

# COOLING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

(Reprinted courtesy of Western Area Power Administration)

Make sure your home’s air conditioning will keep you cooled comfortably during the warm months, without driving up your utility bills. Whether you have central or heat-pump air conditioning, ductless (mini-split) units or individual room units, there are steps you can take to keep your air conditioner in good working order and prevent problems throughout the cooling season.

Regular maintenance and preventive care can lengthen the life of your air conditioner, keep energy costs down and make your home more comfortable.

## Helpful tips for using your air conditioner:

- Always keep all windows and doors to the outside closed.
- Don’t cool unoccupied rooms. If you have registers, don’t close more than half of them—restricting air flow too much can cause your unit to malfunction.
- Got a ceiling fan? Set the thermostat higher—you will still be comfortable. Keep the fan on low speed when humid.
- When you’re not home, set your thermostat to 78 F or higher. Setting the thermostat lower cools

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Follow these tips to maintain your air conditioners and spend less on cooling your home. Don’t forget to unplug your unit before you begin do-it-yourself projects.

CHECK	WHAT	WHICH SYSTEMS	HOW	WHY
	Check air filters—clean or change them	All	Replace dirty disposable filters. Clean permanent filters with mild household detergent and water. Rinse well. Dry filter completely before reinserting.	Filters remove dust, particles and allergens from the air. Dirty air filters can increase energy costs, too
	Clear grass, weeds and debris away from outside units	All except room units	Remove debris and trim foliage at least two feet around the unit. When you mow, aim grass clippings away	Units use less electricity when air can move freely through coils
	Check your ductwork—look for disconnected ducts, leaks or poor insulation	Central, heat pump	Use mastic sealant or metal tape—never duct tape—to seal all ducts within reach. Straighten tangled or kinked ducts, or hire a professional	Air conditioners work longer and harder to replace cooled air that leaks before it reaches the room
	Keep registers and vents clean	Central, heat pump	Check that nothing blocks or sits on the registers, including pets	Free air circulation puts cool air where you want it
	Clean condenser coils (outside unit)	All except room units	Shut off power to the unit, then gently wash down with garden hose	Even a thin film of dirt inhibits air movement through the coils and makes your air conditioner work harder
	Clean inside coils (inside the house)	Central, heat pump	Use a vacuum to gently clean coils, taking care not to damage the coil fins	Dirt can prevent coils from collecting heat. Clean coils inside and out reduce the unit’s electricity use.
	Straighten condenser coil fins	All except room units	Buy a “fin comb” from an air conditioner dealer and carefully comb fins on outside and indoor coils	Straight, clean fins allow air to move freely through the coils, which improves efficiency
	Unclog drain ports	Central, heat pump	Clean ports with short piece of wire hanger or pocketknife	Prevent damage from water leaks, and control humidity
	Inspect window seals	Room units	Make sure the window frame makes contact with the unit’s metal case	Keep the hot air out and cool air in to improve comfort and use less energy
	Choose proper location	Room units	Move the unit to a window that is shaded or is not in direct sunlight	Fans must work harder to cool the outside coil when they are in direct sunlight

a warm room colder, not faster, and it uses more energy to do it.

- Consider getting a programmable thermostat for central units, especially if you’re away from home at the same times during the week. Some programmable thermostats can be controlled from

your computer or smart phone.

- Keep lamps, televisions and other electronics away from a room unit’s thermostat. The thermostat can sense their heat, which may cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Consider calling in a professional air conditioning maintenance contractor to tune up your system before the cooling season. A tuneup will maximize your comfort in the summer, help your air conditioner last longer and run better, and save on monthly energy bills.



PASSPORT TO WATER

## PASSPORT to WATER OPEN HOUSE

Collect stamps as you go on this learning adventure! Learn about Loveland water through interactive displays, enjoy refreshments, and enter for your chance to win prizes!

Get your picture taken with a loved one!

**JUNE 4, 2014**  
5PM - 7PM | LOVELAND SERVICE CENTER  
200 North Wilson Avenue

## SLOW the FLOW COLORADO

### Free SPRINKLER INSPECTION PROGRAM

Save water and improve the health of your lawn with this free personal service.

