

# Justice delivered by jury of peers



**DAY IN COURT** - Loveland Municipal Court Judge Geri Joneson, right, speaks to an unseen defendant as Teen Court jurors watch from the courtroom's jury box.

## *Teen Court gives young defendants a second chance*

Most of us at one time or another, usually during our teen years, have had lapses in judgment that led to flawed decisions.

None of us would want to carry the burden of such mistakes for the rest of our lives.

Those truths are the basis of Teen Court, a Loveland Municipal Court program that steers some first-time teenage offenders away from sentences that would ordinarily be imposed for their misdemeanor convictions.

Instead, they may choose an alternative that puts them before a jury of their peers whose verdicts carry real-world sanctions and, after successful completion of court-ordered requirements, criminal records are expunged.

Loveland Municipal Court Judge Geri Joneson is a forceful advocate for alternative sentencing programs such as Teen Court and another Loveland program – Jumpstart – that applies the same principles to cases involving homeless criminal defendants.

### **'Creative' solution**

"The idea that you can have a sentencing alternative that is creative, and yet punitive, is becoming more and more prevalent in our municipal courts,"

Joneson said on Feb. 12 during an appearance before the Loveland City Council.

"I use (Teen Court) as a sentencing tool for youth offenders. Today, we counted 42 juveniles participating in our courtroom. We have 40, on average, each week. That illustrates its popularity."

Each Tuesday during the school year at 4:30 p.m., the judge gavels Teen Court to order. Her presence on the bench is one of the changes that Teen Court has undergone during the four years since Joneson's arrival, and her first look at a more free-wheeling version of the court program that had teens filling the roles of judge, prosecutor, defense lawyer, jurors and even bailiff.

"I participate as the judge, because we are in the sentencing phase of their cases and we need to be on the record, making sure we have a clear record of their sentencing," Joneson said in describing the process to City Council members. "We've modified it, so that all teen participants can act as jurors and serve as quasi-attorneys."

The collaboration between the City and the Thompson School District puts a team comprised of teachers, City lawyers and court employees in the courtroom on Teen Court Tuesdays.

### **Juggling act**

Heading the team is Tracy Evangelista, coordinator of the school district's E-3 program – the letters stand for Explore, Expand, Engage – that has Teen Court under its umbrella.

Her Master's Degree in sociology with an emphasis on corrections, plus her experience as a Navy air traffic controller, uniquely qualify her to juggle the complexities of managing a courtroom filled with 40 sometimes-rowdy teenagers.

Customary messages that advise visitors of Municipal Court courtesy take on special emphasis during Teen Court.

"Make sure your phones are off," Evangelista said as the group of teens, all in bright-blue Teen Court T-shirts, convened on a recent Tuesday afternoon. "I don't want to hear any ringers today!"

As the 4:30 p.m. gavel time approaches, Evangelista offered further instructions on the day's procedure. The courtroom became more like a schoolroom as a side conversation in the gallery interrupted her.

"Hey, you two," Evangelista said firmly, leaning toward a pair of boys. "When I'm talking, you're not!"

At the "all rise" notice of Joneson's arrival, the gallery fell silent. On this day, just one defendant would appear. Sentencing for her offenses would be split, with separate hearings on each of the misdemeanors that the 14-year-old middle school student had



## **How Teen Court works**

First-time juvenile offenders, usually those with marijuana/alcohol, petty theft, or disorderly conduct charges, may qualify for Teen Court with a deferred sentence agreement with the City Attorney's Office.

Defendants appear in Loveland Municipal Court where the Municipal Court Judge presides and facts of their cases are heard by their peers on the Teen Court jury.

Teen Court juries determine sentences that could require such obligations as community service hours, classes, letters of apology and, usually, further participation in the Teen Court program.

### **How to participate**

Defendants and their parents must speak to the municipal prosecutor to discuss whether Teen Court is a good fit. They may attend practice sessions and Teen Court hearings on Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m. at the Loveland Municipal Court, 810 E. 10th St.

### **Contacts**

**For information, Loveland Municipal Court: 970-962-2482**

**To sign up for Teen Court: Tracy Evangelista, advisor, 970-613-5986**

acknowledged committing on one particularly bad December day.

