

## 2009: Challenging and successful

No doubt about it, 2009 was a challenging year for almost everyone, including the City of Loveland government. City revenues came in below expectations, due primarily to less sales tax received and a major decline in other revenues due to a big drop in new development and construction.

Even with the challenges, there was almost no noticeable decline in City services to residents and businesses. Yes,

a few things were scaled back a bit, but nothing of significance was removed from the large list of City services and amenities to the community.

The numbers below reflect the day-to-day operation of Loveland's city government during 2009. In addition, this issue of City Update gives readers an overview of special accomplishments during 2009.

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### More about 2009 inside

### "Business by the numbers" from your City government

Despite the challenges of 2009, it was "business as usual" for the City of Loveland. The numbers below offer an overview of some of the day-to-day activities of Loveland's local government.

#### 65,000+ Loveland residents received City services in 2009!

*(Numbers may include projected approximations for services through Dec. 31.)*

3.9 billion	gallons of water were processed for citizens' use
651 million	kilowatt hours purchased by Loveland electric customers
\$165,503,190	in City budget net revenue
\$8 million	estimated value of Loveland public art collection
7.6 million	page requests at <a href="http://www.cityofloveland.org">www.cityofloveland.org</a>
5.9 million	kilowatt hours of renewable energy purchased
\$772,818	in grants to 31 local not-for-profit agencies
756,000	items checked out from the library
414,000	City Update newsletters sent to the community
409,000	visits to the library
355,000	online library catalog queries
317,000	visits to the Chilson Recreation Center
280,000	Athletic Program attendance
186,753	calls to public safety dispatchers
\$163,950	received for historic rehabilitation
130,000	rounds of golf played on City courses
100,000	landings/takeoffs at the airport
76,813	police responses to calls for service
70,764	Senior and Adaptive Recreation attendance
47,000	seats filled at Rialto Theater events
39,500	tons of discards collected from Loveland households
25,000	weekly stops by trash collectors
20,842	training hours by fire department
18,884	transit ridership increase
16,101	feet of stormwater pipes cleaned
9,000	Museum-sponsored Foote Lagoon concert-goers
8,000	street lane miles swept
7,595	paint gallons used for street striping
5,854	code enforcement calls handled
5,300	responses to calls by Fire Department
2,819	fire hydrants in City system
3,348	residential Partnering with Power participants
1,700	drainage catch basins inspected/cleaned
1,600	potholes filled
1,096	building permits issued
939	building division plan reviews
880	street signs installed
705	full and part-time benefit-eligible City employees
650	acres annexed into Loveland
334	indoor and outdoor public artworks
253	fire safety inspections at Loveland businesses
120	affordable housing units rehabilitated
99.9895	percent reliability of electric power to customers
52	percent citywide recycling rate
25	years since the City sales tax rate has changed
4	homicides (suspects arrested or identified in each case)
0	fire-related fatalities
0	police officers killed; 1 seriously injured

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## Christmas Tree Recycling

The Loveland Parks and Recreation Department is recycling Christmas trees at no charge at three drop-off locations. Signs will direct participants to appropriate drop-off areas at each location.

- Centennial Park—W. First and Taft (in the parking lot north of First St., west of Swift Field)
- Loveland Recycling Center—off 1st St. & Wilson Ave.
- Kroh Park—N. Hwy. 287 and 52nd St. (adjacent to Habitat for Humanity)



Trees can be dropped daily, sun-up to sun-down until Jan. 31. Please remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights, nails, screws, wire, tree stands and bags.

Christmas tree recycling provides mulch for trees and planter beds in City parks. Last year, more than 5,000 Christmas trees were chipped and recycled into 500+ cubic yards of mulch.

For more info, call Parks and Recreation, 962-2727.

# Challenging and successful: Accomplishments 2009

## Stimulus Funds

The City is at work making use of about \$4.7 million in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Stimulus funding. \$3.3 million is bound for street safety projects within the city limits including the Crossroads/I-25 interchange, Eisenhower/Wilson medians and Traffic Operations Center software. The remaining \$1.4 million will be used to purchase two new transit buses and fund energy projects within the city.

## Food and a view

A new clubhouse was constructed and opened in May at Mariana Butte Golf Course. This new 9,000 sq. ft. facility provides a golf pro shop and full restaurant, the Stone Ridge Grille. Patrons can enjoy some of the best views in Loveland along with their food and beverage.



