

# Mayor cheerful after receiving his pacemaker

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PALMDALE — Mayor Jim Ledford is expected to be resting at home today after having a pacemaker implanted Sunday.

The Palmdale mayor was recovering rather quickly from the medical procedure, according to John Mlynar, the city's communications manager. A physician did the procedure at around 9 a.m. Sunday and Mlynar said he talked to Ledford at about 2 p.m. that same day.

"He sounds great," Mlynar said Monday morning.

"Right now he's in the hospital at Palmdale Regional (Medical Center)."

Mlynar said he thought the mayor would either be released Monday or today.

The pacemaker implantation follows Ledford's convalescence from a heart attack he suffered May 27 while attending a Memorial Day celebration in Lancaster.

Since emergency surgery at that time, Ledford has been connected to a defibrillator/heart monitor that records his heart rate. Ledford was absent from a meeting in City Council chambers Thursday when he experienced dizziness and a feeling of being light-headed, Mlynar said.

That dizzy spell, coupled with dehydration, was believed the result of the mayor's medication, Mlynar explained.

Based on data retrieved from the defibrillator recordings, the mayor's



JIM LEDFORD

said, adding that despite the serious nature of a heart condition, the mayor has retained his sense of humor.

"I'm now the owner of a brand new pacemaker," Ledford quipped.

"Dr. Donna Gallik, who practices at Cedar-Sinai (Medical Center), came to Palmdale Regional Medical Center yesterday and performed the procedure. She did an amazing job and I was good to go in just a few hours," he said.

Pacemakers help hearts beat at a regular pace, according to Boston Scientific, a firm that develops and manufactures medical devices.

So, Ledford said, his pacemaker resolves the issue of a slowed heart rate.

"I can now continue my recovery