



City of Modesto

CITY PRIDE

November 1999

City Wide

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

Right on track--

Modesto Amtrak Station opens doors to travelers

Right on track, Modesto Amtrak Station opened its doors to greet travelers Sunday morning October 31.

A four-year project from concept to completion, the new station is located at the corner of East Briggsmore Avenue and Held Drive.

The station features a 3,000 square-foot waiting area and ticket office complete with baggage claim, restrooms and bicycle lockers, a 700-foot lighted platform, and parking for 150 automobiles.

Since 1974, when Amtrak restored passenger rail service in the San Joaquin Valley, Modesto had been bypassed. It wasn't until October 1995 that Caltrans expressed preference of building the new station in the county seat.

In 1996, the California Transportation Commission approved over \$2 million in Proposition 116 funding. The city contributed \$900,000 to the project.

Additionally, the City of Modesto will provide transit



Right on track, Amtrak opens doors to train travelers on October 31, 1999.

service to the new station. Modesto Area Express (MAX) bus route 34 currently operates the Briggsmore Avenue/Held Drive intersection Monday through Saturday. A new bus stop at the station has been added at no additional cost to the city.

Route 34 originates at the

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



F A L L

Look inside for these stories:

- *Making winter preparations*
- *The Spirit of Modesto*
- *Pruned Refuse Program underway*
- *New operating hours for Compost Facility*

Downtown Transportation Center providing for excellent connections with Stanislaus Regional Transit buses. Monday through Friday, Route 34 operates hourly and will serve seven to eight of Amtrak's 10 scheduled stops. On Saturday, it will serve six trains.

For those traveling on Sundays, Modesto Area Dial-A-Ride is available between 8 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. During the week, Dial-A-Ride is available until 11:00 p.m.

Citizens of Modesto and

the surrounding communities will reap the many benefits of the new station in terms of money, time and health as ridership increases, traffic decreases, and air quality improves due to fewer cars on the roadway.

The Amtrak San Joaquin Corridor features trains from such cities as Bakersfield, Hanford, Fresno, Merced, Stockton, Martinez, Emeryville and Vallejo. With connections, travelers can reach Yosemite, Napa, San Francisco and Los Angeles.



W I N T E R *Preparations*

Street crews working to prevent winter flooding

Storm drains on most Modesto streets are connected to rockwells. Rockwells do not pipe water away, but percolate it into the ground, ultimately recharging our groundwater reserve.

Each year, we have observed that rockwells pond water in the street for 40 hours or longer after a heavy rain. This is often a result of dirt, debris and leaf accumulation blocking the rockwell.

In an effort to help minimize and reduce street flooding, City of Modesto Operations and Maintenance crews have increased rockwell rejuvenation from approximately 140 per year to 500 this calendar year

and installed 125 new rockwells citywide.

Thanks to new equipment and additional funding, the city's entire drainage system was cleaned during the past 11 months—a process that in the past has taken years to complete.

Your help in keeping rockwells clean will result in faster water absorption during rainstorms.

Rockwells work best when dirt and debris are kept out. Even small amounts of leaves, concrete or plaster will block the well. Motor oil and other hazardous materials are especially damaging, causing permanent blockage, and are *unlawful* to dump.

Tips for a warm, safe winter

The Modesto Fire Department offers the tips below to help you ensure a safe and warm winter season for you and your family.

Heaters

Keep space heaters at least three feet from any combustible surface; do not use gasoline or diesel fuel in a kerosene heater; do not use unvented heaters indoors; and do not use liquid fueled heaters indoors.

Candles

Always put candles in candleholders before light-

ing them; do not use in decorations or displays; keep them away from curtains, drapes and other cloth; do not put in windows or near exits where a draft may blow flame; and never leave candles within the reach of small children or where pets may knock them over.

Fire Escape Plan

Plan how your family will exit from the house in case of a fire; set a designated meeting place outside well away from the fire; and practice your home fire escape plan.

The Spirit of Modesto



Coloring Modesto one flower at a time

The Modesto Garden Club, Eagle Scout volunteers, city employees and hundreds of others successfully met their goal of planting 40,000 flowers during the second planting phase of the Color Modesto project.

Modesto Junior College students Tariff Risinger, Tomomi Iwasaki, and Rebecca Fu, representing Alpha Gamma Sigma and MJC's environmental science class (*pictured above*), were among the volunteers planting in the downtown area on October 30.

