

City launches broadband internet exploration



Loveland's light-speed leap

Citizen voices drive multi-year process to bring broadband links to Loveland

Eight months after Loveland voters answered “Bring it on!” to an Election Day ballot question opening a door to super-fast internet connections throughout Loveland, their voices will be crucial as the project gets rolling.

During this summer and fall, the City and its chosen consulting partner will come calling at neighborhood and business meetings and, appropriately, through digital connections to

gather community opinion that will help determine the path ahead.

Denver-based consulting specialist Magellan Advisors, the City’s choice to conduct the market and feasibility study that will guide the project, begins work with an audience that has already demonstrated its engagement.

The ‘83 percenters’

“We have the advantage of knowing their level of interest,” Magellan president John Honker said, referring to the 83 percent of voters who favored measure 2C. Their decision exempts Loveland from a state law that prohibits local communities from engaging either directly or indirectly in providing telecommunication service – including internet – to its citizens.

“Now, they have more than just a ballot to cast,” Honker said. “This is the point at which those voters, and everyone else in Loveland, can engage in a community conversation about choices and options.”

Embarking on this project means that Loveland will explore a range of options that use the City’s existing fiber-optic infrastructure and expand it to provide high-speed broadband services. Fiber-optic is the gold standard for broadband delivery, capable of providing speeds 10 to 100 times faster than existing services, and greater reliability than many DSL, cable and satellite offerings.

The implications are important
(see **Broadband** page 2)

Broadband (from page 1)

for internet users, whether they are streaming movies at home, transmitting life-saving diagnostic images, telecommuting to remote employers or tapping online education programs.

Need to compete

"This has the potential to open up a vast new horizon for anyone living or doing business in Loveland," said Steve Adams, who leads the broadband initiative as director of Loveland Water and Power. "And, it is an essential step if Loveland is to stay competitive with other communities nationwide that are making a commitment to high-speed broadband service."

Adams leads a core group of City staff members who began the quest with a set of rules requiring that any new service be:

- **Fast**, offering speeds greater than 1 gigabyte of digital information per second.
- **Affordable**, with rates lower than what most residents pay for their existing Internet connections.
- **Inclusive**, providing access to every resident, business and institution within Loveland.
- **Reliable**, ensuring that the service is available on demand and without interruption.

That tall order will be put to the test over the next year as the City and Magellan work together on the feasibility study and conduct market research.

All about choice

In the next few months, the project team will reach out as broadly as possible to find out what citizens and businesses want, what they would pay for it, and what options offer the best route to providing it.

Like diners at a new restaurant, Loveland residents and businesses will consider a menu of choices. They might peruse the a la carte offerings, or choose a multi-course feast as they consider potential service offerings.

Preferences that they register in surveys, either electronically or

Broadband website offers information download

Limits of space keep "City Update" from touching every base in describing Loveland's broadband internet initiative. Readers can find much more information on the City's website at www.cityofloveland.org/broadband.

Included are:

- **An FAQ** addressing questions about broadband in general and Loveland's broadband service exploration.
- **Documents detailing the history** of the broadband quest, including City Council memos, a PowerPoint slide presentation that offers a quick, visual summary of the program.
- **Loveland Broadband Task Force** member names, affiliations and email addresses, the Task Force charter, and minutes and agendas for Task Force meetings.
- **The Magellan Advisors** Loveland proposal that details the scope of their work in conducting a market study, needs assessment and feasibility analysis. Those components early next year will shape Magellan's recommendations for options available to the



City in implementing broadband service.

- **A Magellan Advisors report** prepared for the City of Fort Collins last year that contains numerous case studies of community broadband programs nationwide.
- **A risk analysis** report prepared by Moody's Investor Service that describes pitfalls that may be encountered by municipal broadband service providers.
- **A news section** containing recent articles in national publications on community broadband topics.
- **Real names and numbers** of City staff members who can answer questions, or refer them to others who can, regarding the Loveland broadband initiative.

in public meetings and workshops, will provide the basis for a broadband needs assessment that will be a key piece of Magellan's ultimate recommendation to the City.

