

CALENDAR

Residential Environmental Program Series

Free Public Programs

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

■ Plant Select®: Varieties for Colorado May 21

Plant Select®, a cooperative project of the Denver Botanic Gardens and CSU, identifies and promotes new varieties of plants that perform well in our area.

■ Watering with Conservation in Mind June 4

New "smart" technology can make watering your lawn more efficient. Learn how to inspect your system to identify repairs and upgrades.

11th Annual Father's Day 5K

Sat., June 15, 8 a.m.

Old Town Square

Strap on your running shoes and start Father's Day off right. Proceeds support youth programs at Northside Aztlan Community Center. 221-6358.

Kids' Nite Out Across America

Fridays through May 30, 7-10:30 p.m.

Northside Aztlan Community Center,
112 E. Willow

Gym games, dancing, live DJ, inflatable games, prizes and much more. Snacks, candy and pop available for purchase. Cost: \$10 (cash only, payable at the door). 221-6655 or fcgov.com/north.

Due to the billing cycle, events may take place before you receive your monthly newsletter. Visit fcgov.com for timely event info.

Character Quality of the Month "Persuasiveness"

*Guiding vital truths around another's
mental roadblocks*

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

MAY 2008



news



SPOTLIGHT: YOUR CITY TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

OTHER FEATURES:

- West Nile Virus and Mosquitoes
- Conservation at Home
- Culture Corner
- Passport Applications - No Appointment Needed
- Floodplain Management
- 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

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

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

your city tax dollars at work

WARM WEATHER IN COLORADO CAN ONLY MEAN one thing: road construction. See below for a list of planned work zones and general traffic impacts. To learn of specific road closures and other up-to-the-minute traffic details visit fcgov.com/fctrip.

CONE ZONE

Construction Projects and Traffic Impacts

Taft Hill Road Improvements

West Vine Dr. to Laporte Ave.

June-August

Full road closure including the Taft and Laporte intersection.

West Mulberry Street Repaving

Taft Hill west to Rogers Park

May-July

Short term closures only, expect lane closures and slow speeds.

Timberline Road Railroad Repairs

Timberline south of Vine Drive

May-June

Expect short term closures during rail repairs

Ziegler Road Widening

Environmental Drive to Horsetooth Road

May-October

Road currently closed and will remain closed until construction is completed.

Horsetooth Road Repaving

Ziegler Road to Timberline Road

May-June

Short term closures only, expect lane closures and slow speeds.

South Timberline Repaving

Vermont Drive to Harmony Road

May-June

Short term closures only, expect lane closures and slow speeds.

South Lemay Repaving

East Harmony Road to Muirfield Way

May-June

Short term closures only, expect lane closures and slow speeds.

West Harmony Road Maintenance

Starflower to the railroad tracks west of College Ave.

May-June

Short term closures only, expect lane closures and slow speeds.

West Harmony Road Improvements

Seneca Street to the railroad tracks (includes Shields from Clarendon Hills to Wakerobin)

July-March 2009

Full closure on Harmony from Shields to Seneca for 6-8 weeks in August and September. Otherwise, expect short term closures with lane closures and slow speeds.

SAFETY FIRST

Work zone safety relies on everyone, including workers, drivers, cyclists and pedestrians! These somber statistics offered by the Federal Highway Administration reinforce how important it is to slow down and pay extra attention in work zones.

Consider this:

- Nationwide, over the past ten years motor vehicle fatalities in work zones have increased 45 percent
- 85 percent of people killed in work zones are occupants of the vehicles
- Twice as many work zone fatal crashes occur on weekdays than on weekends
- More than 40,000 people are injured annually in work zone crashes

Please remember to drive safely in work zones and stay alert to changing traffic patterns.

Passport Applications - No Appointment Needed

The Clerk's Office, 300 LaPorte Ave., is an official passport facility, ready to process your application on normal business days between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Passport photos are available onsite.

To apply you will need photo identification (driver's license preferred), proof of citizenship (a certified birth certificate or naturalization papers), and two checks (credit cards are not accepted). Children under the age of 16 must have both parents present, and parents must bring photo identification. Other requirements may apply. Call 221-6515 or visit fcgov.com/passports for more information.

Floodplain Management

As flood season begins, now's the time to learn about Utilities' Floodplain Management Program, designed to decrease the potential for flooding damages and personal injury. The primary cause of flooding is intense rainfall between May and September. However, rapid snowmelt also can cause flooding on the Poudre River.

