

## City economic strength brings slight expansion for 2013 budget

This year's continuing improvement in the local economy translates to good news for next year's City of Loveland government budget. And that good news for the budget translates further into good news for the recipients of Loveland's local government services. The City Manager's proposed budget has gone out for review by the community and City Council. It features a \$2.8 million increase—about 4.5 percent—in the City's General Fund, from \$62.4 to \$65.2 million. The General Fund finances most tax-supported services including fire, police, parks and rec, cultural services, library, finance, public works and city administration.

In recent years, the City's operating budget had shrunk to near-2007



levels. The reduced budget and efforts toward financial sustainability have brought about budgets with lower revenue expectations and reduced expenditures. The two-fold good news is that revenues have exceeded expectations while expenditures have remained within budget.

Through August, 2012, tax revenues *(continued on page 2)*

## Overall, accidents down, traffic flow improved at CFI

The City became home to its first Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) in the fall of 2010 and Loveland's residents have been driving the innovative intersection ever since.

The CFI was designed to improve the flow of traffic in the intersection and ease traffic congestion, especially on southbound Madison. According to Derek Schuler, engineer with the City's traffic division, the intersection has performed well.

For the first few months after the CFI was opened, there were some rear-end crashes on Madison, but that pattern has not continued. And at the Nickel Drive intersection where a raised median restricts certain vehicle movement, there have been zero accidents reported since the CFI's opening.

There has been an increase in the frequency of left turn angle accidents in both directions on Hwy 34, however. The new intersection requires that motorists travel further into the intersection to negotiate a left turn and this might be more challenging for some motorists, especially while turning on a permissive green ball signal indication. A possible remedy under consideration is to make both of those left turn movements 'protected phasing,' meaning turns would be allowed only on a green arrow signal indication. The down side of this



approach would be that the dedicated green arrow time would take away time for through traffic on Hwy 34. City staff is continuing to monitor traffic flow and accident records for the CFI and will continue to explore options for the left turn issue.

On Madison Avenue, the critical movement addressed by the CFI design was the southbound left turn onto eastbound Hwy 34. The two offset left turn lanes built for this heavy traffic movement are operating effectively. Most vehicles clear the intersection in one signal cycle even during peak traffic flow periods—a major improvement accomplished by the CFI design.

Overall, accident levels for the area encompassing the four intersections of the CFI, including north and south crossover traffic signals and the Nickel Drive intersection, have gone down by roughly 15 percent compared to accident rates two years before construction.



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

### INSIDE

Police survey reveals Loveland residents feel safe  
**Page 2**

T-n-T Tuesdays introduces Walking School Buses  
**Page 2**

Efforts by everyone bring safety to the community  
**Page 3**

Mehaffey Park will have something for everyone  
**Page 3**

Trouble getting the car in the garage? Sports Swap may be the solution  
**Page 4**

Grab your Halloween mask for these fun, scary events  
**Page 4**

You can prevent an outage!  
**Page 4**

## Help Loveland's homeless through Homeless Connect

The First Annual Loveland Homeless Connect will be 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Nov. 2 at Truscott Elementary, 211 W. 6th St. This event is a one-stop shop for the homeless or near homeless in the community and offers housing services, eye exams, medical screenings, bike repair, haircuts and more.

Volunteers are needed to partner with clients. The goal of this pairing is to have the volunteers guide the clients through the event, starting with a shared meal, and then helping clients access the services they need.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer online go to [honservice.org/](http://honservice.org/) or call 667-4939.





## City economic strength brings slight expansion for 2013 budget

(continued from page 1)

have exceeded budget expectations by 3 percent while General Fund expenditures are 6 percent below budget predictions primarily due to the timing of capital project expenditures.

The result is the 2013 budget, termed “mildly expansive,” that seeks to restore and in some cases expand City programs that were restrained considerably in recent years by economic conditions. The 2013 budget is aimed at fulfilling City Council’s goals in the areas of public safety, economic vitality and infrastructure sustainability.

