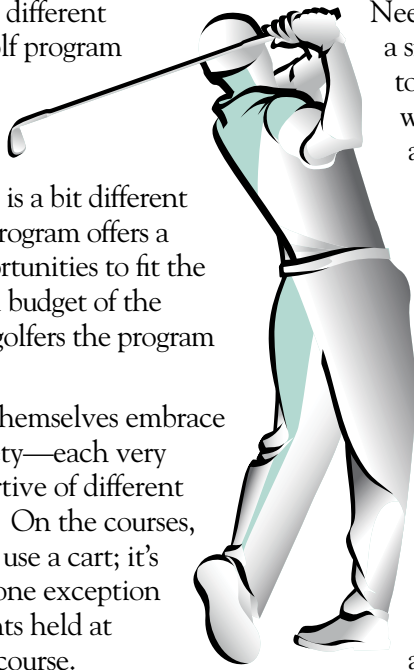


Golf provides variety, self-sufficiency

Different strokes for different folks. Loveland's golf program fits that cliché both literally and figuratively.

Every player's stroke is a bit different and the City's golf program offers a wide variety of opportunities to fit the style, timeframe and budget of the many thousands of golfers the program serves.

Loveland's courses themselves embrace the concept of variety—each very different and supportive of different golfing experiences. On the courses, players may walk or use a cart; it's their choice. The lone exception is during tournaments held at Mariana Butte golf course.



Need lessons, balls, clubs, a snack, league play, tournament play or just want to stroke some balls at a driving range? All are available.

Golf balls have been struck millions of times on Loveland's courses. The City golf program spends millions of dollars every year. And none of it costs Loveland taxpayers a penny.

This month's *City Update* offers a glimpse of golf in Loveland. Turn the page and have a look.

[More golf info inside](#)

City launches new searchable webpage

With 15 distinct departments, around 70 offices and divisions, and more than 700 employees, finding the right office or person in the City government to answer a specific question can sometimes be challenging.

It was that issue that inspired the City's recent launch of a new searchable webpage designed to help residents quickly locate the phone number or e-mail address of the department, office or City staff person they're looking for.

A major feature of the *Get Connected* page is its keyword search capability. Users can enter keywords to quickly locate the department, division or person they're looking for.



Common usage keywords rather than the City's sometimes-bureaucratic terminology will help users find the

contact information they are seeking. For example, someone looking for the trash collection schedule could enter words such as garbage, refuse, junk or trash to locate the Solid Waste Division phone number. Entering "bus" will take users to phone, e-mail and webpage listings for City of Loveland Transit (COLT).

"While the City's website contains all of the information people are generally looking for, it hasn't provided the easy point-to-point search

(continued on page 4)

Power: How low can we go?

The City of Loveland enjoys some of the lowest rates for electricity in the state, usually hovering somewhere between the third and fourth lowest state-wide.

How does Loveland maintain such a desirable rate structure position? According to Dee Jones, senior electrical engineer with the City, the reasons are three-fold.

First, the City of Loveland is geographically compact. That translates to running many fewer miles of power



lines with fewer square miles for maintenance and repairs.

The second component is the City of Loveland's relationship with the three

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2008 Food and Utility Sales Tax Rebate Program

The Food and Utility Sales Tax Rebate Program issues rebates to low-income individuals and families who qualify according to HUD income guidelines and policies set by the City Council.

Applications are available at the Loveland Public Library, 300 N. Adams and at the City Municipal Building, Food Sales Tax Rebate Office, 500 E. Third St. adjacent to Utility Billing (Window #4). An application is also available online on the City Clerk's webpage at www.cityofloveland.org.

Completed applications must be returned to the Food and Utility Sales Tax Rebate office by 4 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 30, 2008. For more information, call 962-2361.



Golf: If you don't play, you don't pay

Except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and a few snow days, Loveland's three golf courses are open for play. And every year, more than 130,000 rounds of golf are played.

