

Longmont *life*

March / April 2009

Your community, your life

Vol. 1, Issue 1

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Mayor's Desk

Communicating with the public is one of many priorities for the Longmont City Council. Mayor Roger Lange explains that the new *Longmont Life* newsletter creates another communication channel for delivering important information to the community. **PAGE 2**

Smart Chart

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Volunteer Here

You can make a difference in our community just like this group from the Longmont Senior Center. Many volunteer opportunities are available. **PAGE 8**

Energy Efficiency

Going Green Can \$ave \$ome Green

Everyone knows that being "green," or adopting environmentally sustainable practices, helps improve our air quality, protects our water resources and reduces our impact on our natural resources. Did you know that going "green" can save you money too?

Planting a food garden can reduce your grocery bill by providing fresh produce all summer long. The simplest efficiency measures for your home or office can typically save at least another \$70 a year, and more significant efficiency measures can save even more.

The City of Longmont's Public Works & Natural Resources Department understands how important it is for residents and businesses to take advantage of these savings. In the current economic situation, going green may be the best investment you can make, and the City of Longmont can help.

This year the City offers several programs that provide educational resources and financial incentives to help people invest in environmentally

sustainable practices that save money. And to highlight the benefits of these programs and to celebrate all of the natural resources, we're combining the Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations into one festival. The event is planned for April 18th at Collyer Park (see story on page 3).

Here are some of the programs offered by the City of Longmont that help residents and businesses reduce their costs and be green:

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Neighborhood Efficiency Sweeps

Each year this program targets two pre-selected low to moderate income neighborhoods. Staff and volunteers, with the cooperation of the neighborhood, go door to door offering educational materials and free devices that improve water and energy efficiency. Contact Longmont Power & Communications (LPC) at 303-651-8386



Celebrate ArborDay/Earth Day April 18 at Collyer Park

to learn how your neighborhood can receive an efficiency sweep.

Residential Energy Audit Program (REAP) audit

LPC has provided subsidized REAP home energy audits since 2006. Over

► **GET MORE GREEN** continued on page 3

Growing Success

Celebrate National Community Development Week

Please join the City of Longmont in celebrating the 2009 National Community Development week April 12-18, 2009.

The City of Longmont is a recipient of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds totaling about \$530,000 annually. The purpose of this celebration is to recognize the positive outcomes from the CDBG funding in Longmont. Our goal is to encourage residents who benefit from the CDBG programs to communicate with their congressional representatives and their locally elected officials the impact this program has had on their lives.

The City's CDBG/Affordable Housing Division works every day to help revitalize low and moderate income neighborhoods and is pleased to be able to celebrate the many programs and partnerships that promote sustainable residential and commercial growth in our city. The result is not only new investment but also a new vitality in Longmont.

► **CELEBRATE CDBG** continued on page 6



LONGMONT LIFE
City of Longmont
350 Kimbark Street
Longmont, CO 80501

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POSTAL PATRON

From City Hall to Your Front Porch

Welcome to the first issue of *Longmont Life* – a newsletter designed to keep the residents of Longmont informed about the policies, strategies, events and services offered by the City of Longmont.

The members of the City Council and I hope that this new addition to the City's lineup of communication strategies will provide you with greater insight into Longmont local government.

We also hope that it enhances the interaction between residents and elected officials and enhances the relationship between Longmont customers and the dedicated public servants who provide all the great services that Longmont residents expect and deserve.

For example, inside the first issue of *Longmont Life* you can read about the many opportunities available for contacting Council Members, where to get help with foreclosure issues, and easy ways to protect the environment.

All of these issues are high on the list of City Council priorities and require that we provide leadership, advice and solutions for the community in an easy-to-read, easy-to-find format – that's why we created *Longmont Life*. As the name denotes, we want this publication to be about government news that will make a difference in your life.

We deliberately chose to make this publication colorful, exciting, interesting and, most of all, informative. We did not think that a typical, boring "government report" would succeed in an era where we are bombarded by thousands of messages every day from TV, the Internet and in print. We wanted to create a communication vehicle that breaks through the clutter and catches the reader's attention. I believe that we have succeeded in that effort.

Some may question why we have chosen to launch this effort during tough budget times. My answer is that the Council places communicating with the public near the top of our priorities—after all, we work as representatives of the Longmont community and it is essential that we maintain clear channels of communication. Yes, we currently communicate with the community with regular coffee chats, town meetings, the Internet, utility billing newsletters and even the media. But we wanted to fill a gap in that lineup with a newsletter that is delivered directly to every Longmont household.

We hope that the newsletter provides the information that you can use to enhance your Longmont Life. ➔



Roger Lange, Mayor

We want this publication to be about government news that will make a difference in your life.

Council Contact

The Longmont City Council offers a variety of opportunities for residents to interact with Council Members outside of the formal setting of Tuesday night meetings:

Coffee with Council is an open forum that is an interactive and informal gathering where residents have an opportunity to speak with two Council Members on any topic. "Coffee with Council" is scheduled for the last Saturday of every month from 9 to 10 a.m. at various coffee shops throughout the city. A complete calendar is available on the city's Web site at www.ci.longmont.co.us.

Town Meetings will focus on topics to be decided by Council in advance, and at least three Council Members will be in attendance. Town meetings are held on the first Saturday of the second month of each quarter. The meetings are scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. and are at various public facilities.

The Mayor and Council Members have an office in the Civic Center, 350 Kimbark St., and are available by appointment. To request an appointment, please call 303-651-8601 and, whenever possible, allow three weeks advance notice for your request.

City Council Members may be reached at the phone numbers or e-mail addresses as listed in *Longmont Life* or by writing to them through the City Clerk's Office at 350 Kimbark Street, Longmont, Colorado, 80501. Letters are forwarded to Council Members every week.

