

## On ladder's lowest rung, judge works with good people

On the ladder of severity, Judge Bill Stark's Loveland Municipal Court is on the lowest rung. He doesn't deal with felonious criminals who've caused serious injury to people, destroyed their property or stolen their paychecks.

"In Municipal Court, we work with good people who had a bad day or a brain cramp," Starks said. "Bad people go to the other courts; County Court or District Court."

Municipal Court handles offenses covered by the City Charter or City Code violations; basically the least serious offenses. So what offenses or situations bring someone to face Judge Starks in his courtroom?

By far, situations involving motor vehicles top the list. Motorists receiving a summons for a traffic *infraction* are the most frequent. *Infractions* include tickets for speeding, running a stop sign or stop light, lane

change violations and others. Traffic *infractions* carry no threat of jail time.

Some traffic *offenses* could bring jail time, but that's rare in Municipal Court, Starks explained. Traffic *offenses*, however, do require a court appearance as opposed to the *infractions* that offer the option of mailing in a fine. If found guilty offenders must pay court costs in addition to the traffic fines.

Traffic *offenses* include school bus or school zone violations, lack of insurance, racing, and fender-bender accidents resulting in careless driving



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## Quiz for parents

1. True or False: There's an enforceable curfew in Loveland.
2. If a curfew exists, it pertains to children under the age of:
  - A. 12
  - B. 16
  - C. 18
  - D. All of the above
3. True or False: Curfew hours are midnight to 5 a.m. every day

### Answers:

1. True
2. D.
3. False; it's midnight to 5 a.m., Mon. -Thurs.; 1-5 a.m., Sat.-Sun.

### More info:

- The curfew is not enforced for a child at work, or going to or from work.
- The curfew is not enforced if the child is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- The curfew is enforceable if the child is with someone age 18 or older—even a brother or sister—unless the person older than 18 accompanying the child is carrying written authorization from the parent or guardian.
- A child may be stopped by a police officer and be issued a ticket.
- If a ticket is issued, a court appearance is mandatory and a parent or guardian must come to court with the defendant.
- Court costs will apply plus a possible fine.

## St. Patrick's Day luncheon

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Senior Center's St. Patrick's Day luncheon, 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Fri., Mar. 15. Enjoy delicious corned beef and cabbage, shamrock cake and lively Irish entertainment. Bring a canned food donation for the House of Neighborly Service. Seating is limited. Call 472-9630 to make a reservation by 1:30 p.m., Mon., Mar. 11.

Suggested donation is \$2.50 for VOA meal program.

## Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms save lives

Last month, a family in the Denver area learned the hard way that not having an operational carbon monoxide alarm in the house can at best cause illness, and at worst, be deadly. This particular family was lucky.

It was daytime so they were awake when the gas began to affect them. If it had been nighttime, it could've been a much more serious and even lethal situation. Their story illustrates the high importance of having working carbon monoxide and smoke alarms in every home—24/7.

In order to help ensure that Loveland residents—especially low-income, disabled and seniors—have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in their homes, the Loveland Rescue Fire Authority (LFRA) in collaboration with the Lauren Project, will be using monies from a FEMA grant to distribute smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in the community to at-risk residents.

High school students volunteering with the program will be going door-to-door in designated Loveland neighborhoods to distribute safety information and obtain requests from residents to have safety equipment delivered and installed at no charge.

Student volunteers will go door-to-door between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the following dates:

- Sat., Feb. 23 (students from Mountain View High school)
- Sat., Mar. 2 (students from Thompson Valley High School)
- Sat., Mar. 9 (students from Loveland High school)

The distribution and installation of equipment will be done by trained fire department personnel.

If extra safety equipment remains after all requested smoke and carbon monoxide alarms have been installed, the LFRA will offer free installation of the remaining equipment to



additional households with low-income, elderly and/or disabled occupants. For more information call 962-2497.

And for more general information on home safety and the importance of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms go to [www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Public%20Education/COSafety.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Public%20Education/COSafety.pdf) and [www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Research/SmokeAlarmsSafetyTips.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Research/SmokeAlarmsSafetyTips.pdf).

## Sign up for free emergency alerts

Help protect your life, property and peace of mind by signing up for free emergency notifications through the Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA). It's easy to sign up—just go to [www.LETA911.org](http://www.LETA911.org).

The LETA emergency notification system enables local emergency responders to provide information quickly in the event of severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing person alerts and evacuation of buildings or neighborhoods.

By signing up for this free service, time-sensitive messages can be sent to a home phone, cell phone, business phone, email account, text message, hearing impaired receiving devices and more. Users select where and how to be notified.



LETA is a partnership of 25 government and public safety agencies in Larimer County. LETA supports and is responsible for the administration of 9-1-1 in Larimer County. LETA does not share people's personal information with any vendor or organization.

