

Winter's lessons learned in November storm



Teamwork by four drivers and four wing snowplows, working in the wee hours of the morning, is the most efficient way to keep major arterials such as Eisenhower Boulevard clear during major snowstorms. *City of Loveland photo, Johnathon Sweeney*

Heaviest Loveland snowfall since 2006 tests City's response, residents' patience

Sunday afternoon, Nov. 24, 2019, was clear, sunny and an unseasonably warm 60 degrees as Loveland Public Works Department managers monitored a weather forecast that called for an abrupt change.

A storm spinning in from the northwest likely would amount to something, they knew, and the prospects for heavy snow grew with each passing hour. The Streets Division superintendent and crew supervisors then made the decision to get Loveland's snow removal team and equipment mobilized and ready to go.

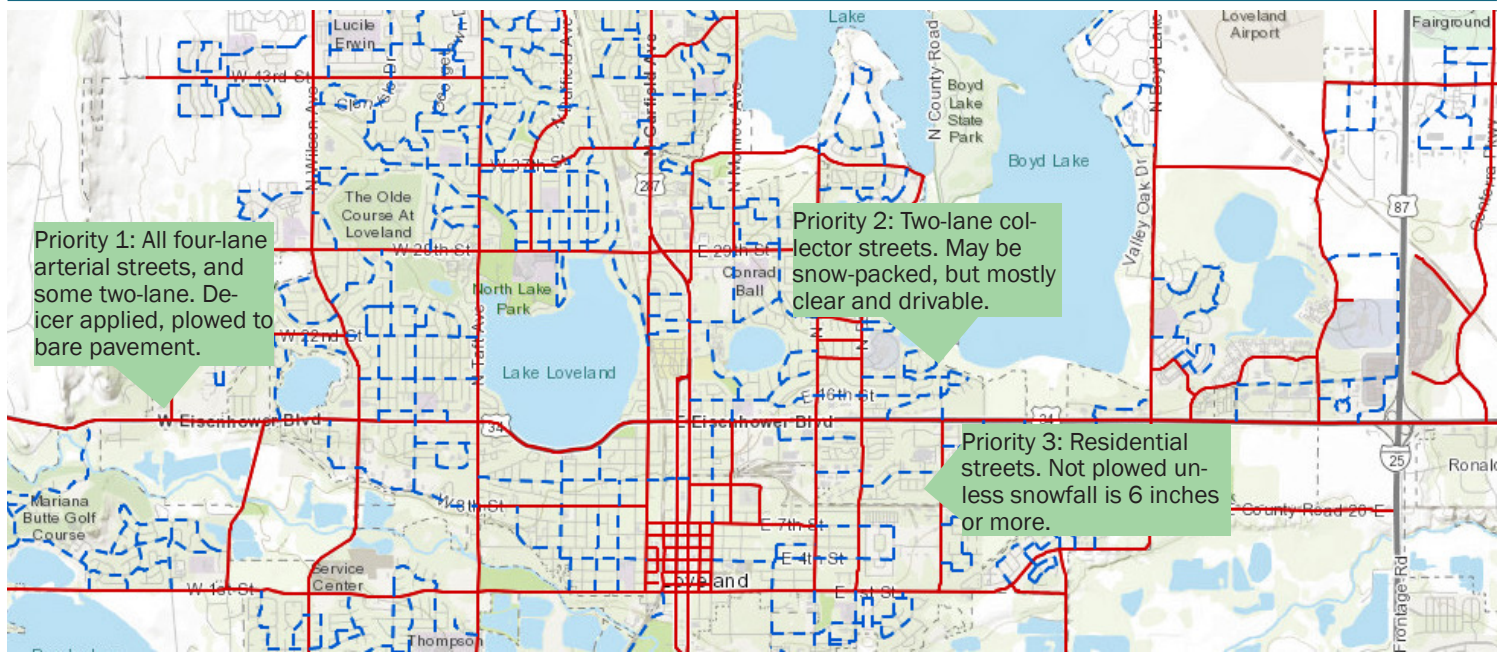
Available were 85 city employees and 51 pieces of equipment, ranging from heavy wing snowplows to small tractors outfitted with sidewalk brushes. The full force – every worker and every vehicle –

would spend the next seven days battling the city's biggest snowstorm in 13 years.

City employees from Public Works' Streets and Stormwater, Traffic Operations, Solid Waste, and Administrative Services divisions were joined by workers from Water & Power and Parks Departments, all of whom played vital roles.