Members of the public are always invited to address City Council at the regularly scheduled Council Meetings and Study Sessions. City Council Meetings are held every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center, Council Chambers at 350 Kimbark

St. (3rd and Kimbark) and broadcast live on (Comcast) cable Channel 3. Council agendas and video archives are also available at www.ci.longmont.co.us.



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Longmont Life

Longmont Life is published six times per year as a news and information source for Longmont residents. All city departments contribute material for use in this publication.

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Longmont Life is distributed six times per year via U.S. mail to all city residents and businesses. Comments on this newspaper format and content are welcome. Please write:

Longmont City Manager's Office
ATTN: Rigo Leal
350 Kimbark St.
Longmont, CO 80501

Or send an e-mail to: cityoflongmont@ci.longmont.co.us

Do you know someone who did not receive this newspaper? Delivery problems should be brought to the attention of the City Manager's Office at 303-651-8601.

¿Le gustaría a usted recibir las noticias de Ciudad de Longmont City Line en español? Llame a la oficina del Administrador de la Ciudad al número 303-651-8601.

Resources

General Information	303-776-6050
Animal Control	303-651-8500
Building Inspection	303-651-8332
Children & Youth Resources	303-651-8580
City Manager/Mayor	303-651-8601
Code Enforcement	303-651-8695
Fire (nonemergency)	303-651-8424
Library	303-651-8470
Longmont Power & Communications	303-651-8386
Municipal Court	303-651-8688
Museum	303-651-8374
Community & Neighborhood Resources	303-651-8444
Parks and Open Space	303-651-8446
Police (nonemergency)	303-651-8501
Recreation Center	303-774-4800
St. Vrain Memorial Building	303-651-8404
Senior Services	303-651-8411
Street Maintenance	303-651-8416
Trash and Recycling	303-651-8416
Utility Billing	303-651-8664
Water/Sewer/Storm Drainage	303-651-8468



Lean, Mean and Green

Make a Difference at Clean-up Green-up

The City's annual Clean-up Green-up Campaign is an opportunity, sponsored by the City of Longmont and the *Times-Call*, for community members to volunteer for the citywide effort to clean up Longmont.

Businesses, schools, neighborhood groups, civic groups, families and individuals all are invited to help spruce up the city. Volunteers can pick a park, greenway, alley or open space to clean up, or an area can be assigned to you.

The kick-off for the month-long campaign is April 4 from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 18 S. Sunset St. Again this year the City will provide coffee, donuts and juice, and, of course, the famous 35-gallon orange garbage bags to get you going. Even if you can't come to the April 4 event, you have through April 30 to complete your clean-up project. As a "thank you," the names of participants will be printed in the *Times-Call* after the clean-up effort ends. **Call Lore Blattner at 303-651-8446 for more information.** ➔

April 4: *Clean-up Green-up Campaign Kick-off* at Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 18 S. Sunset, 7:30 a.m.

April 11: *Large Item Stop-n-Drop.* Bring large, bulky items and other debris for disposal at no charge; for City of Longmont refuse customers only. 375 Airport Road, 303-651-8416.

April 4–May 10: *Portraits of Longmont's Parks: Beauty in the Details.* Photographs by Luc Nadeau on exhibit at the Longmont Museum & Cultural Center. Call 303-651-8374.

April 13–24: *Annual Tree Limb Curbside Pickup.* It's tree trimming time, and the city will help dispose of your tree limbs and branches based on location. For more information, see *City Line* in your March utility bill or call 303-651-8416.

April 15: *Downtown Sweep and Wash.* Wednesday, April 15, between 2nd Ave. and Longs Peak

Ave., merchants will be sweeping off their front and back entryways between 7 a.m. and noon.

A City sweeper will sweep the alleys after noon on April 15 and on Main St. in the early morning hours of Friday, April 17. Call Denise Crosby at 303-651-8484.

April 18: *Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration* in Collyer Park, 6th Avenue and Collyer St., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Get a taste of what a professional arborist does. Climb a tree, take a bucket truck ride, or have fun with some challenging rope activities. There will be trees and rose bushes for sale, prizes, balloons, live music, and lunch for only \$1. Learn how to reduce your impact on the environment – and your utility bill – by taking advantage of the City's environmental programs.

Boulder County volunteer naturalists also will present an

exploration of our area's life zones on a living map. Call City Forester Ken Wicklund at 303-651-8449. Rain date is the following Saturday, April 25.

April 18: *Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream Symposium,* 9 a.m. to noon, Longmont Senior Center. Explore global issues such as climate change, biodiversity and economic crisis, and consider how we can all work to create a better future. \$25 resident/\$30 nonresident. Call 303-651-8411.

April 24: *Global Warming,* 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Longmont Senior Center. Join Active Minds® for an in-depth look at the science and politics of global warming. Examine how the future may unfold under various scenarios, and look at global warming from an international policy perspective. Call 303-651-8411.

Please Join Us!

Get More Green from page 1

87 REAP audits have been completed, with 60 audits budgeted in both 2009 and 2010. Audits are scheduled through the Center For ReSource Conservation at 303-999-3820, ext. 224.

Sprinkler audits

City of Longmont Water Utility customers are encouraged to take advantage of free inspections of their underground sprinkler systems being offered this summer. Residents will receive customized recommendations on how long to water as well as how to increase system efficiency. Inspections will be conducted June through August, on a first come, first served basis and are intended for turf areas only.

The sprinkler inspection program is provided in partnership with the Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC).

Participants water use data will be released to CRC for analysis purposes.

For inspections, call CRC at 303-999-3820 ext. 217, or visit www.conservationcenter.org.

Residential Efficiency Improvement Matching Grants

The Residential Efficiency Improvement Matching Grant enhances existing financial incentives and creates new ones for residents who implement major energy and water efficiency measures in their homes. By offering greater financial incentives, the cost to the resident is reduced and more efficiency measures will be implemented.

