



City of Modesto

CITY PRIDE

August 1999

City Wide

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

City begins household testing of copper, lead

Safe Drinking Water is a concern to all of us. To insure that the water distributed to our customers is received at their taps as clean as when it is produced, the City of Modesto owned water systems will begin sampling for lead and copper at the homes of some of our customers.

Lead and Copper in household plumbing may, in some cases, dissolve into the drinking water. Excessive levels of lead and copper can have adverse health effects.

Public water agencies are required to do sampling for lead and copper at the customer tap according to the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Article 6, Sections 64682 through 64684.

The results of the testing are reported to the California Department of Health Services, and become a part of the public record. If problems are discovered in this testing, then the Department of Health will administer corrective action by the water purveyor.

See Water Testing, Page 2



Cannery segregation project complete

The Regional Water Quality Control Board signed the necessary permits last month allowing the City of Modesto to move forward with operation of the long awaited Cannery Segregation project.

Approved by the Modesto City Council in October 1995 as part of the city's Wastewater Master Plan, the \$32 million improvements provide many benefits to the Modesto community, most significantly, additional capacity in the city's sewer system.

Cannery wastewater is composed of organic vegetable matter and does not need to be treated. This

project allows the cannery wastewater to be separated into a pipeline bypassing the primary treatment system and flowing as irrigation onto the city's "ranch," a secondary treatment facility located on Jennings Road.

Historically, the city's approach to collection and treatment had been to mix wastewater from seven local canneries with domestic sewage. Wastewater flow, particularly during canning season, had increased to the point that existing treatment facilities were at or beyond their capacity.

Full treatment of cannery wastewater also had proven costly—quadrupling the

sewer plant's load in summer and using \$1 million worth of electric power each year.

With the removal of the cannery waste from the primary plant, the treatment process becomes more effective in targeting the domestic sewage. This translates into reduced costs, cleaner discharges into the river and a cleaner environment for everyone.

Additionally, the cannery segregation project supports Modesto's economic development strategy, by providing a sound wastewater system which is essential to job creation and business growth.

SUMMER

Community celebrates success of G.I.F.T.



Hundreds of Modesto residents came out July 24 to celebrate the success of the "Graceada Is A Fun Time" park project. The project is an excellent example of citizens pulling together to enhance their community and provide a safe and fun place for the children of Modesto and surrounding communities.

The G.I.F.T. Committee worked with the City of Modesto for the past two years to develop a neighborhood-generated master plan, which included input from citizens of all ages. The committee also spearheaded design and fundraising efforts throughout the two-year project to raise over \$200,000 towards the project. The city kicked in \$150,000.



The park now features new play apparatus, an interactive fountain, new park benches, miniature amphitheatre, and improvements to the pool area.

During the event, a re-enactment of the land donation was performed. The park was originally named in honor of donors Grace Beard and Ada Wisecarver.

Water testing: Employees will not enter residences

To accomplish the monitoring of the drinking water quality, the City of Modesto needs the cooperation of our customers.

As in the past, we will be sending letters requesting cooperation to some of our customers. Those selected will be asked to collect samples inside their homes for testing according to the instructions on the bottle. The customer will then leave the filled bottle outside their front door to be picked up by a city employee.

After the testing is completed, the results for each customer that turned in a sample will be mailed to him or her. The cumulative results are a part of the public

record and will be reported annually in the Consumer Confidence Report.

Only uniformed city employees driving City of Modesto vehicles will leave the bottles at the front door. City employees will not enter private residences. Customers will not be asked to answer any questions, make any appointments, or buy anything. Anyone not following this procedure is not connected to this study and should be reported to the number listed below.

If you have any questions, or you would like to participate in this study, please call the City of Modesto Water Division at (209) 571-5878.

JPA Administration building needs new name

Local residents have until August 25 to submit entries in the "Name the City/County Administration Building" contest. The winning entry will receive \$500.

Entries with your name, address, telephone number and your suggested building title may be submitted by mail to: JPA Contest, 1100 H Street, Modesto, CA 95354; by fax to 544-6226; or to mduenov@mail.co.stanislaus.ca.us by email.



Bulky Item pickup slated, residents notified by mail

The City of Modesto will launch its bulky item collection program this Fall. Residents will be able to place bulky items at the curb for collection by the garbage companies.

Postcards will be mailed out notifying residents of their scheduled week for collection. Acceptable items need to be placed at the curb on the Sunday night prior to the week of collection. The garbage companies will then pick up the bulky items sometime during that scheduled week.

Bulky items are defined as those things that are too large to fit inside your black garbage toter.

Items that are small or can be broken down to fit in your toter, must be placed in your black toter for regular garbage collection.

Please review the list below of acceptable and unacceptable items for this bulky item program. If you have an item to dispose of that you do not see on this list, please contact your garbage company or the City of Modesto Solid Waste office at 577-5494 for information.