The Floodplain Management Program provides:

- site-specific flood information
- interactive floodplain maps
- flood insurance information, including rate map and local hazard data
- development permit requirements
- local flood history, flood safety and property protection information
- floodproofing, retrofitting and construction techniques
- site visits to advise property owners of protection measures

Blocked waterways can also result in flooding. City Code prohibits dumping in channels, irrigation ditches and other drainageways.

For more information or to report illegal dumping, call 221-6700, TDD (970) 224-6003, or visit fcgov.com/stormwater.

SAFETY NEWS

west nile virus and mosquitoes: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE WEST Nile Virus and better protect yourself and your family.

What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile virus is a disease that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. It first appeared in the U.S. in 1999 in New York and has since traveled westward across the U.S. and now is in Colorado. Most people who get infected will only experience mild flu-like symptoms or will not even get sick. However, West Nile virus can be fatal and researchers continue to evaluate the health risks.

How the Virus is Spread

The virus is carried long distances by infected birds and then spread locally by mosquitoes that bite these birds. The mosquitoes can then pass the virus to humans and animals.

Mosquito season in Colorado is from late spring to mid-September; while the West Nile virus risk is highest in August and September, these are things you can do all season to help reduce that risk.

Prevention

Take steps to lessen the likelihood of mosquito bites:

- Limit time spent outdoors at dawn or dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear lightweight, long-sleeved shirts and long pants while outdoors.
- Spray clothing with insect repellent since mosquitoes may bite through clothing.
- Install or repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out.
- Apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin. Many products are available and effective to help keep mosquitoes away. Please refer to http://co.larimer.co.us/health/cd/repellent_facts.htm for up-to-date information on repellents and their effectiveness. Always read and follow product directions.



Repellents

Choose a repellent that best fits your needs based on:

- How long you'll be exposed
- Time of day
- Effectiveness of ingredients
- Age of user

Products containing permethrin are intended to be used on clothing and/or gear, but not to be applied directly to skin.

Repellents for Kids

- Don't use repellents with 30 percent or higher concentration of DEET.
- Don't use repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus on children under three.
- Don't use any repellent on infants younger than two months. Instead, consider a carrier with mosquito netting.

Don't Breed Mosquitoes!

You may not realize it, but your pond, birdbath, or flower pots can act as a breeding environment for mosquitoes. Mosquitoes lay eggs in still water which hatch in seven to 10 days. The following measures can reduce the number of mosquitoes in and around your house:

- Remove standing water in ponds, ditches, gutters, flower pots, tires and cans.
- Check unusual items that might contain water such as wheelbarrows, toys, garden equipment, and plastic sheeting.
- Drill drainage holes in tire swings.
- Check water in birdbaths and wading pools weekly for mosquito larvae. Empty the water if they are present.
- Stock ornamental ponds, fountains and livestock water tanks with fish that eat mosquito larvae or treat them with BTI, a natural bacteria that kills larvae.
- Do not over-water lawns and gardens.
- Trim shrubbery and remove garden debris.

Visit fcgov.com/westnile for more information.



Conservation at Home

Even if you live within the boundaries of an HOA, you can still use a compost bin, a clothesline, and landscaping that requires little watering. In 2003, the City passed a Resource Conservation Code for the purpose of promoting the conservation of water, soil, electric, and natural gas resources. It prevents homeowner's associations (HOAs) from creating or enforcing any covenant that prohibits or limits these conservation measures.

However, it does allow the HOA to have guidelines regarding these items. Your HOA may have covenants 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.

CITY CODE VS. HOA COVENANT

City Codes are established by the City government (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, and are enforced by the HOA. The City can only enforce its own codes – they cannot enforce HOA covenants.

Visit fcgov.com/neighborhoodservices or call 224-6046 for details.

Culture Corner

Fort Collins Recognized for Thriving Arts and Culture Scene

In its May/June 2008 issue, *Where to Retire* magazine profiles Fort Collins as one of eight towns with art and music scenes that inspire participation in and appreciation of the cultural, social and historical aspects of the arts.

The article recognizes Fort Collins' art walks, demonstrations, and workshops that draw residents into an active cultural scene as well as the Lincoln Center for providing access to professional theater, dance, galleries, music and outdoor sculpture gardens.