



City Line

www.ci.longmont.co.us

February 2009
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City Council Members

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

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It's Time to Apply for Property Tax, Rent and Water Rebates

Are you eligible for a City property tax or rent and water rebate for 2008?

To qualify, you must be eligible for the state rebate outlined in Form 104PTC, which is filed with state tax returns. Refunds generally apply to low-income senior citizens who are least 65 years old, low-income surviving spouses who are at least 58 years old, and low-income residents who are totally disabled and received disability benefits for the entire year. Single people with an income of less than \$12,000 and married couples with income of less than \$15,700 qualify.

Although the state allows you to submit the form at various times during the year, you must apply for the 104PTC rebate

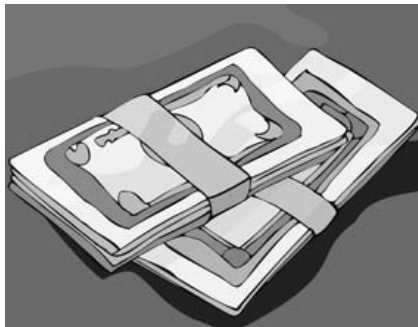
by April 15 to receive the City rebate.

AARP volunteer tax assistants are available to help you with this process on Tuesdays and Thursdays from February 3 through April 14. You must bring the state 104PTC form with you, but rebate applications are available from the volunteer tax assistants and at the Utility Billing window in the Longmont Civic Center. All applications must be reviewed by an AARP volunteer before they will be processed.

Because of the high volume of people who seek tax assistance,

walk-ins will not be served. You must call 303-774-4722 to make an appointment.

If you would like more information about the rebate, call 303-651-8411.



More Free Tax Help

The free Volunteer Income Tax, or VITA, income tax preparation and e-filing program is available to low- to moderate-income households earning less than \$42,000 per year.

There are two locations in Longmont:

St. Vrain Valley Credit Union
2050 Terry St., #101
(next door to the Credit Union)
Open February 7 through April 15
Hours: Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
and Wednesdays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Front Range Community College
2121 Miller Dr., Building C
Open February 7 through April 11
(Closed March 21 and March 28)
Hours: Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring all tax-related paperwork with you to the site, including last year's return if available. If you are married and filing a joint return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms in order to e-file.

For more information visit www.longmontvita.info



A message from

Mayor Roger Lange



Look for More Communication in New Newsletter

Along with my City Council colleagues, we hosted one of the more memorable City Council meetings this past January. We called it the Council's "Open Forum" where we suspended the usual rules of procedure and opened the meeting to anyone who wanted to express their thoughts about Longmont or to ask questions of their elected representatives.

We heard from almost 60 people during the three-hour meeting. It was an outstanding example of community participation and was symbolic of the Council's efforts throughout 2008 to connect, communicate and consider the various points of view from our diverse citizenry.

When we hosted the first Open Forum in 2008, which almost 200 people attended, it was an attempt to provide a convenient venue for residents to express their views. By all accounts, it was a wildly successful endeavor. As the year progressed, we built on that foundation by creating other ways for the public to interact with us, including:

- Monthly Coffee with Council meetings;
- Quarterly town meetings;
- Dedicated tables and booths at civic events like Cinco de Mayo, Rhythm on the River, and ArtWalk;
- Posting City Council meetings on the City's web site; and
- Producing more city services video programming on channel 3.

We are excited about adding another piece to the communication puzzle with the creation of a

new eight-page informational newsletter that will be mailed to every Longmont household.

The new, expanded newsletter is designed to provide much of the same great information that you receive regularly in City Line, this informational publication that is mailed to all utility billing customers. In addition to news about city programs, events and services, the new newsletter will provide more in-depth information about important city issues such as the redevelopment of Twin Peaks Mall, updates on the future of FasTracks in Longmont, our efforts to protect the environment, and the Council's commitment to economic vitality.

We hope that you find the new newsletter to be an informative and exciting source of news and information about your local government. You should see the first issue in your mailbox during the last week of February or the first few days in March.

Let us know what you think. Your feedback will help shape future issues. Tell us if there is an issue that you would like covered or features you would like to know more about.

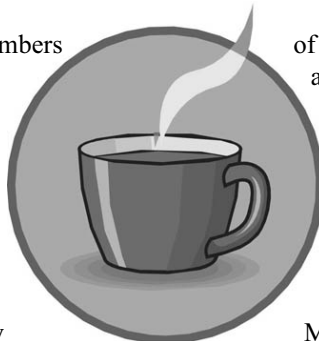
Again, the Longmont City Council is committed to communicating openly and honestly with the public, so please take advantage of any and all of the opportunities that we offer.

Roger Lange

Talk with Council Members at Coffee with Council

If you'd like to give City Council members your two cents worth, or find out what they think about an issue that concerns you, this is the place to do it. Coffee with Council is an opportunity for Longmont residents to talk informally with council members on any topic.

Coffee with Council is held from 9 to 10 a.m. on the last Saturday



of every month at a local coffee house and is hosted by two council members. No appointment is necessary. Just show up, and help yourself to a free cup of coffee.

To find out where each Coffee with Council will be held, check the events calendar on the City's web site, or call the City Manager's office at 303-651-8601.

Longmont Solar Incentive Program Goes Commercial



The Longmont Solar Power Partners Program (LSP3) is open for business. Longmont Power & Communications (LPC), in partnership with the Governor's Energy Office, is pleased to

announce that its solar incentive program has been expanded to small commercial customers.

In addition to receiving a GEO matching grant to expand and extend the existing residential solar incentive program in 2009, LPC also was awarded a matching grant to implement a Small Commercial Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Program.

