



Cityline

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303-651-8601.

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LONGMONT

Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan

Looking at Longmont Parks What do you think?

What are the needs and desires of Longmont residents regarding our parks, recreation and trails? How much can the City sustain and maintain? What does the future of Longmont's parks system look like?

These are the types of questions being asked in the current planning effort for the City of Longmont Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan. So far, we've heard that the vast majority of residents believe that parks, recreation and trails are extremely valuable to Longmont's quality of life. Our job as a community is to continue that legacy for future generations, and the Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan guides us to this goal. This plan is driven by the vision of Longmont residents and will ensure that our vibrant and highly valued parks system will be sustainable into the future.

Your input is essential! **Please plan to attend an interactive community workshop from 6 to 8 pm on Thursday, January 24, at the Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Avenue.**

You'll be able to offer your ideas and help the City make tough choices with limited resources. Should we build a new park or upgrade that old one? Your answers to questions like this will help shape the future of Longmont's parks system.



C. Nathan Pulley Photography, City of Longmont

City Council Embracing the Future

In my column last month I wrote about the optimism I feel from my city council colleagues and the energy and teamwork that have become part of our working relationship. Despite the big issues surrounding our city and our philosophical differences, we always do what we believe is in the best interest of the community.

We are harnessing that positive energy and will apply it directly to some big-picture policy planning at the upcoming city council retreat.

Every year the council meets for two days – this year at the Nelson-Flanders Water Treatment Plant – to discuss citywide policies and develop future goals. The retreat has always been time well spent because we are able to review the prior year and create a plan for the new year.

But now the council wants to think even bigger. We want to look five, 10, even 20 years into the future and create a long-term vision that sets Longmont on the right path to success. I believe we have a good mix of thinkers and personalities in this group to take on this challenge.

Some of the potential ideas for discussion at the council retreat in April include:

- Taking a look back in Longmont’s history to learn from leaders of the past and how they made the decisions that have created the wonderful Longmont we have today;
- Taking a look at our community and organization today to identify our community’s capabilities and resources and how we can work together for an even greater future;
- Investigating technological advances that will set Longmont apart from other cities; and
- How to create a lasting legacy for future generations.

These ideas are purposely vague because we don’t want to be limited by our own biases and inhibitions. We create a great community only by breaking out of our conventional thinking and embracing the future. I hope that you, our constituents, will support this concept of creating a futuristic blueprint for the community.

Dennis L Coombs



Longmont well represented nationally among city government leadership



Mayor Pro Tem Santos

At the recent National League of Cities’ (NLC) Congress of Cities and Exposition in Boston, Mass., Mayor Pro Tem Gabe Santos was elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO) group.

HELO provides guidance to the NLC Board and to its policy committees on major public policy issues affecting Hispanic and Latino communities. In recent years, these issues have included the education of Hispanic youth, immigration reform, bilingual education, voting rights, and minority business enterprise programs.

Also at the conference Council Member Sarah Levison was elected to the position of vice-chair of NLC’s Finance, Administration, and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee, which develops policy positions on national issues of importance to local governments. And in 2013 Levison will continue her term on the board of directors of NLC’s Women in Municipal Government group.

Council members Alex Sammoury and Bonnie Finley also attended the three-day conference.

In addition to city council members, Longmont was represented at the NLC conference by Economic Development Department Director Brad Power, who made a presentation to 50 city leaders from across the U.S. about the success of the City’s economic gardening initiative in helping smaller businesses thrive in Longmont.



Council Member Levison

Changes to RTD local routes

Based on public comments, in early January RTD made changes to four local routes.

Routes 323 and 324 still serve Twin Peaks Mall but no longer go onto the mall property. Route 326 now

provides north/south service east of Main Street, and Route 327 provides north/south service west of Main.

For information call 303-299-6000 or visit www.rtd-denver.com/ServiceChanges.shtml.

Public Works improvements will continue to keep Longmont's waters clean

The Public Works and Natural Resources (PWNR) Department really knows how to squeeze every last drop out of its wastewater treatment plant. The equipment in the Longmont plant has provided high quality service for several decades, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And some processes date back to 1956, when the plant was built.

But the equipment is showing inevitable signs of wear and must be upgraded in the near future. The plant also must meet new Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment water quality standards for ammonia discharge by 2016.

The plant is in need of \$41.3 million in upgrades to meet the new regulations as well as to replace equipment. The upgrades will be funded through debt financing as well as with cash from the Sewer Fund.

A plan for the upgrades was presented to the city council during the summer of 2012, and council approved the financing plan in October. Debt financing for the project must be approved by the voters, and this will be on the ballot in November 2013. As part of the financing plan the city council also approved a new rate structure, which will assist with the debt service for the plant improvements.

