



City of Modesto

CITY PRIDE

July 1999

City Wide

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY



City seeks state funding for fluoridation



Photo by Bill Harris

Providing an effective system to further public health and welfare is important to the City of Modesto. Community water fluoridation is a natural way to improve oral health.

However, the City of Modesto is number 36 on the priority list of 167 cities listed to receive funding from the State of California Fluoridation Program.

Water fluoridation adjusts fluoride-deficient water to the level recommended for optimal dental health.

Water fluoridation is a public health program that benefits people of all ages, is safe and cost effective. It has been lauded as one of

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Bulky pickup program aims to save money reduce blight

The City of Modesto joins other premier cities such as Fremont, San Jose, Fresno, Sacramento, and Phoenix, Arizona in offering a curbside bulky item collection service.

By implementing a bulky item collection program, the city is aiming to reduce blight and save money spent on street crews who normally collect illegally dumped items.

When the new service begins in September 1999, residents will be able to place an unlimited amount of bulky items at the curb twice a year for collection by the garbage companies. Residents with alley way garbage collection will need to place their bulky items at the curb for collection.

A bulky item is an approved, nonhazardous item that will not fit in your black garbage toter. Examples of bulky items are mattresses, refrigerators, water heaters, chairs, couches, televisions, barbecues, vacuums, patio furniture, lamps, carpeting and wood.

Items that will not be collected under this program

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“Maximum” rates set for garbage pickup

On July 1, 1999, the maximum monthly rates that the garbage collection companies can charge for standard 90-gallon residential garbage service will be increased to \$17.75.

For residents that had 60-gallon container service prior to July 1, 1996, the new maximum monthly rate that can be charged will be \$15.02.

Customers that started

60-gallon container service after July 1, 1996 have the same maximum monthly rate of \$17.75 as customers with 90-gallon container service. Maximum charges for additional containers will be \$13.28.

These changes in the maximum rates are the first adjustments since 1996.

In the past three years, dumping fees have increased to \$10 per ton at the Waste to Energy Facility, but

maximum rates have remained the same.

Important changes have been made to garbage collection service to help the city meet state laws that require it to reduce the garbage that gets put into landfills. (See related story on Page 2).

The City has to meet these state garbage reduction requirements by the year 2000, or face fines

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Citizen assistance needed to meet AB939

The year 2000 is quickly approaching, and so is the state mandate, Assembly Bill 939, to reduce trash sent to landfills by 50 percent.

Modesto has slashed its shipments to the landfill by 40 percent since 1990, but remains 10 percent shy of the necessary target.

Modesto is the only city in California facing this challenge. According to the Cali-

fornia Integrated Waste Management Board, only 67 of the 466 reporting jurisdictions in California have met or surpassed the 50 percent target.

The City of Modesto has until December 31, 2000 to achieve an additional 10 percent diversion. After that, the California Integrated Waste Management Board can impose \$10,000 a day fines on cities that don't meet

the 50 percent waste reduction rule.

All residents of Modesto can do their part by participating in the blue bag and green waste recycling programs.

To understand more about AB 939 or for tips on how you can help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills, call the City of Modesto Solid Waste Division at 577-5494.

Monthly rate reflects changes in service

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of \$10,000 per day.

Each residential customer was given a green, 90-gallon container so that yard waste can be collected separately from garbage.

The yard waste is taken to a compost facility and made into a soil amendment.

Because the yard waste has to be free of contaminants before it can be composted, the garbage companies have had to install new equipment and hire new labor to remove contaminants from the yard waste.

The cost of all of these changes to meet AB939 and pay increased dump fees made it necessary to raise the cap on the maximum rate by \$1.65.

The new maximum monthly rate of \$17.75 for garbage service reflects all of these changes.



Efforts like those of Neighbors United in May did not go unrecognized. The City of Modesto is aiming to reduce the amount of illegally dumped items that group has to pick up once a year, by implementing a twice-year citywide collection program.

City aims to reduce blight

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include hazardous waste, paint, oil, tires, concrete, dirt, demolition/construction debris, yard waste, regular household garbage, and automobile parts.

Residents will be notified via their utility bills and a direct mail piece as to when bulky item collection will be occurring on their street and what items are acceptable for placement at the curb.

The City will be routed into

four zones. The first collection effort is targeted for September 1999 and will be completed within a 26 week time period. The program cost is .95 per household, per month.

One trip to the landfill/transfer station is a \$15 minimum charge. With this service, Modesto residents receive a value of two trips to the landfill at a savings of \$18.60 per year.

Remember to recycle yard waste

The grass is growing, the flowers are blooming, and the bushes are getting trimmed.

Make sure that you recycle all that yard waste in your green can and place it out for collection on your garbage day.

Acceptable materials for recycling are grass, leaves, weeds, plant clippings, brush, and tree limbs less than four feet long and six inches in diameter.

Please, no extra garbage, plastic bags, recyclables, dirt, rocks, concrete, wood, hazardous materials, dog or cat manure.

Mo-Gro Magic at a nursery near you

Modesto residents can purchase quality co-compost at many area nurseries. Mo-Gro Magic, produced by the City of Modesto, consists of clean-green waste and biosolids and is packaged in one cubic foot bags.

Mo-Gro Magic is priced at \$3.99 a bag and is available at the following nurseries:

- **Hischier's Nursery**
1520 Standiford Avenue
- **Scenic Nursery**
1313 Scenic Drive
- **Morris Nursery**
1837 Patterson Rd., Riverbank
- **Valley Nursery**
690 N. First Street, Turlock

**CHECK OUT THE
CITY OF MODESTO'S
NEW INTERACTIVE
WEBSITE!**

www.ci.modesto.ca.us

Warmer weather brings risk of fires



Dry weeds, brush and other combustible vegetation can be very dangerous during the hot weather season.

