



City Beat

www.modestogov.com
(209) 577-5200 • TDD (209) 526-9211

MAY 2014

Please Continue to Conserve Water!

- **Stage One Water Restrictions Include:**
- No outdoor watering on Mondays
- Outdoor water use only before noon and after 7 p.m.
- **Addresses ending in odd-numbers only water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday**
- **Addresses ending in even-numbers only water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday**
- Car washing is subject to the above-cited limitations with the use of a positive shut-off nozzle
- Hosing of concrete areas, building exteriors, etc. may only be done with a City-issued permit and a positive shut-off nozzle
- Water leaks, once identified, must be repaired within 24 hours
- Restaurants are encouraged to serve water only upon request
- All landscaping (residential and commercial) must comply with existing and future landscaping ordinances.

Water Conservation Tips

1. As a rule, water in 5-minute cycles.
2. Turn off automatic sprinklers when it rains; most automatic sprinkler systems have a rain delay mode or can be put in the "OFF" position without affecting the programming.
3. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants; this slows evaporation of moisture and, as a bonus, discourages weed growth and soil erosion.
4. Check for leaking pipes and faucets; small leaks that are not repaired immediately can waste more than 50 gallons of water a day, or 2,500 gallons per year.
5. Check for toilet tank leaks; place a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank, if you see the food coloring seep into the bowl, you have a leak.
6. Install low-flow shower heads; they can save up to eight gallons of water each minute the shower is used, or 4,800 gallons per person each year.
7. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
8. Wash only full loads in your washing machine.

WIPES CLOG PIPES!

Many personal hygiene wipes, baby wipes, and cleaning products are marketed as being "flushable." Despite the confusing and misleading labels, you should never flush "flushable" or "disposable" products. These products do not break down as they move through the sewer system and may cause blockages in your home sewer lines, resulting in sewer backup in your home. They can also cause blockages in the City's sewer pipes and pumps, causing sewer overflows, costly cleanup and repairs, and extensive environmental damage.

Remember, the only things that should be flushed are human waste and toilet paper. Do not flush items such as disinfecting wipes, paper towels, baby wipes, towelettes, or mop refills. These items should be placed in the trash.

Please contact the City of Modesto Environmental Compliance Section at 577-6200 with any questions.

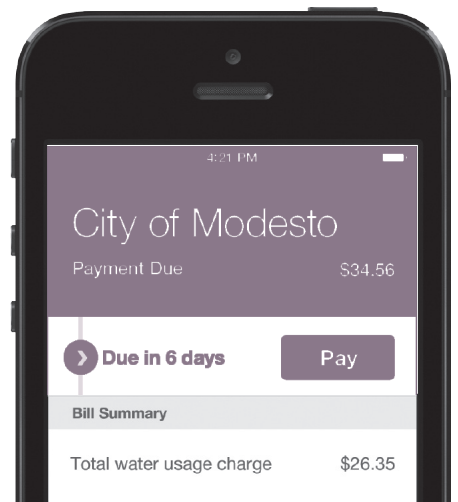
Get \$5 off

City of Modesto customers can pay their *water bills* using smartphones with Check's mobile app

City of Modesto has partnered with Check, a mobile bill payment company, to provide their customers with a more convenient way to pay for water service. With Check, customers can pay their water bill anytime, anywhere and using a wide variety of payment methods, including all major credit cards.

As an incentive, **Check is offering \$5 off a customer's first City water bill when they pay using Check.**

To get started, customers can visit www.check.me/modesto or visit **Google Play** or the **iTunes App Store** to **download the Check app for free.**



Available on the iPhone App Store | Available on Google play | Go to check.me/modesto on your phone

CITY OF MODESTO'S COMMERCIAL COMPOSTING PROGRAM

COMPOSTING IS EASY

It is rarely a space problem and may save businesses money.

HOW DOES COMPOSTING SAVE MONEY?

Businesses participating in the composting program get a 25% discount off the standard garbage rate for their compostables.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Any business that generates compostable materials can participate:

- We provide free green, leak-proof containers for use in the restaurant
- It's a two bin/container system: one for compostable materials and one for remaining garbage
- Service ranges from 2-4 days a week
- We provide easy-to-follow training

HOW DOES COMPOSTING HELP OUR ENVIRONMENT?

By sending organic materials to be composted into a nutrient-rich soil, it helps reduce the need for more landfill space.

WHAT'S COMPOSTABLE?

- all food scraps
- kitchen trimmings
- plate scrapings
- coffee grounds
- filter and tea bags
- meat and bones
- fish
- dairy products
- baked goods
- paper cups
- paper plates
- paper towels
- paper place mats
- paper milk cartons
- cardboard boxes
- yard trimmings
- floral clippings
- untreated wood crates

WHAT'S NOT COMPOSTABLE?