Golf in Loveland is big business and Loveland's municipal courses and golf programs are operated like a business. Its revenues cover all its expenses and improvements. No tax money is used. If you don't play, you don't pay.

The golf operation is an Enterprise Fund. An Enterprise Fund within Loveland's City government means that the operation pays for itself totally through the revenues it generates for its use. Like the fees residents pay for the electricity and water they use,

golfer's fees for using the courses, carts, lessons, driving range and the like pay for the operation, maintenance and improvements of the courses and program offerings.

Roughly speaking, Loveland golf generates about \$4 million a year. Costs total about 80 percent of that. The remaining "profit" is saved for equipment replacement, major improvements such as concrete cart paths, bridges, irrigation and pumping system replacement, and improvements to buildings such as the long-awaited replacement of the clubhouse at the Mariana Butte course.

Like a business, golf's customers pay golf's bills. Taxpayers who use the

City's tennis courts or library don't help pay for golf. Likewise, players teeing off on

the 7th hole aren't helping fund the library or tennis. But they are helping enhance Loveland's recreational offerings, bringing visitors and their wallets into town, and perhaps more often than they'd like, supporting the international golf ball replacement industry.

Golf program is PC...almost

Loveland's golf program is perhaps not quite politically correct. Golfers at any course encompass all ages, sizes, races, genders and abilities. However, a closer look at the overall golf program will reveal special attention to one specific group...youth.

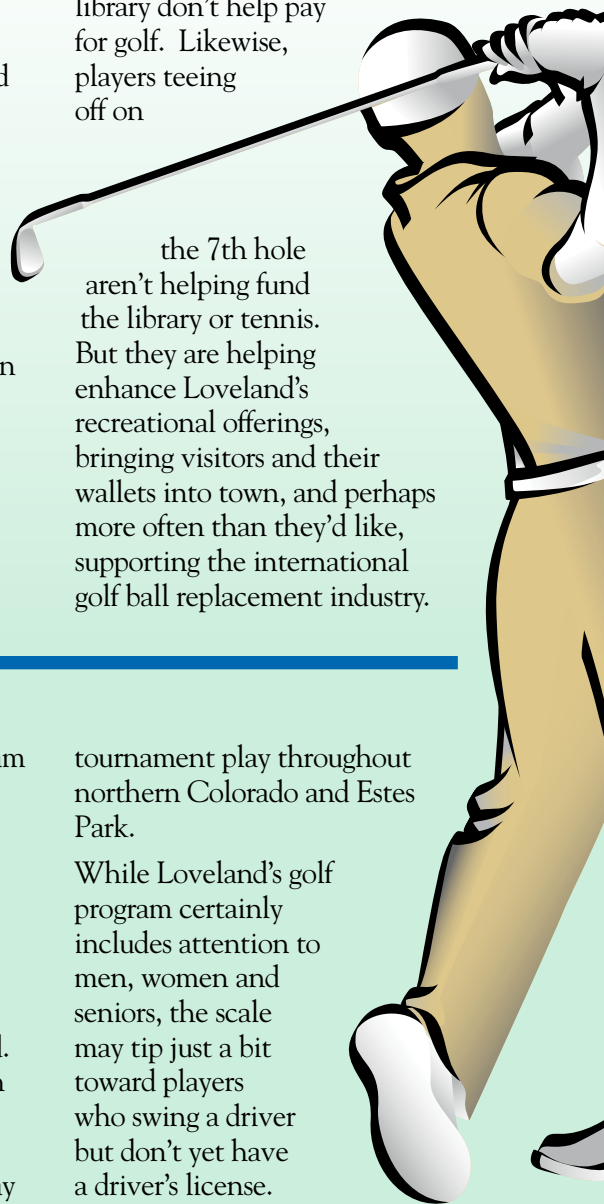
The Loveland Junior Golf Program prides itself on having what it considers the best youth golf program in the region. The program is both broad and deep with more than 500 youngsters involved—boys and girls, first graders to high school seniors,

beginners to champions. The program is 100 percent self-supporting within the City of Loveland Golf Division and provides more than \$3,500 in donations to the local high school golf teams.

