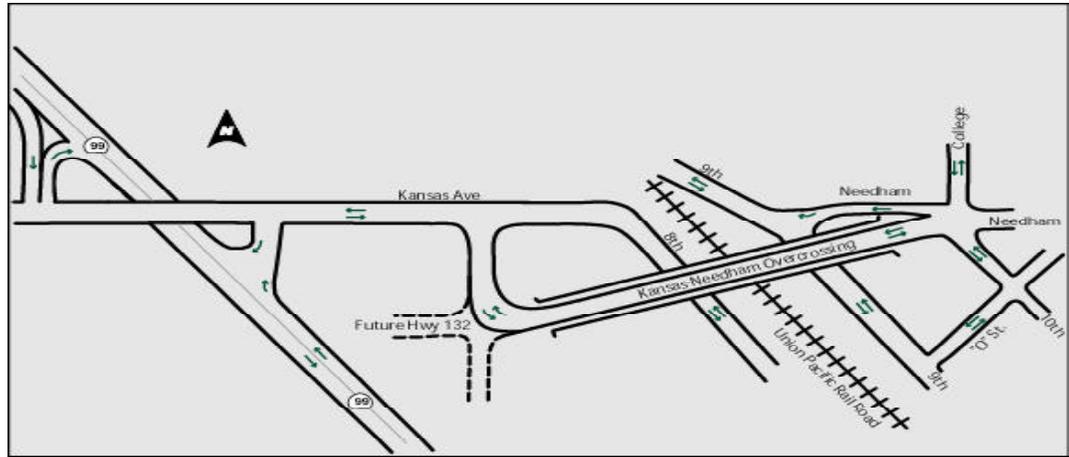


City of Modesto services available to city residents only.
 VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO WEBSITE AT:
www.modestogov.com

Kansas-Needham Overhead Project to Eliminate Ninth Street Railroad Crossing



Construction of the Kansas-Needham Overhead project is underway. **Agee Construction** was awarded the contract to construct this \$9 million project in May 2002. The project is 31% complete and is currently on schedule for its expected completion in December 2003.

"After several years of planning, as well as delays and funding challenges, the Kansas-Needham Overhead project is becoming a reality," said **Glen Lewis**, Director of the Engineering and Transportation Department. "The Kansas-Needham Overhead project is part of a much larger project to eliminate

the existing railroad tracks on Ninth Street. Its primary purpose is to allow closure of the existing railroad grade crossing at Kansas and Ninth Street."

The project includes building an overcrossing



from the intersection of College Avenue, Tenth Street and Needham Avenue to the intersection of Franklin and Beech Streets, where in the future it will connect with Westbound Highway 132 and intersect with State

Route 99.

The four-lane overcrossing will arc from street level to more than 26 feet above the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and Ninth Street, and it will span over three blocks in length.

Amenities to be incorporated in the project include a flagstone textured barrier, landscaped slopes and median, railing and barrier end treatments and custom lighting.

The railroad crossing at Kansas Avenue will be closed once the bridge is completed and operational at the end of 2003.

DON'T TRASH MODESTO Great American Cleanup Day Set

Throughout California, communities are coming together in April to remove roadside litter as part of the Great American Cleanup effort.

Saturday, April 26, has been designated as the next community cleanup day as part of the "Don't Trash Modesto" campaign.

Thanks go out to the hundreds of volunteers that picked up over 10,000 pounds of cups, papers and other debris along our roads this fall.

Briggsmore, Pelandale, Sisk, Scenic, Yosemite, Sylvan, the Virginia Corridor and many other areas were targeted in the November cleanup.

Please join with us on April 26 to help improve the appearance of our community. Together we can make a difference.

For information, contact city **Operations and Maintenance at 342-2284** or omdservices@modestogov.com.

