



MODESTO
CALIFORNIA

www.modestogov.com
(209) 577-5200 • TDD (209) 526-9211

CITY OF MODESTO

City Beat

APRIL 2014



NOTICE: IMPORTANT CHANGES TO YOUR UTILITY BILL

| Effective May 1, 2014: | New Fee Schedule will be implemented beginning July 1, 2014: | |
|--|---|--|
| All bills will be delinquent and subject to Final Disconnect Notice if payment not received by due date. | <u>Late Charge</u> : \$10 (or 1.5%, whichever greater) | <u>Disconnect</u> : \$42.50 |
| | <u>Reconnect</u> : \$42.50 (After Hours: \$60) | <u>Illegal On</u> : \$42.50 |
| | <u>Meter Removal</u> : \$67.50 | <u>Meter Reinstall</u> : \$67.50 |
| | <u>Tamper Fee</u> : \$100 (or time/materials, whichever greater) | <u>Line Cut</u> : \$375 (or time/materials, whichever greater) |
| | <u>Line Cut Reconnection</u> : \$375 (or time/materials, whichever greater) | |

FREE! BACKYARD COMPOSTING CLASS

{for Modesto Residents Only}

Tues., May 29, 2014

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

at Modesto Junior College
Community Education

To register,

Call 575-6063



From Garbage to Garden

SAVE \$5.00

on the purchase of a
City of Modesto compost bin
when you complete the class!
Quantities Limited



Conserve Water and Beautify Your Yard!

Planting native California plants and drought tolerant plants is a great way to reduce water use for your outside garden. Here are a few water wise plants for the spring. Ask for them at your local nursery.



California Poppy
(Eschscholzia californica)



Coreopsis
(Coreopsis tinctoria)



Cosmos
(Cosmos species)



Marigold
(Tagetes erecta)



Pozo Blue Sage
(Salvia Pozo Blue)

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

1. As a rule, water in 5-minute cycles.
2. Turn-off automatic sprinklers when it rains; most automatic sprinkler systems have a rain delay mode or can be put in the "OFF" position without affecting the programming.
3. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants; this slows evaporation of moisture and, as a bonus, discourages weed growth and soil erosion.
4. Check for leaking pipes and faucets; small leaks that are not repaired immediately can waste more than 50 gallons of water a day, or 2,500 gallons per year.
5. 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.
6. Install low-flow shower heads; they can save up to eight gallons of water each minute the shower is used, or 4,800 gallons per person each year.
7. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
8. Wash only full loads in your washing machine.

SEWER PROBLEMS?
CALL US FIRST
577-6200

City of Modesto Waste Tire Recycling Events

PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

- City of Modesto residents only
- No businesses
- Tires with and without rims - OK
- Car, Truck & Motorcycle Tires - OK
- Up to 9 tires accepted at no charge
- No Commercial or Tractor Tires

WHAT TO DO:

- Call City of Modesto and request a Coupon: **(209) 577-5494**
- Take Tires to Garbage Company
 - Gilton Solid Waste (209) 527-3781
 - Bertolotti Disposal (209) 537-8000
- Do not mix tires with other waste

FREE DISPOSAL ON DATES LISTED BELOW

February 1-28 • **April 1-30** • **June 1-30**
(Closed April 20)
August 1-31 • **October 1-31** • **December 1-31**
(Closed Dec. 25)

Funded by a grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

Questions?
Call (209) 577-5494



PROGRAM DETAILS

Call your garbage service provider and request a bucket to be delivered FREE of charge to your residence

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

Or call the City of Modesto and request to pick one up at 1010 Tenth Street Place (209) 577-5494

Save your food scraps in your bucket and empty into your green can.

FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING BUCKET

From your garbage to our gardens!

CITY OF MODESTO RESIDENTS ONLY



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; there is no charge for this service. 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.



USED MOTOR OIL HOME COLLECTION:

If you are a do-it-yourself kind of person and you change your car's motor oil, you can have the motor oil collected at your home for free. Here's how:

1. Call your garbage company to pick up the oil at your home. Bertolotti Disposal (209) 537-8000 or Gilton Solid Waste (209) 527-3781
2. Store the used oil in a 1-gallon plastic container with a screw-top lid
3. Place your oil out in front of your garage or up near your home the evening before your collection appointment, (Do NOT place oil in the street or sidewalk areas)
 * Limit 4 gallons per week

Do NOT mix your oil with any other substance such as antifreeze. Oil cannot be recycled if it is mixed with other substances. Contaminated oil must be taken to the Stanislaus County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 1710 Morgan Rd, Fridays and Saturdays 9am - 1pm.

For more information, call the Recycle Used Oil Hotline at (209) 577-5493.



WIPES CLOG PIPES!

Many personal hygiene wipes, baby wipes, and cleaning products are marketed as being "flushable." Despite the confusing and misleading labels, you should never flush "flushable" or "disposable" products. These products do not break down as they move through the sewer system and may cause blockages in your home sewer lines, resulting in sewer backup in your home. They can also cause blockages in the City's sewer pipes and pumps, causing sewer overflows, costly cleanup and repairs, and extensive environmental damage.

Remember, the only things that should be flushed are human waste and toilet paper. Do not flush items such as disinfecting wipes, paper towels, baby wipes, towelettes, or mop refills. These items should be placed in the trash.

Please contact the City of Modesto Environmental Compliance Section at 577-6200 with any questions.



Modesto *Community Report*



Help Support Modesto's Teens!

