



City of Modesto

CITY PRIDE

June 2002

City Wide

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<http://www.modestogov.com>

This information brought to you by the Modesto City Council.

Mayor Carmen Sabatino

Vice Mayor Bill Conrad

Councilmember Denny Jackman

Councilmember Tim Fisher

Councilmember Janice Keating

Councilmember Bruce Frohman

Councilmember Will O'Bryant

Work begins on Kansas-Needham overcrossing

It's been over 40 years in the making and it is finally coming to fruition.

Construction of the long-awaited Kansas-Needham overcrossing begins this month.

The project consists of an overhead crossing of Ninth Street and the Union Pacific Railroad, from the intersection of College Avenue, Tenth Street, and Needham Avenue to the intersection of Franklin and Beech Streets.

The overhead is the future connection to Highway 132.

The four-lane span will rise to 26-feet above the railroad track and Ninth Street and will provide pedestrian walkways.

Stretching for three blocks, the overcrossing will include flagstone-textured barriers; custom lighting, railing and barrier end treatments; and landscaped slopes and median.

Scheduled to open in the fall of 2003, the overcrossing



The Kansas-Needham overcrossing will be complete in Fall 2003 and will look similar to this computer-aided rendering of the overcrossing.

project has been through a variety of stages. One of the first projects was the relocation of the trains that used to travel down the middle of Ninth Street. The trains now use the Union Pacific tracks that travel, in part, alongside Ninth Street.

Businesses like the Old Mill Cafe located near the

Kansas-Needham and Ninth Street intersections have moved, making way for the actual construction phase of the project.

Construction is not expected to significantly alter current traffic flow along Kansas and Needham Avenues at Ninth Street.

The overcrossing will

open in the fall of next year.

A groundbreaking ceremony celebrating the start of construction was held last month.

The \$15.6 million project is funded through a California State Grade Separation Grant. Agee Construction Corporation will build the overcrossing.

Fighting crime one neighborhood at a time

Neighborhoods across Modesto are encouraged to participate in this year's National Night Out.

National Night Out is designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit and send a message to criminals that

neighborhoods are fighting back against crime.

This year the Modesto Police Department and Modesto A's will host a kick-off event on Wednesday July 31 at John Thurman Field with a pre-game celebration.

National Night Out is slated for Tuesday, August 6. For more details contact your local police area office:

Southwest	572-9676
Northwest	572-9635
Southeast	572-9638
Northeast	572-9657

June is National Safety Month

Please remember to slow down when driving near city crews working in the public right-of-way. Your consideration for our employees' safety is greatly appreciated.



David Paladini

THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR STUDENT REPORTER

Trash turns into electricity at local facility

What was Modesto to do? In 1989, the State of California passed a bill requiring its cities to dramatically reduce their landfill use. Where was all that trash going to go? For Modesto, the answer was found in the Covanta Waste Recovery Facility. The facility's mission was to turn "waste" into "energy".

So how does the waste recovery facility accomplish this "waste to energy" feat? Basically the Covanta plant is responsible for burning a minimum of 800 tons of trash a day.

The 1989 California law required reductions of 25 percent by 1995 and 50 percent by 2000. The hope was that the reductions would reduce environmental damage.

In a city the size of Modesto it isn't all that easy to reduce the amount of trash we dump into landfills, especially in the amounts the law called for. But the city would be heavily fined if it failed to comply with the regulations.

One idea was to just burn the trash. But simply burning it would have caused more environmental problems because of the smoke and ash. The law also states that along with ridding the city of the excess trash they

had to do something useful and advantageous for the environment.

So the problem was that burning trash and placing it in a landfill both created problems. Questions come



The Covanta Waste Recovery Facility

up like, "How can Covanta burn 800 tons of trash a day yet still greatly contribute to our environment?"

Basically, Covanta burns Modesto's trash and turns it into electricity!

The process is really interesting. Modesto's garbage collectors sort through the trash at a transfer station. There, they pick out the recyclable elements and separate them from the trash. (You may recall my article in October of 2001 about the life and use of a blue recycling bag.) At the transfer station they fill trucks with the burnable trash and send it to Covanta.

There at Covanta, the trash goes through another cycle. First the trucks dump the trash into a humongous pit. A large claw or crane reaches down and scoops it up and carries it to a large platform. Then the floor of the platform tips and the

trash plummets into a furnace or a fire room where it is devoured by biting flames. When the flame destroys the trash the ash begins to float up and is caught in an ash trap. Because of the special filtering system, no ash or smoke goes into the environment and the residue ash is minimal. That small bit of ash is buried in a special landfill pit at the Covanta facility

The fire from the burning trash is so hot that it quickly boils water, which flows through pipes on the sides of the furnace. When the water gets hot it turns into steam, creating a large amount of pressure that spins turbines and creates electricity.

This electricity is then sold to local power companies.