Last May, over 400 volunteers and city employees planted over 30,000 flowers and shrubs in just four hours. On that day, over 128 city blocks with more than 1,200 tree wells, 10 street planters, three parks and numerous focal points throughout the city received a color transformation.

So what's in store for the year 2000?

Spring and Fall plantings are planned for next year, as is the largest tree planting effort in Modesto's history. On October 7, 2000, it is estimated that over 4,000 native valley oak trees will be planted at Dry Creek Regional Park in celebration of babies born in Modesto in 2000.

To learn more about upcoming Color Modesto events, call the City of Modesto at 342-2249 or check it out on the city's Internet website at www.ci.modesto.ca.us.

Mark your calendars--

Pruned refuse collection schedule for 2000

Following the guidelines on this page will help 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.

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, stumps 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 two 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 next to your property. All piles should be compact. Please

remember that refuse should not be placed near sewer cleanouts, manholes, 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 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. 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 yard waste recycling container. When it is **not** leaf season, leaves should be placed in your green yard waste recycling container. If you have a question, please call 577-5332.

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

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 29	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	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	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 1999: LEAVES PICKED UP ONLY. NO PRUNED REFUSE.
LEAVES WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE STREETS ONLY. NO PLASTIC BAGS, BOXES, ETC.

LEAVES ONLY

In Other Highlights

Modesto City Council opts to keep co-compost operation in-house

The Modesto City Council recently accepted the recommendation of the Utility Services and Franchises Committee to forego outsourcing and continue operating the bio-solids(mo-gro-magic)/co-composting program using city staff.

The recommendation resulted from two years of work and review by city staff to make the co-compost operation as competitive as possible.

A recent study, conducted by HDR Engineering, reported that the co-composting program is competitive in all areas and is efficient, cost-effective, and responsive to the needs of the community.

The City of Modesto uses the concept of managed competition to compare costs of services performed by city staff with those avail-

able from outside contractors. The goal of managed competition is to obtain the highest level of service for the lowest reasonable cost.

In the past year, street sweeping services, water meter reading and records management were evaluated through the managed competition process.

Records management was found to be best served by using an outside contractor. Street sweeping services performed by in-house crews were found to be more cost effective than utilizing outside sources. Water meter reading was restructured using a combination of outside contractual services and in-house staff.

The net savings to the City of Modesto for the 1998-99 managed competition projects totaled approximately \$240,000.

New winter hours for Modesto's Compost Facility

Beginning this month, the city's Compost Facility, located at 7007 Jennings Road, will implement its winter schedule. The facility will remain open Monday through Friday 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and close Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 538-2557.

Blue bag info

Beginning November 8th at 12:00 p.m., blue recycling bags will be available on the 2nd and 4th floors of the new City/County Public Administration Building at 1010 Tenth Street, corner of Tenth and J streets. As of Friday, November 5th, blue bags will no longer be distributed at the former City Hall location at 1012 I Street.

Residents can pay city utility bills at certified pay stations

Just a reminder to residents that USA Check Cashing is no longer a pay station for the City of Modesto. Residents may pay utility bills at any of the following pay stations:

City of Modesto
1010 Tenth Street
(Beginning November 8th)

Model Pharmacy
2400 Coffee Road

Paradise Rexall Drugs
400 Paradise Road

Paul's Rexall Drugs
130 N. Santa Cruz
1005 W. Orangeburg

New Deal Market
1612 Crows Landing Rd.

Quesenberry's Pharmacy
12641 Bentley Road,
Waterford

City Hall at the Mall
3401 Dale Road
Vintage Faire Mall

Changes for holiday garbage collection

Garbage collections will be pushed back by one day due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Collections normally conducted on Thursday, November 25th will be conducted on Friday, November 26th. Regular Friday customers will be collected on Saturday, November 27th.

Garbage collection during the week of Christmas and New Years will remain on its regular schedule.



To Your Health ...and the health of our community Keep a healthy hearth

As the winter season approaches, many are planning on keeping the home fires burning. Here are some safety tips for keeping a clean and safe chimney.

- Burn only seasoned cord wood and densified firelogs.
- Keep small, hot fires to avoid creosote buildup and air pollution.
- Inspect and sweep your chimney before using it.
- Don't use your fireplace on days when air quality is poor.
- Don't burn garbage, leaves, cardboard, loose paper, plastics, rubber, painted or treated wood, plywood, coal or charcoal.

Q&A

Q. Where should I place my leaves for collection?

A. The city's Leaf Removal Program operates during November and December. During those months, please place your leaves in your 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 container. City crews will collect leaves piled in the street only.