



City of Modesto

CITY PRIDE

November 2002

City Wide

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City receives international recognition

The City of Modesto last month captured a Criteria Award for "Enhancement of the Landscape" in the Nations in Bloom competition held in Stuttgart, Germany, October 3-7, 2002. Modesto was among 42 communities across the globe selected to compete.

"We are extremely proud that Modesto has received this prestigious international environmental award," said City Manager Jack Crist. This the first time Modesto has entered the competition.

According to city officials, Nations in Bloom recognized Modesto as the international leader in the "Enhancement of Landscape" category because of the



city's long-standing tradition of partnering with citizens to manage the environment.

"Whether sustaining our community forestry through tree planting efforts, enhancing our existing landscape through groups like the Modesto Garden Club, partnering with the community to build non-motorized trails or developing our parks and open spaces, Modesto builds our community through partnerships," said Operations & Maintenance Director Peter Cowles.



City officials credit the community for having the foresight years ago and the desire today to maintain one of the few sustainable urban forests in the world.

Nations in Bloom is the world's only competition addressing management of

the environment and enhancement of quality of life.

Communities were judged on: Community Involvement, Enhancement of the Landscape, Environmental Sensitivity, Heritage Management and Planning for the Future.

In addition to first, second and third place awards in each of five population categories, Criteria Awards were given for each of the five judging categories regardless of population.



Downtown to sparkle with Modesto's Celebration of Lights

Downtown Modesto will once again sparkle at the "Celebration of Lights Parade and Tree Lighting" on Saturday, December 7, at 5:00 p.m. The event will begin with the City of Modesto Parade, followed by the official city tree lighting at Modesto Centre Plaza.

The parade, a long-time downtown holiday tradition in our community, will begin at 15th and I Streets, follow I Street to 10th, continue on 10th to J Street and return to 14th via J Street.

The City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department has posted a webpage dedicated specifically to the annual Celebration of Lights, including details on the parade route and street closures, parade entry rules, parade sponsors, a downloadable entry form and tree lighting activities.

Parade entries are also available by contacting The State Theatre at 527-4697 or email: shows@thestate.org.

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David Paladini

THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR STUDENT REPORTER

One person's trash is another person's fuel

Being a student I am always ready to learn. But even as prepared as I thought I was, I had no idea of what a chemistry lesson I was about to get when I walked into Jocelyn Reed's office this month!

Reed is the Solid Waste Program Manager for the City of Modesto. She told me that the City of Modesto is considering three new and different ways to create fuel and energy. All of this would be accomplished by using by-products of our everyday life. Along with the bonus of extra fuel and energy, Modesto will remain in compliance with the AB939 requirements.

You may recall a few months ago I wrote a story about the Covanta Waste to Energy Plant. In that story, I talked about the explicit goals of the state government for the reduction of each city's solid waste. The city of Modesto is endeavoring to do just that, and more!

Reed explained that, both state and federal government have set aside grant money that can be used for these types of programs.

The City of Modesto is applying to obtain grant money because we have a problem. The problem, is capacity. Right now the city of Modesto sends a great deal of its trash to the municipal solid waste

combustion facility (Covanta Waste to Energy Facility). Although this facility can reduce into electricity up to 800 tons of trash per day, there are other ways to process our organic waste that will create additional capacity.

At the waste-to-energy plant, seemingly unrecyclable mixed trash is burned to make electricity. As you know, when you throw something into the fire it burns. This is a true fact. Yet just as a fire will not make a distinction between a log or a valuable priceless painting, it will also not make a distinction between useless trash or trash that is loaded with starch, sugar or packed with valuable

three different ways to enhance capacity and at the same time create fuel and or electricity. They are working to create: 1) ethanol, 2) biodiesel fuel, and 3) methanol fuel. All three of these processes can be done with the waste resources we have right here in the Modesto area.

Ethanol is usually made from corn. That is true, most of the time. Though it usually is created from mid west corn, it can also be made from other crops, such as sunflowers plants (safflower oil) or byproducts of companies that create something with starch or sugar in it. Some of those byproducts are cheese whey, paper

used to power a generator or fuel a power plant to create much more energy. After that, the remaining matter can be sent either to a composting facility or the waste to energy plant.

The second energy source the city is considering is the creation of biodiesel fuel, which is normally made out of animal fat, vegetable oil, or other agricultural wastes. It can also be made from waste fats from fast food restaurants, or factories -- particularly factories that have excess oil, from making potato chips, or other greasy snacks. Many vehicles use regular diesel fuel but biodiesel fuel has proved to reduce air pollution by having less air emissions. Biodiesel fuel can also be used to fuel electric power plants.

Methanol is created by converting methane gas from livestock into a useable gas or fuel. Basically they vacuum up all the cattle waste and other organic matter and cover it up without oxygen. It then goes through its anaerobic break-down process. The fumes are trapped and detoured to a digester system, where they are condensed, scrubbed, and pollutants are removed.

The creation of methanol, ethanol, or bio-diesel fuel are all very good ideas. It is nice to know that we can get this kind of use out of the byproducts and trash that we throw away every day. This is recycling at it's best.

David Paladini is a Modesto resident and a monthly student contributor to City Pride-City Wide.



organic material. A fire will burn whatever is put into it.

When high energy producing materials are taken out, the material that is taken to the burn plant will be less bulk, and the waste to energy plant will be able to process more true trash. This will help solve our capacity problem while creating environmentally friendly power.

The city is considering

waste, brewery waste, or even beverage waste.

