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[www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com)

## Fighting Crime One Neighborhood at a Time



Last year, Modesto received the National Night Out (NNO) 2002 award for cities with populations of 100,000 to 299,000. Modesto placed first among 30 nationally ranked cities.

"Modesto had 272 different neighborhoods participate in NNO 2002," said Don Patch, NNO Coordinator. "This year, Modesto looks forward to even greater community participation."

National Night Out is nationwide program designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships

and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Last year's NNO campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from more than 9,850 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In total, more than 22 million people participated in NNO 2002.

"One of the goals we achieved last year was an even greater involvement of young citizens," said Patch. "The youth are our future, so it was encouraging to see so many getting involved in this event."

Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, this year neighborhoods will be celebrating NNO on August 5 with a variety of events and activities, such as block parties; ice cream socials; visits from police, fire and other agencies; parades; flashlight walks; contests and youth programs.

Pre-NNO activities include a float in the Fourth of July Parade, a Neighborhood Watch Coordinators Appreciation BBQ on July 16 and a celebration at the Modesto A's game on July 16.

For more information about NNO, contact your local area office crime prevention officer.

### The City of Modesto Needs You!

In 2002, over 180 citizens participated on 20 Citizen Advisory Committees that focused on everything from the airport to zoning.

The City of Modesto is currently seeking interested applicants for the following Citizen Advisory Groups:

- Board of Building Appeals
- Citizens Housing & Community Development Committee
- Community Qualities Forum
- Equal Opportunity Commission
- Housing Rehabilitation Loan Committee
- Local Cable Programming Committee

Applications may be requested from the City Manager's Office at 1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6100; by phone at 571-5101; or at [www.modestogov.com/council/cag](http://www.modestogov.com/council/cag).

Applications may also be submitted for other boards, commissions and committees not listed for review when a vacancy occurs.

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City Pride is brought to you by the Modesto City Council: Mayor Carmen Sabatino, Vice Mayor Bruce Frohman, Councilmember Bill Conrad, Councilmember Tim Fisher, Councilmember Denny Jackman, Councilmember Janice Keating and Councilmember Will O'Bryant.

THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR STUDENT REPORTER

# Tracks Come Out Along Virginia Corridor

**M**y friend Kyle and I often ride our bikes or unicycles around Modesto. Most of the time we can only go for short rides around our neighborhoods, and we wish we could keep on going. Unfortunately, the



David Paladini

busy streets and traffic sometimes offer us no safe way to get to our desired

destination.

So you can imagine my excitement when I found out that the City of Modesto is planning in a new cross-city bike trail within walking distance of my house!

Recently, I learned that there are basically three types of bike trails in Modesto. A Class I Bike Path is a trail such as the La Loma or Dry Creek bike trail. This is a class of trail that is cement- or asphalt- paved and is at least eight feet wide. There are 11 miles of Class I trails around

Modesto.

A Class II bike path is a bike lane that is found on the edge of some of the busy streets around Modesto. They have a solid line defining where to ride.

A Class III bike path is a bike route. A bike route is a route that is marked by signs posted on the edge of the sidewalk telling you that the road you are on is a bike route. These routes normally go along streets with little traffic.

Bob Ford, who is a Project Coordinator for the City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department, explained all of this to me. He went on to tell me about his latest project—a “rails-to-trails” project called the “Virginia Corridor Bike Trail.”

Those of us who are familiar with Modesto may have noticed the old Union Pacific Railroad tracks have been unused for years. Now the city is devising a plan to transform that strip of land into a Class I bike path.

The transformation of the railroad into a beautiful trail will be made possible



through a process called “railbanking.” According to Mr. Ford, all across America railroads have either been rerouted or shut down, leaving miles of unused land. The railroads allow cities to use this land for other purposes, with the understanding that if it becomes necessary they can reclaim the land. You may think that this is a risk for a city to take. However, in railbanking across all of the U.S., only 1% of the rail land has ever been reclaimed by a railroad company.

Modesto has a Master Plan for the Virginia Corridor Bike Trail. The plan specifies a 10- to 12-foot-wide path with two bike lanes and a pedestrian trail. Picnic areas, rest areas and possibly even concession stands or eateries along the way may also be included.

