



City of Modesto

**CITY PRIDE**

October 1999

City Wide

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

From Vision to Reality--

## Move is one month away for City/County offices

On November 8, the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County will open the doors to the new Public Administration Center at Tenth Street Place.

The city and county will move over a series of days, from November 3-7. Citizens, however, will continue to conduct city and county business at the current City Hall and County Administration Building, both located on the corners of H and 11th streets, until November 8.

Located between J and K and 10th and 11th streets, the Tenth Street Place project is helping to rejuvenate downtown Modesto, drawing private restaurants, retailers and entertainment.

The new public administration center—considered the first of its kind in the state—will house 220,000 square feet of work space for over 600 city and county employees on floors two through six.

The first floor of the building features 28,000

square feet of retail space.

By combining city and county offices, the project provides maximum accessibility and convenience to citizens.



Inside are combined city-county service counters for permits, payment, and information. Conference and waiting areas are shared, as are meeting chambers for the Modesto City Council and Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors.

Tenth Street place fulfills future facility needs for both

VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO ON THE INTERNET!  
<http://www.ci.modesto.ca.us>



**F A L L**

the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County, keeping key government services in the downtown area.

The current City Hall will soon become offices for the

### Where are city offices located in the new building?

#### Second Floor

Personnel and Finance's Customer Services Division

#### Third Floor

Fire Prevention and Community Development Department including administration, building inspection and building permits.

#### Fourth Floor

Engineering & Transportation including administration, engineering, solid waste management and utility administration.

Recreation and Neighborhoods Department including Housing and Neighborhoods and the Neighborhood Preservation Unit.

#### Fifth Floor

Finance including administration, accounting, budgeting, purchasing, payroll and information services.

Personnel, Risk Management

#### Sixth Floor

City Manager's Office, City Attorney, City Clerk, the Mayor's Office and Modesto City Council.

### Look inside for these stories:

- Signs remind motorists of red light fines
- New Feature: The Spirit of Modesto
- Bulky Item Pickup Program Underway
- Council makes changes to meeting times

# Signs remind motorists of \$270 red light fines

Are you an impatient driver that can't stand waiting for red signal lights? If so, you'll be seeing red—in your pocketbook—if you are caught running them.

The City of Modesto has posted 80 red-and-white signs, in 23 major intersections throughout the city—gentle reminders to motorists that if you're caught running a red a \$270 fine will be imposed.

Although the signs are new, the fees are not.

A bill signed by the Governor in October 1997 raised the fines for red light violators from \$115 to \$270.

According to Modesto Police officials, the purpose of the signs is two-fold.

"The signs were put up to educate drivers as to the expense of their actions. But most importantly, the signs

were put up to save lives," said Police Corporal Jim Johnson.

According to Modesto Police Department statistics from January 1 to September 20, 1999, nearly 100 percent of intersection accidents were attributed to red light runners and resulted in injuries.

Unfortunately, the rate of fatal accidents resulting from broadside hits in intersections also is high.

"We hope the signs cause people to think—we want them to be conscientious about their conduct in the intersection," said Johnson.

The Modesto Police Department, which paid \$20 for each sign, recoups about 30 percent of each imposed fine. The fines are imposed at *any* intersection that is controlled by signal lights.



## *The Spirit of Modesto*



## Police volunteers raise money for school uniforms

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the citizen volunteers at the Modesto Police Department Southwest Area Command, over 300 students returned to school this fall donning new school uniforms.

The volunteers raised over \$4,300 in three months to buy uniforms, socks and under garments for 308 children from eight different elementary schools. The volunteers distributed the uniforms to students at Bret Harte, Shackelford, Robertson Road, Kirschen Harriette, Burbank, James Marshall, Franklin, and Pearson Ethel schools in southwest Modesto.

"We saw the need of kids who could not afford to buy their uniforms. We talked to some kids and we talked to the schools and they loved the idea. So we went to work on it," said Mike Hernandez, a third-year citizen volunteer in the Southwest Area office.

Last year, the volunteer group, again led by Hernandez, raised \$3,500 to purchase 350 helmets for south Modesto's youth. The citizen volunteers graciously donate their time during the week to help uniformed police officers patrol the southwest area via car or bicycle, talk with area residents about crime prevention, and conduct house checks for residents on vacation.

"You're going to hear a lot more about the volunteers at the Southwest Area Command. This is not the end of it. We have to keep taking care of our kids," said Hernandez.

To learn more about becoming a citizen volunteer for the Modesto Police Department, call 572-9500.

*The Spirit of Modesto* is a new feature to City Pride, City Wide. Each month we will take a look at citizens in our community who take pride in our city and go the extra mile to enhance the quality of life in Modesto. If you or someone you know is making a difference in the Modesto community, we'd like to hear about it. Write us at: City of Modesto, Communications & Marketing Division, P.O. Box 642, Modesto, CA 95353 or call 577-5222.



### Next event in Spring 2000--

## Tire amnesty event is huge success!

The City of Modesto's first tire collection event was a great success!

Over 500 residents took advantage of the opportunity to rid themselves of waste tires during the city's Tire Amnesty Day, held September 18 at the Modesto High School parking lot.

Nearly 2,500 tires of all

sizes, with and without rims, were collected free of charge and taken to Golden By-Products, Inc. of Ballico, for shredding and recycling.