By their nature, public safety departments are labor-intensive, with most expenses for staffing. Additional public safety positions have been added in both fire and police. Six new firefighting and two new police positions are budgeted for 2013.

The City’s Economic Development Department, first formed in 2011, continues to develop ways to enhance Loveland’s economic vitality. The department’s Technology Acceleration Program, begun in early 2012, will be continued in a new phase in 2013.

Infrastructure—roads, bridges, pipelines, power lines, etc.—will receive funding for replacements and improvements. Funding for this work comes not from tax-revenues and the General Fund, but from increases in rates and fees for users of these services. City staff will include the recommended rate increases for

Council approval with the budget in October.

In addition to the eight new public safety positions, a total of three-and-a-half other new positions will be added elsewhere among City departments. Overall City employment has been reduced during recent years and city employees’ pay rates have been considered lean. For 2013, 3.5 percent “merit pool” pay increases are anticipated.

Construction projects will include relocating Fire Station #2 from North Lake Park to west of Wilson Avenue, expansion of the Wilson Avenue Service Center to consolidate utility and public works operations, and greater recreation opportunities with the addition in partnership with the Thompson R2J School District of three tennis courts to the North Lake Park plus the beginning of construction of Mehaffey Park following 2012 budget planning.

“The City is in a strong financial position,” said City Manager Bill Cahill. “Steps taken toward financial sustainability in 2011 have reset a new course for the City’s projected financial future, placing the City on a path of self-sufficiency. This approach has been continued into the 2013 budget,” Cahill said.

Citizens are encouraged to view the complete City budget at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org).

## Police survey reveals Loveland residents feel safe

Loveland residents overwhelmingly feel safe in their community and neighborhoods. That feeling of security was expressed by 92.8 percent of respondents to a citywide Public Safety Survey conducted by the Loveland Police Department (LPD).

Credit for that high number goes to the entire community, not just the police department itself, Chief Luke Hecker was pleased to point out. He stressed the success of the partnership between LPD and the residents and businesses of Loveland.

It’s a partnership where the community and police personnel appreciate each other and the value they bring to the safety of the community. Family and neighborhood interaction, education and watchfulness by the schools, communication and cooperation with businesses and an appreciation of the value of law enforcement personnel result in a calm and assured attitude from residents as shown by the survey.

Are there violations that residents mention as occurring in their neighborhood? Yes, but very minor in nature. The top two types of violations noted in the survey were

## T-n-T Tuesdays introduces Walking School Buses

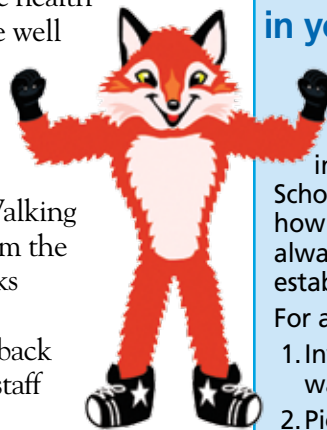
In celebration of the fifth anniversary of Loveland Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Tires-n-Tennies (T-n-T) Tuesdays program, the SRTS task force is introducing Walking School Buses to area students and encouraging Loveland residents to start one up in their neighborhoods.

A Walking School Bus is a group of children that walk to school together in the company of one or more adults or older students or siblings. The buses can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school or a route with meeting points and a timetable for parent volunteers.

