



City of Modesto services available to city residents only.

VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO WEBSITE AT: www.modestogov.com

Garbage and Recycling Opportunities Abound



In 1989, State Assembly Bill 939 (AB939) was passed into law. Its purpose was to ensure that all cities and counties in the State of California divert the amount of garbage they sent to the landfills by 50% by the year 2000.

Communities up and down the state got busy developing waste reduction and recycling programs to meet the aggressive mandate. With the help of our local garbage companies and citizen volunteers, many new programs were developed for residents and businesses alike. In the end, the **City of Modesto reached a 61% diversion rate by 2001!**

The following is a summary of the many garbage and recycling programs available to Modesto residents and businesses. "Residential" (R) customers are defined as having black garbage and green yard waste container, while "commercial" (C) customers have dumpsters.

Blue Bag Recycling (R)
Residents may place their recyclables into blue plastic

bags and toss them into the black garbage can along with household garbage. Blue bag items include glass or plastic bottles and jars; aluminum and bi-metal cans; cardboard and chipboard; and paper products, such as newspaper, junk mail, computer paper, phone books, magazines, etc. You may use the blue carry-out bags from your local grocer or obtain free bags at various locations.

Bulky Item Collection (R)
Modesto residents may dispose of large household items at the curb two times per calendar year for free. Call your garbage company for an appointment and place the items in the street the night before the appointment. Call 577-5494 for program restrictions.

Yard Waste—Food Waste—Compost (R)
Green yard waste containers are for small prunings, grass clippings, leaves, weeds and even food waste! Please, no plastic bags, dirt, sod, rocks, concrete, animal feces, household garbage or wood in

your green container. Large prunings can be placed in the street or alley for monthly collection. Call the Forestry Office at 342-2249 for more information on pruned refuse.

Cathode Ray Tubes (R & C)
CRTs are found in TVs and computer monitors. Modesto residents and businesses may safely dispose of them by calling their garbage company and requesting a CRT coupon. Residents may dispose of two monitors and businesses may dispose of four monitors per calendar year.

Used Oil Recycling (R)
Modesto residents may recycle up to four gallons of used oil per week for free. Call your garbage company for an appointment, or take your oil to any of Modesto's Certified Collection Centers. Call 577-5493 for details.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) (R & C)
Paint, solvents, used oil, batteries, etc. cannot be put in the garbage and must be handled properly. Free disposal is available at the HHW Facility every Friday and Saturday, 9:00AM-1:00PM. Call 523-4123 for more information.

For more information about Modesto's many garbage and recycling opportunities, call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5495.

New Playground Coming to Beard Brook Park



Beard Brook Park playground has a new look! In an effort to make Modesto's parks accessible to all residents, the playground at Beard Brook Park has been refurbished with all new play equipment and surfacing. The new playground design offers easy movement of wheelchairs and other mobility devices for all ages, as well as handy transfer stations for easy equipment access.

The colorful and interactive play equipment is made from 100% recycled plastic and aluminum and 100% recycled rubber surfacing! Modesto is closing the loop on recycling! The project was paid for in part by a \$50,000 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

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City Pride is brought to you by the Modesto City Council: Mayor Jim Ridenour, Councilmember Bob Dunbar, Councilmember Brad Hawn, Councilmember Denny Jackman, Councilmember Janice Keating, Councilmember Garrad Marsh and Councilmember Will O'Bryant.

Dual-Use Basin Combines Park with Storm Drainage

Ever since I was very small, I loved the idea of going outside and playing in the rain. The greatest part was running across my lawn and sliding on my knees through the puddles of standing water. Of course, I was always very careful to completely, thor-



David Paladini

oughly and, in all ways possible, rip, stain and shred my pants. On the other hand, in

Modesto, one of the "not so fun" issues we deal with when it rains is overflowing storm drains. However, the City of Modesto has recently begun designing a new, innovative way to handle all the rain—dual-use basins.

Last year, the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department decided that with all the new development happening in the Coffee-Claratina area, a plan was necessary for rainwater drainage. Under the supervision of Project Coordinator

Loren Holt, the staff began to plan a large storm water retention basin to prevent possible flooding.

A retention basin is simply a reservoir to collect the rainwater from the area's storm drains. You may be familiar with the retention basin at the corner of Pelandale and Prescott Avenues. Generally, retention basins are about one square acre. They vary in depth, but they generally average around two million gallons of water in the wet season. There is almost always a chain link fence around them, so that no young children who go exploring will find themselves in danger.

I'm sure you agree that the idea of a fenced-off hole in the ground in the middle of a new housing development really doesn't *hold much water* when it comes to what the people in any neighborhood would like. Most people would much rather have a nice park. With this in mind, the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department came up with a way to take care of both—a park and a retention basin in one!

Prior to developing the



park, the Parks Planning and Development Division hosted a neighborhood meeting to find out what the residents of the area wanted in their park. There were quite a few ideas discussed. Among the requests were a basketball court and light playground equipment.

