



City of Modesto

# CITY PRIDE

January 1999

City Wide

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

## A look back at 1998—

# On the homestretch to the new millennium



Kelly Huston

*The Cannery Segregation Project will create capacity in the city's sewer system, providing for future business growth.*

It is 1999 and we are on the homestretch to the new millennium. As we look to the challenges facing the City of Modesto in 1999 and beyond, it is important to glance back at a year of many accomplishments.

In 1998, the City of Modesto was successful in starting major infrastructure and construction projects, building coalitions, and working through difficult community issues. These successes focus on creating a new future for the city and its citizens that will ensure a quality environment for years to come.

Tenth Street Place, one of the city's major redevelopment projects, started construction and will create a

cultural and entertainment renaissance downtown.

As part of the city's Wastewater Master Plan, the Cannery Segregation Project was developed to create capacity in the city's sewer system.

With the addition of the new Modesto Amtrak Station, the city is riding the rails to the future by providing a safer, more conveniently located passenger station for all Stanislaus County residents.

To open more land for residential and retail development, the city has annexed five new areas—Carver-Bangs, North Beyer, Pelandale-Snyder, Empire North and Fairview.

Including new and ex-

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<http://www.ci.modesto.ca.us>



W I N T E R

## City crews set out to collect holiday trees, pruned refuse

Holiday trees are collected as part of the regular pruned refuse collection cycle in January. Place your tree out where you place your refuse. **Trees must have the stands, nails, plastic, etc. removed.**

City crews resume collection of pruned refuse on Monday, January 4, 1999. Crews will collect pruned refuse the first Monday of each month. It takes them approximately two weeks to get through the entire city.

**It is critical that you do not put your pruned refuse out after the crews have already collected in your area.** Shortly after the pruned refuse is collected, street sweepers clean your street. If new piles are in the street, the street sweeping will be less effective.

For more information call the city at 577-5332.

panding companies, more than 400 new jobs were created in 1998.

The Skate Park Task Force worked together with local businesses, skaters, parents, police and the city to see the Skate Park project come to fruition.

Many new programs were initiated and implemented during the past year for teens and children, such as the Park-to-Park Walk, Community Connection Faire, and Start Smart Program. Such programs will build character among our youth and community relationships lasting well into the future.

The City Council's leadership challenges Modesto government to even higher levels of excellence in the future.

Challenges facing the city include changes in society and the economy, an increasingly diverse community, new technology, and new State rules and regulations which limit local control.

**Q&A** If you have a question for the Q&A, please send it to: City of Modesto, Communications & Marketing Division, P.O. Box 642, Modesto, CA 95353. Our question for this insert focuses on [citizen involvement in local government](#). See back page for the question & answer.

# Community



## ■ Changes coming to utility bills, system

In an effort to improve the quality and flexibility of our utility billing system, the City of Modesto is implementing new billing software in 1999.

Customers will notice new account numbers and a new look to their bills, making it easier to read and providing more details about the account.

The new system also will allow customers the use of automatic bank drafting, which allows you to specify to your bank when you want your bill paid. The bank sends your payment to the city automatically.

Customers already have the convenience of making utility payments using their Mastercard or Visa, and debit cards may be used to make payments in the city's Finance Department, 1012 I Street, downtown Modesto.

If you have any questions, call the Utility Billing Division at 577-5395 or 577-5207.

## ■ Holiday hours

The City of Modesto would like to remind residents that City Hall and all city offices will be closed on Monday, February 15, 1999 in observance of Presidents' Day. Regular office hours resume February 16 at 7:30 a.m.



## ■ Meet the Council at open house

Don't miss this chance to meet members of the Modesto City Council during their quarterly open house on Saturday, February 6, from noon to 2:00 p.m., at City Hall at the Mall, located on the lower level of Vintage Faire Mall, near JC Penney.

The quarterly open house (held each year in February, May, August and November), is a great opportunity for local citizens to meet one-on-one with elected city officials to ask questions, discuss issues and express concerns about Modesto and its future.

## ■ Low income utility users tax refunds

Utility users tax refunds are available to households with an annual income of less than \$8,700.

If you have been a resident of Modesto (*within the city limits*) for the past year, have a qualified annual income, and have utility bills issued in your name for electric, gas telephone and/or water service, you may qualify for a refund of up to \$30 in Utility Users' Tax.

Claim forms are available in the city's Finance Department, 1012 I Street. These forms must be completed and filed with the city between January 4 - April 15, 1999.

To qualify for a refund, you must be the person whose name appears on the utility bills. For more information on this, call 577-5395 or 577-5207.



## To Your Health ...and the health of our community Keep a healthy hearth

It's important for your safety and the environment to keep a healthy hearth. Follow these tips:

- Burn only seasoned cord wood and densified firelogs.
- Keep small, hot fires to avoid creosote buildup and air pollution.
- Inspect and sweep your chimney annually.
- **Don't** use your fireplace when air quality is poor.
- **Don't** burn garbage, leaves, cardboard, loose paper, plastics, rubber, painted or treated wood, plywood, coal or charcoal.

Q. As a citizen of Modesto, how can I be active in local government?



A. The city encourages Modesto residents to take an active role in local government. Citizens can participate in over 20 citizen advisory groups that research, study and discuss specific issues, then make recommendations to city policymakers. These groups are generally composed of Modesto residents. You can also volunteer in one of several city programs ranging from parks to police service.

Most importantly, you can vote! Your city officials are elected officials.

For more details about getting involved, call the city at 577-5200.

## Commute to the Bay Area on



**BART EXPRESS** provides non-stop service to the Dublin/ Pleasanton BART station

Departs Modesto .... 5:40 a.m. → Arrives at BART .... 6:50 a.m.  
Departs BART ..... 6:15 p.m. → Arrives Modesto ... 7:15 p.m.

**Fares:** \$5 per ride/one way \$7.00 per ride/round trip  
Discounted monthly passes available.

**ACE EXPRESS** provides non-stop service to the Manteca/Lathrop Altamont Commuter Express Train.

Buses depart Modesto at 3:55 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., conveniently arriving at the station for passengers to catch either of the two ACE trains traveling to Livermore, Fremont, and Santa Clara County. Buses meet the two returning ACE trains in the evening at 6:10 p.m. and 7:40 p.m. for the return trip to Modesto.

**Fares:** \$1 each one-way trip.

**MAX COMMUTER EXPRESS INFO LINE: 521-1274**