

Aug. 29, 2008

Volume 1, Issue 7



### Coming up:

- Sept. 3 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., Carnegie Forum
- Sept. 10 Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., Carnegie Forum.
- Sept. 17 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., Carnegie Forum.

### Brain Builders program starting at Senior Center

The City of Lodi, in partnership with Lodi Memorial Hospital's Adult Day Care program, are teaming up again and offering a great new program.

Brain Builders is a program for people who have been recently diagnosed with memory loss and want to gain skills, tools and support.

The Brookdale National Group Respite Program for Alzheimer's Families offers five grants nationally to new programs. Brain Builders in Lodi has been awarded one of these grants. The official check will be awarded at the National convention in Colorado this fall.

If you or someone you know would benefit from our program give us a call at 369-4443 or 369-6921. The Brain Builders meets every Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Senior Center at Hutchins Street Square.

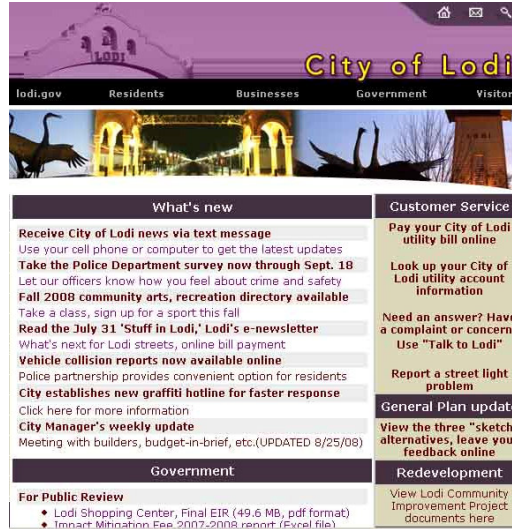
## City embracing online services

**F**rom paying utility bills online to reviewing City Council meetings, it's getting easier for residents to do their business with the City of Lodi through the Internet.

Online bill payment is one of the newest features available to residents at [www.lodi.gov](http://www.lodi.gov). Signing up for the service is easy and secure, with residents able to pay their monthly bills with either a bank debit or credit card charge.

Nearly 100 residents had signed up for the service in the first several days following the Aug. 4 rollout.

Also this month, residents are now able to review their recent utility account information through the city's



*Lodi.gov is about more than finding City records. You can sign up for text messages, take a Police survey, pay your utility bill, check your balance, report a broken street-light or ask a question.*

Web site. The latest payment, amount due, billing date and due date are available through the site. The city previously began offering residents a Web portal

called "Talk to Lodi" that allows site visitors to report a complaint, concern or ask a question. These are some of the features offered un-

*(See Online, back page)*

## City crafting first redevelopment program

**L**odi's Community Development Department is crafting a program that would provide grants to homeowners who need financial help to fix up their houses.

Through the Lodi Community Improvement Project, approved by the Lodi City Council on July 2, the City will receive a higher percentage of property taxes paid on parcels in the project area, which is most of Lodi east of downtown.

A portion of those funds



would be awarded to income-eligible homeowners who can't otherwise afford to

make repairs that improve their property's appearance. Repairs could include paint, new windows, new door, garage door, roof, and others. The program is still pending, requiring approval of the City Council, which acts as Lodi's Redevelopment Agency.

The program has the support of the Lodi Improvement Committee. Details about the program will be decided by the City Council later this fall.

## Lodi chatter: News in bite-sized pieces

**N**ational Night Out on Aug. 5 drew 139 neighborhood groups together in some 80 block parties. The group pictured to the right on Rutledge Drive has participated in each of the 25 annual events. ... Basketball registration is underway for the Spartan (boys and girls grades K-3) League at Parks & Rec. Adult league registration begins Sept. 8. ... Volunteers are needed for California Coastal Cleanup Day at Lodi Lake on Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to noon. Last year's volunteers removed 3,300 pounds of trash from the park.

See [www.lodi.gov](http://www.lodi.gov) for information. ... The last day of **public swim** at Lodi Lake this year is Labor Day. ... The faded **mural on Cherokee Lane** that depicts scenes from Lodi past and present will be renovated in the coming weeks. PG&E is footing the bill. ... The **Budget-in-Brief**, an eight-page brochure that outlines the highlights of Lodi's spending plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, will be available next week at City Hall, the Lodi Public Library, and during City Council meetings at the Carnegie Forum, as well as



online. ... Lodi's Electric Utility last month celebrated the reopening of the renovated **Killelea substation** on East Locust Street. The substation will provide better service to the industrial and residential areas of east Lodi.

## Online services

*(Continued from front)*

der the "Customer Service" label at [www.lodi.gov](http://www.lodi.gov).

Another recent feature added to the Web site is a link that allows anyone to view a recent City Council meeting and skip to the part of the meeting they're most interested in by simply clicking on that part of a linked agenda.

Lodi's Police Department recently made it possible for motorists to obtain copies of

### Lodi Police need your help! Survey will help department plan future

Lodi police are asking city residents to fill out a 27-question online survey that will help officers meet the needs of the community.

The questionnaire asks residents to rate their contacts with Lodi Police, as well as their perceptions of crime and safety in Lodi.

Take the survey at [www.lodi.gov](http://www.lodi.gov).

their vehicle collision reports online rather than coming to the Department, and the city provided an opportunity for anyone with Web access to

comment on alternatives for the General Plan update.

Providing more information and services online is the goal for all city departments. Resi-

dents can now use Twitter ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)) to receive news updates via computer or text-enabled cell phone by "following" CityofLodi. In just its first week, CityofLodi followers learned of a power outage and the police arrest of suspected auto burglars.

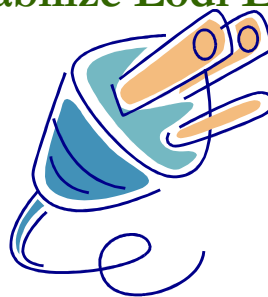
Later this year, residents should be able to register for Parks and Recreation activities and Community Center classes and programs through a single online registration portal, rather than in person or through the mail.

## Energy purchase will help stabilize Lodi Electric rates through 2012

**L**odi Electric Utility on Tuesday agreed to buy roughly \$29 million in electricity between July 2010 and March 2012, a purchase that will help the utility keep rates stable through 2012, according to Utility Director George Morrow.

The purchase of 25 megawatts of around-the-clock

power locks up all but 25 percent of the City's electricity needs during that period. The average purchase price was \$75.62 per megawatt-hour, which compares favorably to the average price of about \$95 per megawatt-hour in the



current fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.

The new purchase would cover most of the Lodi Electric Utility's needs

until the proposed Lodi Energy Center opens. The Lodi Energy Center, a 255-

megawatt power plant that would be owned by the Northern California Power Agency and built on city property adjacent to the White Slough wastewater treatment plant, could begin generating electricity as soon as April 2012 if it receives the necessary regulatory approvals.