Classes, lessons, teams, leagues, tournaments and camaraderie are all elements of the opportunities offered. Some facets operate year round, with many occurring during the summer. Ability levels from beginner to a masters program are offered, with play on all three local courses and even

tournament play throughout northern Colorado and Estes Park.

While Loveland's golf program certainly includes attention to men, women and seniors, the scale may tip just a bit toward players who swing a driver but don't yet have a driver's license.



Loveland has gone orange

The City of Loveland Transit (COLT) has expanded its bus service color pallet by adding the Orange Route.

The Orange Route serves as a direct shuttle between Orchards Shopping Center and downtown. Destinations along the Orange Route also include 4th Street, Fairgrounds Park, the Chilson Recreation Center, Loveland Public Library and Lincoln Place.

The Orange Route runs for 30 minutes of every hour, not to be confused with running every 30 minutes. The new route offers free transfers to the Blue Route and Green Route at Orchards Shopping Center and the downtown Safeway.

Other changes to the COLT system include expanded service to the northwest corner of Loveland via 37th Street to north Taft, and west 43rd Street between Taft and Wilson. The Blue Route service now runs down St. Louis to SW 14th with a stop at the Waterford Apartments and north on Lincoln.

Changes to the system allow for a direct connection to the 34-Xpress, the new regional route between Loveland's Promenade Shops and the Greeley Mall. COLT continues the existing connection with FoxTrot, the bus service between Loveland and Fort Collins.

For more details, please visit the City website at www.cityofloveland.org and choose "Bus Routes" or call the main office at 962-2700.



Bus now serves Greeley/Loveland

The new Greeley/Loveland 34-Xpress bus service is now in operation.

The 34-Xpress is a commuter-oriented bus route that runs on the hour between Greeley and Loveland along the US 34 corridor. The service is available 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday – Friday and 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Saturdays. There is no Sunday service.

The intent of this pilot project is to provide transit access to employment centers along the US 34 corridor and to demonstrate the positive potential of regional collaboration. The bus stop locations are situated to enable transfer to the local transit systems of Loveland and Greeley—COLT and GET, respectively.

The express bus service is sponsored by the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) through a combination of local, state and federal resources. NFRMPO is the federally designated long range transportation and air quality planning organization for 16 member governments in northern Colorado.

The City of Greeley, through its transit system - Greeley-Evans Transit (GET) - has been chosen as the agency that will operate the route through a contractual arrangement with NFRMPO.

Loveland's courses quite dissimilar

Aside from their superb condition and value for the golfer's dollar, Loveland's three golf courses have little in common. And that's intentional.

The Olde Course, the most popular, is the most traditional in character. Considered the "Grande Dame" of Loveland golf, its tree-lined fairways lead to small, tight greens. Six ponds and an island green on hole #14 make accuracy an important asset.

Formerly the Loveland Municipal Golf Course since it began operation in the 1960s, the name The Olde Course at Loveland was officially adopted in 1995 to differentiate it from the new course—Mariana Butte—that opened in 1992.

Set against the foothills and alongside the Big Thompson River, challenge and mountainside aesthetics characterize Mariana Butte. Major elevation changes, it's 4.5 star rating (none higher in Colorado), breathtaking vistas, the voices of coyotes and frequent appearances by elk, deer and other friendly neighbors combine to provide the "wow factor" that has brought Mariana Butte a resort-style reputation.

The course attracts players from far beyond Loveland. About 70 percent of the golfers are out-of-towners.

The 9-hole, par 3 Cattail Creek course gets plenty of play from beginners, youngsters and players working on their short game. Water is a factor on five holes on a course that's popular for walking and a quick break from the day's routine.

