

City Manager's



Weekly Update Friday, December 21, 2007

Homeless in Lodi: Virginia Snyder, an advocate for east Lodi issues, is trying to find ways to reduce homelessness in Lodi. Virginia met this week with City code enforcement and police representatives to discuss her goal. David Main from Police offered to set up a meeting with him, Virginia and Salvation Army Lt. Dan Williams to discuss alternatives. Virginia was encouraged to work with existing volunteer organizations, such as church groups and the Salvation Army, in her goal of providing services that would offer a helping hand to those homeless who want to escape their lifestyle.

Police Chief recruitment: Human Resources is preparing to recruit statewide for a successor to Jerry Adams as Lodi's Chief of Police. The City will advertise in Western City magazine, Jobs Available (heavily used by public agencies), and through the California Police Chiefs Association. The advertisements will go out in late January, with applications due in March.

STAA trucks: Some trucking companies and local businesses say they won't be able to stay in business if the California Highway Patrol, Caltrans and the City can't reach an agreement on what routes trucks are allowed to travel. Assemblyman Alan Nakanishi and Chuck Hahn, Senator Dave Cogdill's chief of staff, met with City staff and local trucking representatives Thursday to discuss the problem. The City is doing what it can to keep commerce in east Lodi from coming to a halt. The CHP is following Caltrans' interpretation of highway rules, while the City strongly disagrees with Caltrans' assessment, noting Caltrans had not -- until recently -- challenged the right of truckers to operate on designated routes in east Lodi. Several avenues are being pursued to solve this issue.

Enterprise Zone update: The City received a bill from the County for \$6,453, the first invoice for the county's Enterprise Zone application to the State.

Century Meadows Park: The Parks Division is ready to accept the park, now that turf issues have been resolved. The City will plan an appropriate neighborhood celebration.

Farewell to Tom: Recreation Supervisor Tom Alexander is retiring at the end of the year. The Parks and Recreation Department will honor his 17 years with a farewell reception on December 28th.

Interest in redevelopment: Several Lodi manufacturers, including Roof Top Metal Products and Quashnick Tools, have contacted the City in recent weeks to inquire about a potential redevelopment project.

Veterans Plaza group dissolving: The nonprofit that raised money to repay the City for the Lodi All-Veterans Plaza is dissolving. The City Manager is exploring the possibility of establishing an endowment through the Lodi Community Foundation to provide for the long term maintenance and repair of the all Veterans Plaza. The veterans instrumental in the plaza's construction, as well as the community at large, could continue to make

donations and bequests to ensure the plaza's future without needing to continue in active fund-raising. The City Manager, Bob Bechill of the Veterans Foundation, and representatives from the Sacramento Community Foundation and Lodi Community Foundation will meet in the hopes of putting an endowment in place.

Tree trouble: A sycamore tree on School Street, near the Shangri-La restaurant, was scheduled for removal Friday after street crew workers noticed it was in danger of falling. The tree will be replaced by another sycamore.