



City of Modesto services available to city residents only.

VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO WEBSITE AT:  
[www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com)

# Home on the Ranch

One of the best places in Stanislaus County for bird watching is the City of Modesto's Secondary Wastewater Treatment facility. Some twenty different species of birds have been seen visiting or nesting at the facility, including ducks, geese, pelicans and swallows.

Located just 10 miles south of downtown Modesto, birds are attracted to the facility's secondary ponds, which hold up to 2.5 billion gallons of treated wastewater awaiting seasonal discharge into the San Joaquin River. Other wildlife species are also attracted to the facility, including beavers, raccoons, skunks, rabbits, coyotes, foxes, owls, hawks and squirrels.

While the treatment portion of the facility represents 4,000 acres, the remaining 2,500 acres are dedicated ranchland.



The ranchland property is used for the disposal of cannery waste, which is diverted from the City's primary treatment process and applied directly to the ranch. Although the pairing of water reclamation/disposal with ranching may seem unusual, the cannery waste is essentially organic vegetable matter and makes an excellent fertilizer.

Through a public/private partnership, the City leases this property to ranchers for growing crops and grazing heifers. Heifers raised on the City property are certified organic because no pesticides or herbicides are used on this land.

Tours of the secondary treatment facility and ranchlands, located at 7007 Jennings Road, are available for both groups and the general public.

To arrange for a tour, contact Kathy Freitas, 342-4511. Birdwatchers may visit the facility without an appointment during regular operating hours: Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**WINTER/SPRING 2005 ACTIVITY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE!**

The City of Modesto offers a wide variety of classes, programs and activities for all ages. Visit our website at [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com) for more information.

Something good is going on! The Winter/Spring 2005 Activity Guide is now available! Learn something new! Get involved in an activity! Attend a community event! Children, teens, adults and seniors can find a wide variety of quality classes, activities, programs and events to enjoy this winter and spring.

You can view and download a copy at [www.modestogov.com/rnd/activityguide](http://www.modestogov.com/rnd/activityguide) or pick up a copy at the following locations:

- City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department: 1010 Tenth Street, Suite 4400
  - City Hall at the Mall: Vintage Faire Mall, Lower Level, near JC Penney
  - Stanislaus County Main Library: 1500 I Street
- For more information or for a list of other locations, call (209) 577-5344.

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# be a WISER WATER MISER

Please Turn Off Your Sprinklers  
When It Rains!

Adjust the clock of your automatic watering system to fit the needs of your lawn! Your lawn needs less water during cooler months.

Do not water in the middle of the day or during windy and rainy conditions. Remember, during the fall and winter your lawn is semi-dormant and needs very little added water. Learn to adjust your irrigation timers to save water during the rainy season.

Occasional watering through the winter is needed for evergreens during dry periods.

Consider aerating your lawn and yard to keep the soil porous. Top dressing with fine humus or mulch over the lawn will increase moisture-holding ability in the soil. About 1/8 to 1/4 inch at a time will help.

Wrap and insulate outdoor plumbing to protect from freezing – newspaper, old towels or rags wrapped with duct tape. Hardware stores carry insulation wrap for outdoor plumbing.

Remember that water restrictions are year-round for the City of Modesto customers.

## Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Recycling Program

Modesto residents are eligible to recycle their CRT's (televisions, computer monitors, camcorders, etc.). City of Modesto residential garbage customers can recycle two CRT's per calendar year and commercial garbage customers can recycle four. Please call your garbage company to request a CRT coupon: Bertolotti Disposal - 537-8000, Gilton Solid Waste - 527-3781, or Waste Management - 538-2210.

If you have any questions, call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5494 or see details at [www.modestogov.com/pwd/recycling](http://www.modestogov.com/pwd/recycling).

## Waste Tire Recycling

Storing waste tires attracts mosquitoes, rodents, and other disease carrying pests. Recycle them and help keep our community clean and beautiful! Recycled waste tires are used to build new roads, provide safe landings at the playground and insulate your home!

Local recycling opportunities:

- 1) Drop-off at any local garbage company transfer station at your convenience. A small fee will apply.
  - 2) Drop-off at the next tire collection event, free.
- Events are for City of Modesto residents only, no businesses.

Date: Saturday, March 12, 2005  
Place: Downey High School – 1000 Coffee Road  
Time: 8 AM – 11 AM OR UNTIL TWO COLLECTION TRAILERS ARE FILLED, NO EXCEPTIONS.  
Limits: One (1) coupon per household  
Eight (8) tires per coupon – no size limit  
Maximum eight (8) tires per vehicle  
Tires with or without rims – OK  
Proof of residency is required  
Limits will be strictly enforced



Funded by the California Integrated Waste Management Board

Questions? Call the City of Modesto Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.

