

# COMPASS

OF LARIMER COUNTY

Spring 2008  
eNewsletter

## Did you know...

The unemployment rate for Larimer County was 3.4 in 2007, lower than Colorado and the nation.

Smoking quit attempts among high school students increased, with females attempting to quit more often than males.

Larimer County public schools overall enrollment increased by 2% over the last 5 years.

Park School District enrollment fell by 11.4% during this period, which was an actual drop of 155 students.

In 2007, the average household rent was \$758 in Larimer County.

The vacancy rate was down to 7.9%, the lowest in five years.

United Way of Larimer County raised 5.6 million dollars in the 2007 campaign.

In 2007, there were 2,608 marriages and 1,413 divorces in Larimer County.

## Welcome to our first eNewsletter!

Our hope with the new Compass of Larimer County eNewsletter is to keep you informed and updated with reports and statistics about our community - Larimer County.

Feel free to pass this on to those who might be interested. Also be sure to follow the link at the bottom of the page to subscribe to future Compass e-Newsletters. Add [Compass of Larimer County](#) to your 'Favorites' and check back often to see what's new on Compass.

## Get reacquainted with Compass

Across the nation, communities are striving to improve their quality of life by taking stock in their social, economic and environmental health. Such community improvement projects are often called sustainability or indicator projects. In Larimer County, Compass is such a project.

Compass is an ever-expanding collection of charts, graphs, and reports that reflect on all aspects of our community's well-being. Compass hopes that groups and individuals will use Compass data as a starting point for working together to improve our community. As a community status report, Compass is somewhat unique in that it brings together trend information around the county and puts it in one place. This allows users to easily compare Larimer County communities with each other, the state, and the nation. Compass continually collects and presents data about areas that reflect our well being.

We add new information to the website each week. New reports, links and updated pages are posted frequently.

## Compass User Survey

We are looking to improve the Compass website and would like to welcome your comments and any feedback that you may have.

The Compass User Survey will take no more than 10 minutes to complete, and you will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate! We would like to ask you to take the time to give honest feedback on the [survey](#). Your participation will help us improve our services to you and other individuals in our community!

The Compass User Survey will be available beginning March 21st. There is a limited amount of time for the survey to be completed, so please complete the survey now for your chance to win!

## Subscribe

To subscribe to the quarterly Compass eNewsletter, go to [www.larimer.org/compass/newsletter](http://www.larimer.org/compass/newsletter) and submit your email address.

## Poverty in Larimer County

Written by K. Scott Rahe,  
Compass Research Specialist Volunteer

From 2005 to 2006, the increase in poverty rates for both children (under 18) and adults (ages 18 to 64) in Larimer County outpaced the rates for both the state of Colorado and the United States. In all age ranges except 65 and older, Larimer County's poverty growth rates exceeded those of Colorado and the United States.

Larimer County's child poverty rate grew nearly 13% from 2005 to 2006, while Colorado's rate grew 12% and the United States experienced a slight decline. Children living in female single-parent households in Larimer County are three times more likely to live in poverty than children living in male single-parent households. Also, according to the latest U.S. Census (2000), the town of Red Feather Lakes had a child poverty rate of nearly 27%, which was double or triple the rate of any other Larimer County city or town.

For adults between the ages of 18 to 64 in Larimer County, the poverty growth rate also exceeded the growth rates for both the state of Colorado (a 9% increase) and the United States (which remained steady). The only age range in Larimer County experiencing a decline in poverty, from 2005 to 2006, was adults over age 65. The poverty rate for this age group decreased by 39% in Larimer County and by 6% in Colorado.

Source: U.S. Census 2000, [2005 American Community Survey](#), [2006 American Community Survey](#)

For more information about Poverty in Larimer County, please see the [Poverty page](#) within the Compass website.

## Compass Volunteer Program

We would like to send a *HUGE* thank you to our current volunteers who assist in updating pages for the Compass website. We couldn't do it without you!

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the Compass Volunteer Program, you can go to [Compass of Larimer County](#) or contact Amy Wolsey at [awolsey@larimer.org](mailto:awolsey@larimer.org).

Internships are also available. Contact Mary Mattison at [mmattison@larimer.org](mailto:mmattison@larimer.org) for details on the Compass Internship position.

## Outstanding Volunteer

We would like to congratulate  
**Kristen Menges**  
on being an *Outstanding Volunteer!*

*Kristen Menges* is a business student at Colorado State University and also works on campus. Kristen is knowledgeable in statistics, and has proven her abilities in data collection and analysis. She has contributed a great deal to Compass updates.

Thank you for your hard work!

### Recently Updated Pages:

[Adult Alcohol Use](#)

[Juvenile Arrests](#)

[Adult Arrests](#)

[Marriage and Divorce Rates](#)

[Affordable Rental Costs](#)

[Public Drinking Water Quality](#)

[Community Attitudes Toward Smoking](#)

[Unemployment Rate](#)

[Enrollment - Public Schools](#)

[United Way Donations](#)

[Food Stamps](#)

[Youth Attitudes Toward Smoking](#)

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