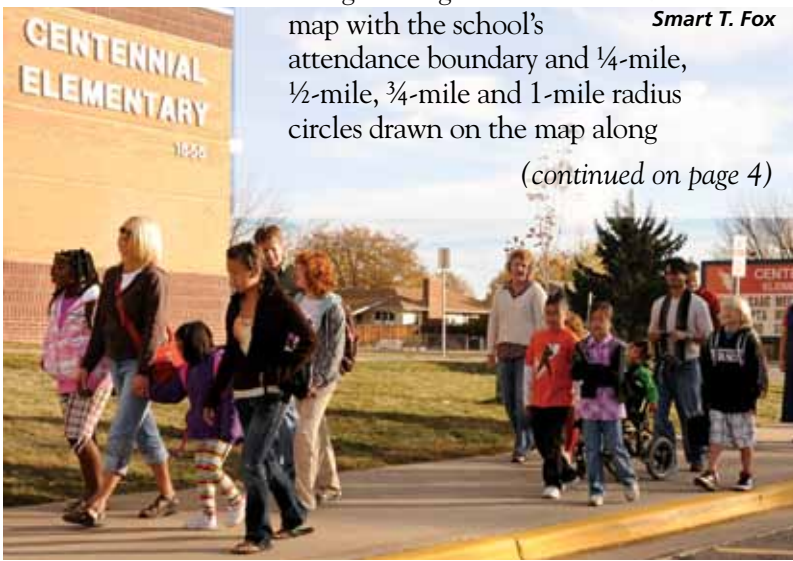
Walking School Buses are an excellent mode of transportation because there is safety in numbers, a group of students is very

visible, and adults provide additional coordination. And the health benefits of walking are well documented for all ages.

Recently, to engage families and gather information for the Walking School Buses, staff from the Loveland Public Works Department attended participating school’s back to school night. City staff brought a large aerial map with the school’s attendance boundary and ¼-mile, ½-mile, ¾-mile and 1-mile radius circles drawn on the map along



Smart T. Fox



(continued on page 4)

### Start a Walking School Bus in your neighborhood

Pick a single neighborhood that has a group of parents and children who are interested in doing a Walking School Bus. Start small and see how it works. More neighbors can always be added once the bus is established.

For an informal, neighborhood bus:

1. Invite families who live nearby to walk
2. Pick a route and take a test walk
3. Decide how often the group will walk together
4. Have fun!

Studies show that fewer children are walking and biking to school, and more children are at risk of becoming overweight. Changing behaviors of children and parents requires creative solutions that are safe and fun. Implementing a Walking School Bus is both.

A good time to begin a Walking School Bus is during International Walk to School Month in October.

For more information, visit: [www.walkingschoolbus.org/safety.pdf](http://www.walkingschoolbus.org/safety.pdf) and [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org).



speeding cars and barking dogs—a far cry from property crimes or violence that cause constant uneasiness in communities elsewhere.

The high feeling of safety has remained constant during the past 10 years of the survey, as have the two highest concerns, speeding cars and barking dogs. Concern about road rage has decreased—greater tolerance and/or more courteous drivers? Concern about identity theft has increased—greater reliance on technology and/or the Metrolux credit card incident?

According to the survey, the feeling of safety was greatest in residents' neighborhoods. Although use of the Loveland Recreation Trail winding through town got very high marks, the ratings decreased a bit for City parks and the downtown area.

Respondents believe that occurrence of illegal drug use in their neighborhoods has increased since 2002, as has graffiti. Drunkenness, burglary, loitering, auto theft and gang activity continue to be far lower on the list.

While police give residents great credit for their attentiveness and attitudes, they do offer suggestions for improving personal safety. Timers on lights when away from home, dead bolt locks and even sticks in patio door and window tracks are beneficial. The LPD survey also reflects residents' concerns about gatherings of unsupervised youth.

## Efforts by everyone bring safety to the community

How can Loveland's extremely high 92.8 percent sense of public safety be maintained or improved? According to the 407 respondents to the 2012 Loveland Public Safety Survey, a variety of efforts by police, residents, parents, motorists, government and the schools could all be beneficial.

Here's how the respondents ranked the survey's suggested methods for public safety improvements.

