

Longmont *life*

January/February 2012

Your community, your life

Vol. 4, Issue 1



An informational newsletter
for Longmont residents.

Rail Ride

Opinions sought on transit
terminal. **PAGE 3**



Fantastic Fitness

Longmont rec facilities rock.
PAGE 4

Tax Time

Find local tax prep help.
PAGE 5

Techno Tracker

Satellite system tracks travel.
PAGE 6

Smoke Alarms

Answers to common
questions.
PAGE 7



Phone It In

Attend a Town Hall Meeting in Your Pajamas?

In November, more than 180 community members attended six community conversations to brainstorm ideas for the future direction of Longmont. Hundreds of exciting ideas were generated at that time, and now it is the community's turn to weigh in on some of them.



On February 16 at 7 pm, the City of Longmont will host its first telephone town hall meeting, and you're invited to participate. The purpose of this meeting is for the community to provide input on strategies being proposed for inclusion in the City's Focus on Longmont strategic plan update. Your feedback will be considered by the Longmont City Council as they finalize actions to support Longmont's strategic directions over the next five years. The five strategic direction categories, as determined by the first *Focus on Longmont* process in 2005, are:

- 1 Promote a Healthy Business Climate
- 2 Support Education as a Communitywide Value
- 3 Enhance the Natural Environment
- 4 Focus on Downtown
- 5 Promote a Sense of Community and Cultural Inclusion

While the meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers at 350 Kimbark Street for those who would like to attend in person, there will be a new twist – calls also will be made to all residents of Longmont, inviting you to participate. There will be a short presentation on each strategic direction, a time for questions, and then polling questions that you can answer in person or on the phone using your telephone keypad.

Whether you are a student, working parent or retired, City staff is making it easy for you and all community members to be involved in your local government. The City will call you at your home so all you need to do is answer your phone and contribute your ideas. (You also can call in to the meeting at 1-888-886-6603, ext. 17764#.) Even if you're at your kitchen table with your family, in your living room or in your pajamas, we invite you to answer our call and participate in this important conversation that will help set the direction for Longmont's future.

For more information on the Focus on Longmont strategic plan, please call the City Manager's Office at 303-651-8601 or visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/focus.

Speak Up

Open Forum Offers Chance to Talk to Council

january

tuesday

17

The Longmont City Council invites the community to participate in an open forum with council members on Tuesday, January 17,

at 7 pm in the City Council Chambers at 350 Kimbark St. This will replace the regular city council meeting and has no agenda other than to listen to voices from the community. This is an opportunity for Longmont residents to engage in a positive, informal dialogue with city council about any current issues or future opportunities they see for Longmont. For more information contact city council members directly (see page 2) or the City Manager's Office at 303-651-8601.

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LONGMONT CO
PERMIT NO 19

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

YOU BELONG on an ADVISORY BOARD!

Please check the boards, committees, and commissions
vacancy page periodically to view new vacancies at
www.ci.longmont.co.us/boards/vacancy.htm.

City Launches Shop Longmont Campaign

The City's Shop Longmont campaign was a big success with more than 30 local businesses participating in "You (and Your Money) Belong in Longmont" promotion during the holiday shopping season.

The campaign encouraged shoppers to clip a coupon from local publications, shop at participating Longmont businesses, spend \$15 and receive a free canvas tote bag.

Although the numbers are not precise, it's estimated that close to 1,000 totes were distributed by Longmont businesses.

The campaign was an effort by the City of Longmont to encourage residents to shop locally and also to educate the public about the importance of local sales tax. And although the holiday shopping season is over, the shop Longmont message is still very relevant.

When you shop Longmont, you support local businesses. The health of our local economy is dependent



on the strength of our area businesses. When a business struggles, it creates a vicious economic drag, leading to fewer jobs, lost paychecks and overall financial instability. If a company ultimately goes out of business it can lead to a chain reaction that can negatively affect other

businesses. When this economic synergy disappears, it is very difficult to recapture.

When you shop Longmont, you support local City services including police and fire protection, street maintenance and construction, parks, trails, open space, youth and senior services, library and recreation programs. Approximately 40 percent of the revenue in the City's annual operating budget comes from sales and use tax. In order to maintain the high level of municipal services that Longmont residents have come to expect, sales tax dollars need to stay within city borders.

In addition to the free tote bag promotion, the campaign

- aired four TV spots on local Comcast TV channels, the Comcast website and on Longmont Channel 8 that reminded residents to shop in Longmont;
- ran a series of print ads in the Longmont *Times-Call*, *Longmont Weekly*, and in the *Times-Call* holiday supplement;
- promoted shop Longmont through a website at www.YouBelonginLongmont.org;
- used local radio station La Ley (1170 AM) to deliver the shop local message in Spanish;

- embraced social media with Facebook (www.facebook.com) and Twitter (twitter.com/#!/YBILongmont) pages.

In the past, some residents have resisted the notion of shopping in Longmont because they perceive that sales tax rates are lower in other communities. The truth is that Longmont's sales tax rate is very competitive with other Colorado cities. When you shop in Longmont, you pay a combined sales tax rate of 8.075 percent on your bill. Here's the breakdown:

- City of Longmont – 3.275%
- State of Colorado – 2.90%
- RTD – 1.00%
- Scientific and Cultural Facilities – 0.10%
- Boulder County – 0.80%

Let's take a short shopping trip through our neighboring cities and compare rates.

