



Stuff in Lodi

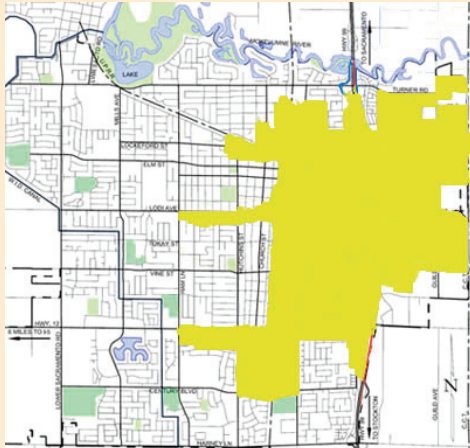
City's future topic of May forums

Lodi Chamber schedules Q&A on redevelopment

The Lodi Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a town hall-style meeting on the proposed Lodi Community Improvement Project — the official name for the yet-to-be-established redevelopment project.

City staff and redevelopment experts will be available to answer questions from the public at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, at Lincoln Technical Academy (formerly Lincoln School), 542 E. Pine St. The Lodi Chamber, however, will establish the forum ground rules.

Redevelopment has been on



The proposed Lodi Community Improvement Project covers some 2,159 acres.

the agenda of 16 public meetings in Lodi the last 11 months, with Tuesday's open house yet another opportunity to ask questions about how the Lodi Community Improvement Project might benefit the city.

The project aims to revitalize
(See Chamber forum on back)

Open House on General Plan set at 10 a.m., May 10

A workshop on Lodi's future growth promises to elicit plenty of reaction from three scenarios that will soon be on display.

An open house on Lodi's General Plan — the blueprint outlining where and what kind of development will occur in the years ahead — is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 10 at Hutchins Street Square's Crete Hall, 125 S. Hutchins St.

Three maps outlining alternatives for Lodi's future growth will be available for the public to view. Feedback cards will be provided.

(See General Plan on back)

California Mille drivers make downtown stop

Drivers in the California Mille, a 1,000-mile, four-day journey for owners of rare and exotic cars, made a lunch stop Monday in Lodi.

Roughly 70 cars — the oldest a 1926 Bentley — began rolling into Lodi around 11:15 a.m.

The event attracted hundreds of spectators downtown, with a group of schoolchildren shouting encouragement to arriving drivers.



Rare, exotic automobiles on a four-day journey of Northern California attracted car enthusiasts to downtown Lodi Monday.

City revenue down, but budget will balance

Leaving vacant positions unfilled is one way the City of Lodi plans to balance its budget in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Retail stores are reporting declining sales from a year ago. Auto dealers have been especially hard-hit. Also, the real-estate

slump is resulting in fewer dollars from the San Joaquin County Assessor's Office.

Those two elements combine for a \$1-million decline in the city's budget. Overall, Lodi will have roughly \$750,000 less to spend in 2008-2009 than in the current

fiscal year ending June 30.

Other cost-saving measures include eliminating a high-level administrative position and cuts in most departments except for Police and Fire, which will receive 3.4 percent and 5.3 percent increases.

Check out Lodi on YouTube

Lodi now has a site within the popular Internet site YouTube.

At www.youtube.com/cityoflodi you'll find clips ranging from a park dedication slideshow to video from Monday's California Mille.



Hutchins St. Square top choice for Lodi brides

A publisher's survey of local brides found Hutchins Street Square was the top choice for wedding receptions in the Lodi area.

The Knot Best of Weddings 2008 gave Hutchins Street Square three stars for its "elegant atmosphere" and ability to suit the needs of reception planners.

Chamber forum

(continued from front)

most of Lodi east of downtown and along the city's major commercial corridors.

Redevelopment does NOT increase the taxes of property owners within the project area. But by adopting a redevelopment project, Lodi will retain a greater share of future property taxes, providing the funds needed to stimulate investment in the community.

Project goals include helping low-income residents with housing needs, rehabilitating deteriorated infrastructure, and encouraging private

investment to create new jobs. Those details will be worked out with the community's involvement at future public meetings.

The Lodi Planning Commission on Wednesday, April 23, found the project conforms to the city's General Plan and recommended that the Lodi City Council move forward with redevelopment. A draft environment impact report and other documents on the LCIP are available at the city's web site, www.lodi.gov.

Lodi's City Council has scheduled a special meeting on May 28 to consider adopting the LCIP.

General Plan

(continued from front)

None of the three maps is aimed at becoming a final alternative. Instead, members of the public are being asked what they like and dislike about the options. In the following weeks, Lodi's General Plan team will make other community presentations on the alternatives and report on comments made at the May 10 open house. The more people participate in the General Plan update process, the better the final product.

Comments received in the coming months will help the city's General Plan team create additional choices, of which one may be adopted in early 2009 after additional studies.

Want to hear more?

If you belong to a community group or service club and would like your members to learn about the General Plan update, contact General Plan manager Rad Bartlam at rbartlam@lodi.gov.