

On any given day in our city, roughly 1,000 residents are homeless and an estimated 10,000 more may be at risk of homelessness. They are veterans. They are families with children. Some find daily shelter and some live without any shelter at all. The homeless are residents who deserve respect and dignity, compassion and empathy. While the government doesn't claim to know all of the answers to this complex situation, we should be working toward a system that supports, but does not enable, instills responsibility in our residents and accountability for public spaces.

In this community, there are scores of giving people, philanthropic organizations and grassroots efforts that have taken shape to help the under-served. Sometimes these efforts move the needle in the right direction, but other times they contribute to the problem. In 2015, leaders and residents throughout Stanislaus County joined together, launching a long term movement to improve the quality of life for residents and families across our county. This initiative is called Focus on Prevention and the focus is just that- a proactive approach to preventing the many causes of homelessness and assessing the issue from a holistic point of view while finding successful tactics to address the current priorities for all residents.



Working with Stanislaus County, we are committed to making a difference. The Focus on Prevention Summit held last October brought together roughly 500 community members who hoped to get involved in reaching positive outcomes related to homelessness. Conversation centered around the tenets that all residents should enjoy mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health and wellbeing, have access to an excellent education from cradle to career, a cohesive diverse, and engaged community where we create safe and vibrant neighborhoods and a healthy, growing economy.

In January, Modesto residents were invited to a community conversation in follow up to the countywide summit. Finding Our Way Home: Modesto provided an opportunity for residents to help resolve homelessness in our city. Participants heard about emerging results and indicators from the Focus on Prevention effort and what the Homeless Action Council plans to do through this initiative. We discussed emerging strategies to affect positive change in Modesto, and ways that people can get involved and take action going forward.



We are a resilient community with a proud history of nurturing strong families, but like many counties across California, we face profound challenges. Our objective is to find solutions through collaboration. The Focus on Prevention movement builds on this spirit of community. Many efforts have gone before us, and others are already underway, working to improve the lives of our families and communities. Unfortunately, while substantial resources are spent each year addressing the symptoms of our challenges, we still are not seeing the progress we hope for.

Progress can only be achieved through working together. Local government acting alone cannot create the future we hope for. Businesses by themselves cannot strengthen and expand our economy. Hospitals and health care workers by themselves cannot improve the physical and emotional wellbeing of our families and communities. Community and faith leaders, by themselves, cannot help our neighborhoods thrive and become even more safe and vibrant. Teachers and school administrators by themselves cannot improve the graduation rates and reading levels of our children. For us to significantly improve the wellbeing and futures of our families and communities, residents and leaders from across the county must act together.

Mutual accountability is key. Acting together is not enough. We must learn together how to face challenges that have no simple or obvious solutions. We also must be committed to collecting good data, and reflecting on what the data is revealing. Sometimes acting together takes longer because we have to build a shared understanding and deep commitment to whatever actions we take. This commitment to act together, will sustain this movement over time. One of the defining values for this effort is a simple declaration: "there is no other." What this means is that it's up to us, all of us together, to create the future we want for our families and communities.

Focus on Prevention is a county-wide initiative that aims to improve the quality of life for all Stanislaus residents and families through coordinated prevention efforts that work across multiple sectors. These sectors include government; business; health; non-profit; philanthropy; education; faith; neighborhood; media; and arts, entertainment, and sports. *For more information and upcoming meeting times, please visit www.preventionfocus.net*

Sources: Stanislaus County Focus on Prevention 2015 Progress Report, Modesto Bee



Mural portrait by Martin Baker featuring late homeless resident, Rick Hernstedt. *Photo, Modesto Bee.*

Best Management Practices in the Home Garden

Storm drains are intended to drain rain water away from our streets and prevent flooding. Urban runoff contributes significantly to the pollutants that enter our creeks, rivers, and oceans. By using pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers properly, protecting these materials from rain and wind, and using less toxic chemicals, you can minimize the pollutant potential. Some best management practices (BMPs) for the home garden include:

- Do not over-water. Over-watering will cause runoff that carries yard waste, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers into the storm drain system. Conserve water by using irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems.
- Store fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides in a protected area to prevent runoff into the storm drain system. Do not use if rain is expected.
- Use herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers that are organic or non-toxic. Follow all directions on the label for use.
- If a pesticide must be used, use one that is specifically designed to control the pest. The insect should be listed on the label. 90% of the insects on your lawn and garden are not harmful.
- Read labels and use only as directed. Many home gardeners use pesticides at over 20 times the rate that farmers do.

