



City of Modesto

CITY PRIDE

July 2001

City Wide

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

Competition contributes to decrease in Modesto's garbage service rates

Modesto residents will get a break in their monthly garbage rates. Beginning July 1, garbage collection fees were reduced by 25 cents, bringing the maximum monthly fee to \$17.50 for households with two 90-gallon containers for garbage/blue bag recyclables and yard waste, and two bulky item collections per year.

City officials were able to lower the collection fees based on reductions in costs. The City of Modesto charges some of the lowest rates in the region for the services provided.

"Because of the highly efficient, cost competitive services provided by the local collection companies, the City of Modesto is able to provide its residents and businesses with more capacity than other jurisdictions, lower rates, and enhanced recycling and composting services," said Solid Waste Program Manager Jocelyn Reed in her report to the Modesto City Council.

Some of those savings in



City of Modesto residents are served by three waste collection companies: Bertolotti Disposal, Gilton Solid Waste and Waste Management/Modesto Disposal.

costs were a result of lower tipping fees at the Waste-to-Energy facility and a change in the bulky item pickup program.

The service charges and operational costs are reviewed each year by an outside auditor who reviews cost information submitted by the city's contracted garbage haulers.

From that review, the city sets a cap on the highest rate that the haulers may charge for specified services. That maximum rate is based on

Modesto City Council -- (209) 571-5169
Mayor Carmen Sabatino
Vice Mayor Tim Fisher
Councilmember Bill Conrad
Councilmember Bruce Frohman
Councilmember Kenni Friedman
Councilmember Mike Serpa
Councilmember Armour Smith

SUMMER

City provides free home water reviews

With all of the worry about power shortages this summer, the last thing most of us want to think about right now is water conservation.

Although we're not facing a critical shortage of water, we do need to think about the ways we use water and be aware of how much we use.

The City of Modesto provides free home landscape reviews to provide you with information about the best time and frequency to water your lawns, help you set your sprinkler timers and provides general information about drought-tolerant plants.

For kids, a special water activity kit will be available later this month. The kits will provide fun information about water conservation and tips to get kids involved in the effort.

For information about a free home review or a kids kit, call 342-4560.

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Take a stand against crime on National Night Out August 7

Show your neighborhood's strength by participating in this year's National Night Out, Tuesday, August 7. We expect National Night Out 2001 to be the largest ever, so talk to your neighbors now and get started planning your neighborhood's National Night Out.

National Night Out heightens crime and drug prevention awareness, generates support for and participation in local anticrime programs, and strengthens neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. It sends a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime.

Last year, more than 137 Modesto neighborhoods held National Night Out parties with about 7,000 people participating. The large participation rate earned Modesto a national ranking of second

place in U.S. cities of a similar size.

In all, more than 32 million Americans participated in National Night Out 2000.

Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate National Night Out with a variety of events and activities such as block parties, ice cream socials, visits from police and other agencies, neighborhood parades, contests and youth programs.

Call Community Service Officer Rosie Fabela at 572-9676 by July 18 to receive police department assistance for a National Night Out neighborhood program, to find out where your nearest Police Area Command Office is located, or just to get more general information about the National Night Out program.

Making Modesto 'the best place to call home'

City officials are reviewing and considering for adoption a comprehensive plan to ensure a high quality of life for Modesto residents.

The plan is based on a vision that Modesto should be "a healthy and safe, attractive, economically vibrant, socially diverse and culturally rich city with a strong sense of identity and pride, a community engaged in the practice of citizenship with governane based on the principle of steward-ship."

The plan is made up of

three components: an economic development action plan, a health and safety action plan and a social diversity and culturally rich action plan.

The strategic plan is a changeable document and public comment is welcome.

The plan is available for citizen review at all city facilities, the Stanislaus County Library, and online at www.modestogov.com. Groups who are interested in discussing the plan with city officials may call the City Manager's office at 571-5809 to schedule meetings.

