

CALENDAR

2006 Business Environmental Program Series

9 a.m.-noon

215 N. Mason St., Community Room

FREE

To RSVP, or learn more, call 221-6700 or visit fcgov.com/utilities/business-eps.php.

■ Renewable Energy in Fort Collins

Tuesday, Oct. 24

Learn about wind power, net-metering solar systems, local grid-interconnection requirements, and technology overviews.

■ Climate Wise: Innovative Projects Designed to Save Money

Tuesday, Nov. 7

Learn about Climate Wise and how local organizations are protecting the environment and saving money.

■ Tackling Your Waste Stream to Increase Profits

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Learn about recycling options, the "source reduction" test, and regulations for getting rid of obsolete computers and hazardous materials.

Make A Difference Day

October 23-28

Neighbors helping neighbors! Visit www.uwaylc.org or call 2-1-1 (or 407-7066), for descriptions of projects and choose your volunteer opportunity.

Treatsylvania

October 27-29

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27 and 28: 6-8 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 29: 1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

The Farm, 600 N. Sherwood

\$5/children 10 and under, adults are FREE. Tickets must be purchased in advance at The Farm or Recreation Office, 214 N. Howes. 221-6640

Pumpkin Patch

October 4-26, Wed. - Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Farm, 600 N. Sherwood

Get into the spirit of the spooky season! Pumpkins will be sold by the pound. Call 221-6640.

OCTOBER 2006



CITY news



SPOTLIGHT: TAKING ROOT -Caring For Trees During Drought

OTHER FEATURES:

- Something Old, Something New
- Fort Collins Utilities' Wind Energy Receives Green-e Certification
- Free Wireless Internet Access at the Libraries
- Wood Smoke Can Mean Unhealthy Air
- Energy-Efficient LED Lighting for the Holidays
- 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

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

HORTICULTURE NEWS

taking root

CARING FOR TREES DURING DROUGHT

2006 IS TURNING OUT TO BE ONE OF THE DRIEST years in Fort Collins' recorded history. With three quarters of the year behind us, our precipitation levels are still woefully low. Despite cooler temperatures and an occasional rain shower, the summer has definitely taken its toll on Fort Collins' trees. City Forester Tim Buchanan summed up our current situation, "This summer has been really dry and hot." Enough said.

The affects of a drought year are felt throughout the community, but an often overlooked victim of limited rainfall is our community's urban forest.

It doesn't take a green thumb to notice when trees haven't received the proper amount of water; they become distressed and eventually show external symptoms:

- Tree leaves appear wilted, curled at the edges, and yellow or brown.
- Leaves may be smaller than normal, drop prematurely, or remain attached to the tree even though brown.

Whereas a single drought year is not likely to kill a tree, perpetual dryness makes the tree weaker and more susceptible to insect infestation and other illness. "Trees are one of the few investments you can make that actually increase in value over time," says Buchanan, pointing to the aesthetic appeal, increased property values, and environmental benefits.

Because of this, it is important, especially in drought years, to take steps to help our trees stay healthy:

- Water the roots of your trees, deeply and slowly, using a deep root fork or needle, soaker hose, or soft spray wand. Water slowly, so the water is able to completely infiltrate down to the tree's root system.
- Water consistently as maintaining soil moisture allows for better root water absorption.
- Add a 2-4 inch layer of mulch to help conserve



moisture by reducing evaporation and moderating soil temperature. The City of Fort Collins offers free mulch pit at the recycling center at 1702 Riverside Avenue.

Now that most of us are hoping for snow instead of rain, Buchanan says it is just as important to keep a careful eye on your trees. Winter watering schedules are less frequent but still necessary.

Before you run outside, turn on your hose, and leave it at the base of your favorite tree for a few hours, remember water conservation is still an important element to maintaining the trees on your property. Most trees that are part of a landscaped, frequently watered lawn, may be receiving adequate moisture and can even be over watered. Remember that trees need less frequent but deeper watering than most turf. Detailed information regarding which trees require special watering, watering techniques, and schedules are available, but Buchanan reminds us that Mother Nature doesn't always follow charts and schedules. When keeping your trees healthy, sometimes you just have to rely on your green thumb...and the internet. Visit fcgov.com/horticulture/tree-maintenance.php for helpful information regarding tree care, additional resources, and important water conservation ideas.

Fort Collins Utilities' Wind Energy Receives Green-e Certification



Through a partnership with Platte River Power Authority, Fort Collins Utilities' Wind Power Program recently received certification from the Center for Solutions' Green-e program. Established in 1997, the Green-e symbol provides assurance that our wind energy meets the strict environmental and consumer protection standards established by the nation's leading renewable energy certification program.