Loren Holt explained that this dual-use basin works by the same principle as other retention basins. The difference is that the water will be spread over more than six acres during the wet season, instead of the normal one acre. So rather than a deep hole holding tons of water over a long period of time, this basin is wide and shallow, which allows the 2,188,890 gallons of water to be absorbed over a larger area and down into the *aquifer* at a much faster rate than a normal retention basin.


So what's an aquifer? An aquifer is the underground water reservoir that holds our rainwater and melted snow. It's the lowest level water can go to before it hits solid rock. The water that is pumped up in

wells comes from the aquifer itself. Not only are we replenishing our aquifer in case of a drought, but we are removing those 2,188,890 gallons of water from our streets.

A shallow retention basin has a number of advantages to the neighborhood around the park. The first is that mosquitos are not likely to become a problem because by the time mosquito season comes around, the water will have soaked in. Secondly, most months of the year the park will be dry and available for children to play. And lastly, it solves the drainage problem for the area.

The estimated time for completion, including planting of trees and other landscaping, is mid- to late-April. I went out to take a look at the park in December, and I noticed that they had already begun to lay the foundation for the basketball court and play equipment at the perimeter.

As I thought of all the different ways that the park would serve the neighborhood, I could already tell that it would be a big success.




Free!
City of Modesto
Cathode Ray Tube (CRT)
Recycling Program

CRT's are found in TVs and computer monitors and contain large amounts of lead and other hazardous materials. They cannot be put in the garbage. Modesto residents may recycle up to two CRT's per calendar year for free. Help keep our community clean and safe—recycle properly!

Here's How:

- 1) Call your garbage company and request a CRT coupon.
- 2) Redeem the coupon with your CRT's at your garbage company.

• Waste Management	538-2210
• Gilton Solid Waste	527-3781
• Bertolotti Disposal	537-8000





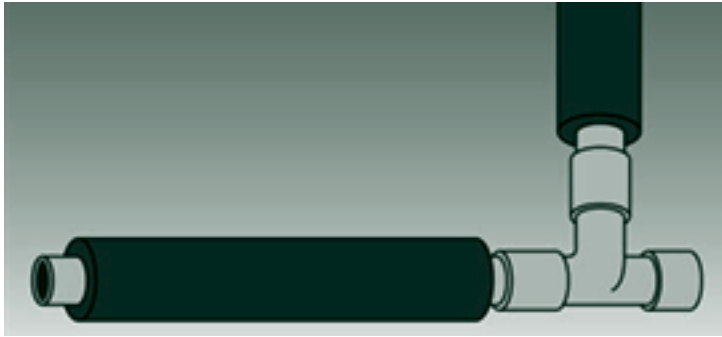
Available at these local nurseries:

Scenic Nursery
1313 Scenic Drive
Westurf
1612 Claus Road

Buy one regular priced flat of flowers and get one bag of Mo-Gro Magic FREE or Buy 2 bags at regular price and receive third bag FREE

MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF PURCHASE
LIMIT 2 FLATS - BAGS PER COUPON OFFER EXPIRES 2/15/2004

It's Not Too Late to Winterize Your Pipes



It's that time of year again—time to think about safeguarding your home from the winter cold. Just as you check your heater and the fireplace chimney, remember to check your outside water pipes to prevent them from freezing.

The best way to prevent pipes from freezing is to wrap them. This can be done with items you have around the house already, like old newspaper, rags, cardboard and duct tape. You can also purchase wrapping at your local hardware store for a minimal expense.

For those customers that have backflow prevention devices, irrigation system equipment, swimming pool

pumps and piping, evaporative coolers, fountains or ponds, these also need to be winterized with some type of wrapping or coverings to keep them from freezing.

Finally, plan ahead and know what you should do if a pipe does burst from freezing. Make sure all family members know where to shut off water on your property. Also, know who to call in case of an emergency, or if you need help or advice.

The City of Modesto's Water Operations Division will be happy to assist. They can be reached at 342-2246.

Saving water is a year-round job for everyone. Thanks for helping to conserve our drinking water supply!

City Implements Automated Utility Billing Info System

The City of Modesto Customer Service Division is pleased to announce the implementation of an Automated Utility Billing Information System. This interactive Voice Response (IVR) system allows customers with a touch-tone telephone to retrieve automated account information 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 577-5395.

By entering your account number, you can instantly determine the status of your account and retrieve information, such as account balance, the date of your last payment, billing history and other general information.

This service is available for both English and Spanish speaking customers using the same access phone number.

The benefits to City of Modesto customers include unlimited accessibility to account information and a reduction of wait time on the phone and at the customer service window.

Additionally, the IVR system allows customers to pay their City of Modesto utility bill using a Visa, MasterCard

or a debit card with the Visa or MasterCard logo. The credit card payment is applied to the account immediately with complete card verification.

While using the new automated feature, a customer may at any time press "0" to speak to a customer service representative during regular City Hall hours.

Primary services administered by this group of representatives include utility billing for water, sewer, garbage and storm drainage fees.

