

CALENDAR

3rd Annual Family Summit—Day for Kids

Saturday, September 13, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Larimer County Fairgrounds (The Ranch)
Family fun and quality time together! Learn how to make choices that promote health and well-being. Don't miss the Mayors' of Fort Collins and Loveland presentation of the Top Teen Awards. healthyLarimer.org/2008summit

2008 Business Environmental Program Series

FREE

802 W. Drake Rd.

To RSVP, learn more or receive a listing of other programs, call 221-6700 or visit fcgov.com/business-eps.

- **Green Up Your Business: Assessment**
Tues., Sept. 16, 9 a.m.-noon
Simple steps to assess your business' energy/water use, recycling, indoor environmental quality, irrigation practices, and more.
- **Green Up Your Business: Action**
Tues., Sept. 30, 9 a.m.-noon
Follow through on your assessment with action. Go green; save resources and money!
- **Overview of Carbon Markets**
Tues., Oct. 7, 9 a.m.-noon
Learn about carbon markets, the Climate Registry Protocol and recent climate change legislation.

Colorado State University Homecoming and Family Weekend

October 5-12

It is Easy Being Green!

A week-long series of events for students, alumni, families and friends. Don't miss Friday night's Homecoming Parade and Festival, and Saturday's Homecoming 5K Race, tailgate and football game. homecoming.colostate.edu

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

SEPTEMBER 2008



news



SPOTLIGHT: PLAN TO THRIVE

OTHER FEATURES:

- For Every Season: Save, Save, Save
- Invest in Your Community
- Culture Corner
- Poor of Me, Good of Dog
- City Planning Nets Awards
- 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.

ECONOMIC NEWS

plan to thrive: ECONOMIC POLICY IN ACTION

TO MAINTAIN THE HEALTH OF OUR LOCAL economy, the City needs to lay the foundation for redevelopment and progress. Over the last few months, the City has continued efforts to build a strong platform for economic success.

METRO DISTRICTS

City Council adopted a policy that allows for the limited use of Metropolitan Districts. Metro Districts are a common tool used in Colorado to assist in financing significant infrastructure related to developing property such as street, stormwater, parks, and sewer improvements. Metro Districts utilize revenue from tax-exempt bonds to fund these improvements. The bonds are repaid by a mill levy charged to properties within the District's boundaries.

PROSPECT AND COLLEGE URA

City Council recently approved the initial step in forming the City's third urban renewal area (URA) at Prospect and College. A URA is a state-regulated tool used to promote redevelopment and economic activity. Created by local governments, URAs stimulate redevelopment by providing funding assistance for projects using Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

TIF allows the URA to capture a portion of the increase in property taxes that will be generated by redevelopment projects. The tax "increment" is the difference between the current property taxes and the anticipated property taxes after redevelopment.

WHY PROSPECT AND COLLEGE?

The site at Prospect and College is a key commercial corner of the city. It has potential to act as an entryway to the city and CSU. And it is in close proximity to the Mason Corridor. In addition, the City has already received a redevelopment proposal for the southwest corner of the intersection, which includes student-oriented housing and redevelopment of the commercial strip known as the Choice Center.

NOW WHAT?

The City will now complete an Existing Conditions

URA PROCESS AT A GLANCE

- STEP 1** the City determines an area(s) that needs to be redeveloped.
- STEP 2** the City creates an Urban Renewal Plan including strategic direction of redevelopment efforts and an Existing Conditions Survey.
- STEP 3** Council approves the Urban Renewal Plan and creation of the Urban Renewal Authority providing access to Tax Increment Financing to fund URA projects.
- STEP 4** the URA identifies current property taxes for the area as well as estimates the future property taxes for the improvements that will occur due to URA projects. The difference between the two is the amount of "increment" financing available to URA projects.
- STEP 5** the URA works in partnership with the City and private investors to identify and help fund URA projects. Redevelopment occurs.

Survey to determine if the area is in need of redevelopment. Once the Existing Conditions Survey is complete, the issue will come before the Planning and Zoning Board and ultimately the City Council for final approval and official creation of the URA.

ANOTHER REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

A core strategy in the City's Economic Action Plan is to build partnerships. Council's approval of the Boxelder Creek Regional Stormwater Master Plan is an example of this strategy in action. The Plan creates a regional partnership among Larimer County, the town of Wellington, the City, other agencies to jointly fund, build, own and operate the regional stormwater facilities. The primary motivation for the partnership was health and safety, but there are economic benefits too. Five thousand acres of undeveloped land with frontage along I-25 will be removed from the floodplain clearing the way for development.

Visit fcgov.com/business for more business news.

Invest in your community!

