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CITY OF TREES

The City of Modesto has a long tree heritage with our tree-lined streets, shaded yards and canopied parks. Today there are about 200,000 trees in Modesto. The City is responsible for the care of approximately one-half of these trees; including trees on easements, median strips, parks, municipal golf courses and other City maintained areas.

Our present tree program can be traced back to the first residents in Modesto. Originally, Modesto did not have a large number of trees native to the area, except along the waterways. Residents began planting trees in order to get relief from the hot, dry environment. Although most trees planted by early residents are gone, some still remain like the Elms around the courthouse and the McHenry Mansion.

Prior to 1900, trees were planted and maintained by residents with little planning as to where the trees should be placed. With the founding of the Women's Improvement Club in 1906, trees were planted on major streets as part of Arbor Day. Sometimes several hundred trees were planted in one day by the Women's Improvement Club and their volunteers.

By 1915, so many trees had been planted throughout the City that the citizens became concerned about the absence of a plan for planting, maintaining and preserving trees. As a result, the City Council appointed a Planning Commission whose primary function was to coordinate future street tree plantings and maintenance. Three assessment districts were initially formed to raise the funds necessary to carry out this function. The funds collected from the assessment districts allowed a consultant to be hired to develop a City Tree Plan, purchase trees and contract tree pruning and maintenance. Residents continued to plant trees, but now according to a citywide plan.

During the 1930s the City expanded its involvement in tree activities through the urging of residents. Surveys were taken, planting plans were drawn, ordinances were passed and full-time crews were hired for tree planting and maintenance.

The City now has one of the most comprehensive tree programs in the state, with a nationwide reputation for its trees and tree care program. For 25 years the City has been awarded the Tree City U.S.A. designation. All of this can be attributed to the people long ago who realized the value of trees and sought to establish a formal tree program.

Source: City of Modesto Street Tree Master Plan

Top 10 Garbage-Related Violations

1. Storing anything in an alley - unwanted construction material, furniture, appliances, etc.
2. Putting garbage in the green waste can.
3. Not making an appointment for bulky item pick-up.
4. Placing bulky items in the street more than 24 hours before the appointment.
5. Placing unacceptable items out for bulky item collection - tires, TVs, glass, wood/construction material, etc.
6. Not taking hazardous materials to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility - motor oil, paint, TVs, batteries, fluorescent lights, electronics, etc.
7. Rinsing out dirty garbage cans and left over concrete residue into the street instead of on the lawn/in the yard.
8. Draining pool or spa water into the street.
9. Placing garbage cans on the sidewalk for collection; or leaving the can in the street after the service day.
10. Overfilling garbage cans.

If you are doing any of the above activities, you may be cited a minimum of \$100 fine for violation of a city ordinance. For more information on how to correct the above violations, please contact the **City of Modesto's Garbage and Recycling Division at (209) 577-5494**.

WATER CONSERVATION DURING WINTER MONTHS

The weather is starting to cool, so cut back your watering to only once per watering day. Most timers have multiple start times. Since the days are shorter, one watering start time per watering day should be

sufficient. Don't forget to turn off your automatic sprinkler systems when it rains. Most systems have a rain delay position and will not lose any programmed watering information. Some timers can be put in the off position. Change the back-up battery, so program information on a timer can be saved in case of power failure. It is wise to change them once a year.

Remember! We are under year-round water restrictions.

* Due to the cyclic nature of mailing the City Beat with the utility water bills, some of the events/programs may have already occurred.

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Year-round watering schedule for City of Modesto customers.							
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
If Your Address Is...	ODD	DO NOT WATER	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN
Midnight to Noon	WATER	DO NOT WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER
Noon to 7 PM	DO NOT WATER DURING THESE HOURS!						
7 PM to Midnight	WATER	DO NOT WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER
Odd numbered addresses end in 1,3,5,7,9 Even numbered addresses end in 0,2,4,6,8							
For water conservation tips, to report water waste or to get help setting your sprinkler timers, call (209) 342-4580.							

