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CITY OF MODESTO

# City Beat



MARCH 2015

## Help Prevent Sewer Blockages & Overflows

Especially during the winter months, it is important to remember that grease is often washed down the kitchen sink and into the plumbing system. Even a small amount of grease in sink drains can cause serious blockages in home plumbing or, even worse, a sewer overflow in your home or yard. These substances also cause clogging in Modesto's wastewater collection system, causing overflows that are messy, costly, and a potential threat to your health and the environment.

Here are some ways you can help protect the environment, your pipes, and Modesto's sewer collection system:

- Never pour grease material down sink drains or toilets
- Scrape grease material from all cookware and dishes into a can or the trash for disposal prior to washing. Don't rely on detergents to dissolve grease: They may just pass it down the line and cause problems in other areas.
- Use strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain strainers into the trash for disposal
- Cooking grease should be placed in the black garbage container with the normal weekly garbage. It would be advisable to allow the grease to cool so it doesn't melt plastic garbage bags



Call the City of Modesto 24/7 at (209) 577-6200 to report a sewer blockage or overflow.

## Green Waste – Leaf & Limb Collection (Residential):

City of Modesto residential customers\* are eligible for large green waste pick up monthly from your street or alley. Please follow these guidelines:

- Materials must be less than six feet in length and no more than six inches in diameter
- No single piece should weigh over 50 pounds
- Place materials 18 inches from the curb or fence
- No dirt, sod, grass clippings, or concrete will be picked up

The City is divided into four service areas; set out and pick up times depend on your location. Most of the materials are sent to the Compost Facility for processing.

Go to [http://www.modestogov.com/prnd/trees/green\\_waste.asp](http://www.modestogov.com/prnd/trees/green_waste.asp) or call the Green Waste Division at (209) 577-5463 to determine the schedule for your area.

\*Does not include residents living on privately owned streets.



## Garbage Can Repair

Is your garbage or green waste container in need of a new lid, wheel, or some other type of repair? Contact your garbage company to schedule the repair. The garbage companies are:

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



For more information or to find out which garbage company services your area call the City of Modesto Solid Waste Management Office at (209) 577-5493.

## City of Modesto UTILITY BILLING

**\*FREE giveaway\***



Download the Mint Bills app now and visit our booth at the Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 18th. **First 100** visitors will receive one of the following:

### FREE - Tech Cleaning Cloth

made from polyester and microfiber materials will keep your tech device screens gleaming - use on cell phones, tablets, and more!

### FREE - Portable Power Bank - power on-the-go

2200 mAh Lithium Ion Battery compatible with most smartphones and media devices.





It's that time of the year again and we are looking for Recycling Heroes to join us for the 26th Annual Earth Day in the Park Festival. We will be celebrating the Recycling Hero in all of us on Saturday, April 18th from 10am-4pm, in beautiful Graceada Park, located in downtown Modesto on the corner of Needham & Sycamore!

This FREE family-friendly event provides a wonderful opportunity to interact with vendors and artisans to see what is happening in our community as we continue to look for creative and innovative ways to conserve resources, promote sustainability, and protect our environment.

In honor of our 26th year of being earth-friendly, we are looking for imaginative students to use their artistic abilities to enter our Trash-Formation recycled art contest, sponsored by Bertolotti Disposal and Ditto's. The contest is open to all school-age children from public, private, and homeschooled organizations that want to create a masterpiece out of recycled materials for an opportunity to win cash prizes! See your school or our website for details. Good luck!

Be sure to attend the free Boyett B-Green Recycling Event held on Stoddard Avenue between Park and Sycamore Avenues. This is a convenient drive thru event where all donations are matched dollar for dollar by Boyett Petroleum. 100% of the funds are applied to the City of Modesto "Adopt a Park" Program, which is currently raising money for new play equipment at Wesson Ranch Park in Modesto. Items accepted for recycling include:

- On site document shredding (limit 5 file boxes or grocery bags per person)
- CRV Bottles, Cans, Plastic, and Scrap Metal
- E-Waste (TV's, computers, laptops, video games, electronics, etc.)
- Ink Jet, toners, cartridges

In addition, Covanta is sponsoring a collection of rechargeable batteries, cell phones, and used mercury thermostats/thermometers. See the City of Modesto's Information Booth for collection site. Stanislaus County Regional Transportation (StaRT) will be providing a FREE shuttle from the CrossPoint Community Church parking lot on Needham to and from Graceada Park every 20 minutes. The Modesto NUTS mascots will be riding on the bus, too! Please join the fun in hopes to win some NUTS tickets!

This year's entertainment includes an environmental vaudeville act by the well-known EarthCapades, fun and games with Bubblemania & Company, the Silly String Band, music and interactive games by a local DJ, and new this year, a petting zoo. Please save the date and bring your family and friends to celebrate the 26th Annual Earth Day in the Park Festival. Experience the Recycling Hero in all of us!

For more information, visit: [www.modestogov.com/earthday](http://www.modestogov.com/earthday) or contact Vicki Rice, Recycling Program Coordinator at (209) 577-5495

4.18.15

Graceada Park • Needham & Sycamore Avenues • Modesto • 10 am - 4 pm

Please join the City of Modesto Water Services Division at the upcoming Annual Earth Day in the Park Celebration, Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 10am-4pm at Graceada Park in Modesto. Learn how to conserve water, how we are managing the current drought, and pick up items to promote water conservation!

