

July 31, 2008

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Coming up:

Aug. 5 National Night Out

Aug. 6 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., Carnegie Forum.

Aug. 11 Fall Adult Softball season begins

Aug. 20 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., Carnegie Forum.

New tool makes it easy to review City Council action

Ever want to know what was discussed at a Lodi City Council meeting about a particular agenda item?

Now it's quick and easy to skip through the meeting video online and watch just the part that interests you.

Simply visit the City of Lodi's web page at www.lodi.gov, click on "View Council Meetings" on the lower left side and you'll be taken to another page.

From there, click on "Agenda" next to the meeting date that interests you, and you'll see an agenda with highlighted items. Click on the item of interest, and a video screen will load onto your browser with all the public discussion from that item.

Lodi finishes \$1M road project

Lodi recently completed a street maintenance project that will double the life of nearly 28 acres of city pavement.

The major north-south streets of Ham Lane, Mills Avenue and Crescent Avenue, as well as other residential streets, received a layer of rubberized gravel topped with a sealant.

Funds for the \$1 million project came from the state's voter-approved Transportation Congestion Improvement Act and a \$134,875 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Lodi recycled an estimated 11,239 tires in the project, reducing them to an oil base that



Workers place a layer of coated gravel onto a mixture of oil and rubber on Ham Lane as part of Lodi's recent road maintenance project.

filled asphalt cracks and provided a sticky surface for the gravel layer.

The project was the largest single street maintenance project in the City's history,

according to George Bradley, Lodi's streets and drainage manager, and was com-

See Street work on back

On-line bill payment available August 4

Beginning Monday, Lodi utility customers will have a new way to pay their monthly utility billing statement: Through the City of Lodi web site.

The Lodi Online Bill Payment Program allows customers to access their City of Lodi utility account, review their billing statement and make payments to their account via the City's existing web site.

The system is easy to maneuver through, convenient,



available to you as a customer 24 hours a day, and is confidential.

Customers may sign up for the new Lodi Online Bill

Payment Program at www.lodi.gov.

Those who don't have Internet access may continue paying their City of Lodi bill by mail, leaving the payment in the drop box in front of the Lodi Finance Department, 300 W. Pine St., in person at the Finance Department, or by utilizing Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT), which allows your banking institution to pay your statement from either a checking or savings account.

Stand with your neighbors in fight against crime

National Night Out, a national event that brings thousands of Lodi neighbors together, returns to the City on Tuesday, Aug. 5.

This year, 135 neighborhood groups will combine to hold 78 block parties throughout the City between 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

It's that type of community spirit that has caught the

attention of the National Association of Town Watch, the group that began National Night Out 25 years ago. Lodi last year was ranked seventh nationally out of 46 cities with populations between 50,000 and 99,999, and was the top-ranked California city.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and



Members of the Lodi Police Department gather for the 2007 National Night Out. Lodi ranked seventh nationally for community participation.

drug prevention awareness; generate support for local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood

spirit and police-community partnerships; and let criminals know that neighbors are organized to fight crime.

Street work

Continued from front

pleted on time: nine days from start to finish.

An asphalt overlay would have cost nearly three times as much for the same life expectancy. "I like being able to

do three times as much for the same money," Bradley said.

City crews are now striping the newly coated streets.

The next major street maintenance project may be several years away, Bradley said. The Streets Division will likely turn

its focus to repairing sidewalks in front of public buildings and in areas where City trees have uplifted privately owned sidewalks, he said.

The Public Works Department regularly evaluates the pavement condition on all city streets to determine the

priority for the next street projects. Representatives from Livermore and Newman visited Lodi to observe the maintenance work.

"More and more agencies are jumping on this bandwagon because it's a good product," Bradley said.

Lodi SWAT outdistances competition

Members of the Lodi Police Department's SWAT team finished first among 12 teams at the three-day Sierra Foothill Tactical Challenge this month. The seven-

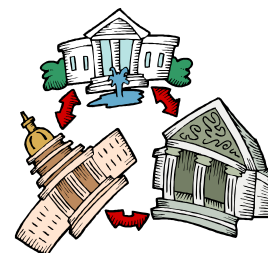


member team, led by Sgt. Fernando Martinez, included Sgt. Mike Oden, corporals David Griffin and Sierra Brucia, and officers Kevin Kent, Mike Manetti and Sean Blandford.

Teams were scored for their shooting ability, their tactics in a variety of scenarios and three daily physical team challenges.

State budget crisis imperils local government funds

When 84 percent of voters approved Proposition 1A in 2004, they sent a signal to state leaders: Hands off local government funds.



Despite this overwhelming passage, local government officials fear the Legislature may keep property tax owed cities in order to balance the State's 2008-09 budget, rather than balancing state revenues with expenses.

This would have a potentially devastating effect on local services. For Lodi, that could mean the loss of \$1.4 million. The Lodi City Council will consider adopting a resolution on Aug. 6 opposing any state takeaways.