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Press Release

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For Immediate Release
September 12, 2025

The City Announces Great Progress in Keeping Professional Baseball in Modesto

Modesto, CA, September 12, 2025 - The City Council recently approved an agreement with Main Street Modesto, LLC, a Pioneer League affiliate, for a team to play at John Thurman Field. The new team's first pitch will be in 2026.

Last year, the City was disappointed that negotiations with the Seattle Mariners did not lead to a resolution to keep the Modesto Nuts in our community. Although the discussions did not reach the successful result that we had hoped for, the City recognized that baseball was too important to Modesto to let it go.

The City energetically explored various opportunities to enhance access to affordable sports and entertainment options for families in Modesto, which led to this new partnership with Main Street to bring a Pioneer League team to John Thurman Field.

At the City Council meeting, Mayor Sue Zwahlen said, "this is really exciting, that we will continue to have baseball!"

This long-term lease agreement is a significant step forward in the City's commitment to ensuring John Thurman Field continues to serve as a home for professional baseball and community events. Once again, the City focused on longevity and sustainability for a successful partnership.

"Modesto and John Thurman Field have a long and storied history of hosting our nation's pastime, and I am so excited not merely to continue that tradition but to build and improve on it with the most fun, affordable, and family-friendly brand of entertainment this community has ever seen," said new team owner Dave Heller.

This community-driven decision supports the Council’s strategic priorities by advancing a pro-growth economic development strategy that focuses on downtown, sports, and entertainment, continuing to build Modesto as a regional destination in California.

“On behalf of all the member clubs of the Pioneer Baseball League, I am so very pleased and excited to have Modesto join our wonderful league,” said Pioneer Baseball League President Mike Shapiro.

The City of Modesto will be hosting a press event soon with Main Street Modesto, LLC, and we invite the community to join as a new inning for baseball begins in our community.

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