



City Line

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Council Resolutions Urge Ballot Support

In addition to the City Council and Mayor races, Longmont voters will see three ballot issues on the 2007 November election mail-in ballot. The Longmont City Council recently endorsed all three proposals:

LODGERS' TAX

A RESOLUTION OF THE LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL URGING LONGMONT CITIZENS TO VOTE "YES" ON BALLOT ISSUE 2A, AN EXCISE TAX ON LODGING SERVICES OF 2 CENTS FOR EVERY DOLLAR LODGING PURCHASE, TO BE PAID BY LODGERS, WITH PROCEEDS USED TO PROMOTE TOURISM, CONVENTIONS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES AND ACQUIRING RELATED FACILITIES, ON THE NOVEMBER 6, 2007 COORDINATED ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS tourism is vital to Longmont's economy, and;
WHEREAS tourism directly supports over 800 businesses in Longmont and indirectly supports

over 230 businesses in Longmont, and;
WHEREAS in 2005, tourism provided over 5,080 jobs in Boulder County, and;

WHEREAS in 2003, Boulder County played host to 3,208,037 visitors that spent \$516.8 million dollars, and;
WHEREAS a small increase in the tax on hotel rooms in Longmont would mean that visitors will pay just \$2 more on a \$100 hotel room, but would generate more than \$300,000 a year. These funds will be used for integrated marketing campaigns to increase the amount of visitors coming to Longmont. The money tourists spend while in Longmont means more money flowing into the City's general fund for library, parks and public safety, and;
WHEREAS 35 out of the 60 identified home-rule cities in Colorado currently collect a lodgers' tax, with the range for lodgers' taxes statewide being from 0.9% to 10.75%, with the average being 3.44%, and;

WHEREAS a lodgers' tax in
(see TAX on page 3)



Reduce Winter Heating Bills

The average American homeowner spends \$450 every year on energy wasted through air leaks and poor insulation in their home. The first step to keeping energy in your home - and money in your wallet - is to find out where you are using and losing energy. The Center for ReSource Conservation's Residential Energy Audit Program (REAP) can help.

A REAP home energy analysis will help you understand your energy usage and give you personalized recommendations for lowering your energy bill. They examine your home's insulation, air leakage, heating and cooling systems, as well as major appliances and lighting. You'll receive a complete report that outlines the findings of the analysis and recommends energy efficiency improvements for your home.

The REAP is a collaborative effort between the Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC), Boulder County and Longmont Power & Communications. To learn more or to make an appointment, call the CRC at 303-441-3278 ext. 24.



A Message from Mayor Julia Pirnack



Education Summit Entering Next Phase

When the Longmont community came together on St. Patrick's Day 2007 for the first-ever Longmont Education Summit, we met with one primary goal in mind: to establish lifelong learning as a community-wide value in Longmont.

I'm pleased to report that we are one step closer to that goal as the next phase of our education initiative is beginning with three specific steps that were generated from breakout groups during that productive day in March. (To see the details of outcomes from the Summit go to the City's Website at: www.ci.longmont.co.us/etf/index.)

- Create a simple method for the public to easily locate and use information or contribute time and/or resources to lifelong learning;
- Create a clearinghouse "one-stop shop" to find and post educational opportunities within the community; and
- Launch a community-wide awareness campaign to keep education foremost in everyone's day to day life.

With an endorsement from the Longmont City Council, the Education Summit Task Force is moving forward on these recommendations in two specific ways:

First, the task force will create a "wiki-style"

community Website that will serve as a way for organizations to list their educational and volunteer opportunities in a central place for the community to view and use. It will include an

evaluation component, resource lists and perhaps a community education calendar. The site's content will be maintained by the community and supported technologically by the City.

Second, the task force will develop and implement a community awareness campaign that will help establish Longmont as a lifelong learning City. The campaign will both

inform the public about the wiki-style site and encourage everyone to be part of making Longmont a community of lifelong learning.

Education is paramount to the success of any community. We all know that to be truly educate requires an ongoing commitment and that is why I am thrilled to commend and thank the hundreds of people who have volunteered to be part of this transformational community goal.

To get involved in this exciting effort, call Sandi Seader in the City Manager's Office at 303-651-8634.