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City Pride—City Wide brought to you by the Modesto City Council: Mayor Carmen Sabatino, Vice Mayor Bruce Frohman, Councilmember Bill Conrad, Councilmember Tim Fisher, Councilmember Denny Jackman, Councilmember Janice Keating and Councilmember Will O'Bryant.

THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR STUDENT REPORTER

Modesto on Cutting Edge for Wastewater Purification

Water, Wealth, Contentment, Health” has been the motto of the City of Modesto since about 1912. As you walk downtown, you can’t help but see the huge red arch over “I” Street emblazoned with the motto for all to see. Many people



David Paladini

think of these words as just a motto, but what the words boast are things

our community can be proud of.

It comes as no surprise to me that water is listed first in our city’s motto. Being a student, I am always reading in my books about how water is a key element to all living organisms. We always hear about recycling this and recycling that, but what few people realize is what a great recycling program we have for our wastewater.

When I was younger,

I wondered where the water from our bathtub, sink and toilet went when it drained. I was told that it went to the sewer—and for then that was good enough for me. But recently I have looked into the system more closely and found out about how it really works. That is why I found it so interesting when **Jeff Erickson** explained to me that the term “wastewater” can be used interchangeably with “sewage.”

Jeff Erickson is the Wastewater Plant Maintenance Supervisor. My dad and I had the opportunity to tour this facility, which is located out in the country on Jennings Road. I was very impressed by the sheer magnitude of the water that is being recycled out there. There are 2,200 acres of oxidation and storage ponds that stretch as far as the eye can see. The facility itself covers 4,026 acres.

The process that takes the wastewater from your house to the water quality control facility is interesting. When the water goes down your drains, it flows into the main sewer system and

mixes with the rest of the city’s wastewater. The wastewater then flows to the primary treatment plant located on Sutter Road.

From there, the water goes through bar screens, a grit chamber and a primary sedimentary tank, which take out trash, grit, other heavy debris and small sediment.

Now the water is completely clear of debris and is ready to be microscopically cleansed at the secondary treatment plant—the plant I toured with my dad. This Modesto facility is one of the top ten largest natural wastewater purification plants in the world! Yes that’s right, the whole world! This facility naturally processes 25 million gallons of water a day without the use of chemicals.

We were very impressed as Jeff Erickson gave us the “grand tour.” From the moment I got out of the car and looked out over the water, I was awestruck. The term “wastewater treatment” had put a less than shimmering picture into my head. When I saw the sunlight bouncing off the crystal clear water, I realized how wrong my preconceived idea had been. In the distant mist, I could see the outline of flocks of geese and ducks flying around. The surface of the water was covered with many different kinds of birds. If I hadn’t known better, I would have thought that I had



stumbled into a wildlife refuge.

It was hard to think of the crystal clear water before me as anything other than a nice calm lake with a peaceful country backdrop. But as I caught sight of the massive aeration machines in the ponds, I was brought back to reality. These machines take oxygen from the air above the water and move it under water. I was surprised to find that under the surface of the water there lives an unseen world consisting of billions of microorganisms that feed off the algae and other organic matter that is dangerous to humans.

Once the water is treated by these microorganisms, the rejuvenated wastewater is detoured to a chlorination channel to kill off the water microorganisms and any missed algae, and then it is dechlorinated to protect the natural habitat.

The cleansed water is now ready to be released to the river or used to irrigate the city’s 2,530-acre ranch.

When I thought about what had gone into the wastewater of our city, I was amazed as I stood watching the pure and crystal clear water pouring over the spillway and back to the San Joaquin River!

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

HYLC Wins CPRS Award



The **Hispanic Youth Leadership Council of Stanislaus County (HYLC)** has been awarded the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) **2002 Champion of the Community Award.**

"We feel this group exemplifies outstanding public service in the support of Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs," said James E. Niskanen, Director of the city's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department.