Xeriscape seminars

In partnership with the City of Longmont, the Center for ReSource Conservation will host free seminars to Longmont residents on how to successfully use water-wise landscaping techniques. Past topics have ranged from design, installation and renovation of xeriscapes, to plant selection and efficient irrigation.

Seminars are two hours and are free and open to the public. Water-Wise Landscaping Seminars to be held the week of April 6, 2009.

For more information please visit the Center for ReSource Conservation's Web site at www.conservationcenter.org or call 303-999-3820, ext. 217

Garden in a box

The City of Longmont has partnered with the Center for ReSource Conservation, to offer a simple solution for gardens suited for Colorado's arid climate.

Choose from three affordable pre-planned Xeriscape gardens designed by well-respected local designers. Each garden includes a planting plan, 30 or more plants and some helpful tips about Xeriscape gardening. Prices range from \$65 to \$120 per garden.

For details, please call the Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC) at 303-999-3820, ext. 217, or view details and order online at www.conservationcenter.org. Plants will be available for pickup in May and must be preordered and prepaid.

COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS

Call LPC at 303-651-8386 for more information on any of these programs.

LDDA Small Business Audit Program

The LDDA Small Business Audit Program enables businesses in Longmont's downtown area to reduce their energy use and carbon footprint. This program is a collaboration between the Longmont Downtown Development Authority (LDDA), Longmont Power & Communications, and Platte River Power Authority (PRPA).

Free energy audits will be provided to the businesses along with financial incentives for energy efficiency improvements provided by LPC, PRPA and the City of Longmont. This program provides individual assistance to the business or property owner during all stages of the project, from first contact to project implementation.

PACE EnergySmart

LPC is partnering with Boulder County and the City of Boulder to offer the PACE EnergySmart for Business Program to help small businesses improve energy efficiency, promote utility rebates and promote the use of renewable energy. Small businesses generally occupy building spaces of less than 10,000 sq. ft.

The program offers *free* services for small businesses in Longmont. These services include a building energy assessment, which consists of a walkthrough of the business analyzing the main energy uses, including lighting, heating and cooling. Following the walkthrough, an assessment report is produced that identifies energy retrofit opportunities, costs and savings estimates, a prioritized implementation plan, and information about applicable utility rebates.

Commercial Efficiency Matching Grant Program

The Commercial Efficiency Matching Grant Program leverages existing energy and water efficiency incentive programs available to Longmont commercial customers.

This matching grant program will help businesses pay the remaining capital cost of the project after incentives are paid. A cap on matching grant funds awarded per customer project is set at \$5,000, or with combined incentives and matching grant funds not to exceed 70% of total project costs. ➔



Renewable energy alternatives, such as wind, not only make environmental sense, they also make business sense.

Reorganization Designed for 21st Century

Continuous improvement has been the motto of Longmont City services for many years and is reflected in a new organizational chart revealed earlier this year.

Simply put, the City is aligning the organization for a sustainable future for the long run. Since 2002, City revenues to sustain existing services have not been keeping pace with the increasing costs to provide them.

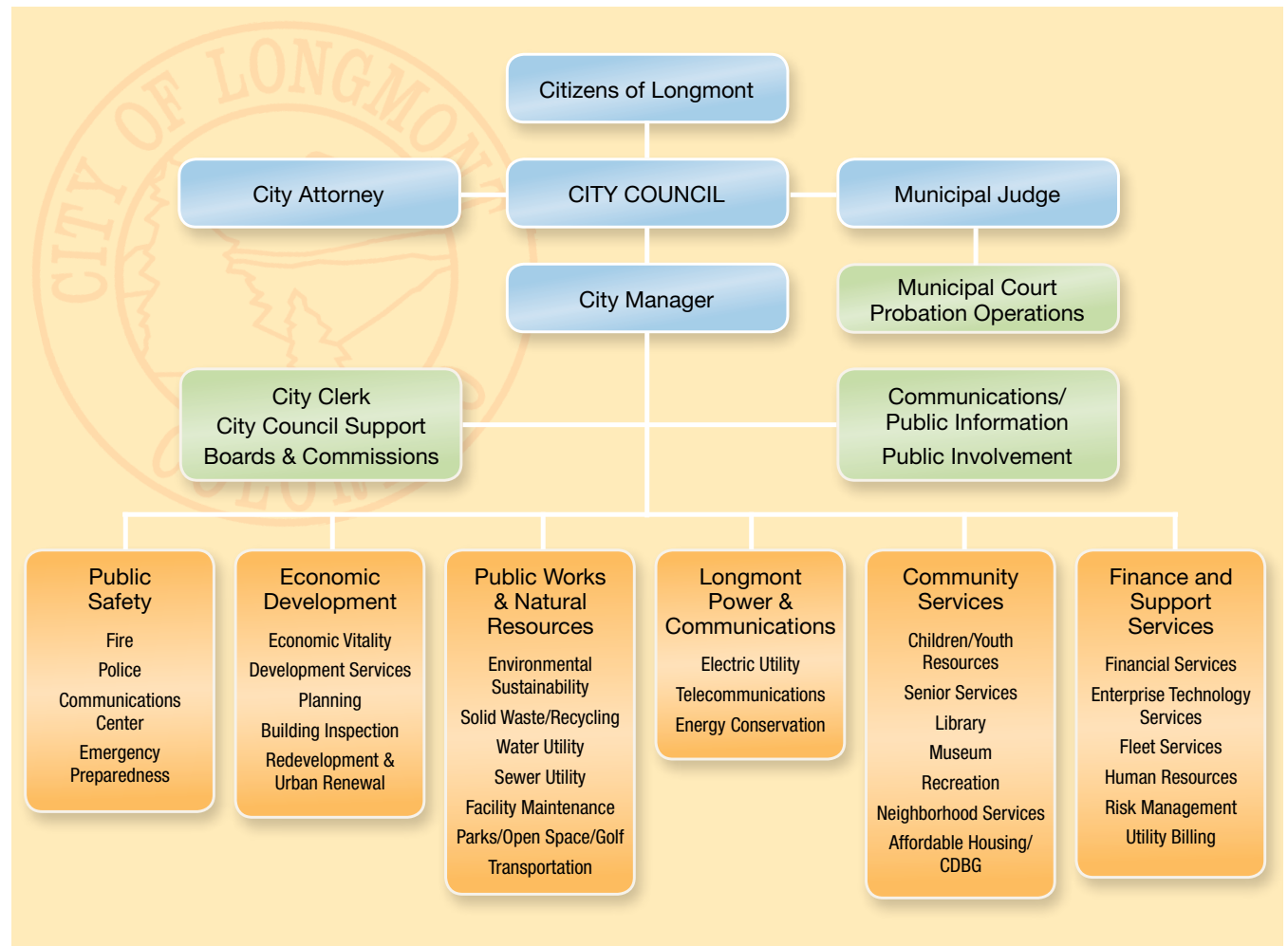
During the past several years the City has reduced expenditures, deferred hirings, operational and capital expenses and reduced certain service levels. This is not a sustainable way to operate a Citywide organization and serve this community. Given the current and forecasted economic climate, the City organization must be aligned to most efficiently and effectively provide municipal services to Longmont residents now and in the future. (See Budget Update.)

