

Transportation

- Downtown parking structures were converted to **24/7 operation with self-service pay machines** that also accept credit cards.
- Street crews **swept 22,600** miles of arterial and residential streets and bike lanes.
- 4,700 bicyclists participated in **Bike to Work Day** and logged 22,000 miles.
- **City crews** completed 11,000 ft. of curb, gutter, and sidewalk repairs; installed 133 pedestrian access ramps; reconstructed or repaired 23 miles of streets; and placed 72,071 total tons of asphalt.
- Final paving of Harmony Road and the construction of a roundabout at Horsetooth and Ziegler marked the **completion of H-ZIP**, a multi-year project to improve safety and traffic congestion in southeast Fort Collins.
- The City completed construction of **Ziegler Road** from Horsetooth to Drake.
- The City completed construction of an additional three miles of **bike lanes on College Ave.**, from Harmony to Carpenter Roads.
- City crews striped **600 lane miles of street and painted 1,500 crosswalks**.
- **Transfort ridership** exceeded 2 million passengers in 2008, an all-time high, and increased ridership 14 percent over last year.
- The Streets Department received the **2008 Excellence in Storage Award from the Salt Institute**, which recognizes high standards of environmental consciousness and effective management of winter materials storage.
- The League of American Bicyclists announced Fort Collins as one of nine U.S. cities to achieve **Gold Level designation in the Bicycle Friendly Community program**.

JANUARY 2009



news

2008 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
JANUARY 27, 4 P.M.
CITY HALL, 300 LAPORTE AVE.

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CITY HALL

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

2008 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

DEAR CITIZENS:

Yet again, Fort Collins has secured a spot among the nation's finest cities. In 2008, *Money Magazine* ranked Fort Collins as the second Best Place to Live in the nation. *Business Week* magazine named Fort Collins the best place to raise kids in Colorado. And *Forbes.com* ranked Fort Collins as #3 on their list of Best Places for Business and Careers.

As a community, we should be proud of what we've accomplished. Yet we know that these are uncertain and difficult times. Now, more than ever, we need to stay focused and make wise choices as we plan for the future.

In this 2008 Report to the Community, you will

see an overview of our accomplishments. Join us on January 27 for the Annual State of the City Address where we will review these accomplishments, discuss economic challenges, and outline priorities for the future.

With planning and focus we can continue to pursue our full potential, even during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

DOUG HUTCHINSON
Mayor

DARIN ATTEBERRY
City Manager

High Performing Government

- The City's Employee **Wellness Program** received the Gold Well Workplace Award from the Wellness Council of America. A healthy workforce helps keep health care costs low and workplace productivity high.
- A new **standardized chart of accounts** was implemented to improve access to the usability of financial information.
- New **performance measures increase accountability and efficiency**; the first major performance report will be issued in the first quarter of 2009.
- The City and CSU grad students are certifying **215 N. Mason as LEED Existing Building** which will lower environmental impact and operational costs.
- The City completed **lighting upgrades** in 26 buildings with a projected annual electrical saving of \$119,000.
- The City's "E-Waste, Not for Landfills" campaign was chosen from more than 800 entries for **best overall project by the City-County Communications and Marketing Association**.
- *Fcgov.com* was awarded **5th place in Digital Cities Best of the Web** in the Municipal Portal category.

BE AT THE FRONT OF THE UTILITIES' ONLINE SERVICES

Make a New Year's resolution to be among the first to sign up for Fort Collins Utilities' new easy-to-use, secure online services program. Residential and commercial customers will be able to log on to view and pay one or multiple utility bills, set up recurring payments, and more. Watch for more details in your snail mail and online at fcgov.com/utilities. Happy New Year!

Economic Health

- Through an intergovernmental agreement, Fort Collins and the town of Windsor restated our commitment to improving the **392/I-25 Interchange** to capitalize on opportunities for development.
- The **Mason Corridor** was among a handful of projects to receive approval for \$11 million in initial funding from the Federal Transportation Administration. Federal funds will ultimately total 80 percent of the project.
- Council approved plans for the redevelopment of College Avenue and Willox Lane. The **North College Marketplace** will include a major supermarket, retail and office space.
- **Front Range Village** at Harmony and Ziegler opened this year providing northern Colorado new shopping, dining, and entertainment options.
- The City and the Northern Colorado Clean Energy Cluster secured \$6.5 million in federal funding and \$1 million in state funding to support **FortZED**, an initiative to create a zero-energy district in Fort Collins.
- The City and UniverCity Connections launched **FortCollinsInnovation.com**, a central resource for entrepreneurs interested in Fort Collins.
- The City and various community organizations built and launched Fort Collins' first comprehensive, community-wide website. **FtCollins.com** provides information for residents and visitors.
- The City created a step-by-step, online, **interactive Development Review Guide (DRG)** to help make this complex process easy to understand and navigate. The DRG garnered an award from the Colorado chapter of the American Planning Association.
- Forbes Magazine ranked Fort Collins 12th in its **"America's Smartest Cities" list**.