The process of creating ethanol has been improved by technology recently. In Middletown, New York there is a solid waste facility that has been able to convert organic matter into ethanol. Ethanol, after passing through various stages such as fermentation, and removal of any potentially harmful organisms, can be

Pruned refuse collection schedule for 2003

Following the guidelines on this page will ensure that your pruned refuse is collected when it should be. In addition, by following these guidelines you can help keep the pruned refuse "clean" so that it can be recycled for other uses. This service is available only to City of Modesto residents.

What Will the Pruned Refuse Crews Collect?

Crews collect large woody prunings, such as tree trimmings. Tree trimmings must be less than six feet in length and less than six inches in diameter. No single piece can weigh more than 50 pounds. Crews will not collect tires, concrete or grass clippings.

When does the City Collect my Pruned Refuse?

City crews begin collection the first Monday of each month, except during the month of December, but it

takes them approximately three weeks to get through the entire city.

It is critical that you do not put your pruned refuse out after the crews have already collected in your area. Shortly after the pruned refuse is collected, street sweepers clean your street. If new piles are in the street, the street sweeping will be less effective.

Where should I place Pruned Refuse for collection?

You should place your refuse in the alley. In areas where alleys do not exist, pruned refuse should be placed in the street in front of your property only. All piles should be compact. Please remember that refuse should not be placed near sewer cleanouts, manholes, fire hydrants, rockwells, or other utility fixtures.

You are encouraged to

chop your pruned refuse into small pieces and place it in your yard waste recycling container.

In the Alley: Pruned refuse placed in the alley should extend no more than three feet into the alley and must be at least one foot from the fence in back of your property only.

In the Street: Pruned refuse should not extend more than four feet into the street, and must be at least one foot from the face of the curb and not higher than four feet. If a curb does not exist, refuse must be one foot from the point of low drainage.

What should I do With my Yard Waste?

All yard waste (grass clippings, weeds, leaves, twigs, shrubbery, vines, and ground cover) must be placed in your green waste container. When it is not leaf season, leaves should not

be placed in your green waste recycling container.

Sweeping: Your streets are scheduled to be swept twice a month. Normally we sweep your street a day or two after green waste is picked up. Please note: If green waste was not placed out at the proper time of the month for pickup, sweepers will go around piles. This makes our sweeping less effective. After crews pickup green waste and leaves, please do not sweep debris put in piles and left on your street. Please place your garbage containers back on the property as soon as they are emptied. We do not sweep alleys.

The earliest day you should place refuse out for collection is 72 hours prior to your date of collection.

For more information, call the city's Forestry Division at 342-2249.

2003 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 pickup the entire City.

Earliest day you should place refuse out for collection is 72 hours prior to the Monday of collection (first Monday of the month)

KEY		Only Days you may place out your Refuse for collection
		Days crews start to pickup (First Monday of Each Month)

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
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	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	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	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	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	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
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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	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	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	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	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 LAST GREEN WASTE PICKUP FOR THE YEAR	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 LEAVES ONLY No Green Waste

DECEMBER 2002: LEAVES PICKED UP ONLY. NO PRUNED REFUSE LEAVES WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE STREETS ONLY. NO PLASTIC BAGS, BOXES, ETC.



Play it safe: know who is at your door

Know who is at your door before you open it. A wide-angle viewer of 180 to 190 degrees enables you to identify the visitor without exposing yourself to possible harm.

Service repair or utility employees are supplied with identification cards which bear their photograph and signature. If you have any doubts about a stranger's intentions, keep the door locked and call 9-1-1. Remember not to hide keys outside; most burglars know where to find them.

Tip: Interior hoods prevent anyone from looking through your mail slot into your home.

Even in winter, it's time to conserve

Now that summer is over, it's time to cut back on your outside watering. If you have automatic sprinkler timers, please re-set them to run less frequently. Even in winter our water resources are precious, please conserve them.

For information or to have someone help you set your automatic sprinkler timers, please call 342-4560.

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<http://www.modestogov.com> or call us at 577-5463



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Available at these local nurseries:

Scenic Nursery
1313 Scenic Drive

Westurf
1612 Claus Road

Holiday garbage collection days

Garbage collections will be pushed back one day due to the Thanksgiving holiday in November. All Thursday and Friday garbage collection routes will be served one day late.



Additionally, the Christmas and New Year's holiday will be effected. During each holiday week, the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday routes will run one day late. For more information, call the City's Solid Waste Division at 577-5494.

Recycle your holiday tree in January

The City of Modesto street crews will begin picking up Christmas trees on Monday, January 6, 2003. You should place your holiday tree in the alley. In areas where alleys do not exist, trees should be placed in the street in front of your property only. The trees will be composted at the Jennings Road facility. Please follow these simple steps to ensure your tree is picked up in a timely manner:

- Remove all tree stands, rods, tinsel and plastic bags used for removing the tree from the household
- Trees over 6' tall must be cut in half
- No trees with flocking, paint, or fireproofing.

Small, untreated green trees can be put in your yard waste container. Flocked, painted, or fireproofed trees can be disposed of at Bertolotti Disposal 537-8000, Gilton Solid Waste 527-3781, or Modesto Disposal 538-2210.

If you have questions, please call the Community Forestry at 342-2249.

City observes holidays

In observance of the holidays, the City of Modesto will close its offices on Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29, Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1. City Hall at the Mall, however, will remain open on November 29 and January 1. The entire City of Modesto staff wish you and yours a safe, and happy holiday season.

Only Rain Down the Drain!

YOU are the Pollution Solution!



**NEVER pour
Used Oil, Paint,
Gasoline or Chemicals
down storm drains!**

Report Pollution call 577-6200

Recycle Used Oil & filters call 577-5493



Paid for by the City of Modesto and a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board