There is also a plan to put in a commemorative railroad park.

The four-mile trail will follow the path of the old railroad tracks from Needham Avenue to Bangs Avenue. Just think about the benefits of having such a trail! This path could take you all the way from one end of town to the other for work or recreation. And along the way you stop for ice cream, use the restroom or even visit with your friends.

Since this is a 14 million dollar project, Modesto will rely on state grants and other sources to fund the project. Sponsorships will also be solicited to fund portions of the project.

Just think! In the future, Modesto will have another four miles of beautiful Class I bike trail—yet another benefit to living in Modesto.

**Only Rain Down the Drain!**  
**YOU are the Pollution Solution!**

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

**Report pollution: Call 577-6200**

**Recycle used oil & filters: Call 577-5493**

PAID FOR BY THE CITY OF MODESTO AND A GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

**MO-GRO MAGIC**  
CITY OF MODESTO  
MADE AT THE CITY'S COMPOST FACILITY

**Available at these local nurseries:**  
**Scenic Nursery**  
1313 Scenic Drive  
**Westurf**  
1612 Claus Road

**Buy one regular priced flat of flowers and get one bag of Mo-Gro Magic FREE or Buy 2 bags at regular price and receive third bag FREE**  
**MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF PURCHASE**  
**LIMIT 2 FLATS - BAGS PER COUPON OFFER EXPIRES 7/15/2003**

## Water Conservation Tips for Outdoor Use

**A**s the summer heat begins to set in, water conservation for outdoor use is more important than ever. Be sure you do your part to ensure we all have enough water this summer!

- ◆ Water before 12:00PM or after 7:00PM on your specified days. If you sprinkle your lawn under the hot midday sun, you'll lose as much as 30 percent of your water to evaporation. But if you beat the heat or wait it out, the water will soak in and promote deeper root growth.
- ◆ Use "cycle irrigation" to avoid runoff. It's better to water your lawn for three ten-minute sessions, with each session a half-hour apart, than it is to water steadily for 30 minutes. "Cycle irrigation" is easy to do if you have a programmable, below-ground sprinkler system.
- ◆ Water only when needed. The easiest way to tell if grass needs water is to walk on it. If you leave a trail of footprints in the lawn, it's time to irrigate. If not, wait until the next day.
- ◆ Use mulch: Cedar or pine bark mulch is a water-conserving and decorative touch when spread around trees, bushes and gardens. Mulch traps moisture beneath it, which provides plants with a longer, steadier water

supply. Mulch also discourages weeds from growing around the base of your plants.

- ◆ Let your grass grow longer. Allow turf to grow 2 ½ to 3 inches to shield grass roots from the heat of the midday sun and prevent evaporation. Longer grass requires less water.
- ◆ Use Xeriscape landscaping. In recent years, Xeriscape or low-water usage plantings have become very popular. Divide your yard into separate zones for turf and other thirsty plants that require frequent watering, landscaping that needs only an occasional trickle and decks or patios that need no water at all.  
To learn which plants are more water stingy, ask your local nursery or refer to the Sunset garden book, which



provides detailed information about the watering needs of plants.

If your goal is to provide small children with a place to play, you might consider replacing some turf with a sand-box.

If you like to entertain adults, why not build a backyard deck.

- ◆ Prepare your soil properly. Before planting anything, the earth should be turned and aerated to encourage easy root growth. Well-fertilized soil can require

30 percent less water than unprepared soil to sustain a healthy landscape.

- ◆ Use drip irrigation to maximize outdoor water efficiency. Drip irrigation lets a plant sip instead of guzzle. Water is applied only where plants need it, so there is little waste. Weed growth is also minimized. Drip irrigation is ideal for vegetable gardens, shrubs, trees and perennials, which need regular amounts of water at specified places.