The City of Modesto anticipates future expansion of this IVR system to make the same automated process available for Building Permits, Business Licenses and Parking Citations.

Please call 577-5395 to access account information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you prefer to pay in person, Customer Service is located at 1010 Tenth Street, Suite 2100. The office is open 7:30AM-5:00PM, Monday-Friday. Utility payments are also accepted at City Hall at the Mall during regular mall hours.

Garden Refuse Collection Schedule

The following calendar provides you with the specific dates when your pruned refuse may be placed out for collection.

Remember, it takes approximately two weeks following these dates for crews to pick up in your collection area.

Pruned refuse is only collected once a month.

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
STREETS	1/2	1/30	2/27	4/2	4/30	6/4
	1/3	1/31	2/28	4/3	5/1	6/5
	1/4	2/1	2/29	4/4	5/2	6/6
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
ALLEYS	1/16	2/13	3/12	4/16	5/14	6/18
	1/17	2/14	3/13	4/17	5/15	6/19
	1/18	2/15	3/14	4/18	5/16	6/20

GOT TIRES?

Free tire collection event for City of Modesto residents ONLY. No businesses or dealers allowed. Proof of residency is required.



Date: Saturday, February 23, 2004
Place: Downey High School Parking Lot, 1000 Coffee Rd.
Time: 8-11AM OR until two collection trailers are filled. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Limits: One (1) coupon per household. Eight (8) tires per coupon. Maximum Eight (8) tires per vehicle. Tires with or without rims—OK. Limits will be strictly enforced.



City of Modesto Solid Waste Office 577-5494
Funded by the California Integrated Waste Management Board

STANCATT Urges Citizens to Protect Your Vehicles and Help Reduce Auto Theft

In 2002, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) reported that Stanislaus County is number three in the nation for auto theft. Presently in the City of Modesto, there has been a rash of Toyota Camrys and Hondas stolen. Unfortunately, the ignition system on these vehicles is very easy to defeat.

In order to protect your vehicle and help reduce auto theft, the Modesto Police Department and Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force (STANCATT) offer the following tips:

Be Aware If Your Vehicle is More Susceptible to Theft

The vehicles with the highest theft rate in the City of Modesto are:

1. Honda Accord
2. Toyota Camry
3. Chevy & GMC trucks

Report Suspicious Activity—Day or Night!

Remember, auto thieves work all hours of the day and night. Report *any* suspicious activity to your local police.

Some suspicious activities to watch for include:

- Vehicles driving at night without the lights on.
- Vehicles driving through the same area several times.
- Vehicles that are not known to the area.
- People who are consistently driving different vehicles.
- Suspicious person looking into parked vehicles.

If you notice suspicious activity, *do not confront the subjects. Let the police handle all vehicle theft incidents.*

Take Steps to Protect Your Vehicle

If you have a steering wheel locking device or an alarm, use it. Many stolen vehicles are taken while such anti-theft devices are improperly used or not used at all.

Other steps you can take to protect your vehicle include:

- Always park your vehicle in a secure location. If you have a garage, use it.
- Lock your car. Don't simplify a thief's ability to access your vehicle.
- Don't leave your vehicle unattended while "warming up" on cold days or "cooling down" on hot days. Many vehicles are stolen from driveways while the vehicle is running. Some auto thieves specifically target such vehicles.
- Don't leave your keys in your car.
- Don't leave valuables in plain sight in your vehicle. Place valuables in the trunk or covered in the vehicle.
- Never store your vehicle's title (pink slip) in the vehicle. This is an important document and should

NEVER be stored in your vehicle.

- When installing a car alarm in your vehicle, consider a device that has an ignition disabling feature. Always make sure the business installing the device is reputable.
- If you are purchasing a vehicle from a private party, ask for identification from the person selling the vehicle. Make sure the seller is the owner of the vehicle. You should ALWAYS receive a title for a vehicle when bought from a private party.
- When selling a vehicle, accompany the prospective buyer during the test drive. Make sure the subject has a valid driver's license. Make sure large money transactions are made in a conspicuous location, preferably a bank. If you are suspicious of the buyer avoid the transaction.

We depend on your help and support to be successful in the reduction of auto theft.



FREE! FREE! FREE!
Backyard Composting Class

FREE for Modesto Residents!



Tuesday Classes
February 24th
April 20th

Modesto Jr. College
6:30-8:30PM

To register,
call 575-6063

Compost Bin
\$30.00/each + tax
To order, call 577-5495.

Receive a coupon for \$5.00 off the composter purchase price when you complete the class!

Bulky Item Collection

—by appointment only—




CITY of MODESTO

- For active residential garbage service customers only (black and green garbage toters).
- For large household items, like furniture, appliances, toilets, etc.
- NO TVs, tires, auto parts, household garbage, hazardous waste or construction debris (wood, concrete, sheetrock, etc.)
- Place items out the evening before appointment or you may be subject to citation and fine.

Call your garbage company to schedule an appointment.
Questions? Call the City of Modesto at 577-5494.