If you choose to shop at FlatIron Crossing in Broomfield, you will pay an 8.15 percent sales tax rate plus .20 percent public improvement fee (8.35 percent). If you decide to drive to the Orchard Town Center in Westminster, you will pay 8.60 percent. Shopping at the Centerra Mall in Loveland will cost you 6.7 percent plus other fees for a total of 7.823 percent. If the Pearl Street Mall in Boulder appeals to you, then expect to pay 8.21 percent. And the rate at the Larkridge Center in Thornton is 8.5 percent. The public improvement fee pays for the mall's improvements such as curbs and sidewalks, parking facilities, storm management system, sanitary sewer systems, road development (within the site) and outdoor public plaza.

As you can see, shopping in Longmont is less expensive from a sales tax/fee standpoint than in nearby communities and you save travel costs. But more importantly, shopping locally means your tax dollars stay in the city and support critical services.

There is one more important thing to remember. When you shop online without paying sales tax, you do harm to the local economy and hurt the City's ability to provide services.

Whether you are shopping for big ticket items or the week's groceries, think Longmont businesses first. Spending your hard-earned dollars in the city directly supports your neighbors, their businesses and the important municipal services that we rely on.

Remember, You (and your money) Belong in Longmont.



It takes a Village

Boulder County Offers Child Care Assistance Program

Are you finding it difficult to pay for child care?

Boulder County is pleased to announce the availability of the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) with no waiting lists.

Boulder County CCAP helps low-income families pay for child care while they are working, looking for a job, interviewing, or attending college or vocational training. Families needing child care while they are taking GED and ESL classes also may be eligible as well as teen parents (up to 21 years old) in a high school diploma or GED program.

How does it work?

- To determine your eligibility, call Aspen Family Services at 303-604-1043, ext. 2828, for a prescreening and more detailed information. Se habla español.
- Applicants must be residents of Boulder County.
- Only the CCAP child must be a U.S. citizen.
- Applicants must provide income verification before approval.
- Eligible families pay a "parental fee" based on their household size, current income, and the amount charged by the child care provider.

Your family income must meet the following guidelines:

Family Size	Maximum Monthly Gross Income
2	\$2,268
3	\$2,857
4	\$3,446
5	\$4,035
6	\$4,623

Contact Elizabeth Groneberg, Boulder County bilingual CCAP outreach coordinator, at 303-928-0821 with general questions about CCAP or if you are having difficulties applying for the program.

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 at cityoflongmont@ci.longmont.co.us

City Council

There are a variety of ways to contact city council members:

- City council meetings, every Tuesday at 7 pm
- Coffee with Council, last Saturday of every month
- E-mail and phone numbers listed here
- Mail c/o City Clerk's Office, 350 Kimbark St.
- Public events, including Cinco de Mayo, Rhythm on the River and Festival on Main

MAYOR
Dennis Coombs
Term expires 11/2013
dennis.coombs@ci.longmont.co.us
303-651-8602

AT-LARGE
MAYOR PRO TEM
Gabe Santos
Term expires 11/2013
gabe.santos@ci.longmont.co.us
303-775-4005

WARD I
Brian Bagley
Term expires 11/2015
brian.bagley@ci.longmont.co.us
720-400-9877

WARD II
Katie Witt
Term expires 11/2013
katie.witt@ci.longmont.co.us
303-774-4414

WARD III
Bonnie Finley
Term expires 11/2015
bonnie.finley@ci.longmont.co.us
720-438-8818

AT-LARGE
Sarah Levison
Term expires: 11/2015
sarah.levison@ci.longmont.co.us
303-847-1647

AT-LARGE
Alex Sammoury
Term expires 11/2013
alex.sammoury@ci.longmont.co.us
303-642-5298



Top row L to R: Alex Sammoury, At-Large; Gabe Santos, At-Large, Mayor Pro Tem; Brian Bagley, Ward I; Katie Witt, Ward II. Bottom row: Bonnie Finley, Ward III; Dennis Coombs, Mayor; Sarah Levison, At-Large.

Station Identification

Citizens Invited to Help Visualize 1st & Main Station Neighborhood

Future Station Area So Rich in Possibilities!

An arts district, a river district, “LoLo” (Lower Longmont)? Lofts and townhomes, bike trails and walking paths? Restaurants, coffee shops, office condos?

Longmont residents are invited to help brainstorm ideas for the 1st & Main Station neighborhood surrounding the future RTD bus/rail station during an informal and interactive Community Roundtable. Come see preliminary concepts developed by the project team, bring your own ideas, plan the future and have fun.

Time: 6 to 8 pm

Date: Wednesday, January 25

Place: Longmont Public Library, Meeting Rooms A & B, 409 4th Avenue

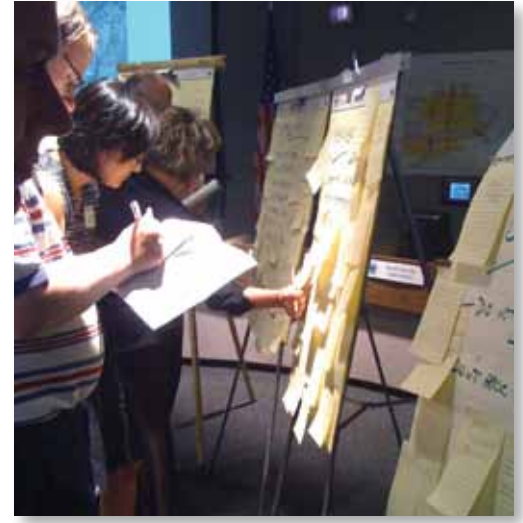
For more information or special accommodations, send an email to Phil Greenwald at firststandmain@ci.longmont.co.us or call 303-651-8335.