### 2003 Garden Refuse Schedule

Streets	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Fri. 5/30	Fri. 7/4	Fri. 8/1	Fri. 8/29	Fri. 10/3	Fri. 10/31	LEAVES ONLY! Garden refuse resumes January '04
	Sa. 5/31	Sa. 7/5	Sa. 8/2	Sa. 8/30	Sa. 10/4	Sa. 11/1	
	Su. 6/1	Su. 7/6	Su. 8/3	Su. 8/31	Su. 10/5	Su. 11/2	
Alleys	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Fri. 6/13	Fri. 7/18	Fri. 8/15	Fri. 9/12	Fri. 10/17	Fri. 11/14	LEAVES ONLY! Garden refuse resumes January '04
	Sa. 6/14	Sa. 7/19	Sa. 8/16	Sa. 9/13	Sa. 10/18	Sa. 11/15	
	Su. 6/15	Su. 7/20	Su. 8/17	Su. 9/14	Su. 10/19	Su. 11/16	

## Computer Disposal Can Be Tricky!



Are you considering the purchase of a new computer or computer component? Remember, purchasing a new component usually means disposing of an old one—and that can be tricky.

State rules and regulations regarding the proper disposal of all forms of electronic waste are getting tougher all the time. In response, several computer manufacturing companies now provide a “take-back” computer recycling system. For instance, Dell’s new Home Pickup Program allows customers to order

home pickup of their old computer and computer components, such as printers, scanners, monitors, etc., for a small fee. Customers can also select to have their equipment donated for reuse or collected for recycling. For more information, visit: [www.dell4me.com/recycling](http://www.dell4me.com/recycling).

City of Modesto residents can also dispose of their Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs), such as televisions and computer monitors, through the city’s free CRT Recycling Program. Simply request a CRT Recycling Coupon from your garbage company, and then drop off your CRT with the coupon at their transfer station. Be careful not to break the glass!

Please note: CRTs are not accepted through the Bulky Item Pickup Program.

## NEAT Program Needs Boost from Business!

Fresh on the heels of another successful Great American Cleanup Day, the City of Modesto is now enlisting the assistance of area businesses to fight litter.

“Our citizens have picked up the ball in our local parks and bike trails, but some of our larger roadways really need big sponsors,” said Dan Bartholomew, Anti-Litter Coordinator for the City of Modesto.

Patterned after the Caltrans Adopt-a-Highway program, NEAT (Neighborhood Environmental Action

Teams) currently offers free advertising space along the city’s major right-of-ways in return for financial sponsorship of litter removal. The program is relatively inexpensive.

“The NEAT Adopt-A Roadway program is a win-win situation,” said Bartholomew. “Businesses get inexpensive, positive advertising targeted directly to Modesto shoppers, and everyone gets cleaner streets.”

To find out more about the NEAT program, call (209) 342-2282.

## Visible Addresses Save Lives!



Is your home address clearly visible? In case of emergency, every second counts, so make sure your address numbers are clearly visible for firefighters, police and paramedics.

Remember—if we can’t find you, we can’t help you!

### QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

## Utility Pay Stations

Location	City*	MID	TID	PG&E	Cable	AT&T	PacBell
<b>City of Modesto</b> 1010 Tenth Street 577-5395 M-F: 7:30AM-5:00PM	•						
<b>City Hall at the Mall</b> 3401 Dale Road Vintage Faire Mall 209-571-5590 M-F: 10:00AM-9:00PM Sa: 10:00AM-8:00PM Su: 11:00AM-6:00PM	•	•		•	•	•	
<b>Mail Boxes Etc.</b> 1801 H Street #B-5 209-522-1515 M-Th: 9:00AM-7:00PM F: 8:00AM-7:00PM Sa: 10:00AM-5:00PM Also accepts Genesis	•	•		•			
<b>Model Pharmacy</b> 2400 Coffee Rd. 209-522-1079 M-Sa: 9:00AM-1:00PM	•	•		•	•	•	•
<b>My Mail Box</b> 1320 Standiford #4 209-523-0272 M-F: 9:00AM-6:00PM Sa: 9:30AM-4:00PM	•	•		•			
<b>New Deal</b> 832 Oakdale Rd. 529-2287 M-Sa: 9:00AM-5:00PM	•	•		•		•	•
<b>Paradise Drugs</b> 400 Paradise Rd. 209-524-7726 M-Sa: 9:00AM-1:00PM	•	•		•	•	•	•
<b>Valley IGA Food Ctr.</b> 12138 Yosemite Blvd. Waterford 209-874-2642 M-Su: 7:00AM-6:00PM Also accepts Modesto Disposal and City of Waterford	•	•		•	•	•	•

City\* = City of Modesto