Old-timers sometimes forget, and newcomers have no way to know, what a snow dumping of nearly two feet driven by winds gusting to 50 miles per hour can do to a Colorado city. Luckily, such occasions are rare. However, when they occur community patience goes through a pretty tough test.

"When you consider the amount of snow we received, the accompanying wind, and the fact that a second significant storm wave came in four days after the first, I think we handled the event very well," Public Works Director Mark Jackson said. "We got the jump on it early, and we did not let up for seven days until the community was passable and safe."



Find your address on the interactive snow removal route map, with priority 1 routes in red and Priority 2 in blue, available at www.cityofloveland.org/snowplan.

Numbers help tell the story of how the week unfolded:

- Snowfall totaled 19.8 to 21 inches, depending on location.
- Crews drove their vehicles 16,830 miles through the week – equivalent to driving to Anchorage, Alaska, and back four and a half times.
- Machines plowed over 382 miles of City streets, including residential roads.
- Slightly more than 26,000 cubic yards of snow were hauled away – enough to cover a football field to a depth of 12 feet.
- Preliminary estimates suggest total storm cleanup costs will exceed \$500,000, including \$145,000 paid to contractors who augmented the City’s resources.

The November snow removal efforts unfolded according to the City’s time-tested plan that first calls for plowing and de-icing operations on Priority 1 streets – the major arterials throughout the city needed for emergency travel– with 17 large plows, a grader and three light-duty pickup trucks engaged.

By the early morning of Nov. 26, with City facilities and Thompson School District closed for the day, the focus shifted to Priority 2 collector streets as the heaviest snow and strongest winds arrived. City garbage trucks, outfitted with plow blades, hit the residential side streets with one pass in the center third, just to ensure mobility for all residents. Trash collection was offset by a day to allow repurposing of the trucks. Residential streets are generally only plowed in the most significant snow storm conditions.

Midnight and noon shift changes throughout the first days of the storm kept crews and equipment on the job continuously. Even on Thanksgiving Day, City crews and contractors who had been working since 10 p.m. the previous night stayed with their jobs until 8 a.m. Snow removal crews continued working around the clock for over a week to help clear primary roads and ice buildup.

On Saturday, Nov. 30, more snow and shrieking wind caused whiteout conditions that led to the closure of 57th Street between Wilson and Taft avenues, and restricting traffic on 50th Street to one lane. City crews were able to clear the drifts and reopen both streets by 8:20 p.m. The second storm set back clearing operations Citywide, and many areas had to be re-plowed after drifting and hard-pack conditions resulted from the high winds.

Snow facts

Snowfalls greater than 12 inches

- **November 26, 2019 – 19.8”**
- February 2, 2016 – 12.91”
- October 29, 2009 – 14.61”
- **December 2006 – 22.0”**
- April 2005 – 12.8”

Months with most snow, on average:

- February – 11.2”
- March – 8.74”
- November – 8.08”
- December – 11.5”

Average annual snowfall: 57.4 inches
2019 Snowfall: 74.9 inches

'Connect Loveland' planners invite and encourage resident participation

"Connect Loveland" – the multifaceted effort to update the City's street network, transit system, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities – invites all Loveland residents to share their input at a January open house.

The "Connect Loveland" plan will serve as a guide for Public Works staff to prioritize projects and allocate funding and resources.

In the past, transportation plans have looked back to see if trends were on the mark, and projected that approach forward to accommodate expected growth. This plan will be different, building on the analysis of existing conditions and growth

estimates, combining it with more forward-looking infor-



CONNECT

LOVELAND

mation related to changing needs and technologies, and offering a complete vision for what mobility and accessibility in the City will look like in 2040.

The final document will include a "roadmap" for achieving the planned improvements for all of the street, transit, bike and pedestrian networks.

During the plan development process, the City has encouraged residents to provide their

input and help establish the community's vision, policies and goals at community meetings.

Here is another opportunity:

WHAT: Connect Loveland Open House

WHEN: 4-6 p.m., Jan. 22, 2020

WHERE: Public Works Administration Building, 2525 W. First St.

More information:

www.cityofloveland.org/ConnectLoveland.

Library to celebrate and honor Black History with month-long film series

February is Black History Month and the library will be celebrating and honoring the work and accomplishments of African Americans, all month long.