## Sewer service

The City's multi-year effort continues to address numerous critical sewer lines that serve many residents. An existing 24-inch reinforced concrete sewer line was rehabilitated using state-of-the-art technologies to minimize disruption to local homeowners and traffic. As the City's water and wastewater infrastructure continues to age, this program and technology becomes increasingly important.

## Money matters

The popular Money Talks presentations at the Loveland Public Library will be expanded thanks to a new grant. The grant will also enable the library to do additional education and outreach to help prevent financial fraud among older investors.

## Dali was here



Highlighted by four exhibitions of the famed Salvador Dali, the Loveland Museum/Gallery had yet another year of fine artwork on display. The Dali exhibits continue through January. Another highlight was an exhibit of 70 years of paintings by Wayne Thiebaud, one of the most well-known American artists since the 1960s. And as always, the annual Governor's Show and Sale was highly attended.

## Hot and historic



The Sequel building just north of the Loveland Museum/Gallery is the temporary home of the unique Loveland Fire Exhibit historic collection. Now open to the public on weekends, the exhibit offers a glimpse into the history of the local fire department including information, photographs and objects related to the Bartholf Hose Cart Team, the Loveland Fire Sirens, the fire training grounds, the "Liar's Bench" and much more.

## Demolition praised

The large, 57 year-old concrete water tank located west of Loveland near the Devil's Backbone was demolished in early 2009. It had been replaced by a new, four million gallon water tank constructed at a new location in 2008. Numerous local residents and users of the nearby Larimer County Open Space Park expressed appreciation for the improvements to the scenic Devil's Backbone area.

## Everyone counts

Efforts have begun to promote participation in the 2010 U.S. Census. A complete and accurate count of every Loveland resident will help ensure that the community gets its fair share of government representation and funding of local programs.

## Emergency preparation

More than a dozen City staffers participated in a week-long training workshop at the FEMA/Homeland Security Emergency Management campus in Emmitsburg, MD. The training was highlighted by a 5-hour Emergency Operations Center drill simulating a 500-year flood of both the Big Thompson and Cache la Poudre rivers. Participating were Loveland personnel from fire, police, management, finance, legal, public works, utilities, EMS, hospitals, 911 dispatch, public information and others.

## Focus on jobs

During the downturn year of 2009, The Business Development office continued its efforts in helping local firms retain jobs while encouraging new businesses to locate here. The Loveland City Council awarded \$930,143 in economic development incentives to create and retain 1005 jobs over the next 5 years.

## Even more art

During 2009, 28 new pieces of artwork were added downtown and

seven additional new sculptures now reside in Loveland's renowned Benson Sculpture Park. Loveland's Art in Public Places program now includes 334 pieces valued at more than \$8 million. The collection, local galleries and the many artists residing here all contribute to Loveland's fine reputation as an art community.

## Downtown vision

After months of hard work by the Loveland Downtown Team, city staff and other downtown stakeholders, Loveland City Council in June adopted the Downtown Strategic/Business Plan and Implementation Strategy. The document is intended to promote and guide efforts to achieve the vision that downtown remains the cultural heart of Loveland. It envisions a revitalized downtown as a pedestrian-friendly area with shopping, restaurants, cultural facilities, employment and housing.

## Partnering pays off

About \$138,000 in electric costs were saved this year thanks to the 3,348 households participating in the Partnering with Power program. The program cycles air conditioners to reduce demand for electricity during peak usage



## Partnering with Power

times when electricity purchase costs are high. Reducing purchase costs helps keep Loveland's electric rates among the lowest in Colorado.

## Local assistance

Loveland City Council awarded more than \$770,000 in grants to 31 local not-for-profit agencies providing shelter, food, transportation, medical, dental and mental health services, plus help with many other basic needs to local families and individuals in need. The City provided \$450,000 and an additional \$320,000 was provided through federal housing grants and funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

## Better communication

City staff received extra training on enhancing information flow to the public. Key personnel attended a media release preparation tutorial plus a workshop on being a more effective City spokesperson when working directly with the media and the public.

## Treatment upgrades

The City's Wastewater Treatment Plant completed more than \$6 million in improvements last year. The benefits include odor control, reduced electrical costs, enhanced equipment reliability and improved process management.



### Rec room

The Chilson Recreation Center will soon be even bigger and better. In 2009, the design was completed for a major expansion and renovation, and construction will begin by Valentine's Day. The expansion will increase the center's size by more than 25 percent.