**YOU'RE INVITED**

Join us for a short presentation about your residential utility rates and rebate programs offered by Loveland Water and Power. Take the opportunity to get your questions answered by utility staff!

**OPEN HOUSE ON**

WEDNESDAY  
**MARCH 6**

FROM  
**5:30-6:30PM**

**SERVICE CENTER - 200 N. WILSON AVE. LOVELAND**

Open House Series offered by  
**Loveland Water and Power**

All attendees receive a special care package.

More information at:  
[www.cityofloveland.org/LWP](http://www.cityofloveland.org/LWP)  
or call: (970)-962-3000

## Reimagine your landscape with Garden-in-a-Box

The ever-popular Garden-in-a-Box program helps Loveland residents plant beautiful, low-maintenance xeriscapes without the headache of all the research and planning. These professionally designed, pre-planned xeriscape gardens come with plants, design layout and planting and maintenance instructions.

The 2013 garden selection includes three perennial xeric garden kits;

two for full sun and one for shady or dappled sun areas in the landscape. These new, low-water garden collections for 2013 can be viewed at [GardenStore.ReSourceCO.org](http://GardenStore.ReSourceCO.org).

Perennials ready for planting come in 4-inch pots. Also available is the 'spaghetti dinner' vegetable garden with vegetables including basil, eggplants, tomatoes and more.

Depending on the selection, kits come with 15-33 plants, an easy to follow professionally designed plant-by-number design and a care and maintenance guide. For garden kit questions please call 303-999-3820 ext. 217.

Garden kits along with easy to install drip kits and other water conservation products will go on sale in late February. Loveland residential water customers are eligible for \$25 off select xeric gardens—available while supplies last. Garden kits are available for pick-up May through June throughout the Front Range and will

be available for pick-up in Loveland on Sat., June 1.

Stay tuned for details on Loveland's annual event to kick-off the garden season. For more information go to [GardenStore.ReSourceCO.org](http://GardenStore.ReSourceCO.org) or call Loveland Water & Power at 962-3000.



### Grow your own veggies and herbs

Every Wednesday in March the library will present a gardening related program in conjunction with the Master Gardeners from the CSU Extension Service. These free noontime programs will cover a variety of topics including edible flowers and herbs.

For more information call 962-2401.



## Are you connected?

Stay informed about your local government. Become a direct receiver of City information—general or specific to your special interest—by opting into social media sites or getting information sent directly to your email.

### facebook

City of Loveland  
 Airport - Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport (FNL)  
 Athletics  
 Chilson Center  
 Fire & Rescue - Loveland Fire Rescue Authority  
 Parks & Recreation  
 Golf Loveland Olde Course at Loveland Pro Shop  
 Museum/Gallery  
 Rialto Theater Center

Public Library  
 Public Library - Teens  
 Downtown Loveland  
 Community Partnership  
 Stormwater Engineering  
 Water & Power  
 Loveland Youth Advisory Commission  
 Sales Tax  
 Solid Waste  
 Streets & Traffic

### twitter

City of Loveland  
 Farmers Market  
 Golf Loveland  
 Library  
 Transit - COLT  
 Water & Power

### YouTube

City of Loveland  
 Golf  
 Parks & Recreation  
 Public Library

The City provides additional information on a variety of facilities and topics through its E-notification system. Residents can sign up to receive email notices on everything from exhibit openings at the museum, to youth activities, to boards and commission meetings, to updates on City golf courses. Signing up is easy – a working email address is all that's needed to plug residents into a wealth of information. Go to [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org) to sign up.

E-notification categories:  
 Calendar  
 Adult/Senior Programs and Activities  
 Adventure Bound Day Camps  
 All Meetings  
 Board and Commission Meetings  
 City Council Meetings  
 Community Events  
 Entertainment  
 Golf  
 Library Computer Classes  
 Museum  
 Rialto Theater  
 Sales Tax  
 Seminars  
 Youth Programs and Activities  
 News  
 Adult/Senior Programs and Activities  
 Adventure Bound Day Camps  
 Airport  
 Art in Public Spaces

Artist Community  
 Budget  
 Building  
 City News  
 Community Partnership  
 Cone Zone  
 Emergency Notification  
 Fire  
 Golf  
 Information Technology  
 Library  
 Library - Teens  
 Library Youth  
 Loveland Water & Power  
 Museum  
 Open Lands / Natural Areas  
 Parks & Recreation Event  
 Planning & Development  
 Police  
 Purchasing  
 Rialto  
 Sales Tax  
 Youth Programs and Activities

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tickets. More serious driving violations such as accidents causing significant injuries, very excessive speeding or drunk driving are handled at County or District Court.