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY ALIGNMENT CHANGES?

The organizational alignment provides an opportunity to streamline and align City departments based on their affinities and possible efficiencies. The new alignment also allows managers to focus on current City Council and community priorities and the Focus on Longmont strategic plan, including economic development, and environmental stewardship and communication, while remaining flexible into the future as priorities change.

The changes in the **Community Development Department** have been made to provide the needed focus on economic development and redevelopment as Longmont approaches build out. The Department is now the **Economic Development Department** and includes economic vitality, planning and development services, building inspection, urban renewal, and redevelopment services.

The divisions that have a focus on the natural environment and conservation—**Parks, Open Space, and Facilities Maintenance**—have been aligned together in **Public Works & Water Utilities**. This department's new name is **Public Works & Natural Resources**.



In order to better identify the importance of internal support functions, the **Finance Department** has been renamed **Finance and Support Services**. The **Human Resources Division** has moved to this department to take advantage of the natural affinities with Risk and Payroll that are part of those internal support services.

Courts and Probation staff now report directly to the **Municipal Judge** similar to the alignment in the City Attorney's office, the other Council-appointed position.

With redistribution of these administration functions, there is a better ability to focus on Council support, communication efforts, and community involvement, all of which are critical to our future success. The **City Clerk's Office** will enhance its focus on Council support, official record keeping and overseeing the election and campaign reporting processes. The **City Manager's staff** will focus on communications and community involvement efforts. Both areas will continue to support citywide special projects and initiatives as needed in the City of Longmont organization. ➔

Budget Update

With sales and use tax being the primary source of revenue for the City, and with the current economic recession, the Finance staff projects a possible decline in revenue that could range from 8% to 11%.

If they hold through 2009, these new sales and use tax projections would have significant impacts on the budgets of the General Fund, the Public Improvement Fund, the Streets Fund, the Open Space Fund, and the Public Safety Fund. All five of these funds share in a portion of the sales and use tax revenue. This range of sales and use tax activity could result in a shortfall of \$6 million to \$7.5 million of sales and use tax revenue.

The City's General Fund, which provides services such as fire, parks, economic development, library and museum, could potentially be the hardest hit.

GENERAL FUND

In order to begin to plan for the potential shortfall in the General Fund, the City Manager has instituted a hiring freeze except when necessary for critical services. There are currently 18 vacant positions in the General Fund and we project these vacancies will save up to \$750,000. In addition, discretionary budgets will be limited or frozen limiting supplies, services and out-of-state travel. Finally the City Manager has recommended that \$1.13 million of budgeted one-time expenses for 2009 be deferred at this time.

While we will closely monitor revenues each month we should have a better idea sometime in the second quarter of whether the revised projections are realistic. In addition to the steps above that the City Manager has already taken the City Council can choose to institute later in the year one or more of the following measures when appropriate to balance 2009 expenditures and revenues in the General Fund:

- Use fund balances from either the General Fund or the Health Benefits Fund.
- Institute one or more mandatory furlough days or voluntary furlough days.
- Make across-the-board pay reductions.
- Reduce services.

These actions identified above are aimed only at dealing with a revenue shortfall in 2009. At their annual retreat in January the City Council directed staff to initiate a new prioritization budget process for 2010 and beyond that should be complete by the end of the second quarter and could be a resource if service reductions become necessary.

Citizen participation will be solicited in this process to help determine the relative priorities in the community against which the various City services would be prioritized. **If you have an interest in being involved in this process please call Tammy Bality at 303-651-8622.** ➔

Simply put, the City is aligning the organization for a sustainable future.

State of the Art

Paper, Polar Bears and Parks on Exhibit at Museum

Jennifer Falck Linssen: Beyond Katagami

Currently on view through March 22 at the Longmont Museum are stunning paper sculptures by Erie, Colorado, artist Jennifer Falck Linssen. Her work is inspired by Japanese katagami, paper stencils used in katazome fabric printing. Trained in katazome printing, Linssen found herself drawn to the stencils used to create it. She began experimenting with turning two-dimensional stencils into three-dimensional forms. Her work evolved into sculptural katagami. Each piece is hand carved from heavy paper, then folded, woven and stitched to produce the final form.



"Waltz" (detail) by JF Linssen, 2008

The Museum is open every day except Monday, and is located at 400 Quail Road in Longmont. Call 303-651-8374 for more information.

