

## CALENDAR

### 2006 Business Environmental Program Series

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 9 a.m. – noon 215 N. Mason St., Community Room

#### Water-Smart Irrigation

Learn how to create a water budget and measure water-use efficiency. Find out more about the newest controller technology. To RSVP or learn more call 221-6700 or visit [fcgov.com/utilities/business-eps.php](http://fcgov.com/utilities/business-eps.php). Class is FREE.

#### Old Town Ice Rink

Old Town Square

Skating: \$2 per person, Skate Rental: \$1 per pair

#### November 18 - December 22

Monday through Thursday: 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Fridays: 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Sundays: noon – 6:00 p.m.

#### December 23 - January 8

Monday through Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Sundays: noon – 6:00 p.m.

#### January 9 - January 31: Weekends Only

#### Special Dates

December 24: noon – 4:00 p.m.

December 25 & January 1: closed

December 31: 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

January 31: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### Winter Wishes Ice Show

Dec. 14-17

Tickets: [www.lctix.com](http://www.lctix.com) or at the Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia, or 221-6730

Skaters from the City's Learn-to-Skate program will be featured in this spectacular musical event.

### Character Quality of the Month "Loyalty"

*Using difficult times to demonstrate my commitment to those I serve.*

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

NOVEMBER 2006



# CITY news



**SPOTLIGHT:**  
THE HOLIDAYS:  
Family, Friends...and Shopping

## OTHER FEATURES:

- Staying Sustainable: City Codes and HOA Requirements
- Holiday Gifts for Energy and Water Savings
- Spring Break Travel? -Get Your Passport Now!
- Tax Rebates-December 31st Deadline!
- Payment Assistance Fund - People Helping People
- Spend a Little Now Save More Later
- 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. 

## SEASONAL NEWS

# the holidays: FAMILY, FRIENDS...AND SHOPPING

**WHAT IF YOU COULD TURN ONE SINGLE DOLLAR** into many? What if a simple purchase resulted in a ripple effect that could help the entire community?

No, you haven't won the lotto, and it's not a holiday miracle; it's the reality of what happens when you spend your dollars locally, in Fort Collins.

### SHOP FORT COLLINS FIRST

As the holiday season quickly approaches, most people start thinking about family, friends, travel, and yes, shopping. The time between Thanksgiving and the end of the year is undoubtedly a busy shopping season and a crucial time for retailers. By choosing to shop in Fort Collins as opposed to outside City limits or online, you are choosing to turn every dollar you spend into multiple dollars to support the local economy. Shopping in Fort Collins helps support City services such as parks, road improvements, and police services. More importantly, it helps keep friends and family employed, and gives residents the variety of shopping choices that they demand. So as you're looking for the perfect gift, make a commitment to support your community by shopping Fort Collins first.

### GETTING INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Knowing your dollar is going a long way to support your community is a good start toward getting into the holiday spirit. But for those of you who still cringe when hearing the words "holiday shopping," Fort Collins is planning some wonderful events to help you find your holiday cheer and get into the shopping mood.

The Fort Collins Depot Tour will return this year beginning November 24 and continuing through December 24. More than 30 businesses throughout the City have created unique model train displays for you to enjoy while you're out shopping. If you complete the tour and the fun trivia contest, you can enter to win hundreds of dollars in gift certificates! Details, participating businesses, and trivia questions can be found at [fcgov.com/shop](http://fcgov.com/shop).



This winter season will also bring the return of the Old Town Ice Rink in Old Town Square. Scheduled to open on November 18, the ice skating rink provides the perfect excuse to make a full day of your shopping adventure. Skating costs \$2 per person and skate rentals cost \$1 per pair. Check out the Calendar on the back of this edition of City News for details on hours of operation.

If you're still struggling to get into the holiday mood after a day of shopping and ice skating, the City of Fort Collins Museum and the Downtown Business Association have a solution. The Fort Collins Carolfest and Community Tree Lighting will take place December 1. The Carolfest starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Opera Galleria where you can join hundreds of carolers as they walk through the streets of Old Town, stopping at key locations along the way to sing carols and spread holiday cheer. At their final destination, the Fort Collins Museum, at approximately 7:30 p.m., the audience will countdown to light the Community Holiday Tree, and then enjoy entertainment and goodies in the museum and the courtyard.

### GIVING BACK

With so much taking place this holiday season, it's easy to turn a day of holiday shopping into a fun family activity. So take advantage of this year's events and remember you can give a gift to your community simply by shopping locally in Fort Collins.

