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CITY BRIEFS



City of

Loveland

colorado

September,
2003

Council retreats to the future

City Council's recent weekend retreat will help Loveland move forward. For two days, the councilors gathered at the Loveland Museum/Gallery away from family, work, phones and email to discuss what's ahead for their community.

No votes were taken, no monies were spent nor resolutions passed, but ideas, needs and future efforts were discussed in detail. A long list of items was developed for attention and possible action.

Here's a look at some of the items discussed:

- Development fee rate structures
- Electric rate increases

- Current fairgrounds future use
- Budget reserve policy
- Library district or authority
- Fire district
- User fees
- Compensation for newly elected officials
- Bus system subsidies
- Employee benefits
- Lodging tax, a ballot measure for 2004
- Local business expansion incentives

The councilors expressed satisfaction with the event. The retreat is another indication of City officials' willingness to invest their time and energy in Loveland's future.

New fairgrounds site ready to open



Opening set—The new Larimer County fairgrounds facility opens Sept. 20 with the exhibition hall (11), events center (10), indoor arena (9), livestock pavilions

(8,7) and maintenance building (13).

Horses, headliners, hoops, hounds, hockey and more will all be showcased in Loveland when the Ranch and Budweiser Events Center open this month. The community is invited to a free open house celebrating the opening 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sept. 20 at the site.

The events center will be the home of the

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Food Sales Tax Rebate Program

Depending on your income level, you may be eligible to receive a rebate for food sales taxes paid in 2002.

Applications and guidelines:

- Loveland Public Library
- City Municipal Bldg. Utility Billing Office
- House of Neighborly Service

Completed applications must be returned by Sept. 30. For info, call 962-2311

Composting demo offered

Composting instructions and demonstrations presented by a master gardener will highlight an open house 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sept. 27 at the Garbage Garage at the Larimer County Landfill.

The Garbage Garage is a waste and recycling education center devoted to waste and recycling issues. Visitors to the Garbage Garage will learn about trash management problems, recycling, how landfills work and how to safely handle household hazardous wastes.

Many other interesting displays await the Garbage Garage visitor. The landfill is located at 5887 S. Taft Hill Rd. in Fort Collins.

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City Briefs
500 E. Third Street
Loveland, CO 80537

Phone 962-2302
Fax 962-2901
hillea@ci.loveland.co.us
www.ci.loveland.co.us



211 help number now available here

When an emergency arises that requires the police, ambulance or fire department, most people know to call 911. Now there's a number to call for health and safety needs dealing with food, shelter or other situations: 211.

The 211 number has been established in Colorado and about 20 other states to help individuals and families searching for help.



Callers dialing 211 can be assisted in making

critical connections to the appropriate community and government organizations that can provide assistance.

Every day, people in need are faced with a confusing maze of agencies and services to call to help ease their difficulties. By remembering just the 211 number, callers can be directed to the proper place and people for assistance.

In Larimer County, 211 callers will be connected with FirstCall, a non-profit information and referral agency.

The 211 number is also a good place to call for persons wishing to assist their community by volunteering or donating. The 211 staff will help match up individuals, businesses and organizations with the appropriate agencies to accept their generosity.

The local 211 number is staffed 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Mon.-Thurs., and 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri. At other times, callers may leave a message and have their calls returned.

Local firms recognized for ED success

It's been a good year for economic development in Loveland—a very good year—and City leaders want to congratulate the businesses here. The City is sponsoring a business appreciation event next month to recognize existing businesses and their contributions to the economic health of Loveland.

Economic Development Manager Donna Smith explained that despite the attention prospective new large businesses have received, it's Loveland's existing smaller businesses that provide most of the jobs here. Other major assets to the community are primary businesses.

Primary businesses produce goods or services that are sold outside the community and bring fresh revenue into the community, she explained. Primary businesses “create wealth within a community,” Smith said, “in lots of ways including jobs, tax base and capital investment. Economic development seeks the retention, expansion, creation and attraction of these businesses.”

Smith stresses that the City especially values

the existing and smaller businesses that provide primary jobs. Their retention and expansion is crucial to the community's well being.

Also, she added, the establishment of new, entrepreneurial enterprises can result in rapid growth and employment expansion. It's not just the large incoming companies that make the news that are important, she said.

The Oct. 14 “Partnering for the Future” event will bring companies together and provide an opportunity for the firms to share information and ideas with each other and the City government. “The event will showcase the value of partnering, allow the City to say thank you and let the firms know we want to assist them,” Smith said.

'Pass-through' is past, now we're 'place to go'

The nature of Loveland is changing, said Mayor Kathy Gilliland during a recent discussion about local economic development. “Loveland is becoming a ‘place to go’ where in the past, it's been more of a ‘pass-through city,’” she said.

Gilliland pointed to a new hospital, the Ranch facility and events center, a possible major shopping center, hotel and convention center, and commercial airline service.

