

i Made this

Loveland Public Library's 'iCreate' lab adds 3D printing to offerings

As it awaited guests at its public debut on Aug. 15, the Loveland Public Library's new Lulzbot Taz 3D printer was busy cranking out slim, but fully three-dimensional, bookmarks. Old, meet new.

It could have been engaged otherwise – say, by making pieces of itself to replace ones that might wear out. Such is the versatility of the latest entry in the library's surprising technology collection housed on the second-floor "iCreate" suite.

The desktop 3D printer built in Loveland is one of the first – perhaps the second? – housed in a Colorado library, and its presence underscores how libraries have evolved rapidly in the past several years to include more offerings than books, magazines and newspapers.

The dramatic \$9 million expansion of the library last year spawned the iCreate section and its technological wonders that have become one of the city's best-kept, and untapped, secrets.

"People think of libraries as places to retrieve information," said Shane Adamson, LPL's technology manager. "They get books, videos, periodicals. But this takes us in a new direction. This allows people to create content."

3D printers are not new. Since the robotic technology was developed

about two decades ago, scientists and engineers have been perfecting the process of creating three-dimensional objects from information in digital files transmitted to a robotic builder.

3D Printing for People

Forerunners of the Lulzbot printer that is made in Loveland by fast-growing Aleph Objects Inc. were large, expensive and very much out of public view, the province of engineers and designers working for large corporations that could afford the emerging technology.

But Lulzbot and a small group of competitors have moved robotic fabrication technology to the people, with desktop units about the size of microwave ovens that can create from digital files objects ranging from plastic toys to precision machine parts.

The robotic machine can manufacture products from a half dozen different plastic compounds, from simple to exotic. A wood-fiber compound closely replicates the look and texture of hardwoods.

Marcie Erion, director of Loveland's Office of Creative Sector Development, saw the Lulzbot-library union as a way to expand
(See iCreate, page 2)

The business end of the Loveland Public Library's Lulzbot Taz 3D desktop printer can build novelties, like the plastic octopi in the background, or useful products like the custom cell phone case in the foreground.

More
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iCreate
lab
inside

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the technology experience that the library had already launched with the iCreate lab.

"I see the library as a community resource, available to everyone, that now can offer a technology like this that has so many different applications," Erion said.

Putting 3D Process to Work

The 3D printer fulfills the workforce development role that the City's Department of Economic Development, the umbrella over Erion's office, has as part of its mission.

"I think most people will download a design file from the internet, and reproduce it, just to see the process and how it works," she said.

"The bigger goal is that this is a technology that's moving forward very quickly into our economy. The only way for people to understand the technology is to view it and use it in a problem-solving way."

Erion's work with the Lulzbot manufacturer, Loveland-based Aleph Objects, led to the library pitch, and to a funding package for the 3D printer that sharply cut the library's commitment to paying for the technology.

The Community Foundation of Northern Colorado suggested a match. Aleph Objects participated. So, too, did the Friends of the Loveland Public Library. Together, those entities offset most of the printer's initial cost.

Lulzbot's portable TAZ printer adds to the library's iCreate technology offerings that span across nearly all media, from audio recording to fine arts.

A few patrons with diverse requirements have discovered that iCreate provides nearly all the support they need. Kelly Anne

Zielinski, author of "Intelligent Women Get What They Want," and whose consulting business is nestled in the self-help niche, blocks out time at iCreate regularly.

"I pretty much have everything I need here for my business," she said after concluding a video production session at the library.

"I use everything. The printer, the Macs. Earlier today I was using Garage Band for some audio work. There's almost nothing I can't do here."

Visit the Lulzbot 3D printer, and learn how to use it, at the Loveland Public Library, 300 N. Adams St. For more information call Shane Adamson, library technology manager, at 970.962.2598.

iLearn, iExplore, iCreate: LPL's 'i' candy

The push for technology was a major part of planning the Loveland Public Library's \$9 million expansion in 2012. The staff responded with a progressive, three-stage technology journey that patrons may embark upon.