Re-refined oil as good as new

Millions of gallons of automobile oil are discarded each year in America. Some of that oil is recycled through a processing method known as re-refining so that it can be used again. During the re-refining process, the oil is cleaned and additives that were used up are added back into the oil to bring it up to the same quality as new oil.

Unlike new crude oil, re-refined oil is a renewable resource. Using re-refined oil helps conserve valuable oil resources and it takes 2/3 less energy to re-refine oil than to refine crude oil in the first place.

Why is re-refined oil every bit as good as unused oil? Remember, oil never wears out, it just gets dirty! Scientists, auto mechanics

and do-it-yourselfers have known for years that oil can be used over and over again.

Thousands of cars, trucks and fleets are running on re-refined oil today including vehicles for the City of Modesto, Max Transit, Cal Trans, the US Postal Service, and many commercial businesses. Some car manufacturers are using re-refined oil in new passenger vehicles. Major gasoline distributors are also involved in the sales of re-refined oil. It is even being used in nationally-known race car circuits.

Citizens can recycle used automobile oil by calling your garbage company and arranging for it to be picked up on your next scheduled garbage day.



GOT TIRES?



The City of Modesto is hosting a
FREE TIRE COLLECTION EVENT
where residents are invited to drop off waste tires.

Saturday, August 18, 2001
Davis High School Parking Lot
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Eight tires per coupon -- no size limit
One coupon per household.
Tires with or without rims OK

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



David Paladini

Firefighters hold a special place in our community

"Fire! Fire!" "Help a broken gas line!" "Help! A hurt man is floating down the canal!" These are both common calls to the Modesto Fire Department. About 17,000 of these kinds of calls were answered last year by Modesto firefighters. Medical emergencies and auto accidents are also answered by the Modesto Fire Department.

Modesto's firefighting force is approximately 150 members strong, including battalion chiefs, commanders, engineers, fire-fighters, secretaries, and others. The department has two fire trucks and 11 engines. On backup there are three engines and one truck. The fire department has 10 stations around Modesto and another one is planned on Pelandale Avenue.

Recently I toured Station 1 in downtown Modesto, and Station 9 on E. Orangeburg and Claus. Firefighter Mike Snow showed me the fire house, offices, fire engines, and the fire truck at Station 1. Engineer Chuck Bergquist (pictured above) showed me all around Station 9.

Life at the Station

The firefighters work shifts of 24 hours on duty, 24 hours

off. After three of these rotations they have four days off. There are always firefighters on duty.

The firefighters have personal lives too. They may have visitors at the firehouse until 9:00 P.M. Firefighter Mike Snow said that sometimes he spends more time at the fire station than he does with his own family.

Firefighters who share the same shifts are said to be as close as brothers (and sisters, to be politically correct). At the stations they all cook their own food except on weekends when there is a designated cook and they all



sit down and eat together.

There are a lot of different jobs at the fire station. Some people make maps and draw out routes. A fax machine at the fire station receives up to the minute information on closed streets, roadwork etc. There is also someone assigned to determine if a fire was arson. There are plenty of things to do at the fire station.

Becoming a Firefighter

About two years ago the Modesto Fire Dept. changed its requirements for firefighters. Old standards required firefighters to be 18, and have a high school diploma. Now fire-fighters have to be at least



21, have a college degree, and a Firefighter 1 certificate. They must also be a qualified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or paramedic. With the stricter recruiting requirements, fewer people have signed on to the department.

This in turn means that Modesto has more highly-equipped firefighters.

Teenagers who are interested in careers in fire fighting participate in the department's explorer program. The explorers get to go to fires along with the firefighters to learn about what they would be doing if they were fighting the fire.

Firefighting Equipment

Some of our taxes go to

paying for fire trucks and engines. The engines cost approximately \$250,000, and the trucks cost approx. \$500,000.