The 1st & Main Station project is a master plan and revitalization study for the area near the old flour mill



site at 1st Avenue and Main Street. The study, expected to be complete by April 2012, is examining short-, mid-, and long-range development and land use potential for the site in addition to determining bus, pedestrian, bicycle and auto connections at the future 1st & Main transit center. With the planned closure of the Butterball plant at the end of 2011, there is an additional opportunity to explore land use changes to help offset this loss to the local economy.

A number of design ideas consistent with Longmont’s unique attributes and values already have been suggested by the community. These ideas have been incorporated into the initial concepts to be presented at the Community Roundtable.



For more information, visit the 1st and Main project website at www.ci.longmont.co.us/firststandmain.

Get involved!

Sign up to receive periodic 1st & Main e-newsletters with study updates and other ways to be involved with the project. To be added to the database, send an email to firststandmain@ci.longmont.co.us.

You also can subscribe to the City’s eAlert System at www.ci.longmont.co.us/selectalert for email and mobile notices of public meetings. Click on 1st & Main Station Project. ➔

datebook

JANUARY

10 MLK Celebration
Three day celebration begins with proclamation at council meeting. Call 303-651-8445.

12 Artists Speak!
7 to 8 pm at Longmont Museum, 400 Quail Road. Explore what it’s like to be a graffiti writer along the Front Range. Admission \$5. Call 303-651-8374.

13 Coffee and Conversation
9:30 to 11 am at Longmont Museum, 400 Quail Road. Enjoy an informal discussion about the art and artists of Street Cred. Cosponsored by the Longmont Senior Center. Complimentary coffee and pastries. Admission \$5. Call 303-651-8374.



14 Free Shred Event
9 am to 2 pm at Waste Diversion Center, 140 Martin St. This monthly document shredding event is for residential customers only. Please bring a copy of your most recent utility bill. Call 303-651-8376.

14 Taste of Therapy Fair
10 am at Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 18 S. Sunset. Sample a variety of alternative wellness options, \$5 per 15-minute session. Call 303-651-8404 or visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/rec/special.

16 Martin Luther King Day
City offices closed.

17 Director’s Walkthrough
Noon at Longmont Museum, 400 Quail Road. Join Longmont Museum Director Wesley Jessup on an enlightening tour of the Street Cred exhibition. Admission \$5. Call 303-651-8374.

17 Open Forum
7 pm at City Council Chambers, 350 Kimbark St. An opportunity for Longmont

residents to talk to council members about any topic. Call 303-651-8840.

18 Creativity in all Senses: PAINTING A PORTRAIT
7 pm at Longmont Museum, 400 Quail Road. See page 5.



20 Friday Afternoon Concert Series
2:30 pm at Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave. DEXTER PAYNE QUARTET Brazilian and jazz music. \$8. Call 303-651-8411.

23 Transportation 101
10 am to noon at Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave. Discuss your transportation challenges with experts who can help guide you in the right direction. Seating is limited, pre-registration required at 303-651-8411.

25 Creativity in all Senses: THEATER
7 pm at Longmont Museum, 400 Quail Road. See page 5.

28 Coffee with Council
9 to 10 am at Ziggi’s, 1139 Francis St. Call 303-651-8601.

29 Winter Sprinter
8 am at Centennial Pool, 1201 Alpine St. A swim meet for adults! \$20 preregistration/ \$25 day-of. Call 303-651-8406 or visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/rec/special.

FEBRUARY

1 Creativity in all Senses: CHAMBER MUSIC
7 pm at Longmont Museum, 400 Quail Road. See page 5.

2 Get Acquainted
9 am at Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave. Get acquainted with

others who are new to the Senior Center, new to the area, or interested in making some new connections with others. RSVP to 303-651-8411.

4 Free Landfill Day
6 am to 2 pm at Erie Landfill, 1441 Weld County Road. Dispose of bulky trash items that do not fit in the curbside containers. Please bring information indicating that you are a Longmont resident. All loads must be covered or tarped to access the site. Call 303-651-8376.

8 Teen Dating Violence
6:30 - 8:30 pm at Longmont Library, 409 4th Ave. Guest lecture by Kathy Robertson of Abby’s Voice who lost her daughter to dating violence. Find out the warning signs, how to intervene, and local resources to help teens in violent relationships.

8 Creativity in all Senses: PIANIST, CONDUCTOR, TEACHER
7 pm at Longmont Museum, 400 Quail Road. See page 5.

11 Free Shred Event
9 am to 2 pm at Waste Diversion Center, 140 Martin St. Call 303-651-8376.

11 Taste of Therapy Fair
10 am at Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 18 S. Sunset. Sample a variety of alternative wellness options, \$5 per 15-minute session. Call 303-651-8404 or visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/rec/special.



14 Chocolate
3 to 4 pm at Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave. The story of chocolate is a “rich” tale indeed. Register in advance at 303-651-8411.