All Green-e renewable energy providers undergo an annual verification audit to document that the company purchased or generated enough qualifying renewable energy to meet customer demand.

Business participants in Fort Collins Utilities' Wind Power Program are now able to use the Green-e logo to demonstrate that their products are "Made with Certified Renewable Energy."

To sign up for wind power, visit fcgov.com/utilities/wind-power.php or call 212-2900. Visit www.green-e.org or call 1-888-63GREEN to learn more about Green-e.

Free Wireless Internet Access at the Libraries

It's here! After many requests from patrons, the Fort Collins Public Library is pleased to announce the availability of free wireless Internet access at the Main and Harmony libraries. The new wireless network is easy to use and supports most common wireless protocols.

The library wireless project is the result of cooperative work and partnerships between the library, Front Range Community College, the City of Fort Collins MIS department, and Comcast cable.

DOWNTOWN NEWS

something old, something new...

REINVENTION AND RENOVATION SEEM TO DEFINE Fort Collins. When Fort Collins incorporated as a town in 1873, it marked the official community transformation from a military post to a bonafide town. Much has changed since those early years, but Fort Collins maintains its commitment to continuous improvement. With several downtown renovation projects coming to an end, it's an ideal time to stroll down memory lane to revisit Fort Collins' past and celebrate our ongoing revitalization efforts.



Oak Street Plaza

Originally the area's only cemetery, Oak Street Plaza eventually became home to the Fort Collins' post office and federal building in 1911. The location, then considered outside of Old Town, was considered official recognition that the community would continue to grow beyond the city's core. The historic building still stands today and operates as the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Today, Oak Street Plaza sports a newly renovated City park including modern, interactive Art in Public Places water sculptures, movable seating, and a relaxing Old Town atmosphere.

Trimble Court

Did you know that Trimble Court was originally designed to be a street, not an alley? In 1904, Fort Collins widened and paved the alley to create Trimble Street. The street, named after local business men Charles and Edgar Trimble, boasted new store fronts offering oysters & waffles as the delicacies of the day.



Recent history shows that Trimble Court once again served as an alley as seen in the picture above from 1984. Today, the newly renovated Trimble Court is once again enjoying the benefits of change. Now, the store fronts offer the fine art and crafts of our community while planters brightly bloom along the freshly paved pedestrian alleyway and strand lights shine above.

Tenney Court

While the actual alley now named Tenney Court has a long history, it didn't officially go by the name of Tenney until 1991. R.Q. Tenney came to Fort Collins in 1871; among his many contributions to the Fort Collins area, Tenney was the first to plant sugar beets in Colorado to feed his dairy cows.

As Tenney Court acts as a major pedestrian thoroughfare between public parking areas along Mason and the shops and offices on College and Mountain, Fort Collins invested in sprucing up the alley with new artistic paving and bright lights, thus creating a more pedestrian friendly environment. Further upgrades are planned with the addition of Art in Public Places murals and other artistic enhancements.

For more information regarding these historic sites and individuals visit the Fort Collins Public Library Local History Archive at history.fcgov.com.



Antique photos purchased from the library

Wood Smoke Can Mean Unhealthy Air

The smell of wood smoke in the air can bring nostalgic memories. It can also mean breathing troubles. Wood smoke is potentially harmful to all of us, especially young people and those with respiratory problems. Wood smoke also contributes to the "brown cloud" in Fort Collins. While wood burning is not banned, responsible burning and gas burning units are strongly encouraged.

Residents should also be aware that the installation of a fireplace or wood burning stove, requires the owner to obtain a building permit through the Neighborhood and Building Services office at 281 North College.

ZILCH loans (Zero Interest Loans for Conservation Help) are available to help fund the replacement of wood burning units with efficient gas units. Call 224-6085 to learn more.

If wood smoke is a problem in your neighborhood, you can call the Nuisance Hotline at 416-2200.

Energy-Efficient LED Lighting for the Holidays

Discounted pricing on LED (light emitting diodes) holiday lights will be offered at special events at Clay's Ace (November 4), Drake Hardware & Lumber (November 11) and Downtown Ace (November 18).

For more information on these special events and to learn about our fall CFL (compact fluorescent lighting) promotion, visit fcgov.com/power-tosave or call 221-6700.

Character Quality of the Month "Diligence"

Investing my time and energy to complete each task assigned to me.

For more information about Character Fort Collins, visit characterfortcollins.org or call 266-2671.