Loveland has plenty of company in its broadband exploration. Many other Colorado communities, where voters have approved similar exemption measures, are in various stages of assessing, planning or implementing broadband offerings.

Longmont's NextLight

Leading the rush is Longmont, where passage of the state law exemption two years ago was followed by voters' endorsement of a \$40.2 million bond issue to pay for a citywide fiber-optic network.

Operating as a division of municipal Longmont Power and Communications utility, the new service called NextLight has moved beyond even its most optimistic projections. A target date for network completion by the end of 2017 has been moved up by a year, with most of the work on schedule to finish by December.

And, NextLight demand is higher than was originally projected. Launched with hopes for a 37 percent "take rate" – meaning the percentage of potential customers who sign up for service – NextLight now has agreements with almost half the potential users

in its service area.

Loveland's City Council has already invested in the broadband quest, appropriating \$250,000 for initial costs including studies that Magellan is undertaking.

Taskforce in place

Also in action since June is the Loveland Broadband Task Force, a citizen board whose 13 members represent major employers, health care providers, Thompson School District and other education officials, and citizens who have been involved since campaigning for the ballot issue last fall.

Loveland Councilor and Mayor Pro Tem John Fogle, a longtime proponent of the broadband initiative, also holds a non-voting seat on the board as City Council liaison. He also brings his experience as a member of the National League of Cities Information Technology and Communications Steering Committee.

"I think that Loveland is so very well-positioned, thanks to the vote on 2C, to become a leader both regionally and nationally in closing the digital divide," Fogle said. "Our citizens – all of them – can be the beneficiaries of an inclusive, affordable high-speed broadband network that most other communities are just beginning to talk about."

Loveland launches new free craft beer passport program for beer lovers

Loveland has launched a craft beer brand and free beer passport program, creating a unique craft brewery experience that highlights Loveland's best brews and supports its fast-growing beer culture.

As one of Colorado's only free beer passport programs, Loveland's passport provides deals to most of Loveland's breweries, as well as the opportunity for participants to take home a commemorative Loveland-branded glass or T-shirt.

The new brand and passport program feature Big Beaver Brewing Co., Big Thompson Brewery, Buckhorn Brewers, Crow Hop Brewing Co., Grimm Brothers Brewhouse, Loveland Aleworks, Rock Bottom Brewery and Verboten Brewing, in partnership with Visit Loveland, to promote the City's thriving beer scene.

"Loveland's craft beer scene launched in 2010 with the opening of Grimm Brothers Brewhouse and our City has quickly become established as a beer destination," said Cindy Mackin, visitor services coordinator for the City of Loveland. "This project is an incredible opportunity for us to partner with our breweries

to showcase their brews while supporting our goals of promoting Loveland as a craft beer destination. We've been getting the recognition, but this adds more opportunity for us to celebrate Loveland's unique and award-winning beer culture."

As Loveland tourism ambassadors, local breweries will take Loveland-branded items to other craft beer events throughout the U.S. to help promote Loveland as a craft-brew destination.

Beer fans can pick up their free craft beer passport during normal business hours at the Loveland Visitors Center, 5400 Stone Creek Circle in Loveland, or simply head to one of the participating breweries.

Once they have their free passports, their self-led beer tour begins with buy-one-get-one free specials at seven participating breweries.

Once passports are filled with stamps, participants can redeem

their passport for a commemorative Loveland beer glass or T-shirt at the Loveland Visitors Center.

Participants must be 21-years-of-age or older to use and complete their passports.

For more information and to plan your Loveland craft beer tour, visit the passport website at LoveBeerCulture.com.



Finalized comprehensive plan submitted to Council for approval July 19

At the Loveland City Council meeting on July 19, City Council will be asked to approve *Create Loveland*, the City's new comprehensive plan.

