or three every week. But that's another story.

Unwanted drawings

Suspects wanted by the police don't appreciate the forensic sketch skills of Loveland police Det. Chris Kamoske. He has been creating composite sketches for the Loveland Police Department and other area agencies for more than a dozen years.

Centerra and the MFA have brought major changes

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completed, plus an extension of former County Road 5 including a railroad underpass that has simplified north-south travel without using the Interstate. These improvements would have taken years, perhaps decades, to occur without the private/public partnership the MFA has enabled.

While much of the revenue and public improvements benefit Centerra directly, additional revenue enters the overall City budget benefitting the entire town. Tax revenues have gone from a minus to a plus—the sales tax "leakage" has not only stopped, but outside revenues have come to Loveland.

Have the developers made money? Of course. Are all the hundreds of pages of agreements perfect? Of course not. Would most of Loveland's neighbors jump at the chance to have in their community the jobs, amenities and tax receipts provided by the Centerra development? Absolutely.

Not all that's shiny is real copper wire

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robustness and safety of the city's electrical system while hopefully dramatically deterring wire theft.

"Thieves won't be able to tell from looking if what they're seeing is copper or CCS. We're hoping that once they try to trade in worthless CCS wire, they'll get the idea that metal theft is not worth the trouble," said Jentges.

Installing CCS in place of copper wire will help W&P continue to provide extremely safe power while keeping costs for electricity low for the consumer.

For more information on copper wire theft or CCS, call 962-3000.

Walking, biking safer for kids and families

Walking and cycling will become safer for kids and families in northern Colorado thanks to a \$260,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation's Colorado Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. The cities of Loveland and Fort Collins are sharing the grant.



The City of Loveland will use its SRTS funds to construct a critical missing link of sidewalk on the north side of Truscott Elementary, plus provide crossing improvements and 'traffic-calming' curb extensions within the school zone on Garfield Avenue.

Funds also will be used to support the Tires-n-Tennies (T-n-T) Tuesday Program for a fourth consecutive year. T-n-T Tuesdays teaches pedestrian and bicycling skills to students and families to improve neighborhood safety.

Register now for the annual Valley 5000

This year's Valley 5000 Run/Walk race is Fri., Aug. 19 at Fairgrounds Park—7 p.m. start time.

The \$30 entry fee (if registration is before Aug. 19) includes a Valley 5000 T-shirt. Running awards will be given to overall male and female finishers, male and female Masters finishers and the first three male and female finishers per age division.

All proceeds benefit House of Neighborly Service. Registration can be done by mail or by visiting www.active.com. For more information call 962-2432.

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