

CALENDAR

The Great Sofa Round-Up 2008

Friday, August 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

CSU Visitor's Parking Lot (n. of Lake on College)

Scheduled to coincide with the majority of lease renewals, the Great Sofa Round-Up allows students, neighbors, and social agencies to drop off or claim a sofa for free!

The event helps clean up neighborhoods and prevents indoor furniture from finding its way to yards, streets, and curbsides. If sofas are left in alleys, on a porch or in the middle of a lawn, it is a City code violation.

Learn more: call 224-6070 or visit fcgov.com/neighborhoodservices.

Neighborhood Night Out 2008

Tuesday, August 5

Neighborhood Night Out (NNO) is a traditional event that takes place all over the country on the first Tuesday night in August.

If you've been meaning to have a party and meet your neighbors, take advantage of this night to make it happen. Register your event with the City to receive a t-shirt and inclusion in the master map which is distributed to police, fire, and council members for possible visits.

NNO helps create safe and friendly neighborhoods by encouraging neighbors to meet and interact. Register your event by July 21; visit fcgov.com/neighborhoodservices.

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

Culture Corner

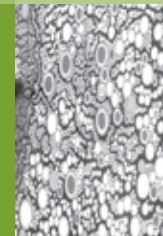
Lincoln Center's 30th Anniversary Season! lctix.com

Whether you're seeking a dash of Broadway, a pinch of fun family entertainment, a splash of riotous comedy, or a smidgen of soulful sound, you'll find it in the Lincoln Center's 2008-2009 entertainment line-up. You'll find performances like Jim Brickman, Oliver, Ain't Misbehavin', and NBC's 'Last Comic Standing' Live Tour.

JULY 2008



CITY NEWS



SPOTLIGHT: ART IN THE ALLEYS

OTHER FEATURES:

- Smart Tips to Reduce Outdoor Water Use
- Are You Ready?
- Scooting Safely
- Severe Weather and Emergency Information
- Calendar
- Culture Corner



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CITY HALL

300 LaPorte Ave. • P.O. Box 580 • Fort Collins, CO 80522-0580
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This publication is available in large print, audio and on the web. 

DOWNTOWN NEWS

art in the alleys



COLORFUL AND ARTISTIC TREE FROGS, BICYCLISTS, and abstract compositions are popping up in unexpected places in downtown Fort Collins this summer.

Over the next several months, nine local artists and two community groups will be busy transforming electrical transformer cabinets into incredible eye-catching murals as part of the ongoing **Art in the Alleys** project in Old Town.

Local artists paint transformer boxes with colorful murals

In 2006 the City came up with a plan to help mitigate graffiti, reduce maintenance costs and add art to the Fort Collins community. The plan was to select local artists to paint the transformer boxes with colorful murals that would make the boxes less desirable for graffiti and tagging.

The program is proving to be successful and cost effective. The sanding, priming and repainting re-

quired to completely remove evidence of graffiti on one transformer cabinet costs about \$250 and 20-30 man hours, according to Kraig Bader, Utilities Light & Power Standards Engineering Manager. While all three steps may not be required every time a vandal strikes, it still runs about \$200 just to sand and prime a cabinet. By reducing graffiti, the city estimates savings could reach \$130,000 over the life of a single transformer cabinet.

When the project began, local artist Amelia Caruso was commissioned to paint a group of transformer cabinets in Tenney Alley. The project continues to grow. Last year there were six local artists at six locations, and this year there are 11 cabinet sites with nine local artists and two community groups (new this year).

This year's artists include Michael Allison, Ren Burke, Amelia Caruso, Nanci Erskine, Diane Findley, Mary Harnett, Barry Quinton Lee, Blake Neubert and Kirsten Savage. The two community groups are Crossroads Safehouse and T.R. Paul Academy of Arts and Knowledge.

To find out more about the Arts in the Alley program, the artists, and information on the murals, please visit fcgov.com/artspublic.

Are You Ready?

Game Day Fort Collins' events and activities will turn casual observers into hard-core CSU Rams fans. Mark your calendars:

- Downtown Pep Rally, Sept. 4, 5:30-7 p.m., Old Town Square – Show off your Ram spirit with the marching band, football players, coaches, and lots of green & gold!
- CSU Band in Old Town – join CSU's award-winning pep band every Friday night preceding a home game at 6 p.m.

Game Day is a cooperative effort to build community spirit and bolster the local economy – catch a home game, grab lunch before kickoff, meet friends downtown, and support your local economy. csurams.com

See this month's bill insert for a complete schedule of CSU Football Games.