The plant burns 800 tons of trash every day, and up to 243,000 tons of trash a year. It creates up to 22.5 megawatts of electricity a day. Now 22.5 megawatts of electricity a day is not a huge amount of power, but

every little bit helps. What is most interesting in this whole process is that the energy generated is really just a by-product of the task at hand – waste reduction.

Make no mistake -- the Covanta project is the epitome of recycling and efficiency. The real accomplishment is that Modesto has more than met the requirements of the 1989 waste reduction bill.

Covanta Stanislaus, located about 25 miles outside of Modesto (near Crows Landing), is a truly interesting place. It is a great place to tour. For tour information call the Covanta Waste Recovery Facility at 837-4423.



A closer look at some the equipment at the Covanta Waste-to-Energy facility.

Please report traffic signs that are partly or totally blocked by low-growing tree limbs.
City of Modesto - 342-2249

VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO ON THE INTERNET!
<http://www.modestogov.com>
OR CALL US AT (209) 577-5463

FREE BACKYARD COMPOSTING CLASSES

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

Wednesday Classes

Sept. 11, Oct. 30

Modesto Junior College • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

To register call 575-6063

BACKYARD COMPOST BINS
\$26.30 each plus tax
 To order call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5495.



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 7/15/2002

Available at these local nurseries:

Scenic Nursery
 1313 Scenic Drive


Westurf
 1612 Claus Road

Pruned refuse collection schedule for 2002

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		Only Days you may place out your Refuse for collection
		Days crews start to pickup (First Monday of Each Month)

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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⑥	⑦	8	9	10	11	12	③	④	5	6	7	8	9	③	④	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	⑤	⑥	7	8	9	10	11	②	③	4	5	6	7	8	
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JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							
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28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	③⑩	④①	29	30	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31									

DECEMBER 2001: LEAVES PICKED UP ONLY. NO PRUNED REFUSE
 LEAVES WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE STREETS ONLY. NO PLASTIC BAGS, BOXES, ETC.

LEAVES ONLY
 No Green Waste



Recycle your phone book

Look for specially-marked recycling bins throughout the city during the month of August for phone book recycling. Residents can use their blue bags to recycle their old phone books or drop them in the bins with businesses and multifamily residents.

Location information will be available in the July issue of this newsletter and on the City of Modesto website at www.modestogov.com.

Take a look at what's available

If you are looking for a job, want to make a difference in our community or are just tired of commuting over the hill consider working for the City of Modesto! From part-time summer jobs to management level positions, many rewarding and challenging positions are available.

Visit our website, www.modestogov.com, call our 24-hour Job Line, 577-5498 or stop by the City of Modesto's personnel office at Tenth Street Place, Suite 220.

Offices closed

City of Modesto offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Game highlights Modesto spots

Have some fun this summer playing the new limited edition Monopoly game of Modesto.

Proceeds from the sale of the Modesto Millennium Game will be used to purchase and install playground equipment in a new park next to Orville Wright Elementary School.

Produced and distributed by the Modesto Lions Club, the games cost \$20 and are available at local Save Mart Supermarkets, Longs Drugs Stores and City Hall at the Mall.

Holiday Garbage Routes

Due to the 4th of July holiday, garbage routes will run one day late on July 4th and 5th only.

Senior citizen prom June 29

Get out your dancing shoes, it's time for the 7th annual "City Stars" Senior Citizen Prom. The prom will be held Saturday, June 29 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Modesto Senior Citizens Center at the corner of Scenic and Bodem. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door if available. For more information, please call the Modesto Senior Citizens Center at 491-5944.

Recycle electronic items with CRTs to prevent lead contamination

Residents can recycle up to two items with cathode ray tubes (CRTs) per calendar year and businesses can recycle up to four per calendar year. Please call your garbage company and request a CRT recycling coupon. Then just drop off your CRTs at the appropriate transfer station.

You may remember that CRTs, tubes used in televisions, computer monitors and some cash registers, ATMs and camcorders, are now considered

hazardous waste because the tubes contain significant amounts of lead.

Last August, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the California Integrated Waste Management Board developed new rules making it illegal to dispose of CRTs in landfills.

The city's CRT recycling program provides residents with a way to dispose of items containing CRTs without harming our environment.

Modesto's Most Wanted now available on city's website

A new feature on the City of Modesto's website allows area residents to help local law enforcement locate suspected criminals.

Modesto's Most Wanted appeared on the city's website, www.modestogov.com last month and had already led to the arrest of one suspected criminal by the end of the month.

The Modesto's Most Wanted segment is updated to indicate suspects who have been arrested since their placement on the website.

Residents interested in viewing pictures of the most-wanted suspects, and the list

of crimes they are thought to have committed, can go to the website.

Simply click on the picture of the suspect to get information on physical characteristics, age, where the suspect was last seen and places the suspect is known to frequent.

About 30 suspected criminals are listed.

Do not try to apprehend or detain these suspects. If you believe you know the whereabouts of a particular suspected criminal, you are asked to call the Modesto Police Department at the numbers listed on the website.