15 & 29 Art History for the Tourist
1 to 3 pm at Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave. This two-part

presentation will look at the art, architecture, history, and mythology of ancient Athens and Rome. \$8 resident, \$9.50 nonresident. Please register in advance at 303-651-8411.

15 Creativity in all Senses: THE WORLD OF POETRY
7 pm at Longmont Museum, 400 Quail Road. See page 5.

16 Telephone Town Hall
7 pm at City Council Chambers, 350 Kimbark St. See page 1.

17 Bill Mooney, Storyteller
2:30 pm at Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave. World-renowned storyteller BILL MOONEY will present stories from his life as an actor for over 35 years in New York City. \$8. Call 303-651-8411.

20 Presidents’ Day
City offices closed.

22 Creativity in all Senses: A LIFE OF SONG
7 pm at the Longmont Museum, 400 Quail Road. See page 5.

25 Coffee with Council
9 to 10 am at McDonald’s inside Wal-Mart, 2285 Ken Pratt Blvd. Call 303-651-8601.

27 Transportation 101
10 am to noon at Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave. Learn about transportation services most people don’t know about. Seating is limited, pre-registration required at 303-651-8411.

27 An Inside Look at the FDA
9:30 to 11 am at Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave. Learn about the FDA process that evaluates applications for medical device and medication marketplace approval. Free. Registration required at 303-651-8411.

29 Leap Day ➔

National Family Week

City Recognizes Strong Families

National Family Week is an annual celebration observed during the Thanksgiving season. The national organization Alliance for Children and Families and its member organizations have annually promoted National Family Week for more than 40 years.

On November 18, 2011, Children and Youth Resources held its 6th annual family week dinner to celebrate National Family Week. National Family Week is designed to build community connections and honor those who strengthen families.

Alliance members regularly host local events that involve families, community residents, area leaders, and policymakers. Children and Youth Resources has provided services to the community for 27 years, and recognizes that children live better lives when their families are strong. Families are strong when they live in communities that connect them to economic opportunities, social networks, and services.

At this year's family week celebration community members were honored through the Si Se Puede Awards and Make Time for Kids Awards. These awards were presented by Longmont Mayor Dennis Coombs. [+](#)



Longmont's Children and Youth Resources division honors families at its annual family week dinner.

Stop By Open House at the Senior Center

Have you ever been curious about what happens at a Senior Center? Are you wondering if you are old enough (50+ in some cases, 55+ in others) to take part in all of the exciting happenings? Would you like to learn about hiking, computers, travel activities, or perhaps housing and in-home services?

If you are over 50 years of age or a friend or family member of an older adult and are interested in learning about the activities and resources available at the Longmont Senior Center, plan to attend this year's open house. This event, coordinated by the Senior Citizens Advisory Board, is an enjoyable way to find out about the Senior Center and its programs, activities, and services. You can meet and mingle with leaders and participants in various activities, visit with Advisory Board and Friends board members, and chat with staff about programs and services.

Please stop by the Senior Center at 910 Longs Peak Avenue between 1 and 3 pm on Friday, January 27.

For more information call 303-651-8411. [+](#)

Fantastic Fitness

Kick Start the New Year with Longmont Recreation Services

Longmont Recreation Services offers an affordable way for individuals and families to stay active in the new year. Admission fees are based upon residency: if you live within Longmont city limits you will enjoy a 25 percent discount off the nonresident rate. Without pricey membership or joining fees, there are a variety of ways to visit Longmont Recreation Services facilities.

The daily drop-in fee is the solid standby for people who enjoy occasional use of recreation facilities. The fee is valid for the entire day and is perfect for individuals who want to sample the offerings at different facilities in a single day. The drop-in fee of \$4.50 for adult residents is valid not only for the use of the facility but also will get you into a wide variety of both land and water fitness classes!

Twenty-visit passes are available for those who are looking for a price break for admitting multiple people at one time or for individuals who know they will use the visits but aren't exactly sure how long it will take them. The 20-visit pass is transferrable and can be used by multiple people. Each visit also is good for one day of use. Be sure to ask for a receipt to return later in the day for an evening fitness class or swim.

The quarterly pass is perfect for individuals who use the facilities three or more times per week. It offers unlimited admission for a specific individual for a three-month period. Quarterly passes are not transferrable and are valid at year-round facilities only: the Longmont Recreation Center, the St. Vrain Memorial Building, and Centennial Pool. Seasonal Ice Pavilion passes also are available for unlimited use of the Ice Pavilion with free ice skate rental.

The annual pass is by far the best deal in Longmont Recreation Services. It offers unlimited admission for a specific person for an entire year. Annual passes are not transferrable and are valid at ALL Longmont recreation facilities. So, enjoy the Ice Pavilion all winter with free skate rental and the freedom in summer to swim at the outdoor pools whenever you want. Family annual pass holders also are entitled to free babysitting at the Longmont Recreation Center. Pay for the entire year at one time for the best pricing, or opt for the monthly auto pay option: enroll with a credit card that is automatically charged at the beginning of each month.

