

November 2009

CITY OF MODESTO

# City Beat

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

(209) 577-5200

TDD (209) 526-9211

## ***The Recycling Program is Changing!***

Starting January 1, 2010, the City of Modesto will no longer use blue bags to collect recyclable materials. Now that residents can put all food waste and paper products like junk mail, magazines, newspapers, phone books, paper bags, paper towels, paper napkins, cardboard and other compostable materials in the green can for composting, it is no longer practical to operate the blue bag program. Most residents take California Redemption Value (CRV) glass bottles, plastics and aluminum cans to buy-back centers for cash. When residents put paper products and food waste in the green can for composting and cash in CRV bottles, plastics and cans, the types of materials that are left cannot be cost-effectively recycled.

Yard waste, food waste, and paper products make up over 66% of the wastes produced by residents. By putting all yard waste, food waste and paper products in the green can, residents will divert more waste from disposal facilities. The compost produced from these materials is "Certified Organic" and used as a soil amendment. Please do not put plastic bags, garbage, or CRV recyclables in the green can.

CRV bottles, plastics and cans have "CA CRV" on the label. Residents who do not want to take CRV materials to buy-back centers for cash can recycle those materials in several other ways. For more information on these options and how residents can use CRV materials to benefit the community, call the Solid Waste Division at (209) 577-5494, or visit our Web site at [www.modestogov.com/prnd/recycling](http://www.modestogov.com/prnd/recycling).

Blue bags will no longer be available at distribution sites after November 2009. Residents can continue to use existing bags to recycle through the end of December 2009. For more information, call (209) 577-5494.

## **CUSTOMER SERVICE HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

**The City of Modesto City Hall,  
located at 1010 Tenth Street,  
will be closed due to the holidays  
and work furloughs:**

**December 24, 2009  
through January 3, 2010**

For assistance with your utility services, Customer Service Representatives will be available by phone Monday, December 28, 2009 through Wednesday, December 30, 2009, from 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Utility payments can be made by phone or online  
24 hours a day - 7 days a week



Customer Service  
(209) 577-5395



Pay by Phone  
(209) 577-5395  
Option 4



Pay Online at  
[www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com)

For information on all City Hall holiday  
closures visit us online at:  
[www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com)

City Beat is printed on 30% recycled paper.



## Winter Water Saving Tips

Winter is coming up and we still need to be water conscious. Here are some helpful tips to help you conserve during the winter months:

- Adjust your watering schedule to the season. Water your winter lawn every fifth day or set your timer to the winter/rain setting.
- Bermuda grasses are dormant in the winter and will only require water once every three to four weeks or less if it rains.
- Position downspouts, with extensions if needed, so rain water runs onto the lawn or into the garden, not down the sidewalk or driveway.
- Insulate hot water pipes so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet.
- Locate the master water shut-off valve in your home, and mark it for quick identification. If a water pipe were to burst it could cause flooding and property damage, not to mention immense water waste if the valve were left open.

### BULKY ITEM PICK-UP

**Call now to schedule your last bulky item pick-up for 2009.**

Due to the holiday season, the bulky item pick-up program will be suspended December 18, 2009, through January 3, 2010. Appointments do not carry over to the next year.

To schedule your appointment for 2009, please contact your garbage company by December 11.

- Bertolotti Disposal: (209) 537-8000
- Gilton Solid Waste: (209) 527-3781

For more information, contact the Solid Waste Division at (209) 577-5494.

### Reminder from MPD

The Modesto Police Department would like to remind residents not to leave their vehicles running unattended as the weather turns colder. **Leaving vehicles running unattended can lead to auto thefts. Auto theft is a crime of opportunity. Don't give thieves the opportunity!**

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!

What's wrong with this picture? Everything!  
Please Keep Our Water Clean!  
NEVER POUR USED OIL, PAINT, GASOLINE OR CHEMICALS DOWN STORM DRAINS!

Report Pollution: (209) 577-6200  
Recycle Used Oil & Filters: (209) 577-5493

Funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board

RECYCLE USED OIL

### \*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION\*\*

#### HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

- **Thanksgiving** - Garbage service will run one day late for all Thursday and Friday route customers for the Thanksgiving holiday. Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday and Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday.
- **Christmas and New Year's** - Garbage service will run one day late for all Friday route customers for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Friday routes will be picked up Saturday.
- No other routes will be affected.

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