

Nov. 25, 2008
Volume 1, Issue 9

Coming up:

- Dec. 3 *City Council reorganization meeting, 7 p.m., Carnegie Forum.*
- Dec. 10 *Special City Council meeting to consider Lodi Shopping Center/Wal-Mart appeal; 6:30 p.m., Carnegie Forum.*
- Dec. 17 *City Council meeting, 7 p.m., Carnegie Forum.*
- Dec. 18 *Planning Commission meeting to review General Plan alternative; 7 p.m., Carnegie Forum.*

City may obtain \$1.4 million for foreclosures

As part of the federal government Neighborhood Stabilization program, the City of Lodi may receive up to \$1.4 million to assist nonprofit housing organizations purchase, repair and sell foreclosed homes in Lodi.

San Joaquin County has been especially hit hard by the downward spiral in home prices. Although the foreclosure rate in Lodi is about half the County's overall rate, the City is still eligible for funds through a County-managed program.

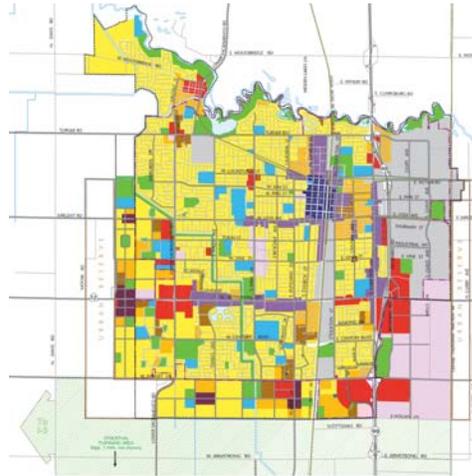
The City is working with the County to identify properties that would qualify for the program. The funds must be spent within 18 months and only by nonprofit groups.

Should Lodi grow like this?

Compact and orderly growth is the objective of a draft "preferred alternative" for the City of Lodi's General Plan update.

The draft alternative reflects comments received from a residents' survey, public forums, an online questionnaire and community groups. Now the public is being asked what it thinks of the alternative, which includes a map of future land uses outside the existing city limits.

Public input will have an effect on the draft, which is expected to see changes be-



A draft alternative for Lodi's future growth is under consideration by Lodi's Planning Commission. The Commission is seeking more public comment at a meeting scheduled at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 18 at the Carnegie Forum.

fore its eventual approval by the Planning Commission and City Council.

The General Plan is the document that guides Lodi's

future growth. The Lodi Planning Commission began its review of the draft on Nov. 12, but continued dis-

(See General Plan, back page)

Library staff preparing for temporary move

The Lodi Public Library is preparing to occupy a temporary home beginning next month while the Locust Street facility is being renovated to make it more convenient and comfortable for visitors.

The Library will close the week of Dec. 1 while it moves two blocks south to its temporary home at 212 W. Pine St., across the street from City Hall and the former location of the City of Lodi's Finance Department.

Construction and other improvements at the Library's current home will last approximately four months.

The Library will re-open at its temporary home on

(See Library move, back page)



Artist Suzanne Kennedy works on the Cherokee Lane mural. The mural, which depicts scenes from Lodi's history and surrounding areas, was recently restored through a grant from PG&E.

Lodi chatter: Bite-sized news

City Hall will be closed Thanksgiving Day and Friday, Nov. 28. There is no GrapeLine or Dial-A-Ride bus service on Thanksgiving, with limited service available on Nov. 28. ... **Santa Claus** will be making neighborhood visits atop a Lodi Fire Department engine. Visit www.lodi.gov for a map and schedule. Santa's firefighter helpers will be collecting food cans for the Lodi Community Center. ... The Community Development Department is making it **more convenient for property owners and contractors** to conduct City business. The Building Division has 40 commonly used forms and handouts available in PDF format

for quick, convenient downloads. ... The Public Works Department's annual **leaf removal** program is underway. The program runs through mid-January. For a map and schedule showing when your neighborhood is being served, see www.lodi.gov. The pickup program is on a roughly two-week schedule. ... The Parks and Recreation Department is repairing the damaged ramps at the **Skate Park**. The park is expected to reopen to the public in late January. The repairs will result in sturdier surfaces that can better



Parks workers install new material at the Skate Park.

withstand the impact of skateboards. ... A **strike team** consisting of four Lodi firefighters were deployed to Southern California on Nov. 15 to assist in fighting the Yorba Linda Freeway fire. They returned Nov. 19.

Library move

(Continued from front)

Dec. 8. No library materials checked out before Dec. 1 will be due until Dec. 9 or later.

Many books and periodicals will be relocated to the temporary home, as well as computers. The children's programs also will continue at 212

W. Pine St., and the Friends of the Library and Foundation offices also will move to the temporary location.

Some temporary changes Library patrons may notice:

- The Library will be open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library will be

closed Fridays.

- The 24-hour book return bin behind the library will be moved on Dec. 5 to a new location behind 212 W. Pine St. Materials returned during this time will be processed by library staff. Videos are not normally allowed to be returned in the bin, but they will be accepted for this week.

- No community or meeting rooms will be available during the four-month period.

After construction is finished, patrons will find a new entry that provides easier access, refurbished restrooms, new floor coverings and reorganized circulation desk.

The Library is scheduled to reoccupy its 201 W. Locust St., quarters in April.

General Plan

(Continued from front)

cussion to a special meeting at 7 p.m., Dec. 18, at the Carnegie Forum, 305 W. Pine St.

Approving a preferred plan sets in motion another series of actions in the long process of adopting a General Plan update. The preferred plan becomes the basis for an environmental impact report and policies that are included in the General Plan update,

tentatively scheduled for adoption by the City Council in late 2009.

The draft preferred plan builds on the Alternative C Sketch Plan that was presented in May. The plan emphasizes an infill and revitalization approach to future development, but proposes additional growth areas. To the south, development is consistent with the southern boundary of the already annexed Reynolds Ranch project.

Additional development is

also shown to the west of the current General Plan boundary. These growth areas are anchored by mixed-use centers that will contain housing, parks and shops. The southeast area of Lodi will expand east of Highway 99, as it is well-suited for business park, office and commercial development.

Finally, the draft plan proposes an Urban Reserve on both the west and east sides of the General Plan boundary. The west area is needed to ensure Lodi has land avail-

able for residential development that complies with the 2 percent growth management ordinance, while the east reserve would be available for industrial land uses.

An area south of the city limits is designated Armstrong Road Agricultural/Cluster Study Area to reflect ongoing discussions aimed at establishing the appropriate land use of property along Armstrong Road. Lodi's current General Plan was last updated in 1991.