However you decide to enter the facility, we are sure that you will enjoy the wide range of amenities and classes to be found. Looking for a quiet facility that caters to drop-in adult use? Visit the St. Vrain Memorial Building with its weight room and fitness classes. Looking for a facility that offers a place for the kids to swim while under the eye of adults who are working out? Visit Centennial Pool with its workout room overlooking the pool; it's easy to keep an eye on the activities of grade school and teenage children in the pool. Looking for a facility that has it all – weight rooms, indoor track, gymnasium, climbing wall, pools, hot tub, sauna, and steam room? Check out the Longmont Recreation Center with its vast array of activities and classes for everyone in your family.

For more information about facility amenities, passes, and fitness class schedules, please visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/rec or call Longmont Recreation Services at 303-651-8404. [+](#)

Artist Series

Creativity in All Senses

Take away the winter blues with a series about creativity and the arts. The Longmont Museum presents a six-part series on Wednesdays at 7 pm in January and February, featuring leading artists, actors, musicians and Colorado's poet laureate. Each presentation is \$5, or tickets to the full series are \$25. Contact the Longmont Museum at 303-651-8374.

January 18 PAINTING A PORTRAIT.

JOHN TAFT and CHERIE NOBILETTE will discuss how painting became the center of their lives and the forms it has taken. Following their discussions, they each will paint a portrait of a live model. The audience will circulate around the artists, observing how they are working. At the end, each artist will discuss how the painting has progressed, what they plan to do next, and the problems they had and answer questions from audience members.



Cherie Nobilette

January 25 THEATER.

ROBERT and KIM BUBON, owners of the California Actors Theatre right here in Longmont, will share their combined 40 years of experience in the theater by explaining how one actually 'puts up' a theatrical production. All the nuances that go into presenting the show – producing it, directing it, building the sets, costuming the actors, etc. – will be discussed. The evening will conclude with a partial performance of the current California Actors Theatre production.



Kim Bubon



Robert Bubon

February 1 CHAMBER MUSIC.

This event invites the audience to observe a rehearsal before a work is ready to perform for an audience. Clarinetist BRONWYN FRASER, and the Colorado Chamber Players string quartet will perform the Mozart Quintet for Clarinet and Strings. The performers will discuss the music backgrounds they bring to performing. After they begin to play, they will stop to explain how they approach "problems" in different sections of the music and the approaches of composers in this style of music. Following rehearsal of the total section or work, they will then perform it through. They will also ask for audience commentary and questions throughout the "rehearsal."

February 8 PIANIST, CONDUCTOR, TEACHER.

ROBERT SPILLMAN retired as chairman of the piano faculty at the University of Colorado Boulder and earlier at the Eastman School of Music. For many years he also was the opera and music director at the Aspen School. Still very active, he has conducted most of the large choral and orchestral works for the University of Colorado and the Boulder Philharmonic. He lived in Berlin in the 1960s, and he found it to be a lively and creative life. Also active as an accompanist and coach, he has seen the world of music from every perspective. He has a great sense of humor and excitement and an interesting view of his own life.



Robert Spillman

February 15 THE WORLD OF POETRY.

DAVID MASON, COLORADO'S POET LAUREATE. Professor Mason teaches at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. In Colorado, poets laureate are chosen for life. Professor Mason will discuss the life of a poet and the view it offers. He will inform the audience about what led him to become a poet, as well as how and where he gets his inspiration and satisfaction. He also will perform poetry of his choice.



David Mason

February 22 A LIFE OF SONG.

JULIE SIMSON, Berton Coffin Professor of Voice, teaches at the College of Music at the University of Colorado Boulder. An outstanding mezzo soprano, the level of musicianship that she brings to song is outstanding. She not only is an outstanding singer but also is a sought-after teacher and coach. She has just finished singing the role of Marcellina in *The Marriage of Figaro* with Opera Colorado. 🎵



Julie Simson



Tax Time

FREE TAX PREPARATION and City of Longmont Rebate Preparation

Several sites in Longmont will provide free income tax preparation and e-filing for qualified taxpayers. VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) and AARP/TCE (Tax Counseling for the Elderly) are IRS-sponsored programs staffed by fully trained and certified volunteers, who can prepare Colorado state and federal income taxes.

Locations, times and site specific information are:

St. Vrain Valley Credit Union Training Center (VITA site)

www.coloradovita.org
2050 Terry Street, Suite 101
February 1 through April 14
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 6 pm to 8:30 pm
Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm
Walk-ins only

Front Range Community College (VITA site)

2121 Miller Drive, Building C
February 4 through April 14
Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm
CLOSED March 17 and March 24
Walk-ins only

Longmont Senior Center (AARP/TCE site)

910 Longs Peak Avenue
February 2 through April 12
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am to 1 pm

Tax returns by appointment only. Staff begins taking appointments on January 19 at 303-651-8442.

City of Longmont Rebates

The Senior Center also prepares the Colorado 104 PTC and is the only site to process City of Longmont rebate forms. The City of Longmont form includes property tax/rent rebate, water, parks fee refund and electric discount.

If you are filing ONLY a City of Longmont rebate and/or state 104 PTC, no appointment is necessary and you can walk in on Tuesdays and Thursdays (February 2 to April 12) from 9 to 11 am.

You Belong in Community Services in 2012



- Affordable Housing / CDBG
- Children and Youth Resources
- Community and Neighborhood Resources
- Library
- Museum & Cultural Center
- Recreation Services
- Senior Services

Get More from Life!

