

## City Manager's



### Weekly Update Friday, May 8, 2009

**Comcast:** We received notice via voice mail on Friday that Comcast would immediately stop providing personnel in order to broadcast City Council meetings. A higher-up with Comcast said the cable company would staff Wednesday's special meeting at Hutchins Street Square, but would not state when the support would end. Instead, he offered to meet with City staff to discuss the "transition." The representative said the City must have known Comcast's support would end after the Legislature passed AB 2987 in 2006, although a Comcast representative assured us last year when we were considering the purchase of the Granicus system that the company had no intention of changing its past practice.

**Emergency Operations Center update:** With new staff in place at the Police and Fire departments assigned to coordinate emergency planning activities, department heads were invited to a brief "pep" talk on emergency preparedness Tuesday afternoon at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). A heads-up was given on future EOC drills.

**Ribbon-cutting ceremony** – A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for 5:15 p.m. on May 18 at the new Vehicle Maintenance Facility.

**State fiscal woes:** Local governments could lose \$2 billion to the State if some of the key propositions fail on May 19. State Department of Finance officials told the League of California Cities that they are offering Gov. Schwarzenegger an option to "borrow" 8 percent of local governments' property taxes when it unveils the May budget revision. Losing 8 percent of property tax revenue would amount to a nearly \$700,000 hit to our General Fund.

**Weed abatement:** A Community Corps work crew cut weeds in Lodi Lake Park on April 24, 27 and 28, starting in the Nature Area behind Edgewood Drive and then moving to the 13-acres on the west side of the park.

**Parking Permit Fees:** There is no money available to repair and maintain downtown City-owned parking lots. In 2000, the City reduced the Zone B quarterly parking fee from \$30 to \$15 in response to reduced parking availability due to the theater construction. Since then, however, the parking garage and the 60-space lot on Elm Street have been constructed. The fee reduction, reached in consultation with the Downtown Lodi Business Partnership, was supposed to be temporary and the full price restored once the parking garage was completed. We are considering a return to the previous fee in order to collect some funds for lot maintenance.

**Youth Bus Pass:** We plan on a youth bus pass program this summer, providing youths with low-cost access to GrapeLine services.

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