1. Police visibility
2. More parental control
3. Neighborhood watch programs
4. Additional street lights (not traffic lights)
5. Ability for local law enforcement agencies to share data and information
6. Police officer and staff training
7. Better enforcement of drunk/drug driving laws
8. Clean up trashy areas of the City
9. Additional school resource officers in the schools
10. Reduce overgrown shrubs and trees
11. Improve driver education
12. Northern Colorado regional crime lab
13. Use of laptop computers in the officer's vehicle
14. Carry personal alarms/self defense
15. More bicycle lanes
16. Speed and/or red light enforcement through cameras
17. Less on-street parking
18. Mark household valuables with identification tags
19. Police substation at the outdoor mall
20. Lower speed limits



The safety survey is administered by the police department every three years. This year's survey was mailed to 1742 randomly selected addresses, with a 23.4 percent response rate; 407 completed responses were received. In addition to answering

the questions listed, respondents offered more than 400 comments and suggestions. The complete Public Safety Survey is available in the police department section of the City website, [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org).

## Mehaffey will have something for everyone

The City will soon have another park for the use and enjoyment of Loveland residents. The plan for Mehaffey Park, named for the Mehaffey family who sold the land to the City more than a decade ago, will be located north of 22nd Street, south of 29th Street and west of Wilson Avenue. It will be the sixth community park in Loveland.

Community parks, as opposed to smaller neighborhood parks, are larger and designed to serve more residents by providing a wider variety of recreational opportunities.

A host of amenities are planned for the park including:

- Disc Golf
- Adventure Playground
- Skate park
- Restrooms
- Dog Park
- Arboretum
- Soccer/football fields
- Special event areas
- Natural areas and wildlife habitat

- Winter recreation activities
- Pickleball Courts
- Water body for irrigation
- Picnic areas/shelters
- On-site parking
- Tennis courts

The City recreation trail runs along the east and north borders of the park making it easily accessible for

*(continued on page 4)*



## Trouble getting the car in the garage? Sports Swap may be the solution



Sell unused or gently used ski and sports equipment at the Annual Ski & Sports Swap Nov. 2-3 at the Chilson Recreation Center, 700 E. Fourth St.

The swap enables individuals and businesses to buy and sell new and used equipment including children's and adult's snowboards, skis (downhill and cross-country), boots (snowboard, downhill and cross-country), poles, snowshoes, ski racks, ski hats, mittens, gloves, jackets, warm-ups, etc. Additional items such as children's snow saucers, ice skates, hockey equipment, bicycles and any other winter gear are also acceptable.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Grab your Halloween mask for these fun, scary events



### Halloween Family Fun Festival

The Loveland Museum/Gallery will be hosting the annual Halloween Family Fun Festival in conjunction with Loveland's Downtown Trick-or-Treating event 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat., Oct. 27. This free event will take place in Peters Park next to the museum and include vendor booths, activities for children, live entertainment, trick-or-treating and a costume contest.

Individuals and groups interested in participating in the costume contest must register their costumes by 12:15 p.m. on the day of the event. Judging will begin at 12:30 p.m. and first, second and third place prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories. The festival and costume contest are free for all ages.

### Teen Scream

The teensen room at the library will be hosting an afternoon of fun, 2-4 p.m., Oct. 31 for teens from sixth through twelfth grade. Teens can play Zombies vs. Humans and other great Halloween games. Attendees are also encouraged to enter the costume contest. Snacks will be provided. For more information visit the library webpages at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org).

### Sports Swap

(continued from page 3)

Other sports equipment such as golf clubs, tennis and racquetball racquets, softball equipment, in-line skating equipment and camping equipment is also welcome.