Community Services Department: Committed to providing premier municipal services that are dynamic, innovative and fully accessible so that our residents can live, work and play to their fullest.

AVL System Tracks Vehicles and Provides High-tech Efficiency

BFF, LOL, ROFL, URL, ISP. High-tech seems to be invading our language with an arsenal of Internet-related acronyms and abbreviations, but they speed information flow. And the City of Longmont's Department of Public Works and Natural Resources (PWNR) is not one to lag in these areas.

AVL is one of PWNR's latest assets. The Automated Vehicle Location system is a high-tech, online, ultra-efficient weapon in PWNR's efforts to deliver taxpayers the biggest possible bang for their buck.

According to PWNR Director Dale Rademacher, each operations vehicle has been outfitted during the past year with a device that monitors its route and a gamut of job-related functions, which department staff can track online.

For example, the system reports whether a snow plow truck is moving, its speed, where it is and has been on its route, whether the plow blade is up or down, and how much sand and snow melt has been applied.

The trucks' street sensors transmit road conditions, too. The AVL also reports similar information as it applies to sanitation trucks in their trash pick-up operations. It's possible to tell when the trucks' mechanical arms are activated in lifting containers, as well as a street sweeper's brush mechanism operating status.

Street sweepers operate more efficiently at certain speeds, according to Tamara Teravest, PWNR technology/global information system coordinator. The AVL box is essentially a global positioning system, or GPS, with additional sensors. The system helps track the sweepers so that they're operated at optimum speeds. And if there's a water main break, the system can locate the closest repair crew to make the needed repairs. It also is possible to determine whether a vehicle is being underused.

The reported data is stored and plays a vital role in PWNR management decisions to make the most efficient use of vehicles and crews, budgeting for snow melt and sand, and staff hours. Safety is another benefit provided by the AVL, Teravest says. If a vehicle isn't moving when it should be on its route, the driver could be injured, and it might be necessary to check it out.

The AVL creates significant budget benefits. The state of Mississippi predicted a 20 percent savings on fuel costs due to more efficient computer-aided routing of vehicles, and the city of Garland, Texas, will realize a savings of \$31,000 in fuel costs. Longmont's Parks Department, as well as building inspectors, have contacted PWNR to make use of the AVL system, too. Future AVL-related projects will include installing a Garmin PC on board PWNR vehicles; this is akin to a smartphone with a larger screen. It will give drivers and crews the capability to monitor their own situations.

The AVL has been connected to the PWNR Call Center and provides real-time information for customer service representatives handling calls



from Longmont's residents. The overall AVL data gathering makes it possible for PWNR to implement the best plan for efficient vehicle use.

Call Center staff can answer callers' questions about the whereabouts of sanitation trucks—the AVL can even zoom in on an individual address, noted Tammy Duerksen, PWNR Call Center administrative assistant. If a trash pick-up is missed, Call Center staff can quickly contact the nearest truck to respond to the caller's need. With real-time information, the Call Center staff does its best to provide comprehensive information to Longmont's residents so they will not need to call back, she added.

The City's Call Center can be reached at 303-651-8416. [+](#)

Big Changes Coming to County Line Road



It can be tough to go with the flow, especially driving the stretch of County Line Road where it intersects State Highway 119 – but not for long. The Longmont Department of Public Works and Natural Resources (PWNR) is taking the high road and is in the midst of making major road improvements to that area.

This project is funded by the voter-approved five-year extension of the existing $\frac{3}{4}$ -cent Street Fund Sales and Use Tax (that runs through the end of 2016). The project is part of the Transportation System Management program, which deals with a gamut of issues, including traffic signal installation, railroad crossing protection, intersection improvements, projects advancing alternative transportation use, neighborhood traffic mitigation and installation of curb ramps. About \$1 million will be available to cover costs for the 2012 completion of the project.

According to Tom Street, PWNR engineering administrator, the project will widen County Line Road from just south of the Great Western railroad crossing northward through the 9th Avenue intersection and a short distance beyond. This will include two lanes in each direction, with additional right and left turn lanes, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian sidewalks with wheelchair-friendly curb ramps. A traffic signal is slated for the 9th Avenue intersection, and the project will include replacing an old, dilapidated water line from 9th Avenue north to 17th Avenue. This is phase II of the project; the first phase rehabilitated a section of the old county road.

Increased traffic volume created the need for the project, noted Street. The doubled capacity at the intersection of County Line Road and Highway 119 will ease traffic flow, as should the bike lanes. Bike traffic along County Line Road currently is hazardous, observed Street. Although studies indicate that traffic thins considerably north of 9th Avenue, widening of road shoulders northward up to Highway 66 is planned, which will help bike traffic. Also planned are two pedestrian underpasses — one is slated to be located at Spring Gulch, just north of the 9th Avenue intersection. The second will be constructed on Highway 119, just east of the intersection.

Winter weather is delaying completion of the project, but PWNR will complete it in early spring of 2012. The traffic signal slated for installation at the 9th Avenue intersection will be working on an interim basis starting in the next few weeks and will be fully installed in conjunction with the project's early spring completion. This new traffic signal should make a significant difference in traffic flow along County Line Road.

Although Street says that the project is pretty standard, it is an important one, and even during construction, traffic will move safely through this area. [+](#)

Apply for Student Exchange Program



Applications are available for LSCA's 2012 Student Exchange Program. Four chaperones and 16 student ambassadors will be selected for this exchange with sister cities Chino, Japan, and Ciudad Guzman, Mexico.

