

More green, less red in 2012

A smoother traffic flow throughout the city is ahead, thanks to the recent completion of a major update of Loveland's Traffic Operations Center (TOC). In addition, installation is now under way of wireless traffic data transmitters at about 50 Loveland intersections. But before reading the details, consider these traffic control realities:



Monitoring traffic

City traffic personnel view traffic flow monitors at the newly upgraded Traffic Operations Center. Soon, the center will receive live data from all of Loveland's signalized intersections, enabling adjustments to multiple signal operations from the center.

- Our "little town" has 94 signalized intersections.
- Signal timing on one-way streets such as Lincoln and Cleveland is simple.
- But on two-way streets, if the lights were all-green in one direction, they would be frequently-red in the opposite direction.
- Loveland has little "directional difference"—times during the day when traffic is moving significantly

more in one direction than the other. Flow is pretty even in both directions.

- Loveland's cross-street traffic is significant, and those motorists are anxious to get to their destinations, too.

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Online payments fee eliminated

It's gone. Loveland utility customers will no longer be charged a \$3 convenience fee when paying their bill online with a credit or debit card.

The fee was originally included in the online service for paying electricity, water and wastewater bills to help offset the fee charged to the City of Loveland by the credit/debit card companies. Changes in the fee structure have enabled the City to eliminate its fees to customers.

The fee changes also open the door for future alternative processes that

will continue to streamline utility bill payments for both the customers and the City. Bill payment efficiency helps keep Loveland's utility rates among the lowest in Colorado.

By year's end, the City plans to add Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) capability to its online choices for customers. With EFT, payments can be made online directly from checking and savings accounts, in addition to the credit/debit card options.

The City encourages its utility

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Lots to do from Cultural Services

Rialto Theater Center Benefit Stars on the Bridge

Performed at Roberta Price Auditorium,
Thompson Valley High School

3 p.m., Sun., March 4

Featuring Hazel Miller, Wendy Woo,
Dave Beegle, Cool Shooz, Acoustic
Eidolon, Loveland Choral Society and
Loveland Opera Theatre, plus a fine art
silent auction in the lobby.

Tickets: \$30

Rialto Theater Guild presents Return of the Jedi Star Wars Extravaganza

2 & 7 p.m., Sun., March 18, Rialto
Theater

The movie, plus Star Wars costumed
characters from the 501st Legion,
LEGO creations, dioramas and
memorabilia. Doors open one hour
prior to show time. Tickets: \$8 adult,
\$5 student

Jon Rietfors: Value Added

Exhibiting through March 25 at
Museum/Gallery

The Opera that Inspired the Willa Cather Gala Event

McCreery House, 746 Washington Ave.

5-7 p.m., Sat., March 24

Featuring selections from *The
Bohemian Girl* performed by Loveland
Opera Theatre. Reception at 5 p.m.,
performance at 6 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 individual/\$40 couple,
available at the Loveland Museum/
Gallery

Tracks: Two Decades of the Great Western Railway in Color

At the Loveland Museum/Gallery
through April 15, 2012

Objects from Dunning's Original Collection

At the Loveland Museum/Gallery
through April, 2012

For more information, call 962-2410.



Spring gardening around the corner

The Loveland Public Library and the
master gardeners from CSU Extension
in Larimer County will be providing
free gardening programs at the library
at noon on Thursdays in March.

Topics are:

March 1–Water-wise landscape design

March 8–Properly pruning trees and
shrubs

March 15–Attracting pollinators to
the garden

March 22–Fruit trees for the Front
Range

March 29–Plants behaving badly-
dealing with noxious weeds/aggressive
plants and what to plant in their place

For more information call 962-2404.

Sr. Center St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Celebrate St Patrick's Day,
11:45a.m.-12:30 p.m., Fri., March
16, with corned beef and cabbage,
shamrock cake and lively Irish
entertainment. Bring a canned food

donation for *House of Neighborly
Service*. Call 472-9630 by 1:30 p.m.,
March 15 to make a reservation.
Seating is limited. Must be age 60+.
Suggested donation, \$2.50.

