# **Larimer County Conservation Corps helps local residents save energy**

This month the Larimer County
Conservation Corps (LCCC) will
be back in Loveland offering the
Water and Energy Program for
Loveland Water and Power (LWP)
customers. Through a partnership
that is now in its fifth season, LWP,
Larimer County Workforce, Platte
River Power Authority and Fort
Collins Utilities will be providing
these free home efficiency
assessments in Loveland through
mid-May.

Through this program, corps members conduct a visual inspection of the refrigerator, water heater, heating/cooling system and home insulation. They offer tips, information on rebates, and resources. Crews install energy and water efficient products such as compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs), programmable thermostats and low-flow showerheads.

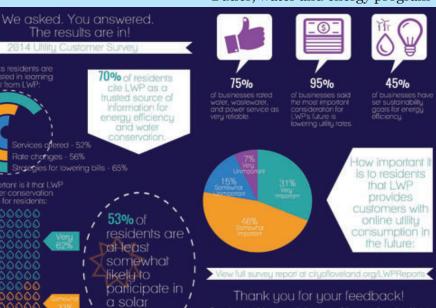
"We have a technical audit program for homeowners who

want to make home improvements but this program really helps those that need low-cost, simple solutions," said Lindsey Bashline, customer relations specialist with LWP. "While any LWP water or power customer may participate in LCCC, this is a great option for renters and residents in multifamily complexes," Bashline added.

#### **Benefits flow both ways:**

Corps members are young adults with diverse work history and educational backgrounds. They all have an interest in conservation and working in their community. The Conservation Corps provides paid jobs, real-life work experience and lessons of conservation to the young adults who participate.

"We'd like all of the corps members to emerge with new technical skills, a job, and a stronger sense of leadership, teamwork and communication," said Megan Butler, water and energy program



coordinator with LCCC.

Corps members learn about building science, sustainability, water and energy throughout the season. They are able to engage with the community and learn about water and energy-related topics through presentations and tours. Some of this season's tours will include the Rawhide Energy Station to learn about how electricity is generated, the New Belgium Brewery to learn about green building techniques and sustainable business practices, and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy district to learn about how water flows from the rivers to faucets.

Since the program started in 2011, 915 homes have been assessed in Loveland.

For more information on the Energy and Water Program, visit *larimerworkforce.org/energy* or call 619-4669.

# Home Efficiency Audits

Schedule a Home
Efficiency Audit with Loveland
Water and Power now through
the end of the year for only \$50
(\$10 OFF!).

- Home Efficiency Audit
- Free Energy Advising
- Assistance with Contractors
- **Rebates for Upgrades**

Call 303-446-7913 or visit efficiencyworks.co to speak with an Efficiency advisor and schedule a home audit.

#### UTILITY NEWS • UTILITY NEWS • UTILITY NEWS • UTILITY NEWS

# **Live like you love it - new program encourages valuing precious resource**

Colorado water is very popular. A lot of people need it and a lot of people depend on it every day.

The snow that falls in the Colorado Rockies not only provides water to about 5 million Coloradoans, but also to people living in 18 other states. Colorado is the only state other than Hawaii where water flows out of its borders, but doesn't flow in.

Not only is Colorado water popular, but it's valuable. Snow provides the swoosh for Colorado skiing and rivers provide the splash for white water rafting. Water keeps us alive, grows our food and keeps our landscapes healthy. We need it to run our businesses, as well as for sanitation and safety. The environment—wildlife, trees and plants—depends on it, too.

Because Colorado water is such an important natural resource and one that must be valued and conserved, a number of agencies including Loveland Water and Power, Colorado WaterWise, and other Colorado cities and water organizations have come together with the message of *Colorado Water - Live Like You Love It*. All the water we have—and will ever have—is already on the planet.

# So, how can you Live Like You Love It?

**Conserve** - Conserving water and using water efficiently must be our way of life, not just a response to

drought. Everyone who uses water, including farmers, consumers, businesses and recreators, has reasons to use water efficiently.

Small changes in our daily lives can lead to significant savings.

water issues will need to be developed.

Commit to learning more about your community's water supply at cityofloveland.org/LWP.

To join in and share how you



Care - Because we live in the state where our water originates, Coloradoans enjoy some of the best water in the country. Let's keep it that way. Whatever you put on your lawn, driveway or park can end up in our water supply. Simple measures like picking up after pets, and using pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, help preserve our water quality.

cable television and food, Colorado water is a pretty good deal. Most consumers only pay around a half of penny per gallon for the water coming out of their tap. However, aging infrastructure, rising energy costs, climate change and the need for new water projects to meet a growing population will all contribute to the water costs increasing. As demand for water increases, solutions to complex

Live Like You Love It, 'Like' Love Colorado Water on Facebook or follow it on Twitter at @LoveCOWater.

To find out more about the toolkit, visit Colorado WaterWise at coloradowaterwise.org.

And for more information call Loveland Water and Power at 962-3000.





# THE LOVELAND CITY UPDATE VOLUME 10 | NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 2014





Downtown development torch passes



place where a rising number of

junction along the way was the

the Loveland Downtown Team.

