



# Winter Work

## ***It takes a city, and all its residents, to wage winter war***

**I**mmigrants to Northern Colorado from the Upper Midwest and New England states laugh at natives who grumble occasionally about walking or driving in snow, or shoveling it off walks and driveways. After all, those people left behind winters that often swamped them with 6 or 7 feet of snow.

Newcomers from the Deep South, Texas, Desert Southwest or Pacific Coast, on the other hand, quickly get over the giddy novelty of a big snowfall. They just want it to go away, and expect some help in

making that happen.

We're all in this together, the annual adjustment to the rigors of winter. The ways we deal with snow are guided by our individual perspectives. Regardless of where we are from or how we arrived, here are a few facts about Northern Colorado snow:

- First, we don't get tons. Average annual snowfall in Loveland is about 41 inches, less than 3 ½ feet, and it arrives over the course of 25-or-so snowy days from October through April.
- Second, it doesn't stay long. Even heavy snowfalls – a foot or more – typically don't leave a trace after a full week of sunny days. It just disappears.
- Third, snow is spread fairly evenly through seven months. We

get 3-to-4 inches each in October and April, on average. About half a foot falls monthly November through February, and 9 inches in March, usually our snowiest month.

### **Preparing for 'the dump'**

So much for the averages. Anyone who has been in Loveland more than a couple of winter seasons knows that out-of-norm snow dumps can happen almost any time during the late fall, winter and early spring.

Those are the events we prepare for. The Loveland Public Works Department is continuously engaged in fine-tuning its snow-fighting capacity so that the effects of major snowfalls plague us for as little time as possible.

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## Work (from page 1)

That's not to say that even lesser snow storms don't get quick attention and lots of action from City Public Works crews. Take Oct. 13-14, 2018, as an example. While snow had been in that Saturday/Sunday forecast, no one expected it would happen all at once until weather watchers predicted just that by midday Saturday.

### Call to action

The City's mechanized snow army geared up when the storm barreled in from Wyoming, fast and hard, sweeping through Loveland over the course of a few hours leaving 3 to 6 inches of snow by Sunday morning. The occasion presented the perfect opportunity for an early-season warmup for the battles to come.

"The City received less snow than many forecasters had called for," Public Works Technical Business Manager Jodi Lessman said. "But this was a great first-snow event to get folks hands-on training and become familiar with equipment."

Snow crews were called in at 10 p.m. Saturday, and began applying the chemical deicer to streets, focusing on priority-one routes. By 4:30 a.m. Sunday, arterial streets were in good shape. Working through Sunday afternoon to make sure main



**Loveland's snow plan** designates city streets in three priority groups. An online map of priority 1, 2 and 3 streets in every city neighborhood is available at [www.cityofloveland.org/snowplan](http://www.cityofloveland.org/snowplan).

streets were dry curb-to-curb before refreezing, city crews ensured that Monday commuters would be left to say, "Storm? What storm?"

### Collaborative effort

While Loveland Public Works crews are up to small, medium and large-scale challenges, it takes the collaboration of residents to make mobility work in Loveland after snowstorms. That means shoveling. Residential sidewalks are the responsibility of homeowners or, in some cases, homeowners' associations, and

they must be clear of snow within 24 hours of a storm's end.

Loveland, like all other cities on Colorado's Front Range, does not plow residential streets in cases of snowfalls of 6 inches or less. If storm totals top that, the fleet of City trash trucks is fitted with plow blades to clear single-lane passages in all Loveland neighborhoods.

The last word on shoveling: Please do not shovel snow into streets or gutters. Lawns and landscapes are where snow belongs.

Learn more at [www.cityofloveland.org/snowplan](http://www.cityofloveland.org/snowplan)



**Loveland Public Works** Department crew members stand in front of three wing plows, mainstays in the City's snow-fighting equipment fleet.

## New, more efficient and user-friendly transit routes go into effect Nov. 5

The Loveland Public Works Department transit managers undertook a thorough evaluation of the current COLT route system earlier this fall that included getting feedback from current transit riders and residents. The message was clear. COLT riders want more efficiency and a shift away from one-way routes.

The result of the sessions: An overhaul of the way buses move around Loveland, driven by best practices in cities where transit works, and by common sense that many riders brought forward in

three public meetings.

