



City of Loveland

Dateline: LOVELAND

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Redevelopment of HP/Agilent property tops 2011 list of accomplishments

Dateline: Loveland's annual January issue highlights the more visible accomplishments of Loveland's city government for the previous year. The redevelopment of the former HP/Agilent Technologies campus was undoubtedly the #1 story in Loveland in 2011.

While most people think the process began in 2010, the Loveland City Council and staff have focused and worked on the project for a number of years.

But the effort shifted into high gear in December, 2010

when the City submitted the Agilent campus as the premiere site for a manufacturing and innovation park associated with NASA. Last June, it was announced that Loveland had been selected.

The City of Loveland purchased the 300-acre property from Agilent with the intent to sell 170-acres of the campus with its five buildings encompassing 811,000 sq. ft. for business development.

The City of Loveland would retain the undeveloped 130

acres adjacent to the Big Thompson River plus retain 144 shares of water rights.

Cumberland & Western Resources from Bowling Green, Ky., was selected to redevelop the property and purchased the 170-acres from the City in December.

Now known as the Rocky Mountain Center for Innovation and Technology, Loveland and northern Colorado will benefit from the new businesses, jobs and support for existing businesses the tenant companies will provide.

A look back at 2011 reveals a wide variety of accomplishments

Throughout 2011, Loveland's city government was busy conducting business and providing services to the residents of Loveland. The following are some of the highlights of the City's accomplishments during the last year.

Sustainability is key

Facing a projected \$3 million annual revenue shortfall, the City embarked on developing a Financial Sustainability Strategy to balance the budget for the next decade. Approved by City Council in June, the 2012 budget begins the implementation of the strategy.

Looking good

Loveland's oldest existing home is nearly new again. Thanks to state grants, City funds and a donation by the Loveland Historical Society, the Milner-Schwarz house received a complete foundation stabilization and exterior restoration. The house is located at the south end of Fair grounds Park.

Year-long displays

Seven artists beautified Loveland's downtown streetscape with their sculpture, making the third year for The Art Advocacy Project one of the strongest examples of local talent. All artwork will remain on display for a period of one year.

New authority

After three years of study and discussion, the creation of the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority was approved. The new structure unites Loveland's urban and rural fire departments, resulting in financial efficiencies and stability that will enable improvements to fire staffing, equipment and response capabilities.

New section

Walkers and bicyclists can now enjoy a new mile of the Loveland Recreation trail connecting the north end of Boyd Lake State Park to the

north US 287 underpass just south of Wal-Mart. The 17.5 mile paved trail almost completely encircles the city.

Improved facility

Major improvements for aircraft and passengers were accomplished this year at the Fort Collins-Loveland Airport. The 8,500 ft. main runway was completely reconstructed and repaved, plus the terminal waiting area was doubled in size for passengers awaiting commercial jetliner flights. The improvements make the airport safer and more comfortable now, plus more attractive for possible future commercial service expansion.



All at once

The City's public information tools were all put to use repeatedly during the October snowstorm that caused power outages and downed tree limbs. Beginning before dawn after the storm hit, messages were output on the City's website, Facebook and Twitter sites, 1610 AM radio station, 962-2020 Phone Info Line and to the news media. Frequent updates continued during the next few days.

No galoshes needed

A recently-completed \$3 million fourth phase reconstruction of Loveland's downtown storm sewer system will dramatically reduce the amount and frequency of stormwater backup and overflow in the downtown area.

The capacity of the old system was exceeded every year, causing frequent drainage and flooding problems. Some water lines and fire hydrants were replaced at the same time.

Downtown center

The Rialto Theater Center expansion will open in early 2012. The expansion will combine the current theater and lobby with the 3-story building under construction next door. The expansion prompted the name change to Rialto Theater Center. With a grand opening celebration planned for April, the new center will provide expanded community opportunities for meetings, charity events, receptions, a restaurant and more.

Interchange improved

The \$11.2 million major redesign of the interchange at I-25 and US 34 to address safety issues and improve traffic flow was completed in 2011. Improvements included the elimination of two loop ramps, installation of new off-ramps, improvement of on-ramps and installation of traffic signals.

Preparing for worst

Two dozen staffers from various City departments participated in a four day flood disaster exercise at the Emergency Management Institute in Maryland. The exercise was one of seven disaster exercises conducted for City of Loveland employees this year to practice disaster plans and procedures.

