

# City Update

January 2014

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# Exciting new interactive mapping tool lets ordinary citizens keep tabs on City projects

A lmost apologetically, the caller who reached Loveland's public information office in late November sought some help.

"I really should know this, but I don't," he said. "There's a big crane, and concrete walls going up, just northeast of First Street and Wilson Avenue. Can you tell me what's going on?"

The \$15 million expansion of Loveland's Service Center, the City's largest building project in decades, had been in the news plenty.

Front-page stories in the daily *Reporter-Herald* newspaper have described the 51,000 square feet of space that will bring all of Loveland's Public Works divisions under a single roof, and the city's website and social media sites carried the news, too.

While some people missed the announcements, a quick online stop at Loveland's new Current Development Activities Map, www.cityofloveland.org/planmap, will clue them in.

The multi-layered interactive mapping tool, developed by the City's Current Planning and Geographic Information Systems divisions, opens the book on every

real estate development project in progress or planned in Loveland.

The new mapping tool is part of a citywide drive to make public business more transparent for Loveland residents.

"We want to load it with information that we think the public might be interested in."

Kerri Burchett, Loveland senior planner

"People are always going to be curious about work they see being done on new projects in the city, or about signs that pop up in vacant lots where one might be proposed," Assistant City Manager Rod Wensing said.

"We want to give people a convenient and quick place to go, online, to learn more about those projects. The Current Development

A construction worker with Prescient Co. works on the steel and aluminum framework for Lofts at Jefferson, a three-unit residential project at Jefferson Avenue and 13th Street in Loveland.

Activity Map provides that information, and tells our citizens how to get even more."

The icon on the online map that represents the City Service Center expansion project is a small, gray disc. In late December, it was among 66 map symbols, each representing a planned or in-progress real estate development project within the city limits.

By moving the mouse pointer over the icons, the map user can bring up short titles – "Loveland Service Center," "Burger King," "Pizza Ranch," as examples.

Clicking on an icon unlocks a vault of information.

In the small window that appears, users first find the name and phone number of the city planner who monitors the project, then a brief summary.

A "more info" button instantly sends the user to the project's submittal document, further describing the work underway or planned, and accompanied by some relevant document from the Current Planning Division's file on the project.

(See What's Going Up?, page 2)

#### **What's Going Up?** (continued from page 1)

"We want to load it with information that we think the public might be interested in," Loveland principal planner Kerri Burchett said.

"It might be a landscape plan, or an architectural elevation. We want to give people something that allows them to have an understanding of what the project is about."

While a "plan set," as the submittals are called, might contain as many as 20 pages of documents, the map tool limits its offerings to two.

Clicking on the information box for The Lakes at Centerra Clubhouse and Pool first will unroll a site plan for the community center that will serve a 222-unit residential neighborhood that will take shape on Centerra's western edge beginning this summer.

Then, an architect's rendition appears, showing what the new center will look like when it opens.

Other quick-access buttons in the "more info" box can open and address an email to the planner, or take the user to a Google-powered street view of the project site.

Burchett teamed with the City's Senior Geographic Information Systems Specialist Brent Shafranek in taking the new map application to its finish line in late November, unveiling it publicly after a review by City boards.

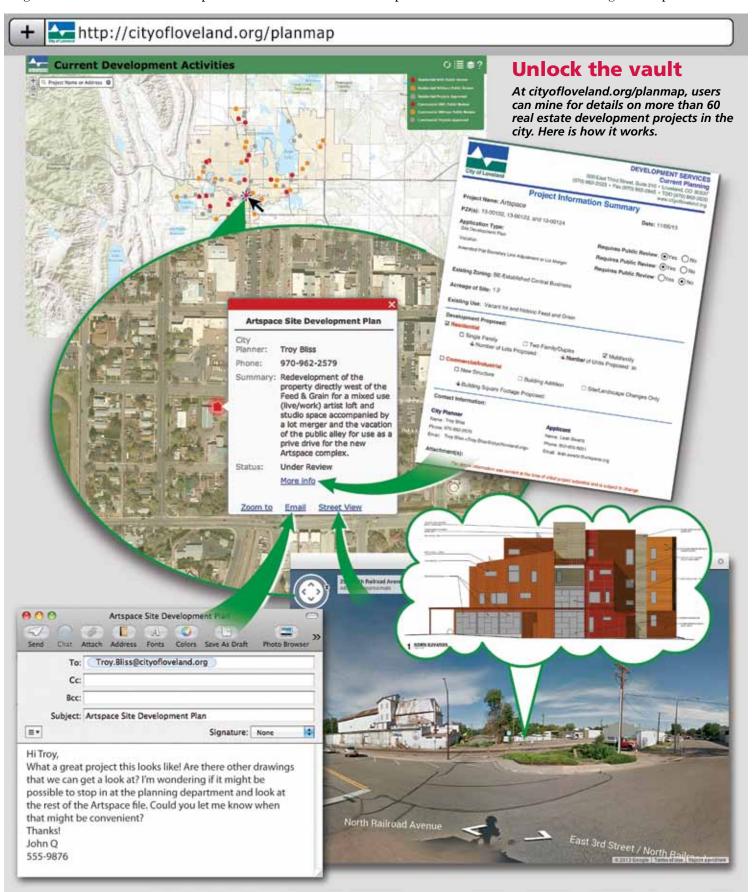
Projects are updated weekly, and range from modest small-business additions attached to private

