



VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO ON THE INTERNET!
<http://www.modestogov.com>

This information brought to you by the Modesto City Council.
 Mayor Camen Sabatino
 Vice Mayor Bill Conrad
 Council member Bruce Frohman
 Council member Tim Fisher
 Council member Mike Sempa
 Council member Kenni Friedman
 Council member Amour Smith

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

April information workshops slated - Upcoming storm drain election allows property owners to vote on increase

Modesto property owners soon will have a chance to weigh in on a four-year rate increase to fund maintenance costs to the city's storm drain system.

Election ballots will be mailed to property owners this month and must be returned no later than April 29.

The ballot asks voters either to accept or reject an increase of 8 percent effective July 1, 2002 and up to 3.5 percent each year for three years thereafter.

Storm drain rates have not increased since 1994.

Votes will be tallied only for those ballots that are returned by the April 29th deadline. The measure will pass only if a majority of the returned ballots indicate approval of the rate increase.

The 8 percent increase translates into an increase of 26 cents each month for the first year, for a homeowner with a lot size of 3,500 to 7,000 square feet.

The increase of up to 3.5 percent translates into 11 to 12 cents monthly each year for the next three years, depending on actual costs of maintaining the sewer system.

City officials say the



Significant potholes were evident along Sycamore Avenue this past winter.

increase is needed to maintain a storm drain system that has difficulty managing rain water during heavy storms, and results in pooling water on city streets.

Pooling water on the roadway often weakens top-layer pavement, causing potholes and cracks in the street. This in turn results in more road maintenance costs that the city must incur.

The all-mail ballots include a lot size and rate schedule allowing each homeowner to calculate the proposed rate increase for his or her property.

The City of Modesto will host two workshops in April

to provide information and answer questions regarding the upcoming storm drain election.

Workshops are slated from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 11 at the King-Kennedy Center, 601 N. Martin Luther King Drive and on Wednesday, April 17 in the Basement Chambers of Tenth Street Place, 1010 Tenth Street.

Questions about the city's storm drain system may be directed to the city's Engineering & Transportation 577-5462.

Questions related to the proposed rates may be directed to the city's Finance Department at 577-5395.

Grants to pay for park equipment

The City of Modesto recently received new grant funding in excess of \$91,500 from the California Integrated Waste Management Board for enhancements to the community.

The first grant will provide for playground surfacing, made from recycled California waste tires, placed at the new Orville Wright Park.

Beard Brook Park will benefit from two grants with new playground equipment and surfacing, all made from recycled materials. The recycled, cushion-like surfacing was installed at Creekwood Park two years ago. The projects are slated for later this year.

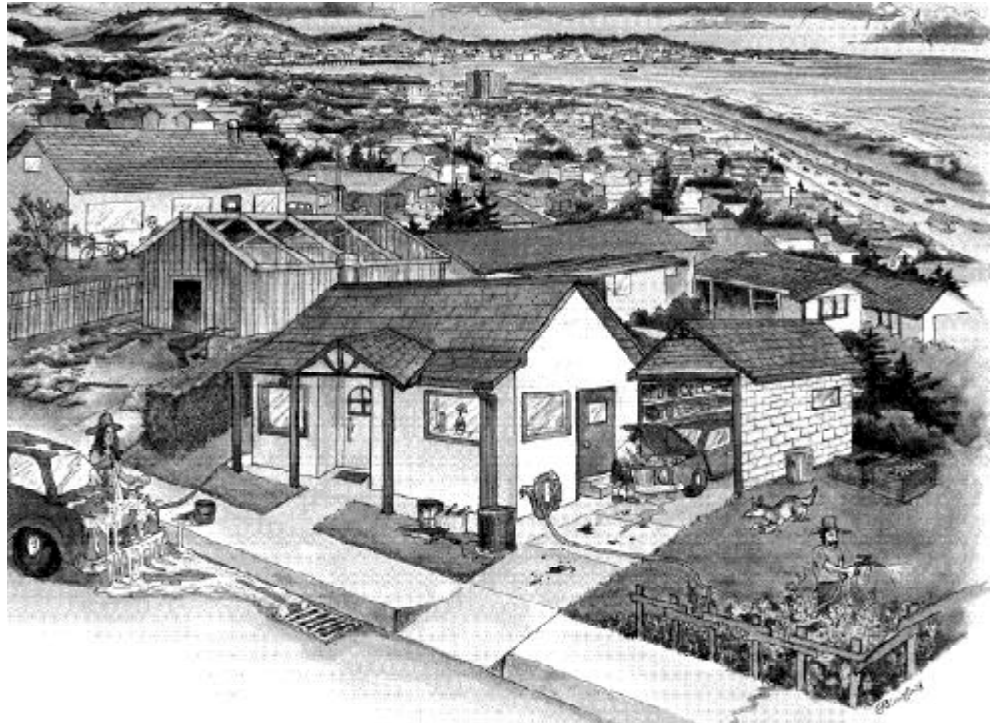
Grant funds also were awarded to the City of Modesto



to develop a quarterly business newsletter to promote waste reduction, recycling and a materials exchange program for local businesses. The first publication is expected to be completed in May 2002.

