



Cityline

www.ci.longmont.co.us

February 2012
Volume 23 No. 2

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City Council agendas are
printed every Monday in
the Times-Call.

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Reception will honor City Manager Gordon Pedrow

After 18-1/2 years as Longmont’s city manager, Gordon Pedrow will retire at the end of March.

Pedrow came to Longmont in 1993 from Glendale, Arizona, where he was assistant city manager.

His tenure as Longmont’s city manager – notable for its longevity – has been marked by many impressive achievements, but he gives the credit to others.

“As an individual I accomplished little of value. However, as part of a team of dedicated, caring, professional public servants, it has been a successful 18-plus years,” he says.

Among the successes are establishment of the Police Professional Standards Review Panel; formalization of the City’s community involvement process, which has reached out to and included residents from every sector of Longmont; and the city’s willingness to tackle tough issues, such as gangs, homelessness and at-risk youth, which led to Longmont receiving the All-America City award in 2006.

He describes his greatest reward, though, as being part of a great team



of City employees.

“City of Longmont employees are committed to providing excellent customer service,” he says. “They’ve produced great results under often difficult circumstances, earning the support of our citizens.”

As evidence of that support Pedrow points to voter approval of the street tax, open space tax, public safety tax, and bond issues that have funded everything from storm drainage and wastewater treatment improvements to the Recreation Center, the

Museum & Cultural Center, and Roosevelt Park renovations.

But as humble as Pedrow is about his accomplishments, his leadership and support have long been recognized and appreciated by those who work for him. As one longtime employee says, “He never took credit for anything. He wanted to see others get the credit, but he managed to stand in the way when I was about to get hammered, and he almost always softened the blows.”

Community Reception for Gordon Pedrow

Tuesday, March 20

4 to 6 pm

Presentation at 4:30

Civic Center Mall
350 Kimbark Street

continued on page 3

City Manager Deserves Our Thanks

Ethical. Humble. Leader. Team player.

These are the words people use to describe Longmont City Manager Gordon Pedrow.

From former and current elected officials, to professional colleagues, to residents, I've heard almost universal praise for a man who has been a leader in our community for nearly two decades.

After more than 18 years of exemplary public service and outstanding leadership, Gordon is retiring at the end of March.

There are two unique aspects of his tenure in Longmont. First, the average life of a city manager in this country is in the range of 5 to 7 years. Serving 18 years in one location is a major accomplishment.

Second, earning a reputation like his – smart, caring, moral – is not easy for anyone, and it is especially difficult for a city manager who makes tough decisions every day, decisions that are not always popular. Gordon has always been straightforward and honest with the community as well as the city council. He shares all the facts on issues and provides his input so we, as a community, can make informed decisions.

Even individuals who disagree with Gordon will say that he is a man of principle and always has the best interest of the community at heart.

Longmont owes a great deal of gratitude to this man who has worked nonstop for the betterment of our city, our region, our country and our fellow man.

Gordon's public service goes beyond his years in city management. He has devoted much of his life to improving the human condition, from giving food and clothing to Longmont's homeless to digging water wells in Africa. Gordon may be retiring from his paying job, but he will continue to volunteer his time and energy in this and other communities, and for this he earns my admiration.

Longmont is a better place because of Gordon Pedrow, and the rest of the world will continue to benefit from his devotion to the public good.

In my short tenure as mayor I have truly enjoyed Gordon's friendship, help, and integrity. He will be missed by the City staff, employees and residents of this wonderful city.

Please join me at 4 pm on Tuesday, March 20, at the Civic Center to say goodbye to Gordon and thank him for all that he has contributed.



Dennis L. Coombs

Council Member Levison Receives NLC Honors



Council Member Sarah Levison was recognized in November 2011 by the National League of Cities (NLC) for reaching the Silver level in its Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program.

To achieve the Silver level, Levison had to earn 36 credits encompassing all five core competency areas of the curriculum: Cornerstone, Competent Practitioner, Communicator, Collaborator and Catalyst.

Levison also was appointed to a second term on the NLC Finance, Administration, and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee. In this capacity she helps develop policy positions on issues such as national economic policy, general financial assistance programs, intergovernmental relations, municipal bonds and capital finance, municipal management, antitrust issues, citizen participation and civil rights, labor relations, Native American sovereignty, and municipal authority.

Talk with your representatives at Coffee with Council

At the monthly Coffee with Council you can speak with council members on any topic of your choice; no appointment is necessary, and the coffee's on us!

February's Coffee with Council will be held from 9 to 10 am on Saturday, February 25, at the McDonald's in Walmart at 2285 Ken Pratt Boulevard. Council Members Sarah Levison and Bonnie Finley are scheduled to attend.

On Saturday, March 31, Coffee with Council will be at The Brewing Market, 1520 S. Hover Road with Mayor Dennis Coombs and Council Member Katie Witt scheduled to attend.

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.

Pedrow, continued from page 1

When speaking about what he has most enjoyed about serving as Longmont's city manager, Pedrow again refers to others.

