



City of Modesto

CITY PRIDE

January 2002

City Wide

VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO ON THE INTERNET!

<http://www.cityofmodesto.ca.us>



W I N T E R

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS

ONLY
Illegal Dumping

City speeds illegal trash removal



City develops system to deal more quickly with illegal dumpings like this one.

If someone has dumped garbage illegally in your neighborhood, you now have an expedited city service to turn to. Beginning this month, the city has a faster method for dealing with items illegally dumped within the city's limits.

The process begins when a resident calls the city's Neighborhood Preservation Unit to alert the city of an illegally-dumped item. The unit's Code Enforcement

Officer officially opens a case file, investigates the issue, locates the responsible party and holds them accountable to remove the items.

If the responsible party cannot be located, the code enforcement officer refers the address, a photo of the item and all investigative information to the city's Solid Waste Division daily by 4 p.m.

The city's Solid Waste Division contacts the

appropriate garbage hauler to schedule removal of the item within three or four days of the initial complaint.

To ensure that the issue is resolved, the Solid Waste Division's code enforcement officer verifies the removal.

City officials believe this new system will

speed up the removal of illegal dumpings. Before, items were removed by street crews once they had completed their monthly street pruning refuse collections. The new system ensures that illegal dumpings will be removed within just a few days of the complaint.

If you notice items that were illegally dumped in your neighborhood, call the city's Neighborhood Preservation Unit at 577-5250.

Register for classes online

This fall, the City of Modesto's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods department fully implemented eConnect, an online registration option via the internet. This new service enables residents to register for classes without ever leaving their homes. Registering for classes not only gives you access to healthful classes all winter, but it helps to reduce pollution emissions as well.

Many new classes begin this month including tennis, dance, roller skating, rock climbing, adult basketball, soccer, Tai Chi, computer instruction, crafts and swimming. The new activity guide and class schedule will be distributed in the Modesto Bee this month.

If you haven't already signed up for your eConnect account, visit www.modestogov.com/econnect to get online today, and help spare the air!

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David Paladini

Traffic signals a bright spot on city streets

How many city workers, does it take to change a light bulb? Read on!

You can often see city employees hard at work on traffic signals around the Modesto area. You might see someone working high in the lift of a truck at the front or back of a traffic signal, changing a bulb or something. The traffic signal maintenance crew is set up with four everyday workers on their staff. There are about seven others who can help in an emergency such as a "knock down" or something like that. The garage has four everyday

trucks with two backup trucks if there is an emergency.

I was amazed that each traffic signal costs about \$100,000. There are about 196 traffic signals in Modesto, with plans for four more! This doesn't include the signals on Highway 132 (Yosemite Blvd.) and Highway 108 (McHenry Ave.) Signals on these two streets are installed and maintained by CalTrans because they are state highways.

There are a few intersections in Modesto where you can hear "chipping" and "peeping" when the lights turn green. I found out that these signals help guide blind people. The lights "chip"

when the South-North direction is clear to cross, and they "peep" when East-West is clear.

The lightbulbs on the traffic signals used to use a lot of electricity - about 160 watts per incandescent bulb. In 1995 the city changed to a much more efficient way of lighting the signal - an LED, or Light Emitting Diode. With LED lighting we use as many as 64 tiny bulbs instead of the big incandescent bulb. The old type of bulbs needed to be changed every year, but the new LED bulbs only need to be changed every five years.

Mike Filan, the city's electrical supervisor, said the city has installed only the red LEDs so far. They will finish installing the green LEDs within the next two months. The LED lights are so brilliant, he said, that you can almost count the little lights inside. Even though the brilliance of the lights increased, the wattage has come down from 160 watts per light.

Size is really brought into perspective when you see just how big traffic signal lights and signs are. The street name signs you see hanging from traffic signal poles are a shock to see close up. I stood next to a new Ninth Street sign in the city's Corporation Yard Warehouse, and boy, oh, boy those signs are tall! I am 5 ft. 7 in. and the sign was five inches taller than me. I was surprised when Mr. Filan told me

that the 6 foot sign was one of the smaller signs; some are ten feet long!

That brings the size of the traffic lights into perspective. Traffic lights have an 8 or 12 inch diameter. They don't look that big from the ground. Most of the traffic lights downtown are 8 inches across, and the ones at other intersections in the city are 12 inches in diameter.

There are many interesting things to know about the features, and maintenance of an everyday traffic signal. It has raised many questions in my mind about how traffic flows and how the signals actually work and how the whole system is engineered. You can be sure it takes a lot of teamwork and cooperation among city workers.

When I am out driving with my parents I am happy when I see a green light shining brightly over the intersection. I never like having to stop for the red lights, but that's the way it goes!



City seeks licensed contractors

The City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department is extremely interested in expanding our bid list for contractors, particularly small business, minority and women contractors bidding on housing rehabilitation projects and capital improvement projects. In addition, we are also interested in expanding our bid list of local businesses who provide supplies, goods and services utilized in these types of projects. Those who provide the following services are strongly encouraged to apply:

- Heating & Air Conditioning Contractors
- Concrete Contractors
- Roofing Contractors
- General Construction Contractors
- Pest Control Inspection Services
- Street Pavers
- Electrical Contractors
- Plumbing Contractors
- Moving Contractors
- Specialty Contractors
- State Certified Lead-Based Paint Abatement Contractors
- Lead-Based Paint Risk Assessors
- Lead-Based Paint Inspectors
- Lead-Based Clearance Inspectors

For more information, call Emie Richardson at 577-5392.