It began with a fight with another student, one that was broken up by a school resource officer, resulting in a charge of disorderly conduct. Compounding the trouble, the student then tripped the school fire alarm – not once but twice. Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, responding under protocol reserved for school alarms, sent multiple pieces of fire equipment to the evacuated school.

The false alarm conviction would be sentenced separately from the one arising from the fight, with two panels of Teen Court jurors hearing the evidence and asking questions of the defendant in two fact-finding processes.

### **Law school**

Assistant City Attorney Claire Havelda listened as teen jurors pursued their lines of questioning. At one point, she turned to the gallery following a question that seemed to lie well outside the details of the case.

"Does anyone have an objection?" she asked. A hand went up. "Objection," a boy said. "Relevance."

Havelda, in an exercise prior to the court session, had conducted a crash course in criminal procedure, introducing students to the nuance of raising an objection based on relevance. Lesson learned.

The two separate juries, under the guidance of faculty advisor Ashley Blair, returned sentencing verdicts that bound the defendant to a mixed set of requirements.

First, an order to interview a school administrator to learn, and report on, the impact of a false fire alarm. Second, agreement to take the "Making Better Choices" class offered through the state's juvenile justice programs. Third, community service, 20 hours' worth, some of which could be met by participating in Teen Court. Finally, six months of non-supervised probation, with expungement of records guaranteed after successful completion.

Joneson, in closing the session, made note of the special circumstances that put 24 students on two separate juries to work on the crimes of a single defendant. She commended the blue-shirted jurors on their work.

"No glitches," she said. "Nice job!"



## Community Partnership office and Burnes Center partner on homelessness

Anyone who has been downtown knows that Loveland has a homeless problem.

While a number of Loveland agencies have been providing homeless services for years, they have not been able to provide enough resources or services to significantly decrease Loveland's homeless count.

Homelessness is not only a Loveland problem, but is a problem along the front range and statewide - and it's getting worse.

A recent study by the Department of Housing and Urban Development found that homelessness has increased 4 percent over the past year. That translates to 10,940 homeless persons statewide.

In order to more fully assess the problem, the Community Partnership Office (CPO) has

partnered with the Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness. Together they are developing a strategic plan that will include evaluation of current efforts to address homelessness in Loveland and northern Colorado to create strategies for effective homeless interventions and promote collaboration with existing partners.

This effort will look at the problem from a broader perspective and systematically increase



awareness and support to address this growing issue in Loveland.

Through research of best practices and input from community stakeholders, the proposed plan can serve as a transformational tool to strengthen local collaborations, use data to inform decisions, assess investments, replicate best practices and increase services.

Part of this process will include public input. From March 15 to April 15, residents can log onto the City's online public forum, Open City Hall at [www.cityofloveland.org/opencityhall](http://www.cityofloveland.org/opencityhall), and take a brief survey on homelessness in Loveland.

For more information on the work of the CPO, including a schedule for local strategic meetings, go to [www.cityofloveland.org/communitypartnership](http://www.cityofloveland.org/communitypartnership).

## Join popular local naturalist for 2019 series: A Wildlife Window into Nature

"To know what Flammulated Owls do on rainy nights, one must go into the mountain forests on rainy nights. To know how much blizzard a White-tailed Ptarmigan will tolerate before even it takes shelter, one must explore the high willow carrs in a blizzard or two. To know what pollinates a tiny twayblade flower, one must lie on wet ground where mosquitos outnumber stars in the sky. Being a naturalist is about engaging life as richly and fully as possible [and] then sharing the experiences

with others," said Kevin Cook, naturalist, presenter and newspaper columnist.

At noon on the first Tuesday of every month, and at 6 p.m. on the following Wednesday, residents can learn more about the many wonders of our natural world through the Library's popular wildlife series presented by Cook.

These hour-long presentations are full of information on the hidden mysteries of the natural world.

For more information go to [www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org](http://www.lovelandpubliclibrary.org).



**KEVIN COOK PRESENTS** a monthly nature series at the Loveland Public Library.

## New Parks & Recreation athletics programs bloom just in time for spring

As our community continues to grow, so do our sports offerings!

The Athletics division of Parks & Recreation is excited to bring you the following new programs.

