

## CALENDAR

### Xeriscape: Good Grief It's Gorgeous

Sat., June 17, Tours: 9-10 a.m. & 12-1 p.m.

Tour the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden with Master Gardeners

**Program: 10 a.m. - noon** (in City Council Chambers)

Jim Knopf will explore the fundamentals of Xeriscape, including his favorite plants that add color and beauty to the waterwise garden. FREE. Fort Collins City Hall, 300 Laporte Ave. For more information, call (970) 221-6877.

### Celebrate July 4th

Tuesday, July 4, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Old Town Square and Civic Center Park**

Live local music, beer garden and children's activities; brought to you by the Downtown Business Association; more info - [www.downtownfortcollins.com](http://www.downtownfortcollins.com)

**6 p.m. - 10 p.m. City Park**

**Live music, food and spectacular fireworks**

Free Transfort shuttle service from the Downtown Transit Center and the CSU Moby Arena to City Park starting at 5:30 p.m.; brought to you by the City of Fort Collins; more info - [www.fcgov.com/july4th](http://www.fcgov.com/july4th)

### Xeriscape Garden Party and Tours

Thurs., July 20, 5-7 p.m.

Take a guided tour with Master Gardeners, pick up Xeriscape information and enjoy refreshments. FREE. Fort Collins Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, City Hall, 300 Laporte Ave. For more information, call (970) 221-6877.

### Larimer County Fair & Rodeo

August 3-8 at the Ranch

New this year: Great Bear Show; I.W.P.A. Dog Pull; NO gate admission fee; NO parking fee! County music singer Colin Raye will perform August 4, and the PRCA Rodeo takes place August 6-8.

For more information, visit [www.larimercountyfair.org](http://www.larimercountyfair.org) or call 619-4009.

JUNE 2006



# CITY news



## SPOTLIGHT: WATER MATTERS — USE IT WISELY

### OTHER FEATURES:

- Reduce Ozone Pollution
- Landscaping Around Fire Hydrants
- Summer Cooling Tips
- The Great Sofa Round-Up
- Neighborhood Night Out
- Calendar



### CITY COUNCIL/CITY MANAGER

Doug Hutchinson, Mayor

Ben Manvel, District 1

Karen Weitkunat, District 2

Diggs Brown, District 3

Kurt Kastein, District 4


Kelly Ohlson, District 5

David Roy, District 6

Darin Atteberry, City Manager

### CITY HALL

300 LaPorte Ave. • P.O. Box 580 • Fort Collins, CO 80522-0580  
221-6505 • TDD: 224-6001 • [www.fcgov.com](http://www.fcgov.com)

This publication is available in large print, audio and on the web. 

## CONSERVATION NEWS

# water matters—use it wisely

**HOMEOWNERS INSTALL AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER** systems to make yard maintenance easier. Using water efficiently can be an added benefit if a system is properly designed, installed and maintained. But don't just turn on the timer and forget it for the summer. During the watering season, it's common to see water running off lawns into the street or pooling in a gutter. Not only is this a waste of water, but it's also a water quality issue as the runoff water gathers pollutants from lawn fertilizer and street contaminants and sends them to the Poudre River.

Laurie D'Audney is the City's Water Conservation Specialist. She noted, "It's important to pay attention to where your sprinkler water goes. If it's hitting the sidewalk or driveway or running into the gutter, you may need to make adjustments." You may be applying water faster than the soil can absorb it or the sprinkler heads may be over spraying or misdirected.

*Average per person daily water use dropped by approximately 25% during the height of the drought*

Free help in making your sprinkler system work better for you is now available from Fort Collins Utilities. Sprinkler system audits are offered on a first-come, first-served basis from June through August. D'Audney said the two-hour audit includes a visual inspection of each zone to identify problems, tests that measure water application, information about your lawn's seasonal water needs and a customized watering schedule. Fort Collins Utilities water customers can qualify for the audit if they live in a single family home and can be present during the audit. Audits are also available for homeowner associations.

More than 50 customers have already signed up to get



an audit this summer. D'Audney believes that's due to the fact water use habits developed during the drought have made the wise use of water part of our everyday lives in Fort Collins. Average per person daily water use dropped by approximately 25% percent during the height of the drought and has remained at a significantly lower consumption level. She said simply put, "People changed their habits." Many residents discovered that they were over-watering their lawns, while others exchanged bluegrass for Xeriscaping on all or part of their yard. Inside the house, residents installed water efficient washers, toilets and showers. D'Audney pointed out it's also the little things people do that make a difference, "the small changes add up, like not letting the water run while brushing your teeth."

The new ethic of water conservation led the Utilities to develop the Dr. WaterWise elementary school curriculum and to sponsor the annual Children's Water Festival that drew more than 1,600 third grade students this year. D'Audney said it's important to "instill an ethic early to use water wisely."

To schedule an audit, leave a message at (970) 416-2666, TDD (970) 224-6003, [e-mail utilities@fcgov.com](mailto:utilities@fcgov.com) or visit [www.fcgov.com/water/sprinkler-audit.php](http://www.fcgov.com/water/sprinkler-audit.php).

## Summer Cooling Tips

The last few summers have been unusually hot. Though we can't predict the weather, we can offer some tips to stay cool.

### Start by reducing the amount of heat coming in to your home:

- Keep the sun from hitting your windows with a patio cover, awnings, shade screens, quick-growing vines for the short-term or shade trees for the long-term.
- Close blinds and curtains to minimize direct sun.
- Upgrade insulation to improve comfort year-round.
- Install compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.
- Cook outdoors on the grill.
- Turn off pilot lights on gas fireplaces.
- When replacing windows, specify solar-control units.