Julia Pirnack



Celebrate El Día de los Muertos at Museum

Who would have thought that Longmont would have one of the largest Day of the Dead celebrations in the area? Having begun as a simple idea and a small gathering of people, the Longmont Museum's annual El Día de los Muertos event and exhibition now attracts nearly 1,800 people – and the word is spreading.

What makes this celebration so special? "It's a time when the community – people of all ages and of all ethnic backgrounds – come together and find common ground in honoring their ancestors," said Jill Overlie, Curator of Education and El Día de los Muertos project manager. "Each year it's amazing to see everyone participate in the festivities and just have fun together" Overlie added.

This year's celebration includes the popular sugar skull decorating activity, traditional food, storytelling, paper flower making, singing, and dancing. In addition, the Museum will open its annual La Ofrenda de los Muertos: Honoring Days of the Dead exhibit that features altars made by people in the local community, along with an interactive altar, video, photographs, and folk art. The exhibit opens Saturday, October 20, and runs through Sunday, November 4. The celebration event will be Saturday, October 27, from 11 am to 5 pm.

The event and exhibition will be held at the Longmont Museum & Cultural Center, 400 Quail Road, Longmont. Admission to the exhibition and event is free. For more information, call the Longmont Museum at 303-651-8374.

Many thanks to our community partners: Alternatives for Youth, Inc.; Casa de la Esperanza; Consulate of Mexico in Denver; El Comité de Longmont; Intercambio de Comunidades; Longmont Sister Cities Association; Boulder Community Actions Program, and the City of Longmont Community Relations, Library, Senior Services, and Recreation Divisions.

Tax and Bond Issues on November Ballot

(continued from page 1)

Longmont will serve to promote Longmont to visitors thus increasing occupancy and ultimately generating more revenue for the City in the form of visitor money spent at Longmont lodging, restaurants, and retail, and;

WHEREAS Longmont needs additional dedicated funding to tap into its share of the tourism dollars, providing a way for tourism promotion to fund itself, and;

WHEREAS the City Council has passed ordinance O-2007-72, referring, to a vote of the qualified electors, a proposed excise tax on lodging services, to be paid by lodgers, at the rate of 2 percent, which is two cents on each dollar of purchase, beginning January 1, 2008, with proceeds used for promoting tourism, conventions and related activities and acquiring related facilities; and

WHEREAS approval of the proposed excise tax on lodging services will appear on the November 6, 2007 municipal election ballot as ballot issue 2A; NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO, RESOLVES:

Section 1

For the reasons stated above, the Longmont City Council supports ballot issue 2A, a lodgers' tax.

Section 2

The City Council urges Longmont citizens fully to inform themselves about ballot issue 2A before voting.

Section 3

The City Council urges Longmont citizens to vote "YES" on ballot issue 2A, regarding an excise tax on lodging services tax of 2 cents for every dollar lodging purchase, to be paid by lodgers, with proceeds used to promote tourism, conventions and related activities and acquiring related facilities.

Passed and adopted this 11th day of September, 2007.

STORM DRAINAGE BOND

A RESOLUTION OF THE LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL URGING LONGMONT CITIZENS TO VOTE "YES" ON BALLOT ISSUE 2B, ISSUING BONDS PAYABLE FROM THE CITY'S STORM DRAINAGE ENTERPRISE REVENUES TO FINANCE SYSTEMWIDE STORM DRAINAGE CAPITAL PROJECTS, ON THE NOVEMBER 6, 2007 COORDINATED ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS pursuant to Chapter 4.18 of the Longmont Municipal Code, the City Council has established the City of Longmont Storm Drainage Enterprise, governed by the Longmont City Council and having all lawful powers consistent with the Longmont Home Rule Charter and ordinances, including, without limitation, the power to issue and reissue bonds, notes and other obligations in

the name of the City, payable solely from lawful revenues available to the enterprise; and **WHEREAS** by issuing bonds for capital storm drainage projects, the City is able to complete the projects sooner with total lower overall costs to our customers by minimizing construction costs that are rapidly increasing over time; and

WHEREAS there are four projects that the City would like to complete sooner than later in order to protect people and reduce the risk of serious flooding to existing homes and businesses, including replacement of the bridge at South Pratt Parkway and Left Hand Creek, construction of a channel and culvert crossings at Spring Gulch #2, drainage improvements north of State Highway 66 and construction of the Lykin's Gulch drainage channel from Airport Road to the St. Vrain River; and

WHEREAS the Council has adopted resolution R-2007-64, submitting to the registered electors of the City of Longmont, at the municipal election to be held November 6, 2007, ballot question 2B, on issuing bonds payable from the city's storm drainage enterprise revenues to finance systemwide storm drainage capital projects for the purposes stated in this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO, RESOLVES:

Section 1

For the reasons stated above, the Longmont City Council supports ballot issue 2B.