Timing complicated for City Update



For about a dozen years, the City
of Loveland has been keeping
citizens informed of city government
business and events though the
monthly *City Update* newsletter.
Nearly 35,000 Loveland area
households and businesses receive
their *City Update* newsletter in the
envelope with their utility bills.

Depending on billing cycles, utility
customers receive their bills and *City
Update* on different days throughout
an entire month. This can make
providing timely information about
upcoming events a challenge.

City Update provides information
about events that occur the following
month. Utility customers whose bills
are mailed at the end of a month
sometimes don't receive or open them
until after an event has occurred early
in the following month.

The *City Update* staff realizes that
some recipients may therefore not
learn of an event before it occurs.
Event date finalization, *City Update*
deadlines and the month-long utility
bill mailing schedule combine to
complicate the event announcement
process.

City Update attempts to provide
event information as efficiently as
possible to the Loveland community.
The most current event information
is always available on the City's
website, www.cityofloveland.org.

Pet licenses bring 'em home

That small silver tag on your pet's collar can make a big difference for your pet's safety and increase the chances that you will be reunited with your dog or cat.

The required license for dogs and cats can mean an easy and fast reunion. Because the number on the tag is linked to the owner's information, an animal control officer or kindly neighbor can bring a pet right back to its home, sparing the animal the stress and potential danger of roaming around lost, facing hazards, or being brought to the Larimer Humane Society shelter.

The license tag is round and silver; a rabies tag is colored. Loveland dogs and cats are required to wear both at all times. Keeping your pet's license current, but in a drawer, does not make your pet compliant with the law.

Pet licenses can be purchased online

at www.larimerhumane.org, via phone at 226-3647 ext. 201, in person at Larimer Humane Society, or at most veterinary clinics.

Annual license fees are:

- \$12 for dogs and cats under 1 year of age or those altered (spayed or neutered) over 1 year
- \$35 for all intact (not altered) over 1 year of age
- \$5 Owner over age 62 (animal under 1 year or altered)

When renewing a license, Larimer Humane Society does not provide new license tags unless requested. An animal can wear the same license for years as long it remains readable.

A license is not only a pet's ticket home, it also gives animals-in-need a ticket to a better life. Licensing fees help provide critical care for the nearly 12,000 animals that come through



Home soon

This old fella will soon be heading home, thanks to the registration number on the pet's license tag. A call to the Larimer Humane Society will provide the animal control officer with the dog owner's information, enabling the officer to bring the dog home.

Larimer Humane Society's doors each year. Services include sheltering of stray, injured, abused, and neglected animals; community protection from aggressive animals; and more.

A partnership of compassion

For 30 years, Alternatives to Violence (ATV) in Larimer County, and the Loveland Police Department have been working together to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes against adults, children and secondary victims.

This unique partnership allows police officers to move quickly to the next emergency call while an ATV victim advocate provides emotional support, emergency resources, an understanding of the Colorado's Victim Rights Act and access to on-going support for victims.

Like the police department, ATV services are available 24/7. Police Lieutenant Tim Brown explains that "the police department responds to situations, but is generally unable to

provide the emotional support and time commitment that ATV victim advocates provide, as well as all the follow-up services they are able to offer."

ATV services include domestic violence and sexual assault therapy for adults and children, support groups for men and women, life skills classes and courtroom advocacy including accompaniment to court for civil and legal cases.

Transitional housing for victims of domestic violence continues to be a vital service offered in Loveland. The transitional housing program is a



Alternatives to Violence

Working toward a violence free community

2-year case management and therapy program for low-income families that allows these families to heal, regroup and become self-sufficient.

During the past few years the organization has been raising money to build a safehouse to allow clients and their children to remain in Loveland and keep them safe from abuse. Currently, clients are housed outside of Loveland.