Tee times can be reserved up to eight days, beginning at 7 p.m., using automated telephone and Internet systems. A wide variety of green fee options exist based on day, time and frequency of play. Contact the courses

directly or visit the golf pages at www.cityofloveland.org for complete details.

The Olde Course
667-5256

Mariana Butte
667-8308

Cattail Creek
663-5310

Tee Time Reservations
669-5800

New clubhouse soon at Mariana Butte

When the Mariana Butte golf course opened, the foundation and flooring base for the clubhouse were constructed, but the final phase of the clubhouse was never completed. Now, 16 years later, clubhouse construction will soon begin, replacing the current "temporary" double-wide modular building.

Using the existing foundation that houses the golf cart storage and maintenance area on the lower level, the new clubhouse is expected to welcome golfers next summer. The greatest enhancement of the new clubhouse will be an upscale grill-style restaurant with seating and multi-use area for about 100 visitors. The current snack bar area has only two tables and 8 chairs, total.

Other improvements will include larger, more functional restrooms, an expanded pro shop and outdoor patios.

The new facility will cost about \$2 million, to be paid for with existing funds from golfing fees. During construction, a temporary pro shop and snack bar will be set up at the site.

Solar Energy – a very bright idea

Alternative or renewable energy sources such as wind energy, hydro-power and solar are becoming more popular and widespread as people and companies look for ways to be more environmentally-friendly.

Benefits of renewable energy sources are numerous. For one thing they are inexhaustible. No matter how many wind turbines are erected or how many solar panels are installed, the wind will still blow and the sun will still shine. In addition, renewable energy does not create toxic waste products or harmful exhaust during production as traditional energy sources do.

In Colorado, solar energy is particularly applicable. The sun shines at least 300 days per year making Colorado one of the sunniest states in the union. That amount of sunshine makes solar power a viable alternative energy source for residents and businesses that are looking for ways to supplement the traditional energy they receive through the power grid.

Solar power first came on the scene in the 1970s in response to the OPEC oil embargo and consequent oil crisis.

In 1973 the U.S. government enacted legislation to reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil through development of alternative sources of energy such as solar energy.



Today the two dominant solar technologies are solar thermal panels, which operate through conduction and heating of water, and solar electric or photovoltaic panels, which derive energy directly from sunlight.

Solar thermal panels work by collecting water inside a system of copper pipes beneath a green-house type pane of glass. The water that's

been heated by the sun is then pumped into a home's heating system and is used primarily for heating water.

Solar electric or photovoltaic panels are made mostly of treated silicon. Circuitry within the panels catch displaced electrons that are released by the silicon when it has been hit with sunlight. It is this chain of events that produces energy.

The displaced electrons are collected by the system and routed to an external circuit that is fed into the home's electrical system. Photovoltaic systems are commonly used to power signs at construction sites and on roadways.

While the cost for solar panels has tended to be on the high side for most consumers, new technologies and processes of mass production, one of which was recently developed at Colorado State University, are making them much more affordable. For more information on solar energy go to <http://energy.gov> or for information on signing up for clean renewable wind power call Loveland Water & Power, 962-3000.

Lifetime achievement award presented

At the recent Colorado Association for Recycling (CAFR) annual conference, Bruce Philbrick, superintendent for the City's Solid Waste Management Division received CAFR's Lifetime Achievement in Recycling Award. The award is in recognition of Philbrick's 20 years of service in the field of waste reduction and recycling.

Since early 1997 Philbrick has worked in his present position with the Solid Waste Division bolstering the City's highly effective solid waste management program by significantly expanding the list of materials that Loveland residents can recycle both at the curb and at the Wilson Avenue Recycling Center. In addition, Philbrick has offered advice and guidance to numerous communities in Colorado and beyond to help them develop their own recycling programs. Philbrick has a longstanding history of involvement in grassroots efforts to



promote recycling and composting. In 2004, he worked with then-state representative Angie Paccione to draft a bill to create a grant program to fund start-up recycling programs throughout the state. The first batch of grants is just now being awarded to numerous recycling and composting projects.