Fire may damage not only your property, but neighboring properties as well. Property owners are asked to remove dry vegetation in an effort to reduce the possibility of fire hazards.

If you would like additional information or other safety tips for fire prevention, please contact the Modesto City Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau at 572-9512.

Meet the Council at Farmer's Market

Don't miss a chance to meet members of the Modesto City Council during their quarterly open house on Saturday, August 14 from 7:00 a.m. to noon at the downtown Farmer's Market, located on 16th Street, between H and I streets.

The open house offers a great opportunity for local citizens to meet elected city officials, ask questions, discuss issues and express concerns about Modesto and its future.

Don't be tempted by hot temps

As the summer heats up the water in rivers, canals, streams and creeks can be tempting.

Keep in mind though, it is illegal and dangerous to swim in any of these bodies of water within the city limits, particularly canals and the Tuolumne River.

Those caught swimming illegally will be cited.

With an abundant amount of snow melt flowing down from the mountains, the river and canals are running fast and high, even for the most experienced of swimmers.

Water can be a dangerous attraction for youngsters. Parents of children, especially toddlers, should watch kids closely.

Swim lessons are offered through the City of Modesto—for details call 577-5344.

Keep sidewalks safe for walkers.

As the days grow warmer and longer, many Modesto residents are out for morning and evening walks.

To make walking a more safe and pleasurable experience, please remember that garbage/recyclables and yard waste cans should be placed at the curb so they do not block sidewalks.

Also, garbage containers should be removed from the curb by afternoon/evening collections.

Make Water Conservation a daily habit



Fluoridation: A public health program that benefits all

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the most economical preventative values in the nation and has the greatest dental public health impact.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring element that prevents tooth decay systematically when ingested during tooth development and topically when applied to erupted teeth.

The cost compounds for fluoridating a community's water supply is inexpensive on a per capita basis making it practical to fluoridate the entire water supply. The national average annual

cost of community water fluoridation in the U.S is approximately .50 cents per person.

Annual costs range from .12 cents to \$5.41 nationwide and are based on the size of a community, labor costs, and type of fluoride compounds and equipment utilized.

The annual cost to fluoridate Modesto's water is estimated at \$1.50 per person.

Fluoride is one of more than 40 different chemicals that may be used to treat water in the U.S.

**Call the City's Community Information Line
at 571-5858 for information on upcoming events,
services and programs sponsored by the City of Modesto!**

Community



Changes in curbside oil collection

If you haven't heard yet, take note: Modesto's Curbside Oil Collection Program has changed.

• Oil is now collected by appointment only! Please call your garbage company no later than 4:00 p.m. the day before your collection to confirm an appointment. Oil will be collected on your garbage collection day. Please call: Modesto Disposal Service 538-2210 or Gilton Solid Waste 527-3781, ext. 158

• Place oil on your driveway near garage/house, not at curbside. Be sure to have it out by 6AM.

• Pour oil into 1-gallon plastic containers with screw-top lids. Up to 4 gallons may be placed out for recycling each week.

The changes officially took effect March 1.

If you have questions about the program or are not sure which garbage company services your area, call the Used Oil Recycling Hotline at 577-5493.

You can cash-in on oil recycling efforts

That's right! Certified Collection Centers will pay for your used motor oil.

You can recycle up to 5 gallons per day and collect .16¢ per gallon at any Certified Collection Center. You may also recycle your oil filters at designated centers.

Modesto has several Certified Collection Centers to serve you. For a list call the Used Oil Recycling Hotline at 577-5493 or call 1-800-CLEANUP for locations state-wide.

Phone directory recycling round-up

Beginning July 5, new Pacific Bell telephone books will be distributed throughout Stanislaus County. The City of Modesto is looking to round-up old phone books, which are recycled and used to make new phone directories. Put the used directory in your blue recycling bag and place it in your black toter for recycling collection or choose from one of the locations below to recycle your used phone directory through August 16.

• Raley's grocery store on E. Orangeburg Avenue, E. Hatch Road or Tully Road.

• Drop it in one of the recycling containers located behind City Hall, 801 11th Street.

• Gilton Resource Recovery at 800 S. McClure Road.

• Modesto Disposal at 2769 W. Hatch Road.

Tree pruning near traffic control signs

Public safety is a primary concern of the City of Modesto.

One way of keeping the public safe is by ensuring traffic control signs are visible to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians alike. Stop signs or other traffic control signs that are blocked by tree growth should be reported to the city's Community Forestry Division so that necessary pruning can be done. To report a tree, call 577-5363.



WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

We would like to know what you think about the changes we've made to improve City Pride. Please take just a few minutes out of your busy schedule to check mark your responses and send back to the City of Modesto, Communications and Marketing Division, P.O. Box 642, Modesto, CA 95353.

1. I read City Pride:

- 1-5 times a year
- 6-11 times a year
- 12 times a year

2. I find the articles in City Pride to be:

- Very informative
- Somewhat informative
- Not very informative

3. I think the type of information provided is:

- Exactly what I want to know
- Pretty much what I want to know
- Not at all what I want to know

4. I think the new design and layout is:

- Very easy to read
- Fairly easy to read
- Difficult to read

5. I would like to see articles on:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip: _____

NEW HOURS!

CLEAN GREEN COMPOST
*Buy One Yard,
Get a 2nd Yard FREE!* **\$10/yd*.**

*Bulk sales only
Offer expires 7-31-99

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.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MONDAY-FRIDAY**

12:30-3:30 P.M.

SATURDAYS

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