




**City of Modesto**  
 services available to  
 city residents only.

VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO  
 WEBSITE AT:  
[www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com)

# Your Questions Answered: Yard Trimmings Placement & Schedule

City of Modesto residents are encouraged to fill their green yard waste recycling container with trimmings before putting anything into the street or alley. This container is picked up weekly by the garbage company.

## YARD TRIMMINGS

**Q:** When can trimmings go out for collection?

**A:** For Street Pickup: Friday, Saturday & Sunday before the first Monday of each month.

For Alley pickup: Friday, Saturday, Sunday before the third Monday of each month.

**Q:** When does the City collect yard trimmings?

**A:** Pickup on the streets begins the 1st Monday of each month. It takes 1 to 2 weeks to complete the street collections. Pick up in alleys begins the 3rd Monday of each month. It takes 1 to 2 weeks to complete the alley collections.

**NOTE:** In December, only leaves are picked up

**Q:** What can be placed out for collection?

**A:** Tree and shrub trimmings. Tree trimmings must be less than six feet in length and less than six inches in diameter. No single item can weigh more than 50 pounds. Crews will not collect: grass clippings, weeds, tree stumps, household items, tires, plastic, bags, boxes, trash, dirt, rocks,

concrete, sod, ground cover, building materials, or scrap lumber.

**Q:** Where should trimmings be placed for collection?

**A:** Street Pickup: Where alleys do not exist, place the trimmings at the curb in front of your residence. Trimmings should not extend more than 3 feet into the street and must be at least 1 foot from the face of the curb, and not more than 4 feet high. If a curb does not exist, trimmings should be 1 foot from the point of low drainage. All piles should be compact. Please remember that yard trimmings should not be placed near: sewer clean-outs, manholes, fire hydrants, drains, or other utility fixtures.

Alley Pickup: If you have an alley - place your trimmings in the alley. Trimmings placed in the alley should not extend more than 3 feet into the alley and must be at least 1 foot from the fence.

## FINES

Persons failing to follow the yard trimmings guidelines are subject to a progressive fine structure with fines beginning at \$100.

## LEAF COLLECTION

**Q:** Where do I place leaves for collection?

**A:** City crews only collect leaves from the streets during the month of December. Leaves will not be picked up in

alleys. Leaves should not be placed in containers, such as bags, boxes, etc. It is important that no other yard trimmings are mixed in with the leaves.

## STREET SWEEPING

**Q:** When does the City sweep my street?

**A:** Streets are scheduled to be swept twice a month. Streets are swept within 48 hours after picking up yard trimmings.

Please do not sweep debris left behind into piles and leave them on the street. The sweeper will sweep any remaining loose debris, but cannot pick up piles of debris.

Sweepers will go around piles that are placed out at the wrong time of the month. These piles make sweeping efforts less effective. Alleys are not swept.

Please place garbage containers back on your property as soon as possible after collection, so that street sweeping equipment can access the gutter area.

For more information, contact the City of Modesto Community Forestry Division at (209) 342-2249.

ACCESSMODESTO PRESENTS PROGRAMMING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ON EDUCATION CHANNEL

Beginning September 20, 2004, Modesto Comcast cable subscribers can enjoy lifelong learning opportunities from several different Universities across California on Access/Modesto, Channel 96.

Tune in every evening from 8:00 to 11:00PM to enjoy interviews, lectures, documentaries, and performances from all the UC campuses and affiliated institutions, covering subjects such as health and medicine, science, public affairs, and the arts.

For more information go to [www.modesto.tv](http://www.modesto.tv).

## NOVEMBER HOLIDAY GARBAGE ROUTES

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, garbage service will run one day behind for all Thursday and Friday routes. Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday and Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday.

Questions? Please call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.

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City Pride is brought to you by the Modesto City Council: Mayor Jim Ridenour, Vice Mayor Janice Keating, Councilmember Bob Dunbar, Councilmember Brad Hawn, Councilmember Denny Jackman, Councilmember Garrad Marsh and Councilmember Will O'Bryant.

## A Trail of Our Own! BY DAVID PALADINI



Honk! Honk! "Get out of the way kid! Watch where you're riding!" Though great for your heart and body, riding a bicycle can sure be dangerous! For many students, and even adults, biking to and from school and work is a daily routine. Most of the time, however, there are drivers who really don't care if you make it on time or in one piece. I've always kind of wished that bicycles and cars didn't have to share the road. Perhaps

they could each have their own street. What a brilliant idea! Let's make a trail that reaches from one side of town to the other, that gets cars and bikes separated! Wait! What do you mean it's being done? Really! Where? When? Tell me more!

Since spring of last year, we've watched the old Tidewater Southern Railway spur along Virginia Avenue being pulled out and the area cleaned up. For many the question is burning. What is going on?

Well, in 1999, the City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department began planning for a cross-city bike path – The Virginia Corridor Trail! This will be a 4.2-mile trail that will begin downtown and continue all the way north to Bangs Avenue.

