

City Manager's



Weekly Update Friday, January 16, 2009

Donation for Plaza: We received donations in the memory of Lodi resident Jim Skarles totaling \$126 that are pledged to the All-Veterans Plaza Fund through the Lodi Community Foundation. Mr. Skarles was a prisoner of war in Germany in 1944-45.

Energy Commission: The California Energy Commission held a public hearing at the Hutchins Street Square/Community Center on Thursday to consider the proposed Lodi Energy Center. Turnout was light.

Online Rec registration: The number of accounts is up to 117 in two weeks. This is a new service that allows people to register and receive information online. Information is available through the City's and Parks & Rec Web sites.

Solar Fair: We had a successful event on Thursday, with nearly 200 members of the public attending. There were 16 licensed contractors. This is an opportune time to install a photovoltaic system. Prices have fallen in recent months, the Lodi Electric Utility offers a \$2.80/watt rebate, and the federal government's 30-percent tax credit no longer has a \$2,000 cap in 2009.

Building fees: The City Manager and members of the Community Development Department met with BIA representatives regarding potential building fee increases. The discussion revolved around the methodology that will be used to establish new fees.

Nature Area: The State's budget problems will likely delay a review of Proposition 84 grant applications, such as the one we submitted to repair the eroding riverbank in the Lodi Lake Park Nature Area, and the funding as well. We were hoping to hear initial comments from the State this month, but budget problems will probably delay funding for projects, according to those who helped us assemble the grant application.

Demolition: We are closer to demolishing the property on Elm Street at the railroad tracks. Union Pacific has sent the City an easement agreement for a communications line, and once that is executed and recorded, demolition should follow shortly after.

Street lights: Twenty of the 45 streetlights along Reynolds Ranch Parkway have been temporarily disconnected to save energy until new business locate in the area. We still have safe lighting levels along the roadway. The change, which began Dec. 22, reduces electricity consumption by 75.12 kWh per day, for a projected monthly savings of \$275.

Scrap metal: Deputy City Attorney Janice Magdich and Police Capt. Gary Benincasa met with local scrap metal dealers to discuss new State legislation regarding their businesses. Key points include a new ID requirement, a waiting period to receive sales proceeds. Although San Joaquin County and the City have ordinances designed to reduce the sale of stolen scrap metal, it did not stop thieves from trying to break into substations.