The library will present four movies during the month of February, that explore and highlight the African American experience and culture.

First up is *Boyz in the Hood* on Feb. 4. The film stars Cuba Gooding Jr. and Laurence Fishburne. Devon Wright of Metro State University will explore the culture of Hip Hop before the film and answer questions afterwards.

Next, *Amazing Grace: A Documentary*, will show on Feb. 11. It features Aretha Franklin and the choir of New Bethel Baptist

Church. Hazel Miller, Denver Soul and Blues Singer, will discuss the role of Soul and Blues music in African American Culture.

Soul Food starring Vanessa Williams and Vivica A. Fox will be shown on Feb. 18. Adrian Miller, Soul Food Scholar, will examine the history of food in African American culture and its significant impact on American Cuisine.



Finally, on Feb. 25, *Remember the Titans* with Denzel Washington will wrap up the series. CSU Football players will be on hand to talk about their experience in sports as African Americans, and its influence on their lives.

All films will be shown at the Metrolux Movie Theater in downtown Loveland. Admission for the event is a library card. Library cards will be available at the theater.

Black History Month is celebrated throughout the United States every February. It is a month-long celebration of the achievements of African Americans and the central role blacks have played in U.S. history and culture.



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020

RIALTO THEATER • 228 E. FOURTH ST. • LOVELAND

Presented by City of Loveland Parks & Recreation

2:00 PM Matinee - \$15 7:00 PM Evening - \$19

Tickets at rialtotheatercenter.org



RIALTO PRESENTS



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

HOT CLUB FEB 14
OF SAN FRANCISCO 7:30 PM

RIALTO THEATER CENTER

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Open House Open Lands & Trails



Volunteer opportunities!

Tuesday, Feb. 25

5:00 - 7:00P

Parks & Recreation
Administrative Office

Details at
offero.cityofloveland.org
or call 970.962.2643

NEW DIRECTIONS 50 & Better

PART ONE
JANUARY 16
Transitions and Aging
Research: Making Sense of
This Life Change

PART TWO
FEBRUARY 20
Are You Prepared for a Healthy
Retirement?

PART THREE
MARCH 19
Breathe Easier with Your
Finances in Order: Making
Smart Financial Decisions

Free series
exploring
the life
enhancing
options for
adults 50+
in Northern
Colorado!



Love
is in the air

February 14-15
Downtown Loveland



LOVELAND
Sweetheart Festival

LovelandSweetheartFestival.com

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 welcome. Please call 962-2302, or email 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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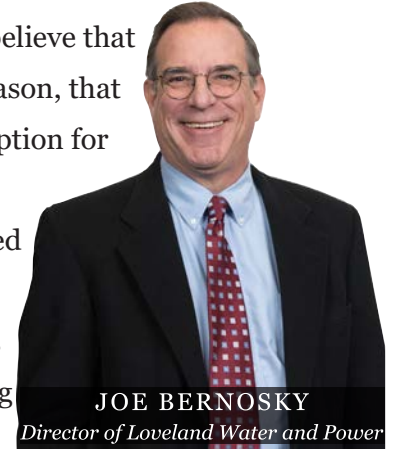
WELCOME 2020

LOVELAND WATER AND POWER NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Each New Year presents an opportunity for reflection on last year's goals and a fresh start on the future. At Loveland Water and Power, we never make a resolution without an action plan. Next year's successes await us as we commit to resolutions that invite innovation and maximize reliability and excellence in customer service. Our mission to add value to the community by serving your utility needs is timeless.

- 1 *Strive for excellence in reliable and resilient utility services.*
- 2 *Expand efforts to develop sustainable infrastructure improvements throughout our community.*
- 3 *Ensure the protection of public health and safety by meeting and exceeding all regulatory requirements at the Water Treatment Plant and Water Reclamation Facility.*
- 4 *Plan for the future of Loveland by leveraging new innovative technologies in all utility sectors.*
- 5 *Provide timely, transparent communication regarding utility activities such as projects, outages, rates and quality of service.*
- 6 *Support economic development through strategic initiatives and resource diversifications.*
- 7 *Balance environmental stewardship, quality utility service and fiscal responsibility.*
- 8 *Commit to keeping utility costs low and conducting ongoing evaluation of all rates, charges and fees.*
- 9 *Focus on outreach, collaboration and community engagement by enhancing water and energy efficiency programs.*
- 10 *Strive for innovation, organizational excellence and quality customer service.*