Who is responsible for Urban Runoff? ANSWER: UR

Before you pour anything on the ground, in a gutter or down a storm drain, stop and think about what you are doing!



URBAN RUNOFF otherwise known as storm drain pollution, is caused by motor oil, antifreeze, paints, fertilizers, pesticides, trash, and household chemicals that are poured or washed down neighborhood storm drains or rockwells. Everything that goes down a rockwell or storm drain flows into the groundwater system or directly into our creeks and rivers.

Eventually, the runoff reaches the San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay.

Unlike the water that goes down the drains in kitchens and bathrooms, storm drain water is NOT cleansed at the city's sewage treatment facility.

Storm drains are not connected to household sewer systems. Storm drain pollutants flow directly into waterways and the ocean without treatment.

Dumping one quart of motor oil down a storm drain can pollute 250,000 gallons of water.

On a rainy day have you ever wondered what happens to ...

- Motor oil on roads, highways, parking lots, driveways, and in storm drains?
- Old antifreeze discarded in storm gutters?
- Detergent from washing cars?
- Trash and grime from parking lots, sidewalks and streets?
- Fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and gardens?
- Bare soil on hillsides?
- Pet waste from lawns, streets, and sidewalks?

Pollution prevention tips to know

RECYCLE used motor oil. When changing your car's oil, prevent spills by placing cardboard under the oil pan. Use absorbent material such as kitty litter to clean up spills. Never pour used motor oil down storm drains, on the ground, or on driveways.



The City of Modesto offers several FREE programs to recycle used oil including Curbside Collection, Certified Collection Centers, and the City-County Hazardous Waste Facility. Do not mix used motor oil with antifreeze, transmission fluid, gasoline, or other contaminants. For more details, call the Used Oil Recy-

cling Hotline at 577-5493.

RECYCLE car antifreeze. Never drain antifreeze directly onto the ground or street. It is poisonous to pets and wildlife which are attracted to its sweet smell and taste. Call 525-4123 for details.

INSPECT and maintain your car regularly to prevent leakage of oil, antifreeze, and other toxic fluids. Use a drip tray to catch leaks where you car is parked, or kitty litter to clean up existing spills.



WASH cars on unpaved surfaces or at a commercial car wash. Leftover soapy water should be poured down a household sink or toilet.

More tips for preventing pollution and protecting our waterways



RECYCLE unwanted chemicals such as paint, pesticides and toxic cleaners at the City-County Hazardous Waste Facility. Whenever possible, use non-toxic household products.

Use toxic products sparingly and follow directions carefully. Always store chemicals out of children's reach. Never pour chemicals down storm drains, gutters or waterways. Call 525-4123 for details.



RINSE paintbrushes in the sink when using water-based latex paint. Whenever possible,



avoid using oil-based paint. Recycle unused paint, varnishes and solvents at the City-County Hazardous Waste Facility. Call 525-4123 for details.

CONTROL erosion at construction sites by preventing dirt and debris from entering gutters and storm drains. Use hay bales as a silt fence to prevent runoff. When pouring concrete, keep runoff out of storm drains and waterways as it clogs rock wells, pollutes groundwater, and hurts pets and wildlife.



USE non-toxic alternatives to pesticides and organic gardening techniques when possible. Plant native California species which need less water than imported varieties. Use herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Follow label instructions carefully. Do not apply products if rain is forecast. Never dump chemicals in gutters, storm drains or waterways. Never use motor oil to kill weeds, it can contaminate groundwater. Recycle unwanted toxic products at the City-County Hazardous Waste Facility. Call 525-4123 for more details.



SWEEP driveways, patios, and sidewalks rather than hosing them off into gutters and storm drains. Put lawn clippings and leaves in a compost pile or in your green waste garbage container.

WATER only your garden and lawn, not your driveways and sidewalks. Diverter garden hoses and rain spouts away from paved surfaces to reduce the amount of water runoff entering storm drains. Use a rain barrel to collect water for watering flower beds and lawns.

PICK UP animal wastes regularly and dispose of in the toilet or black garbage container, not down the storm drain.

Mark Your Calendars for
Earth Day 2002!
Saturday, April 20
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Graceada Park



Bike to Work on May 16th

Pull out your bicycle and get ready for the annual Modesto Bike to Work Day, slated for Thursday, May 16.