Applications are available in the City Manager's Office, 350 Kimbark Street, and at www.longmontsistercities.com. Chaperone applications are due in the City Manager's Office by 5 pm on Friday, January 6, and ambassador applications by 5 pm on Friday, January 20.

Contact: Jeanie at 303-772-4620. [+](#)

Alarm Yourself

Frequently Asked Questions About Smoke Alarms



1. Where should I put my smoke alarms?

Smoke alarms should be placed at least on every level of your home. If you have children, we recommend that smoke alarms are also placed in your children's rooms so that they are more likely to hear them go off.

2. How often should I change the batteries or replace my smoke alarms?

The batteries in your smoke alarms should be changed at least twice a year. Remember when you change your clocks in the spring and fall to change your batteries. If your smoke alarms are hardwired, you should test them twice a year to make sure they are still working. Smoke alarms should be replaced after 8 to 10 years of use.

3. What if I can't afford replacements for my smoke alarms or I can't reach the alarms to change the batteries?

The Longmont Fire Department works to install smoke alarms or change smoke alarm batteries for seniors in our community and for people who otherwise could not afford them. Please contact Longmont Fire at 303-651-8437 for these free services.

4. What should I do if my alarms won't stop chirping?

Chirping alarms may mean the batteries are dying or dead. You should first try to change the batteries. If your smoke alarms are hardwired, you may need to change the batteries in all of your alarms to stop the chirping from just one alarm. Your alarms also may be dusty, which could cause them to chirp. Take the front cover off the alarm and vacuum it out or use canned air to blow out any particles.

5. What should I do if I have "false alarms" from my smoke alarms?

NEVER disable your smoke alarms. It may be necessary to move the location of your alarms farther from the kitchen or bathrooms where cooking or steam can set off the alarms.

Please contact the Longmont Fire Department at 303-651-8437 with questions.

Survey Says Residents Feel Safe

Every two years since 1999, the Longmont Police Department has surveyed the residents, youth, and business owners of Longmont regarding their perception of, and satisfaction with, police services. This report is available at www.ci.longmont.co.us/police/general/communitysurvey.htm. A few of the findings are listed below:

- ✓ The survey indicates that Longmont residents believe that they and their property were safer in 2011 than in 2009.
- ✓ Overall satisfaction with the Longmont Police Department grew to 80% from 75% in 2009. 80% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied, 4% are dissatisfied, 14% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, and 2% didn't know.

For additional information please call 303-651-8541

Longmont Ranked Second Safest

In 2011, Longmont was ranked the second safest city in Colorado, and the 53rd safest city in the United States by CQ Press. This is an improvement over 2010 in which Longmont was ranked the third safest in the state, and 72nd in the United States. Public Safety Chief Michael Butler attributes this improvement to the innovative and hard working people of the police department as well as to the well-developed partnerships the police department has with many different organizations, local neighborhoods, and the various diverse communities within the City.

Teen Dating Tips

Parents, Do you Have the 4th "R" Covered with your Teen?

Remember the three R's of our childhood ... reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic? As parents, we continuously work with our kids to establish a solid foundation in these areas because they are critical to long-term achievement.

Of equal importance, but often overlooked, is the fourth R: relationships. Are you educating your teen about healthy dating relationships? Helping your teen define what a loving, respectful intimate relationship looks like is as critical as the three Rs.

Before assuming that your teen isn't at risk for dating abuse, consider the facts. Eighty-nine percent of teens report dating. Within this group, one in three report being verbally, emotionally, sexually or physically abused. One in five teens in a dating relationship has been hit, slapped or pushed. Teen dating violence isn't isolated; it can happen to anyone. Texting and social media make dating abuse easier to commit and harder to escape, contributing to the epidemic.

The good news is that there is a lot that parents can do to help. Be the first to break the ice about the topic. Starting with a general question such as "What are your friends' dating relationships like?" lays the groundwork for deeper discussions and sends the message that the topic is not off limits.

Educate yourself about the warning signs of abuse. Extreme jealousy, possessiveness, isolation, put downs, or attempts to control all are red flags that demand action. Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley offers free counseling for teens experiencing dating abuse. Call 303-772-4422 or text

a message to 720-340-TERA if you know a teen needing help.

February is nationally designated as Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month, a perfect time to take your responsibility as a parent to teach and model the fourth R seriously. More information about teen dating violence can be found online at LongmontDomesticViolence.org or by calling LEVI (Longmont Ending Violence Initiative) at 303-774-4534.



Congratulations

Longmont Officer Wins Beth Haynes Award

Longmont Officer Wins Prestigious Award



Longmont Police Detective Sandra Esters was awarded the 2011 Beth Haynes Award for her work in domestic violence. This is the only countywide award in which law enforcement officers are nominated by their peers and area victim advocates, and it is viewed as one of the most prestigious annual awards given in Boulder County.

The Beth Haynes Memorial Award was established in 1994 following the tragic loss of Officer Beth Haynes of the Boulder Police Department. On April 16, 1994, Officer Haynes responded to a domestic violence call where she confronted the suspect in a parking lot, a shootout occurred, and the 26-year-old officer was killed.

