

## CALENDAR

### Residential Environmental Program Series

#### Free Public Programs

Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Dr.  
Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.

#### ■ The Nature of the Poudre River

April 16

Virtually explore the many places that can be enjoyed along the Cache la Poudre River. Discover top-notch recreation, respite from the city, an outdoor classroom, and artistic inspiration.

#### ■ Home Composting Seminar

April 30

Hands-on seminar on home composting. Get started with "hot" composting, vermi-composting and approaches to turn food waste into soil amendments.

#### ■ Xeriscape by Design

May 7

See before and after images of transformed Front Range landscapes. Learn how to create an attractive, low water-using landscape following the principles of Xeriscape.

### Get Down and Dirty Composting and Gardening Festival

Sat. May 3, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Gardens on Spring Creek

FREE

Learn about composting and garden design and purchase your backyard composting bin. Enjoy booths from local vendors and activities for the kids. [fcgov.com/recycling](http://fcgov.com/recycling) or 221-6600.

Due to the billing cycle, events may take place before you receive your monthly newsletter. Visit [fcgov.com](http://fcgov.com) for timely event info.

## Character Quality of the Month "Compassion"

*Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others.*

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

APRIL 2008



# news



## SPOTLIGHT: DOWNTOWN FORT COLLINS

### OTHER FEATURES:

- Save Money Driving to Work: Vanpool or Carpool
- Efficient Lighting Saves Energy and Money
- Zero Interest Loans for Historic Buildings
- Construction Zone: HZIP Update
- Mayors' Teen Recognition Awards
- Culture Corner
- Calendar




### CITY COUNCIL/CITY MANAGER

Doug Hutchinson, Mayor  
Kelly Ohlson, Mayor Pro Tem, District 5  
Ben Manvel, District 1      Wade Troxell, District 4  
Lisa Poppaw, District 2      David Roy, District 6  
Diggs Brown, District 3  
Darin Atteberry, City Manager

### CITY HALL

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

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

## DOWNTOWN NEWS

# downtown fort collins: BIG IDEAS



Downtown Hotel & Convention Center

**WHAT MAKES DOWNTOWN DOWNTOWN?** THE unique shopping, great restaurants, and entertainment? The parks, history, and special events? The indescribable and distinctive "vibe?" If you've been downtown recently you know the answer: all of the above.

With all this to offer, you may think that downtown is as good as it gets. Yet, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), UniverCity Connections, the City and other groups are determined to prove that Downtown Fort Collins just gets better with time.

### MUSEUM AND DISCOVERY SCIENCE CENTER

One exciting upcoming project is the merger of the Fort Collins Museum and the Discovery Science Center. This unique opportunity will ultimately create the region's only state-of-the-art science and culture museum. In 2005, voters approved funding for capital projects, including this museum. The City dedicated land at the corner of Mason and Cherry streets for the facility, which is expected to open in 2011.

### DOWNTOWN HOTEL

Plans are in the works for converting the public parking lot at Remington and Oak streets into a hotel and convention center. The initial design includes 150 hotel rooms, 40,000 square feet of convention space, 70,000 square feet of office space, and a three-story parking structure with more spaces than are in the current parking lot.

### BEE T STREET AMPHITHEATER

Picture this: a new 4,000 seat outdoor amphitheater and arts center in the heart of downtown. One proposed location is at the northwest corner of Mason Street and Mountain Avenue. Down the road, the amphitheater could connect with an indoor Performing Arts Center.

### DOWNTOWN ALLEYS AND WALKWAYS

In an effort to make the area even more pedestrian-friendly, alleys will be updated to provide improved connection between downtown and CSU. In addition to being cleaner, safer and well-lit, they will allow for better vehicle access, private parking, and will

incorporate artwork and other elements to create a more welcoming atmosphere.

### COMMUNITY MARKET

Residents could soon have year-round access to a downtown market, which could increase local food and craft projects. An economic feasibility analysis is underway for a community market in downtown.

### FROM DREAMS TO REALITY

The DDA has worked for 30 years to build investment partnerships that fund projects that foster economic, cultural, and social growth downtown.

To continue implementing projects, like those listed above, they must continue to receive their funding. The DDA is funded through tax increment financing (TIF), which leverages private investment and stimulates redevelopment. Later this spring, state legislators will decide whether to adopt a bill extending the TIF, which will expire at the end of 2011.

### GOT A BIG IDEA?

Implementation also relies upon big ideas, and those often come from people like you, the folks who live, work, and play in the downtown area. The DDA wants to hear about your innovative thinking, cool and exciting project concepts, creative solutions to an existing problem, serendipitous inventions, or anything else that you think will make Downtown a better place. Call the DDA at 484-2020 for more information.

The efforts of the DDA, Beet Street, the City, and others combined with larger initiatives, such as the Mason Corridor and River District, will assure our downtown continues to get better with time.

## Efficient Lighting Saves Energy and Money

Today's compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) offer many benefits, especially if you are trying to reduce your electric bill and replace light bulbs less often. Lower electric use also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts.

CFLs are available in a variety of styles and sizes and fit most fixtures. Look for ENERGY STAR® labeled products that turn on almost instantly and provide excellent light quality.

Each bulb you replace with a CFL can save up to \$30 in electricity costs over its lifetime. CFLs also last up to 10 times longer than standard bulbs — on average they need to be changed only once every five to seven years.