The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World

Reports of thinning Arctic ice are growing increasingly alarming and raise the specter of serious climate change. Could it mean the end of the polar bear, too? Arctic photographer Steven Kazlowski has explored this very question in partnership with the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture at the University of Washington. The result is a new exhibit, *The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World*, which begins its national tour at the Longmont Museum through April 5, 2009. Call the Museum at 303-651-8374 for more information.



Mother bear and cub by Steven Kazlowski/www.lefteyepro.com

Kaslowski's photographs explore the lives and habitats of the powerful and elegant, yet seemingly winsome, polar bear. Through Kazlowski's images, the curators of the Burke Museum bring home the very harsh reality that declining Arctic ice will bring with it very real consequences, not just for the polar bears but for all of us.

The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World has been organized by the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Seattle, and Braided River, the conservation imprint of The Mountaineers Books.

Portraits of Longmont's Parks

Longmont photographer Luc Nadeau has captured every park in Longmont through the lens of his camera. He focused on details – sunrise through a pine tree at Lanyon Park, a dragonfly in the grass at Left Hand Creek, geese on a winter morning at Roger's Grove, to present a portrait of 34 parks in Longmont.



His color and black and white photographs will be on exhibit at the Longmont Museum from April 4 to May 10, 2009.

A companion book "Portraits of Longmont's Parks: Beauty in the Details," featuring Nadeau's photographs, will be available from the Museum Store and from the Parks Department. The Museum is located in south Longmont, at 400 Quail Road across from the Longmont Recreation Center. Call 303-651-8374 for more information. ➤



(Above) Dragonfly Sunrise, Left Hand Creek, by Luc Nadeau, 2007

(Left) Geese in the Mist, Roger's Grove, by Luc Nadeau, 2007

Happy Campers

Kids Summer Programs

SUMMER CAMPS

Public registration begins March 17 (members registration begins March 10) for the Longmont Museum's popular summer camps in history, science, and art. Jump into Colorado's early days with our Searchers, Seekers, and Settlers camp, mix it up in the Mixed Media Mania art camp, build a tipi in the Plains Indian Journeys camp, and have a blast with a variety of science camps from CU Science Discovery. For more information, visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/museum, or call 303-651-8374.



Two boys having fun at last year's Life in Ponds and Streams camp



A highlight of Plains Indians camp is this large tipi on the Museum lawn

AFTER-SCHOOL CLASSES

Register today for spring after-school science classes at the Longmont Museum. New class offerings brought to you from the Denver Zoo, Butterfly Pavilion, and Science from CU. Call 303-651-8374, visit the Museum at 400 Quail Road for a class brochure, or visit our Web site at www.ci.longmont.co.us/museum.

FREE STUFF FOR KIDS TO DO AT THE MUSEUM

The Longmont Museum is a great place to spend an afternoon. Kids can play a Cheyenne trading game, create a prehistoric tool box, ring the Burlington School bell, solve the Sweet Beet Puzzle, play a water table game, use a digital microscope, dress up in costumes, play Longmont board games, discover the moon rock, and much more! The Museum is open 9 to 5 Tuesday–Saturday, 1 to 5 on Sundays, and until 8 p.m. on Wednesday nights. Admission is free.



Longmont Museum & Cultural Center

Photo by Bark! Multimedia.

FUN IN THE SUN!

Recreation Services Summer Day Camp offers a variety of camps. The camps are geared for children ages 6 to 12 years and are located at the St. Vrain Memorial Building in Roosevelt Park.

Swimming, field trips, games, crafts and more keep your child entertained in a safe and fun atmosphere. Summer Camp registration begins April 14.

Here is a sample of recreation offerings:

- Outdoor camps
- Nature
- Art Camps
- Fitness Groups
- Science Camps

For more information visit the web site at www.ci.longmont.co.us/rec or call 303-651-8404. ➤



Splash Down

Learn to Swim and Survive

Water familiarization classes build confidence and introduce children to basic water safety. Recreation Services offers swim lessons for all ages and abilities! Sunset Pool (outdoor), Centennial Pool (indoor), the Recreation Center (indoor) and both of the Activity Pools offer a variety of times and sessions. Learning to swim is a vital skill for all ages, especially children. Ensuring that your child receives quality teaching is important because learning to swim is a skill for life. Having your child 'Learn to Swim' by a qualified teacher will ensure they are provided with appropriate skills. However, water familiarization is no substitute for adult supervision. Remember, always keep watch when children are in and around water. Call Recreation Services at 303-651-8406 for more information. ➤

Local Agencies Provide Foreclosure Assistance

It can be terrifying and overwhelming to think about losing your home. Longmont has experienced one of the highest foreclosure rates in Boulder County with 596 homes starting the foreclosure process and 311 homes going all the way through foreclosure in 2008. With the economy continuing to struggle, many more households may face the possibility of losing their homes. However, there are resources available to help homeowners through this difficult process.

The City contracts and works closely with the Boulder County Housing Counseling Program, a service of the Boulder County Housing Authority, to educate homeowners on the alternatives to foreclosure. These housing counselors have extensive experience with banks on the alternatives to foreclosure for homeowners facing difficulties, such as loan modification or loan forbearance, where the lender may accept partial payments for a short period of time and then institute a repayment plan. A counselor can help define what options are available and help homeowners identify realistic solutions.

“Early intervention is key when trying to avoid foreclosure,” says Tonja Ahijevych, Housing Counseling Coordinator with the Boulder County Housing Counseling Program. “The good news is, families can take steps toward preventing foreclosure, and there are resources available within the community to help.”