New Year's Resolution

Save Energy, Increase Comfort, Lower Utility Bills

If your New Year's resolution is to become more energy efficient, Longmont Power & Communications (LPC), the City's municipal electric utility, can help. Below are six programs LPC has to help residents save energy and increase home comfort.

EnergySmart Residential Services –

Residents in LPC's service territory are eligible for Boulder County's EnergySmart. This program assists in finding the right products for making your home more energy efficient, provides assistance to locate a contractor and provides rebates to help pay for work. And this winter, there's more reason than ever to get started. For a limited time, participants can save \$100 on program audit costs (costs are reduced to just \$50 per customer) and rebate dollars are also increased to a lifetime max of \$1,000. EnergySmart is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in partnership with Boulder County, the City of Boulder, the City of Longmont and Xcel Energy. To sign up or learn more, visit www.energysmartyes.com.

Lighting With A Twist – While CFL bulbs save energy and often last longer than traditional incandescent bulbs, they can have a higher initial cost. This program lowers customer costs by providing instant rebates of \$10 a package for CFL bulbs sold at local retailers. Coupons for the rebates are available directly next to the products on store shelves. Participating retailers include Budget Home Center, Ace Hardware and The Home Depot in Longmont.



Residential Appliance Rebates – These rebates offer customers an extra incentive to replace current home appliances with updated models that are more energy efficient. It provides \$50 for Energy Star clothes washers, \$50 for Energy Star dishwashers, \$100 for high efficiency toilets and \$50 for low flow toilets. To download a rebate application visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/LPC/res/appliance_rebate_program.htm.

Energy Tracker Pilot Program - Energy Tracker is a voluntary pilot program designed to help LPC understand what tools encourage residents to become more energy efficient. Participants in the program receive information about their home's electric use and suggestions to help them conserve energy. The program is currently accepting new applicants. To learn more visit <http://longmontenergytracker.com>.

LPC's Power Outlet – Through this program, customers can access a suite of online tools from LPC to help them become more efficient. Resources include an online newsletter, efficiency calculators and an online resource library with sections on heating, cooling, insulation and safety tips. To sign up, visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/lpc/res/LPO_slip.htm.

Renewable Power Purchase Program for Residents – This program allows customers to designate a specified amount of the energy they use as renewable energy. Residents who elect to participate pay an additional charge for each 100kWh block of energy they request to come from a renewable source. The energy is certified green through the Green-e certification process established by the Center for Resource Solutions. To sign up, visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/lpc/gen/wind_esub_form.htm. ➔

resources



LONGMONT ONLINE

Home Page: www.ci.longmont.co.us
City Source: www.ci.longmont.co.us/citysource/index.htm or 303-774-4370
Recreation Brochure: www.ci.longmont.co.us/rec/index.htm
The GO for the 55+ audience: www.ci.longmont.co.us/sen_ctr/general/golden_outlook.htm
Various City e-Alert services: www.ci.longmont.co.us/selectalert/index.htm
LifeLongmontLearning: www.lifelongmontlearning.com/
Longmont Museum e-News: www.ci.longmont.co.us/museum
Twitter: www.twitter.com/cityoflongmont/
City Line: www.ci.longmont.co.us/cityline/index.htm
Facebook: www.facebook.com/cityoflongmontco
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/cityoflongmont
Flickr: www.flickr.com/groups/longmontcolorado/

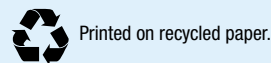


YouBelongInLongmont.org



LONGMONT PHONE NUMBERS

General Information	303-776-6050
Animal Control	303-651-8500
Building Inspection	303-651-8332
CDBG/Affordable Housing	303-651-8736
Centennial Pool	303-651-8406
Children & Youth Resources	303-651-8580
City Manager/Mayor	303-651-8601
Code Enforcement	303-651-8695
Economic Development	303-651-8330
Electric Power Interruption	303-776-0011
Fire Administration	303-651-8437
Jobline	303-651-8710
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
Parking Enforcement	303-651-8658 or 303-774-4724
Police Administration	303-651-8555
Public Works Engineering	303-651-8304
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



LONGMONT LIFE

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 email cityoflongmont@ci.longmont.co.us

Editor

Rigo Leal
 Public Information Officer
 303-651-8601

City Manager

Gordon Pedrow • 303-651-8601

Design

ViCOM, Inc. • 303-722-6993

Monthly Access

Keep electric and water meters clear

City of Longmont employees read your electric and water meters on a monthly basis. Clear access to meters allows meter readers to safely and easily get a good reading, providing the best possible customer service and accurate billing.

Longmont's customer meters are generally located on the side or back of your house, though water meters are sometimes located below ground in a water meter pit. Please keep the following items in mind so that City staff can access these areas for your monthly reads:

- > The path leading up to your meter, as well as areas surrounding your meter, should be clear of snow and ice. Please also clear snow away from any access gates.
- > Often a water meter pit is next to a driveway or sidewalk. If you have a water meter pit, please be aware of its location when you are shoveling snow. Pits can become accidentally buried as you clear your driveway and sidewalks.
- > Areas surrounding your meters should be clear of vegetation for a minimum of three feet.

To assist with access restrictions, including areas with outdoor pets or locked gates, you have an option to use an automated meter reading system. This allows meters to be read without someone entering your yard and requires a one-time installation fee. To learn more, call 303-651-8386. ➔