CRT program set to begin

Residents now able to recycle computer, television screens

Beginning January 2002, Modesto residents are eligible to recycle their cathode ray tubes, CRTs, such as televisions, computer monitors and camcorders.

City of Modesto residential garbage customers can now recycle two CRTs per year and commercial garbage customers can recycle four CRTs per year for no additional charge.

It works like this, residents and businesses call their garbage company and request a "CRT Recycling Coupon" be mailed to them. The customer takes the coupon along with the CRT to the transfer station at the time of recycling. The garbage company accepts the CRTs and coupon and verifies address information from the customer. It's that easy!

Please call Bertotti disposal at 537-8000, Gilton Solid Waste at 527-3781, or Waste Management at 538-2210 to request a coupon. Why start a new program? So, why is the disposal of electronic equipment with CRTs handled differently than other equipment? You may recall that we reported in the November City Pride, Citywide that new state regulations prohibit CRTs from being disposed of in landfills because CRT lead content. All CRTs must now be recycled.

The City Council the new recycling partnership with local garbage haulers last month. The new program enables residents to recycle their CRT-containing electronic equipment while protecting the environment and complying with state requirements.

If you have any questions, call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.

To recycle old computers or other CRT equipment, call your garbage hauler

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If you have any questions, call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.

The City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods department launched a new, innovative and interactive website as part of the city's main website at www.modestogov.com/ind.

The new site features information about the department, parks, recreation, facilities and neighborhoods. The most frequently accessed sections are featured under a "quick clicks" button, including an interactive map and directory of parks and facilities, City Hall at the Mall, eConnect, the Activity Guide, Housing Assistance, Modesto Centre Plaza and News You Can Use (news releases).

The interactive map includes a special point and

Interactive website features local park, facility information


pop-up feature that allows the viewer to point to any park or facility on the map for the name, address and cross streets. The map is also available in larger format as well as printable format.

By providing detailed information about department services online, as well as frequently asked questions and email links throughout, residents can interact more efficiently with the department without having to jump in their cars and drive downtown.

Watch your Modesto Bee this month for the City of Modesto's Annual Report to the Community.

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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



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
 LM # 2 FLAT - BAGS PER COUPON
 OFFER EXPIRES 2/15/2002

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

Community



Food recycling program expanded

Modesto's Food Waste Recycling Program has expanded and is now available to all residents! Participants can mix their food waste with the green waste in their green waste container. The mixture will be composted at the city's compost facility on Jennings Road.

Please contact your garbage company to order a free counter top food waste bucket and information flier. Call Bertolotti Disposal at 537-8000, Gilton Solid Waste at 527-3781, or Waste Management at 538-2210.

If you have questions, please call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.

Blue bags make recycling simple

City of Modesto residents are encouraged to recycle with the Blue Bag Program. Toss all your glass, paper, cardboard, plastics (#'s 1-7), aluminum and metal containers in a blue bag and place the bags in your black garbage can. Please lightly rinse containers and remove bottle lids; labels may be left on.

Blue bags are available for free at the following locations:

City Hall at the Mall	Vintage Faire Mall
10th Street Place	1010 Tenth Street
2nd and 4th Floors	
King-Kennedy Center	601 N. Martin Luther King Drive
Senior Citizen's Ctr.	211 Bodem Ave.
New Deal Market	832 Oakdale Rd.
Police Area Comm and Centers	
	3705 Oakdale Rd.
	2005 Evergreen Ave.
	1550 Yosemite Blvd.
	409 Paradise Rd.

Residents can also use the blue grocery bags provided by Richland Market, Save Mart, New Deal, O'Brien's and Raley's. Please do not use blue bags for garbage or non-recyclable items.

For more details, call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.



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NUMBERS TO KNOW

Emergency - Police/Fire/Medical.....	9-1-1
Graffiti/Vandalism (in progress)	9-1-1
Flooding (24 hours)	577-6200
Sandbags	342-2244
Fire Department	572-9590
Fire Prevention (hazards, complaints, etc.)	571-5553
Police Department (24 hours - Dispatch)	552-2470
Police Department (main)	572-9500
Police Department NE Area Office	572-9657
Police Department NW Area Office	572-9635
Police Department SE Area Office	572-9638
Police Department SW Area Office	572-9676
Abandoned Autos Hotline	572-9511
Animal Control (City of Modesto only)	552-2470
Graffiti Abatement (24 hours)	342-2259
Neighborhoods (Blight, Illegal Dumping, etc.)	577-5250
Water Wasters	571-5250
City Hall Information	577-5200
City Hall at the Mall	571-5590
TDD Only	526-9211
Modesto City Council	571-5169
Modesto Centre Plaza	577-6444
Dial-A-Ride	527-4900
MAX Buses	521-1274
Building Inspections	577-5232
Dog Licenses	577-5389
Garbage/Recycling Information	577-5494
Garden Refuse/Sidewalk/Street Hazards	342-2249
Golf Reservations & Information	491-4653
Park Repairs	342-2248
Public Information Office	577-5222
Recreation Program s/Park Reservations	577-5344
Street Lights	342-2296
Street Trees	342-2249
Sewer/Storm Drain (Illegal Dumping)	577-6200
Traffic Signal Problems	342-2297
Traffic Signs	342-2247
Used Oil Recycling	577-5493
Water-Sewer-Garbage Billing	577-5395
Water Repairs/Temporary On-Offs (24 hours)	342-2246

CLIP AND SAVE...CLIP AND SAVE...CLIP AND SAVE