

## City Manager's



### Weekly Update Friday, November 30, 2007

#### Notes of Interest:

**Clean-A-Curb roundup:** Thirty Lodi High students, three teachers and a Public Works representative collected and sorted 190 pounds of trash and 20 pounds of recyclable garbage from the 45-acre school campus on Nov. 17. Certificates of appreciation were given by the city to participants. Plastic water bottles and fast food wrappers were among the most frequently found items.

**Hospice Tree lighting:** Lights will be installed Saturday morning on the Hospice Tree, the large cedar at the southeast corner of City Hall. The installation begins at 7 a.m. and should take four to five hours.

**Soccer fields:** Eighteen soccer teams are looking for at-grade practice space on lighted fields from now until March/April, which means 36 practice slots are desired. Parents and coaches of the growing number of youth soccer teams had decried the lack of lighted fields for practices. The city's traditional fields, Salas and Kofu, are also used as drainage basins during the winter and off-limits during wet weather. City staff has reviewed its inventory of fields to see what could meet the growing need for lighted fields in Lodi, and came to the conclusion that the Grape Bowl is the only field that can accommodate the practice slots needed for winter soccer. Use of the Grape Bowl this winter, however, will likely result in worse field conditions next fall and eliminate its availability for winter soccer in 2008-2009. The winter soccer league has been asked to make a financial and staff commitment to the Grape Bowl to ensure its availability.

**Union vote:** MV Transit's GrapeLine workers were voting Friday to decide if wanted to join the Amalgamated Transit Union. In the meantime, Public Works has arranged to have MV Transit pay for additional security in and around the Lodi Station the first few days after the vote.

**Big 6:** Members of Lodi's six major manufacturers met with Electric Utility representatives this week and received a positive update on the utility's financial condition and that no rate increases are in the foreseeable future. The business leaders, from Cottage Bakery, General Mills, Pacific Coast Producers, Lodi Ironworks, CertainTeed and Schaefer Systems, noted their difficulty in finding not only skilled workers, but manual laborers with basic job skills.

**Bond proceeds:** The City is scheduled to receive \$21 million in proceeds from the wastewater financing on Wednesday, with \$9 million paying off the 1991 debt. The City will probably park the money in an account with trustee Bank of New York yielding roughly 4.6 percent (slightly shy of the 4.93 percent Lodi is paying on average). Current market conditions are not favorable for short term investments. Staff is monitoring our options through our Financial Advisor. We hope that yields will turn up in approximately 30 days and if they do we will reinvest at that time. Funds will be drawn

down as construction at White Slough progresses, with the final payments not expected until 2009.

**Court move:** San Joaquin County is still awaiting final clearance from state officials before moving into the second floor of the police station. That's delaying the beginning of remodeling in the existing courtroom and court offices, and the Finance Department's eventual move from rented space to the Elm Street offices.

**Rail Commission seat:** The San Joaquin Council of Governments is scheduled to consider Lodi's request to be included on the Rail Commission Board at its Dec. 6 meeting.

**Hi, My Name Is:** The City Manager is considering wearing an ID nametag. An ID nametag is intended to provide a better connection between the public and employees serving the public. He hopes other employees will consider following his lead. Community Center Director Jim Rodems has been reviewing designs provided by a nametag vendor.