Obviously, a project of this magnitude cannot be completed in one fell swoop. So the City has put together a plan to develop the trail in seven phases. The first phase will run from College Avenue, across Roseburg and Orangberg Avenues, to Granger Avenue. Construction involves installation of LED lights at all intersections, as well as crosswalks, trail grading, and handicap

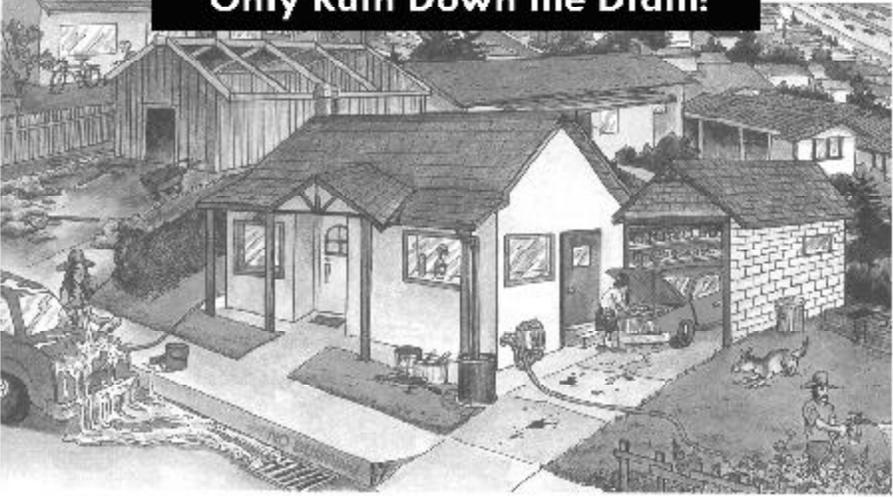


Part of the Tidewater Southern Railway that will become part of the Virginia Corridor Trail

access ramps. Phase One should be completed by April 2005, followed by the completion of the Phase Two in June. It is projected that the Virginia Corridor may be complete in as little as six years!

Once the project is complete, it will allow easy access from North Modesto to downtown and will connect to multiple schools, parks, and other bike trails. Both adults and children will have a beautiful trail to ride along, away from busy streets and crazy drivers. So the next time I hear an angry shout or insult from a deranged driver, I'll just smile and laugh, because I know that soon I won't need to bike near them.

**Only Rain Down the Drain!**



**PLEASE KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN!**

**Never pour used oil, paint, gasoline or chemicals down storm drains!**

**Report Pollution: (209) 577-6200    Recycle Used Oil & Filters: (209) 577-5493**

Funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board



### AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

America Recycles Day is November 15th and is a national event to promote the purchase of products made from recycled materials. Known as "closing the loop" on recycling, purchasing recycled products helps keep raw materials in motion rather than sending valuable commodities to a landfill or waste-to-energy plant. Various commodities have different life expectancies: glass can be recycled 10-12 times, paper 5-6 times, plastics can be recycled numerous times, and oil can be recycled indefinitely!

Enter the national America Recycles Day contest and earn your chance to win a new Ford Escape Hybrid! Go to [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org) and make a pledge to recycle more and you too can be a winner!

Keep recycling, America!

# DID YOU KNOW? YOU CANNOT SMELL SMOKE WHEN YOU ARE ASLEEP?



by Mike Payton, Fire Marshal

Approximately 70 percent of all home fire deaths are the result of non-working smoke detectors. Every home should have at least one smoke detector in the hallway that adjoins the bedrooms. Newer homes should have additional smoke detectors in the bedrooms. If you live in a two-story home, be sure there is at least one smoke detector on every level.

Test your smoke detectors once a month and replace the batteries at least every six months. When you test your smoke detector, let all family members hear what it sounds like and teach them what to do when it goes off. This would be a great time to practice your family's fire escape plan and decide on a safe meeting place. Your neighbor's house makes a great place to meet year round and will protect you and your family during times of bad weather.

Smoke detectors save thousands of lives each year. When coupled with a home fire escape plan, they can help save your life and the lives of the ones you love.

If you have any questions regarding fire safety, please call your Modesto Fire Prevention Bureau at 571-5553.



# BRINGING CITY HALL TO YOUR HOME!

The City of Modesto has created a new web-based service to allow citizens the ability to direct neighborhood concerns to the proper City department. The "Action Center" was created as part of Mayor Jim Ridenour's vision to improve communication with citizens, encourage citizen participation, and provide easier access to City services.

This online service ties directly in with the City's website [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com). A citizen visiting the website will find a highly visible "Action Center" button that links them to an online form. Filling out this form gives citizens the ability to report abandoned vehicles, animal control complaints, potential fire hazards and illegal dumping, as well as allowing them to contact staff members responsible for providing key, non-emergency, city services, such as street lights, traffic signals, storm drains, trees, garbage and recycling.

