



december 2015

The Brand New Year Ahead

As 2015 falls away, we pause to look back on a year of wins and a year of losses, of new opportunities and old challenges. We move forward with renewed optimism and wiser leadership, leaning in to what's ahead. Modesto is a great city. But, we are also a city facing great challenges. As the City's General Fund slowly recovers from the recession, it has become apparent that there is more demand for public services than what we can provide. The City can do a lot with the financial resources it has, but it can't do everything. We have to focus our attention and limited resources on our priorities and that is a challenge.

"We have a very diverse community and have to learn to harvest the strengths of the community. We have to find solutions that align priorities and work for each specific neighborhood. One solution for all does not work."

Your city government is changing. The new Strategic Plan adopted by City Council represents the chartered course we will use to focus our financial resources on our top priorities. Within each of the four strategic Core Commitments are the goals and

objectives we will accomplish as we move forward with our plan. With approximately 85% of the City's resources dedicated to public safety, it is clear our primary focus is on Great Safe Neighborhoods. From survey results, we know that the safety of this City is top priority for those of us who call Modesto home. We are working tirelessly on public safety. As a City of Great Neighborhoods we have partnered with Modesto Neighborhoods, Inc. to build even greater and safer neighborhoods. Modesto is engaging our community and forging collaborative partnerships that leverage talent, expertise and available resources in new ways. We strive to be effective, to respond to our citizens and partner with our neighborhoods. To accomplish our priorities we strive to hear and understand the community.

Though the challenges are many, we are confident that with the leadership of our Mayor and Council, the talent and commitment of our City personnel, the strength of our businesses, and non-profit community, and the collaboration and partnership with our great neighborhoods, we will succeed.

Thank you for your support as we work together, building a better City!

Jim Holgersson
Modesto City Manager



The City of Modesto Strategic Commitments: *Great Safe Neighborhoods, Effective, Responsive and Transparent Government, Vibrant Infrastructure and Sustainable Environment, a Healthy Economy and Great Quality of Life.*

Staying Focused on Our Citizens



In the first part of this year, planning sessions were held for the purpose of redefining the City's Strategic Commitments. Four focus areas were identified and several initiatives were attached to each. The Council prioritized needs for the City and condensed the original objectives into four strategic commitments.

A Healthy Economy & Great Quality of Life



The focus of this commitment is to increase the City's economic development efforts by creating and preserving jobs, strengthening our economic base, and enhancing the City's revenue. The Community and Economic Development Department is a key player in this effort. The objective of this department is to ensure that new development achieves a balance between the economic, social, environmental and quality of life goals for the City of Modesto.



Great Safe Neighborhoods



This commitment is about exploring new approaches to public safety, working in partnership with the community to reduce crime, and maintaining a safe and inviting community in which to live, work, and play. Through increased collaboration with neighborhoods and schools, we are working to improve the quality of life, and build safer neighborhoods through public/private partnerships, supporting community efforts aimed at self-reliance and problem solving.

Effective, Responsive & Transparent Government



With a strategic focus on developing new and creative methods to leverage technology, market organizational strengths, and seek new opportunities for increased efficiency, we are working toward continuous improvement in becoming a more effective, responsive and transparent City. Innovative ideas, new technology and performance measurement capabilities are being implemented to help broaden the City's ability to better serve residents.

Vibrant Infrastructure & Sustainable Environment



We are committed to strengthen and maintain a safe infrastructure of city roads, water supply, storm sewers, transit, and airport needs for residents, businesses, and visitors. Although the City's Public Works and Utilities departments hold the primary responsibility of this commitment, as a City we must work together to achieve measurable improvements as we navigate challenges such as increasing water conservation mandated by the state.



