

CALENDAR

Lunch and Lecture – Experience Brazil

Tuesday, March 21, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr.

Learn about conservationists' concerns with the development of the Amazon's rainforest and what's being done to help. Call 221-6645.

2nd Annual Family and Youth Summit

Saturday, March 31, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Ranch- Larimer County Fairgrounds

5280 Arena Circle

Through dynamic presentations, workshops, and hands-on activities families can spend a day together having fun and learning about ways to make healthy, safe lifestyle choices. \$10 at the door for families and/or individuals. www.healthylarimer.org/2007summit.

Tribute to Buddy Holly

Saturday, March 31, 6-9 p.m.

Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr.

Enjoy the music of Buddy Holly, performed by Richie Lee & The Fabulous 50s. Admission is \$15, cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. Call 224-6033.

Read On! Fort Collins presents Mark Spragg

Sunday, April 22, 7 p.m.

Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia

Mark Spragg, author of *An Unfinished Life*, will speak as part of Fort Collins Read On! program, where the community reads and discusses the same book. www.readonfc.org

Sweet and Savory Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Gardens, 2145 S. Centre Ave.

Herbs, unique annuals, ornamental grasses, and vegetable starts will be available for sale. All plants have been grown by greenhouse volunteers and proceeds will be used for future development at the The Gardens. fcgov.com/horticulture

MARCH 2007



news



SPOTLIGHT: MASON CORRIDOR: More Than Transportation

OTHER FEATURES:

- Smart Decisions: Now and in the Future
- April Elections – Closer Than You Think
- Payment Assistance Fund: Thinking of Others
- Culture Corner
- Fort Collins Museum Heritage Courtyard Summer Programs for Children
- Utilities Offers \$50 Washer Rebate
- 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. 

ECONOMIC NEWS

mason corridor: MORE THAN TRANSPORTATION

IMAGINE A MODERN, WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY that channels growth into positive community development. Multiple forms of travel conveniently link major destinations: Old Town, Colorado State University, Foothills Mall, South College retail areas, and more. Housing, retail, and business establishments mix seamlessly together creating the best in Fort Collins urban living, in downtown and beyond.

This is the potential of the City's Mason Corridor Plan. In the State of the City Address, Mayor Doug Hutchinson described the Mason Corridor Plans as, "much more than a tool to improve transportation. It is a redevelopment opportunity and part of a long-term, comprehensive strategy to strengthen our local economy."

The Mason Corridor is a five-mile north-south byway which extends from Cherry Street to just south of Harmony Road. The corridor is centered along the railroad tracks, located a few hundred feet west of College Avenue.

Development, redevelopment and transportation are the key elements of the Mason Corridor Plan. At the heart of the Mason Corridor is the Mason Express, or MAX, Fort Collins' first planned Bus Rapid Transit system. The MAX is similar to a light rail, but uses buses instead of train cars. It will provide faster travel times when compared with driving and provide high frequency service with buses running continuously every 10 minutes. The new MAX stations will incorporate high-quality amenities, similar to a light rail, including electronic pre-pay fare machines. Plus, MAX buses will be environmentally friendly, powered by alternative fuel.

The Mason Corridor Plan also includes a new bicycle and pedestrian trail that will eventually run from Laurel Street south to the Fossil Creek Trail. Much of the trail is already open to the public, and plans for completion are underway.

Opportunities for development and redevelopment will largely focus on areas surrounding the new MAX stations. "This type of development around stations often build on existing assets to create vibrant communities including entertainment centers, housing,



Artist rendering of the NE corner of Drake and Mason

workplaces, retail, dining and parks," explains Mike Freeman, the City of Fort Collins Economic Advisor.

You can learn more about the potential economic impact and transportation benefits of the Mason Corridor at the public events listed below.

PUBLIC EVENTS:

March 8 – Public Open House: MAX, Fort Collins bus rapid transit system
4-7 p.m., Senior Center

March 14 – Presentation: Mason Corridor – Linking Community, Lifestyle and Businesses
7-9 p.m., Senior Center

March 28 – Public Open House: Mason Trail - a discussion about crossing the railroad tracks behind Whole Foods.
4-7 p.m., The Gardens at Spring Creek

As the City moves forward creating the infrastructure of the Mason Corridor, more people become aware of the project, and that means private investment is not far behind. Freeman concludes, "Looking at the potential for partnership with the development community, I have no doubt that completion of the Mason Corridor Plan will strengthen the local economy."

For more information regarding the Mason Corridor and upcoming events, visit fcgov.com/transportationplanning.

April Elections – Closer Than You Think

On April 3, city voters will elect a Mayor, and voters in Districts 2, 4, and 6 will elect Council representatives. Several amendments to the City Charter will also be proposed. Visit fcgov.com/city-clerk/elections2007apr.php for election details.

The election will be conducted by mail ballot; there will be no polling places. Ballots will be mailed to all “active” voters. If you have not received a ballot by March 26, contact the City Clerk’s Office at 221-6515.

