

# CITY UPDATE

**VOLUME 20 | NUMBER 7** 

**JULY 2024** 

## Local TABOR override expires this year

TABOR, also known as the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, is an amendment to the Colorado State Constitution approved in 1992. It requires excess revenue to be remitted to taxpayers unless taxpayers vote to override it.

Since 2002, the City of Loveland has been able to invest over \$51 million back into community services, including over \$36 million in Loveland's Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program and flood mitigation, \$7 million in our parks and recreation system, and over \$7 million in public safety, providing police and firefighters with equipment, training facilities and technology.

The City of Loveland's TABOR override expires at the end of 2024 and according to current estimates approximately \$15.71 would be refunded to each City of Loveland taxpayer in 2025 is a TABOR override is not in place.

Learn more about the City of Loveland's budget at LetsTalkLoveland.org/Budget.

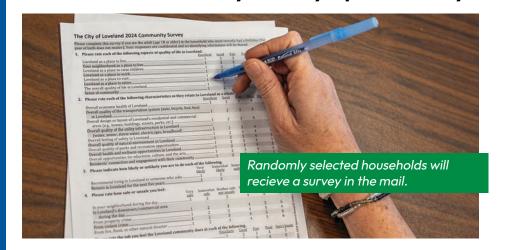
### Mark your calendar!

The Loveland Public Library hosts a Veteran Meetup on the last Thursday of the month in the Library's Erion Room, 300 N. Adams Ave.

### The next meeting is:

Thursday, July 25 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

## How is the City of Loveland doing? National Community Survey opens in July



Starting in mid-July, the City of Loveland will release its 2024 National Community Survey, getting much-needed feedback from residents about our community's quality of life.

More specifically, the survey captures residents' opinions about the City of Loveland's overall livability and perceptions about the local economy, transportation, community design, utilities, safety, inclusivity, engagement, and other elements of your local government. The survey is estimated to take ten minutes to complete.

Every two years, the City of Loveland uses The National Community Survey™ (The NCS™) developed and provided by National Research Center at Polco, which ensures that results can be benchmarked against year-over-year data as well as against other communities across the nation.

### **Survey Timeline**

Surveys will be mailed to randomly selected households across Loveland. Households that receive an invitation are asked to follow the enclosed instructions to complete it. Your participation in this survey will help leadership set priorities and develop policies and programs to effectively serve our community. All feedback will be anonymous, and any personal information will be securely stored by Polco.

If you aren't selected for the initial survey effort, the survey will become available for open participation in August.

The City of Loveland has conducted community surveys since 2006 so thank you, Loveland, for sharing your voice.

To stay informed about the 2024 survey, and to learn more about previous surveys including the outcome of the 2022 National Community Survey, visit lovgov.org/CommunitySurvey.

City Update is a monthly publication of the City of Loveland. City Update is also available on the City's website at lovgov.org/CityUpdate. Your comments are welcome. Please call 970-962-2302, or email oce@cityofloveland.org. The City of Loveland is committed to providing equal opportunity 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 ADA. For questions, please call 970-962-3319.

### Pulse's multigig internet delivers work from home confidence

As a local, community-owned utility, Pulse exists to serve. When you work from home, your connection can give people the right idea (or the wrong one) about your productivity. Choppy video conferences and failed file loads are not ideal. Dropped calls will not do. Imagine having the power to work from home without interruptions or slowdowns. With Pulse's fiber-optic network, you'll enjoy lightning-fast upload and download speeds, ensuring that video conferences, large file transfers, and cloud-based applications run seamlessly.

Pulse's Internet, WiFi, TV, and Voice services aren't just about speed; they're about reliability and stability. With 99.95% network uptime you can say goodbye to frustrating outages and lag. Our robust infrastructure is designed to keep you connected, no matter what. Plus with symmetrical (upload speeds and download speeds are the same) connectivity, you can effortlessly multitask, whether you're sharing big files, collaborating on projects, or streaming high-definition content.

