

Fort Collins Coloradoan coloradoan.com Wednesday, March 2, 2016 3A

READERS RESPOND
FoCo blames Butte for officer
 Police brass in Fort Collins and Butte, Mont., are trading jabs about an officer who used his authority to stalk and harass six women.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION
 Visit coloradoan.com and see what folks are talking about.

"Excuses from all sides doesn't change that these women were assaulted."
 Lane Trujillo via Facebook

"They may have made a mistake, but they have stated their plans to improve."
 Nikke Lyons via Facebook

"Being a police officer is a demanding job and it has got to take its toll on people. There needs to be a way to make sure the officers are doing their jobs (and getting) help if they need it."
 Keith Holder via Coloradoan

Viewpoints



Balancing priorities part of facing city challenges

IN THE CITY
DARIN ATTEBERRY

On Monday evening, Mayor Troxell and I hosted the annual State of the City event. It was a wonderful opportunity to interact with the community in a meaningful dialogue. We take great pride in providing high quality services to our community. One of the greatest responsibilities elected leaders and city staff have is to ensure we're planning ahead so that we'll still be doing so in 10 years, 30 years and beyond.

There's an inherent tension between short-term needs and long-term investments. The simplest or most affordable solutions right now may not be the best approach in the long run. We are shifting to a systems approach that includes broader, longer-term objectives and total lifecycle costs. That kind of planning requires a willingness to hold challenging conversations and discuss tradeoffs.

Decades ago, city leaders faced a hard and expensive choice to place our electric lines underground. But they did it, and now our electricity is more reliable and our equipment lasts longer. MAX was a significant investment nearly 20 years in the making. Today it is already exceeding ridership projections and is impacting economic growth, reduced congestion, student housing and myriad other community needs. We have to balance aspiration and pragmatism in pursuing the vision for Fort Collins. One of the ways we stay in touch with community expectations is through our biennial Citizen Survey. For 15 years it has provided valuable data and insight into how many of you view the community holistically. It is one of many tools we use to inform City operations, and help us align our strategic plan and budget with community priorities.

Results from the most recent survey, conducted last fall, remained very positive. Approximately nine out of ten respondents rated Fort Collins as a good or very good place to live, and we continue to exceed national and Front Range benchmarks in many areas.

Traffic congestion and the availability of affordable housing remains residents' top priorities for improvement. Both are complex challenges and areas where we'll need to apply whole-system thinking. What solutions can we identify that will help both now and for many years to come? The answers don't rest with local government alone. Fortunately, our community is filled with individuals, non-profits, businesses and government entities which are all committed to ensuring that Fort Collins remains a desirable place to live, work and play. I look forward to ongoing community discussions and am confident that, with a diverse mix of engaged voices and perspectives, creative short- and long-term solutions are sure to emerge.

Darin Atteberry is the Fort Collins city manager. Reach him at 221-6305 or dattetberry@fco.gov. Full Citizen Survey results are available at fco.gov/citizensurvey.

TODAY'S TOP GALLERIES
Find more at coloradoan.com/photos



Superb Scouts

Terry and Trish Blanchard join in reciting the Scout Oath at Friday's 2016 Cache La Poudre Scout Volunteer Recognition Event. Volunteers, scouts and leadership from the Fort Collins area attended and were awarded for their service. In 2015, the CLP district served more than 1,600 youths. *Courtesy of Tina Wood*

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Fort Collins seeks public input on City Park

KEVIN DUGGAN
kduggan@coloradoan.com

Residents are invited to a public meeting concerning the future of City Park in Fort Collins and potential improvements to it. The meeting is scheduled 5 to 7 p.m. March 7 in the Canyon West Ballroom of the Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia St. A presentation will begin at 5:15 PM.

The meeting will focus on City Park's unique history and its possible future. Staff from the city's Park Planning and Development Department will be available during the meeting for questions and comments. For more information, contact Matt Day at 970-224-6006 or mday@fco.gov.

Fort Collins officials are seeking input from the public on the future of City Park and potential improvements.

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