



Rethinking snow removal: 'It takes a city'



City teamwork will guide snow fight this season

Loveland was cooking through a long string of 90-degree-plus days on Aug. 18 when managers of the City's major operating departments gathered to talk snow.

In that sweltering, 94-degree heat, winter seemed out on some distant horizon. But Loveland's weather history over the past decade shows that October blizzards have been among the

A City box scraper clears snow from an alleyway off of Fifth Street during a winter storm.

most troublesome storms on record.

That reality was not lost on members of the August gathering, whose purpose was to imagine new and more efficient ways to deal with big snowstorms.

"Every storm is different, and each presents a different kind of challenge," Loveland Public Works Director Leah Browder said in late September, as her snow-fighting crews engaged in training for the winter season ahead.

"We are joining together to look at the challenges holistically and

further strengthen our citywide response."

October surprise, 2011

The last major fall snowstorm hit about five years ago, Oct. 26, 2011, and arrived as trees were still in full leaf. Branches crashed down onto vehicles and buildings throughout the city, taking power lines with them, blacking out more than 10,000 Loveland households and business. The tangle of shredded trees required a weeks-long cleanup.

Response to that storm was shared across several City departments, as

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SNOW (from page 1)

were the costs of the arduous and expensive recovery job that followed. The City's "non-typical" costs – money spent solely because of the storm – ran to slightly more than \$430,000.

A few of the participants in the August "snow summit" were veterans of that storm, and had big ears for the collaboration message delivered by Assistant City Manager Rod Wensing.

Linking arms

"I think everyone at that meeting realized that we have to pull together, work with one another, talk to each other and link arms in responding to these emergencies," Wensing said. "Across the City, we have a real wealth of talent. It would be a shame for us not to unify around that."

Out of the meeting came an updated analysis of the more than 30 discreet snow removal functions provided by the City—turns out that "snow fighting" means much more than clearing roadways. Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Water and Power, Development Services, Human Resources and Police divvy up snow removal chores in a way designed to provide total coverage of City streets, facilities, arterial sidewalks, trails, park walkways, water and wastewater facilities, power infrastructure and other City-owned properties.

More likely than destructive fall blizzards such as the 2011 storm are midwinter snow dumps with more accumulation and colder temperatures. The response by Loveland and other Front Range cities to the garden-variety snow storms is guided by average climate characteristics in Northern Colorado, and by budgetary sense that matches them.

Welcome to Colorado

Newcomers to the region, especially those from the Northeast and Upper Midwest, are surprised that their neighborhood streets are not scraped to the pavement after a winter storm.



Above: City snow plows work in tandem to clear snow from one of the main highways running through Loveland. **Below: Snow removal** crews work 24-7 when the snow flies.



"We're lucky, in this region, to have the benefits of bright, high-altitude sun and usually low humidity in the aftermath of most winter storms, which are also typically short-lived," Browder said. "We are resourced for that norm. An event that brings any conditions more extreme than that requires creativity and enhanced response."

Our typically mild conditions save Loveland and other cities in the region the enormous expense of putting a mechanized army of snow-fighting machines on the streets with every storm. They also guide decisions about where, and when, to plow.

Snow removal fleet

- 1 large Snow Blower mounted on a Front End Loader
- 1 small Sidewalk Clearing Machine with Snow Blower, Blade, V-Plow or Power Broom
- 2 large tractors with snow blades for sidewalk cleaning
- 3 front end loaders with snow plows
- 7 trucks with snow plows, spreaders
- 4 trucks with snow plows, wing plows and spreaders
- 4 trucks with snow plows and liquid tanks
- 1 road grader
- 4 pickups mounted with snow plows
- 1 tractor with end dump
- 11 trash trucks mounted with snow plows—deployed when a snow event is 6 inches or more.

Snowfalls of 2 inches or more will typically put plows on major streets of Colorado Front Range cities, but no city in the region has the resources to plow neighborhood streets curb-to-curb after typical winter snows.

Loveland-only solution

And, only in Loveland does a snow total of 6 inches trigger action on every street in every neighborhood. When snowfall exceeds that amount, trash trucks equipped with plow blades sweep through every neighborhood.

The practice opens up a single lane, allowing basic mobility in and out of Loveland neighborhoods. It is not a perfect solution, as residents tell the City. Citizens often have to punch through "windrows" left in the trash trucks' wakes in order to link their driveways to the open lane.

"It's a tradeoff," Browder said. "We can't tackle the city's more than 30,000 driveways with our current resources and it wouldn't make good fiscal sense to expand for that. We depend on every Lovelander doing their part—each resident, everyone who lends a helping hand to a neighbor—that's what completes the loop."

Rare exhibit featuring iconic 20th century artists lands at Loveland Museum

The Loveland Museum is known for bringing world-class art to Loveland. That grand tradition continues this fall with an exhibition of works by some of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

Picasso, Chagall, Matisse, Miró: A Collector's Vision, features works by renowned artists including Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Henri Matisse, Joan Miró, Salvador Dalí, Erté, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Henri Toulouse-Lautrec.