Share your ideas, thoughts and expertise! City Council is currently seeking volunteers for all boards, commissions and authorities. Now scheduling interviews for:

- Affordable Housing Board
- Air Quality Advisory Board
- Building Review Board
- Citizen Review Board
- Commission on Disability
- Cultural Resources Board
- Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
- Electric Board
- Golf Board
- Housing Authority
- Human Relations Commission
- Land Conservation and Stewardship Board
- Natural Resources Advisory Board
- Senior Advisory Board
- Telecommunications Board
- Transportation Board
- Water Board
- Youth Advisory Board (Youth Needed)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- 1 year residency within the Fort Collins Growth Management Area (GMA)
- Registered voter (18 years or older)

Visit fcgov.com/boards for details and applications or call 416-2525.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 30

Culture Corner

Eracism Film and Discussion Series

Fort Collins Regional Library District,
Main Library, 201 Peterson St.
Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 21 - Made in L.A.

Sept. 28 - America at a Crossroads: the Muslim Americans

Oct. 5 - The Canary Effect

Oct. 12 - Children of the Campus

Oct. 19 - In Sickness and in Wealth

fortnet.org/eracism

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

for every season: save, save, save

BE COOL: TUNE-UP YOUR CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM

While air conditioning (AC) season is winding down, it's a great time to prepare for next summer. Fort Collins Utilities and participating local HVAC contractors are currently working with Proctor Engineering Group to introduce the CheckMe!® program, designed to test and tune up AC systems.

Certified CheckMe! technicians will advise you on what efficiency upgrades will best improve your system's winter heating and summer AC efficiency.

By asking your contractor to perform the CheckMe! tune-up now, you can avoid the rush next summer—saving time and money by combining two service calls into one.

For more information, or to locate a CheckMe! contractor, call 221-6700, or visit fcgov.com/checkme or TDD (970) 224-6003.

YEAR-ROUND SAVINGS WITH EFFICIENT LIGHTING

For four years, Fort Collins Utilities' Residential Lighting Program has provided discounts on energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL). This year, in conjunction with Platte River Power Authority (PRPA) and participating retailers, discounts are available year-round and a CFL recycling component has been added.

RETAILERS:

- Clay's Ace Hardware (recycling available)
- Downtown Ace Hardware (recycling available)
- Drake Hardware & Lumber (recycling available)
- Home Depot North and South (recycling available through a separate program)
- The Light Center (recycling available)
- Sam's Club.

CFL BENEFITS VS. STANDARD BULBS:

- Last up to 10 times longer, needing to be changed every five to seven years

- Use 2/3 - 3/4 less energy, saving up to \$30 in energy over lifetime of bulb
- Instant turn-on, quick warm-up and excellent light quality
- Operate at lower temperatures, enhance safety and generate very little heat
- Similar in size and fit in almost every fixture

Don't wait—buy, recycle and save now. For more information, visit fcgov.com/cfl, or call 221-6700 or TDD (970) 224-6003.

Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, Fort Collins Utilities is helping you save money.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Believe it or not, the holidays are just around the corner! Light emitting diode (LED) strings are a very efficient alternative to conventional holiday lighting.

- Energy savings: Save 90 - 98 percent of the energy used by conventional strings.
- Long life: Rated lifetimes are much longer and sturdy bulbs are built to last.
- Safety: LEDs stay cool to the touch, no matter how long they're on.

Product selection and performance continue to improve, with more choices of color, size and shape. LED strings cost more up front but pay back the difference with energy savings and longer life.

Stay tuned for details on LED holiday lighting events.

For details and a complete list of energy- and money-saving programs, visit fcgov.com/utilities.

Poor of Me, Good of Dog

MAY WILKINS COLLECTION EXHIBITION AT THE FORT COLLINS MUSEUM

May Wilkins moved to Fort Collins with her husband, newspaper editor Don Wilkins, in 1937 and lived here for more than 50 years. Her extensive donation to the Museum includes hundreds of letters, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Poor of Me, Good of Dog: The May Wilkins Collection uses this rich legacy to present May Wilkins' life and to examine her perspective on the period.

The collection is on exhibit at the Fort Collins Museum through 2009. Hours are 10 a.m. –5 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Admission is free; a \$2 donation is suggested. Call 221-6738 for more information.

City Planning Nets Awards

The City of Fort Collins received two awards from the Colorado chapter of the American Planning Association.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT AWARD - DEVELOPMENT REVIEW GUIDE

The City's Development Review Center created a new, step-by-step, online, interactive development review guide to help make this complex process easy to understand and navigate.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD - THE PLAN VAN

The Plan Van features mobile tours of Fort Collins that present a variety of topics in creative ways and allow citizens one-on-one time with planners.

Character Quality of the Month "Joyfulness"

Maintaining a good attitude, even when faced with unpleasant conditions.

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