



City of Modesto

CITY PRIDE

March 1999

City Wide

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

Changes in the works to improve City's billing system

Changes are currently taking place to improve the quality and flexibility of the City of Modesto's utility billing system.

Customers will soon notice new account numbers and a new look to utility bills. The new format will make for

easier reading and provide additional information about customer accounts.

Besides meeting Year 2000 compliance standards, the new system also will allow customers the use of automatic bank drafting. This service allows you to specify to your bank when you want your bill paid. The bank sends your payment to the city electronically. Automatic bank drafting should be available during Fall 1999.

Customers already have the convenience of making utility payments using Mastercard or Visa. Debit cards may be used to make payments in the city's Finance Department, 1012 "I" Street in downtown Modesto.

Do you have questions regarding your City of Modesto utility bill?

If so, call the Utility Billing Division at 577-5395 or 577-5207.

Do you need a temporary shut-off to make water repairs?

If so, call the city's Water Division at 577-5328.

Earth Day in the Park 1999 promises fun for everyone

Mark your calendars now for the 10th Annual Earth Day in the Park Festival slated for Saturday, April 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Modesto's Graceada Park.

This great event promises lots of food, fun, entertainment and education for the entire family.



Visit Environmental Row to learn ways on protecting the earth. Children will have lots of fun with hands-on arts and crafts, magic shows, and pony rides. Musical attractions include Home Grown, Spellbound, and the Mike Torres Band. For more details call the City of Modesto at 577-5495.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!
<http://www.ci.modesto.ca.us>



Modesto community pulls together to enhance park

A groundbreaking ceremony last month kicked off construction of the new children's play area at Graceada Park, a citizen-driven project designed to restore the park and replace old play equipment.

The G.I.F.T. Committee, otherwise known as Graceada Is Fun Time, has been working with the City of Modesto for the past two years to develop a neighborhood-generated master plan, which includes input from children, teenagers, adults and seniors.

Last year, the Modesto City Council approved \$150,000 towards the \$304,000 project. The G.I.F.T. Committee spearheaded design and fundraising efforts last summer and have raised \$165,000 in cash and in-kind contributions for the project.

The project, an excellent example of citizens pulling together to enhance their community and provide a safe and fun place for the kids of Modesto and surrounding communities, is scheduled for completion this summer.



If you have a question for the Q&A, please send it to: City of Modesto, Communications & Marketing Division, P.O. Box 642, Modesto, CA 95353. Our question for this insert focuses on improving air quality. See back page for the question & answer.

Community



■ Rebate program for low income tracts

Is your yard filled with junk, debris, and abandoned vehicles? Do you

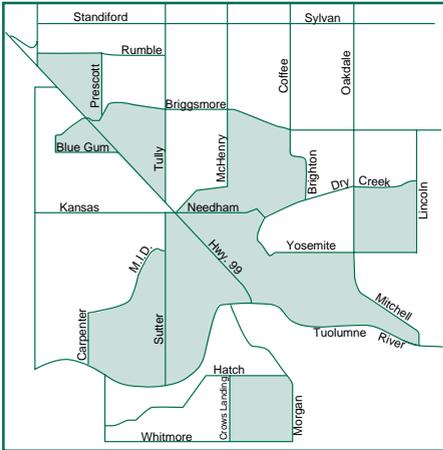
Under the Property Enhancement Program, the city will rebate up to 50 percent

of total costs for improvements, not to exceed established maximum dollar amounts.

Other improvements may include front and side yard landscaping, security and safety improvements, and energy saving improvements.

The map above highlights census tract areas eligible for the program (*map not to scale*).

If you have questions, would like to have additional information, or would like a program application, please call the City of Modesto Housing & Neighborhoods Office at 577-5247 between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Please call 577-5392 after hours.



need a fence or gate repaired or replaced? Could your house use a new coat of exterior paint?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions, are of low income, and live in one of 14 eligible areas within the city limits, you may qualify for the City of Modesto's Property Enhancement Program.

■ Keep Modesto clean & beautiful

Shopping carts are a great convenience. However, more and more shopping carts are ending up in neighborhoods rather than in stores or store parking lots.

Removing carts from store premises costs everyone money and is a law violation. The stores must arrange for carts to be retrieved and in many instances pay to have them replaced or repaired. This expense is passed on to consumers.

Help keep your shopping bills down and neighborhoods clean by leaving the carts at the store.

If you would like to report abandoned shopping carts found in your neighborhood, please call the city's Neighborhood Preservation Unit at 577-5250.

■ Low income utility users tax refunds

Utility users tax refunds are available to households with an annual income of less than \$8,700.

If you have been a resident of Modesto (*within the city limits*) for the past year, have a qualified annual income, and have utility bills issued in your name for electric, gas telephone and/or water service, you may qualify for a refund of up to \$30 in Utility Users' Tax.

Claim forms, available in the city's Finance Department, 1012 I Street, must be filed with the city by April 15.

For details call the city's Finance Department at 577-5395 or 577-5207.



To Your Health ...and the health of our community

Pedestrian safety

Spring is in the air and warmer weather just around the corner.

Motorists should keep a watchful eye for those out walking, enjoying nice weather conditions.

If you are doing the walking, remember these simple tips:

- At marked intersections, walk in crosswalks with the flow of traffic.
- Look in all directions before stepping off the curb.
- Walk, don't run. You may trip and fall.
- Watch for turning vehicles.

Q. How can I help improve air quality?



A. The City of Modesto is greatly concerned with the air quality of our community and the region. Many businesses and organizations, such as the City of Modesto, are responding to the need to improve air quality by actively encouraging employees and area residents to seek alternatives to driving alone.

Carpooling is one alternative. When two or more individuals team up on the ride, they reap the benefits of having company, reducing stress and saving money.

Biking, walking, and using public transportation are other alternatives.

SPRING SPECIAL ON CLEAN GREEN COMPOST

Buy One Yard, Get a 2nd Yard FREE!

One yard minimum charge. Sales tax will be charged. Limit 1 free yard per resident.

Modesto Residents Only.
From Modesto, take Carpenter Rd. south, right on Keyes Rd., left on Jennings Rd.

\$10/yd*

*Bulk sales only
Offer expires 5-8-99

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
APRIL 10 & 24
MAY 8**

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

REMINDER: It is the customers' responsibility to cover their loads.

MODESTO COMPOSTING

7007 Jennings Road • Modesto • 538-2557