More information about this Loveland-based organization is available at www.alternativestoviolence.org

More green, less red in 2012 *(continued from page 1)*

With all that in mind, traffic engineers using the new TOC endeavor to make traffic flow as efficient as possible, but everything is a compromise. The center's surveillance cameras, computers and technicians enable the best compromises under both normal and special situations such as accidents, weather issues, construction and the like.

About half of Loveland's intersections currently are tied into the TOC and its master computer system by fiber optic cable. The new wireless transmitters will tie in the rest. With the ability to control everything from the single TOC location, timing and control will become more efficient. Realities will improve:

- Now, many intersections are controlled at the site by individual computer clocks, and if the clocks get a bit out of synch—and they do—timing can be disrupted. With all intersections under the control of a single master clock, greater accuracy can be achieved.

- With the controls centralized, an entire corridor of several intersections can be timed or adjusted far more efficiently. With site-operated controls, technicians must drive from intersection to intersection to make changes. Tweaking the timing can mean several back-and-forth trips. Making changes for special situations is difficult, and then retiming afterward can require the back-and-forth process to start again.
- When there's an accident, traffic jam or weather issue, technicians can't easily get to the affected intersection to make on-site changes. With the TOC, reading the data or viewing images from one of the eight cameras located at major intersections and I-25 interchanges can enable short-term adjustments from the TOC.
- A major priority with the new system will be improving the timing along the north portion of Hwy

287 in Loveland, from Eisenhower Boulevard to the city limits at 71st Street. After the wireless transmitters are operational, data from daytime, nighttime, weekdays and weekends will become available and then be evaluated as the timing process is implemented.

- The upgrade of the TOC and the networking of all the city's intersections were anticipated a few years back. The recession caused delays.
- The City has three full-time traffic signal technicians who spend most of their working hours outdoors maintaining traffic lights and other electronic devices, plus a traffic technician is always on call 24/7 to deal with the unexpected.

Here's the biggest reality: although some significant investments continue to be made to improve traffic flow, for any Loveland motorist the lights can't all be green all the time.

Online payments fee eliminated *(continued from page 1)*

customers to use current and future online payment methods. The electronic methods are much more efficient than standing at the payment window with cash or mailing in a check. Those methods involve several procedures by City staff, far more complicated and time consuming than a few keystrokes and mouse clicks by a customer.

Currently, utility bills may be paid:

- online at www.cityofloveland.org with a credit or debit card, with no convenience fee

- by mailing a check
- by cash, check or credit/debit card at the Utility Billing Office, 500 E. 3rd St.
- by phone with a credit or debit card at 962-2111, with no convenience fee
- by establishing automatic monthly payments from a checking or savings account. Contact the Utility Billing Office at 962-2111 for details and required paperwork.

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City of Loveland

City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. Residents receive *City Update* according to their utility billing cycle. Timeliness of the information may be affected by recipients' billing schedule. *City Update* is also available around the first of every month on the News Desk page at www.cityofloveland.org. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, hillea@ci.loveland.co.us.



The City's Stormwater Division—Working ha

The City's Stormwater Engineering Division's goal is to keep Loveland's waterways clean and free of pollutants and debris. Stormwater also maintains and upgrades infrastructure to protect our community from water-related problems such as flooding.

Read on to learn more about what the Stormwater Division is doing to preserve Loveland's clean water, improve and sustain our urban and natural environments, and keep the community informed on important water and stormwater-related issues.

Phase 4 project downtown exemplifies one of Stormwater's goals

The construction project taking place downtown over the last 13 years, known as the Washington Avenue Outfall Project, is one of Stormwater's largest and most visible examples of one of the Division's most important tasks—to make sure the city's drainage infrastructure moves water safely and efficiently into established water bodies to reduce problems with flooding and increase water safety for the community.