residences to major subdivisions with hundreds of proposed homes.

Surprises abound. Map users will find that the recently closed 1st Bank branch location at Orchards Shopping Center might, with public approval, accommodate five – count 'em, five – new restaurants in a 16,000-square-foot center.

Burchett said she knew that the map application would generate more interest, and more contact, between residents and the City's planning staff about new projects.

"That's what we want," she said.
"That's really the point. Getting that interest – getting more participation at neighborhood meetings, Planning Commission meetings and City Council meetings – is important to us."



## An ounce of prevention...

#### Winter safety tips

As the temperatures drop, the potential for home fires increases. Most of these home fires occur between 5 and 8 p.m. and cooking is often the number one culprit. Space heaters, candles and electric blankets can also be wintertime fire-starters. To keep your family safe, follow these basic safety and prevention tips.

#### General safety tips:

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children
- Ensure that all electrical cords are free of damage and don't overload outlets
- Use candles with caution never leave burning candles unattended
- Use only portable propane or gasfueled appliances in open, wellventilated spaces where carbon monoxide cannot accumulate – never use these appliances indoors
- Plan and practice a home escape plan

#### Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms:

- Ensure the home has a carbon monoxide alarm in or near every bedroom
- Test all smoke alarms and ensure that they have fresh batteries



#### Fireplace:

- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned by a professional at least once a year
- Only burn clean dry wood in the fireplace – never burn trash, paper or other items

#### Space heaters:

- Only use space heaters that have tip-over and automatic shut-off features
- Leave 3 feet of clearance around space heaters and other heat sources

#### Kitchen:

- Monitor everything that's cooking
   never leave cooking unattended
- If a grease fire occurs in a pan put a lid on it and turn off the heat – never put water on a grease fire

#### Sign up for emergency alerts:

• Sign up for emergency alerts to be sent to a cell phone, home phone and/or pager at www.leta911.org.

For more information on fire safety visit the Loveland Fire and Rescue Authority webpages at www.cityofloveland.org.

# At the Loveland Museum/Gallery, Rialto Theater Center

Curatorial Contrasts: 1970s America A Thoroughly Historic Thursday Program

6-7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 13 Foote Auditorium – free event

Inspired by the artwork in the exhibit Authentic Form, this exhibit provides an overview of 1970s America from historic and artistic perspectives.

# The Art Of ...... PechaKucha Style

7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 27 Foote Auditorium – free event

PechaKucha are fun, informal gatherings in which people share their ideas, works, thoughts and experiences – pretty much anything goes. In the PechaKucha 20x20 format, 20 images are shown for 20 seconds each. Attendees will be introduced to a wide variety of

topics, personalities and adventures as presenters make 400-second presentations about what rocks their worlds.

#### At the Rialto Theater Center Judy Collins

7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 13

Judy Collins has thrilled audiences worldwide with her unique blend of interpretative folksongs and contemporary themes. This Grammy-award winning artist will perform hits from her album Wildflowers plus her beloved version of Send in the Clowns. Tickets: \$49 in advance

Tickets: \$49 in advance \$54 day of the show

Capulet, cocktails and Romeo + Juliet

7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 14, movie at 8 p.m.

Baz Luhrmann's Romeo + Juliet - a modern spin on Shakespeare's

classic, features Leonardo DiCaprio as Romeo and Claire Danes as Juliet. Wear a masquerade mask and be entered to win a fabulous prize. A cash bar including forbidden treats opens at 7 p.m.

Rated PG-13. 120 minutes. Tickets: \$7 (cocktails sold separately)

# 2013 Quality of Life Survey available online

Every year the City of Loveland seeks residents' opinions about services and amenities the City provides including public safety, utility services, leisure services, transportation and more.

The City's annual Quality of Life Survey, which includes approximately 330 unedited comments from citizens, is available for viewing on the City's website at *cityofloveland.org/QOLSurvey*.