Scooting Safely

For many, scooters, mo-peds, and other motorized bikes offer a gas-saving substitute to driving cars.

Help keep Fort Collins' roads safe. Whether driving a car or a scooter, keep these regulations in mind:

- You must have a valid driver's license.
- You (and passengers) must wear eye protection.
- Passengers on a scooter must ride in a designated seat designed for a second person.
- Scooters can travel in the bike lanes, but not on sidewalks.
- If the driver is younger than 18, he or she must wear a helmet.
- Drivers must follow the rules of the road.
- If scooters travel faster than 30 mph they are considered motorcycles, and require a motorcycle endorsement on your driver's license.
- Pocket bikes, motorized skate boards, go-peds, and similar devices are considered toys and can only be used on private property.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

smart tips to reduce outdoor water use

WATER USE INCREASES DURING THE SUMMER months primarily due to watering landscapes. The key to efficient watering is to apply just enough water and only when necessary. Water-wise habits will result in a healthier lawn and landscape, in addition to conserving water. Plus, watering smart will save you money this summer.

Many homeowners over-water their yard, unwittingly wasting money every time they take out the hose or turn on the sprinklers. Water running off lawns into the street also is a water quality issue, as the runoff water gathers pollutants from lawn fertilizers and street contaminants and sends them to the river.

EFFICIENT WATERING TIPS

- **Water by the Light of the Moon.** Water in the early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation.
- **Take Careful Aim.** Be sure sprinklers are not watering driveways, sidewalks, patios or buildings. Use sprinklers that spray as low to the ground as possible.
- **Go Slow and Steady.** Water each area several times for short periods, allowing time for the water to soak into the ground before watering again.
- **Saturate the Root Zone.** Then let the soil dry. Roots are generally within the top 6 inches of soil. Watering too frequently results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease and fungus.

AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

An efficient sprinkler system is one that works properly all the time. Invest in a good designer and installer, monitor the scheduling and routinely maintain the system.

- **Design it Right.** Size your system to fit your landscape needs. Use the best components you can afford.
- **Install it Right.** Keep sprinkler heads at least 8 inches from hard surfaces to prevent runoff. Install the required backflow prevention device.
- **Schedule it Right.** Adjust the watering schedule seasonally to account for changing water needs.



- **Maintain it Right.** Check your system regularly. Fix or replace broken or leaky sprinkler heads. Adjust tilted heads so they're vertical.
- **Audit it.** Schedule a free sprinkler system audit. Fort Collins Utilities residential water customers may sign up by calling 216-2666, e-mailing utilities@fcgov.com or visiting fcgov.com/sprinkleraudit. Limited appointments available through August.

MORE WAYS TO SAVE WATER OUTDOORS

- Mulch around plants, bushes and trees. Using 2-4 inches of mulch reduces evaporation, helps control weeds and gives the bed a finished look.
- Keep weeds out of flower and vegetable gardens, as they steal water away from other plants.
- Sweep or rake leaves or dirt off your sidewalks and driveway – don't hose them away.
- When washing your car at home, be sure to use a shut-off nozzle and bucket. Use the minimal amount of water necessary to clean your vehicle. Better yet, wash it at a car wash where the wash water is treated instead of sent directly to the river.

You'll find more watering tips at smartirrigationmonth.org. For more information, visit fcgov.com/conservation.

Severe Weather and Emergency Information

Severe weather can occur at any time, and it's important to know how to get information. Turn your radio or TV to local stations to learn about local weather conditions and emergencies – do not call 911 for information. The best weather updates come from the National Weather Service via NOAA weather radios that can be purchased at electronic and appliance stores.

It's important to know the difference between the following terms:

- **Watch:** severe weather conditions are possible—be alert
- **Warning:** severe weather has been reported or is imminent—take precautions immediately

Fort Collins Utilities has a comprehensive early warning flood system that includes streamflow and precipitation gauges throughout the city (view data at fcgov.com/stormwater/fwsindex.php). When the gauges exceed a set level, the Utilities and Office of Emergency Management personnel are notified automatically. This information, combined with enhanced weather data, allows for greater lead-time to respond to a flood.

For more information, call 221-6700, TDD (970) 224-6003 or e-mail utilities@fcgov.com.



PUT THE SUN TO WORK AND RECEIVE A BONUS

with Fort Collins Utilities' new Solar Rebate Program. fcgov.com/utilities

Character Quality of the Month "Alertness"

Being aware of what is taking place around me so I can have the right responses.

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