- Learn easy, practical do-it-yourself sprinkler maintenance!
- Learn how to improve the performance of your system!
- Do your part to conserve Colorado’s water!

If you are operating an underground irrigation system visit...  
**WWW.CONSERVATIONCENTER.ORG** or call **303-999-3820 EXT 217**

## We need your input

Loveland Water and Power is your local public power utility. Public power utilities are operated by local governments to provide communities with reliable, responsive, not-for-profit electric service. Loveland Water and Power is directly accountable to the people we serve through the Loveland Utilities Commission and the Loveland City Council.

To gain a better understanding of our customers’ needs and wants, we are currently collecting input through a community survey to better understand customer responses to existing and potential programs or policies, and your understanding of our services. You can find a link to the survey at [cityofloveland.org/LWP](http://cityofloveland.org/LWP), or get a copy mailed to you by calling 970-310-7056.



# THE LOVELAND City Update

May 2014

Volume 10 Number 5

## Rialto’s spring music bloom



Michael Martin Murphey



George Winston



Leo Kottke

This is the way the iconic Rialto Theater in downtown Loveland is supposed to operate.

In a period of about three weeks beginning in late May the stage at the 446-seat theater will come alive with five music performances by three nationally touring artists.

“Cosmic Cowboy” Michael Martin Murphey opens the string May 30, with a retrospective performance covering his 40 years as a diverse song writer, singer and guitarist.

Not a week goes by before guitar virtuoso Leo Kottke, considered by many the greatest finger-style artist in the world, arrives in Loveland for back-to-back concerts June 4-5.

Solo pianist George Winston, also fluent with guitar, takes the stage for a Sunday matinee June 22, and again the evening of June 23.

Intimacy. Simplicity. Promotions that begin with the words, “An evening with...”

The Rialto is tailor-made for those. “Even though we are small and out-of-the way, there are lots of opportunities for us to do this,” said Rialto manager Rich Harris, who joined the Cultural Services Department staff to run the City-owned theater late last year.

“People call me all the time when they have openings in their schedules. I wish we could do more of the national acts, and I think that we will.”

Harris is a veteran manager of live performance venues on the Front Range, including Swallow Hill Music in metro-Denver, where he was executive director of the non-profit arts group, and Boulder’s Dairy Center for the Arts.

He says the Rialto’s modest offerings – “almost too modest,” as he put it – can be expanded, and that the market will support bigger performance names and the higher ticket prices they bring.

“Paula Poundstone is a good example,” Harris said, referring to the comedian who packed the Rialto in November for a one-night appearance at a ticket price of \$35. Her show sold out in days, drawing from throughout the region and leaving some locals without tickets.

“I could have sold out Paula Poundstone two more times,” Harris said.

Lesson learned.

Leo Kottke has sold out the Rialto in the past. George Winston and Michael Martin Murphey, with solid

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Rialto's spring music bloom (continued from page 1)

regional fan bases, are likely to do the same in their Loveland debuts.

The winning formula, according to Harris and the performers on deck, is to take advantage of the intimacy the Rialto offers.

"Look at us, and you see one thing in common," Murphey said in an April telephone interview. "We're all people who perform solo a lot. I think it's great that this theater has made commitments to three solo acoustic players."

Murphey loves small venues enough that he built one for himself, an amphitheater in Red River, New Mexico, where he has a home.

Winston makes his Rialto debut with the same admission price, \$37, as Murphey. After touring for more than three decades, and these days playing 100 shows a year, Winston routinely sells out his shows regardless of the venue size.

"I've played in lots of Rialtos, and I love them," Winston said in an interview on the road between

performances. "There's nothing like a great, old theater."

Spring at the Rialto

Michael Martin Murphey

Time/date: 7:30 p.m., May 30

Ticket price: \$37

Leo Kottke

Time/dates: 7:30 p.m., June 4-5

Ticket price: \$29 advance,  
\$33 at door

George Winston

Times/dates: 2:30 p.m. June 22,

7:30 p.m. June 23

Ticket price: \$37

Information: 962-2120

Winston said he was not at all surprised by the company he is keeping on the late spring Rialto schedule.