Happy New Year! Hard to believe that it's already 2020. For some reason, that date reminds me of the prescription for perfect vision: 20-20. Here in Water and Power we are focused – and I think with pretty clear vision – on the coming months and years. There are a lot of big capital projects on the horizon



JOE BERNOSKY
Director of Loveland Water and Power

that we can see pretty clearly: municipal high-speed fiber – the Pulse network, the ongoing construction of the new Water Quality Laboratory, and a new water storage tank. All this with continued sharp focus on ongoing operations, maintenance, and rehabilitation. All of this to protect public health and safety by providing reliable, resilient, and responsive utility services for the community now and in the future. It's going to be a great year!

Joe Bernosky

**Take Control of High Utility Bills With a
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*Must be a Loveland Water and Power utility customer to qualify

200 WEST OAK STREET, SUITE 5000 | FORT COLLINS, CO 80521

UTILITY NEWS



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UTILITY BILLING
970-962-2111

visit us online...
cityofloveland.org/LWP



SOLAR ENERGY

from Platte River Power Authority



Approximately 30% of the energy delivered to Platte River Power Authority's owner communities comes from noncarbon sources including solar. Additional solar is being built now and more may come soon.

Rawhide Flats Solar, a 30 MW solar installation at Platte River's Rawhide Energy Station, began operations in 2016 and generates enough electricity to power approximately 6,000 homes. Work on Rawhide Prairie Solar, a 22 MW solar installation with 2 MWh of battery storage, will conclude in mid-2020 and will power up to 4,000 more homes. And in October, Platte River issued an RFP for up to an additional 150 MW of solar energy to be added to its energy mix by Dec. 31, 2023.

Platte River's experience with solar power dates back to the resource's early days. In 1987, Platte River installed a 10 kW photovoltaic pilot plant to study how practical PV systems could become. The program was co-sponsored by the American Public Power Association, the State of Colorado Office of Energy Conservation and several regional power entities.

Energy generated from the solar pilot program helped charge Platte River's electric vehicles and served the headquarters campus until the panels were removed in 2018 to make room for the new headquarters building. Some panels from the program were donated to Colorado State University and the National Renewable Energy Lab for further research.

The new headquarters campus will receive approximately 50% of its power from an on-site solar installation with battery storage capacity. The system will also provide Platte River and community stakeholders with valuable data about distributed energy resources.

Platte River will continue its thoughtful investment in solar energy for delivery to its owner communities and to power its own facilities. By the end of 2020, approximately half of the energy Platte River delivers to its owner communities will come from noncarbon resources, including wind, solar and hydropower. The additional solar noted above will become another significant step toward achieving Platte River's goal for a 100% noncarbon portfolio by 2030.



STERLING OVERTURF
PROJECT MANAGER

The Utility Application Services (UAS) team at Loveland Water and Power (LWP) is dedicated to unraveling the true mysteries of the universe by tracking nearly 1,500 miles of water, power and wastewater lines that run above and below the surface of our city

The team uses Cityworks, a GIS-centric asset and work management system, to manage, track, and analyze LWP infrastructure, projects and maintenance processes. More than 120 users citywide produce 7,000 work orders each year including all three utilities.

Cityworks has been a City of Loveland staple for 10 years. Recently, the UAS team began to search for new efficiencies in the work order system to gain a more comprehensive understanding of maintenance and asset management requirements. They combined forces with SSP Innovations, a Colorado consulting firm that specializes in utility, pipeline, and telecommunications software and utility roadmaps. SSP worked collaboratively with key business groups that use Cityworks within the utility to study how existing users worked with the application.

Led by project manager Sterling Overturf, a member of the UAS team since 2018, SSP and UAS identified areas for improvement in critical business systems to improve data transfers and streamline processes. SSP provided detailed recommendations including a set of improvement processes and combined feedback from each user group.

The recommendations outlined short and long-term improvements to support future needs of the utility. The outline also included new software configurations that eliminate paperwork, improve the inventory system and ensure maintenance tasks are completed on time. Several of the utilitywide recommendations were large in scope and innovative, including a mobile app that will allow crews to file inspections and log work orders from the field.

The UAS team will develop an implementation plan in 2020. Armed with a more comprehensive understanding of how our infrastructure is functioning, LWP can respond to incidents faster and with more accuracy and make wiser decisions about asset management. For our customers, that means fewer shut-offs and outages.