Here's how it works: instead of driving to work, ride your bicycle. All bicycle commuters will be treated to a free continental breakfast at Tenth Street Place from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The first 100 riders will receive a free t-shirt and goody bag.

Six bike routes will be led by officers from the City of Modesto's bike patrol. All six routes will end at Tenth Street Place for the celebration.

If you are commuting from another city, simply drive to one of the escorted route pickup spots, park,

unload your bicycle and ride in with a bicycle police escort.



Junior High teacher Elaine Goman puts a little humor into her bicycle commute by wearing a "crazy" helmet with horns.

To join an escorted route, select the one nearest your home, meet a bike officer at the time on the schedule chart, and ride safe with a bicycle police officer to downtown Modesto.

Police Escorted Routes

Route	Time	Pickup
A	6:30 a.m.	Red Lobster Restaurant
	6:50 a.m.	Food Maxx
	7:10 a.m.	Roseburg Square
B	6:30 a.m.	Barnes & Noble
	6:45 a.m.	Sherwood & Bowen
	7:10 a.m.	Doctors Medical Center
C	6:30 a.m.	NE Police Station
	6:45 a.m.	Coffee & Flyby
	7:10 a.m.	Richland Market
D	6:30 a.m.	Spherd School
	6:45 a.m.	Century Center
	7:00 a.m.	Gouli Medical Foundation
E	6:30 a.m.	Richland Market
	6:50 a.m.	Capistrano School
	7:10 a.m.	La Loma Jr. High School
F	6:30 a.m.	Home Depot
	6:50 a.m.	Crossroads Center
	7:10 a.m.	Modesto Jr. College/east campus



David Paladini

Every time I drive down "G" Street with my parents, I love to time the traffic signals so that we can go all the way down the street without stopping at a red light. I always say, "Just go 27 miles per hour." If we do that we don't hit any red lights." Yet this doesn't work on other streets.

That's because some streets are on timers and some are not. It is a traffic-balanced situation.

The green light lasts long enough to let enough cars through to avoid backing up the traffic. This makes it fair to drivers in both directions.

Sometimes pedestrians push the button to turn the light green so they can walk

THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR STUDENT REPORTER

Sensing changes in traffic signals

across the street. Many times I have run down the street, racing my friends, to push the button first. I've always wondered if the buttons really work.

Mike Filan, Modesto's electrical supervisor, said that there is a sensor that tells the control box a pedestrian is waiting.

Similarly, many intersections have one of two types of sensors for cars — motion sensor cameras on top of some of the traffic signals or underground sensors known as "bops."

A "bop" is a sensor imbedded in the asphalt. It is programmed to sense when a car is approaching a red light and will turn the light green if there is no cross traffic. "Loops" are triggered by the weight of the car crossing them.

Modesto's Traffic Engi-

neer Firoz Vohra and his team of traffic specialists engineer all the lights in the city.

They coordinate everything related to moving traffic through Modesto's intersections, including traffic signals, signs, street markings, and roundabouts.

Six cameras focused on key intersections around the city allow traffic to be monitored in a room on the fourth floor of City Hall.

The cameras are positioned so you can't see the drivers or the license plates. Traffic engineers can watch the monitors as they rotate through different intersections.

The city's traffic engineers are working to implement new ideas and continue to work for a safer, more innovative ways to move traffic around our community.



Businesses earn state awards

Each year the State of California, through its Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP), honors businesses that make great strides towards waste reduction and recycling.

Locally, 2001 WRAP winners include Memorial Hospitals Association, Safeway Inc., Save Mart Supermarkets, Mervyn's and Target Stores. Each business is awarded the honor to use the WRAP winner logo on all advertising.

Great American Cleanup in April

Preparations are in the works for the Great American Cleanup on Saturday, April 27. This community litter removal project is funded by the Keep California Beautiful campaign. Individuals or groups interested in participating in cleaning up litter in Modesto may contact the City of Modesto Operations and Maintenance Department at 342-2279.

Patriotic flower display slated

The Modesto Garden Club, in partnership with the Cobr Modesto Program, is encouraging Modesto residents to plant red, white and blue flowers for a patriotic summer display.

The club also has created a Liberty Garden Contest. Entries must be received by June 1, 2002 and will be judged prior to the July 4th weekend. For details, call Dede at 537-7349



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 FLATS/BAGS PER COUPON OFFER EXPIRES 4/15/2002

Available at these local nurseries:

- Scenic Nursery 1313 Scenic Drive Westurf 1612 Claus Road

FREE • FREE • FREE • FREE Backyard Composting Classes

The City of Modesto is offering free backyard composting classes to Modesto residents.

Image of a compost bin with text: BACKYARD COMPOST BINS - \$26.30 each To order call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5495.

Wednesday Classes

April 24th

September 11th

October 30th

Modesto Junior College

6:30-8:30 p.m.

To register call 575-6063