Starks encourages everyone who receives a traffic ticket to read it thoroughly. Many people don't read the details and show up for court when they could have simply mailed in a fine and been assessed fewer points.

Number 2 on the Municipal Court list and far below the number of vehicle cases are offenses that involve a person's behavior. Jail time for these offenses is rare, but does occur, especially for repeat offenders. The most common violations include theft—shoplifting; disturbing the peace—loud parties; disorderly conduct—fistfights; underage alcohol or tobacco possession—ages 21 and 18, respectively; curfew violations, trespassing, fireworks and other offenses.

Violations regarding city government related regulations such as building code violations, failure to pay City sales tax and property clean-up situations also fall into this number 2 category.

Third on the Municipal Court quantity list are animal violations, or more accurately, violations by the people who own the animals. These violations all require a mandatory court appearance plus court costs. A summons for a vicious dog, barking dog, an unleashed pet or failure to pick up pet waste fall into this category.

If Rover is roving free and picked up by the dogcatcher, it can cost his owner nearly \$200 in fines, court costs and “doggie jail” fees, Stark explained.

In dealing with animal issues, in addition to levying fines, Starks has ordered bark collars, training classes and even euthanizing an animal that presents a “clear and present danger,”

he said. “I’m a dog lover, but people come first,” he added.

Judge Starks has sat on the Loveland Municipal Court bench for 14 years. Prior to that, he served as a deputy district attorney in Weld County for 19 years, dealing primarily with juvenile cases.

“We see people in our court for a bad choice they made, not because they themselves are bad. After leaving the courtroom, we’re confident they will make fewer bad choices. We want to get out of their lives ASAP,” the judge said.

## 430 “I do’s” from the judge

Bill Starks has helped couples say “I do” 430 times... and counting.

As Municipal Court Judge, Starks is empowered to marry couples in civil ceremonies. The ceremonies may be conducted in the courtroom or elsewhere.

The fee for the ceremony in the courtroom during normal court hours is \$75, paid to the City. Starks reminds couples that photo IDs and a marriage license are required. The marriage license can be obtained from Larimer County on 6th Street in the same building where automobile license plates are issued.

Starks can also perform marriages at other locations during non-City hours, on his “own time.” He performs these ceremonies on evenings and weekends at area homes, parks, wedding event centers and some distant locations including Red Rocks Park west of Denver.

The judge happily explains he’s even married the sons or daughters of couples he had married years ago. He also smiles when he says that while he’s empowered to perform marriages, his Municipal Court doesn’t handle divorces.

Persons interested in an out-of-courtroom ceremony may contact the judge at his office to discuss time, date, place and fee.

## Need help with home repairs?

Larimer County residents can get help with needed home repairs from the Larimer Home Improvement Program (LHIP).

This program provides low to moderate income families with low interest rate loans focused on health, safety and energy efficient modifications as well as any handicapped accessibility needs. The terms are very flexible and qualifications are generally easier than a regular bank loan.

The program is funded by the State Division of Housing HOME program

and local affordable housing funds. The LHIP also has an emergency fund available to very low income home owners including mobile home owners for urgent issues such as lack of heat or hot water or burst pipes.

For more information and to receive an application, visit [www.lovelandhsg.org](http://www.lovelandhsg.org) or call 635-5931.



*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 City's website at [www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org). Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, [Andy.Hiller@cityofloveland.org](mailto:Andy.Hiller@cityofloveland.org). The City of Loveland is committed to providing an equal opportunity for citizens and does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender. The City will make reasonable accommodations for citizens in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator at [Bettie.Greenberg@cityofloveland.org](mailto:Bettie.Greenberg@cityofloveland.org) or 962-3319.



## 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.

### ***When your car is leaking oil on the street, remember it's not just leaking oil on the street.***

#### **Clean water is important to all of us**

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too—and that adds up to a pollution solution!

#### **Why do we need clean water?**

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water—and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our waterways, lakes, rivers, and ground waters clean.

#### **What's the problem with motor oil?**

Oil does not dissolve in water. It lasts a long time and sticks to everything from river pebbles to bird feathers. Oil and other petroleum products are toxic to people, wildlife and plants. One pint of oil can make a



slick larger than a football field. Oil that leaks from our cars onto roads and driveways is washed into storm drains, and then usually flows directly into a waterway, lake or stream. Used motor oil is the largest single source of oil pollution in our lakes, streams and rivers. Americans spill 180 million gallons of used oil each year into our waterways. This is 16 times the amount spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska.

#### **Clean water tips**

How can you use and change your motor oil and help keep our waterways clean?

Keep your car tuned to reduce oil use. Stop drips. Check for oil leaks regularly and fix them promptly.