The exhibit, rarely on public view, contains more than 90 individual pieces of art that are being shared with the public by a private collector. Included are lithographs, etchings, linocuts and ceramics addressing a wide variety of subject matter in several artistic styles.

Once-in-a-lifetime

For many Loveland residents, the opportunity to see works by the likes of Picasso, Chagall and Matisse is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as exhibitions of this magnitude generally bypass smaller communities for large metropolitan cities such as New York City, Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Acquired over decades

The collector, who wishes to remain anonymous, began collecting art in the 1970s. Over the past 35+ years, he has built a collection that is both emotional and inspiring. This exhibition is unique in that it not only captures the perspectives of several iconic and influential artists, but when



Above: A series of aquatint portraits by Pablo Picasso. **Below:** A lithograph poster by Charles Sorlier adapted from Marc Chagall's studies for a 1964 painting of Romeo and Juliet.



seen as a whole, represents a carefully constructed perspective of an individual whose vision is in and of itself a work of art.

According to Maureen Corey, curator of art at the Loveland Museum, the collector focused intently on the value of artistic experiences and the potential impact this exhibit will have on the Northern Colorado community.

"We are thrilled to have an exhibition of this caliber come to Loveland. Many of the artists featured were trailblazers of their time and very influential in shaping 20th century art. We are very fortunate to have such an impressive collection on display in the Main Gallery."

Admission to the exhibition is

\$5, and the Museum has arranged several free-admission days and evenings in hopes that everyone in the Loveland area will take the opportunity to see the exhibition.

Picasso, Chagall, Matisse, Miró: A Collector's Vision

On view through Nov. 27 at the Loveland Museum
503 N. Lincoln Ave., Loveland

Admission: \$5, free for Museum members

Free Admission Days: Thursday, Oct. 6 (all day); Friday, Oct. 14 (5-9 p.m.)

More information:
www.lovelandmuseumgallery.org
or call the Museum at 962-2410.



Items on display include ceramics.

Día de los Muertos

Join the Loveland League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Loveland Public Library and the Loveland Museum as they recognize and celebrate Mexico's most famous holiday, Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead.

This colorful and rich tradition will be celebrated from 5:30-7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 3 at the Loveland Museum/Gallery Foote Gallery and include a guest speaker, a short film, an altar display and traditional Mexican light snacks and drinks. The celebration is part of the Museum's Thoroughly Historic Thursdays series.



Building a Día de los Muertos altar is an important part of honoring family and other loved ones who have passed on.

A second celebration is scheduled for 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 6 at the Loveland Public Library and will feature folklorico dancing, music, altar displays and traditional Mexican food.

These events honor the history and culture of Mexico and encourage cross-cultural understanding.

Both celebrations are free and being co-sponsored by the Loveland chapter of LULAC and Resthaven Memorial.

For more information call Robert Ayala at 962-2591.

2 Local Author **SATURDAY** 1 **SHOWCASE** November 12 6 1:30-4:30pm

Loveland Public Library, 300 N. Adams Ave, Loveland CO 80537

Children's Stories – Teen Fiction – Science Fiction – Mystery – History – Outdoors
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www.CityofLoveland.org/SkiSwap

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 ADAACoordinator@cityofloveland.org or 962-3319.

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Keep your holidays merry by keeping fats, oil and grease out of the drain

Before we know it the holiday season will be upon us. During this time most families and homeowners prepare large meals that often include roasted or fried meats.

It is important to remember that any fats, oil and grease (F.O.G.) that are put down the drain, have the potential to cause homeowners a large problem. F.O.G. can build up in a home's pipes, clogging interior sewer lines and resulting in unsightly and unsanitary conditions as well as big repair bills. Clogged pipes in residences are the homeowners' financial responsibility.

How to avoid F.O.G. build up this holiday season

- Scrape all food waste into a lined garbage can.
- Use a paper towels to wipe oil and grease from pots and pans.
- Place waste oil and grease into a suitable container after it has

cooled.

- Avoid using the garbage disposal – keep a strainer near the sink to capture solids.
- Take liquid oil and grease (i.e. from turkey fryer) to be disposed of at the City's Recycling Center.

For more information on F.O.G. or other waste to the sewer, contact the Pretreatment Program at 962-3000 or [Pretreatment @cityofloveland.org](mailto:Pretreatment@cityofloveland.org).



The result of fats, oil and grease (F.O.G.) are seen in this Loveland sewer line.

Lecture series offers variety of useful topics

Loveland Water and Power has partnered with High Plains Environmental Center to bring you a free lecture series you won't want to miss!

Every second Tuesday in 2016 at 6 p.m., come to Grimm Brothers Brewhouse and learn from experts in the fields of horticulture, sustainability and more for the Community Stewardship Lecture Series.

Pre-registration is required. For more information about the series and to sign-up, check out cityofloveland.org/LWPLectures.

