

City Manager's



Weekly Update Friday, July 25, 2008

GREAT news: Police have met with school district officials and will be implementing a program called GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) in the schools through the school resource officers. GREAT is a curriculum in the elementary and middle schools designed to prevent youth violence and gang membership, and patterned after DARE. It focuses on providing life skills to students to help them solve problems and to avoid delinquent behavior and violence. The curriculum is a six-week program that consists of 13 45- to 60-minute lessons and will start with the fourth through eighth grades. The program will begin at Beckman Elementary School and, after evaluating, extend to other schools.

Cherokee Lane mural: A check from PG&E to pay for the Cherokee Lane mural restoration arrived at City Hall today. The artist has been notified that funds are available to proceed with the mural work.

Street project: The rubberized chip seal project on city streets has, for the most part, been completed as scheduled. The chip-seal crew finished Wednesday, the targeted completion date. The slurry applications began on time Thursday and the last coating is scheduled for Tuesday. George Bradley, the streets and drainage superintendent, said public works directors from Livermore and Newman were in Lodi this week to view the project.

EU land sale: A second, more detailed examination of the soil on the Electric Utility parcel being sold for \$2.15 million failed to show the site has chemical contamination of any significance. The buyer was waiting for that analysis before closing the deal. We are waiting to hear if they have reviewed the information and are ready to close escrow.

Wal-Mart update: The company's plans to build a Supercenter in Lodi are still unknown. Uncertainties in the economy have Wal-Mart evaluating their interest in building a new store. The City Manager made a status-check call to a Wal-Mart representative this week, but was told a decision has not been made.

Sales tax: The city's sales tax experts provided us with the latest sales tax figures, very little of which was encouraging. We had lowered our revenue expectations for the 2008-09 fiscal year, but we will likely have to lower it more. Additional information will be coming soon to the City Council. Receipts in the calendar first quarter of 2008 were 5% lower compared to the 2007 numbers.

State budget news: There are rumblings the Legislature will pull the trigger allowed under Proposition 1A, claim a fiscal emergency, and withhold property taxes from cities. If the Legislature passes a budget by using this strategy, the latest estimate of the revenue lost to the City is \$1.4 million. On top of declining sales tax revenue, it is hard to overstate the impact this would have on the City's ability to provide services.

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