"I'm not personally acquainted with either of them," Winston said, "but I see their names on posters at lots of the venues where I play."

Success of the three concerts lined up in late May and June, and the past sellouts of Poudstone and Judy Collins, lead Harris to believe in a bright and busy future for the Rialto.

"Judy Collins, at \$49 a ticket, proved we can make it work," Harris said.

Look for another string of live performances by national artists and performers in October, with contracts signed or in the works.

"Paula Poudstone showed us that we can do comedy, so we're bringing in a couple of national comedy acts," Harris said. Josh Blue and Kevin Fitzgerald, both proven draws in national markets, are both due in October.

So are venerable folkie Ian Tyson and Rusty Young, a force behind the bands Poco and Buffalo Springfield, scheduled back-to-back Oct. 17-18.

"I love this kind of thing," Harris said. "I've been looking forward to getting involved in the Rialto, and the cultural life of Loveland, for years."

Everyone has the right to fair housing

Where a person lives affects their access to social, cultural, educational and other community amenities such as schools, transportation, employment, medical services, retail and professional services, recreational and entertainment opportunities, and much more.

The City of Loveland is committed to the principal of fair housing and to addressing discrimination in the community. To discuss a fair housing complaint or possible housing discrimination, call the Community Partnership office at 962-2517.

Enroll now for the Small Fries Preschool Program

Registration for the fall 2014 Small Fries program, located at the Chilson Rec Center, has begun.

Young minds are stimulated through hands-on activities focusing on cognitive, linguistic, physical and social development.

Preschool age 3 (must be years old by 10/1/14). Pre-Kindergarten ages 4-5 (must be 4 years old by 10/1/14).

Space is limited. For more information call 962-2386 or go to [www.cityofloveland.org/smallfries](http://www.cityofloveland.org/smallfries).



Residents can help shape Loveland's future through Create Loveland

The City of Loveland's new comprehensive plan, *Create Loveland*, will guide Loveland's growth, economic vitality, and environmental and fiscal sustainability for the next ten years, but to create it City planners need residents' input.

"We want to develop this plan around community members' vision, generated through community discussion," said Karl Barton, City planner. "We are approaching this process from the standpoint that Loveland residents are our community's most knowledgeable experts and in order to create an excellent, robust plan that works for the next ten years, we need their ideas and input on what's important to them and what they'd like to see for the future."

To kick off *Create Loveland*, City planners will be holding two public visioning workshops from 4-8 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, and 4-8 p.m., Wednesday, June 11. Both meetings will be held at the Bill Reed Middle School cafeteria, 370 W. 4th St. At these workshops residents will be invited to share their ideas on housing, schools, shopping areas, and parks and natural areas with their neighbors, city planners and planning consultants.

Residents will also be able to log on to *CreateLoveland.com*—a website dedicated to building Loveland's future roadmap. There, users will be able to learn more about the City's comprehensive plan, post comments, and link to a fun, new online mapping tool that enables users to personalize a map of Loveland according to their own tastes, values

and preferences through iMap♥land.

Through inclusive group and online discussions, *Create Loveland* will reflect community members' thoughts on Loveland's future challenges and opportunities, as well as their ideas, hopes and recommendations for the best ways to chart Loveland's course for the future.

For more information on *Create Loveland*, call 962-2721 or email [Karl.Barton@cityofloveland.org](mailto:Karl.Barton@cityofloveland.org).

Watch for another opportunity to give your two cents on how we should 'Create Loveland' on the City's new public online forum, *Open City Hall*, sometime this summer.

Need an event permit? – Apply online

Residents who want to hold outdoor parties, or event planners doing large-scale events within City limits will need to apply for an event permit from the City.

Examples of events requiring permits include parades, athletic events, street fairs, craft shows, carnivals or any other activity that takes place on public property and/or impacts pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

An event permit application can be submitted up to 1 year in advance but not less than 20 business days before the event. Applicants must allow additional processing time if permits from other City departments and outside agencies are required.