- styrofoam
- glass
- plastic
- metal
- cardboard lined with foil
- cardboard lined with plastic
- non-biodegradable items
- beverage syrup containers
- liquids
- grease
- ice

WHAT CONTAINERS WILL BE USED?

Food Waste Recycling:

Free 23-gallon green containers will be provided for use in your kitchen. Your garbage company then has various bin sizes available for recycling of food waste. Bins will be required to be serviced no less than 1 time per week (more if needed).

Garbage Containers:

The size and amount of garbage containers needed will depend on how much food and paper have been recycled.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FOOD WASTE?

All contents of the food waste bins will be taken to the City of Modesto's Compost Facility on Jennings Road. There, the organic material will be composted, then available for sale to the general public.

For more information on composting call:
Vicki Rice • City of Modesto • Recycling Program Coordinator
Phone (209) 577-5495

Top City Code Garbage Violations

- Placing or storing anything in an alley - unwanted items, furniture, appliances, etc.
- Placing unacceptable items in the green waste can.
- Not having active garbage service at your residence.
- Placing bulky items in the street without an appointment or more than 24 hours before the appointment.
- Placing unacceptable items out for bulky item collection - tires, paint, oil, TV's, glass, wood, construction debris, garbage, clothing, bags & boxes of trash etc.
- Depositing trash into neighbor's can without permission.
- Placing hazardous waste in the black or green can instead of taking it to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility - motor oil, paint, batteries, fluorescent lights, electronics, etc.
- Placing garbage cans on the sidewalk for collection.
- Leaving garbage cans out longer than 24 hours before/after service day.

Violating any of the City of Modesto Municipal Codes can result in citation and other corrective remedies.

For questions, please call the City of Modesto, Solid Waste Division at (209) 577-5493.

Got Waste Tires?

Call the
City of Modesto
for a FREE
Recycling Coupon

*restrictions & conditions apply

209
577-5494

City of Modesto Sponsored Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event



Coming Soon To a Location Near You
For information on the next event please call
209/577-5493

ACCEPTED ITEMS

Antifreeze	Fertilizers	Pesticides
Aerosol products	Gasoline/Diesel fuel	Pool/Spa chemicals
Batteries (all)	Herbicides	Propane cylinders
Brake fluid	Kerosene	Road flares
Carburetor cleaner	Mercury thermostats	Roofing tar
Charcoal lighter fluid	Mercury thermometers	Used motor oil/Filters
Drain cleaners	Paint/Paint thinner	

No containers larger than 5 gallons. No empty containers. No electronic waste. No light bulbs. No explosives. No ammunition. No compressed gas cylinders. No tires. No business waste. No more than 125 lbs or 15 gallons of waste accepted. All containers must be properly sealed.



DO NOT LEAVE MATERIALS UNATTENDED.
PLEASE STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE.
QUESTIONS? CALL 577-5493



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SEWER PROBLEMS? CALL US FIRST

577-6200

MODESTO - Community Matters

For more information, visit us online at www.modestogov.com.

Panhandling or Homelessness: Know the Difference

And Learn How to Help

In today's tough economy, individuals and families are dealing with precarious and, at times, collapsed financial situations. Deep poverty, especially in suburban communities, is on the rise. Affordable housing is scarce. And homelessness is a reality for thousands in Stanislaus County. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have a roof over our heads are looking for a way to help those experiencing homelessness and to help prevent homelessness for others.

You may have met an aggressive panhandler – in Modesto, or elsewhere. More often than not, these individuals are not homeless. In fact, by giving your money to panhandlers, you may be perpetuating the problem.

What is homelessness?

There are many faces of homelessness: individuals and families fleeing domestic violence; those living in their vehicles or “couch surfing”; children and youth; veterans; and those experiencing chronic homelessness, to name a few.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) places numerous restrictions on the definition of homelessness, including: what is considered “adequate” or “consistent” housing; the age of the person(s); the type and severity of disabilities the person(s) may suffer from; and the frequency and duration of individual bouts of homelessness.

These limitations help ensure that the funds provided by public funds and private donations are used only to assist those who have the greatest need for services.

For example, the chronically homeless represent approximately 12% of the larger homeless population, but consume anywhere between 50 and 60% of all available public resources. Of this same 12%, approximately half live almost exclusively within the system, alternating between living on the streets, in shelters and hospitals, and incarceration. They often have a complex medical problem, serious mental illness, and/or alcohol or other drug addiction.

By targeting this particular subpopulation, local partnerships are working to effectively address the issue by stopping the cycle of chronic homelessness.

What services are available?