## Food Waste Recycling Program

Modesto residents can recycle their food waste along with their yard waste. Kitchen scraps, including last week's casserole, coffee grounds and meat, can be mixed with grass clippings and bush prunings in the green can. The mixture will be composted at the city's compost facility on Jennings Road.

Please contact your garbage company to order a free countertop food waste bucket and information flier. Call Bertolotti Disposal at 537-8000, Gilton Solid Waste at 527-3781, or Waste Management at 538-2210. If you have questions, please call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5494 or see details at [www.modestogov.com/pwd/recycling](http://www.modestogov.com/pwd/recycling).

## 2005 PRUNED REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

The calendar below provides you with specific information about when you should place your Pruned Refuse out for collection. Refuse is only collected once a month. Remember, it takes approximately two weeks for crews to pick up your collection area.

<b>Key for Street Collection</b>	Only days you may place your refuse out on the STREET for collection.	<b>Key for Alley Collection</b>	Only days you may place your refuse out on the ALLEY for collection.
	Day crews start to pick up STREET collection (First Monday of Month)		Day crews start to pick up ALLEY collection (Third Monday of Month)

### February

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

### March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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		

### April

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

### May

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				

### June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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						

December 2005. Leaves picked up only. No pruned refuse.

Leaves will be collected from STREETS only. No plastic bags, boxes, etc.

For further information or questions regarding this schedule, please call the Community Forestry Division at 342-2249.

## Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed for Community Service with Volunteers In Police Services (V.I.P.S.)

Assist the Modesto Police Department in neighborhood patrol, truancy intervention, senior shut-in visitation, special event traffic direction, and answering phones.

If you are interested in participating in V.I.P.S., contact Linda Kerwood at (209) 342-6150 or pick up an application at 600 Tenth Street.

## Coffee Claratina Dual-Use Basin BY DAVID PALADINI



With the winter season now upon us, residents in north Modesto can

breathe easier when the rain falls. You see, Modesto citizens have come to expect some of their streets to flood during a good winter storm. But, for the citizens of north Modesto, that changed last September, when the City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods and the Public Works Departments completed and opened Coffee Claratina Neighborhood Park and dual-use basin, a beautiful new park with a large storm drain retention basin in the center.

When I first heard the term "basin," I thought of a large sink in the middle of the park, which didn't sound very attractive. But Loren Holt, Project Coordinator for Parks Planning and Development, clarified this issue for me. He explained that the park was designed with dual-use in mind; to provide a new park for children and residents to enjoy and to protect and prevent otherwise inevitable flooding.

The City created an efficient way of safely dispersing rainwater that keeps the community looking nice, makes good use of valuable resources, and adds to the value of the surrounding homes. During the wet months of the year, a portion of Coffee Claratina Neighborhood Park will be used as a storm water outlet for rain that could otherwise flood north Modesto's streets and houses!

Storm Drain Supervisor Adam Denlinger explained that the retention basin is simply a reservoir that collects the rainwater from the neighborhood storm drains. It is held in the basin for a short period of time. A pump, strategically placed in a drain at the bottom of the basin, allows the storm water that is not readily absorbed into the earth to be transported into the drainage system. During heavy rain events, residents can anticipate seeing water in the basin section of the park.

Using park settings for the purpose of temporarily holding storm water may be a new concept for City of Modesto residents. However, dual-use basin design has proved to be very successful in many other cities. Some risks will be apparent for residents using the park site immediately following a heavy rain storm.

Parks are geared toward families and children for recreational use and kids are curious and attracted to water. Residents are encouraged to



educate children about safety issues concerning any standing water. It is very important that anyone enjoying the park keep a safe distance from any standing water.

Residents in the Coffee Claratina Park and dual-use basin area can be assured that City employees are monitoring the basin very closely. This environmentally safe approach to removing storm water from city streets is new. The City is dedicated to

the success of this basin and encourages residents to contact the City with questions or concerns about the system.

With creative thinking, planning and teamwork, the City was able to construct a park that can be used by families and young ones during dry months and solves the drainage problem for the area, removing the flood threat to both roads and homes during wet ones!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our Storm Drain system works best when dirt and debris are kept out of the system. Small amounts of leaves, concrete or plaster will block small drain inlets and rockwell storm drains. Motor oil and other hazardous materials are especially damaging, causing permanent blockage and failure of our system. Keeping drains clean and free from hazardous contaminants is critical to the system's success. Here's how Modesto residents can help! Please do the following:

- ◆ Recycle used oil.
- ◆ Clean driveway spills with absorbent material, don't hose spills into the gutter.
- ◆ Steam clean your engine at a professional car wash.
- ◆ Rinse latex paint in your sink.
- ◆ Clean up excess cement and don't flush your garden pesticides into the gutter or street.
- ◆ Do not pile leaves and garden waste on top of drain interceptors.
- ◆ Report any damaged drain interceptors to city staff along with illegal dumping by calling 577-6200.
- ◆ REMEMBER! Educate children about safety issues concerning any standing water. It is very important that anyone enjoying the park keep a safe distance from any standing water.