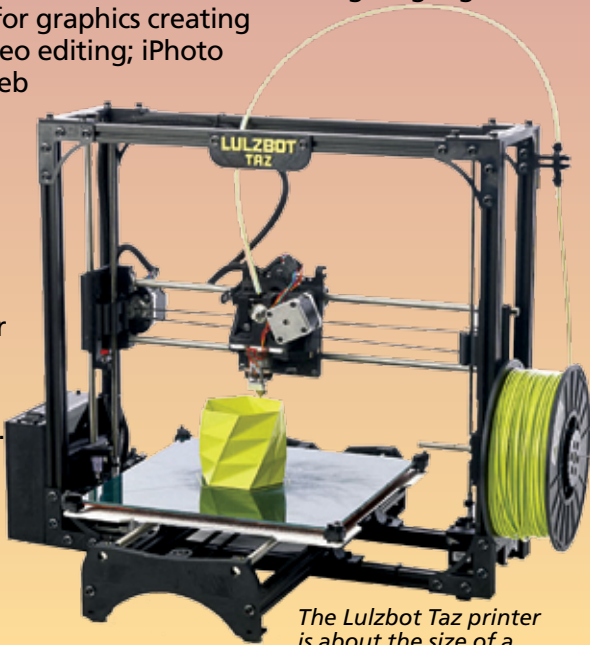
The iLearn center, a fully equipped computer technology classroom, offers instruction on a wide variety of tools to navigate the digital world.

The iExplore section allows users to put that knowledge to work on server-connected workstations that have the speed and memory to handle almost any computer task.

The destination for advanced users can be the library's 'i' iCreate lab, where a suite of media tools, that allows users to record, edit, modify – or create – nearly any image or sound in a single room.

The equipment list includes:

- Two Apple PowerMac computers, lightning fast and loaded with the latest Apple technology.
- The Adobe Production Suite software package, including Premier for video editing; After Effects, for custom transitions and special effects; Audition, an audio editor; Flash CS5 software authoring language; Illustrator and Photoshop for graphics creating and editing; iMovie for video editing; iPhoto graphic editor; iWeb for web page design; and Garage Band for audio editing.
- New Epson document scanner.
- Studio-quality microphone and headphones.
- Wacom Bamboo tablet, for drawing, illustrating and other graphic jobs.
- Video cameras and tripods.
- 44-inch high-resolution, gallery-quality poster printer.
- 44-inch paper cutter.
- Wall-size Green Screen for special video effects.



The Lulzbot Taz printer is about the size of a microwave oven.

Opening soon...

The River's Edge Natural Area that adds 155 acres of ponds, wetlands, meadows and trails to Loveland's public open space holdings, opens Saturday, Sept. 28 with community festivities beginning with a 10 a.m. opening ceremony and continuing through 2:30 p.m. at 960 W. First St.

The opening of River's Edge also opens opportunities for community volunteers to contribute by participating in educational programs, stewardship projects or becoming trail hosts for the River's Edge Natural Area.

For more information contact Michele VanHare by phone at 970.217.3173, or by email at Michele.VanHare@CityofLoveland.org.

Dispose of prescription medicines safely

Loveland residents can safely dispose of unneeded drugs — both prescription and over-the-counter — from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Oct. 26 at a drive-through drop off at the Loveland Police Department parking lot, 810 E. 10th St.

The national Drug Take-Back Day provides an opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for proper disposal.

In April Loveland Police collected 916 pounds – nearly half a ton – of medications.

Top Chief: Loveland's Randy Mirowski nation's best

Deflecting praise comes as naturally as breathing to Loveland Fire Rescue Authority Chief Randy Mirowski.

It began in June, when he learned he was a candidate for the national "Fire Chief of the Year" award, presented at the August meeting of the International Association of Fire Chiefs at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center, an event that drew 12,000 fire, rescue and emergency medical professionals.

"It's an honor for the community," he said then, as one of 12 nominees for the award. He joined peers from San Francisco, Austin, Texas, and other cities whose fire departments are far larger than Loveland's.