The housing counseling program is located in the new City Development Services Building at 385 Kimbark Street. Counseling services are free of charge, confidential, and available in Spanish. **To schedule**

Contacts

Boulder County Housing Counseling Program – 720-564-2279, www.bouldercountyhc.org. Provides free and confidential foreclosure prevention and financial counseling to Longmont, Boulder County, and Broomfield County residents.

Colorado Foreclosure Hotline for services outside of Boulder and Broomfield Counties at 1-877-601-HOPE or www.coloradoforeclosurehotline.org.

Boulder County Public Trustee's Office 303-443-3636, www.bouldercountyptr.org. Provides information on foreclosures that have been filed in Boulder County. This office does not provide legal advice on foreclosures.

Weld County Public Trustee's Office 970-352-4365, www.wcpto.com. Provides information on foreclosures that have been filed in Weld County. This office does not provide legal advice on foreclosures.

Federal Trade Commission www.ftc.gov. Offers educational resources on a range of consumer issues, including mortgages, foreclosure, and credit.

Educational Seminars

Seminars are taught by the Boulder County Housing Counseling Program. For more information, or to register visit www.bouldercountyhc.org or call 720-564-2279.

Foreclosure Prevention Seminar
Wednesday, March 25, 6 to 7 p.m.
Longmont Public Library, Rooms A & B
409 4th Avenue, Longmont
No registration necessary

Banking Secrets Revealed
Monday, March 16, 1 to 3 p.m.
Workforce Boulder County
1500 Kansas Ave., #4d, Longmont
Registration deadline: March 13

Check It Out!
Wednesday, March 18, 1 to 3 p.m.
Workforce Boulder County
1500 Kansas Ave., #4d, Longmont
Registration deadline: March 16

Out of Hock, Out of Debt
Monday, March 23, 1 to 3 p.m.
Workforce Boulder County
1500 Kansas Ave., #4d, Longmont
Registration deadline: March 20

Financial Fitness
April 7, 14, 21, 18
Tuesday evenings: 6 to 8 p.m.
St. Vrain Complex
529 Coffman St., Longmont
St. Vrain Conference Room
Registration deadline: April 3

Community Resources

These resources do not provide assistance for foreclosure prevention, but may be able to offer other assistance to struggling households.

OUR Center – 303-772-5529, www.ourcenter.org helps families and individuals regain and maintain self-sufficiency.

LEAP – 1-866-432-8435, helps with monthly utility bills for income qualified households.

Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services – 303-441-1000, provides an array of services to qualified households in Boulder County.

Boulder County Housing Authority – 303-441-3929, administers affordable rental programs for qualified households in Boulder County.

Longmont Housing Authority – 303-651-8581, administers affordable rental programs for qualified households in the city of Longmont.

City of Longmont Affordable Housing Programs – 303-651-8530, provides a list of affordable rental units and for-sale homes in Longmont and offers down payment assistance.

Weld County Department of Social Services – 970-352-1551, provides an array of services to qualified households in Weld County.

an appointment with a housing counselor, please call 720-564-2279.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Families and individuals in crisis are more vulnerable and often fall prey to scams. There are companies that “guarantee” that they can get

anyone out of foreclosure – for a fee, paid upfront.

However, agencies that are certified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) do not charge for their services. The Boulder County Housing Counseling Program is one of the referred programs for

Boulder and Broomfield Counties. The Colorado Foreclosure Hotline, 1-877-601-HOPE, also offers referrals for foreclosure prevention counseling agencies throughout Colorado. With free, unbiased options available, no one should have to pay for foreclosure help. ➔

Happy Homes

Housing Rehab Grants Improve Living Conditions

The City of Longmont's Housing Rehabilitation Programs are here to assist qualifying, low-income individuals and families with their home repair needs.

The funds available through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the City of Longmont Affordable Housing Fund can help income-eligible homeowners put a better roof over their head, make their home safer or make their home accessible. This is a great opportunity to improve a family's quality of life and create a long-term impact on their neighborhood.

Call Molly McElroy at 303-651-8530 or e-mail molly.mcelroy@ci.longmont.co.us

Celebrate CDBG from page 1

The City of Longmont uses leveraged funds from city and federal grants to offer a broad array of services either directly or in partnership with other organizations, such as:

- **The Boulder County Down Payment Assistance Program** provides low-income families with low-interest or deferred loans to purchase homes for first time home buyers. For more information visit <http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/cdbg/housing/dpa.htm> or call Molly at 303-651-8530.

- **Village Place Rehab Project** located on the 600 block of Main Street in Longmont has 72 apartments



Village Place

for seniors 62 years of age and older. CDBG funds were used to help the Longmont Housing Authority purchase the complex converting it from market-rate housing to affordable, then a \$1 million renovation was completed in 2007.

- **The Housing First Pilot Program** housed 25 homeless families over 24 months, all of whom received supportive services on a 24/7 basis. Selected families were housed and worked with case managers from five different agencies to develop a Family

Improvement Plan. Since the pilot, the Longmont Housing Authority has leased 10 studio units at the Briarwood Apartments to agencies that assist the homeless as part of the Housing First Program and the City will issue another 10 vouchers under the program in 2009.

- **The Boulder County Housing Counseling Program** provides Longmont residents with homeownership training, one-on-one prepurchase budgeting sessions, and post purchase training and classes. Call 720-564-2279 for Foreclosure Prevention assistance, or check out the Web site at www.bouldercounty.org/cs/ho/counseling/
- **The Kensington Park** project constructed four new pedestrian bridges across Spring Gulch allowing for greater access to both sides of the park by neighborhood residents and other park users.
- **The Inn Between Playground** project using CDBG funds turned a parking area into a playground for the children of the Inn Between transitional housing units located on Terry Street.