“We're becoming a destination point,” she said. She further noted that tourists will have more reason to spend time here while on their way to Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park and elsewhere.

City Briefs **Conservation Tip**



Back to School Water Saving Tips

- Take shorter showers.
- Buy a shower timer.
- Save your money and everyone's water.

Every
Drop
Counts





Grants assist downtown projects

Initial efforts have begun toward possible rehabilitation on three notable downtown properties, thanks to grants from the State Historical Fund and the efforts of the City's planning staff.

The Lincoln Hotel, 365 N. Lincoln Ave.; Loveland Feed and Grain, 130 W. 3rd St.; and the German Evangelical Church, 502 E. 7th St. have all received grants for structure restoration assessments.

A team of architects and mechanical, electrical and structural engineers have or will soon evaluate the properties. They report their findings to the property owner, specifying what needs to be done for restoration, including priorities and cost estimates.

If the projects are deemed feasible, the owners can apply for other state grants to help pay for the actual construction. The state grants can cover up to 75 percent of the costs because of the historical nature of the property.

Matt Robenalt of the City's Long Range Planning division explained that the grants are a "great deal" for the property owners but only cover costs incurred in restoring the exterior of the building. "That's what the public sees, so that's how the public benefits," he explained.

Robenalt's office assists property owners

with historic preservation opportunities, requirements and procedures. The office is also directly involved in an urban renewal program that could be of benefit to owners of these three properties and others in the downtown area.

Ready to open--

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Colorado Eagles Central Hockey League professional team and Colorado Chill of the National Women's Basketball League. Marquee entertainers such as Bill Cosby and Kenny Rogers will perform there, and ice shows and the Harlem Globetrotters will also appear.

Equestrian events including shows and competitions for hunting, jumping, reining, barrel racing and rodeo are all planned for the Ranch. The Ranch will also host 4H events, auctions, scouts, dog and cat shows, meetings, seminars, plus shows and sales focusing on fishing, camping, guns, antiques and more.

Tours, music, pro athletes and skating can all be enjoyed during the open house. The open house marks the completion of Phase I of the project. Budgeting and timeline for Phase II has not yet begun.



Airline service returns

Inaugural Flight—Allegiant Air’s 161-seat jetliner was sold out with passengers July 31 when it took off for Las Vegas. The flight marked the return of commercial airline service to the Fort Collins/Loveland Airport.

Clockwise from above: Jeff Barnes and his wife Jane Smith bicycled from their Loveland home to the airport for their trip to Las Vegas. Pat and Becky Holsinger seem pretty happy as they prepare to check in. Officials outside the terminal prepare to launch toy gliders as part of a celebration of the inaugural flight. Passengers board the evening flight of the MD-83 jetliner. Loveland Mayor Kathy Gilliland and Fort Collins Mayor Ray Martinez share their thoughts during the inaugural celebration.



Traffic light timing is no easy task

If all Loveland's streets were one way, it would make the Loveland's traffic engineer's job easy. They're not and it isn't.

Timing the traffic lights for minimal interruption is no easy task when there is two-way flow. Unlike the downtown one-way streets, on two-way streets if a driver were to hit nothing but green in one direction, drivers going the opposite way would get lots of reds.

City Traffic Engineer Bill Hange explained that all 72 traffic signals in town utilize a cycle clock and microprocessor, and all arterial street lights are synchronized to their neighboring signals. All make use of in-pavement magnetic sensors or overhead video cameras to detect cars in through lanes or turn lanes at intersections.

The sensors, clocks and microprocessors integrate to keep traffic flowing as smoothly as possible at each intersection. Intersections are interconnected for coordination along major streets.

The timing cycles are controlled by three different plans used throughout town. One plan controls lights from 6-9 a.m., another from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. and another after 10 p.m.

Hange explained that unlike some other cities, the regional nature of Loveland results in nearly equal traffic entering and leaving town via the main roads during "rush hours." A few localized plans control lights near schools, for ambulances and fire trucks, and even for a couple of busy churches on Sundays.

In general, the traffic light technology keeps the lights green for the main-street vehicles as



Easy ones--Traffic Engineer Bill Hange points to the downtown one-way street traffic signals that are easy to time for through vehicles. Red markers show all the city's signalized intersections.

long as there are no cross-street cars waiting. The length of the cross-street drivers' wait depends upon when their vehicle arrived at the intersection and entered the cycle.

Increasing traffic levels and the intersections of two main streets like Eisenhower and Taft cause the system to be less efficient. Highway 34 is the most challenging.

"The sheer volume of traffic is causing the 34 flow to break down. Until the last year or two, it was working pretty well," Hange said.

Retail development along Hwy. 34 has left few intersections with low-flow cross streets. Add to that the warm weather tourist traffic, and drivers encounter more red lights.

More sophisticated real-time, computer controlled technology exists, but carries a heavy price tag. The equipment, programming and tying all the lights together by underground fiber optic cable would cost about \$10 million, Hange estimates.