Section 2

The City Council urges Longmont citizens fully to inform themselves about ballot issue 2B before voting.

Section 3

The City Council urges Longmont citizens to vote "YES" on ballot issue 2B, regarding issuing bonds

(see ELECTION on page 4)

City Launches New eAlert Information System

The City of Longmont has launched a new e-mail alert system that will provide customers with up-to-date information on a variety of topics. Electronic notices can now be sent directly to an e-mail address of your choice or to a telephone or fax machine.

To subscribe go to the eAlert subscription page at: <http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/selectalert/index.htm> then sign-up and choose the type of news you would like to receive.

Once an eAlert account is created, a variety of topics will be available to a subscriber. Some messages will be delivered on a regular weekly basis and others will be delivered on a less frequent time frame.

Three Issues Appear on November Ballot

(continued from page 3)

payable from the City's storm drainage enterprise revenues to finance systemwide storm drainage capital projects.

Passed and adopted this 11th day of September, 2007.

OPEN SPACE TAX EXTENSION

A RESOLUTION OF THE LONGMONT CITY COUNCIL URGING LONGMONT CITIZENS TO VOTE "YES" ON BALLOT ISSUE 2C, EXTENDING THE EXISTING TWO-TENTHS CENT OPEN SPACE SALES AND USE TAXES UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2034, ON THE NOVEMBER 6, 2007 COORDINATED ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS pursuant to Ordinance O-2000-41, City Sales and Use Taxes were increased by two-tenths-cent of a cent, with the increased revenues allocated exclusively for open space purposes, and;

WHEREAS as of July, 2007, the City of Longmont has protected a total of 2062.25 acres of open space, including purchasing in fee 1463.8 acres of this land, purchasing conservation easements on an additional 237.3 acres, and holding 788 acres in conservation easements for Boulder County, and;

WHEREAS the open space tax increment will expire on December 31, 2020, unless the Council ordains, and the electors approve an extension, and;

WHEREAS extension, at this time, of the existing sales tax through 2034 would allow the opportunity to avoid the historical increased costs associated with inflation of both construction and land acquisition, as well as to purchase land now available for open space acquisition that may not be available years from now if current development patterns continue, and;

WHEREAS an extension would provide additional funds for new open space projects and activities, such as preserving natural areas, wildlife habitats, biodiversity, wetlands,

agriculture and visual corridors; linking trails to provide access to public lakes, streams, parks and other usable open space and public lands, stream corridors and scenic corridors along existing highways; conserving natural resources including forest lands, range lands, agricultural lands, aquifer recharge areas, water rights and others; designing district parks devoted to low-impact recreational uses, sensitive to natural land values; and providing urban shaping buffers between or around community service areas and creating buffer zones between residential and nonresidential developments, and;

WHEREAS the Council has concluded that a City open space program should continue at the current funding level to supplement other available non-sales tax open space funding, and;

WHEREAS extending the existing two-tenths of a cent open space sales and use tax increment to address the urgent need for open space funding provides a fair and equitable method of allocating the cost for the open space acquisition, improvements and maintenance among all who benefit from the services and facilities of Longmont, residents and non-residents alike, and;

WHEREAS the Council has passed Ordinance O-2007-73, submitting to a vote of the qualified electors ballot issue 2C, extending the existing two-tenths cent open space sales and use taxes until December 31, 2034, on the November 6, 2007 coordinated election ballot;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO, RESOLVES:

Section 1

For the reasons stated above, the Longmont City Council supports ballot issue 2C.

Section 2

The City Council urges Longmont citizens fully to inform themselves about ballot issue 2C before voting.

Section 3

The City Council urges Longmont citizens to vote "YES" on ballot issue 2C, regarding extending the existing two-tenths cent open space sales and use taxes until December 31, 2034.

Passed and adopted this 11th day of September, 2007.



City Line

City Line is a monthly informational newsletter published by the City of Longmont for its residents. For questions about this publication call 303-651-8840

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