*** IMPORTANT INFORMATION ***
HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE



Christmas and New Year Holiday There will be **no** garbage collection Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1. During these 2 weeks: Friday customers will be serviced on Saturday

Water Conservation - Seasonal Tips

- Make seasonal adjustments to your irrigation timers: Turn timers off and hand-water trees and shrubs as needed during your watering times
- Prevent irrigation water from running onto sidewalks, streets and alleys
- Do not water outdoors during and after 48 hours following measurable rain - measurable rainfall is one-hundredth (.01) of an inch
- Sweep or machine blow to clean driveways, sidewalks, decks, parking lots, etc
- Inspect irrigation system regularly for leaks, broken pipes or heads and make repairs immediately
- Wrap pipes to prevent freezing



For more Water Conservation tips or to view the entire Drought Contingency Plan, please visit our website at: www.modestogov.com/savewater

MORE WINTER WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Identify your master shut off valve for your home. It is usually located in front of your home below your lawn spigot. If a pipe breaks, this is the first place you can turn it off and eliminate water loss.

If you have not insulated your outdoor water pipes, do it today! A pipe breaking because it freezes can be expensive to repair and result in a lot of wasted water!

Check your hot water heater and make sure it is well insulated. Check the manufacturers recommendations for your specific model. Reheating water can be costly and letting water run to get it hot is wasteful.

Check with your local plumber to determine if a recirculating hot water pump will be beneficial for your home. Recirculating pumps can help reduce the cost of reheating water and decrease water loss.

Write down the Water Division Phone Number: (209) 342-2246. If you have a water related EMERGENCY, call us right away, we will respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Leaf Season is Upon us...

During the month of December the City of Modesto Green Waste Crews will only collect and remove leaves. No pruned refuse will be collected during this time. Leaves will be collected from the street only. Piles of leaves mixed with pruned refuse will not be collected. Please do not place prunings in the street or alleys again until January when your area is scheduled for collection. To see when to put out your trimmings for your area visit our website

For more information regarding the leaf removal program call the Green Waste Division at (209) 577-5463

https://www.modestogov.com/trees/green_waste.asp

Certified Used Oil & Filter Collection Centers

Recycling your used motor oil just makes cents!

You can recycle up to 5 gallons per day and collect 40¢ 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.

- ✓ Auto Zone1032 Oakdale Rd.342-9026
- ✓ Auto Zone401 Paradise Rd.....530-9106
- ✓ Auto Zone1901 Prescott Rd.530-0294
- ✓ Auto Zone3401 Yosemite Blvd.....491-0836
- ✓ Auto Zone3601 Pelandale Ave St F545-4093
- ✓ Big O Tires3501 Yosemite Blvd.....524-2446
- Europa Motors1616 Oakdale Rd.551-0277
- ✓ Jiffy Lube1701 Yosemite Blvd.....575-1701
- ✓ Firestone3230-36 Dale Rd.....522-9311
- Midas338 McHenry Ave.....527-0400
- Midas3833 McHenry Ave.....523-4706
- ✓ * O'Reilly Auto Parts.....1623 N. Carpenter Rd.....544-8092
- ✓ * O'Reilly Auto Parts.....3544 McHenry Ave.....527-1480
- ✓ * O'Reilly Auto Parts.....816 Oakdale Rd.527-3660
- ✓ * O'Reilly Auto Parts.....2100 Standiford Ave.....529-1459
- ✓ * O'Reilly Auto Parts.....649 Paradise Rd.....524-4352
- ✓ Pep Boys1340 McHenry Ave..... 529-3310
- ✓ Pro-10 Minute Oil Change.....1135 Tully Rd..... 527-7691
- Pro Lube Oil Change Center3037 Sisk Rd 544-3609
- ✓ Speedee Oil Change1343 Coffee Rd..... 521-1929
- ✓ Stuart's Auto Center3927 McHenry Ave..... 578-5823

No after hour drop-offs!

