



City Line

www.ci.longmont.co.us

January 2008
Vol. 19 No. 1

City Council Members

MAYOR
Roger Lange
303-772-0065

MAYOR PRO TEM
WARD 2
Karen Benker
303-774-7745

WARD 1
Brian Hansen
303-847-7186

WARD 3
Sean McCoy
303-847-6076

AT-LARGE
Mary Blue
303-772-3890

AT-LARGE
Sarah Levison
303-847-1647

AT-LARGE
Vacant

City Council Agendas
are printed each
Monday in the
Daily Times-Call

CITY MANAGER
Gordon Pedrow
303-651-8601

CITY LINE EDITOR
Rigo Leal
303-651-8840

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Union Annexation issue withdrawn from ballot

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The election is being conducted as a mail ballot election by the City of Longmont contracting with the Boulder County Clerk and Recorder for election services.

Voter Eligibility and Absentee and Replacement Ballots

To be eligible to vote in this election, you must be at least 18 years old, live within the City limits of Longmont and have been registered to vote within the City of Longmont by December 31, 2007.

A request for an absentee ballot may be filed with the Boulder County Clerk and Recorder or the City Clerk of Longmont no later than the close of business on January 25, 2008. If the applicant wishes to receive the absentee ballot by mail, the application shall be filed no later than the close of business on January 22, 2008. Replacement ballots may be requested and received no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day (January 29, 2008).

Ballots will be mailed to all active registered voters between Friday, January 4, 2008 and Monday, January 14, 2008, with the bulk of the ballots being mailed on January 12.

Voters requesting an absentee ballot, inactive voters and active voters who do not receive a mailed ballot, and voters who need a replacement ballot must go to the

Longmont City Clerk's office at 350 Kimbark or to the Boulder County Clerk's office at 1750 33rd St., Boulder, where they will be issued a ballot, if qualified to vote in the election.

Walk-in Drop-off locations for voted ballots will be available during normal business hours at the following locations:

- **Longmont City Clerk's office, 350 Kimbark**
 - o Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Election Day;
 - o Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Election Day; and
 - o 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on January 29, 2008, Election Day
- **Boulder County Clerk's primary facility, 1750 33rd Street, Boulder**
 - o Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until Election Day
 - o 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on January 29, 2008, Election Day
- **Longmont office of the Boulder County Clerk, 529 Coffman Street**
 - o Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Election Day.

Drive-by Drop-off locations for voted ballots will be available on Saturday, January 26, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Tuesday, January 29, 2008, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the following location:

- **Longmont — 200 Block of Emery on the east side of the Civic Center**

All voted ballots must be in the hands of the Longmont City Clerk or the Boulder County Clerk later than 7:00 p.m. on January 29, 2008, the date of the election. For more information call 303-413-7740 or 303-651-8649.



A message from

Mayor Roger Lange



Retreat Offers Opportunity to Set Priorities

The start of a new year is traditionally the time for resolutions and new beginnings. So it is an appropriate time to welcome three new Council Members to the Longmont City Council (with a fourth member to be elected on January 29) and to set some priorities for the future of our community.

Although we have met as a governing body for a couple of months, we will have an opportunity to get to know each other better and to discuss some important topics during the City Council's annual retreat scheduled for February 8-9.

This year, the Council will meet on February 8-9 at the Xilinx Retreat Center near Highway 119 and Clover basin Road to discuss 3 topics that have great interest in our community:

Economic Vitality – The City Council will review the current state of the city's economic vitality efforts including the future of the Economic Vitality Task Force and options for financing of economic development projects. Our discussion will also include how best to approach redevelopment of Twin Peaks Mall, the Flour Mill and downtown. The goal is to create an economic development action plan that can be used as a road map for future economic development and redevelopment efforts. In 2005, the Longmont community joined Council and city staff to develop a long-range strategic plan for Longmont's future called Focus on Longmont (FOL). Economic Vitality was one of the strategic directions developed as an outcome of the FOL study.

Intergovernmental Relations/Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan (LACP) – This

topic involves a review of the LACP as the city's growth management guide and examines how intergovernmental agreements with other entities interact with the LACP. The primary focus will be examining the Weld County portions of Longmont's planning area and the inter relationship of our neighboring communities to the east of Longmont.

