

City Beat

www.modestogov.com

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COMMUNITY SURVEY

This is your chance to become a part of Modesto's future. A local group of residents and community leaders are partnering with private and public organizations to identify the distinct brand of Modesto. It's a city we love and live in for a reason, and this group needs your help defining Modesto's future vision.

A survey has been created to gather impressions of thousands of local residents. Survey results will help develop the image of Modesto that is projected to residents, visitors and businesses. Please take a few moments to fill out the survey. Visit the City of Modesto Web site at www.modestogov.com to fill out a quick survey regarding the image of Modesto.

If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, you can fill out a survey at the following locations:

- City of Modesto/City Hall
Customer Service Lobby, 2nd Floor
1010 Tenth Street
Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Stanislaus County Free Library
1500 "I" Street
Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Community Trust Credit Union
2504 Tenaya Drive
Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thank you for your time and participation!

TOP GARBAGE VIOLATIONS

The City of Modesto's Solid Waste Division requests that citizens please refrain from the following, for the health and safety of all:

1. Placing plastics, glass, aluminum, or other unacceptable items in the green yard waste can, especially plastic bags.
2. Failing to make an appointment for a bulky item pick-up and placing items in the street.
3. Placing bulky items in the street more than 24 hours before the scheduled appointment.
4. Placing unacceptable items out for bulky item collection, including tires, TVs, glass, wood, construction debris, garbage, clothing, bags, boxes of trash, etc.
5. Placing hazardous waste in the garbage instead of taking it to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Hazardous waste includes motor oil, paint, batteries, fluorescent lights, electronics, etc.
6. Rinsing dirty garbage cans and excess concrete residue into the street instead of on the lawn or in the yard.
7. Draining pool or spa water into the street instead of into a bathtub or sink which takes the water to the sewer system.
8. Placing garbage cans on the sidewalk for collection.
9. Leaving garbage cans in the street on days other than scheduled pick-up day.
10. Overfilling garbage or yard waste cans.
11. Placing or storing anything in an alley such as unwanted items, furniture, appliances, etc.

Questions? Call (209) 577-5493.

DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT COMING SOON

The City of Modesto Water Division will be mailing out the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (or Consumer Confidence Report) the first week of July. This report tells you what is in your drinking water and where your drinking water comes from. The report is a requirement of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and covers the water quality testing data for the calendar year from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

EXPANDED YARD WASTE PROGRAM

Did you know that approximately one-third of all household waste is organic and can be recycled into compost? The City of Modesto has an expanded yard waste recycling program that includes organic household waste!

The following materials are acceptable to place in the green yard waste bin:

- Yard waste - grass, leaves, plant clippings
- Food waste - including meat and bones
- Paper products - newspaper, junk mail, magazines, computer paper, phone books and paper bags
- Cardboard and chipboard boxes

All the material will be composted into a rich soil amendment at Modesto's Compost Facility.

Please **DO NOT** place the following in the green yard waste bin:

- Plastic bags
- Paper bags with plastic lining
- Plastic or cloth sheeting
- Scrap lumber or wood products
- Dirt or rocks

Do not overfill cans, lids must be completely closed.

Residents still have the option of putting paper products and cardboard into blue bags and into the black garbage cans for recycling. Following these guidelines will help keep program costs low in Modesto.

For more information, please call the Solid Waste Division at (209) 577-5494.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

Mail theft is on the rise and is the one of the key ways identity theft occurs. Here are some simple steps to take to help avoid becoming a victim of mail and identity theft:

- ***Buy a locking mail box.*** They can easily be found in home improvement stores and on the internet.
- ***Never place your outgoing mail in your mail box for the mail carrier to pick up*** (especially mail containing checks for bills).
- ***Immediately report any tampering or damage to a community mail box.***
- ***Collect your mail daily.*** If you go on vacation, either stop your mail delivery through the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) or have a relative or trusted friend pick-up your mail while you are away.
- ***Place your mail in properly marked USPS mail boxes and check the last pick-up time for that specific box.*** NEVER let your mail sit overnight in the mail box. Thieves can break into these boxes overnight.
- ***Report any suspicious activity to the Modesto Police Department non-emergency dispatch at (209) 552-2470.*** Mail thieves blatantly drive through neighborhoods during the day and remove mail. Report the make of car, license plate, description of person(s) in the vehicle and the direction they were headed.
- ***Monitor your mail.*** Mentally record when you should expect bank statements, credit card and utility bills, etc. and notify the proper agencies if they do not arrive.
- ***Call your credit card companies individually to stop sending "convenience checks" with your bills.***
- ***Call 1-888-5-OPT OUT*** (1-888-567-8688) to opt out of receiving pre-approved credit offers.

The Modesto Police Department's Economic Crimes Unit investigates reports of credit card theft, check forgery, identity theft, grand theft, real estate fraud, elder financial abuse and embezzlement.

Report Economic Crimes by calling (209) 572-9551.