

CALENDAR

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.

Fort Collins Depot Tour

Nov. 24 - Dec. 24

This holiday season, Shop Fort Collins First! More than 25 businesses have created unique train displays for the holiday season. Visit fcgov.com/shop.

Christmas at the Farm

Nov. 24 - Dec. 24

The Farm at Lee Martinez Park, 600 N. Sherwood
FREE

Wreaths and boughs, lights and cows! Bring your family for some old-fashioned holiday fun!

First Night Fort Collins 2007

Sunday, Dec. 31: 5:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Downtown Fort Collins

Enjoy wonderful and diverse entertainment at this non-alcoholic New Year's Eve celebration!

Character Quality of the Month "Hospitality"

*Cheerfully sharing food, shelter,
or conversation to benefit others.*

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

DECEMBER 2006



CITY news



SPOTLIGHT: BEYOND PARTNERSHIP: A Shared Vision for the Future

OTHER FEATURES:

- Election Day: Gone But Not Forgotten
- Happy Anniversary Residential Environmental Program Series
- Recycle Your Christmas Tree
- Need work on the exterior of your historic home or business?
- Reporting a Streetlight Outage
- Calendar



CITY COUNCIL/CITY MANAGER

Doug Hutchinson, Mayor

Ben Manvel, District 1

Kurt Kastein, District 4

Karen Weitkunat, District 2

Kelly Ohlson, District 5


Diggs Brown, District 3

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

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

UNIVERCITY NEWS

beyond partnership: A SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE

WHEN YOU ASK SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN FORT Collins about their hometown, inevitably you'll hear a lot about Downtown, Colorado State University, and the Poudre River. They'll tell you about their favorite shop in Old Town. You'll hear tales of early mornings spent along the Poudre River fly fishing. They might even share stories from their college days at CSU.

The relationship between these three entities (Downtown, CSU, and the Poudre River) seems obvious; each contributes to the success and popularity of the other. Yet some believe that the partnership potential of these entities is largely unrealized. They feel that these community gems indeed work well together, but have not yet connected in a shared vision for the future of the community.

There is a group in town looking to change that with a program called UniverCity Connections.

Think about the last time you visited Old Town. It's quaint, it's vibrant, it's diverse, it's almost indescribable. Now imagine that culture continues beyond a few blocks in Downtown all the way to the south end of CSU and up to the river on the north side. Biking, walking, or driving from one end to the other provides a seamless experience including welcomed distractions such as shopping in local boutiques, sipping coffee at an outdoor café, or peeking in on one of the new lofts you've been eyeing.

That is the potential power of UniverCity Connections.

Operating with the stated purpose to bring these exceptional community assets together in harmony with our natural environment, UniverCity Connections aims to create a joint vision for the future of CSU, Downtown Fort Collins, and the Poudre River.

Once established, this vision becomes the framework for future action. "The solutions get better when we work in partnership," explained Darin Atteberry, City Manager. "This is legacy work."

Creating this expansive legacy requires strong working relationships among key organizations and individuals. Thus, four key institutions are seated at the heart of the



effort: the City of Fort Collins, Colorado State University, the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, and the Downtown Development Authority. The involvement of the City and CSU are self-explanatory, but the two other entities also fill key roles in moving forward. The Community Foundation is the convener; a nonprofit that has experience in creating partnerships to work toward common goals. The Downtown Development Authority provides vision and resources, using its financial assets to leverage private investment in projects that benefit the entire community. Along with these four organizations, UniverCity Connections includes a variety of individuals with diverse interests and backgrounds.

The Fort Collins community has long used cooperative projects as a model for success. From the Transit Center at CSU to the Lincoln Center remodel, the Mason Transportation Corridor to the new kayak park, community collaboration has proven integral in effectively leveraging resources and ideas.

Prosperous partnerships of the past will act as important building blocks in moving forward, but the future holds even greater potential. "We are moving beyond simply working together on projects," concludes Atteberry, "we are actively shaping the future of Fort Collins."

For more information on UniverCity Connections visit www.UniverCityConnections.org.

Happy Anniversary Residential Environmental Program Series

The City of Fort Collins is celebrating 20 successful years of the Residential Environmental Program Series. This innovative and free program provides valuable information on the latest and greatest City services as well as tips to save money, protect the environment, and gain a better appreciation for our local habitats.

2007 topics include the national solar decathlon, public transportation and biking, new outdoor places, local trees, composting, Xeriscape perennials, and water-smart irrigation.