Environment/Energy – Another one of the strategic policy directions in FOL is to enhance the natural environment. We will review the community's opportunities to enhance the environment by regarding resource conservation, using renewable energy, greenbuilding and improved transportation systems that conserve energy. We will explore how Longmont can best serve as a role model in the areas of environmental sustainability and economic development in emerging technology and energy markets.

The Council has also reserved time at the retreat to review the city's communication efforts and explore new ways to communicate with residents.

The public is welcome to attend the retreat and we are also interested in any ideas or suggestions that you have for us. Our contact information is listed on page 1 of City Line.

We have an ambitious retreat agenda but I know that this City Council is very energetic and committed to working hard on behalf of Longmont residents as we start a new year.

On behalf of the Longmont City Council I wish you and yours all the best in 2008.

Roger Lange

Longmont Electric Rates Lowest in Colorado

(Reprinted from "The CAMU Relay" with permission from the Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities)

Colorado's municipally owned utilities have consistently offered their customers the lowest electric rates in the state, and 2007 is no exception.

CAMU conducts semi-annual rate surveys – one in the winter and one in the summer. According to the survey results, municipal customers, on average, paid the lowest electric rates in 2007.

The average municipal rate (summer and winter averaged) for residential customers was \$65.09 for 700 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity. Colorado's two investor-owned utilities charged an average rate of \$69.84 – almost 9% higher for the same amount of electricity consumption. Colorado co-ops charged an average rate of \$79.65 for 700 kWh – 24% higher than the average municipal utility rate.

According to the surveys, the 14 lowest rates charged in Colorado were those of municipal systems. Longmont Power & Communications took top honors with the lowest residential rates in the state -- \$42.82 for 700 kWh. Longmont's rate was almost 40% below the overall average state rate of \$71.00.

Longmont Power & Communications also had the lowest electric rate for small business, the second lowest rate for large business, and the fourth lowest rate for industrial customers.

Building Permits Ensure Health and Safety

Whether you're a homeowner who wants to put a new roof on the house or a home builder constructing a new subdivision, you're going to need a permit.

Many residents are unaware that home projects like building a deck, adding a new roof, or finishing a basement require permits and inspections.



The issuance of permits and subsequent inspections of the work performed ensures that all construction in the city is safe and in compliance with the City of Longmont Zoning and Building Codes. The primary purpose of these codes is to ensure a safe and healthy environment for the citizens of Longmont.

A building permit is required for:

- All commercial construction
- New construction
- Any addition or alteration in, or to, an existing building or structure,

this includes all construction, enlargement, alterations, repairs (such as re-roofs), moving, demolition as well as changes to the electrical, gas, mechanical and plumbing systems.

Specific examples are listed on the City of Longmont Web site at: www.ci.longmont.co.us/bldginsp/residential/permit_guides/index.htm

If you have questions about whether or not a permit is required, contact the Building Inspection

Help Available at New Processing Center

The Community Development Department, in an effort to streamline the development review and building permit processes, is initiating a "one-stop" concept process.

What this means is that customers can get all their information, plan reviews and building permits in one place. Besides streamlining the processes, staff have moved offices into one area so customers no longer have to travel between remote locations.

The former Museum and former City Hall were remodeled to accommodate the Community Development divisions that pertain to development and building, including Planning and Development Services, Building Inspection, Park Development, as well as offices for Longmont Power and Communication, Public Works, Water/Wastewater, and Fire Department representatives.

The new center is located at 385 Kimbark St. (across the street from the Civic Center). Call 303-651-8320.

Division at 303-651-8332 or visit them in the new development processing center located at 385 Kimbark St. (see box above).

Permits are also reviewed and issued at the Building Inspection Division Office. It is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Smaller projects may be reviewed and permits issued the same day. If the project requires a more extensive review, you will be called when the plans are approved and the building permit is ready to be issued.

Regardless of the complexity of the application, the building permit fee, which is based on the estimated value of the work being done, is payable when the permit is issued. Please consult with a Building Inspection Division Permit Technician for assistance in determining the correct total building permit fees due.

City Implements New Four-Day Trash Schedule

The city's trash and recycling service has changed from a five-day a week collection (Monday through Friday) to a four-day a week collection (Monday through Thursday).

