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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lafayette to continue “green” practices during the annual Spring Clean Up Program April 28 – May 9

Residents will be required to use compostable bags in order to participate in the pick up program

LAFAYETTE, Colo April 9, 2014 –The City of Lafayette Public Works Department offers an annual Spring Clean Up service to pick up tree limbs and bagged landscape material from Lafayette residential properties. The City’s goal is to offer this free service to residents while protecting the environment and, for the third year, is asking residents to place materials into compostable bags.

Lafayette residents taking advantage of this free program are required to place their landscape waste into compostable-only bags for pickup. Tree limbs must be cut into 8 foot or shorter lengths, should not be placed into bags, and are not required to be bundled. Alternatively, residents can bring their limbs and landscape materials to drop off bins at the Public Works Service Center April 28 through May 9. If materials are brought to the Center in plastic bags, the bags must be taken back home.

“It’s the right thing to do for the environment,” commented Doug Short, Public Works Director, regarding the compostable bag requirement. “We want to minimize plastic bags in landfills.”

Compostable bags are environmentally-friendly bags constructed of corn or potato starch and, unlike plastic bags, have the ability to degrade when introduced into an active compost environment leaving behind no harmful residues or toxins. This type of bag differs from biodegradable bags. For the purpose of the Spring Clean Up program, only compostable bags will be accepted. Visually, compostable bags are clear or a translucent color. Some paper Kraft bags also qualify as compostable. Biodegradable bags are plastic-based so they do not break down quickly enough for composting purposes and can leave particles behind. When purchasing compostable bags, consumers can look for the approval seal to guide them. JAX Ranch and Home, King Soopers, Vitamin Cottage, Sprouts, and WalMart all have partnered with the City to offer bags for purchase which meet the compostable requirement.

“The feedback we’ve received about the move to compostable bags has been very positive,” added Short. “Residents have made this transition and support our direction.”

In Summary:

- The 2014 Spring Clean Up is scheduled for April 28 – May 9
- All landscape material **MUST** be placed into compostable-only bags for pick up. Tree limbs do not need to be bundled or placed into bags, but are required to be cut into 8 foot or shorter lengths. **Non-compostable bags and limbs longer than 8 feet will not be picked up.**

You can find additional details on the City of Lafayette web site www.cityoflafayette.com/SpringCleanUp or by calling 303-665-5588 x3328.

Material Pick Up Schedule - Materials must be placed at the street curb/gutter by 7am. Bags will begin decomposing after 2-3 days so do not fill bags too far out prior to your pick up day.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PICK UP AREA</u>
April 28th	South of Baseline, East Hwy 287
April 30th	South of Baseline, West of Hwy 287
May 5th	North of Baseline, East of Hwy 287
May 7th	North of Baseline, West of Hwy 287

**Dates may be subject to change due to weather or other emergencies. Updated schedules will be listed at www.cityoflafayette.com/SpringCleanUp

Material Drop Off Schedule - Residents may also drop off their yard waste at the City Service Center weekdays from 7:00am to 3:30pm, April 28 through May 9. The Service Center is located at 1700 Avalon Avenue. If yard waste is brought in plastic bags, the bags must be emptied and taken back home.

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(2013 Lafayette Spring Clean Up -- high resolution photo available upon request)