

City Manager's



Weekly Update Friday, November 20, 2009

Police outreach: The Police Department is discussing a number of ways to reach at-risk youth. There appears to be consensus with forming an activities league that would include sports and non-sporting events specifically for at-risk youth. Lawrence School has been identified as the pilot school to reach between 20 and 40 children. Movie nights and sporting events are in the planning stages.

“Good Driver” Program: In an effort to recognize safe and courteous drivers, the Police Department has partnered with local businesses to create a “Good Driver” program. The program is designed to identify drivers who follow the rules of the road and set a positive example for the community which in turn lowers the amount of collisions occurring in our city. The first event will be held on Tuesday, starting at 8 a.m. Officers will be contacting drivers and rewarding them for their good driving behavior with gift certificates donated by local businesses. Police will not stop good drivers to reward them, but will acknowledge them once they reach their destinations and step out of their vehicles.

Summer Youth: Today is the Parks Division’s final day working with the federally funded Summer Youth program. The county WorkNet staff recently asked the Parks Division if we would continue as a work site for the Adult Program, which is an extension of the federal stimulus program. Because of the Parks Division’s successful experience with the summer program, and because many of the participants are eligible for the Adult program, the Parks Division is interested in extending the relationship. All costs and wages are paid through the employment program at no cost to the City.

Unemployment: The State today reported that unemployment reached 12.5 percent in California in October. Unemployment in Lodi was 12.3 percent, an increase from 11.8 percent in September, although the figure typically rises this time of year as a reflection of many seasonal jobs in the city.

Lodi Energy Center: The California Energy Center’s siting committee conducted a hearing on the scheduled of the Lodi Energy Center. The committee requested the Energy Commission staff issue its assessment by Nov. 30. Ken Weisel testified on behalf of NCPA as to the importance of the project in providing jobs to the community. If the assessment is released by the end of the month, the Lodi Energy Center could be ready for certification in April or May.

Enterprise zone: County economic development staff was pleased with attendance at Tuesday’s rollout meeting for the Lodi part of the San Joaquin County Enterprise Zone.

Solar project: The Electric Utility has received three proposals for a demonstration solar project at White Slough. The proposals are being analyzed by staff, and representatives from the company with the best-scoring proposal will be brought to Lodi for interviews.