Look for new collection route information and the new 2008 solid waste and recycling calendar of events that were mailed out in early December. **The new route collection changes will only affect about one-third of Longmont customers.**

Collection route changes and the new 2008 calendar of events have been posted on the city's

web site, www.ci.longmont.co.us/solidwaste, for easy clarification.

The Public Works Division is anticipating some additional customer service needs as they roll out the new collection schedule, city staff is prepared to help make this transition as seamless as possible. If you have any questions please call the Public Works Operations support team at 303-651-8416.



Ice Pavilion Opens for Winter



The Longmont community has come together to open the Longmont Ice pavilion for another year. Thanks to generous private donations, community fundraising and the City Council contingency fund, plans are for the ice rink to be open (weather permitting) through the winter. The rink is located at

Roosevelt Park, 700 Longs Peak Ave. Sponsorship is also provided again this year by Longmont Power & Communications and the Platte River Power Authority. Hours and prices are available on the city's Web site at: <http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/rec/icerink/>.

Drop Large Unwanted Items on February 2

Do you have a lot of cleaning up to do after the holidays have come and gone?

Public Works Solid Waste Operations will host the first **Stop-N-Drop** program of 2007 on Saturday, February 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Public Works Maintenance Facility, 375 Airport Road.

Residents can bring large and bulky household items or other debris as well as leftover holiday trash for disposal. Please bring your utility bill to the Stop-N-Drop as the program is available to City refuse collection customers only.

Residents are asked to consider bringing a non-perishable food item to be donated to the OUR Center. In addition, residents can bring reusable items that can be donated to the REACH Program.

The following items are not accepted during the Stop-N-Drop program: propane bottles, household waste, dirt, rock, sod, concrete, shingles, chemicals, limbs, yard waste, tires, auto parts, hazardous waste, air conditioners or refrigerators.

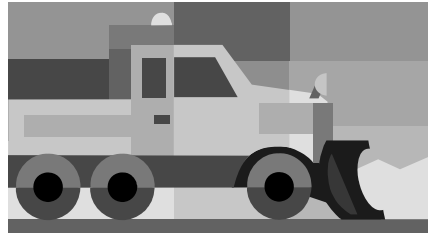
For recommendations on how to dispose of these items or for more information about the Stop-N-Drop or REACH Program, call Public Works Operations at 303-651-8416.

Snow Plan Outlines Plowing of Streets

Now that snow season is in full force, it's a good time to remind residents of snow plowing plans for city crews:

Level One Storms - This is considered little accumulation with no additional storms in the near future. City crews respond to overpasses, bridges and shaded areas as needed.

Level Two Storms - This snow event has accumulation of one to six inches of snow with the possibility of back to back



storms. At this point a complete snow crew of 15 staff with corresponding equipment is called in and put on a 12 hour rotating shift. The crews will typically work the major roadways and arterials, as well the downtown area and school zones.

Level Three Storms - At this level the City has received six to fifteen inches of snow, regardless of whether it is a single snow event or multiple storms. The entire snow crew is called out and will work 12 hour rotating shifts, and private contractors may be called in to assist snow removal efforts. During Level Three snow events the major transportation corridors will be the first priority and residential streets will begin to be plowed.

Snow removal maps are available online at: www.ci.longmont.co.us/public_works/streets/snow_removal_maps.htm.

Free Income Tax Prep Begins in February



Low income families and individuals who meet income limits, can receive free income tax assistance beginning in February.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am - 1 pm, free assistance is available for seniors and low income individuals at the Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave., February 5 through April 15. Call 303-774-4722 after January 28 to schedule an appointment. Drop ins will be taken

on a first-come, first-serve basis as time allows.

Volunteers will prepare tax returns for free and they also offer electronic filing.



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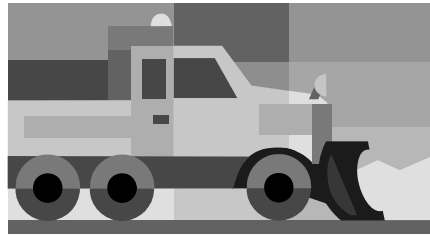
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