### Construction support

To help support jobs in the local building industry, Loveland City Council encouraged home improvement projects by waiving building permit fees through the end of 2009 for renovation, repair, remodeling or additions to owner-occupied dwellings. The program began in mid-October, and as of the end of November, 2007 projects benefitted from \$80,000 in fees that were waived.

### Taxiway times two

The Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport received \$558,000 in stimulus money used to reconstruct a portion of the airport's primary taxiway. A new taxiway to a storage hanger area also was constructed with a portion of \$1 million from the FAA. A new business plan was approved that establishes the vision and goals for the airport.

### Roadway trilogy

Major public information campaigns were provided for three major Loveland roadway projects. Newsletter features, full-page local newspaper layouts, cable TV programs and videos for the website, cable TV and YouTube were presented for the projects at I-25 /Crossroads, I-25/ Hwy 34 and the upcoming innovative continuous flow intersection at Madison and Eisenhower.



### Going orange

The addition of the Orange bus route—a direct route to downtown—in late 2008 has helped increase City transit ridership by 15 percent during 2009. The Blue route was busier, too, transporting more riders east to access the 34-Xpress route to MCR, Crossroads, the Promenade Shops and Greeley. And Loveland's new 35 passenger bus now provides a ride that rivals that of any transit agency.

### Rural and urban

A new, four-wheel-drive fire engine is now stationed at Station #3 where it enhances Loveland Fire and Rescue's ability to serve the citizens in the western part of the district and rural areas where access may be difficult. The unit is also very capable of urban operations, adding to local service. And, of course, the four-wheel-drive capability is a welcome benefit during the winter months.

### Trash choices

Customers of the City's curbside trash pickup service gained another choice last year. A smaller, 17-gallon trash cart was added to the cart-size lineup. The new, smallest cart was added to replace the use of stamped trash bags for primary means of disposal. Weekly pickup of the 17-gallon cart service costs only \$2.75 a month.



### CSI: NoCo?

The Loveland Police Department joined ranks with major law enforcement agencies in Larimer and Weld counties to create the Northern Colorado Regional Crime Lab. Nineteen forensic specialists from around the region are working together to process criminal evidence related to cases in northern Colorado. The cooperation and contribution of each agency has greatly enhanced forensic services for residents of Loveland and the region.

### Taller tales

The design has been completed for a major expansion of the Loveland Public Library. The expansion will add a second floor and almost double the size of the library. Construction could start as soon as June 2010 if funding is secured.

### Accredited again

Once again, Loveland's Police Department received national accreditation, affirming the department's high level of compliance with professional law enforcement standards. The department was also honored for achieving and maintaining accreditation since 1992.

### Digits digitalized

During 2009, the Police Department implemented a digital fingerprinting system. The system allows for highly detailed fingerprinting and is connected to a national system that searches a robust database for wanted

criminals each time new fingerprints are added to the system.

### Bye bye bins

A single, wheeled cart began replacing the blue and green recycling bins for many City of Loveland Solid Waste customers. The transition will be completed citywide early this year. All recyclables are placed in the cart and rolled to the curb for pickup every other week. For better glass recycling, large bins for bottle and jar drop-off are located at six sites throughout the city.

### More than a laptop

Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) have been installed in all front-line Loveland Fire and Rescue vehicles. The MDTs provide fire personnel with rapid pre-incident information and emergency scene updates. On-site knowledge of the presence of hazardous materials within a structure or special information required to effectively manage and mitigate an incident are examples of the informational value of MDTs.

### Triple pickup

Five groups of volunteers are helping keep Loveland streets looking good. The groups, under the direction of the City Adopt-a-Roadway program, each pick up litter along a mile or two of major roadways in Loveland. Each group hits the road three times a year.



### Juice loops

Completion of nine loop projects gives Loveland electric customers greater protection against power outages. If an outage does occur, the loops enable faster restoration of power.

### Good grades again

The results of the annual citywide Quality of Life Survey were again very positive. Almost 900 households responded to a 24-question survey seeking opinions about City services, facilities and opportunities. The overall satisfaction trend line continues to rise.



## Valentine's Day activities

### **The library's annual SweetNight**

SweetNight is a gala evening of yummy desserts, dancing, music and a silent auction to benefit the summertime Traveling Storyteller in the Parks Program.

SweetNight will be held at 7 p.m., Fri., Feb. 5 at the Chilson Senior Center. Tickets are \$15 at the door or can be purchased online at [www.friendsofthelovelandlibrary.org](http://www.friendsofthelovelandlibrary.org).

