

City Manager's



Weekly Update Friday, August 14, 2009

Retirements: The effect of the City's cost-saving retirement incentive will be especially felt after this month. Public Works is losing four long-term employees, and Community Development loses two members. Under the terms of our agreement with PERS, in order to reduce costs, we're dealing with the loss of key positions that will remain unfilled for a period of time. We expect it will be difficult to explain to the public that we will not be able to respond to complaints as quickly as in the past. The public should expect delays in having a city employee "come by and check things out." Staffing at the City is now where it was 11 years ago.

Entrance closing: The pedestrian/bike trail entrance at the west side of Lodi Lake Park at Lower Sacramento Road will be closed Monday through Sept. 10 to avoid conflicts with the San Joaquin County road construction project. The gate is posted with a sign notifying users of the upcoming closure.

Leadership Lodi: The 12-member group participating in the Chamber of Commerce program spent Tuesday learning how the City conducts its business. The participants finished the day with a better understanding and appreciation of what goes into making the City function.

Lodi Electric website: Lodielectric.com was unavailable for a few days this month because the hosting company wrongfully believed the web-hosting agreement had expired. Lodi Electric Utility and Hutchins Street Square are two City entities that remain on external hosts after the City took over hosting for lodi.gov a few years ago. We are looking at bringing lodielectric.com in-house so content changes can be more easily managed.

Still waiting: The City submitted grant applications to the State in November 2008 for funds to repair the riverbank at Pigs Lake. Because of the State budget problems, we have yet to hear an update on the status of our request. The Resources Agency anticipates site visits to potential projects later this summer and into the fall.

Energy grant: We're also waiting to hear the outcome of our application for \$586,000 of federal energy efficiency and conservation block grant funds that are part of the federal economic stimulus bill. We filed the application on June 16 and were told we would hear back within 30 days. Now we're approaching 60 days, and are told it will be another 30 to 45 days before we learn the fate of the funds. The funds are not flowing as quickly as advertised. In the meantime, 15 entities throughout the state, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, have received \$170 million in funding.

Strike team: The CalEMA engine recently stationed in Lodi left Thursday morning on its first strike team deployment. Lodi Fire sent four firefighters to the Lockheed Fire in Santa Cruz County.

Calaveras County Bus service ends: Calaveras County has eliminated its daily bus service between Valley Springs and Lodi as a cost-saving move. It is doubtful we will see it reinstated in Lodi. Calaveras County reports that one-third of the route's riders come from San Joaquin County. According to Calaveras County, there is interest by its residents in a new route to Stockton, which is a high employment area for rural county residents.

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