Modesto's Top Teens is embarking upon its 3rd year of recognizing extraordinary teens currently enrolled in high schools in the City of Modesto! With approximately 40 nominations reviewed, the City will soon be notifying teens of their acceptance into the program. The Top Teen nominees for the 2013/2014 year are as bright as ever.

These candidates have demonstrated a strong commitment to serving others, overcome adversity or a unique obstacle in their lives, have achieved a significant accomplishment and have been positive role models for their peers. The Top Teens program will acknowledge those who do not routinely receive recognition for their accomplishments, and the exceptional personal characteristics they possess.

Originated by former Modesto mayor Jim Ridenour and championed by mayor Garrad Marsh, the Top Teens program was created to provide young people with confidence, support, and recognition that will hopefully allow for additional opportunities for them to become involved in their community, develop as leaders, and meet other successful teens in the Modesto area.

The program is ongoing, however teens accepted into program for the 2013/2014 school year will receive a monetary scholarship at the conclusion of the program in July.

Please look to recognize these teens at upcoming community events such as Love Modesto, Earth Day, March of Dimes - March for Babies and the 4th of July Parade.

This program is made possible by the generous sponsorship and contributions from local business civic groups, and citizens alike. As this program runs year round, we are always in need of sponsors, donations and volunteers.

If you would like more information about the program and the benefits of sponsorship please contact Loree Lee at (209)577-5331 or llee@modestogov.com



More information at
www.modestogov.com/council/topteens

Modesto PD Holds Town Hall Meetings

The Modesto Police Department would like to thank all who came to show their support at our town hall meetings last month. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the needs of our community and how we can work together to strengthen our partnership and work toward a safer Modesto.

Protect Your Belongings

In 2013, auto burglaries were reported to the Modesto Police Department totaled 1,389. With little time and effort, you can reduce your risk of being a victim.

- Always close and lock your windows and doors
- Park in well-lit areas
- Set your vehicle alarm
- Do not leave belongings in your vehicle – if you do, make sure they are locked and out of plain sight
- Do not leave personal information in your vehicle
- Avoid leaving your garage door opener inside your vehicle

Get Ready to Race!

New Grand Prix Event in Modesto

The City of Modesto, in conjunction with SaveMart Supermarkets, 51Fifty and BlueLine Rentals, is honored to be hosting the 5th Annual Superkarts! USA Pro Tour SummerNationals event August 1-3, 2014. Modesto will welcome approximately 275-300 SKUSA racers from all over North America and present them with an exciting downtown street circuit dubbed the Modesto Grand Prix.

The combination of the increasing numbers on the SKUSA Pro Tour, along with the uniqueness of a brand new street race, could position the 2014 SummerNationals as one of the biggest karting events in North America. Every year, the turnout at the SummerNats has increased, and more are expected to travel to the Modesto Grand Prix in 2014. The race is already gaining impressive support from local and

regional businesses, community groups and racing enthusiasts.

Along with professional staff from Superkarts! USA, the Modesto Local Organizing Committee is comprised of many of the talented members of the committee that produced four consecutive and highly successful Amgen Tour of California stages in Modesto.



In addition to the adrenaline-rushing racing that will take place on the route, a Formula 1-style festival will be built around the race route. Plans

include several big screens around the track to provide an unparalleled spectator experience, spectator bridges to open viewing areas all around the route, live entertainment and local vendors.

It is anticipated that the Modesto Grand Prix could attract more than 15,000 people over the three day event with more than 780 hotel rooms booked each night with area restaurants at capacity – all of which could result in approximately \$1.2 million directly infused into the Modesto-area economy with an estimated total economic impact of \$5 million. Mark your calendars now for August 1-3, 2014 and be part of the biggest racing event around.

Additional details, including a map of the preliminary race route will be posted at www.modestograndprix.com

Car Theft

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The most common items stolen are GPS units, cell phones, purses, laptops, gym bags, backpacks, loose change, stereos and CDs.

If you have any information regarding criminal activity, please call Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636. Callers to Crime Stoppers can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward. Tipsters may also text information to Crime Stoppers at 274637. Just type "TIP704" along with your message.

DON'T BE A VICTIM!
LOCK IT OR LOSE IT!
Always lock your car.
Close all windows. Take valuables with you.



1010 10th Street,
Modesto, CA 95354

Visit us online at
www.modestogov.com

Partnerships Spur Downtown Improvement

Nearly two years ago, the City Council commissioned the Downtown Hospitality Program to find ways to improve downtown. This program is a true public-private partnership – downtown business owners, patrons, service groups and other stakeholders working together to make downtown more attractive and hospitable.

Last year parklets were installed on the southern corners of 10th and J Streets; since then this effort has reopened 10th Street between J and K Streets to vehicles to improve business visibil-

ity, raised \$12,000 to manage wintering Starling birds, painted parallel parking stalls along J and 11th Streets to improve parking efficiency, commissioned a parking study that will provide vital information to help us better manage the downtown parking program.

Most recently, the first-ever bike corral (a designated on-street bicycle parking area) was installed in downtown Modesto. Bike corrals are a relatively new concept, but are rapidly growing in popularity, especially in urban settings. They provide conven-

ient parking for cyclists within the vehicle parking zone along the street, negating the need for bicycles to be brought up on the sidewalk where they have the potential to get in the way of people walking.



The Future of Downtown

Looking ahead, the Downtown Modesto Partnership (the oversight body developed representing a broad cross-section of the community that provides the vision direction for this program) will be focusing on overall program development as well as individual projects, such as creating an art block along 10th Street, bringing forward downtown-specific economic development incentives and physical improvements and beautification to various areas of downtown.