"It was a tremendous honor to be recognized in front of my peers, considering how hard everyone is working to advance recycling in their communities," said Philbrick.

Power: How low can we go? (continued on page 1)

other municipalities—Fort Collins, Longmont and Estes Park—that along with Loveland, jointly own Platte River Power Authority (PRPA). This partnership enables the cities to buy power from PRPA at a very competitive rate and the savings onto the customers.

The third contributing component is that Loveland Water & Power is a city-owned utility and a non-profit entity. Any income generated from power goes back into the maintaining and running the system and a small percentage goes into the city's general fund.

Loveland's competitive rates, according to Jones, are also due to an emphasis on use of quality materials. "Using higher-quality, longer-wearing materials help keep our maintenance costs down," said Jones.

For information on power rates or to sign up power efficiency programs, call Loveland Water & Power at 962-3000.

City launches new searchable webpage (continued on page 1)

capability that the *Get Connected* feature now provides," said Public Information Officer Andy Hiller. "The City's Information Technology staff did a great job of creating and implementing this feature, and kudos to the numerous City staffers who were responsible for inputting the data."

"The main issue here is customer service," said Hiller. "We want to help residents get the information they need as quickly and as easily as possible—one stop shopping is what we're going for here."

The new *Get Connected* web tool should also reduce the number of calls going to

the City's main switchboard as well as calls to wrong offices. *Get Connected* is up and running. To take a look or to search for a City office or staff person, go to www.cityofloveland.org and click on the "Contact Us" button on the homepage.

Biggest losers are right here in Loveland

People in Loveland are losing it—really losing it—and they couldn't be happier! The Chilson Recreation Center's *Biggest Loser Challenge* is a citywide program inspired by the popular TV show, "*The Biggest Loser*." In contrast to the TV show where huge cash prizes are awarded, Loveland participants report a host of benefits including improved sleep, more energy and reduced reliance on medications.

The *Biggest Loser Challenge* has been running concurrently with *Loveland's Losing It!*—an internal City program designed to help City employees improve their health and fitness. *Loveland's Losing It!* is the result of a cooperative effort between the City of Loveland's Chilson Recreation Center and the City's employee wellness program, *Life Steps*.

The focus for both programs is to provide participants education and support in reaching fitness and weight loss goals by providing a structured program that addresses overall fitness



including nutrition, exercise and a commitment to a healthier lifestyle. Both programs were designed to appeal to a diverse population and to promote health and wellness.

After undergoing an initial fitness assessment, participants in both programs commit to working out on a regular basis, eating according to program guidelines and doing regular weigh-ins and/or measurements to track their progress.

Alice Wohlman, a recent graduate of the citywide *Biggest Loser Challenge*, lost 29 lbs. and credits the program with helping her learn to better monitor portion size, read labels

and increase her daily water intake. "The trainer and nutritionist were wonderful," said Wohlman. "Doing this on my own felt overwhelming but having expert guidance plus the encouragement and support of my fellow participants was really motivating. I feel great now."

Scott Fry, technician with the City's Facilities Management Division, lost 35 lbs. through the employee *Loveland's Losing It!* program. "Losing weight and shaping up just makes everything better," said Fry. "I can see my feet, I feel better and have more energy, but the best thing of all is, I'm now devastatingly handsome."

The two programs continue to produce impressive results for the community. To date 84 individuals have lost a combined 1233.8 lbs. and 722.75 inches.

Loveland residents interested in shaping up can sign up for the next *Biggest Loser Challenge* by Sept. 19 at 962-2453. Additional programs will be announced.

City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. Residents receive City Update on various dates throughout the month depending on their utility billing cycle. Timeliness of the information may be affected by recipients' bill distribution schedule. Your comments are encouraged and welcomed at 962-2302, hillea@ci.loveland.co.us. Visit the City's website at www.cityofloveland.org.