This public investment means that residents can expect PWNR to continue the efficient operation and maintenance of the automated sewer plant. Over the last 10 years labor costs have been reduced by 30 percent by automating processes, which allows the plant to run unattended during the night. Longmont is ahead of most communities in the state with this automation; most sewer plants require 24-hour staffing.

PWNR efficiency and stewardship of the sewer plant contributes to Longmont residents and businesses enjoying the lowest total combined utility bill among 12 nearby Front Range communities. And this is an economic attraction for new businesses as well as residents.

For more information call the PWNR Call Center at 303-651-8468 between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

Two recycling events on February 9

Free Landfill Drop Day – 6 am to 2 pm

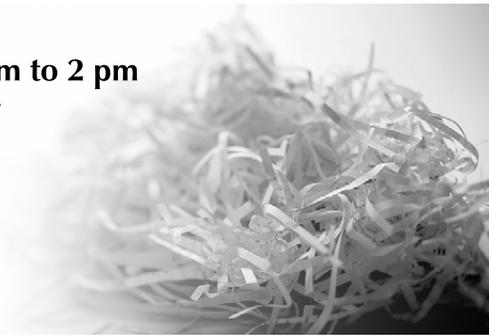
Erie Landfill, 1441 Weld County Road 6

The City provides residents this opportunity to dispose of bulky trash items that do not fit in curbside containers. This program is free to residential customers. Please take identification and the most recent copy of your utility bill to show that you are a City trash subscription customer. All loads must be covered or tarped.

Free Shred Event – 9 am to 2 pm

Waste Diversion Center
140 Martin Street

This event is for residential customers only. Please bring a copy of your most recent utility bill to show that you are eligible for this service.



Presidents Day Holiday

Longmont city government observes the Presidents Day holiday on Monday, February 18, as a holiday.

These facilities will be CLOSED:

- Civic Center
- Service Center
- Development Services Center
- Longmont Museum
- Longmont Public Library
- Longmont Senior Center
- Longmont Youth Center
- Waste Diversion Center

All recreation facilities will be open regular hours.

There will be no trash or recycling collection on this day; it will be collected one day later than usual throughout the week.

Two options for free tax preparation

Two locations in Longmont will provide free income tax preparation and e-filing for qualified taxpayers.

For federal and state income tax and state and City of Longmont rebates:

Longmont Senior Center
910 Longs Peak Avenue
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am to 1 pm
February 5 through April 12

AARP-trained volunteers prepare tax returns by appointment only. Appointments can be made beginning January 17 at 303-774-4429.

If you are filing ONLY a city of Longmont rebate form, no appointment is necessary, and you can walk in on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9 and 11 am.

For federal and state income tax only:

Longmont VITA provides free income tax preparation and e-filing of state and federal returns for most taxpayers earning up to \$50,000 per year. Returns are prepared by volunteers certified in relevant tax law. For more details about the program and information on what documents to take, or to find other VITA sites in Colorado, visit www.ColoradoVITA.org.

Longmont VITA
2050 Terry Street, Suite 101
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 6 to 8:30 pm
Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm
February 2 through April 13
Walk-ins only

Prior year returns can be prepared, time permitting, between February 16 and March 30.

Apply Now for the Longmont Police Department Citizens' Police Academy



The Longmont Police Department is accepting applications for its 12-week Citizens' Police Academy, which will be held from March 13 through May 29.

The academy gives residents a better understanding of the role of law enforcement

and our criminal justice system. It also helps build awareness in the community of the extent of police capacity and encourages more citizen responsibility and involvement in public safety issues.

The Police Department is seeking applicants who are interested in taking a more active role in improving the quality of life in our community. Participants will receive instruction on traffic laws; victims' rights; domestic violence; criminal investigations, including a mock crime scene where participants are the detectives; computer crimes; SWAT techniques; and officer safety.

Participants also can spend eight hours on patrol with a uniformed officer.

This course will not qualify residents to become police officers. It will, however, enhance their knowledge of the Longmont Police Department and how it serves our community.

You can find an application at www.ci.longmont.co.us/police/community/cpa.htm, or you can pick one up in the Detective Division upstairs in the Safety and Justice Center at 225 Kimbark Street. Call 303-651-8523 for more information about this opportunity.



Coffee With Council Resumes for 2013

The first Coffee with Council of 2013 will be held from 9 to 10 am on Saturday, January 26, at Panera Bread, 425 Ken Pratt Boulevard. Mayor Dennis Coombs and Council Member Katie Witt are scheduled to attend.

At Coffee with Council you can talk with council members on any topic of your choice; no appointment is necessary. And the coffee's on us!

For information about city council meetings and agendas, visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/city_council or call the City Clerk's Office at 303-651-8649.

