



City of Modesto

**CITY PRIDE**

November 2001

City Wide

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

## New rules for disposing of old computers, televisions

In August, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the California Integrated Waste Management Board made new rules for disposal of electronic waste or "e-waste."

Cathode ray tubes (CRTs), the tubes used in televisions, computer monitors and some camcorders, are now considered "hazardous waste" because the tubes contain significant amounts of lead.

An average computer monitor contains approximately 2.2 pounds of lead. A 27 inch television can contain up to eight pounds of lead. Considering there are millions of CRTs in the State of California, disposal of CRTs can be a serious problem.

Flat screen televisions and computer monitors do not contain CRTs.

**The new rules make it illegal to dispose of CRTs in landfills.**

Disposal options are extremely limited. Some retailers and manufacturers will accept old CRTs for recycling, usually with the purchase of a new system.

Because of the new restrictions, local garbage haulers no longer accept CRTs. **Televisions, computer monitors and other CRTs cannot be picked up by the City of Modesto's Bulky**

**Item Program. CRTs also cannot be put into garbage containers.**

If your equipment is in working condition, please consider donating it to a local charity, church, or other non-profit organization.

If your old CRT equipment isn't working, you can store it until a disposal option becomes available. Be careful

not to break the glass. If the glass does break, please sweep it up and store it in a box until time of disposal. **Do not throw it in your garbage container.**

Dell, Hewlett Packard, Gateway, IBM, and Sony offer various trade-in or recycling programs for their CRT products. Information is available on their websites. Also,

check with local retailers regarding trade-ins.

The City of Modesto is currently researching ways to provide recycling and disposal of CRTs. For more information, please call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.

Modesto City Council -- 571-5169

Mayor Carmen Sabatino

Vice Mayor Tim Fisher

Councilmember Kenni Friedman

Councilmember Bill Conrad

Councilmember Mike Serpa

Councilmember Bruce Frohman

Councilmember Armour Smith



F A L L

## Highway 99 landscaping projects completed



You may have noticed some changes along Highway 99 lately. The City of Modesto celebrated the completion of several Highway 99 beautification projects at a ribbon cutting last month. The projects, costing about \$300,000, were funded by CalTrans, the

Workforce Improvement Board and the City of Modesto.

Three major sound walls, including the one separating Sisk Road and Highway 99, were planted with vines, shrubs and ground cover.

Trees, shrubs and 10,000 ice plant cuttings were

planted on the east side of Highway 99 and landscape improvements were made on a 3,000 foot strip on the west side of the freeway in Central Modesto.

Expect to see more improvements throughout the year as several other projects are completed.



**David Paladini**

## THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR STUDENT REPORTER

### Citizens help make Modesto's laws

Once I was stopped downtown for riding my skateboard on the sidewalk over by the library. I didn't know it was against the law, but that started me wondering ... How do you find out about what is a law? How would a person find out that something like skating downtown is illegal?

The City of Modesto has a collection of current regulations or laws that Modesto citizens have to follow. This collection is called the "municipal code" and is made up of ordinances adopted by the City Council. In the skateboarding case it is ordinance 234-C.S. I saw the municipal code book at the city clerk's office and it is pretty big. It has about a thousand pages of local legislation.

If you have any questions about Modesto's laws you can obtain a copy of that

particular page from the city clerk's office or the public library. Many people have found it more convenient to look it up on the City of Modesto's website at [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com).

So, how does a law become a law?

One way the city's law-creating process can begin is with someone stating a concern at a city council meeting. The members of the city council talk about the matter and discuss it until they think they have worked out the kinks. This process can take anywhere from a few weeks to several months and may be referred to City staff or a council committee for additional citizen input and a committee recommendation. The ordinance is then placed on a council agenda and this step is called an introduction of the ordinance.

At the end of the first meeting the council members vote on the issue. A week later the city council meets again and sees if anyone has

any new information to add. This is the final adoption stage. If it is passed at this "second meeting" it has a 30-day waiting period and then it is "codified" and put into the municipal code book.

The mayor leads the city council meetings. There are also six council members, the city manager, the city attorney, and the city clerk at the meetings. City council meetings are open to the public, and include a specific time for "oral

**You can view the city's muni code online at:**  
[www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com)

communications." That is when anyone with a concern can share it.

