

Spring EVENTS

Plant Sale at the Gardens

April 29, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Transform your patio and gardens with the large selection of herbs, heirloom and traditional vegetable starts and ornamental grasses. Proceeds go toward future development at The Gardens. Cash and checks only please.

Hosted by The Gardens' Green Thumb Volunteers. For more information, visit fcgov.com/horticulture or call 416-2486.

Do the "Rot" Thing 2006 Residential Environmental Series Offers Free Programs

May 3, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Learn to recycle the natural way, by composting grass, leaves, garden debris and food scraps in your backyard. Take home a free sample of red-wiggler worms. Fort Collins Senior Center. Registration is not necessary. For questions, call 221-6600 (TDD 224-6003) or visit www.fcgov.com/utilities/eps.php.

SOAP Troupe Summer Show - "Wacky Mountain Mélange"

May 5 (1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.) & May 6 (2:00 p.m.)

Fort Collins Senior Center. Tickets \$5. For more information, call 221-6644.

Earth Day is April 22

Special environmental events are held throughout April.

Visit fcgov.com/earthday for local educational programs, events and volunteer projects.

Character Quality of the Month "Tolerance"

Realizing that everyone is at varying levels of character development.

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

city NEWS

April 2006

SPOTLIGHT: Recreation Enhancements = More FUN!



OTHER FEATURES:

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- Is that a flower or a weed?
- RideSmart and Pledge to Drive Less
- Water Distribution System Flushing
- Utility Bill Payment Options



City Council/City Manager

Doug Hutchinson, Mayor

Ben Manvel, District 1	Kurt Kastein, District 4
Karen Weitkunat, District 2	Kelly Ohlson, District 5
Diggs Brown, District 3	David Roy, District 6
Darin Atteberry, City Manager	

City Hall

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

Recreation NEWS

Recreation Enhancements = More FUN!

April showers bring May flowers, but in Fort Collins this spring we can also look forward to new waterslides at City Park Pool, a new interactive pool feature at Mulberry Pool and an expanded resource building at The Farm at Lee Martinez Park. These are just a few examples of the City's commitment to excellence and creating a community that supports recreation, culture and education experiences.

Mulberry Pool opened in 1974 as Fort Collins' first indoor municipal swimming pool. The facility contains a 6-lane, 25-yard competitive pool, a one-meter diving board, and a walk-in entry, just like the beach! A new interactive play feature includes a tube slide and shooting sprays. This is an exciting oasis for kids of all ages to enjoy year-round as well as on rainy days in the summer.

The City Park Pool, remodeled in 2003, has become a hot-spot for those looking to cool down in the summer months. Water geysers, a lazy river and multi-station play features make this a popular place, and it's about to get even better. This summer, two new water slides - one with curves, another for speed - will be added. In an effort to maximize resources, funding for this enhancement is supported by grants from Great Outdoors Colorado and the Don and May Wilkins Family Trust.

The Farm, renovated from an on-site dairy farm and opened to the public in 1985, connects the community to the agricultural history of the region. This 12-acre site includes an 85-year-old barn and silo, farmhouse, resource building, chicken house, museum, Silo Store, farm animals and wheelchair-accessible paths.



This spring, The Farm's resource building will be remodeled to accommodate more classroom space, the store, an admission booth, storage and expanded office space. The silo will soon become a new hands-on learning center for visitors to experience different themes of life on the farm.

In line with similar facilities nationwide, the Farm will begin collecting an admission fee of \$2 per person (ages 2 and under, free) in June. The fee will help cover the costs associated with operating and maintaining the facility so it can stay open for the enjoyment of citizens of all ages. Families can also purchase an annual Barnyard Buddy Pass for \$50. The Buddy Pass includes unlimited visits for up to 4 people, one free pony ride, subscription to the Barnyard Snorts newsletter, and VIB (Very Important Buddy) invitations to special events.

For more information about these new developments in Recreation, please visit fcgov.com/recreation or sign up for E-Recreation News at fcgov.com/subscriptions.

Is It a Flower or a Weed?