Components of the redesigned and realigned route system include:

- Elimination of the east-west COLT Express route because of poor ridership numbers.
- New structures for Routes 100 and 300, splitting Route 200 into two routes and adding a new connector route between north and south transfer points.
- Renaming the routes – 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 – in keeping with industry standards that apply in most cities.

These route changes provide lots of desirable features, with

two out-and-back routes (1 and 3), half-hour frequency on routes 1 and 2 and the addition of a west transfer point on West Eisenhower Boulevard and Wilson Avenue.

These changes, scheduled to take effect Nov. 5, will require only minimal changes to the existing bus-stop structure and are cost-neutral.



## Library's Loveland Lights celebration is a great way to kick-off the season

Get into the holiday spirit at the annual Loveland Lights holiday kick-off at the Loveland Public Library, Saturday, Dec. 8 and Sunday, Dec. 9.

This weekend-long event includes a book sale, bake sale, local artisan demonstrations such as card making and carving, gingerbread workshops, spinning, weaving and pottery demonstrations, face painting, Scottish dancing and more.

There will be a children's scavenger hunt, performances by local musicians and dance



troupes, Kevin Cook's Life Lights and Joe Bowden's Night Lights in the Winter Sky. And Santa himself will be there to read to everyone during story time.



A full listing of the weekend schedule can be found at [www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org/events](http://www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org/events) or call the library at 962-2665.

Loveland Lights is sponsored by the Friends of the Loveland Library.

## Large pick-ups now allowed in residential areas with recently passed ordinance

Owners of trucks weighing more than 6,000 pounds (empty weight) are now allowed to park in residentially zoned areas in Loveland as a result of an ordinance passed by City Council in September.

### What changed?

- pickup trucks that weigh more than 6,000 pounds can park for more than an hour on residential streets
- tow trucks, city vehicles, and other vehicles providing emergency utility or other emergency assistance are exempt from the one hour time limit

### What didn't change?

- large vehicles such as truck tractors are still prohibited from parking for more than an hour in residential areas
- unattached trailers are still prohibited from parking for more than one hour in residential areas.

This change to the City's Municipal Code allows for more flexibility to those with large trucks and also exempts large trucks like the City vehicle pictured here, and others that provide emergency utility or other emergency assistance, from the one-hour time limitation.



**This City vehicle** is now exempt from a one-hour time limit due to a new City ordinance.

winter wonderlights  
LOVELAND CHAPUNGU SCULPTURE PARK



NOV. 16 - JAN. 1



Free Nightly Light Show, Weekend Activities/Entertainment and More  
[www.WinterWonderlightsLoveland.com](http://www.WinterWonderlightsLoveland.com)

storytime  
with Santa Claus  
December 6  
5:30 pm

Santa is coming to town... to the Rialto Theater! Join us for a special evening of hot cocoa, cookies, and storytime with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Limited tickets are available, reserve your tickets online today!

RIALTO THEATER  
228 East Fourth Street • Loveland, CO 80537  
(970) 962-2120 • [www.RialtoTheaterCenter.org](http://www.RialtoTheaterCenter.org)

RIALTO PRESENTS

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

RYAN HAMILTON

DEC 08  
7:30 PM

RIALTO THEATER CENTER  
228 East Fourth Street • Loveland, CO 80537  
(970) 962-2120 • [rialtotheatercenter.org](http://rialtotheatercenter.org)

Don't let your neighbors get left out in the cold this winter



Sign up for Snow Squad and make a real difference in the life of a neighbor who can no longer shovel for him/herself.  
More info: 962-2697 or [hollie.hill@cityofloveland.org](mailto:hollie.hill@cityofloveland.org)

ARTS & CRAFTS WINTER FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, DEC. 1  
SUNDAY, DEC. 2  
9:00AM - 3:00PM  
FAIRGROUNDS PARK

AMAZING HOLIDAY SHOPPING!  
ARTS & CRAFTS, LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS  
PHOTOS WITH SANTA (BRING CAMERA)  
FAMILY GAMES, HOT CHOCOLATE BAR  
GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST (BRING YOURS PRE-MADE)

VISIT [BIT.LY/WINTERFESTFUN](http://BIT.LY/WINTERFESTFUN)