"It's a tribute to the organization. This really has nothing to do with me. It's about the people in this department, and in the City of Loveland."

When the editorial board of Fire Chief magazine, the publication that manages the annual award program, chose Mirowski as its 18th annual recipient, the self-effacing chief kept the message current.



Judy and Randy Mirowski celebrate his national "Fire Chief of the Year" at the historic Firehouse restaurant in Chicago. City Manager Bill Cahill, who made the trip with the Mirowski's, caught the moment on his iPhone camera.

"I'm so proud of the people in this organization, and the people in this community," he said, while acknowledging that he "literally dropped the phone" when he was notified.

Few knew that Mirowski had risen to the top. He kept the secret close.

City Manager Bill Cahill knew, as did a handful of top administrators at Loveland Fire Rescue, including Renee Wheeler, the City's Public Safety Administrative Director who

packaged Mirowski's nomination for the award.

The submission Wheeler assembled and forwarded to the award committee contained all the evidence needed for the choice.

Loveland Police Chief Luke Hecker wrote that his friend was "the finest public safety executive I have had the pleasure of working with in 27 years of public service."

City Manager Bill Cahill's letter of support described Mirowski's broad reach in spreading "servant leadership" principals.

"Randy's leadership is felt throughout the City organization," he wrote. "He brings creativity and dedication to all he touches."

Mayor Cecil Gutierrez, speaking publicly to Mirowski at an Aug. 20 meeting of the Loveland City Council, encouraged the chief to embrace the honor.

"I know you've been a humble man, and have shared this award around," Gutierrez said. "But please do take the credit when credit is given."

Words from 'the organization'

Loveland Fire Rescue Authority Chief Randy Mirowski heaps credit on "the organization" and the "community" for the honor he received Aug. 15, the 2013 "Fire Chief of the Year" award.

But the people in LFRA turn it right back on their leader. Here are samplings of their thoughts, gathered during the week Mirowski was in Chicago for award ceremonies.

"Chief Mirowski is an incredible man and leader with a shining yet humble personality. The award is well deserved."

– Capt. Craig Willard, Truck 6, C-shift

"He is a man who truly understands what it means to be 'others-centered.'"

– Lt. Shawn Williams, Station 6, C-shift

"When the Chief shakes your hand and looks you in the eye, as he is known to do each and every time he sees you, you can't help but feel that he would move heaven and earth to do the very best for you, your coworkers, and each and every citizen of Loveland."

– Lt. Dave Friedrichsen, Engine 5, C-shift

"Chief Mirowski is the quintessential leader for those of us at Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, and a role model for what leadership should look like throughout the City of Loveland."

– Chris Sandoli, Firefighter

"I'm not quite sure how to put this, but he's kind of a big deal!"

– Dan Engelhardt, Firefighter

"He is a man of true, genuine, and uncompromising integrity that compels others to follow him."

– Devin Becker, firefighter/EMT, Station 3

"With Chief Mirowski's unwavering desire to constantly improve LFRA and his passion towards each of his employees, his Fire Chief of the Year Award is well deserved."

– Nick Bukowski, Engineer, Station 6, B-shift

"Congratulations, sir! You are an inspiration to us all and truly lead by example and exemplify what it means to be a leader for LFRA."

– Jeremy Bell, Firefighter, Truck 6, B-shift

"Chief Mirowski's accomplishment is a testament to his leadership – a living demonstration of character, competence and a vision that inspires excellence in all of those around him."

– Michael Cerovski, Firefighter

"A little well-deserved recognition for the outstanding work and leadership you display every day!"

– Jeremy Adent, Firefighter

"Randy is the team captain: He excels at bringing out the best from every member of the team, and that's what a leader does."

– Carrie Dann, Deputy Fire Marshal

"Having the Chief of our department receive an award like this is the epitome of leading by example."

– Bobby Bartlett, Firefighter

"He is a man of class and integrity, and gives us all something to strive for."