If you think your voter status may be “inactive,” call the Larimer County Elections Office at 498-7820 before March 5. Check voter status online at www.larimer.org/elections.

Payment Assistance Fund: Thinking of Others

Families and individuals in financial crisis and those on fixed incomes are finding it more difficult to meet the rising costs of maintaining a home.

In 2004, Fort Collins Utilities and Catholic Charities Northern established the Payment Assistance Fund to help community members stay warm, keep their lights on and water flowing.

Last year, this fund helped over 300 residents. A donation on your monthly bill or a one-time contribution will help us assist more people this year.

To apply for assistance, take your shut-off notice to The Mission at 460 Linden Center Dr., MWF, 1-4 p.m. To make a contribution, visit fcgov.com/utilities/paf.php or call 221-6700.

Character Quality of the Month “Flexibility”

Willingness to change plans or ideas according to the direction of my authorities.

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

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

smart decisions: NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

TODAY’S YOUTH, OUR FUTURE DECISION-MAKERS, learn why it’s important to conserve water and energy and protect water quality through Fort Collins Utilities hands-on educational programs.

By focusing on three main topics, energy and renewables, water conservation, and watershed protection, these fun programs give our youth the knowledge and tools to overcome challenges, make informed choices, and create awareness of how each child’s activities impact the environment and our future.

ENERGY AND RENEWABLES

In the energy program, students discuss the challenge of meeting future energy demands and look at solutions. Students compare the costs and benefits of purchasing compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. They learn that while they cost more to buy initially, CFLs cost less over time due to the bulb’s extended life cycle and lower energy use. By using a hand-crank generator to light a CFL and traditional incandescent bulb, students can literally feel how much more energy it takes to light the incandescent bulb.

USING WATER WISELY

In the Dr. Waterwise classroom, students measure their home water use in a personal water log. Many are surprised to learn how many gallons of water they use every day. At the end of the experiment, students are encouraged to draw their own conclusions about the need to conserve and manage water resources.

WATERSHED PROTECTION

To help students understand the connection between the environment and clean water, the watershed protection program brings students to local rivers, streams and wetlands to see first hand the importance of keeping our watersheds clean to provide our community with drinking water and recreational opportunities.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Educators are encouraged by students’ interest in these important issues. “As teachers, we value Fort Collins Utilities’ role



Left: Student Watershed scientists at work. Right: Using pedal power to light a CFL

providing real-life experiences for our students,” said Mike Mosley, teacher at Cache La Poudre (CLP) Elementary. These real life experiences will help prepare our youth for the environmental challenges of the future. Barb Groves, CLP Junior High teacher explains, “The decisions our youth make about conserving energy will only improve if we educate them to recognize the benefits. Having students involved...will only improve our environment and quality of life.”

For more information about these and other Fort Collins Utilities programs visit fcgov.com/utilities.

Utilities Offers \$50 Washer Rebate

Fort Collins Utilities also encourages adults to embrace conservation by offering a \$50 rebate to residential customers who purchase high-efficiency clothes washers with ENERGY STAR® labels. ENERGY STAR® washers meet strict efficiency guidelines and are listed at www.energystar.gov.

Rebates are available for qualifying washers purchased on or after July 16, 2003. To receive a rebate, complete and submit the application (available through local retailers and at fcgov.com/water/pdf/rebate2003.pdf) and include a copy of your sales receipt.

High-efficiency washers use up to 50% less energy and 30-50% less water than conventional machines saving you up to \$110 per year on your utility bills.

For more info., visit fcgov.com/utilities, or call 221-6700.

Fort Collins Museum Heritage Courtyard Summer Programs for Children

Create, imagine, and explore during our week-long summer programs. These fun, hands-on opportunities allow children to learn about Fort Collins history and culture through educational games, crafts, writing, and drama. Programs include:

- **Wild West** – Travel through time, exploring the cultural legacies of Northern Colorado.
- **Early American Home Arts** - Discover the challenges of creating a frontier home from scratch.
- **Boxelder Schoolhouse** - Learn reading, writing, arithmetic and recitation in the historic one-room Boxelder Schoolhouse.

INTRODUCING...

Junior Curators Program (7th – 9th graders)

You might outgrow your prairie costume, but you’ll never outgrow the Fort Collins Museum! Go behind the scenes of the Fort Collins Museum, work alongside museum staff, meet new friends, and create your own museum masterpiece!

Registration begins on Saturday, April 14 at 10:00 a.m. Call 221-6738 or visit fcgov.com/museum to learn more!

Culture Corner

Designs and Images Art Show at
Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)
201 S. College Avenue

View student artwork from 41 different schools.

March 6-17: RMHS and neighborhood cluster

March 27-April 7: FCHS and neighborhood cluster

April 17-April 28: FRHS and neighborhood cluster

May 8-19: PHS and neighborhood cluster

Special showing every first Friday of each neighborhood cluster from 6-8pm.

Contact Jana Webster-Wheeler at 490-3674 or jwebster@psdschools.org for details.