

## Modesto Restaurants "Go Green"

In April 2005, the City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department's Solid Waste Division put together a grant proposal for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeking funding to start a program to encourage Modesto restaurants to compost their food waste. The EPA liked the idea of the commercial food waste composting pilot program and at the end of 2005, awarded the City \$49,850 to implement the program. The idea was to find 20 restaurants that were willing to partner with the City of Modesto by "going green" and recycling their food scraps.



The first step taken was to get "buy-in" from the garbage companies, Gilton Solid Waste and Bertolotti Disposal. They were committed to participate. In addition, endorsement was received from the California Restaurant Association, who thought this pilot program was a great concept. A joint "kick-off" meeting with the EPA was held in early 2006 to begin the planning and development stage.

Solid Waste Division staff decided to visit the City of Berkeley, which had already implemented a restaurant food recycling program. Staff met with local restaurant owners and the garbage collection company to discuss the challenges. Bertolotti Disposal and Gilton Solid Waste were instrumental in determining how many routes were needed and choosing the best approach to collecting food waste from each restaurant. In seeking participating restaurants, Solid Waste staff focused on the downtown area first and met with several restaurant owners who were very enthusiastic and supportive of the program. Every restaurant owner contacted agreed to have their restaurant "go green." This commitment meant owners would have to re-train their restaurant staff to learn a whole new way of processing scraps, plates, kitchen materials and garbage. That takes time and patience!





The first group of restaurants included were **Scrambl'z Kountry Kitchen, Hazel's Elegant Dining, Galletto Ristorante, The Tasty Taco, Hero's Sports Lounge, Bacchus, Harvest Moon and Aqua Shi.** Bertolotti Disposal began collecting food waste from these restaurants in September 2007. The second group of restaurants started in January 2008, and included **Applebee's, Hometown Buffet, Johnny Carino's, Red Lobster and Tony Roma's.** Both Bertolotti and Gilton take the recycled food material to the Modesto Composting Facility. There have been some challenges with contamination, as sometimes plastic and styrofoam can slip in. Garbage receptacle inspections are conducted each week and the staff at the Compost Facility are diligent in removing unacceptable material.

The Solid Waste Division is proud to say that since September 2007, 218 tons of food waste materials have been recycled for composting! Thank you to the pioneering "green" restaurants.

## 2008 Collection Schedule

This calendar provides specific information about when to place yard trimmings out for collection. Trimmings are only collected once a month and it takes approximately two weeks for pick up in each collection area. *Questions? Call the Community Forestry Division at (209) 342-2249.*

### Key for Yard Trimming Collection:

-  Only days you may place your trimmings out on the **STREET** for collection.
-  Day crews **start** to pick up **STREET** collection (First Monday of Month)
-  Only days you may place your trimmings out in the **ALLEY** for collection.
-  Day crews **start** to pick up **ALLEY** collection (Third Monday of Month)

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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

## Don't Drain that Swimming Pool!

Swimming pool owners are often faced with a pool full of leaves and thick green algae this time of year. The only solution seems to be draining all the water out and starting over. However, pools hold 20,000 to 40,000 gallons of water, which is enough water to supply a family of four for three months!

According to experts, the only time a pool really needs to be drained is when the total dissolved solids exceeds 600 parts per million (ppm). The water chemicals that pool owners add are not effective in clearing the water when levels are that high. Most pool maintenance stores will analyze pool water for the total ppm of dissolved solids and test other conditions as a free service, and will give the pool owner suggestions for corrective maintenance. In the case of heavy algae, a shock treatment with chlorine, an algaecide, and 24 hours of filtering is usually all that is needed. Although this is a small investment in chemicals, draining then refilling your pool will cost you more by the time you add the extra chemicals and conditioners.

The best choice is to maintain the water's pH balance and chlorine level all year. You won't be facing a mess in the spring, and total dissolved solids will increase slowly.

If the water analysis tests show that the pool water must be replaced, please don't pump it onto the street, gutters, storm drain or alley. You can pump the water into the sanitary sewer system through your home's cleanout drain. If your pool has a dedicated sewer connection, also known as an integrated system, refer to system owner's manual or contact your pool contractor for draining instructions. Contact a licensed pool service or plumber if you're unsure about draining your pool or need further assistance.

**Remember, what you send to the gutter could end up in our rivers or drinking water.**

To report stagnate swimming pools in your neighborhood, call the *East Side Mosquito Abatement District* at (209) 522-4098, or the *Turlock Mosquito Abatement District* at (209) 634-1234.

## Move Those Garbage Cans

Please remember that it is illegal to place garbage cans on the sidewalk blocking public access.

For residents who do not have alley service, garbage cans **must** be placed against the curb or on the driveway apron next to the curb. Garbage cans may only be placed in the street the night before your service day and must be removed from the street and placed back on your property by the end of your service day.

If you have questions about garbage can placement, please contact the City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department's Solid Waste Division at (209) 577-5494.



## Get Paid to Recycle Used Oil

It's illegal to dispose of hazardous materials such as used oil, paint, batteries, and household chemicals by putting them in your trash or pouring them into the storm drain. **You can get paid for recycling your used oil or have it picked up at your home for free!**

The City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department offers **three** programs to help you dispose of used oil:

- The City's Residential Collection Program will pick up the used oil at your residence;
- The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility accepts used oil and many other household hazardous products; and
- Certified Collection Centers located throughout the city will pay you for every gallon you recycle.

For more information on proper disposal or information on the locations of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility or used oil buy-back centers, call the *City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department's Used Oil Hotline* at (209) 577-5493.

## City of Modesto – Compost Facility

BUY ONE YARD OF TOPSOIL AT

\$15.75...

GET THE SECOND **FREE**

7007 Jennings Rd  
Modesto Ca  
(209) 538-2557



Hours:  
Monday—Friday  
11 a.m.—3.30 p.m.  
Closed noon -1 p.m.

- An open bed pickup or trailer is needed to purchase compost
- Please bring this coupon with you to receive this free offer
- Bulk Sales only
- 1 free yard per paying customer