Safe Communities

- The City, the Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority and others launched an **improved emergency alert system**. Residents can now receive alerts on their home, work, and cell phones, via text message and e-mail.
- City employees from several departments responded to the devastation of the **Windsor Tornado** by clearing roads and debris, rolling back downed power lines, and offering assistance as needed.
- The CQ Press 2008 City Crime Rankings listed Fort Collins as the 5th safest city in Colorado.
- To better protect people and properties from flooding, the City began construction of the Canal Importation Ponds and Outfall (**CIPO**) project. The project will also restore and enhance affected wildlife habitat.
- The **Boxelder Creek Regional Stormwater Master Plan** creates a partnership among Larimer County, the town of Wellington, the City and others to jointly fund, build, own and operate regional stormwater facilities.
- Art in Public Places received national recognition for painting murals on **19 downtown electric cabinets**, which lessens the likelihood of graffiti and saves money in repainting and repair costs.

Cultural and Recreational Opportunities

- The **Fort Collins Museum and the Discovery Science Center formalized a partnership** to pool resources to create and sustain a state-of-the-art science and cultural museum for Northern Colorado.
- City Council adopted the City's first **Cultural Plan**, a guiding document to ensure that arts, culture, and science thrive in Fort Collins.
- Recreation launched the new **SuperPass**, a single pass that grants access to multiple recreation facilities.
- EPIC, Poudre Valley Health Systems, and CanDo partnered on a **community health project** that improves EPIC's con-

Neighborhood Livability

- To help maintain the quality of our neighborhoods and respond to concerns that unkempt and neglected homes could negatively impact neighborhoods, City Council passed a new ordinance that regulates **dirt yards and dilapidated fences** on developed lots.
- The City and the Downtown Development Authority invested in our downtown neighborhood with **beautiful flowers, news condominiums, and enhanced landscaping**.
- City Council adopted and updated several **building and conservation codes for new multi-family and commercial buildings** to improve public safety and encourage greater energy efficiency.
- New property **codes update minimum rental housing habitation standards** to be in compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC).
- More than 5,000 people participated in **Neighborhood Night Out** and 53 different neighborhood groups received **grant money** for programs that support getting to know your neighbors.
- Participation in **CSUnity**, a one-day volunteer event, increased by 60 percent.

cession stand by offering a new health-conscious menu.

- **Lincoln Center** hosted 1,200+ events and 225,000 people.
- The **Parks and Recreation Policy Plan** was updated to provide direction on the development and operation of parks, trails, and recreation facilities and program.
- **400 trees** were planted on City property.
- **Where to Retire** magazine recognized Fort Collins as **one of eight Enriching Towns for Art and Music Lovers**.
- The **Fort Collins Museum** produced more than 60 education events and programs and hosted more than 12,500 visitors.

Environmental Health

- City Council adopted the 2008 **Climate Action Plan** which outlines initiatives to reduce emissions 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.
- The City completed a comprehensive, science-based review of the Army Corps of Engineers Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the **Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISIP)**. Comments emphasize potential environmental and economic impacts to Fort Collins' drinking water, wastewater, and wildlife.
- The **Climate Wise** program has saved nearly 3 billion gallons of water, diverted 69,000 tons of waste from the landfill and saved the 125 participating organizations \$12.5 million.
- More than 330 **natural area education programs** were presented to more than 1,100 people.
- Fort Collins is one of the first cities in Colorado to encourage residents to **separate glass bottles from their recycling**; research shows more glass is converted into new bottles when it's not commingled with other materials.
- The City is updating the **2008 Energy Policy** which aims to provide reliable electric service, support the community's emissions reduction goals, enhance the local economy, and maintain a collaborative relationship with PRPA.
- The **Northside Aztlan Community Center** is the first full-service recreation center in the nation to earn LEED gold certification.
- The **Water Treatment Facility** received the Bronze Environmental Achievement Award from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for its energy-optimization and substantial natural gas savings and the Directors Award for the Partnership for Safe Water recognizing our continued success in providing high-quality, cost-effective water.