You can now compete for the title of Cornhole Champion in our new cornhole leagues! Enter as a family in the family night league (10yrs+) on Monday evenings or schedule a standing date night in



our Friday night league. Itty Bitty Ballers for kindergarten and 1st graders boasts lowered hoops and modified rules. Three on three half-court basketball for grades 7-12 lets kids see how they match up against other teams their own age.

Get your game on! See Pages 20-27 in our winter/spring activity guide for more information or go to <http://bit.ly/loveathletics>.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

## Pancake Breakfast & Plant Sale

**Saturday, April 13**

8:00 - 11:00A

**Cost in advance**

\$4 Adult; \$2.50 Child

**Cost at the door**

\$5 Adult; \$3.00 Child



**Chadson**  
Recreation Center

Buy your tickets at  
the Senior Center!

700 E. Fourth St. Loveland, 970.962.2783

### YOUTH

Soccer  
Tennis  
Lacrosse  
Gymnastics  
In-Line Hockey



### SPRING ATHLETICS *featuring*

**CORNHOLE** (Adults & Families)

**ITTY BITTY BALLERS** (K-1st grade)

**3v3 BASKETBALL** (7th-12th grade)

**DETAILS** <http://bit.ly/loveathletics>

**REGISTRATION** <http://bit.ly/registerathletics>



### ADULT

Soccer  
Softball  
Volleyball  
Basketball

## Local Motion

Thompson School District Student Art Show



**March 9 – April 21, 2019**

Loveland Museum • 503 N. Lincoln Avenue  
(970) 962-2410 • [www.lovelandmuseumgallery.org](http://www.lovelandmuseumgallery.org)

**FREE!**



## FISHING

LOVELAND OPEN LANDS

RIVER'S EDGE NATURAL AREA

Learn basic skills from Loveland Fishing Club members and Open Lands & Trails volunteers.

### Info stations include

- Accessing Loveland rivers/ponds
- Demos with macro-invertebrates
- Fish handling to foster good habits

**SAT APRIL 27, 9:00-11:00A**

Details: [offero.cityofloveland.org](http://offero.cityofloveland.org)  
or call 970.962.2643

Limited loaner equipment available

**ALL LEVELS • ALL AGES**



Friends of the  
Loveland Public Library

SPRING 2019

## USED BOOK SALE

NEW SALE SCHEDULE!

**THU FRI SAT**

**4.18 4.19 4.20**

**4-7PM 12-7PM 10-3PM**

**MEMBERS ONLY OPEN TO PUBLIC OPEN TO PUBLIC**

**JOIN AT THE DOOR FILL A BAG/PRICE**



**The Ranch**  
Loveland Library's Outreach  
and Events Complex



[friendsofthelovelandlibrary.org](http://friendsofthelovelandlibrary.org)

## RIALTO PRESENTS



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

**KEVIN NEALON**

**JUN 20**  
7:30 PM

**RIALTO THEATER CENTER**

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

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and  
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Loveland Water and Power (LWP) joined forces with the Larimer County Conservation Corps (LCCC) for the eighth year to provide residents the Energy and Water Assessment program. The program provides residential energy and water saving assistance while promoting the professional development of corpsmembers through service to environment and community. Through conservation projects and environmental education, LCCC empowers corpsmembers to become environmental stewards and develop workforce skills. Larimer County Economic and Workforce Development directs the LCCC program.

## INTERESTED IN A HOME EFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT? ASSESSMENTS INCLUDE:

- Conducting a basic inspection of your home's insulation, appliances, windows, toilets, and heating/cooling system.
- Installing appropriate efficiency measures based on your home's needs. These products may include: LED light bulbs, water conserving showerheads and aerators, smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, clotheslines and high-efficiency toilets.
- Information about water and energy efficiency practices and services.