## Holiday Gifts for Water and Energy Savings

To express a commitment for the environment, consider giving meaningful and sustainable gifts. Whatever the occasion, water and energy saving gifts are easy to find, affordable and fun. Keep in mind these gift ideas for those on your list:

### HOME IMPROVEMENTS

- Low-flow shower massager
- ENERGY STAR® clothes washer (get a \$50 rebate)
- Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)
- String of energy-efficient LED (light emitting diode) holiday lights

### GIFT CERTIFICATES

- HomeEnergy Rating services (get a \$50 discount)
- Subscribe to the Wind Power Program
- Xeriscape plants or design services

### BOOKS

- Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
- Power\$mart Booklet from the Alliance to Save Energy
- Xeriscape Colorado by Connie Ellefson & David Winger, Westcliffe Publishers, 2004

## Spring Break Travel? – Get Your Passport Now!

If you're planning to fly (or sail) to Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, or Bermuda during spring break, you'll need to have a passport; and processing can take as long as 8 weeks!

The Fort Collins City Clerk's Office, 300 LaPorte Ave., is an official passport application facility, ready to process applications on normal business days, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit [fcgov.com/passports](http://fcgov.com/passports), or call 221-6515.

## SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

# Staying Sustainable: CITY CODES AND HOA REQUIREMENTS

IN 2004, THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS ADOPTED A Sustainability Action Plan that is intended to help the City meet its mission of serving as a community leader in sustainability. The City is dedicated to enacting exemplary sustainability practices through alternative fuels, green building, energy conservation, and recycling.

Even prior to the Sustainability Action Plan, the City has had an interest in conservation. In 2003, the City passed a Resource Conservation Code for the purpose of promoting

*... even if you live within the boundaries of an HOA, you can still use a compost bin, a clothesline, and landscape that requires little watering.*

the conservation of water, soil, electric, and natural gas resources. These code provisions were enacted to preserve the right to use clotheslines, solar panels, compost bins, and xeric landscaping. It prevents homeowner's associations (HOAs) from creating or enforcing any covenant having the effect of prohibiting or limiting any of these conservation measures. However, it does allow the HOA to have guidelines regarding these items.

What does this mean to you? It means that even if you live within the boundaries of an HOA, you can still use a compost bin, a clothesline, and landscape that requires little watering. Your HOA may have guidelines that say that your clothesline and your compost bin must be located in your backyard or your solar panels must be flush against your roof, but they cannot say that you can't have them at all. This enables all of us to work on our own Sustainability Action Plan.

This may have you asking, so, what's the difference between an HOA covenant and a City code? Basically, City Codes are established by the City government (our City Council) and apply in all areas of the City, including



covenant controlled communities, and are enforced by the City. HOA covenants are established by private agreement among the property owners within the HOA boundaries (their board is in essence a private government), and are enforced by the HOA. Sometimes HOAs find that it is easier for the HOA to rely on the City's enforcement of City Codes than for the HOA to enforce its covenants, especially in cases like weeds and rubbish. This only works when the covenants are the same as the City Codes because the City can only enforce its own codes – they cannot enforce HOA covenants.

It's important for us to know the many ways we can conserve resources and to be aware of the ordinance that prohibits HOAs from not allowing certain conservation measures. Go to the City's website at [fcgov.com](http://fcgov.com) and look under Natural Resources or Utilities for great resource conservation suggestions.

For more information on the Resource Conservation Code and other City Codes, visit [fcgov.com/neighborhood-services](http://fcgov.com/neighborhood-services).

## Tax Rebates – December 31 Deadline!

The City of Fort Collins is currently offering a Grocery Tax Rebate for low-income and senior citizens. You could receive \$40 for each qualifying person in your household. To be eligible, you must live in the city limits now and for all of 2005 AND meet specific income requirements. There are also additional utility and property tax or rent rebates for seniors or persons with disabilities. To apply, visit [fcgov.com/rebate](http://fcgov.com/rebate) or call 221-6788.

## Payment Assistance Fund – People Helping People

The number of Fort Collins residents needing help paying their utility bills has doubled in recent years. Through a partnership with Catholic Charities Northern, Fort Collins Utilities established the Payment Assistance Fund to help households in financial crisis. A small monthly donation can keep the utilities on for a family in need. See the enclosed Payment Assistance Fund insert to make a tax-deductible donation.

To apply for assistance, take your shut-off notice to Catholic Charities Northern, 460 Linden Center Dr., Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 1-4 p.m. For details, call 221-6700 or visit [fcgov.com/utilities/paf.php](http://fcgov.com/utilities/paf.php).

## Spend a Little Now Save More Later!

In 2007, vehicles registered in Fort Collins won't need an emissions test, but it still makes sense to maintain our cars. Save money and reduce pollution by tightening your gas cap and visiting your mechanic when the check engine light is lit. An illuminated check engine light could mean your engine is inefficient and wasting fuel, thus producing higher levels of emissions that contribute to rising ozone. Visit [fcgov.com/airquality](http://fcgov.com/airquality) for details.