Once approved, *Create Loveland* will act as a guide for the growth and development decisions that Loveland will make over the next ten years and beyond.

The new document is the result of a two year process that included more than 3,500 direct interactions with Loveland stakeholders including residents, business owners, property

owners, City leadership and others, collected through more than 50 forums, both online and in person.



From this input City staff and consultants learned what people in Loveland think is

most important for planners to value and consider as Loveland grows and changes.

These identified values are reflected in the plan's policies and recommendations.

Citizens can view the adoption draft of *Create Loveland* at CreateLoveland.com.

The approval request will be made at the City Council meeting, which begins at 6 p.m. and is held in the Loveland City Council Chambers at 500 E. Third St. in Loveland.

For more information on *Create Loveland*, call 962-2721.

Keeping weeds at bay

Along with warm weather comes unruly weeds, which, if left unchecked, can grow into a big problem quickly.

The City's Code Enforcement Office wants to remind homeowners that they are responsible for controlling noxious vegetation including weeds, saplings and tall grass, which must be cut to and maintained at or below 8 inches.

Homeowners whose homes back to alleys are also responsible for cutting or mowing half of the alley adjacent to their property.



Residents are responsible for half of the alley.

Residents who want to use the space in the alley to grow grass, flowers or vegetables are welcome to do so as long as the plants don't impede the right-of-way.



Puncturevine

Puncturevine—a low growing weed with spiny barbs that can damage tires and injure pet's feet—should be removed from homeowner's entire property as well as from the alleys behind their homes.

For more information call the Code Enforcement office at 962-2732.

34th Annual

Loveland

VALLEY 5000

5K RUN / WALK

August 26th
7:00 p.m.

(Kid's Fun Run at 6 p.m.)

Start & Finish: Fairgrounds Park, 700 S. Railroad Ave.

A Food Truck, Gunter's Bavarian Grill, and Crow Hops Beer Garden will be there too!

Presenting Co-Sponsors: City of Loveland, Banner Health, Madwire Media, and Home State Bank
More co-sponsors listed online

Beneficiary: House of Neighborly Services



Info at: www.CityofLoveland.org/V5K or call Jeanne: (970) 962-2432

Register at: www.Valley5000.com



Chilson Gymnasium Maintenance



The Chilson Recreation Center will CLOSE the Large Gym beginning in LATE JULY through EARLY OCTOBER for scheduled cleaning, painting and gym floor and bleacher replacement.

Please call ahead for current gym schedules. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the temporary closure.

Chilson
Recreation Center

700 E 4th St / Loveland / 970-962-2FUN

Loveland Public Library

Fiesta de Lucha!

July 24, 2:30-4:30pm

Colorful high-flying theatrics with Lucha Libre! Exciting Mexican wrestling, plus masks on display.

The Finish Line

July 29, 2-5pm

Summer Reading Program wrap-up party turns the library into a Global Playground!

Teen Finale

July 29, 5:30-7:30pm

Winona Pool Party! Free pizza, prizes, and Kona Ice!



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, 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.

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An abundance of landscaping ideas and resources at your fingertips

Planting the right plants in the right place can feel like a daunting task. Would-be gardeners must consider soil type, drainage, sunlight or shade, and the plant's water requirements. But Loveland Water and Power is here to help.

LWP offers a number of free resources, informational materials and programs to help residents create beautiful, thriving landscapes without the headache.

Resources at the library:

Find a variety of books and publications available for checkout at the Loveland Public Library. We've worked hard to ensure that the quality and quantity of xeriscape resources available at the Loveland Public Library offer a broad range of information for Loveland residents. Check em' out!

Online resources:

The LWP website offers a variety of information from tips and fact sheets on sprinkler systems, watering, xeriscape and surviving drought, to plant lists with pictures and how-to videos. Go to cityofloveland.org/conservation.

Loveland demonstration gardens:

In Colorado, we're fortunate to have a wealth of xeriscape garden examples. Loveland's own Jeff Peterson Xeriscape Garden is located near the Loveland Civic Center at First Street and Washington Avenue.