To fill out an event permit application go to [Cityofloveland.org/EventPermits](http://Cityofloveland.org/EventPermits) or call 962-2239 for more information.

Umpires wanted

The Parks and Recreation department is looking for part-time adult athletic softball officials. To view the job description and apply go to [cityofloveland.org](http://cityofloveland.org) and click on *Careers*.



**YOUTH SPORTS CAMPS**  
OUTDOOR POOL  
1615 4th St SE 962-2435  
**OPENS SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2014**  
Hours & rates available online at [CityofLoveland.org/OutdoorSwimming](http://CityofLoveland.org/OutdoorSwimming)  
**NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS!**  
Swim Lessons ✨ CARA Swim Team ✨ Rentals  
Diving Boards ✨ 100ft Water Slide  
Leisure Pool ✨ Bath House ✨ Concessions  
Shallow Water Area ✨ Zero Depth Entry  
Volleyball Net ✨ Basketball Court  
**BOOK YOUR GROUP OR EVENT TODAY!**  
The swim beach at Lake Loveland also opens May 24. Info; 962-2727.  
**(970) 962-2432**  
Parks & Recreation Department  
590 E. Third St, Ste 200 - Loveland, CO  
[www.CityofLoveland.org/ParksRecreation](http://www.CityofLoveland.org/ParksRecreation)

Landscape Care Around Fire Hydrants

Please help us ensure fire hydrants are visible and accessible

**Clearance Around Fire Hydrants:**

- 3 feet of clearance all around the hydrant is needed.
- 15 feet of clearance is needed above a hydrant for maintenance equipment.
- 18 inches of vertical clearance is needed from the hydrant's base to the center of the large cap, to allow crews to quickly connect fire hoses and/or to conduct maintenance.
- Shovel snow around the hydrant so it's visible and accessible to crews.
- 15 feet distance in front of or behind a hydrant when parking.

**Guidelines for Landscaping:**

- Never paint a fire hydrant. Firefighter & Utility crews look for orange hydrants.
- Keep plants to a minimum, trim vegetation to maintain a 3 foot clearance, or plant groundcover instead.
- Keep other landscape objects clear of the fire hydrant.

For more information:  
Fire safety concerns: 970-962-2537  
Utilities maintenance: 970-962-3754

**Summer Passes**  
**CHILSON**  
3 Months of UNLIMITED USE!

Youth	\$81.50
Adult	\$148.50
Senior	\$84.50
Family*	\$214.50

**ON SALE**  
May 1 - June 30  
at the Chilson front desk!

\* Up to 2 adults & their child(ren) under 21 yrs old in same home

**Chilson Recreation Center** 700 E 4th St, Loveland 970-962-2FUN

**WINONA**  
OUTDOOR POOL  
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**Loveland Public Library**  
**2014 Summer Reading Program**  
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) focus this summer

**For Kids**

**Reading Program Options**

- Traditional program: 20 days of reading in June and July; any age
- Pre-Reader log: age-appropriate activities for the little ones
- NEW Badge Quest program: Earn badges for subject reading; grades 1-5
- NEW Combo program: Traditional and Badge Quest combined; grades 1-5

Three STEM Activity Days – Fun for the whole family  
Tuesday afternoon programs, 2-4pm; grades K-5  
Travelling Storyteller, outdoors at a park near you! Weekdays at 11am

**Details and Locations:** Visit the Children's page at [www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org](http://www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org), or call (970) 962-2587

**For Teens**

**Reading Program**

- Six levels of reading, plus additional challenges; grades 6-12

Kickoff Party, Special Programs, and Pool Party Finale

**Details and Locations:** Visit the Teen's page at [www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org](http://www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org), or call (970) 962-2548

**June 2 to July 31**

*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, [Tom.Hacker@cityofloveland.org](mailto: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 [Betty.Greenberg@cityofloveland.org](mailto:Betty.Greenberg@cityofloveland.org) or 962-3319.

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