Citizens and community- and faith-based organizations throughout Stanislaus County, along with the City of Modesto, collaborate in what is called a Continuum of Care (C.O.C.). Formally recognized and partially funded by HUD and local governments, a Continuum is a collaboration of organizations which coordinate to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness.

By definition, a Continuum must also seek to be efficient with all funds and help prevent any recurrence of homelessness. Continuums, like ours in Stanislaus County, do not simply provide basic assistance to the homeless – they exist to help people find and keep a home. Additionally, several different churches minister to the homeless. But there is always more that can be done.

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Pelandale Interchange Gets a Makeover

Reconstruction project will enhance safety, relieve congestion

The Pelandale Avenue Interchange Project is the largest transportation project in the City of Modesto's history. The project includes the reconstruction of the Pelandale Avenue overcrossing, the State Route 99 on and off ramps in new alignments and the construction of a southbound auxiliary lane, which will give drivers more time to merge on or off the highway.

This project is critical to increase safety, relieve congestion, and enhance traffic operations within the interchange and along the side streets. Regionally, this project will create greater capacity to meet the needs of commuters, agricultural operations and business owners alike.

The area impacted by the reconstruction is one of the largest economic centers in the Central Valley, serving major high-density commercial and service businesses to the east and major agricultural centers to the west.

The total project cost is expected to be \$54,764,329. It is being funded by State Route 99 Proposition 1B Bond Savings Funds (\$41,061,629); the City of Modesto Capital Facilities Fees (\$6,293,771); State transportation project funds, aka STIP (\$4,336,000); Federal Funds (\$2,647,000); City of Modesto Water Fund (\$269,881); and County PFF (\$156,048).

Continued on page 2, Interchange

Is That a SWAT Vehicle in My Driveway?

Reductions in police staffing encourages Modesto PD to seek alternatives



You may have seen it roaming around your neighborhood. Large. Imposing. Ominous. But don't worry – it isn't the SWAT team.

The Modesto Police Department's newest surveillance vehicle, the Armadillo, has been used in several neighborhoods throughout the city.

The Armadillo is deployed in areas with a higher occurrence of crime. Equipped with cameras on all sides, it's purpose is

to capture and record criminal activity to help identify those involved in the crime.

Although the Armadillo does not make up for severe reductions in police staffing, it allows the Modesto PD to have extra "eyes and ears" as they strive to keep our community safe.

In April, the Armadillo led to an arrest in relation to a recent shooting, as reported by the Modesto Bee.

The vehicle was donated by a local law enforcement agency and grant funds were used to get the rig up and running.

Get the Armadillo to Serve Your Streets

We can deploy the Armadillo to serve your neighborhood! If your community has concerns with possible theft, or drug and gang activity, you can request the Armadillo to patrol your area by contacting Sgt. Rea at reak@modestopd.com.

A Night at the Bowl

Sample the Finer Things — for a Good Cause

The City of Modesto's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department (PRN), together with MoBand, will be bringing many local restaurants, vineyards, breweries, and entertainment to Mancini Bowl for the 4th Annual Night at the Bowl on Thursday, May 29, 2014 from 5:30 to 9:00 pm at Graceada Park.

The night will include food tastings, wine and beer samplings, and entertainment. Proceeds from the event will benefit Moband, as well as PRN.

"A Night at the Bowl" tickets are available for \$35 per person and can be purchased online or at one of several locations.

Internet savvy fun-seekers may purchase tickets by visiting MoBand Board Members online at www.modestoband.org

If you prefer a personal touch, you can acquire your tickets at the City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department, located on the 4th floor of City Hall,

1010 10th Street. Or, you can purchase them at the Modesto Convention and Visitors' Bureau, located at 1150 Ninth Street (corner of 9th and L Streets).

You can also purchase your tickets from Gottschalks Music Center, located in downtown Modesto at 133 Burney Street.

For more information, visit www.modestogov.com/prnd or www.modestoband.org, or call Andy Johnson at (209) 571-5582.

Homelessness

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What are we doing to help?

In addition to our current partnerships,, the City of Modesto is developing a series of initiatives to address chronic homelessness and alleviate poverty. We will provide more information as these projects develop.

To learn more about these initiatives and partnerships, you are invited to participate in the local Continuum monthly meeting (third Thursday at 2:30 pm at 1701 Robertson Rd. in Modesto) or check with your place or worship.

Interchange

Continued from Page 1

Stakeholder and community meetings are scheduled for April 30. Additional information and details can be found online at www.sr99pelandale.org.

A ground breaking ceremony is tentatively scheduled Wednesday, May 14th, and construction is slated to last for two-and-half years. Motorists and businesses can also go to www.sr99pelandale.org to sign up for notifications, updates and announcements related to this project.



1010 10th Street,
Modesto, CA 95354

Visit us online at
www.modestogov.com.