Working from home has never been more seamless or more enjoyable. Our community's decision to invest in this cutting-edge technology empowers every work from home professional to thrive in the digital age. With Colorado's Fastest Internet\* you'll experience unparalleled performance, supporting your productivity and success every day.

Find out how Pulse will make your digital life better in every way. Give us a call at 970–541–4990, visit us at our new location at Forge Campus, 815 14th Street SW, Suite C240, available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or online at **PulseFiber.org**.

\*PCMag's Best ISPs 2023



### Loveland's heart of sustainability

The Loveland Recycling Center, 400 N. Wilson Ave., is the heart of sustainability. It is a beacon of environmental stewardship and embodies the community's dedication to responsible waste management practices.

The Recycling Center accepts over 25 different materials. Among some of the lesser-known recyclable items are:

- Hardbound books
- Plastic bags (grocery bags, newspaper bags or dry cleaning bags)
- Bubble wrap
- Porcelain sinks and toilets (free of all non-porcelain hardware)
- Plastic plant containers (intact for reuse, not recycle)
- Clothing and shoes
- · Cooking oil
- Eyewear (prescription glasses or sunglasses)
- American flags (honorably retire your American flags)
- Batteries (any type and undamaged)

Additionally, residents can recycle their TVs, computer monitors, mattresses, and box springs, commercial copiers, wooden pallets, tires, refrigerated appliances and more. Fees may apply to some of these items.



The Recycling Center is open six days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is closed on Mondays for site maintenance and organics grinding operations. The facility is open to everyone, not just Loveland residents.

Visit **lovgov.org/RecyclingCenter** or call **970-962-2529** for a list of acceptable items, recycling events, requirements for drop-offs and costs.

## Seasonal energy rate in effect through October

Summertime, a season of adventure and possibilities, also brings the challenge of rising energy bills. As the temperature soars, so does the energy required to keep our homes and businesses cool. The more we rely on air conditioning, the more strain we put on the electric grid. However, by implementing simple energy-saving measures, we can protect our wallets and stay comfortable during the dog days of summer.

As a responsible energy provider, Loveland Water and Power (LWP) understands the seasonal fluctuations in energy demand. We know that summer brings a surge in electricity usage due to increased AC usage and more people in the home when kids are out of school. We manage the increased demand by slightly increasing our rates to ensure reliable service. These adjustments help us maintain a consistent supply and cover the cost of providing power to our customers.

Residential and commercial customers are subject to seasonal electric rates; the only charge that changes is on consumption or kilowatt hour. The base rate does not change. Residential customers will pay 3.6 cents more per kWh during the summer, and large commercial customers will pay just over a penny more.

LWP regularly evaluates the costs of providing reliable, high-quality water, power and wastewater services and properly maintaining the infrastructure that provides those services. We engage expert rate consultants to review our rates comprehensively every three years. This involves a detailed analysis of the general use of service for each customer group and a comparison with their unique costs. This careful examination of all these rate classes ensures that one customer group does not subsidize another, thereby maintaining fairness in our rates. This thorough process of evaluation and adjustment is a key part of our commitment to transparency and fairness in our rate structure.

**SEASONAL RATES** continued on page 4

12

# The Efficiency Chart's Top 12 Summer Energy Saver Hits

Brought to you by your community #PublicPower rockin' DJs Source: American Public Power Association