For more information please contact Tracy DeFrancesco at 303-774-4445 or tracy.defrancesco@ci.longmont.co.us ➔

Sound Advice

Seek Shelter When Siren Sounds

The Outdoor Emergency Warning System (OEWS) consists of a series of public address speakers installed on top of poles located throughout the city. Other than for testing, the system will be used only to notify the community when immediate action should be taken. The sirens are OUTDOOR warning sirens and are designed to be heard OUTDOORS, but you may hear a siren inside if you are near a siren location. The system is radio controlled by the Longmont Emergency Communications Center and operates on solar charged batteries. The system remains functional even in the event of a power failure or when phone lines are down.

If you hear the sirens, and it is not the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m., seek shelter immediately and tune in to local media for detailed information. Any local television station and 850 KOA (AM) radio are good choices.

Please DO NOT CALL 911 following an OEWS activation unless you have an emergency. During disaster situations, it is critical to keep the 911 lines available for citizens who require immediate assistance.

The OEWS can be activated as a whole system, or just in part to target a specific portion of the city. It also has a public address capability that can be used.

The OEWS is only one of the ways that citizens can be warned of an emergency. We also have an emergency callback system that can be activated for any geographic area of the city. This system will only call "land lines" that are tied to a physical address and cannot contact cell phones or VOIP (voice over Internet protocol) phones. We also have the ability to broadcast on the City cable network (Channels 3 and 16). These combine to give the city a robust emergency warning system that will allow us to contact as many people as possible.

The City also launched an email-based service called e-alert. Although this system is not intended for emergency notification, City personnel can use it to send email messages directly to subscribers with late-breaking updates on issues such as West Nile virus, traffic street closures, City Council news and several other categories.

Businesses should have emergency plans in place for all disasters. If your business needs assistance in preparing a plan, feel free to contact the City of Longmont Risk Management at 303-651-8720. **For additional information, call the City of Longmont office of emergency management at 303-651-8438 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.** ↗

The Longmont Outdoor Emergency Warning System is tested on the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m., April through August.

Local Beat

Police beat managers

Visit <http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/police/departments/beatmap.htm> for a detailed beat map.

- MCINTOSH – 1**
Sgt. Paul Campbell, 303-651-8877
- GARDEN ACRES – 2**
Sgt. Jim Bundy, 303-651-8878
- LOOMILLER – 3**
Sgt. Sean Harper, 303-651-8734
- HORIZON – 4**
Sgt. Jesse Buchholtz, 303-651-8870
- LANYON – 5**
Sgt. Dave Moore, 303-774-4552
- UTE CREEK – 6**
Sgt. Jim Sawinska, 303-651-8876
- CENTENNIAL – 7**
Sgt. Sean Harper, 303-651-8734
- ROTHROCK – 8**
Sgt. Matt Cage, 303-651-8862
- KENSINGTON – 9**
Sgt. Chris Schmad, 303-651-4839
- DOWNTOWN – 10**
Sgt. Jesse Buchholtz, 303-651-8870
- SUNSET – 11**
Sgt. Garrett Boden, 303-651-8875
- SOUTHMOOR – 12**
Sgt. Dave Terrell, 303-651-8874
- TWIN PEAKS – 13**
Sgt. Dave Terrell, 303-651-8874
- CLOVER BASIN – 14**
Sgt. Eric Lewis, 303-651-4551
- TRAFFIC UNIT**
Sgt. Mike Bell 303-651-8870

- SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**
- Silver Creek High School**
MPO Jerry Carnes, 303-651-8857
- Longmont High School**
MPO Bobby Garcia, 303-651-8510
- Skyline High School**
MPO Craig Mansanares, 303-651-8577
- Clearview, Longs Peak, MS, Westview MS**
MPO Kathy Sanner, 303-651-8511
- Heritage MS, Trail Ridge MS**
Officer Sandie Taylor, 303-651-8305
- Altona MS, Sunset MS**
MPO Pierce, 303-651-8447
- GANG UNIT**
Sgt. Jason Pitts
303-651-8872

MOST WANTED WEBSITE
<http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/police/crimeupdate/mostwanted.htm>

Car Care

Crimes Of Opportunity

What is a crime of opportunity? It consists of three elements: opportunity, desire, and ability. These crimes include auto theft and burglaries in which property is made easily available to a criminal. While you can't impact what someone like this will do, you can often prevent an opportunity.

Thieves seek situations that allow quick access to your valuables and do not consume much time. Statistics indicate that thieves spend no longer than 60 seconds attempting access. In 2008, in Longmont, 65% of car break-ins were unlocked vehicles.

Here are a few more tips to help keep you and your property safe:

- Lock your car and close the windows, even if you are gone only for a few minutes, and even if it is in your driveway.
- Don't leave unattended property, such as bicycles, outside your residence.
- Be sure the outside doors of your home or business have strong deadbolt locks.
- Keep spare keys with a trusted neighbor not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.
- Don't leave vehicles running unoccupied.
- Lock gates, garage doors, and shed doors after every use.
- Do not store valuables (e.g. purses, wallets, CDs) in your unlocked vehicle in a garage.
- Set timers on lights when you're away from home or your business is closed so it appears to be occupied.
- Keep your bike and sports equipment inside the house, or locked, when they are not in use.
- When leaving a vehicle in a public space, lock your purse/wallet and packages out of sight in the car's trunk.
- Know who belongs in your neighborhood and report suspicious parties to police immediately.
- Keep your house well lit at night to discourage would-be burglars.
- Keep records of serial numbers for valuables such as stereos, bicycles and sports equipment.
- Talk to your neighbors and look out for one another.

Remember that most crimes are crimes of opportunity. Don't make it easy for criminals to take advantage of you!

For further information, please call 303-774-4440. ↗

One bite. One life changed forever. Protect yourself.

West Nile Virus can strike anyone of any age. And one out of five who are infected will suffer a debilitating illness that can last a lifetime. Worse yet, some will actually lose their life. Take action and protect yourself all summer.