Swap hours:

6-9 p.m., Sat., Nov. 2

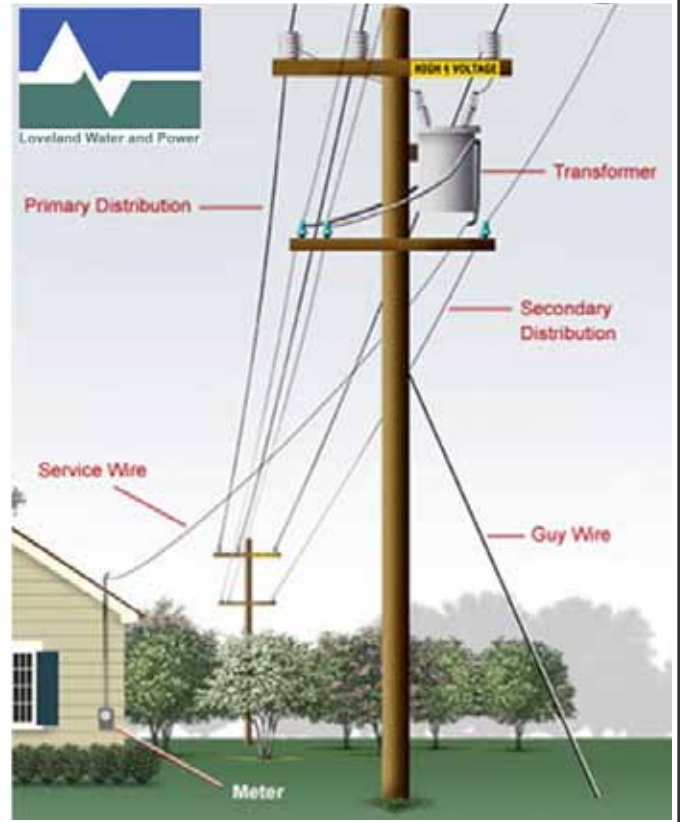
8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sun., Nov. 3

Major ski areas will be on-site selling discounted lift tickets. Equipment can be dropped off from 8-5 p.m. on Nov. 2.

For more information go the Parks and Recreation webpage at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org) or call 962-2432 or 962-2467.

## You Can Prevent An Outage!

Loveland Water & Power encourages customers to clear trees from the electric service wire entering your home to prevent individual home outages. Keeping the service wire clear of trees is the responsibility of the customer. To promote safety during tree trimming we will disconnect your service (during normal business hours) at no charge. Call 962-3581 at least 24 hours in advance to schedule.



### T-n-T Tuesdays introduces Walking School Buses

(continued from page 2)

with approximate walk times. These distances and times were to show to parents who normally drive their children to school, that their walk to school and back might actually take less time than negotiating all the school-zone traffic.

To encourage Loveland families to try a Walking School Bus, each of the nine participating schools will receive a map with two to three routes in celebration of Walk to School Day on Oct. 2. Volunteers sporting bright t-shirts will be assigned to each route. The information collected at the back-to-school events will help determine the routes.

Each month will have a different theme to keep up the momentum. Themes include:

- Canned Food Drive
- Fluorescent, Bright or Tie-Dyed: Be Safe, Be Smart, Be Seen
- Silly Mitten and Crazy Gloves
- Love Your Neighborhood Route Clean-Up
- Bed Heads Ahead.

Schools may schedule Smart T. Fox to walk with their group.

The ultimate goal of this project is to engage neighborhoods to organize their own Walking School Bus on a regular schedule.

### Mehaffey Park will have something for everyone

(continued from page 3)

bikers, joggers and in-line skaters. It will be bordered on two sides by the Quail Run, Durango and Windermere subdivisions. Other close subdivisions include Hunters Run, Meadowbrook Ridge, Sunny Acres, Ivanhoe and Lakemont.

The park was originally planned to be 60 acres until last June when the City purchased an additional 9.36 acres just adjacent to the northwest corner of the planned park. This new property will provide for future expansion of the park and recreational facilities as well as secure a permanent access to 29th Street to reduce traffic through the neighborhoods and provide access to the park.

The additional space will also allow for expansion of the proposed skate park, more tennis courts and pickleball courts. City Council will approve the annexation and zoning for the property in December.

The final design is expected to be completed by early next year. Construction on the park will begin in June and is slated to be completed during the summer of 2014.

For more information on plans and the construction schedule for Mehaffey Park, visit [www.cityofloveland.org/mehaffey](http://www.cityofloveland.org/mehaffey).