"I had the privilege to begin and end my career serving with outstanding mayors," he says. "In

In the 18-1/2 years that Gordon Pedrow has been city manager, Longmont has:

- Had a population increase of 144%, from 36,000 to almost 88,000
- Experienced a 120% growth in City revenue to \$191,808,513 in 2010
- Increased sales tax by only 0.5%
- Added 150 miles of streets
- Increased parks and open space to a total of 5,619 acres
- Added greenways and trails to total 103 miles
- Added 27 traffic signals
- Decreased daily per capita water consumption by 30 gallons
- Added 148 miles of water lines and 122 miles of sewer lines
- Increased Police personnel by 122 – Longmont recently was named the second safest city in Colorado
- Established 74 neighborhood groups
- Elected 29 individuals to city council

1993, I was hired when Fred Wilson was mayor. Fred was a dedicated elected representative of the citizens, who was beholden to no special interest and always worked to improve the overall community.

"In 2012, I will retire under Mayor Dennis Coombs. Dennis is a humble elected servant, dedicated to establishing a tone of inclusion and civility that was missing immediately prior to his election."

Pedrow says he will miss the excitement of planning for the future of Longmont. He has found our city to be "tremendously fun and supportive and forward thinking," which is why he remained here for over 18 years.

But he has no plans to leave Longmont. Pedrow intends to remain active in the community as "a fully participating citizen," as well as continue humanitarian work both locally and internationally.

He also looks forward to having Tuesday nights free. Rather than attending city council meetings, he plans to catch up on his reading.

When asked what advice he has for the next city manager, Pedrow answered simply, "Enjoy this great community."

Do you quality for free tax prep?

There are three locations in Longmont where qualified taxpayers can receive free tax preparation by trained volunteers: the Longmont Senior Center, The St. Vrain Valley Credit Union Training Center, and Front Range Community College.

Volunteers at the Senior Center also prepare the Colorado 104 PTC and City of Longmont rebate forms.

For information about dates, times and what to take with you, visit www.coloradovita.org or call 303-774-4722.

You're Invited to Attend the Citizens Police Academy

The Longmont Police Department is accepting applications for its 12-week Citizens Police Academy, which begins Wednesday, February 29. The academy gives residents a better understanding of the role of law enforcement and our criminal justice system.

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, computer crimes, SWAT techniques, officer safety, and criminal investigations, including a mock crime scene where participants are the detectives. Participants also can spend eight hours on patrol with a uniformed officer.

This course will not qualify you to become a police officer, but it will enhance your knowledge of the Longmont Police Department and how it serves the community.

Classes will be held at the Safety and Justice Center at 225 Kimbark Street on Wednesdays from 6 to 9 pm, from February 29 through May 16. There are 20 openings available, and applicants must be at least 18 years old and undergo a background check.

You can find the application at www.ci.longmont.co.us/police/community/cpa.htm or pick one up in the Detective Division, upstairs in the Safety and Justice Center. The registration deadline is February 24. Call 303-651-8523 for more details about this opportunity.

Celebrate the Kickoff of the Chick Clark Kids' Fishing Program

Children 15 years and younger are invited to sign up early for the 9th annual Chick Clark Kids Fishing Program Spring Kickoff on **Saturday, March 24, at Izaak Walton Park, 18 S. Sunset St.**

The day includes a free kids' fishing clinic, free hot dogs for all, and free fishing for kids. The clinic and fishing begin at 8 am. Parking is limited so car pooling is encouraged.

The Chick Clark fishing program provides a special place for the youth of our community to



catch fish, participate in fun outdoor activities during spring break, and have a place of their own to fish year round. This program is hosted by the City of Longmont's Open Space Division and the nonprofit Kids Fishing, Inc., with assistance from the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The program is funded through private donations by Longmont businesses and serviced by the Chick Clark Kids Fishing Hosts Program.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife will provide free rods and reels to youth who register early and complete the free fishing clinic put on by Bennett's Tackle Shop of Berthoud. Parents must register their children prior to the event at 303-651-8446, beginning February 20. Children who are not preregistered still can participate in the fishing clinic and free fishing but cannot be guaranteed a pole. Groups are welcome, but sign up early.

The 15.7 acre pond at Izaak Walton Park is managed as a recreational fishery for the exclusive use of children 15 and younger. Adults are encouraged to help kids fish but must preserve the fishing just for children. Kids may use live bait and keep the fish they catch up to the state limit for each species.

Get a leg up at the Youth Career and Job Fair

- **Thursday, March 8, 3 to 6 pm**
- **Twin Peaks Mall, Hover Street at Ken Pratt Boulevard, in the former JC Penney store**

Youth ages 14 through 21 are invited to learn about various careers and how to prepare for the job market.

Talk with employers to discover what different types of careers are really like, take part in mock job interviews, and apply for actual jobs onsite. This is your chance to make a great first impression – business attire is recommended.

Admission is free. For more information and updates visit www.ci.longmont.co.us/rec/special/job_fair.htm or call 303-301-2900.

Help ensure that your utility bill is accurate

Clear access to your electric and water meters allows meter readers to safely and easily get a good monthly reading, providing the best possible customer service and accurate billing.

Longmont's meters generally are located on the side or back of your house, though water meters sometimes are located below ground in a water meter pit. Please keep the following in mind:

- The path leading to your meter, as well as areas surrounding it, should be clear of snow and ice. Please also clear snow away from access gates.
- Often a water meter pit is next to a drive way or sidewalk. If you have a water meter pit, please be aware of its location when you are shoveling snow. Pits can become accidentally buried as you clear your drive and sidewalks.
- Areas surrounding your meters should be clear of vegetation for a minimum of three feet.

To assist with access restrictions, including areas with outdoor pets or locked gates, you have the option to use an automated meter reading system. This allows meters to be read without someone entering your yard and requires a one-time installation fee. To learn more, call 303-651-8386.