BETTY WOODMAN

SEPTEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 30  
LOVELAND MUSEUM

LOVELAND MUSEUM  
LOVELAND ARTS AND CULTURE  
503 N. Lincoln Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537  
(970) 962-2410  
[www.lovelandmuseumgallery.org](http://www.lovelandmuseumgallery.org)

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 welcome. Please call 962-2302, or email [Tom.Hacker@CityofLoveland.org](mailto:Tom.Hacker@CityofLoveland.org). The City of Loveland is committed to providing 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.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

Loveland Water and Power (LWP) strives to provide safe, reliable utility services at competitive prices. A non-profit municipal utility, LWP deploys more than 100 dedicated utility staff to the streets and on the phones each day to provide exceptional customer service at a price that will not break the bank.

LWP performs a cost of service study on a three year cycle to ensure that power, water and wastewater usage is appropriately charged. In 2018, LWP comprehensively reviewed several major rate classes in the water and wastewater utilities, including the residential and commercial classes. Skilled rate consultants analyzed general use of service for each class and compared them to resources and maintenance costs each class bears upon utility infrastructure. New rates emerge every three years from those studies.

LWP staff presents the findings to

the Loveland Utilities Commission (LUC) and Loveland City Council for review and final approval.

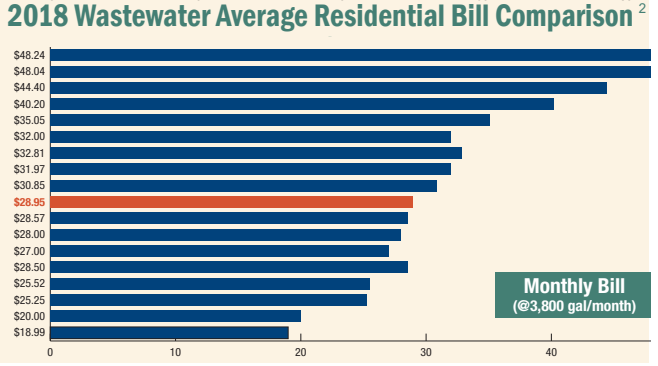
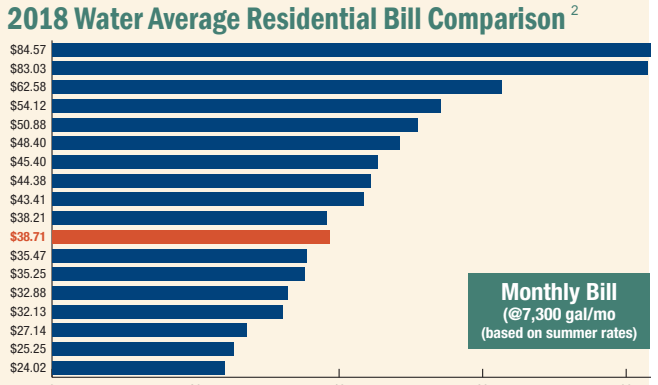
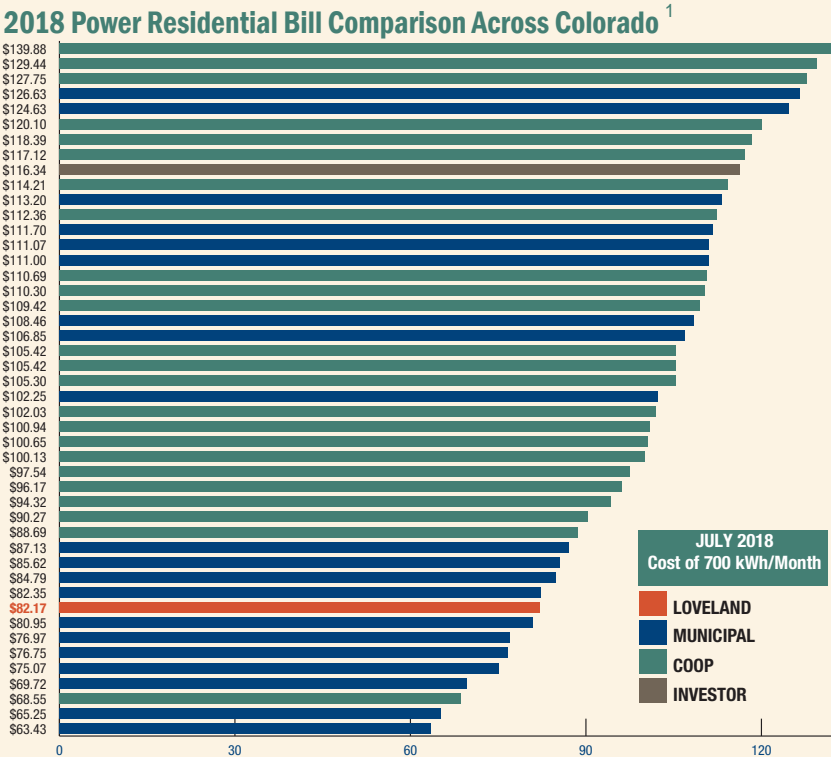
The most recent study revealed single-family residential customers are paying appropriately for the maintenance costs incurred by water usage. Water rates will not increase for that rate class in 2019. The study showed single-family customers are keeping costs down by employing water conservation measures and reducing home water consumption.