### **Fun at the Museum/Gallery**

Children can get ready for Valentine's Day by making their own personalized Valentine's Day cards using a variety of materials and techniques on Wed., Feb. 10, 3-4:30 p.m. for grades 2nd-5th. Registration deadline is Feb. 3, \$20 per student.

Celebrate Valentine's Day by exploring the Museum's Valentine's exhibit and then create fun Valentine's crafts on Sat., Feb. 13, 10:30 a.m.-noon for ages 3-5 with an adult. Registration deadline is Feb. 6. \$15 per student.

To register for these activities or for more info, call 962-2410.

### **Senior Center Sweetheart Dance**

The Chilson Senior Center will host its annual Sweetheart Dance, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Wed., Feb. 10. The Colorado Sunshine Band will perform. Cost is \$4 or \$3.50 with a Senior Activity Card. Refreshments will be served. For more info call 962-2783.

### **Couples in Love & Music: A Night of Pure Musical Passion, Humor & Love**



Acoustic Eidolon and the Rialto Theater present a very special concert to charm sweethearts everywhere, 8 p.m., Fri., Feb. 12.

Joe Scott & Hannah Alkire as Acoustic Eidolon have invited Grammy Award-winning acoustical duo Al Petteway & Amy White and Annie Lalley & Joe Ebel for this evening of music and entertainment. Tickets: \$18 adult, \$14 senior/student.

### **An Affair to Remember (1957)**

In this poignant and humorous love story, Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr are each engaged to someone else, but agree to meet in six months at the Empire State Building if they still feel the same way about each other. Bring your sweetheart and your hankies! 7 p.m., Sun., Feb. 14 at the Rialto Theater.

Tickets: \$10

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For 2010, the budget has been reduced by about \$6 million, about where it was in 2007. This year, there will be staff salary freezes, some layoffs, furlough days and some trimming of services but again no major service cuts.

The annual City survey confirmed that residents are still very pleased with the quality of life in Loveland.

## “Money Talks”

### **Everything you ever wanted to know about stocks**

As the economy improves, so, in theory, should the stock market. But before investing, it's a good idea to know exactly what you're getting into.

The February Money Talks, presenter Susan Linden, M.B.A. will look at different types of stock, the pros and cons of buy-and-hold versus trading, as well as discuss how to evaluate a stock and select an investment professional.

Money Talks is free and presented at noon, Tues., Feb. 9 and at 6:30 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 10. Both programs are presented in the Gertrude B. Scott room of the Loveland Public Library. Beverages are provided and attendees are welcome to bring a bagged lunch or supper.

## The New Year: means new opportunities for efficiency, safety and savings

The New Year presents opportunities for change, renewal and resolution. A great way to start the year is by taking stock at home; what's working, what isn't and what changes can be made to improve efficiency, safety and increase energy savings.

By the time January rolls around, it's generally pretty obvious, based on how warm the house is, whether a home's 'envelope' is well-sealed, or not. If the house is cold and drafty, add weather-stripping or blow-in additional insulation if needed. A poorly sealed home is an inefficient one, which means discomfort for occupants and money down the drain.

Also, do a whole-house audit on appliances, outlets and power strips. Appliances that are well-maintained run more efficiently which means they'll save you money.

It's also a good idea to check power cords. If they're frayed, replace them

immediately. Damaged cords are unsafe. Never overload outlets or power strips. This is also unsafe and could overload circuits and possibly start a fire.

When it's time to purchase new appliances, look for products evaluated by the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL), as well as Energy Star®—both will improve a home's safety and energy efficiency.

Check all the smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure they are functioning properly and put in new batteries if they're battery-powered. Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, which is typically every ten years or less.

Go through the home and swap out standard incandescent bulbs, even if they're still working, for compact fluorescents (CFLs). Incandescent

bulbs generally last less than 1,000 hours while CFLs can last up to 10,000 hours.

CFLs also use much less electricity—approximately 75 to 80 percent less than regular bulbs, which can help lower utility bills. The money lost by throwing out still-working incandescent bulbs is infinitesimal compared to the money and energy savings provided by CFLs.

CFL bulbs are available in a variety of shapes and sizes to fit any lamp or fixture inside or outside the house and are ideal for use in vaulted ceilings and other hard-to-reach areas since they need to be changed so infrequently.

Take a few minutes this month to make some improvements around the house to improve energy efficiency and safety. You, your family and your wallet will benefit the whole year through.

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).