Want to be a solution to pollution? Stormwater can help

The Stormwater Division invites citizens to get involved in a variety of educational outreach and water preservation programs. These programs enable citizens to directly contribute to keeping Loveland's waterways clean.



Storm Drain Marker program

Volunteers install storm drain markers at the inlets to raise awareness about the connection between the storm drain inlets and the health of local waterways.



Adopt-A-Waterway program

This program enables organizations and individuals to formally adopt a waterway for the purpose of protecting and improving water quality.

Door-to-Door Pick-up of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program

The Door-to-Door Pick-up program is designed to enable disabled and senior citizens to properly dispose of their HHW materials without leaving home.

Annual Spring Waterway Clean-up event

This event enables individuals to join the City of Loveland in removing trash and debris from Loveland's waterways, which benefits the community and helps improve the water quality of area waterways.



Upcoming events

Annual Spring Waterway Clean-up—**Sat., April 21**

Annual Children's Day Celebration—**April 25**

Loveland Children's Water Festival—**Thurs., May 10**

Public Works Day—**Tues., May 15**

Garfield Ave./Washington Ave. Phase Four construction—begins **Tues., May 29**

Door to Door Pick-up of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) for disabled and senior citizens—**Dates TBA** (check website or call 962-2772 for more info).

ard to keep it clean... 'cause we're all downstream

More tips for keeping Loveland's waterways clean and healthy

By adopting water-healthy household habits, homeowners can keep pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of the City's waterways.

Go to the car wash

Waste water from washing vehicles is loaded with pollutants that are detrimental to the health of waterways. The best option is to take vehicles to a commercial carwash where the dirty water is treated. If washing a vehicle at home follow these simple steps:

1. Wash the car on an unpaved surface such as the lawn or a graveled driveway so the dirty water can be filtered by the ground.
2. Use soap sparingly.
3. Use a hose nozzle to reduce the amount of water used.
4. Dispose of dirty bucket water by dumping it on the lawn or into a toilet or sink.

Scoop the poop

Pet waste carries bacteria that can be a serious health concern, especially if it gets into a water body. To prevent this from occurring follow these simple steps:

1. Clean up after your dog at home, daily.
2. Always pick up dog waste when walking the dog.
3. Always dispose of pet waste properly by throwing bags of waste into a trash receptacle.

Maintain vehicles year-round

Check for leaks regularly and fix them promptly. When working on a vehicle at home, follow these simple steps:

1. Don't let automotive fluids get onto the ground. Place a drip pan under a

leak until it's fixed and place a tarp or piece of cardboard under the work area to catch spills.

2. Use an absorbent such as kitty litter to soak up motor oil and be sure to pick-up and dispose of this material before a storm occurs.
3. Put used motor oil in a clear plastic container with a tight lid.
4. Never mix automotive fluids together in a single container.
5. Take used automotive fluids to an oil-change facility or to the Recycling Center.

Pick-up yard waste

Grass clippings and leaves often contain trace amounts of chemicals from fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides. When this yard waste decomposes the chemicals can leach out into the water, polluting it. To prevent this from occurring follow these simple steps:

1. Compost yard waste so it can't enter a storm drain.
2. After mowing, sweep up grass clippings from paved surfaces and properly dispose of them.
3. Ideally, use a lawn mower with a mulch attachment and mulch the clippings.

Use fertilizers sparingly

Fertilizers are loaded with nutrients, which spur the growth of certain algae that are harmful to fish and other



aquatic life. To prevent fertilizers from contaminating waterways, follow these simple steps:

1. Follow manufacturer's recommendations.
2. Don't apply if weather conditions aren't favorable.
3. Remove fertilizer that falls onto paved surfaces.
4. Plant native plants whenever possible. Native plants require less fertilizer.

For more information on the City's Stormwater Division, visit the Stormwater webpages, www.cityofloveland.org/Stormwater, follow Stormwater on Facebook, or call 962-2772. Money-saving coupons for oil changes and other deals are available on the Stormwater webpages.