The City of Modesto received \$14,000 in grant funds from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to host three collection events.

The next event is slated for April 2000 at the Davis High School parking lot.

Residents should watch future editions of their City Pride, City Wide newsletter for upcoming information.

For more details about this event, contact the city's Solid Waste Management Office at 577-5494.

## Bulky item collection program is underway

If you haven't received your postcard notification indicating what week your neighborhood is scheduled for its bulky item collection, don't panic.

The city has been divided into 25 collection areas, with each area consisting of approximately 1,000 homes. It is expected to take up to one week to complete each area.

Residents in each area will be notified by a direct mail postcard two weeks prior to the collection time.

Please wait until you receive a postcard in the mail indicating your week of collection before you place your bulky items out at the curb.

Remember to place all items in the street at the curb for collection Sunday evening as noted on your postcard.

*Early placement of bulky items at the street will be considered illegal dumping and could lead to a code enforcement violation.*

Please do not block side-

walks, garbage cans or mailboxes.

*There will be no collection of bulky items from alleys.*

The City of Modesto appreciates your patience and cooperation in helping to clean up Modesto.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the city's Bulky Item Collection Program, please contact the City of Modesto Solid Waste Management Office at 577-5494.

## When "City of Trees" becomes "City of Leaves"

### *When does the city collect leaves?*

Each year the City of Modesto Leaf Removal Program operates only during the months of November and December. During the rest of the year (January 1 through October 31) leaves should be placed in your green yard waste recycling container.

### *Where should I place my leaves for collection?*

During the Leaf Removal Program, city residents should place leaves in the green yard waste recycling container.

Once the container is full, place leaves in piles on your street near the curb. Keep the leaves away from drains or other inlets in the street and don't put the leaves in a bag or container, other than the green yard waste recycling container.

Crews from the city's Community Forestry Division will collect piles of leaves **from the street only**—leaves left in the alleys will not be collected.

Watch for upcoming information regarding the city's Pruned Refuse Collection program, complete with collection calendar, and the Holiday Tree Removal program in January.

For more details, call the city's Operations and Maintenance Department at 577-5332 weekdays, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

# In Other Highlights

## City Council adopts ordinance to change time, location of meetings

An ordinance to change the Modesto City Council meeting times was adopted earlier this month.

The ordinance amends Section 2-1.01 of the Modesto Municipal Code to change city council meeting times to 4:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month and 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Also included in the code amendment is a change in the location of the council meetings from City Hall to the new Public Administration Center at Tenth Street Place.

Because the Modesto City Council and Stanislaus County Board of Super-

visors will soon share joint meeting chambers, a change in meeting time was necessary to resolve a conflict that currently exists with the two bodies. Currently, both bodies meet at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.

The Board of Supervisors will change their meeting time to 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.

Council agendas and minutes are coordinated by the City Clerk's Office. For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 577-5396.

Council agendas and minutes can be downloaded from the city's website at: [www.ci.modesto.ca.us](http://www.ci.modesto.ca.us).

## "MO-GRO PRO"

### CLEAN GREEN COMPOST

**Buy One Yard,  
Get a 2nd Yard FREE!**

**\$10/yard\***

\*PLUS TAX  
Offer expires 11-30-99

DELIVERY AVAILABLE.  
BULK SALES ONLY.

Limit 1 free yard per resident.

**Modesto Residents Only.**

From Modesto, take Carpenter Rd. south, right on Keyes Rd., left on Jennings Rd.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**

12:30-3:30 P.M.

**SATURDAYS**

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**REMINDER:** It is the customers' responsibility to cover their loads.

**MODESTO COMPOSTING**

7007 Jennings Road • Modesto • 538-2557

## Presentations on environment available to local schools

The City of Modesto recognizes the importance of educating children about environmental issues. That is why the city offers FREE classroom presentations on recycling and keeping storm drains and groundwater clean.

Children and teens get hands-on, interactive teaching using models and other fun props, along with gift packages they can take home.

Presentations are available throughout the school year and can be scheduled by calling 577-5453 for groundwater/storm drain presentations or 577-5495 for yard waste and recycling presentations.

## Change the batteries in your smoke alarm

The Modesto Fire Department warns that without a working smoke alarm as an early warning device, fire can spread unnoticed through your household, blocking escape routes and filling rooms with deadly smoke.

Make sure you're protected. Start a lifesaving habit this October—when you change clock from daylight savings time, change the batteries in your smoke alarm.

For more fire prevention tips call 572-9512.



## To Your Health...and the health of our community

### Emergency home repair program can help

Don't wait until the rainy season begins to apply for the city's Emergency Home Repair or Disabled Access Assistance Program.

The program is available to income eligible or disabled property owners who need help with such repairs as leaky roofs, inoperative or dangerous heating, plumbing and electrical systems, and dangerous building structural problems.

To find out if you qualify for assistance, call the City of Modesto Housing & Neighborhoods Office at 577-5245 or 577-5247.

## Q&A

**Q.** Can a contractor's license be used as a business license?

**A.** No. A contractor's license is issued by the State of California following the successful completion of the testing process. A contractor's license entitles you to perform work in a specific construction category.

A business license is issued by the City of Modesto and allows you to conduct business within the city limits. Businesses outside of Modesto must purchase a business license in order to conduct business here.