



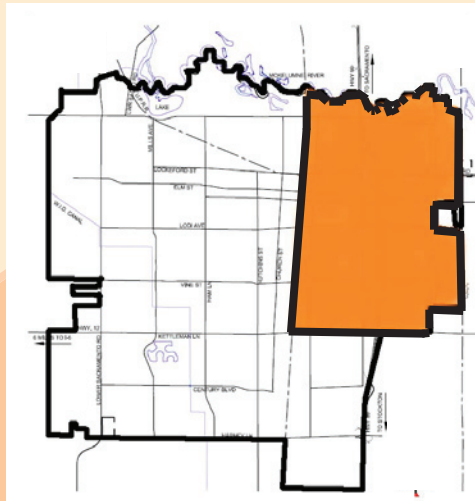
Stuff in Lodi

Lodi lands job-boosting tool

East Lodi, along with other parts of San Joaquin County, recently received conditional approval by the state as one of eight new business development zones, a designation that encourages entrepreneurship and job growth.

Upon final state approval, businesses located within the San Joaquin County Enterprise Zone can receive tax benefits when they hire new employees or reinvest in their companies over a 15-year period. These businesses also receive preference when bidding for state contracts and lenders to zone businesses also receive tax benefits.

A 2006 study by the state Department of Housing and Community Development



Although the City and San Joaquin County are working on the final map details, the preliminary version includes most of east Lodi in the enterprise zone.

revealed substantial economic benefits within state enterprise zones. In state enterprise zones between 1990 and 2000:

- Poverty rates declined 7.4 percent more than the state overall.
- Unemployment rates declined 1.2 percent more than the rest of the state.
- Household incomes increased 7.1 percent more than the rest of the state.
- Wage and salary income increased 3.5 percent more than the rest of the state.

The enterprise zone designation could work hand-in-hand with the proposed redevelopment project to give Lodi an economic boost. In overlapping areas, those businesses that increase the size of their plants also increase their assessed values, with Lodi's redevelopment agency receiving a majority of that new property tax for city projects.

Free tax help for seniors

Lodi seniors needing help filing their income tax returns can receive free assistance **through April 15.**

Volunteers trained through the Volunteer Income Assistance Program will prepare returns for seniors. Call the Senior Center at (209) 369-6921 to make an appointment.

Future growth maps out soon

By early April, three maps outlining possible growth scenarios for Lodi will be released for public comment.

None of the three maps, however, is intended to be chosen as a "preferred" alternative. Instead, the maps should be viewed as discussion starters, with the community's eventual preferred alternative possibly combining elements from each.

The maps' release is an important point in the City of Lodi's General Plan update process. The General Plan serves as Lodi's blueprint on which planning decisions for the next 20-plus years are based.

Check back to www.lodi.gov in early April for more information, including electronic versions of the growth maps.

Will I have to buy flood insurance?

Most Lodi residents are not affected by the proposed Flood Insurance Rate Maps recently issued by the federal government. Many homeowners in northwest Lodi, however, could be required to purchase flood insurance if they are paying a mortgage on their property.

Lodi's Public Works Department, however, is working diligently with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to see if FEMA's assumptions are based on outdated information.



Dark blue area denotes area of Lodi that may be included in new flood hazard area.

The Public Works Department is spending \$10,000 to perform some maintenance work near Lodi Lake, after which the City

will take new elevation measurements to see if parts of Lodi would still flood from a 1-in-100-year event. If so, then residents in the flood plain would need to buy flood insurance by April 2009.

To view FEMA's preliminary maps, visit www.lodi.gov.

Residents who may be required to buy flood insurance should visit www.floodsmart.gov for more information. Those residents also would be wise to purchase insurance before the new maps take effect in April 2009.

Sewer pipe fix should last indefinitely

Contractors for the Public Works Department are repairing Lodi's deteriorating wastewater pipeline by installing a 42-inch plastic liner inside the original 48-inch concrete pipe installed 40 years ago.

Workers pushed the first section of pipe more than a half-mile from a pit southwest of the Van Ruiten Family Winery. When finished this spring, the new section will have replaced nearly 22,000 feet of corroded concrete pipe.

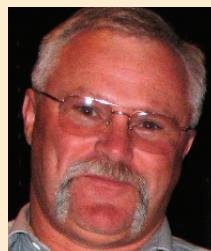


Meet Scott Howsden: Lodi's employee of the year

It hasn't taken long for Scott Howsden, a building inspector for the City of Lodi, to make an impression on those he serves.

Howsden, who began working for the City two years ago, was honored on March 1 as the City of Lodi employee of the year for 2007.

Howsden was nominated by his coworkers with the Community Development Department for a quarterly award. In addition,



Scott Howsden

a customer made an unsolicited call to the City that was highly complimentary of the way Scott approaches his job and helps customers comply with building codes.

Scott has been a building inspector for 20 years, previously working in Galt and Plumas County.