City officials and private-sector

downtown backers huddled in

foundation for a renewed, lively

monthly meetings to build a

and economically successful

Their work is finished.

is recorded on a lengthy

The record of their achievement

spreadsheet that uses gold stars to

mark milestones: Plans developed,

downtown district.

The collaborative group of

City residents live, work, shop and

play has tested patience. A critical

formation nearly eight years ago of

## Loveland downtown Team gives way to new structure

A way with words almost always serves him well, but Loveland Mayor Cecil Gutierrez borrows a saying from City Economic Development Manager Mike Scholl to describe in a regional context Loveland's efforts to revitalize its downtown district.

"Mike has this quote, 'It took 30 years to make Old Town in Fort Collins an overnight success," the mayor said. "We continually faced, and still face, constant comparisons to Old Town Square in Fort Collins and the Pearl Street Mall in Boulder. But those things took a lot of time – decades." The long road to making studies conducted, partnerships downtown Loveland a vibrant forged, building projects completed.

Structure in place

2015 will begin with a new push toward revitalization, and a new framework to move it forward. City Councilors in October endorsed the formation of the Loveland Downtown Partnership, a non-profit group to direct downtown revitalization.

In November, the City Council set a Feb. 10 election date to establish a Downtown Development Authority that could serve, if voters approve, as a financial tool for continued redevelopment within an elongated, north-south downtown district.

None of those steps could happen without the seven-year effort of the

(continued on page 2)

6

**Downtown** (from page 1) ad hoc Loveland Downtown Team. and the products of their work.

"I've got all those in my garage, stacked in a couple of boxes,' Gutierrez said of the volumes of plans and studies that the LDT undertook. (See box, below)

"When you begin a process like this, you have to know what you have," the mayor said. "Our first iob was to determine that. We took inventory. Parking, infrastructure - water, power, sewer. What kinds of businesses do we have, and what kinds of businesses would work?"

An LDT downtown housing study showed how broken that sector of the district was, and indicated ways to fix it.

"Your downtown should have the highest residential density in the city," Gutierrez said. "When we did the analysis, we found it was the lowest. It was upside down."

#### **Downtown dwellers**

Repopulation of downtown became the No. 1 LDT priority. The Lincoln Place block that put three floors of apartments in the heart of Loveland was already in place when the LDT formed, and the group determined that more – much more – was needed.

Negotiation with Fort Collinsbased developer Brinkman Partners yielded Gallery Flats, a 72-unit, fivestory apartment building just north of the Loveland Museum/Gallery.

Minneapolis-based Artspace Projects Inc., a non-profit real estate developer specializing in low-cost housing and work space for artists, will christen Artspace Loveland Lofts next spring.

That project will bring another 30 residential units, each incorporating work and studio space, to the downtown housing mix.



Downtown Loveland's historic Feed and Grain mill, now part of the Artspace Loveland Lofts project, will be redeveloped as gallery and gathering space after the four-story, 30-unit residential project rising in the background opens next spring.

The Housing Authority of the City of Loveland, an early LDT partner, will manage the project and begin taking applications from prospective tenants in February.

Downtown planner Scholl, who recently accepted on the City's behalf a statewide top award for the Gallery Flats project, said the push for more housing will gather momentum as part of a large-scale redevelopment plan that spans Second and Third streets on the southern edge of downtown.

But just as the LDT's work required patience from downtown businesses, property owners and residents, newer and bigger projects will take time to develop.

#### LDT's building blocks

Loveland Downtown Team milestones: • 2007: Retail leakage analysis, tracking sales tax dollars

- 2008: HIP Streets (Heart Improvement Program) downtown infrastructure study
- 2008: Downtown parking study.
- 2009: Downtown Loveland Retail Market
- 2009: Housing needs assessment • 2010: Downtown alley demonstration
- 2010: The "Vision Book"
- 2010: Issuance of Request for Proposals for downtown catalyst projects, yielding the developer of the Gallery Flats apartments.

"The key to a successful downtown is a sustained commitment over a period of many vears," Scholl said.

"It has taken time, but the people who have been downtown for the past 10 years are now beginning to see it and to feel it."

Aside from the emergence of the Rialto Theater Center, the Gallery Flats project and the new Artspace development, other signs of progress show up in invisible ways, Gutierrez said. For example, Loveland is getting noticed as a redevelopment model.

"I've been asked to make presentations about the significant progress that Loveland has made," he said. The non-profit, statewide Downtown Colorado Inc. has hosted him. The land-use and planning curriculum at Metro State University has included his presentations.

The work of the new Loveland Downtown Partnership, and a DDA if voters approve, will be conducted with the same rationale that guided the LDT, the mayor said.

"The downtown is, and always will be, the heart of your community," he said. "You're going to have those extremities, but without the heart, the extremities will wither. You lose your identity.'

# Residents will still have many opportunities to help 'Create Loveland'

Create Loveland, our city's new comprehensive plan, has greatly benefitted from your ideas and input as it is being drafted. At a series of visioning events last summer, participants explored the challenges and opportunities that face Loveland and helped us set a vision for the coming years.