## WHAT HAVE OUR CUSTOMERS SAID ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

*"They were on time, friendly and genuinely interested in the efficiency of my home and my concerns"*

*"They did an excellent job and were very professional."*

*I give them an A+!"*

*"That was a valuable experience. Thank you for providing it."*

*I learned how my electric bill was figured."*

*That was great to know."*

## TOGETHER LWP & LCCC HAVE

**ASSESSED A TOTAL OF 1815 HOMES SINCE 2011**

### WE'VE INSTALLED OVER...

**593 Clotheslines**

**1401 Shower Heads**

**304 Thermostats**

**392 Toilet Tank Banks**

**15127 CFL & 6285 LED  
Light Bulbs**

**195 CO<sup>2</sup> / Smoke  
Detectors**

**1317 Sink Aerators**

**52 Air Filters**

### IN LOVELAND HOMES AND...

**FREE OF COST TO THE CUSTOMER.**

*Participating homes save on average  
113 kWh and 3203 gallons annually.*

The LCCC's 2019 Home Efficiency Assessment season is from  
January through April.

Learn more about LCCC's free energy assessments at:

[larimerworkforce.org/energy](http://larimerworkforce.org/energy)



## GARDEN IN A BOX



Warm, spring-like temperatures may inspire visions of a beautiful garden but increasing pressure for water conservation and rising rates can change those dreams into stark reality.

A solution to your problem may be within your fingertips. Loveland Water and Power, in partnership with Resource Central, provides a discount on xeric (low-water) garden kits that are available for preorder in March and ready for pick up in May. The pre-designed kits are comprised of native Colorado plants and include simple plant-by-number maps take the guesswork out of planting. The gardens can help you save around 1,000 gallons of water compared to a traditional grass lawn, which feels great when you open your utility bill.

Gardens start at \$110 so it is easy to find Garden In A Box to fit your budget. Gardens sell out quickly so visit [ResourceCentral.org/Gardens](http://ResourceCentral.org/Gardens) to see if you qualify for a \$25 discount for Loveland Water and Power customers.

## UTILITY NEWS



MAIN SWITCHBOARD  
970-962-3000

UTILITY BILLING  
970-962-2111

visit us online...  
[cityofloveland.org/LWP](http://cityofloveland.org/LWP)



Join the Loveland Water and Power  
residential e-newsletter!



Text **LWP** to **42828**

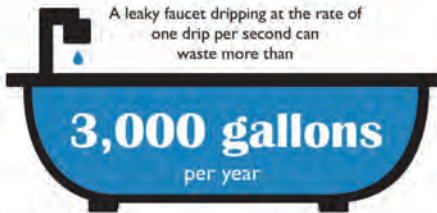
To start receiving the latest digital news  
about LWP! \*Message and data rates apply

# FIX-A-LEAK WEEK MARCH 18TH - 24TH

## THE FACTS ON LEAKS

10

percent of homes have  
leaks that waste 90 gallons  
or more per day



A leaky faucet dripping at the rate of  
one drip per second can  
waste more than

3,000 gallons  
per year

### Did you know?

Minor water leaks account for more than



trillion gallons

of wasted water each year and  
is equal to annual household water use in



A shower leaking at

10 Drips

per minute wastes  
more than

500

gallons per year



million homes

### REPAIR

leaks by checking faucet washers  
and gaskets for wear and replacing  
them if necessary



Replace old toilets  
with WaterSense labeled  
models & save:



13,000  
gallons of water savings  
for the average family

Homeowners  
can save



10 percent on their water  
bills



## CHECKING FOR LEAKS IN YOUR HOME

- Review your water usage during a winter month, such as January or February. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, you may have a significant leak.
- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color appears in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.)
- Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for water on the outside of the pipe indicating surface leaks.

**Call a licensed plumber if you suspect you have a leak in your home**

Source: United States Environmental Protection agency;  
<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>

## HARD AT WORK FIXING LEAKS IN LOVELAND



LWP celebrated fix-a-leak week early this year with a much-needed pipe replacement project. Since January, LWP has been replacing portions of a 45-year-old water line beneath Wilson Avenue spanning from

Eisenhower Boulevard to 22nd Street in west Loveland. The ductile iron waterline fell victim to soil corrosion and broke open in several places, requiring LWP crews to repair eight leaks in three weeks in December. Contracted crews are replacing the 45-year-old water line with a corrosion-resistant PVC line with a potential service life of more than 100 years. The pipe replacement budget is \$1.5 million, with completion slated for late March. The final asphaltting on 22nd Street is estimated to be finished in April.



[epa.gov/watersense](http://epa.gov/watersense)