Additional demonstration gardens near Loveland:

- The Gardens on Spring Creek
2145 Centre Ave.
Fort Collins

- Greeley Water Conservation Garden
2503 Reservoir Rd.
Greeley

- Northern Water Conservation Gardens
220 Water Ave.
Berthoud
Programs:

Our free Slow the Flow program offers water-saving in-ground sprinkler inspections for residential property.

Participants schedule an appointment to meet with a trained water conservation specialist at their home and learn how to save water and money while keeping their lawn healthy and green. Schedule by calling (303) 999-3824.

In addition to the information provided above, you can find out more information on what you can do to save water around the home as well as information on who your municipal utility is at cityofloveland.org/LWP.



LWP's Home Energy Report: New look with same helpful information

Loveland Water and Power's Home Energy Report Program has been providing residents with personalized energy information since 2011.

Now that report has been given a face lift. All of the information is the same but can now be seen in an even easier to read format.

To view your energy report, compare electric bills, explore usage, create an action plan for

improving your energy efficiency, and to update your profile, go to cityofloveland.org/energyreports.

Making sure your profile contains accurate information will

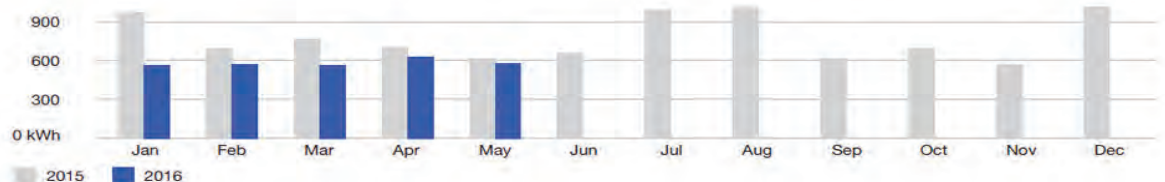
help ensure that your report will be as accurate as possible.

For more information email sustainloveland@cityofloveland.org or call 962-3000.

Track your progress



So far this year, you've used 23% less than last year.



LWP's free lecture series provides current information on various topics

Loveland Water and Power has partnered with the High Plains Environmental Center to bring residents a free lecture series chock full of excellent information.

Every second Tuesday at 6 p.m. during 2016, residents are invited to go to Grimm Brothers Brewhouse to learn from experts in the fields of horticulture, sustainability, renewables, energy efficiency and much more, for the Community Stewardship Lecture

Series.

Upcoming Lectures include:

- July 12 – Comfort, energy



efficiency and safety through building performance

- Aug. 9 – Composting
- Sept. 13 – Powering-up! Renewable energy options in Loveland
- Oct. 11 – Reducing nutrient runoff in stormwater ponds

Pre-registration is required.

For more information about the lecture series and to sign-up, go to cityofloveland.org/LWPLectures.

CCR is now available

Each year Loveland Water and Power produces a water quality Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This requirement is a large part of the right-to-know provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

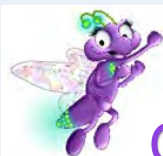
The CCR is designed to make sure customers have information about the water they drink. The annual report must include information about water sources as well as information on possible contaminants in the source water.

The CCR is easy to read and is a great way to learn about topics including the watershed and water sources, water treatment processes and the "Lead and Copper Rule."

The CCR is now available on the City of Loveland's website at cityofloveland.org/WaterQuality.

Copies of the CCR are also placed around town, at city offices, the library, police station and grocery stores.

If you have questions or would like a hardcopy of the report sent to you, please call 962-3000.



KIDS KORNER

Can you help Glow find the words?



Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

CLEAN
CONSERVE
DISTRIBUTION
EFFICIENT
ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT
GENERATION

KILOWATT
POWER
REDUCE
RENEWABLE
SAVE
SMART
SOLAR

TRANSMISSION
TURBINE
VOLT
WASTE
WATTAGE
WIND