In Fort Collins, three targeted weeds are disguising themselves as flowering plants and are wreaking havoc on vast areas of pristine lands in Colorado and across the nation. These non-native invasive ornamental plants displace native plants, reduce biological diversity and alter ecosystem processes. The first 14 callers to identify purple loosestrife, myrtle spurge or cypress in their yard and can verify removal of one of them will receive a \$10 coupon to a local nursery. Call the City's Code Enforcement Office at 221-6771 to learn more and for help with identification.



RideSmart and Pledge to Drive Less

Pledge to carpool or vanpool and you become a member of the RideSmart Club, which entitles you to an exclusive RideSmart Club card providing significant discounts to more than 20 local businesses. Additionally, if you sign up for a carpool, you will receive a \$5 gas certificate! Start saving time and money – pledge today. For more information, visit fcgov.com/smarttrips or call 224-6126.

Community NEWS

Community Liaison Bridges Town and Gown

Communities with large universities share many common themes. Along with a vibrant culture, youthful aspirations and cool places to hang out, come parties, neighborhood issues and other challenges. Fort Collins experiences all of that and more.

Keeping the symbiotic relationship between students and non-student residents in check requires communication, strategy and focus. And there's one gal who's got that job. Melissa Emerson is the Community Liaison, a position that is shared between both CSU and the City. If you ask her what exactly she does (a question often asked) she'll tell you, "I'm building bridges." Translation: Melissa promotes positive relationships between students and non-student residents living in neighborhoods in Fort Collins.

Throughout the year, Melissa develops and monitors programs that help students and residents coexist peacefully and prosperously. The way Melissa sees it, both need each other. The community relies on the University to attract a talented workforce and businesses, and the students rely on the community for housing options, shopping and recreation.

So how do they come together? Spring semester is an exciting time of year for the Community Liaison Program, and Melissa has been busy designing and implementing several new programs that focus on students who plan to transition from residence halls to off-campus housing in their sophomore year. The ultimate goal



of the "Transitions" programming is to help students learn about their rights and responsibilities as Fort Collins residents and to help them make a successful transition in their move from the residence halls into the neighborhoods.

To reach this population of roughly 4,000 students, Melissa uses a multifaceted approach ranging from "Moving

Off Campus" presentations to an online trivia game that quizzes their rental knowledge, a MTV parody called "The Rental World." These efforts help students learn about occupancy limits, the public nuisance ordinance, codes about shoveling and lawn maintenance, as well as tips for partying responsibly and being a good neighbor.

Melissa also believes in developing a connection in communication between residents and non-student residents. A new pilot program called "Neighborhood Dialogues" is designed to identify neighborhood issues and concerns of both students and non-student residents. Participants will identify differences in lifestyles and develop common goals and understanding within their neighborhood. Melissa said, "It is our hope that increased understanding of neighbors' experiences will lead to better communication between neighbors throughout the community."

To learn more about the Community Liaison Program, visit fcgov.com/neighborhoodresources or call 224-6047.

Water Distribution System Flushing

Fort Collins Utilities crews will begin flushing the water distribution system on April 3, weather pending, and will continue for four to six weeks, beginning on the west side of town and progressing eastward.

Hydrant flushing helps deliver fresh drinking water by removing sediments that build up in the pipes and affect the quality – taste and color – of our drinking water. Flushing these sediments can cause water discoloration that is not harmful, though it can stain laundry. If you experience discolored or cloudy water, wait until the nearby flushing is complete, and run your cold water until it clears. This water can be saved and used on plants or landscaping.

For more information, call 221-6700, TDD 224-6003, e-mail utilities@fcgov.com or visit fcgov.com/utilities/hydrantflushing.php.

Utility Bill Payment Options

Paying your utility bill may not be fun, but it should be easy. Customers who sign up now for Easy Pay will get a free energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulb. Easy Pay deducts payments automatically from checking or savings accounts – it's convenient, free and you'll never have a late payment! Customers can also use credit or debit cards to make payments on a month-by-month basis using a 24-hour automated phone system or calling the Customer Service office; coming soon, customers can make online payments!

For those wanting to even out the seasonal variations, try Even Pay (Restrictions apply.) For more information about the many types of payment options as well as what to do in a financial crisis, call 212-2900, e-mail utilities@fcgov.com, or visit fcgov.com/utilities.