You can also call the city clerk's office and ask to see if your concern or request really needs to go through the whole process. Sometimes an existing law has already covered the problem. Then the city clerk will tell you what city department you can contact. If it isn't possible to fix the problem over the phone then you can bring it up at a city council meeting.

The city's law process is made for the protection of citizens and with respect for citizens' property.

*David is our 13-year old reporter who provides us with a youth's perspective on issues facing the city.*

### Area families celebrate Trees for Tots

Trees for Tots 2001 was a great cooperative success and an exciting day for families, community leaders, the City of Modesto and the Greater Modesto Tree Foundation. Hundreds of parents, their babies, and siblings turned out for the extensive tree planting held earlier this month near El Vista Bridge.

The Foundation and the City of Modesto highlighted the importance of trees and the urban forest during the program. A breakfast served by Save Mart followed. Families took hayrides out to the planting site where over 1,000 trees were then planted as a part of each family's living history.

Hawk Systems donated over \$20,000 worth of irrigation supplies to ensure that each tree will thrive for years to come.

Trees for Tots is an annual Modesto event created by the Tree Foundation. Plans include completion of Valley Oak plantings along dry creek, and continuation of the Memorial Grove as a place of reflection for families whose babies were lost in each respective year.

Donations for reflection benches or the event may be sent to Greater Modesto Tree Foundation at P.O. Box 4014, Modesto, CA 95352-4014.

For more information, please call 342-4566.

### Fast facts about the City Clerk

In the City Clerk's Office:

- Hundreds of books filled with ordinances and resolutions dating back as far as 1884 are housed.
- Records of every piece of Modesto legislation ever enacted are bound in large volumes.
- Four staff members help maintain council meeting schedules and actions

The City Clerk

- Is the "custodian of records" for the City of Modesto
- Keeps current records of all City Council actions (current minutes of Council meetings are available online).



# Pruned refuse collection schedule for 2001-2002

Following the guidelines on this page will ensure that your pruned refuse is collected when it should be. In addition, by following these guidelines you can help keep the pruned refuse "clean" so that it can be recycled for other uses. This service is available to City of Modesto residents only.

## What Will the Pruned Refuse Crews Collect?

Crews collect large woody prunings, such as tree trimmings. Tree trimmings must be less than six feet in length and less than six inches in diameter. No single piece can weigh more than 50 pounds. Crews will not collect tires, concrete, stumps or grass clippings.

## When Does the City Collect My Pruned Refuse?

City crews begin collection the first Monday of each month, except during the

month of December, but it takes them approximately three weeks to get through the entire city.

*It is critical that you do not put your pruned refuse out after the crews have already collected in your area. Shortly after the pruned refuse is collected, street sweepers clean your street. If new piles are in the street, the street sweeping will be less effective.*

## Where Should I Place Pruned Refuse for Collection?

You should place your refuse in the alley. In areas where alleys do not exist, pruned refuse should be placed in the street in front of your property only. All piles should be compact. Please remember that refuse should not be placed near sewer cleanouts, manholes, fire hydrants, rockwells, or other utility fixtures.

You are encouraged to chop your pruned refuse into small pieces and place it in your yard waste recycling container.

**In the Alley:** Pruned refuse placed in the alley should extend no more than three feet into the alley and must be at least one foot from the fence.

**In the Street:** Pruned refuse should not extend more than four feet into the street, must be at least one foot from the face of the curb and not higher than four feet. If a curb does not exist, refuse must be one foot from the point of low drainage.

## What Should I Do With My Yard Waste?

All yard waste (grass clippings, weeds, leaves, twigs, shrubbery, vines and ground cover) must be placed in your green yard waste

container. When it is **not** leaf season, leaves should be placed in your green yard waste recycling container. For more information, call the Forestry Division at 342-2249.

**Sweeping:** Your streets are scheduled to be swept twice a month. Normally we sweep your streets a day or two after green waste is picked up. Please note: If green waste was not placed out at the proper time of the month for pickup, sweepers will go around piles. This makes our sweeping less effective. After crews pickup green waste and leaves, please do not sweep debris left behind into piles and leave them on the street. The sweeper will sweep debris that remains. The sweeper will not sweep debris put in piles and left on the street. Please place your garbage containers back on your property as soon as they are emptied.

