Our country was founded on liberty and freedom, thus the importance of our elected leaders and overall policies can't be understated. One of our constitutional rights is our ability to vote, and over centuries, many have fought and died for this right. Voting in any type of election, whether it's local, state or even the presidential primaries is our fiduciary responsibility as citizens. Voting provides an opportunity for each of us to voice our opinion and helps us decide our own future and the future of the children of the next generation to elect people into office and support or oppose the amendments and bills that can have a direct impact on our businesses and our communities. The future of our community, our state and our country largely depends on each of you doing your part to help secure our economic viability and stability.

Our youth are the future of our country and today's students is imperative to our government process. I once heard a speaker say that our young children may not be good communicators, however they are great imitators. As a mother raising our young children may not be good communicators, so the questions I ask you are, have you taught your children the importance of our government process and more importantly, if they are of age, are they registered to vote? Often times we take for granted that they will learn this in school, but I challenge you to start the education process at home and model what you wish to imitate. Remember, what we are deciding and voting on today will be what our children have to live with tomorrow. Whether you're a Republican, Libertarian or undecided, you need to educate yourself and those around you on the issues that are facing. I encourage you to first get registered to vote, research the ballot issues and candidates and then exercise your right to vote by being well informed, educated decisions when early voting begins.

The Loveland Chamber of Commerce is in partnership with the Loveland Reporter-Herald and the League of Women Voters is hosting the annual Old Fashioned Political Rally (OFP&R) from 5:30 – 7 p.m. on Oct. 11 at the Northern Exhibition Hall at The Ranch. I invite you to come out and meet the candidates (citizen with state or national positions) and gather information on major state and local ballot issues. Don’t be tricked into thinking that “I only own one vote, so why would my opinion count,” because your voice does matter! If you are interested on getting more information on the OFP&R please check out our website at www.loveland.org. See you at the polls and many blessings to you and yours.

Mindy Moree

NOREEN FLOOD WITH DAILY MONEY SOLUTIONS

From Where I Stand
A Message from your Chamber President, Mindy Moree

This November voters in Colorado will vote on Amendment 64, which would make Colorado one of the first states to legalize marijuana for recreational purposes, would make it legal for anyone 21 years old and older to possess and consume up to one ounce of marijuana (the equivalent of 60 joints), and would permit opening marijuana retail stores, growing facilities, manufacturing facilities and testing facilities in communities across the state. These are serious and political ramifications of allowing unlimited supplies of marijuana to be used and sold for recreational use. Amendment 64 would have a negative impact on the “color” economy and be a disaster for employers and our communities.

Colorado has a well-deserved reputation as a healthy, active and productive place to locate a business and raise a family. But it's important to note that the state is not immune to the same recreational and health-related problems as many other states, and its businesses have to live with them. The state is in a position of responsibility to ensure that its residents have the same constitutional right to consume marijuana and possess recreational marijuana and where marijuana retail and sales are located in our communities.

For employers, one of the most serious ramifications would be the legal and human resources challenges they face. If Amendment 64 is adopted, it would mean that employees would now have the legal and moral right to use marijuana products for off-the-job use as they can now. Additionally, the amendment is at odds with the Drug-Free Workplace Act and subjects employers to zero tolerance for marijuana use, which would be in direct opposition to the “tit-for-tat” employers in states that have not legalized marijuana.

The Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance and its member organizations, the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce, the Loveland Chamber of Commerce, the Greeley Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation, oppose Amendment 64 and the legalization of marijuana because it is bad for Colorado. The NCLA joins numerous other organizations throughout Colorado in their opposition. For a complete list, and for more information about Amendment 64, please visit www.rnoc4.com.
Loveland Chamber of Commerce Announces 2012-2013 /T_h  e Sweetheart City Valentine Program Commences

Loveland Chamber Ribbon Cuttings

August 7 – Payne & Associates
September 11 – Building Momentum, Inc.

Leadership Loveland Class 2012-2013

The Loveland Chamber of Commerce, the driving force for business in Loveland, today announced the 2012-2013 class of its Leadership Loveland program. This class of 20 people will gain invaluable knowledge from local business, civic, and community leaders through curriculum designed to enhance leadership skills in a range of areas and industries.

“Leadership Loveland is an exceptional program that can develop active leaders who show outstanding commitment to the community,” said Mindy Moore, executive director of the Loveland Chamber. “I am excited to see what these 20 individuals will take on to help enrich Loveland.”

The 2012-2013 Leadership Loveland Class includes:

Alberta Lewis – vice president/ CEO, Colorado Farm Bureau Insurance and Financial Services
Charles Lezman Jr. – president/ CEO, Community Health Thunder River
Cheryl Redmond – health service coordinator, Thompson Valley EMS
Debra Dorris – market president, Wells Fargo Bank & Trust
Erin Zimmerman – education initiative manager, United Way of Larimer County
Fred Liske – general manager, American Eagle Feeder Co.

The Leadership Loveland card will be sold in retail outlets throughout northern Colorado as well as online at www.ivl.org and will be available in early January 2013 following its reveal at the annual Valentine press conference.

Valentine Card Design Requirements

The Loveland Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Loveland Post Office, Infinity Stamp store and many volunteers, process more than 1,100,000 Valentine cards that arrive in Loveland each year to receive the special Sweetheart City cachet. Volunteers hand stamp the cachet on each valentine and re-mail them to their final destination that includes more than 100 countries around the globe and all 50 states.

The cachet card appears inside the cachet design. The completed cachet is requested on official Loveland cancel stamps and used to hand-stamp the envelope of each Valentine card re-mailed from Loveland.

Card Verse Requirements

• City of Loveland or ‘Sweetheart City’ must be referenced in a line of the verse.
• Content: romantic, sentimental or humorous
• Only typed or neatly printed entries will be accepted.

Card Design Requirements

• Framed size when folded 6½”x4½”
• No color restrictions other than it must be able to be printed on a true color press
• Must be cut, bordered, bordered, bordered, bordered, bordered, bordered
• Only original art will be accepted, reproductions and reproductions of reproductions must be checked prior.
• Design theme must be carried throughout the card and cachet and cancellation contest are available at the Chamber, the Visitor Center, on the Chamber’s website, www.ivl.org. Please call the Chamber at (970) 667-8313 with questions.

Business leaders are encouraged to create a meaningful and creative design that will help to establish Loveland as a Valentine retail outlet throughout northern Colorado as well as online at www.ivl.org and will be available in early January 2013 following its reveal at the annual Valentine press conference.

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Leadership Loveland is designed to identify, motivate and develop community leaders and help them identify issues, problems and solutions within the community. Additionally, programs partners with current community leaders who encourage greater community involvement.

This one-year program kicks off with an orientation on September 11 and will end in July 2013 with graduation. The 2012-2013 class will participate in a diverse seminar on various elements of this curriculum such as business and the economic climate, political climate and legislative climate, economic systems, state and city government, leadership development, and leisure, luxury and natural resources. In addition, the class will have the opportunity to complete a community project to benefit Loveland.

For more information on Leadership Loveland including application questions, please visit www.ivl.org/LeadershipLoveland