✓ Accepts oil filters for recycling

* Offers a coupon towards merchandise instead of cash rebate



City of Modesto Waste Tire Recycling Events

PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

- City of Modesto residents only
- No businesses
- Tires with and without rims - OK
- Car, Truck & Motorcycle Tires - OK
- Up to 9 tires accepted at no charge
- No Commercial or Tractor Tires

WHAT TO DO:

- Call City of Modesto and request a Coupon: **(209) 577-5494**
 - Gilton Solid Waste (209) 527-3781
 - Bertolotti Disposal (209) 537-8000
- Take Tires to Garbage Company
- Do not mix tires with other waste

FREE DISPOSAL ON DATES LISTED BELOW

August 1-31 • October 1-31 • December 1-31
(Closed Dec. 25)

Funded by a grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

Questions?
Call **(209) 577-5494**



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION BEGINS IN JANUARY

City of Modesto Green Waste crews will begin collection of untreated green Christmas trees as part of the normal Green Waste collection placed in the street/alley. For Christmas tree collection, the same guidelines apply as the Green Waste collected from the street/alley for your area. If you do not know which area you are in, please contact the City of Modesto Green Waste Office at 577-5463.

To ensure proper disposal of Christmas trees follow these simple steps:

Disposal of Untreated Green Trees:

- Remove all tree stands, ornaments, rods, garland, and tinsel. If these items have not been removed the trees will not be picked up by City crews
- Cut trees in half if they are more than six (6) feet tall
- Place trees curbside to be collected with your regular yard trimmings or cut in pieces to fit in your green waste can

Disposal of Trees Treated With Flocking, Paint, or Fireproofing:

Trees with flocking, paint, or fireproofing cannot be composted and will not be collected by City crews. Flocked, painted, or fireproofed trees may be cut up and placed in your black garbage can or taken to one of the garbage company transfer stations. Transfer stations can be found at the following locations:



Gilton Solid Waste
800 S. McClure Road, Modesto
(209) 527-3781



Bertolotti Disposal
231 Flamingo Drive, Modesto
(209) 537-8000

For more information on Christmas tree collection or the City's Green Waste collection program; visit the City of Modesto's Website at

http://www.modestogov.com/trees/green_waste.asp
or contact the Green Waste Office at (209) 577-5463.

**SEWER PROBLEMS?
CALL US FIRST
577-6200**

Help Prevent Sewer Blockages & Overflows

Especially during the winter months, it is important to remember the following:

Grease is often washed down the kitchen sink and into the plumbing system. Even a small amount of grease in sink drains can cause serious blockages in home plumbing or, even worse, a sewer overflow in your home or yard. The substances also cause clogging in Modesto's wastewater collection system, causing overflows that are messy, costly, and a potential threat to your health and the environment.



Here are some ways you can help protect the environment, your pipes, and Modesto's sewer collection system:

- Never pour grease material down sink drains or toilets.
- Scrape grease material from all cookware and dishes into a can or the trash for disposal prior to washing. Don't rely on detergents to dissolve grease: They may just pass it down the line and cause problems in other areas.
- Use strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain strainers into the trash for disposal.
- Cooking grease should be placed in the black curb container with the normal weekly garbage. It would be advisable to allow the grease to cool so as to not melt plastic garbage bags.

Call the City of Modesto 24/7 at (209) 577-6200 to report a sewer blockage or overflow.

REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE

Holidays are a time for giving and sharing, and that creates a lot of extra waste!

A typical household generates approximately 45 pounds of trash per week. During the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's, each household produces about 15 additional pounds of trash. Almost all of this extra trash is not recyclable, or simply does not get recycled. Here are some ideas to help reduce waste and have fun while doing it:

- Gather and collect leaves, berries, pinecones, fruits and nuts from trees in your yard or neighborhood to decorate your home
- Buy a live tree that can be planted after the holiday, or use a smaller potted tree to re-use year after year
- Decorate your tree with special chocolates and candies, homemade gingerbread cookies, strings of popcorn, and ornaments made from flour or sugar
- Wrap gifts in something that can be used by the recipient: a bandana, scarf, towel or blanket
- Reload your empty gift cards and give them as gifts rather than tossing them out

These are some small and simple things that we can all do to help reduce waste, while reusing and recycling everyday items.