### In order of affordability, these options help get the heat out:

- Open windows in the evening to dump hot air, and close them during the day to keep the cool in.
- Use window fans or a whole-house fan to vent air when it's cooler outdoors.
- Evaporative cooling is a good choice for this climate and costs little to operate.
- Air conditioning (AC) is a high-cost option and adds to costly summertime peak electrical demand. If you're thinking about adding AC, visit: [www.fcgov.com/utilities/powerertosave/airconditioning.php](http://www.fcgov.com/utilities/powerertosave/airconditioning.php).

Ceiling fans can help you feel cooler by moving air across your skin. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

For more information, call (970) 221-6700, TDD (970) 224-6003, e-mail [powerertosave@fcgov.com](mailto:powerertosave@fcgov.com) or visit [www.fcgov.com/powerertosave](http://www.fcgov.com/powerertosave).

## SUMMER NEWS

# reduce ozone pollution

**ON HOT SUNNY SUMMER DAYS, AIR POLLUTION** from cars and industry combine and bake in the sunlight to form ground level ozone pollution, which can cause respiratory problems and trigger asthma attacks.

Because Fort Collins (along with Greeley, Loveland, Boulder and Denver) is located in the high ozone region, the Colorado Health Department issues Ozone Action Alerts between June 1 – August 31. The alerts are based on daily forecasts of conditions that produce higher ozone levels and are aimed at helping people avoid health risks. Fort Collins is only 10% below the federal health limits for ground level ozone pollution, and in 2005, twenty-three ozone alerts days were called for our region. Residents can turn to the *Coloradoan's* weather page, check the City's Cable Channel 14, or call 1-888-484-3247 (1-888-4-THE AIR) for high ozone alerts.

### There are many actions that residents can take to lower ozone pollution.

- Participate in the Lawn Mower Rebate Program and receive a \$15 rebate plus a \$10 store gift card if you purchase an electric or reel mower at Clay's Ace Hardware, Downtown Ace Hardware, Drake Hardware, or Sears. For more info see [www.fcgov.com/airquality](http://www.fcgov.com/airquality). Rebate funds are first come, first served.
- Maintain your vehicle to help it run cleaner.
- Stop at the click when refueling your car or truck to limit vapors.
- Combine trips, carpool, or postpone a trip during an alert if possible. [www.fcgov.com/smarttrips](http://www.fcgov.com/smarttrips)
- Refuel after dusk in the summer to avoid the period of intense sunlight

Your city government is working to reduce ozone pollution by raising awareness, funding incentive programs, and using only biodiesel in its diesel powered vehicles, thereby emitting fewer ozone-forming pollutants. For more information about ozone call (970) 224-6085.

PROTECT YOUR CAR PROTECT YOUR HEALTH PROTECT OUR AIR



# STOP AT THE CLICK

## Landscaping Around Fire Hydrants

Fort Collins Utilities and Poudre Fire Authority need your help to ensure fire hydrants near you are visible and accessible.

At least 3 feet of clearance is needed around the base of the hydrant so fire crews can quickly identify hydrant locations and connect fire hoses. The clearance needed above the hydrant is 15 feet to allow adequate working space for maintenance or replacement.

Please observe the following guidelines when landscaping:

- Never paint a fire hydrant;
- Keep plants to a minimum; and
- Avoid "hiding" fire hydrants with fencing, bushes, earthen berms, rocks or other objects.

For more information, contact Fort Collins Utilities at (970) 221-6700, TDD (970) 224-6003, e-mail [utilities@fcgov.com](mailto:utilities@fcgov.com) or visit [www.fcgov.com/utilities](http://www.fcgov.com/utilities).

## The Great Sofa Round-Up

The Great Sofa Round-Up is back! Sofas can be dropped off or claimed by students, neighbors or social agencies for free during the Great Sofa Round-Up. Any unclaimed sofas will be taken to the landfill.

The Great Sofa Round-Up will take place on Friday, July 28 from 10:00 to 2 p.m. and Saturday, July 29, 2006 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the CSU Visitor's parking lot at the northwest corner of Lake Street and College Avenue.

The goal of this event is to help clean up the neighborhoods and prevent indoor furniture from finding its way to yards, streets, and curbsides.

For information contact Melissa at 224-6207 or [memerson@fcgov.com](mailto:memerson@fcgov.com). If you have a sofa to donate and are unable to deliver, limited pick-ups will be provided on Friday, July 28. Please call Off-Campus Student Services at 491-2248 to confirm eligibility and to make pick-up arrangements.

## Neighborhood Night Out

Celebrate with your neighbors during NNO on Tuesday, August 1, 2006.

Neighbors that host an event and register with Neighborhood Services will receive a t-shirt and a goodie bag and their event will be put on a master map that is distributed to police, fire, and council members for possible visits. Neighborhood Services also offers grants to help pay for your NNO event. Grants must be submitted by July 15, 2006. The grant application, as well as NNO registration forms, can be found at [www.fcgov.com/neighborhoodservices](http://www.fcgov.com/neighborhoodservices) starting in June. For more info, contact Ginny at 224-6070 or email at [gsawyer@fcgov.com](mailto:gsawyer@fcgov.com).

## Character Quality of the Month "Discretion"

*Recognizing and avoiding words, actions, and attitudes that could bring undesirable consequences.*

For more information about Character Fort Collins, visit [characterfortcollins.org](http://characterfortcollins.org) or call 266-2671.