"We are hoping this will help to eliminate the delays citizens may experience when trying to locate the correct phone number to call for a particular service," Mayor Ridenour said. "The City continues to look for opportunities to make city government more accessible to the citizens of Modesto."

For more information, contact Dave Truax at (209) 571-5522 or [dtruax@modestogov.com](mailto:dtruax@modestogov.com).

## Waste Tire Recycling

Storing waste tires attracts mosquitoes, rodents, and other disease carrying pests. Recycle them and help keep our community clean and beautiful! Recycled waste tires are used to build new roads, provide safe landings at the playground and insulate your home!

**Local recycling opportunities:**

- 1) Drop-off at any local garbage company transfer station at your convenience. A small fee will apply.
- 2) Drop-off at the next tire collection event, free. Events are for City of Modesto residents only, no businesses.

**Date:** Saturday, November 6th  
**Place:** Lohansen High School - 641 Norseman Drive  
**Time:** 8:00 - 11:00AM OR UNTIL TWO COLLECTION TRAILERS ARE FILLED, NO EXCEPTIONS.  
**Limits:** One (1) coupon per household  
 Eight (8) tires per coupon - no size limit  
 Maximum eight (8) tires per vehicle  
 Tires with or without rims - OK  
 Proof of residency is required  
 Limits will be strictly enforced

**Questions? Call the City of Modesto  
Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.**

Funded by the California  
Integrated Waste Management Board

### 2004 PRUNED REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

This calendar provides you with specific information about when you should place your Pruned Refuse out for collection. Pruned refuse is not collected on the same day as household refuse. Pruned refuse is collected on the following dates:

Key for Street Collection	Key for Alley Collection	Key for Pruned Refuse Collection	Key for Curbside Recycling Collection
Household Refuse	Alley Refuse	Pruned Refuse	Curbside Recycling

**October**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**November**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**December**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**January 05**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**February 05**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

**March 05**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

For further information regarding this schedule, please contact the City of Modesto Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.

# Happy, Haunting and Safe Halloween!



We are nearing the time of year when the streets will be full of ghosts and goblins. On Halloween, neighborhoods will come to life with children going from door-to-door in search of goodies. The Modesto Police and Stanislaus County Sheriff Departments want to remind you and your children about staying safe during this time.

## KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, getting tangled, or coming into contact with flames.
- Consider adding reflective tape to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.
- Place emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discreetly within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.
- Masks can limit or block eyesight. Consider non-toxic makeup and/or decorative hats as safer alternatives.
- When shopping for costumes, wigs, and accessories, look for and purchase only those with a label clearly indicating that they are flame resistant.
- Think twice before using simulated knives, guns, or swords. If such props must be used, be certain they do not appear authentic and are soft and flexible to prevent injury.
- Obtain light sticks or flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- Plan ahead to use only battery-powered lanterns or chemical light sticks in place of candles in decorations or costumes.
- Teach children how to call 9-1-1 if they have an emergency or become lost. Remind them that 9-1-1 can be dialed for free at any payphone.
- Review with your children the principle of "Stop-Drop-Roll," should their clothes catch on fire.
- Consider purchasing individually packaged healthy food alternatives (or safe non-food treats) for those who visit your home.
- Take extra efforts to eliminate tripping hazards on your porch and walkway. Check around your property for low tree limbs, support wires or garden hoses that may prove hazardous to young children rushing from house to house.

- Discourage youngsters from eating Halloween treats before parents have had a chance to examine them.
- Consider fire safety when decorating. Do not overload electrical outlets with lighting or special effects.
- Keep Jack O' Lanterns and hot electric lamps away from drapes, decorations, flammable materials or areas where children will be standing or walking.
- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- If you are driving, please watch for children who are out trick-or-treating.
- Parents are encouraged to stay with their children while trick-or-treating. Children should always stay in a group with an adult if a parent is unable to go with them.

## REMIND TRICK-OR-TREATERS:

- Stop at familiar locations like neighbors' or friends' houses.
- Use a flashlight, so you can see and be seen by others.
- Stay in a group and communicate where you are going.
- Only go to homes where the porch light is on.
- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
- If no sidewalk is available, walk on the farthest edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- Never cut across yards or use alleys.
- Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.
- Obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations.
- Always walk. Never run across a street.
- Only cross the street in established crosswalks.
- Remove any mask or item that will limit eyesight before crossing a street, driveway or alley.
- Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing trick-or-treaters. Just because one car stops doesn't mean that the others will!!
- No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an adult at home.
- Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

## AFTER TRICK-OR-TREATING:

- Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.
- If you have touched an item that you felt was suspicious, wash your hands with soap and warm water for one minute.
- Only items in their original packaging should be eaten.
- Make sure items that can cause choking (such as hard candies) are given to those of an appropriate age.

We know that many of these tips are common sense, but they should be reviewed with your children every year. Don't assume that they know. And remember, you are always safer when you stay in areas that you know or at adult supervised community events.