Fort Collins Utilities and Platte River Power Authority are working with local retailers to offer CFL bulbs at discounted prices. The Residential Lighting Program will run from April through December 2008.

For more information, visit [fcgov.com/cfl](http://fcgov.com/cfl) or call 221-6700.

## Zero interest loans for historic buildings

The City and the State Historic Fund can help you pay for exterior work on your commercial building. To find out if it qualifies, go to [fcgov.com/historicpreservation](http://fcgov.com/historicpreservation) or call 221-6376.

## Culture Corner

Debut Theatre Company Proudly Presents *Sleeping Beauty*  
The Lincoln Center Mini-Theatre, 417 West Magnolia

Fri., May 9, 7 p.m.      Fri., May 16, 7 p.m.  
Sat., May 10, 1 & 7 p.m.      Sat., May 17, 7 p.m.  
Sun., May 11, 5:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$7.00 All Ages – Reserved Seating 221-6730 or [lctix.com](http://lctix.com)

The beloved fairy tale fantasy presented by young actors for the entire family

## TRANSPORTATION NEWS

# save money driving to work: VANPOOL OR CARPOOL

### CREATE COMPANY VANPOOLS AND CARPOOLS

The price of gasoline is forcing employees across the state to reconsider how they are traveling to work. Whether it is the distance they travel or the fuel efficiency of their vehicle, the cost of driving to work has increased significantly in the last five years. If you include increased vehicle wear-and-tear and insurance, the cost of driving is consuming a large percentage of a household's monthly income.

The SmartTrips program offers employees in Northern Colorado the opportunity to reduce commute costs through vanpool and carpool services – VanGo and CarGo.

### What are Vanpooling and Carpooling?

**Vanpooling** – With a fleet of more than 70 vans, VanGo can provide a “company van” to transport employees to work daily. The program only needs 6 vanpoolers to start a new route to your business. The vanpoolers pay a monthly fare between \$76 and \$260 based on the distance from their home city to their workplace. The fare covers the operation of the vehicle, fuel, maintenance, and insurance.

**Carpooling** – The CarGo program matches employees seeking to share the expense of driving with their own vehicle instead of “renting” the vanpool van. *SmartTrips.org* offers online matching for employees searching for other commuters traveling from their home city to the area near your workplace.

### DOES YOUR EMPLOYER SUPPORT RIDESHARING?

Many employers concerned with employee retention, restricted parking, and increasing commute costs are providing incentives for their employees to vanpool or carpool.

- **Vanpool Subsidy** – The IRS allows employers to give \$115 per month to employees to offset the cost of their monthly vanpool fare.
- **Flexible Spending Account (FSA)** - Like your medical FSA, employees can now allocate \$115 per month, pre-tax, to pay their monthly vanpool fare.
- **Preferred Parking** – The rising cost of building new parking spaces leads employers to offer prime parking



locations for employees who carpool or vanpool because they save parking spaces.

Remember to ask your employer what incentives they currently offer to help keep your commute costs down. If your employer is seeking assistance with their program, please contact SmartTrips at 224-6148.

### WHO IS RIDING?

Almost 80 percent of vanpoolers work in managerial or professional positions. They share the ride to reduce commute costs, get some work done on the commute, and reduce the stress of driving 20–80 miles to their workplace.

### BENEFITS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Vanpooling and carpooling reduces the number of vehicles traveling to your workplace. Fewer cars translate into reduced tailpipe emissions, reduced roadway congestion and improved air quality. Last year alone, VanGo vanpoolers saved more than 12 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by sharing the ride to work.

### GET STARTED TODAY

The best place to look for your new carpool or vanpool is your workplace or office complex. SmartTrips will gladly work with you to set up a carpool/vanpool formation meeting at your place of employment. Call SmartTrips today at 224-6148 to get started or visit [smartrtrips.org](http://smartrtrips.org).

## Construction Zone: HZIP Update

Phase II of the Harmony-Ziegler Improvement Project (HZIP) is underway. A roundabout will be installed at the at the Horsetooth and Ziegler intersection, and a quarter-mile stretch of Ziegler Road will be widened. The entire project will take approximately four months to complete.

### WHY A ROUNDABOUT?

Currently, the south and west portions of the intersection see the majority of traffic and a roundabout will help alleviate that congestion. Plus, a roundabout will help keep traffic flowing as more vehicles pass through the intersection due to the opening of Front Range Village, a new 900,000 sq. ft. lifestyle center.

### IMPACTS

Initially, lanes will not be closed; however, drivers should expect lane shifts and slower traffic flow. Starting in May, a portion of eastbound Horsetooth Road between Ashmount and Ziegler will be closed to allow for completion of the roundabout. Residents and commuters should plan for alternative routes.

HZIP is a \$33 million construction project that Bayer Properties, developers of Front Range Village, has helped fund in anticipation of the center's summer 2008 opening.

For updates on the project, go to [fcgov.com/hzip](http://fcgov.com/hzip).

## Mayors' Teen Recognition Awards

Do you know a high school student who has overcome adversity or unique obstacles? One who provides exceptional service to the community, or one who sets a positive example for others? If so, nominate them for the third annual Fort Collins and Loveland Mayors' Teen Recognition Awards. For requirements and application instructions, visit [fcgov.com/teenawards](http://fcgov.com/teenawards).