The Series begins February 7 and concludes May 2. All programs will be held from 7-9 p.m. at the Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr. Pre-registration is not necessary. Stay tuned for more information or call 221-6700.

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

After every holiday season, thousands of trees are discarded at the landfill. But you can avoid this waste by participating in the City of Fort Collins Christmas Tree Recycling Program.



To recycle Christmas trees make sure your tree is “green and clean;” remove lights, tinsel, wire, etc. Trees decorated with fake snow can’t be recycled and should be left for trash collection.

Drop off your tree, Dec. 26 through Jan. 16, at one of the following sites:

- Edora Park, 1420 E. Stuart St.
- Rolland Moore Park, 2201 S. Shields St.
- City Street Utility, 625 Ninth St.
- Fossil Creek Nursery, 7029 S. College Ave.
- Larimer County Landfill, 5887 S. Taft Hill Rd.

Call 221-6600 for more information.

VOTE ELECTION NEWS

the library district: A VOTE FOR QUALITY SERVICES

THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER, THE VOTES TALLIED, AND Fort Collins residents have used the ballot box to determine community priorities. By a margin of 64 percent to 36 percent, voters approved the formation of a new Library District and declared that this community values high-quality Library services, and is willing to pay for them.

The new Library District is defined by essentially the same boundaries as the Poudre School District and will be funded by a 3-mill property tax dedicated solely to library services.

The creation of the District means that libraries will no longer be a City service. Instead, they will be managed by a Board of Trustees that is jointly appointed by the Larimer County Commissioners and the Fort Collins City Council. Thus, this Board will be accountable to both the City and the County, and ultimately, to the citizens.



Restoring services that were eliminated due to previous budget cuts will be a high priority.

The newly elected Board must create a plan to transition management of library services from the City to the new Library District. Good governance and accountability will be critical during this time to assure that the libraries continue to meet and exceed customer expectations.

With this in mind, Fort Collins’ libraries will undergo exciting changes in 2007. Restoring services that were eliminated due to previous budget cuts will be a high priority.

In January, the cuts to the libraries’ hours of operation made in 2006 will be reversed. The Main Library will reopen Thursday nights and the Harmony Library will open again on Saturday mornings. Furthermore, the programs for teenagers and children eliminated in 2006 will also be restored in 2007.

Additionally, beginning in January, the library will add more new books, CDs, DVDs and other materials to provide patrons with better access to requested items. The purchases will also reduce wait times for popular materials.

By April, the Library District will replace the six community drop boxes that were removed due to prior budget cuts. In addition, the District will look for new locations to place drop boxes outside the city but within the new Library District boundaries. These remote drop boxes increase convenience for customers by allowing them to return items closer to home without traveling to the library.

Construction on a new southeast library branch is currently scheduled to begin in 2007, with an anticipated opening in 2008. The new branch will provide a wide range of popular library services to the residents in the southeastern region of the district.

Speaking with their ballots, voters said that libraries, and the services they provide, are important to this community. Voters declared that they expect expanded, high quality library services. With the formation of a Library District, Fort Collins voters have guaranteed the funding to meet those expectations now and for years to come.

Need work on the exterior of your historic home or business?

Great news! You may be able to receive a 0% interest loan for work on your property if it is a designated historic landmark. If your property is not currently a landmark, it may be eligible to become one. You can receive money for projects including:

- Porch repair
- Trim or gutter repairs
- Siding restoration
- Foundation repair
- Storefront rehabilitation
- Other exterior improvements

Even better, loans do not have to be paid off until the house is sold. **Loan applications are due on January 16, 2007.** For more information, visit fcgov.com/historicpreservation/financial-incentives.php or call 221-6376.

Reporting a Streetlight Outage

Streetlights provide a valuable community service by supplying light for motorists and pedestrians. With more than 10,000 streetlights, Fort Collins Utilities cannot manually check each light and appreciates help identifying those in need of repair.

If you see a streetlight that is out, on all the time, cycling on and off, leaning, or has broken glass or exposed wires, please call our hotline at 221-6313 and provide information such as:

- description of the problem
- location (e.g. middle of block)
- nearest address and/or closest intersection.
- your name and phone number in case we need more detail

Please call Traffic Operations at 221-6630 to report a traffic signal problem.

With your help, Fort Collins Utilities will be able to repair streetlights in a timely manner.