There is a difference between a truck and a fire engine: a fire engine carries 500 gallons of water, has a water pump, and fights fires. A fire truck does not carry water, and does not carry a hose. It is used for ventilating burning

houses, extracting people from cars and rescuing people.

Community Involvement

The Modesto Fire Department puts out fires, checks businesses, installs fire alarms, and monitors fire hydrants. They also talk about fire prevention and safety through "clown" shows, classroom presentations, and neighborhood fire watch programs. They will install a smoke alarm for free if your house doesn't have one.

The fire department is a very important part of our community. With their quick and trained response to emergencies throughout the city, they save the lives and property of many residents.

David is our 13-year old reporter who provides us with a youth's perspective on issues facing the city.

VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO ON THE INTERNET!

<http://www.modestogov.com>

URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Public Information Meeting

August 2, 2001 • 5:00 p.m.

Tenth Street Place

1010 Tenth Street, Room 2001

Modesto is in the process of updating its existing Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), and is seeking public input. The UWMP will lay the foundation for meeting Modesto's future water supply needs. Draft copies of the plan will be available for review, and staff will be available to answer questions regarding the plan at the meeting.

The Urban Water Management Planning Act was established by Assembly Bill 797 (AB 797) on September 21, 1983. Passage of this law was recognition by state legislators that water is a limited resource, and a declaration that efficient water use and conservation would be actively pursued throughout the state. The law requires water suppliers in California, providing water for municipal purposes either directly or indirectly to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually, to prepare and adopt a specific plan which defines their current and future water use, sources of supply and its reliability, and existing conservation measures.

Did you know...?

Asphalt-Rubber (AR) is a blend of asphalt cement, recycled tire rubber and certain additives in which the rubber component is at least 15% by weight of the total blend. A 2-inch overlay of AR will use crumb rubber from about 2,000 tires per lane mile. In a spray application, approximately 500 tires will be used per lane mile. The City of Modesto uses AR in several of its engineering projects throughout the city.

Household Hazardous Waste

Residents can take advantage of upcoming neighborhood household hazardous waste collection opportunities. FREE disposal of all hazardous waste including paint, batteries, oil, pesticides, solvents, cleaners, etc. may be taken to local high schools from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the following dates: July 14—Modesto High, July 28—Beyer High, August 11—Davis High, and August 25—Johansen High. Also, the Morgan Road Collection Facility, located at 1716 Morgan Road, is open for free disposal every Friday & Saturday (except major holidays) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Call 525-4123 for details.

City thanks volunteers for pollution prevention efforts

The City of Modesto would like to thank the following people for donating their time to help install storm drain markers and distribute pollution prevention door hangers: Ronny Castillo, Jr., Joseph Whatley, Brenda Whatley, Andrina Paladini, David Paladini, Monica Paladini, Mary Costa, Lisa Burris, Jacob Burris, Jon Burris, Carly McCullough, and Beverly McCullough and the following members of the

California Conservation Corps Kheir Sammakieh, Donna Sammakieh, Aladdin Sammakieh, A. R. Sammakieh, Brandon Torigian, Joseph Weinberg, Khalif Ali, J. D. Ballesteros, Josef Bailey, Oscar Velasquez, Kenneth Williams, Adam Dintelman.

To volunteer, or for further information, please call Cheryl Heller, Storm Drain Stenciling coordinator, at 577-6257.

Walk for the environment

The City of Modesto is recruiting volunteers to distribute door hangers in residential neighborhoods throughout the city. The door hangers have pollution prevention tips and information about Modesto's Storm Drain Systems.

Volunteers will be given maps of the area they need to cover and can walk alone or with other volunteers. Interested individuals may call Storm Drain Stenciling Coordinator Cheryl Heller at 577-6257 to set up a time to Walk for the Environment.



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 FLAT - BAGS PER COUPON
OFFER EXPIRES 8/15/2001*

Available at these local nurseries:

Hischier's Nursery
1520 Standiford Avenue

Scenic Nursery
1313 Scenic Drive

Westurf
1612 Claus Road