– Dustin Waldorf, Firefighter, Station 6, B-shift

"The Nation now knows what we have known for many years; we have the best, most honorable and humble Chief in the Industry!"

– Chris Smith, Firefighter, Station 5, C-shift

"An extraordinary man of character and integrity, who is 'others-centric,' is leading us to our full potential for the benefit of the greater Loveland area."

– Renee Wheeler, Public Safety Executive Administrator

"It is awesome that Chief Mirowski is being recognized for his vision of taking LFRA from good to great, and his drive and leadership that has propelled us on the journey to greatness."

– Greg Ward, Division Chief, Operations

Top read more tributes from the staff of Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, visit www.cityofloveland.org. For more coverage of the award presentation in Chicago, including a photo gallery, visit www.firechief.com. Enter "Mirowski" in the search box at the top of the home page.

Using your blue recycling cart? Join Recyclebank for rewards

The entire Loveland community is invited to join the more than 4,600 local households that have signed up for rewards for their recycling efforts. All City of Loveland curbside recycling patrons are eligible for the free Recyclebank program.

Similar to earning frequent-flyer miles, the Recyclebank program awards points to households for the weight of recyclables placed in their blue recycling carts and picked up at the curb. The points can be exchanged for products and services from local, national and online merchants.

More than 100 reward choices await Recyclebank members, including many from locally-owned Loveland businesses.

Among more than 400

communities across the U.S. participating in the Recyclebank program, Loveland is alone in introducing the Premier Partner plan. Local Premier Partner merchants are providing extra recycling support by offering substantial rewards above and beyond the conventional level.

The Recyclebank program is the City's way of thanking Loveland for its nationally recognized recycling efforts and encouraging households to recycle even more.

Earning rewards from Recyclebank is easy and free:

- Discard your recyclables in your blue cart.
- Sign up free at www.Recyclebank.com.
- Earn points for your recycling.
- Cash in your points for rewards.

Most Loveland households are already using their blue carts for recycling. With Recyclebank, they can earn rewards. Greater recycling brings greater rewards.

Recyclebank Partners

Here are some of Recyclebank's current local reward partners and more are signing up all the time.

Loveland Aleworks	Nick-N-Willy's Pizza
Pourhouse Bar & Grill	Henry's Pub
Grimm Brothers Brewery	BodyWork by Melissa
Cactus Grill	McDonald's
Next Door Food & Drinks	Macy's
Dick's Sporting Goods	Best Buy
Bed, Bath and Beyond	Applebee's
Dog's Own Grooming	Blackjack Pizza
Papa Murphy's	Jiffy Lube

...plus dozens more national and online reward partners!

Learning about Recyclebank

A Loveland Foote Lagoon concert goer visits a display about the City's new Recyclebank program at one of the August Thursday night music events. At the concerts, audience members were invited to stop by displays promoting recycling and the Recyclebank reward program.

Recycle Bank partners are local, national and online vendors who want to support recycling in Loveland by offering residents rewards for recycling. When Recyclebank participants recycle, they earn points. These points add up and can be used to get discounts on food, clothing and personal services at the Partners' establishments.



REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER RECYCLING

SCHEDULE YOUR APPLIANCE PICK-UP AT www.cityofloveland.org/rebates OR BY CALLING 970-962-3000

Your refrigerator uses more electricity than almost any other appliance. Models from the year 1993 and before use 40% more energy than today's most efficient units. Recycle your fridge or freezer and get instant energy savings, plus a **\$70** (normally \$35) credit towards your energy bill.

Sustain Loveland.

To qualify, unit must be in working, cooling condition. If you have a non-working unit, contact the Solid Waste Division at 970-962-2529.

More information about this energy saving effort and more available online or by calling **970-962-3000** www.cityofloveland.org/Conservation

MAKE THE SWITCH TO GreenSwitch

When you make the switch, you are supporting an alternative to fossil fuels. **\$270** per * kWh block.

www.cityofloveland.org/GreenSwitch **970-962-2111**

*Total purchase of GreenSwitch renewable energy blocks is added to your energy bill.

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