Over the last several months, we've continued to reach out and have heard from community members at farmers markets, concerts, City advisory boards, and many other venues. A twoday workshop in October further developed a range of opportunities and indicators that can serve to enhance our quality of life.

The next round of public workshops and events are being

UP

January 29

7 a.m.-5 p.m.

planned for throughout February to evaluate pivotal choices and understand the trade-offs between them. You can expect to hear more about these events as they get closer.

In the meantime, there are plenty

and see what we have been up to

can find the link the City's Open

**Northern Colorado** 

**Fort Collins Senior Center** 

Fort Collins, CO 80526

1200 Raintree Dr.

**Business Innovation Conference** 

R Platte River Efficiency Works

Use promo code NCBIC before Dec.31 for \$20 off of registration.

at CreateLoveland.com. There you

City Hall web forum where we will

be rolling out new sets of questions

fcgov.com/bic

of opportunities to join the dialogue

for you and your neighbors to weigh in on. You can also leave your comments directly on the site and create your own map of Loveland using the iMapLoveland

> We hope to see you at our next events and online!

For more information call Karl Barton, 962-2721, or email him at *Karl.Barton@* cityofloveland.org.

# **Library materials sooner**



Need library materials quickly? Placing a hold on an item at the library is one of the best ways to get hot new releases quickly.

This means that when that new blockbuster DVD is released. patrons who put it on hold at the library might get it the same day it hits the shelves at stores.

Users can place holds on items whether they're checked-out or not. For an item that is checked out, users can place it on hold and the library will notify them when it's available. Available items can be picked up in 24 hours.

To search for materials go to the library's online catalog at http:// libra.loveland.lib.co.us.

## 2014 Quality of Life **Survey results are in**

Loveland residents who completed the 2014 "Quality of Life Survey," measuring City services, facilities and amenities, can compare their responses to others' with the new release of survey results.

And, those residents who were not among the randomly selected survey participants can learn what their neighbors think of quality of life and services in Loveland.

#### Among the survey's findings:

- Increased satisfaction ratings for 11 of the 24 service areas compared to 2013 results.
- Top rating increases for City job attraction efforts (+7 percentage points), opportunities to participate in government (+5) and approval of developments that enhance Loveland's quality of life (+4).
- Biggest rating drops for alternative transportation options (-6 percentage points) and systems to control storm water and prevent flooding (also -6). Storm water managers attribute that drop to a summer thunderstorm that dropped 4 inches of rain on Loveland, rather than the 2013 Flood.

Basic City services (utilities, public safety and public works) have a survey history of consistently high ratings, and 2014 results were in keeping with seven of nine service areas showing favorable ratings of 85 percent or higher. Electric service was rated highest, at 98 percent.

Find the results, plus comparisons to previous years' survey results, at cityofloveland.org/CitizenSurvey.

## Utility billing office at **Service Center closing**

Because of the new security measures being implemented at the Service Center, the Utility Billing Office at 200 N. Wilson Ave. will close effective January 1, 2015. The utility payment drop box will remain for customers to drop off their utility payment.

Walk-in customers may visit the Utility Billing Office at 500 E 3rd St. from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday. Utility bills can also be paid online with VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express at *cityofloveland.org*. For more information call 962-2111.

# **Light collection benefits** nations's heros

The City's Solid Waste Division is once again sponsoring a collection of string lights to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Veterans and service members who have incurred injuries while serving receive all funds collected through these donations.

All types of string lights are accepted, working or not. Donation bins are located at the Recycling Center, 400 N. Wilson Ave., the new Public Works Building, 2525 W. First St., and at the Library, 300 N. Adams. Donations will be accepted through January 15, 2015. For more info call 962-2529.

# Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas tree recycling provides mulch for trees & planter beds in City parks. Last year, more than 5,000 Christmas trees were chipped & recycled into 500+ cubic yards of mulch.

### The City of Loveland is Recycling Christmas Trees at **Three Convenient Drop-off Sites:**

- The Southern Site is Centennial Park at W. First St. & Taft Ave. (in the parking lot, just west of Swift Field)
- The Western Site is the Loveland Recycling Center at First St. & Wilson Ave. Residents must provide a current Yard Waste Debris Permit to utilize the free tree disposal option. CLOSED Mon. (and 12/25 & 1/1); Open Tues.-Sun., 7:30am-4:30pm
- The Northern Site is Kroh Park at N. Hwy. 287 & 52nd St. (adjacent to Habitat for Humanity).

This service is FREE to the public and open daily from sun-up to sun-down between Dec. 22nd, and Jan. 31st. Signs direct participants to appropriate drop-off areas.

PLEASE REMOVE ornaments, tinsel, lights, nails, screws, wire, tree stands and bags before dropping off your tree.

For additional information on this community service program, please call (970) 962-2529. You may also direct questions about the park locations to the Parks & Recreation Administration Office at: (970) 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 Follow us or 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, or 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 962-3319 or Bettie. Greenberg@cityofloveland.org.