## 2002 PRUNED REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

The calendar below provides you with specific information about when you should place your Pruned Refuse out for collection. Refuse is only collected once a month. Remember: it takes approximately two weeks for crews to pickup the entire City.

*Earliest day you should place refuse out for collection is 72 hours prior to the Monday of collection (first Monday of the month)*

KEY	 →	<b>Only Days you may place out your Refuse for collection</b>
	 →	<b>Days crews start to pickup (First Monday of Each Month)</b>

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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LEAVES ONLY  
No Green Waste

## Stormwater pollution solutions

### **Did you know a sewer system and a storm drain system are not the same?**

These two systems are completely different. The water that goes down a sink or toilet in your home or business flows to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated and filtered. Water that flows down driveways and streets into a gutter leading directly to a nearby river, lake or the water table below is a storm drain system. This water may pick up pollutants along the way which are never treated. Keeping the storm drains clean and free from hazardous contamination is critical.

### **Many types of pollutants can enter storm drains.**

Some common contaminants include motor oil, construction waste, household chemicals, paints, pesticides, brake dust and pet wastes. These pollutants can harm drinking water supplies, recreation uses and wildlife. Some very popular lakes and beaches have been closed because of contaminated storm water.

Share this knowledge with others:

- Don't dump waste in storm drains
- Recycle used oil, call 577-5493 for more information
- Sweep driveways clean and remove spills with absorbent material --- don't hose it off.
- Dispose of household chemicals properly.

Follow the directions on the package or call our Hazardous Waste facility at 525-4123.

- Don't overwater or allow garden pesticides to wash into the street.

If you have more questions, call the city's Storm Drain Hotline at 577-6200.



## City thanks September volunteers

The City of Modesto thanks the many volunteers and family members from Cub Scout Pack 12 who helped distribute pollution prevention door hangers in September: Michael Barton, Sean Baurham, Brian Pilcher, Alan Hunt, Benjamin Walker, Mark Stokes, Jordan Preciado, Michelle Barton, Steve Barton, Jessica Barton, Cherie Burnham, and Brianne Burnham.

The City of Modesto also thanks the following members of the California Conservation Corps for their help: Penny Walker, Brandon Torigian, Joseph Weinberg, Maurice Johnson, James Paige, Matt Pope, and Tammy Hernandez.

The City of Modesto also thanks the following Explorers from the Modesto Police Department for their help: Robert Lee, Tyler Wheeler, Victor Garcia, Alejandro Maguna, Gerren Smyth, and Ben Brandvold.

You are the solution to pollution! To volunteer, or for further information, please call Cheryl Heller, Storm Drain Stenciling Coordinator, at 577-6257.

## Recycle your holiday tree

The City of Modesto street crews will begin picking up Christmas trees from the curb Monday, January 7, 2002. The trees will be composted at the Jennings Road facility. Please follow these simple steps to ensure your tree is picked up in a timely manner:

- Remove all tree stands, rods, and tinsel
- Trees over 6' tall must be cut in half
- No trees with flocking,

paint, or fireproofing

Small, untreated green trees can be put in your yard waste container. Flocked, painted, or fireproofed trees can be disposed of at Bertolotti Disposal 537-8000, Gilton Solid Waste 527-3781, or Modesto Disposal/Waste Management 538-2210. If you have questions, please call the Solid Waste Management Office at 577-5494.

## Trash collection Holiday schedule

Garbage collection will be delayed one day for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. All Tuesday to Friday routes will be picked up one day late. Monday routes will not be affected. All residents who do not have alley service must place their garbage containers on the street for collection. Please do not block the sidewalks.

## Outdoor watering

Now that summer is over, it's time to cut back on your outside watering. If you have automatic sprinkler timers, please re-set them to run less frequently.

Even in winter our water resources are precious, please conserve them.

For information or to have someone help you set your automatic sprinkler timers, please call 342-4560.



**Buy one regular priced flat of flowers and get one bag of Mo-Gro Magic FREE or Buy 2 bags at regular price and receive third bag FREE**

**MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF PURCHASE  
LIMIT 2 FLAT - BAGS PER COUPON  
OFFER EXPIRES 12/15/2001**

**Available at these local nurseries:**

**Westurf**  
1612 Claus Road

**Scenic Nursery**  
1313 Scenic Drive