For more information, visit modestogov.com/pwd/wastewater/compliance/ or contact the City of Modesto Environmental Services Section 24/7 at (209)577-6200.

Please continue to conserve water and follow the Drought Stage II – A schedule.

Water Conservation



City of Modesto Water Conservation:
(209) 342-2246

- Odd-numbered addresses watering day is Sunday
- Even-numbered addresses watering day is Saturday
- Outdoor watering prohibited Saturday & Sunday from 9:00am - 7:00pm
- **No outdoor water use Monday - Friday**
- Hosing any outside areas is prohibited except for health/safety reasons



Drought Stage II-A

PENALTIES FOR WATER WASTE VIOLATION

VIOLATION	FINE
First Notice of Violation	Written notice of violation, no fine issued
Second Notice of Violation	\$150.00
Third Notice of Violation	\$250.00
Subsequent Violations	\$500.00

<http://www.modestogov.com/pwd/water/conservation> • State of California website: <http://saveourwater.com>

Water Conservation - Seasonal Tips

- Make seasonal adjustments to your irrigation timers. Turn timers off and hand-water trees and shrubs as needed during your watering times.
- Prevent irrigation water from running onto sidewalks, streets and alleys.
- Do not water outdoors during and after 48 hours following measurable rain - measurable rainfall is one-hundredth (.01) of an inch.
- Sweep or machine blow to clean driveways, sidewalks, decks, parking lots, etc.
- Inspect irrigation system regularly for leaks, broken pipes or heads and make repairs immediately.
- Wrap pipes to prevent freezing.

Drought Stage II-A

For more Water Conservation tips or to view the entire Drought Contingency Plan, please visit our website at: <http://www.modestogov.com/savewater>

For more information, please call the City of Modesto Water Conservation Program at (209) 342-2246



EARTH DAY

in the park festival

4.23.16



www.modestogov.com/earthday

Please join the City of Modesto Water Conservation Program at the annual Earth Day in the park festival! Learn about Water Conservation, the most recent news about the drought, and get a free spray nozzle or water conservation kit.

The event is **Saturday April 23, 2016 at Graceada Park**, between Needham and Sycamore Ave. We hope to see you there!

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.

Large green waste should be less than six feet in length and no single piece should weigh over 50 pounds. Place materials 18 inches from the curb or fence. No dirt, sod, grassclippings 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 www.modestogov.com/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



EARTH DAY in the park festival

4.23.16



WANTED!

Sponsors & Vendors Welcome

For more information contact:

Vicki Rice

Recycling Program Coordinator

209.577.5495 or vrice@modestogov.com



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.

Important Notice!



Mint Bills has made the decision to discontinue their **Bill Payer Program. Effective February 16, 2016** Mint Bills has dissolved their partnerships with municipalities including the City of Modesto.

Customers can no longer access their City of Modesto utility accounts without having an ePay login.

Due to the dissolving of the Bill Payer Partnership customers need to sign up with an online account with the city as well as link their account to Mint Bills in order to benefit from all of the Mint Bills App features.

Mint Bills Application users can still receive bill alerts, reminders and make payments on their City of Modesto Utility bill through the Mint Bills mobile and web application (www.bills.mint.com). There is no cost if paying via a checking or savings account.

Other ways to pay your City of Modesto Utility Bill:

Pay by Phone (209) 577-5395, Option 4

Pay Online at: www.modestogov.com

Authorized Pay Station (List of authorized pay stations available on back of bill.)

**SEWER PROBLEMS?
CALL US FIRST
577-6200**