## Modesto Area Express Expands Service

On January 29, 2005, the Modesto Area Express (MAX) public transportation service began operating two new routes that provide significantly faster service between destinations frequented by MAX passengers. New Route 41 connects the downtown Transportation Center and Vintage Faire Mall via the Highway 99 freeway. New Route 42 operates between the downtown Transportation Center via the freeway to Crows Landing Road and the County Community Services Agency on Hackett Road. Route 42 also covers the residential area west of Crows Landing Road and south of Hatch Road.

Route 41 travels between downtown and Vintage Faire in 15 minutes, half the time previous MAX routes took to travel between those two points. Route 41 operates on weekdays every 30 minutes between 9:15 a.m. and 7:40 p.m. On Saturdays, it runs hourly, between 9:30 a.m. and 7:40 p.m. Route 41 does not run on Sundays.

Route 42 reduces the travel time between downtown and the County Community Services Agency on Hackett Road by 20 minutes. The route operates every 30 minutes between 5:50 a.m. and 7:50 p.m. on weekdays. On Saturdays, it operates every 30 minutes between 7:20 a.m. and 7:40 p.m. Service is provided on Sunday every hour from 8:45 a.m. to 6:40 p.m. This route replaces a portion of Route 29 that previously served this area.

In addition to the new routes, schedules have shifted on many routes so they now stop at the downtown Transportation Center at the top and bottom of the hour. Previously, all routes stopped at the Transportation Center at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour. The shift in timing allows for easier transferring between routes at the Transportation Center and provides MAX service between downtown and many major destinations every 15 minutes. Previously, service was available every 30 minutes.

Five other routes (29, 31, 33, 34 and 36) have been rerouted to operate more efficiently.

Information detailing these changes is available on all MAX buses, at the downtown Transportation Center, MAX pass outlets, City Hall at the Mall, City Hall and many other locations. Information is also available by telephone at 521-1274 and online at [www.ModestoAreaExpress.com](http://www.ModestoAreaExpress.com).

## CITATIONS TO BE ISSUED FOR UNATTENDED VEHICLES

In an effort to reduce the number of vehicles stolen because keys were left in them or the engine was left running while unattended, police will begin enforcing a municipal code violation allowing them to cite drivers for leaving keys in vehicles.



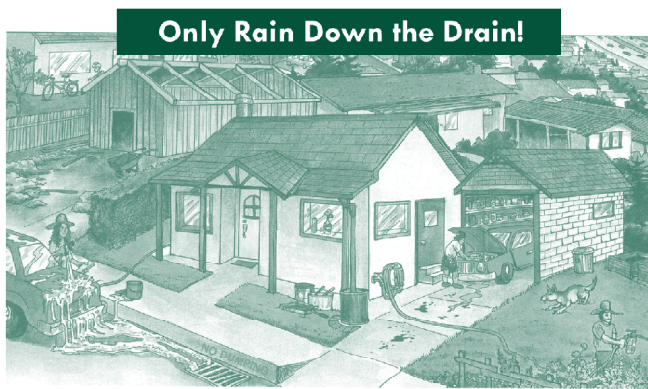
"Previously, the municipal code was seldom used, said Chief Roy Wasden. "However, the increase of vehicles being stolen because keys are left in them or the engine was left running is unacceptable and we have to use every resource possible, including the law, to reduce the number of cars being stolen."

In November, the Modesto metropolitan area was given the distinction of having the highest number of vehicles stolen in the country by the National Insurance Crime Bureau. The bureau ranks the national statistics of auto thefts per capita. "If citizens remove their keys from their vehicles and do not leave them running unattended, that alone will knock us out of the number one spot," said Lt. Gregory Peck, Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force (StanCAT). "With the community's help, we can reduce the number of auto thefts significantly."

The municipal code states: "No person driving or in charge of a motor vehicle shall permit it to stand unattended in any public place, or on any parking lot without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, and removing the ignition key from the vehicle... the registered owner of a vehicle found in violation of the section shall be held prima facie responsible for any such violation."

In the event the driver or register owner cannot be located, the vehicle keys will be delivered to the police department's property unit in addition to a citation.

The Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force and every area law enforcement agency are working diligently to decrease auto thefts. Using common sense steps, such as securing vehicles with theft-deterrent devices, parking cars inside the garage, and never leaving a vehicle running or with the keys inside will help to ensure that you do not become a victim.



**Only Rain Down the Drain!**

**PLEASE KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN!**

**Never pour used oil, paint, gasoline or chemicals down storm drains!**

**Report Pollution: (209) 577-6200 Recycle Used Oil & Filters: (209) 577-5493**

Funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board