000.00	. Attrictically oblice over Accordance
1	CIRCULATION - Cool & The Fan Ceiling and window fans use less energy than ACs.
2	CHANGE ME - The Dirty Filters Clean or replace AC filters regularly to maintain airflow and maximize their efficiency.
3	LOSING MY COOL - Windows + Doors Add/repair weatherstripping or caulk around windows and doors to prevent air leaks.
4	TURN IT UP - Therm.o.stat Program or set to 78° F or higher for when you aren't home and overnight.
5	(DON'T) LET THE SUN SHINE IN - The Shades Keep curtains and blinds closed to block out strong sunlight.
6	ALL ABOUT THAT GRILL (NO OVEN) - The Outdoor Cooks Use your stove and oven sparingly or cook during cooler times of the day.
7	ROOM TO BREATH - Flow H.V.A.C. Clean the area around outdoor AC units and keep in a shaded area, if possible. Don't block the circulation of indoor vents with furniture or other obstructions either.
8	ATTIC BREEZE - Seals & Ducts Check if your attic and walls have proper insulation to keep warm air from coming in. Install a whole house fan to drive hot air out and give your AC a break.
9	COLD WATER WASH - The Laundry Use the washer with full loads on cold and avoid using during hottest part of the day. Hang dry laundry to save more energy and reduce wear and tear on clothes.
10	WRAP ME GENTLY - Water Heater Reduce the temperature on your water heater and wrap with a specially designed blanket. A safe and recommended temperature is 120° F.
11	UPGRADE FROM YOU - New Appliances on the Block Consider upgrading old appliances to energy efficient models.
	THINK ABOUT ME - Before You Buy Band

Check out LWP rebates, programs (including home

efficiency audits) and more at lovewp.org/resident.

**SEASONAL RATES** continued: We propose these rates to the Loveland Utilities Commission, an independent body responsible for reviewing our proposals annually. After their thorough review, they recommend the rates to the Loveland City Council for final approval and adoption.

The cost of supplying electricity changes by the minute. Summer is more expensive, so additional generation sources are added to meet the demand, raising costs for the utility and the customer. However, saving energy doesn't mean you have to do less or sacrifice comfort. It's easier than you think to conserve energy and shrink your utility bills by making a few little tweaks to your activities.

### **Rebate Update**



### **Efficiency Works adding rebates July 1:** We are offering extra rebates

July 1: We are offering extra rebates if you bundle electrification projects like a heat pump and an upgraded electric panel. Additionally, rental properties participating in rebated home upgrades will receive triple the rebate. Please see full terms and conditions at efficiencyworks.org.



Double Toilet Rebates: Purchase a low flow toilet (less than 1.1 gallons per flush for residents or less than 1.28 gallons per flush for business) and receive twice the normal rebate if you apply between July 15 - Nov. 15. Applications must be submitted on ewrebates.com within 45 days of purchase. Please see full terms and conditions at efficiencyworks.org.

Remember, lovewp.org/rebates is where you can find residential rebates on lots of products and appliances.

### **Notices**

**The US 34 and Taft Avenue Intersection Improvement Project** is now underway. The project, which reduces congestion and improves safety and pedestrian/bike access, will also allow Loveland Water and Power access to replace aging waterline infrastructure along Taft Avenue. Expected construction phases for 2024 can be found in the brief below. Funding, maps and details for upcoming detours and project information can be found at **go.lovgov.org/Taft-and-US34**.

### **MIDDLE OF SUMMER 2024**

Phase 1 will include nightwork from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. The Taft Avenue and US 34 intersection will be open to all directions with potential delays.

### **END OF SUMMER 2024**

Phase 2 will close Taft Avenue from US 34 south to 1st Street. Detours necessary except for local access or business access.

### **FALL 2024**

Phase 3 will close single lanes on Taft Avenue from US 34 north to 29th Street.
Detours necessary except for local access

### **SPRING 2025**

Phase 4 will include paving and night work with limited single-lane closures and potential delays.

**Slow the Flow free sprinkler evaluations** are available to residential and HOA customers this summer!

- Reducing your water waste
- Get a custom watering schedule
- Learn about your sprinkler system

SIGN UP at lovewp.org/slow-the-flow or call 303-999-3824.

If you are thinking about upgrading sprinkler equipment, keep in mind we have outdoor water equipment rebates available too!



Main switchboard 970-962-3000

Utility Billing **970-962-2111** 

Website

LovelandWaterAndPower.org