However, commercial and multi-family residential customers will see an increase in 2019. Analysis of all rate classes through the cost of service study ensures that one rate class does not subsidize another class' usage. City Council approved modest rate increases for power and wastewater in 2019. On a monthly basis, the average single-family home uses 700 kWh of electricity and produces 3,800 gallons of wastewater. This family would see

an increase of \$4.11 for electricity (summer rates) and \$1.58 for wastewater on their monthly bill. Water service rates will remain the same for single-family homes. These are average estimates; individual bills will vary based on customer usage.

LWP remains one of the lowest-cost municipal utility providers in Colorado. In fact, the 2019 rate increases are reduced from the approved rate track due to strategic but limited borrowing. In other words, the larger increase scheduled to hit Loveland early next year was thwarted by utility staff and community leaders who are committed to keeping costs low and reliability high.

Learn more about rates at: [www.cityofloveland.org/utilityrates](http://www.cityofloveland.org/utilityrates)  
 Learn more about how to conserve energy and save money on your utility bill at: [www.cityofloveland.org/efficiency](http://www.cityofloveland.org/efficiency)



1. source: CAMU 2018 Residential Survey 2. source: September 9, 2018 Loveland Utilities Commission Meeting



MAIN SWITCHBOARD  
970-962-3000

UTILITY BILLING  
970-962-2111



visit us online...  
cityofloveland.org/LWP

# HOW PUBLIC UTILITIES SET RATES

**Utilities identify rates based on cost of service while keeping customer needs and the community's objectives front and center.**

As community-owned utilities, they do not answer to remote shareholders and are not driven by a profit motive. Revenues are invested right back into the utility and community.

Rates are calculated with the customer in mind. Loveland Water and Power is a non-profit utility that takes pride in providing reliable utilities at an affordable price.



## RATE-SETTING TYPICALLY FOLLOWS A FIVE-STEP PROCESS...



**1. ADD UP ALL THE COSTS.** Every few years, utilities conduct a cost of service study to determine the revenue requirement - how much revenue is required to maintain financial stability. The costs are separated into areas such as power supply, transmission, distribution, treatment and customer related.



**2. DIVIDE REVENUE REQUIREMENTS** by customer class - commercial, industrial, residential. The cost of service study identifies how and when each class uses utilities and how the utility incurs costs from each class. The study identifies the amount to recover through customer, demand, and usage charges for each customer class. This amount is then compared with the rates for each class.



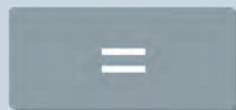
**3. FACTOR** a rate adjustment strategy into a financial plan. The plan takes input from management and the Loveland Utilities Commission (LUC) and lays out a strategy for how rates should be implemented over the next three or five years. The plan ensures adequate revenues are recovered for each customer class and explains how each rate component (customer, use, demand) should vary over time.



**4. BALANCE** the recommended rates with the LUC's input and community objectives. A public utility presents the suggested rate design at a board meeting. Community members may also attend. The LUC decides whether the proposed rate structure meets the needs of the community and the utility's revenue requirements.



**5. ADD IN CUSTOMER FEEDBACK.** Rates approved by the board are presented at a City Council hearing where citizens can advocate about the rate in front of the governing body, which then makes a final decision on the proposed plan.



The newly set rates go into effect on customers' monthly bills.

**#PublicPower**

Source: American Public Power Association and modified by Loveland Water and Power