

## City Manager's



### Weekly Update Friday, January 9, 2009

**Fire dispatch:** The transition to a Lodi-based dispatching for the Fire Department is scheduled to be completed on Feb. 20, one day before the deadline. We will begin a transition period around Feb. 1 to ensure a smooth hand-off from Stockton Fire on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from Fire, Police and the City Attorney's office met with County and AMR officials today to discuss the transition.

**New engine:** The Fire Department has received word that, subject to City Council approval, a new State-owned fire engine will be made available to Lodi. The value of the new engine is about \$340,000. It will be part of the department apparatus, but will be used when needed by the State during emergencies, such as wildfires. The City currently responds to State requests for mutual aid and reimburses our costs. There may be a slight increase in the number of requests for assistance, but we expect to be made whole for all our costs. The acceptance of this engine will be on a future Council agenda.

**Unemployment:** The unemployment rate for Lodi in November reached 9 percent, according to the State Employment Development Department. Local data is not readily available before 2000, but it's believed to be the highest unemployment rate for a November in Lodi since 1995.

**Job creation:** City staff met this week with the two people hired by the County to market the new San Joaquin County Enterprise Zone. Connie Rill will focus on north county businesses, including Lodi. She will tag along with the electric utility's Rob Lechner in the coming weeks to meet representatives of Lodi's leading businesses.

**Federal stimulus:** We are preparing a list at the request of the San Joaquin Business Council and the U.S. Conference of Mayors to come up with "shovel ready" projects that could benefit from a national economic stimulus program.

**Water meters:** A contractor is currently in the process of installing 8,200 automated residential water meters.

**Web site facts:** We had all-time highs for "hits" at [www.lodi.gov](http://www.lodi.gov) this week, not only for single-highest number but for day-of-week (Monday through Wednesday). That corresponds with the new Parks and Recreation online registration system, which had 20 people signing up for classes/programs in two days, and 60 people opening online accounts. Also, utility payments reached 1,191 in December for total payments of \$271,579, and increase of 416 payments and nearly \$102,000 in one month.

**Boathouse project:** The State Parks and Recreation Department has given us the go-ahead to proceed with the Lodi Lake boathouse project, even though the State is calling a halt to current State-funded construction projects. The project is scheduled to be completed in February. Woodbridge Irrigation District has told us they will not start holding water back before March 1.

**Roget Park:** We have issued a request for qualifications for firms interested in an affordable housing project adjacent to Roget Park. The RFQ's are due Jan. 23. We are hoping a housing project can lead to the park's development.

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