WINTER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

While curling up in front of a cozy fire this winter, most of us will not be thinking about our chimneys. According to the **National Fire Protection Association**, heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February; and is just behind cooking equipment in home fires year-round. In 2001, space heaters and heating equipment (i.e., fireplaces and chimneys) accounted for 66 percent of home heating fires and 67 percent of associated deaths. These statistics ought to give you pause as you start buying firewood or using your portable heater. Fortunately, a little knowledge can help keep you safe while you warm your home this winter.

Chimney fires often occur due to a build up of creosote. As smoke leaves the fireplace it travels up a cooler chimney and condensation occurs. Creosote is the resulting residue that sticks to the chimney's inner walls. It is very combustible and, if allowed to build up, will eventually ignite and burn inside the chimney. The good news is that there are things you can do to prevent these types of fires.

Here are tips that can keep your house safe in winter:

- When installing a new stove, fireplace, or chimney, make sure that a qualified technician installs it or checks the unit for proper installation.
- Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned annually.
- When burning wood in fireplaces or stoves, it is important to use properly seasoned wood. Green wood contains more moisture and is likely to smolder, leading to increased creosote build-up. Wood that is too old may also result in excess creosote.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Space heaters need space. With very few exceptions, home heating devices need a 36" clearance from flammable material.
- Portable space heaters should be turned off every time you leave a room or go to bed.
- When buying heaters, choose devices with automatic shutoff features.
- Have a multi-purpose ABC fire extinguisher readily available and know how to use it.

If you realize a chimney fire is occurring you should:

1. Get everyone out of the house, including yourself
2. Call the fire department

Remember - homes are replaceable, lives are not!

Tracie Dutter
Fire Inspector

HOLIDAY GARBAGE ROUTES: For the weeks of **December 25 to January 1, 2007**, all garbage routes will run **one day late**. Please put your cans out accordingly. Questions? Call the Solid Waste Office at (209) 577-5494.



CITY of MODESTO

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS

On Thursday, October 26, the Finance Committee held a workshop on the City Manager's recommendations for supplemental funding focused on:

- Enhancing planning efforts in the community.
- Providing funds for weed/litter control and city tree maintenance.
- Improving efficiency through technology.
- Enhancing public safety.

On November 20, the Finance Committee will meet again at Tenth Street Place in room 2005 (second floor) at 5:30 p.m. to finalize the funding recommendations. Those recommendations will be forwarded to the full City Council for consideration on December 12, 2006. The public is welcome to participate in these discussions.

Eco-Friendly Holiday Ideas

Looking for unique gift ideas for that special someone?

Make it eco-friendly and everyone wins:

- Donate to the person's favorite charity.
- Donate to their favorite national park or wildlife refuge.
- Purchase items that support environmental causes.
- Donate or plant a tree in their name.
- Purchase a star for them.
- Help protect their favorite endangered animal.
- Sponsor a litter-clean up event in their name.
- Purchase a backyard compost bin for them.
- Help make their home more energy efficient with new lighting, insulation, weather stripping, water savers, etc.

Prefer to give them a wrapped package? Try one of these:

- Ask for a wish list so you get them what they want.
- Give gift cards so they can get what they want.
- Purchase items made with recycled/organic products or materials.
- Reuse gift bags, boxes and bows.
- Use old holiday cards for package name tags.
- Use newspaper and the funnies for wrapping paper.
- Decorate gifts with dried flowers, leaves and pinecones instead of ribbons and bows.

Receive a gift you don't want? Pass it on:

- Donate unwanted gifts to charity or a local thrift store.
- Give it away on the Freecycle.org network.
- Save for a white elephant gift opportunity.

Eco-friendly decorating ideas:

- String packaging peanuts for tree garland.
- Make wrapping paper from scratch paper and seasonings from your cupboard.
- Scatter colorful leaves, pinecones, and mistletoe around the house.
- Spruce up regular household decorations just by adding holiday ribbons.

Kids can make holiday art from old materials/supplies.

Use your imagination for great Eco-friendly gifts. The possibilities are endless!