Use ground cloths or drip pans beneath your vehicle if you have leaks or are doing engine work. Clean up spills immediately. Collect all used oil in containers with tight fitting lids. Do not mix different engine fluids.

Never dispose of oil or other engine fluids down the storm drain, on the ground or into a ditch.

Recycle used motor oil. Many auto supply stores and gas stations will accept used oil.

Buy recycled (re-refined) motor oil to use in your car.

To find out more about where you can take used oil for recycling, call 1-800-RECYCLE or the City's Stormwater Division at 962-2772.

# Hard to keep it clean... 'cause we're all downstream



## Take the Stormwater Runoff Challenge

To see the correct answers to the crossword puzzle go to the Stormwater website by clicking on the QR code.



**Across:**

- 1) The area of land that drains into an estuary, lake, stream, or groundwater is known as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) The \_\_\_\_\_ of speeding boats can erode shorelines.
- 5) Maintaining your \_\_\_\_\_ tank will help to prevent bacteria and nutrients from leaking into groundwater and surface waters.
- 7) Wetland plants act like a natural water \_\_\_\_\_, removing harmful pollutants from stormwater runoff.
- 8) Leave your grass clippings on your \_\_\_\_\_ to reduce the need for commercial fertilizers.
- 9) A single quart of motor \_\_\_\_\_, if disposed of improperly, can pollute 2 million gallons of water.
- 10) Fertilizers and animal wastes contain \_\_\_\_\_ that "feed" algae and other aquatic plants harmful to water quality.
- 12) Polluted runoff from both rural and \_\_\_\_\_ sources has a significant impact on water quality.
- 16) Storm \_\_\_\_\_ don't always connect to sewage treatment plants, so runoff can flow directly to rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.

- 18) Follow directions carefully when applying \_\_\_\_\_ on your lawn—more isn't always better.
- 19) Polluted runoff (also called \_\_\_\_\_ source pollution) comes from so many places that it's hard to "pinpoint" a source.
- 20) Yard and vegetable food waste are suitable additions to a \_\_\_\_\_ pile.

**Down:**

- 2) Don't dump used motor oil into storm drains. \_\_\_\_\_ it!
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ of soil from barren land can cloud nearby streams.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ prevent flooding, improve water quality, and waterfowl, provide habitat for fish, and wildlife.
- 5) Marking "Do Not Dump, Drains to Bay" on a \_\_\_\_\_ is one way to educate people about polluted runoff.

- 6) Excess sediment, nutrients, toxics, and pathogens are all types of runoff \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11) Polluted \_\_\_\_\_ is the nation's #1 water quality problem.
- 13) The cattail is one wetland \_\_\_\_\_ that helps purify polluted runoff.
- 14) Too much \_\_\_\_\_ in water can harm aquatic life.
- 15) Proper crop and animal management on \_\_\_\_\_ helps to control water pollution.
- 17) \_\_\_\_\_ impact development helps control stormwater pollution through conservation approaches and techniques.

**Choices:**

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| compost    | plant       |
| drains     | pollution   |
| erosion    | recycle     |
| farms      | runoff      |
| fertilizer | sediment    |
| filter     | septic      |
| lawn       | storm drain |
| Low        | urban       |
| nonpoint   | wakes       |
| nutrients  | watershed   |
| oil        | wetlands    |



## SAVE \$10.00 ON YOUR NEXT OIL CHANGE



Please visit any of the following participating Oil Change facilities and bring this coupon to get **\$10.00 off your oil change:**

- Big O Tires  
2480 N. Lincoln Ave.
- Engle Automotive  
808 N. Denver Ave.
- Metric Motors  
821 S. Lincoln Ave.
- West Shore Automotive  
1201 W. Eisenhower Blvd.

- Brakes Plus  
3190 N. Garfield Ave.
- Grease Monkey  
1100 Eagle Dr.
- Rocky Mountain Quick Lube  
875 S. Lincoln Ave.

- E&B Automotive  
127 Barbary Place
- Grease Monkey  
2997 N. Garfield Ave.
- Stan's Auto Service  
1019 N. Lincoln Ave.

Please present coupon at time of service. Not valid with any other offers. Only redeemable on oil change services. One coupon per vehicle. Expires December 31, 2013.

## Don't miss these fun and beneficial events:

- Annual Spring Waterway Clean-up – Sat., April 20
- Annual Children's Day Celebration – Wed., Apr. 24
- Loveland Children's Water Festival – Thurs., May 9
- Public Works Day – Tues., May 21
- Door to Door Pick-up of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) for seniors and disabled – dates TBA

For more information on the City's Stormwater Division call 962-2772, visit the Stormwater webpages at [www.cityofloveland.org/Stormwater](http://www.cityofloveland.org/Stormwater) or find us on Facebook.