## 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. Turn off automatic sprinklers; if you have not already, place your automatic sprinklers on the "OFF" or rain delay mode. An average rain storm will sustain your grass and plants. If absolutely necessary, hand water as needed.
2. Check for leaking outdoor pipes or broken sprinklers; if you cannot fix them right away, turn off your irrigation valve until you have an opportunity to do so. This will eliminate excess run-off and water loss.
3. 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.
4. Check for leaking indoor pipes and faucets; small leaks that are not repaired immediately can waste more than 50 gallons of water in a day or up to 25,000 gallons per year.
5. Install low-flow aerators on your faucets; replacing an old, inefficient faucet and aerator with a WaterSense labeled model can save the average family 700 gallons of water per year.

## Year-round watering schedule for City of Modesto customers.

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
IF YOUR ADDRESS IS...	ODD	DO NOT WATER	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN
MIDNIGHT TO NOON	WATER		WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER
NOON - 7:00 PM			DO NOT WATER				
7:00 PM - MIDNIGHT	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 more information or to report water waste, call (209) 342-2246.

<http://www.modestogov.com/pwd/utilities/water/conservation/>

# our community matters



march 2015

## Local Business Leaders Fund Crows Landing Road/Modesto Arch

After 8 months of planning, a new City welcome sign is being erected on Hatch and Crows Landing Roads in South Modesto. Proudly welcoming citizens and customers in both English and Spanish, the sign celebrates the diversity of the Crows Landing Road area and its residents (see image on right). The project is part of an ongoing beautification effort by local residents and business owners that will later include additional street lighting and holiday decorations.

Approved by Council Resolution in October, the project broke ground in November 2014 and is expected to wrap-up in February. The welcome sign was a collaborative effort by South Modesto Businesses United (SMBU), Modesto City Mayor and Council, City of Modesto planning staff, Turlock Irrigation District, Stanislaus County planning staff, United Systems, the Modesto Convention & Visitors Bureau, and local businesses and community leaders.

SMBU is currently fundraising to add a public message board under the sign. The message board will be available to local organizations and businesses to publicize community events and outreach efforts. You can help fund the project by purchasing one or more bricks from the column. All purchased bricks will bear the names of donors or their organization.

For more information, please contact South Modesto Businesses United at (209) 480-4578, [southmodestobusinessesunited@yahoo.com](mailto:southmodestobusinessesunited@yahoo.com).



Welcome sign to be installed at Hatch and Crows Landing Road.

## Community Donates Toys and Food to Thousands in South Modesto

Each year, local businesses and community leaders gather to provide food and toys to hundreds of families during the Posoda Christmas Giveaway in South Modesto. Organized by South Modesto Businesses United, a non-profit, and hosted by Los Amigos Tires, the annual event provides a complete dinner and a basket of toys, as well as delicious seasonal foods such as hot chocolate and tamales.

Local volunteers spent more than 2 weeks wrapping gifts for the giveaway, which served more than 3,000 people. This year, the organization adopted two schools in South Modesto to encourage families and children to attend.

The event always takes place on the 2nd Wednesday of December. In 2015, look for the giveaway on December 9th.

## Crows Landing Study Brings Community Leaders Together

Crows Landing Road is the Main Street for a thriving community just south of downtown Modesto. Much of this community is either in the city limits today or will be in the future. But many agree that Crows Landing Road is not a Main Street most people would enjoy.



With the help of a Caltrans Environmental Justice grant, and in coordination with Stanislaus County, the City of Modesto met with community and business leaders to plan for a roadway that is attractive and safe for everyone. Through multiple meetings and workshops, City planners and engineers received valuable input from local residents who hope the project will have a positive impact on the area.

Pedestrian safety is the top priority for the community, as many school children must cross the busy corridor. The study – which reaches from South 7th Street on the north to Whitmore Avenue on the south – recommends that the City continue to accommodate truck and automobile traffic, but improve safety by reducing travel speeds to prevent collisions.

Recommended improvements include:

- Keeping the right of way at 100 feet, instead of widening to 127 feet
- Restriping traffic lanes to be narrower
- Highlight pedestrian crossings
- Add raised medians
- Widen sidewalks
- Add street trees

This two-year effort culminated on February 10, when the City Council considered whether the Crows Landing Road Corridor Study should help shape the future of southern Modesto's Main Street.

## Jr Giants Returns to Modesto

Junior Giants is a free, 8 week non-competitive, co-ed baseball program for boys and girls entering grades K-8 in the 2014-2015 school year. Working together with local agencies, families and volunteers, Junior Giants reaches into communities and offers youth a chance to learn the basics of baseball during the summer while also discovering the importance of self-esteem and respect. Registration for Coaches and Players can be done online at [jrgiants.org](http://jrgiants.org) beginning March 2, 2015.

### **Confidence, Integrity, Leadership, and Teamwork...**

Entering the 21st Season, Junior Giants annually serves over 20,000 participants in 90+ leagues and serves as a positive alternative to unhealthy activities for at-risk youth. Junior Giants is more than just baseball and offers several distinct programs to further enrich a player's experience. Players learn the Junior Giants Four Bases of Character Development: Confidence, Integrity, Leadership, and Teamwork, as well as the importance of Education, Health, and Violence Prevention.