For more information call the West Nile Virus Hotline at 303.441.1460. Or visit www.bouldercountymosquito.net.

Remember the four Ds:

- Use DEET-enhanced insect repellent. (2% soy-based, organic products also available.)
- DRESS in long sleeves and pants.
- Avoid the outdoors from DUSK to DAWN.
- DRAIN standing water outside your home.



BOULDER COUNTY
Public Health

Volunteer Here

Longmont Community Learning Center Wins Award



Volunteers come in many shapes, sizes and ages. There is no better example than the all-volunteer force at the Longmont Senior Center who teach computer basics to their peers.

This all-volunteer team provides the teaching and coaching, defines the new curriculum, writes manuals, and conducts outreach. There currently are 65 volunteers serving more than 300 members. These individuals contribute over 900 hours of service per month. More than 75 students attend courses and workshops each month and over 40 students per month attend the weekly free lab.

Last year, the center was presented with the award for Exemplary Learning organization from the National SeniorNet Association. The staff and board of directors of SeniorNet were especially impressed with the organized and dedicated leadership team... and its high level of professionalism.

The goals of each Learning Center are:

- To educate seniors about computer technologies in a warm and friendly environment;
- To encourage lifelong learning and the progression along a pathway from computer literacy to fluency to mastery;
- To take part in the SeniorNet community of computer-using seniors; and
- To provide outreach to a wider community, contributing to society by providing assistance to others and showcasing the contributions of seniors.

For more information on SeniorNet classes call 303-651-8411. Volunteers really do make a difference. Help make a difference in Longmont ... volunteer! ➔

The City of Longmont has many volunteer opportunities. Visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/volunteer.htm, or call 303-651-8609 to find out where your interests and skills are the best fit.

Community Access

Give the Gift of Mobility

One of the greatest needs as we age is mobility. A loss of mobility is not just a loss of convenience, but for many it is the loss of necessity. Last year RSVP of Boulder County received hundreds of calls from folks who could not get their transportation needs met. RSVP, in partnership with other non-profit special transportation providers, took action and created "Medical Mobility" to provide escorted rides to medical appointments for seniors and adults with disabilities.

Renee, age 94, has weathered the deaths of family and friends, but has stayed mobile and fiercely independent through the program. Currently there are hundreds of seniors and adults with disabilities in Longmont, just like Renee on fixed incomes and wanting to stay secure, independent and living in their own homes for as long as possible.

Volunteering as an RSVP driver is one of the most rewarding and flexible ways to give back to the Longmont community and help people like Renee. Our volunteers use their own cars to take seniors and adults with disabilities to their important medical appointments, often when there is no other way for them to get there. Volunteers select their own schedules and availability, helping from once a month to a few times a week! We know how valuable volunteers are to the community, so we will help cover the cost of gas and provide supplemental liability insurance.

RSVP of Boulder County is a local non-profit organization dedicated to serving the senior community. RSVP also provides free weekly grocery shopping and delivery throughout Boulder County, and can help with home repairs, provide cost-saving energy kits, and install new digital television converter boxes. Please join us in helping make this a community where we can all age well! ➔

Landlord-Tenant Forum

April 23, 2009; 6 to 8:30 p.m. – Longmont City Council Chambers

Nuisance Properties In Longmont
Police and Code Enforcement Perspectives
6 to 7:30 p.m.

Just what is a "nuisance property?" Commander Tim Lewis of the Longmont Police Department and Longmont Code Enforcement Officers Michelle Cogswell and Jon Allen will answer all your questions.

Don't Let The Bed Bugs Bite
by David James
PhD candidate in entomology, CSU, and owner of James Pest Control
7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Bed bugs have become a huge issue in the last several years. They are easy to get and difficult to get rid of. David James, a PhD candidate in entomology at CSU and the owner of James Pest Control, will give a presentation on bed bug control in homes, apartment buildings, motels and hotels.

Use It Or...

RTD Considers Cutting call-n-Ride

Longmont's call-n-Ride service has won a temporary reprieve from the budget-cutting axe based on falling sales tax revenue. But if ridership does not improve during 2009, the service could be lost altogether.

The City of Longmont recently contributed \$10,000 from the shelter advertising fund to help preserve the service, but this is only a temporary fix. If RTD officials do not see ridership increases, there is not much more the City can do to help.

Call-n-Ride is curb-to-curb transportation service that takes you anywhere you want to go within a designated service area. For a cost of \$2 for adults and \$1 for ages 65 and over, you can use call-n-Ride to get to work, school, or shopping or to connect with other RTD bus routes.

call-n-Ride Hours of Operation (until May 3, 2009)

- Monday – Friday 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sunday, Holidays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

After May 3, 2009, the weekday hours of operation will be changed to:

- Monday – Friday 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Weekends will not see service changes in May.

Call **303-994-3551 for Zone A** call-n-Ride reservations (areas generally west of Main St)

Call **303-994-3552 for Zone B** call-n-Ride reservations (areas generally east of Main St.)

For more information about the services provided by call-n-Ride, please check out the City's web site at www.ci.longmont.co.us/planning/trans/documents/regtransp_district.pdf ➔

Do You Have a Car?

Do you want to help seniors and adults with disabilities get to medical appointments?

Become a volunteer driver with RSVP of Boulder County's Medical Mobility program!

FLEXIBLE: You decide your volunteer schedule from every week to once a month.

REWARDING: Give someone the gift of comfort and security when they need it most. Last month's demand for rides increased by almost 50%.

FUN: Be a part of over 1,000 volunteers in the community. Meet new friends, and join us at special volunteer gatherings and parties.

SMART: Volunteer with us and we'll help cover the cost of gas, as well as provide supplemental insurance.

Call RSVP at 303-443-1933, or visit us at www.rsvpboulder.org for volunteer applications and service request forms.

Give the gift of mobility!