## Library introduces 24-7 reference service

In December the Loveland Public Library joined libraries across Colorado to offer a new virtual reference service that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

AskColorado uses a virtual chat format to connect users with a live librarian. Users can ask a variety of questions ranging from the lifecycle of seahorse to the 1920 purchase price of a Ford Model T.

Users in the Loveland area can logon to AskColorado through a portal located on the library's homepage at lovelandpubliclibrary.org. Once

the user poses a question they are greeted by a live librarian who will try to answer their questions. The librarians are prepared to respond to general questions, questions from professionals, and questions from students of all ages.

Because AskColorado is staffed by librarians throughout Colorado they may not be able to answer specific questions about personal library accounts – everything else is fair game.





### At the library...

- Don't miss the library's next Classic Movie Night Feb. 24 in the Gertrude Scott room. Visit lovelandpubliclibrary.org for times and information, pick up a flyer at the library or check the listing in the Reporter-Herald. For more information or to make a movie suggestion contact Bobbi at 962-2401 or bobbi. benesh@cityofloveland.org. Popcorn provided.
- Noontime and Nighttime Nature with Kevin Cook features Echoes to Bugles: Stories of Colorado Mammals. Each month's program will feature two mammals – a predator and its prey. This month's presentation, Huck Finn of the Forest, will be presented noon-1 p.m., Feb. 4, and 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5 in the Gertrude
- The Great Ideas Discussion Group continues its discussion on the Idea of Life and Death, 2-3:30 p.m., Feb. 7 and 14 in the Erion room.
- Making Loveland a Healthier Community, a new health talk series with Dr. Brian Flemming, will be held noon-1 p.m., Feb. 20 in the Erion room.
- Introduction to Genealogy with Pat Johnson will be held 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Feb. 22 in the Gertrude Scott room.

# City of Loveland

# **HOLIDAY TRASH** COLLECTION SCHEDULE

New Year's Day 2014 - Wednesday, 01/01/2014

Closed ... Collections will run one day late (Wednesday's collection on Thursday, etc.)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Monday, 01/20/2014 Collection will be normal for week

Presidents Day - Monday, 02/17/2014

Collection will be normal for week

Weekly yard debris collection begins Monday, 03/31/2014 Subscription yard debris cart service begins. Please have yard debris cart in street by 7 a.m.

Memorial Day - Monday, 05/26/2014

Closed ... Collections will run one day late (Monday's collection on Tuesday, etc.)

Independence Day - Friday, 07/04/2014

Collection will be normal for week

**Labor Day - Monday, 09/01/2014** 

Closed ... Collections will run one day late (Monday's collection on Tuesday, etc.)

Columbus Day - Monday, 10/13/2014 Collection will be normal for week

**Veterans Day - Tuesday, 11/11/2014**Closed ...Collections will run one day late (Tuesday's collection on Wednesday, etc.)

Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, 11/27/2014

Closed...Thursday's collection will be on Friday

Weekly yard debris collection ends - Friday, 11/28/2014

Subscription yard debris cart service ends. Keep cart during winter. Monthly service fee to be discontinued until April 2015.

**Christmas Day 2014 - Thursday, 12/25/2014** 

Closed ... Collections will run one day late (Thursday's collection on Friday, etc.)

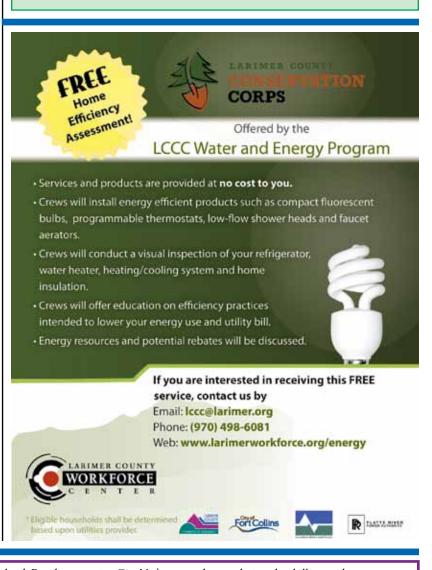
New Year's Day 2015 - Thursday, 01/01/2015

Closed ... Collections will run one day late (Thursday's collection on Friday, etc.)

#### Christmas tree recycling

The City's Parks and Recreation Department urges residents to recycle their Christmas trees at these convenient drop-off sites:

- Centennial Park parking lot east of Taft along 1st Street
- Kroh Park north of 50th Street east of Highway 287 north For more information call 962-2727.



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. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, Tom. Hacker@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 or 962-3319.