BULKY ITEM PICKUP LIST

Acceptable Items

- refrigerators/freezers*
- water heaters
- water softeners
- air conditioning units
- washers/dryers
- dishwashers
- toilets/sinks/tubs
- couches/sofas
- tables/chairs
- dressers
- mattresses
- televisions
- microwaves
- hot tubs
- barbecues
- doors
- patio furniture
- lawn mowers
- bicycles
- exercise equipment
- ladders

Unacceptable Items

- No paint
- No dead animals
- No dirt
- No sod
- No concrete/asphalt
- No glass
- No toxic materials
- No hazardous materials
- No types of liquid
- No tires
- No automobile parts
- No garbage or commercial waste
- No yard waste
- No construction/demolition debris

* For safety reasons, doors must be removed from all refrigerators and freezers.



Protecting the Environment

National Pollution Prevention Week September 20-26

So, what is pollution prevention? Pollution prevention means reducing the pollutants at the source. You can do this by participating in activities that result in cleaner air or water, less waste, less traffic, the conservation of energy and natural resources, and the proper disposal of household hazardous waste.

Visit our pollution prevention display in September at City Hall at the Mall to get more information on ways you can help protect the environment in which you live.

Learn to make rich compost at MJC

The City of Modesto is sponsoring FREE backyard composting workshops for Modesto residents.

Workshops are held at Modesto Junior College, Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Participants receive an educational packet on everything you need to know about composting, as well as information on how to obtain your very own compost bin at a low price.

To register, or for more information, please call Modesto Junior College at 575-6063.

Class dates for 1999:

August 25, September 15, and October 6.



GOT TIRES?



The City of Modesto is hosting its first of three **FREE TIRE COLLECTION EVENTS** where residents are invited to drop off waste tires.

Tires create a dangerous and unsightly blight throughout the City as they provide convenient shelter for unwanted rodents and insects, and provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Help keep Modesto clean and blight free!

TIRE COLLECTION EVENT

Date: Saturday, September 18, 1999

Place: Modesto High School
Parking Lot Between G & H Streets

Time: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Limits: Four (4) tires per coupon - no size limit
One (1) coupon per household
Tires with or without rims - OK
Four (4) tires per vehicle

Limits will be STRICTLY enforced.
NO tires will be accepted without this coupon.

This event is for CITY OF MODESTO RESIDENTS ONLY!

Proof of residency is required
NO BUSINESSES OR DEALERS ALLOWED

Questions? Call the City of Modesto Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.
Funded by the California Integrated Waste Management Board

GOT A QUESTION? GOT A COMPUTER?
CHECK US OUT ON THE INTERNET AT
www.ci.modesto.ca.us
OR CALL US AT 577-5200.

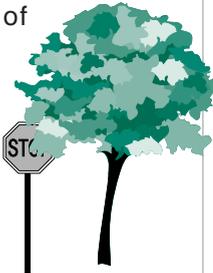
Community



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.



Presentations to schools available

The City of Modesto recognizes the importance of educating children about environmental issues. That's why the city offers FREE classroom presentations on recycling and keeping the storm drains and groundwater clean. Kids get hands-on, interactive teaching using models and other fun props, along with gift packages they can take home. Presentations are available beginning in September and can be scheduled by calling 577-5453 for groundwater/storm drain presentations or 577-5495 for yard waste and recycling presentations.

City of Modesto offices will be closed Monday, September 6, 1999 in observance of Labor Day. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, September 7 at 7:30 a.m.

"MO-GRO PRO"

CLEAN GREEN COMPOST

**Buy One Yard,
Get a 2nd Yard FREE!**

\$10/yd*

*PLUS TAX

Offer expires 9-30-99

DELIVERY AVAILABLE.
BULK SALES ONLY.

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

Improvements to city's curbside oil collection program

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.

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.

\$\$\$\$ for your 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.



To Your Health

...and the health of our community

Keep in mind the deadly hazards a pool can pose

Spending time in the family pool is a great way to cool off in the summer months. However, pool owners, especially those with young children and grandchildren, should always keep in mind the deadly hazards a pool can pose. A young child can drown quickly and silently, often without any splashing or screaming. It can happen in just the few minutes it takes to answer the telephone.

More than 375 children under 5 years old drown in pools each year nationwide—most in residential pools. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reminds pool owners there are steps they can take to avoid these drownings:

- Physical barriers designed to limit access include fences or walls, and power safety covers over pools. Fences and walls should be at least 4 feet high and installed completely around the pool.

- Floatation devices are never to be used as a substitute for supervision.

- If a child is missing, always look in the pool first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability. Keep rescue equipment by the pool, and be sure a phone is poolside with emergency numbers posted.