Calendar of upcoming lectures:

- Oct. 11 – The City of Loveland's General Permit (Stormwater)
- Nov. 15 – Heathy Homes
- Dec. 13 - Introduction to Rain Barrels



Community Stewardship Lecture Series

— creating a sustainable culture



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Knowing what to do in the event of downed power lines can save a life

A stronger tree clearing program, pole strength testing and putting more lines underground is making our electric grid more resistant to storms than ever before. But power lines occasionally come down when the weather gets bad.

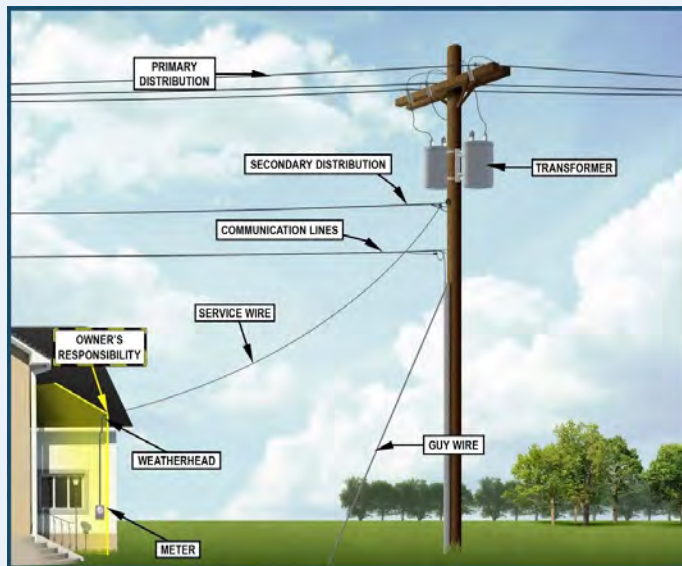
Power lines also can fall when poles are hit in traffic accidents.

The first thing to do about any downed power line is to stay away from it and anything touching it.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, the ground around power lines may be energized up to 35 feet away. That's more than 10 yards on a football field!

You can't tell if a line is a live wire or energized, just by looking at it. To be safe, assume all downed lines are live, no matter how they appear. Receiving an electrical shock can be deadly.

What should you do if you come across a downed line?



Power lines include distribution lines and service wire to the home. Avoid downed lines and call the appropriate agency to repair them.

- Call 911 immediately to report the downed line. Direct others to stay away from it.
- Don't try to move a downed power line or anything else in contact with it by using another object such as a

broom stick.

- Be careful not to touch or step in water near a downed power line.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.
- If your car comes into contact with a downed power line while you are inside, stay in the car. Direct others to stay away from your car. If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with both the car and the ground at the same time.

Shuffle away from the car.

Find more power safety information by visiting cityofloveland.org/PowerSafety or esfi.org.

Toilet leaks mean gallons of water wasted and money down the drain

The first step to creating a water-efficient home is to check for leaks. Studies show that dripping faucets, leaky toilets and other leaky valves account for as much as 13.7 percent of all indoor water use.

Leaks are wasteful – and expensive. Every unused drop that trickles down the drain will show up on your water and sewer bill. If hot water is leaking, you also will pay higher energy bills.

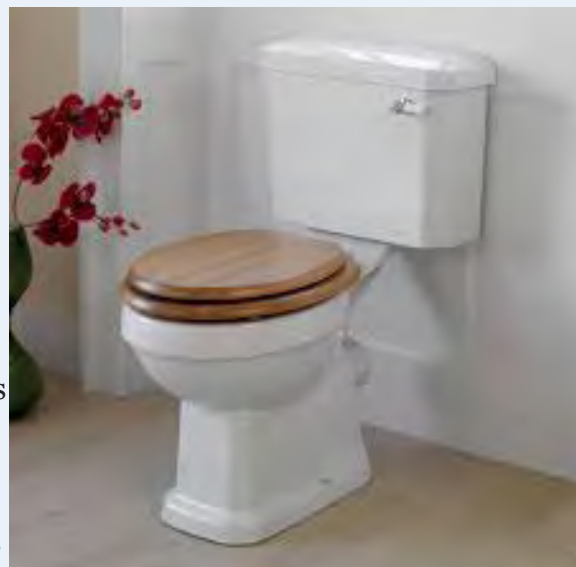
Luckily, most leaks are easy to fix. The key is to find time to repair them.

The biggest source of leaks in the home are toilets. If your water is trickling through your toilet long after you've flushed it, it's leaking. But some leaks are more difficult to detect. The easiest way to check for these slow leaks is

to add a dye tab – you can pick some up at the Service Center – 200 N. Wilson Ave. - or several drops of dark food coloring into the toilet's water tank. If water in the bowl is tinted 15 minutes later, then your toilet is leaking.

Most toilet leaks are caused by a malfunctioning flapper valve. Located in the water tank, the flapper allows water to rush from the tank to the bowl when the toilet is flushed. Replacing a leaky flapper only takes about five minutes and hardware stores sell inexpensive repair kits.

Source: American Water Works Association Research Foundation.



Tip: Bring your old flapper to the hardware store to compare it to the new one before you buy. That way you'll get the right one.