The incentive for installing a solar PV system on a home or business in LPC's service area has been increased to \$3 per watt of DC electric output. Small commercial systems are capped at 5,000 watts (\$15,000) for the incentive, while the residential system size cap remains at 3,000 watts (\$9,000).

LPC has sufficient funding to support all current residential project applications and is accepting new ones.

Please visit the LPC web site at www.ci.longmont.co.us/lpc, or call 303-651-8386 for program details and applications.

Join the Citizens' Police Academy

Learn all about the Longmont Police Department and how it serves our community as a participant in the 12-week Citizens' Police Academy. The academy will give you a better understanding of the roles of law enforcement and our criminal justice system, as well as current public safety issues.

The Police Department seeks applicants who are interested in taking a more active role in improving Longmont's quality of life. Participants 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 does not qualify residents to become police officers. It will, however, enhance your knowledge of the Longmont Police Department and its everyday operations.

Classes are held at the Safety and Justice Center, 225 Kimbark Street, on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., March 17 through June 2, 2009. Applicants must be at least 18 years old. There are 20 openings, and applicants must undergo background checks.

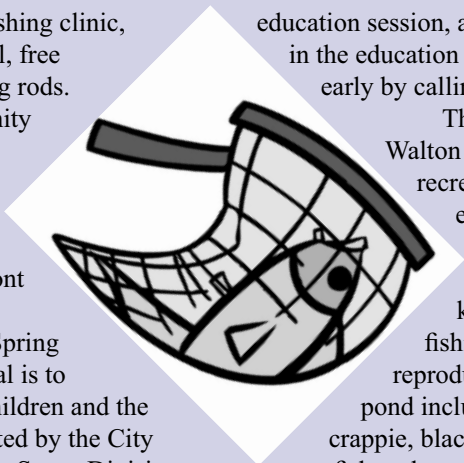
Applications are on the Police Department's web site at www.ci.longmont.co.us/police/community/cpa.htm. Or, you can pick up an application at the Detective Division, upstairs in the Safety and Justice Center. The application deadline March 6, 2009. Call 303-651-8523 for more details about this opportunity.

Children's Fishing Program on March 28

Children age 15 and younger are invited to the sixth annual Chick Clark Kids Fishing Spring kickoff on Saturday, March 28, at Izaak Walton Park, 18 South Sunset Street. The program begins at 8 a.m.

The day includes a free fishing clinic, free hot dogs and drinks for all, free fishing for kids and free fishing rods. There also will be an opportunity to participate in a free fish education class.

The Chick Clark program provides a special place for the youth of Longmont to catch fish and to experience fun outdoor activities during Spring Break and year round. The goal is to forge a connection between children and the outdoors. This program is hosted by the City of Longmont's Parks and Open Space Division and funded through private donations, Longmont businesses, and assistance from the Colorado Division of Wildlife.



The lake at Izaak Walton Park will be stocked a few days prior to the event by the Longmont Breakfast Optimists, and free rods and reels will be provided by the Colorado Division of Wildlife to children who attend and participate in the education session, as long as supplies last. Space in the education sessions is limited, so sign up early by calling 303-651-8446.

The 15.7 acre pond at Izaak Walton Park is managed as a recreational fishery for the exclusive use of children 15 years of age and younger.

Adults are encouraged to help kids fish but must preserve the fishing just for the kids. Naturally reproducing fish contained in the pond include largemouth bass, black crappie, black bullhead, bluegill, green sunfish and carp. The program stocks catchable rainbow trout in the spring and channel catfish in early summer. Kids may use live bait and keep the fish they catch up to the state limit for each species.

City, Comcast Want to Hear From You

Do you have suggestions or comments about Longmont's cable TV provider? Are you interested in the results of a recent survey on Comcast services?

If so, come to a public meeting to discuss Longmont's cable TV

franchise on Wednesday, March 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Fire Station # 3 located at 1000 Pace Street in Longmont. The meeting will provide an



overview of cable TV franchise laws and processes, a summary of the recent citizens' cable TV survey, and an open discussion of Comcast cable services.

The meeting will begin with a short presentation followed by a citizen-input meeting hosted by Mike Trueblood, Comcast's Longmont General Manager, and Jim Wall, Longmont's Chief Information Officer.

Change Trash Options in March



March is open enrollment time when customers can change their level of refuse collection for the year. You can change to either the larger 96-gallon container or the smaller, 40-gallon Volume Buster service.

Requests for service level changes will be taken during March,

and all new containers will be delivered by May 1.

The monthly rate for the 96-gallon container is \$14.28, and the monthly rate for the 40-gallon container is \$11.27. Both rates include a \$2.97 waste management fee, which funds the recycling program and other events, including Landfill Drop Days and the Large Item Stop-n-Drop.

There will be another open-enrollment period during which you can change your service level in September.

For more information about any of the City's solid waste programs, or to make a change in your current refuse collection service, call Public Works Operations at 303-651-8416.

Electric Rate Changes In Effect

A new three-tiered increasing block residential electric rate took effect on January 1, 2009, and will be reflected in the February's utility bill. An article in the December 2008 issue of CityLine contained an error in reporting the new tiered Residential Energy rate. The correct rates are:

- \$0.0557 per kWh for the first 750 kWh used each month
- \$0.0608 per kWh for usage between 751 and 1500 kWh each month
- \$0.0678 per kWh for usage above 1501 kWh each month.



A Life Support Discount for residential customers who require medical life support equipment in their homes also took effect on January 1. An application for the discount is required and can be obtained from the City's web site at www.longmont.co.us/lpc, or call 303-651-8386.



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.

¿Le gustaría a usted recibir las noticias de Ciudad de Longmont City Line en español? Llame a la oficina del Administrador de la Ciudad al número 303-651-8601.