Dispatch upgrades

The long-awaited remodel and expansion of the Loveland Communications Center—emergency 911 dispatch offices—were completed near year's end. Never upgraded since before the move into the Police and Courts Building in 2002, the old communications consoles were replaced plus two more added with state-of-the-art equipment to better-handle current and future increases in emergency calls.



Design has begun

Planning and design has begun for Mehaffey Park, a 60-acre community park planned for construction in 2012 to serve the west side of Loveland. Mehaffey Park is located west of Wilson Avenue, north of 22nd Street and south of 29th Street. The design team has received many suggestions from the public about what should be included in the large park.

Focused on efficiency

For both homes and businesses, Loveland Water & Power offered several programs last year aimed at energy efficiency and water conservation, all bringing opportunities for cost savings for its customers. Programs included leak detection, energy audits, recycling rebates, home energy reports and audits, lawn watering suggestions and more.

Another busy year

Visitors to the Loveland Museum/Gallery were able to enjoy 15 art exhibits on display in 2011 in three exhibition areas. The museum's historical collection received donations from 38 people and organizations.

Maintaining services

As the economy improves, the City will be better able to maintain and perhaps expand its services to the community thanks to citizens' ballot approval of continuation of the TABOR exemption. Future funds received if sales taxes and other revenue sources return to normal can be retained to help maintain the quality and quantity of local government services enjoyed by Loveland residents.

Improved function

It's new technology with an unattractive name. The newly installed Waste Activated Sludge Thickening facility at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant replaces the 40-year old system that was due for an update. The benefits of the new system include reduced energy costs, reduced sludge hauling, improved performance and improved odor control.

Follow us

More information of specific interest to residents of Loveland and beyond is available from about a dozen social media sites offered by various City offices. From weather emergencies to classes for tots, news is now available through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube networking sites.

Safe riders

Two out of three child's car seats are not properly installed. In 2011, six Loveland Fire & Rescue personnel became certified in the national Child Passenger Safety program to provide free car seat installation inspections for the community. During the past 10 months, fire personnel have inspected and correctly re-installed about 160 car seats.



Yes to both

The final phase of the Chilson Recreation/Senior Center was completed in 2011, on time and under budget. Did the renovation and expansion of the center draw new patrons or was the \$8 million project needed to service an already-growing patron base? The answer is both. Use of the rec center increased by more than 30 percent in 2011.

Basic assistance

Lower income Loveland households benefitted from \$681,200 in grants awarded by Loveland City Council for 46 programs and projects provided by local nonprofit agencies. The agencies helped Loveland residents with shelter, transportation, food, health services, and other basic needs. The City provided \$450,000 in Human Services Grant funds and another \$231,200 was provided in federal grant funds.



Website makeover

Last year the City's website, www.cityofloveland.org, got a total makeover. The new site is dramatically improved in its looks, operation and functionality. And the new version has new features to make browsing and locating information more user-friendly such as a calendar of events, links to City meeting agendas and minutes, and searching capability.

Caprice selected

Loveland officers are safer, more comfortable and more efficient in the 13 new Chevy Caprice police cars now on the road. After considerable vehicle analysis and comparison, the department selected the Caprice because it is specially designed for police use, making it the most technically advanced police vehicle in American history.

AIPP thriving

The Art in Public Places Program participated in four major capital projects this year: the Loveland Public Library and Chilson Recreation Center expansion projects, as well as the Highway 287 Underpass and Rialto Theater Center projects. All artist design teams worked closely with the Visual Arts Commission and City staff to create site-specific artwork, enriching Loveland's public spaces with a creative interpretation of the environment.

Human limbs undamaged

In October, a heavy, wet snowstorm brought down thousands of tree limbs, which brought down power lines and caused widespread electrical outages. For several days after the storm, City crews logged thousands of hours, working in some cases around the clock in darkness and cold temperatures with power lines, snowplows, large trucks, heavy equipment, chainsaws and more, and all without any serious injuries.



Library makeover nears completion

The final phase is not yet completed, but the biggest portion of the Loveland Public Library's \$8 million expansion and renovation was the Phase 1 addition of the two-story, 27,000 sq. ft. to the 24-year-old building. Phase 2, the renovation of the north half of the existing building, was completed in November with the final phase due to open before Valentine's Day.

Highlights of what's already open are new separate dedicated areas for children and teens, more than twice as many public access computer workstations, a computer training classroom, quick-and-easy self-checkout stations and a dedicated local history and genealogy room. The new entrance area is now open, too.

"A New Chapter: the Grand-Reopening of the Loveland Public Library" begins Feb. 18 with programs for all ages and interests.