Niskanen will present the award to HYLC in front of an audience of 800-1,000 high school students at the opening session of the **Hispanic Career Education Conference on Saturday, April 5, 2003, 9:00AM, at Modesto Junior College.**

"We are very pleased and honored to be selected as the recipient of a CPRS Champion of the Community Award," said **David Duran**, Coordinator for HYLC. "It is quite amazing to be included among the top California entries."

HYLC is comprised of a diverse group of students from grades 9-12 representing 14 high schools in Modesto and surrounding cities within Stanislaus County.

"We are honored that our club (HYLC) has received this great award," said **Raul Salazar**, Senior at Hughson High School. "We have worked very hard to make a difference in our community and are happy to be recognized for our efforts."

HYLC has maintained a working relationship with the City of Modesto for over ten years, including removing graffiti, collecting litter, collecting old tires for disposal, participating in cleanup days and performing beautification projects.



Celebrate Earth Day

Join us on **Saturday, April 12, 10:00AM-6:00PM**, for the **Earth Day in the Park Festival** at Graceada Park, and celebrate "For all creatures great and small...Earth Day."

Come learn about the environment and its eco-systems, conservation and waste reduction programs and healthy living options. Activities include a full-day of learning, entertainment, delicious food, prizes for "kids" of all ages, free document shredding for residents and more.

Vendors who sell environmentally-friendly products or services are also encouraged to participate.

For information, contact **Solid Waste at 577-5494.**



Help Keep Our Streets & Alleys Clear of Refuse

Effective February 1, 2003, pruned refuse is to be placed in the **street during the three days prior to the first Monday** of the month for locations with street pickup and in the **alley during the three days prior to the third Monday** of the month for alley pickup.

Help us keep our streets and alleys clear of pruned refuse after crews pass through an area!



Give us the Code!

Gated communities must supply gate codes for water and sewer service. To update codes, call **342-2246 and 577-6200.**



Enjoy Two Days of Cycling Fun

Join us on **Thursday, May 15, 6:30-8:30AM**, at Tenth Street Place in downtown Modesto for the annual **Modesto Bike-to-Work Day**. Riders will be treated to a free continental breakfast and prizes.

Then on **Saturday, May 17, 10:00AM-3:00PM**, join us on the Courthouse lawn for the **8th Annual Modesto Family Cycling Festival & Criterium Bike Races.**

For more, call **571-5193.**



Be a Wiser Water Miser

Did you know last year Modesto used a whopping 42 million gallons of water per day in winter and 135 million gallons of water per day during the summer months!

"At this time, 18 of our 93 wells are down due to contamination and other issues, which is 19% of the system production capacity," said **Peter Cowles**, Director of the Operations and Maintenance Department. "What this means is the need for water conservation will reach a critical level this summer."

Due to the high water demand last year, the **City Council will be asked to consider returning to the Stage One restrictions (lifted in 1998).**

Start conserving now!



Cruising Still Illegal

Modesto Police wishes to remind you that **cruising is illegal** and enforcement will begin soon, including during Graffiti Week.

FREE Backyard Composting Class



Wednesday, April 2 • 6:30-8:30PM

Modesto Junior College

Registration: 575-6063

BACKYARD COMPOST BINS \$26.30^{EA}

To order call

Solid Waste at 577-5495.

Presented by the City of Modesto for City residents



Available at these local nurseries:

Scenic Nursery
1313 Scenic Drive
Westurf
1612 Claus Road

Buy one regular priced flat of flowers and get one bag of Mo-Gro Magic FREE or Buy 2 bags at regular price and receive third bag FREE
MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF PURCHASE
LIMIT 2 FLAT - BAGS PER COUPON

OFFER EXPIRES 3/15/2003

Adopt-an-Area Program Approved

On February 11, the City Council approved a new program to allow for the adoption of roadsides, trails, medians and parks by businesses, civic groups, families or individuals. The adoption alternatives were recommended by the community based anti-litter steering team. The options piggyback off of the existing Neighborhood Environmental Actions Teams (N.E.A.T.)

Fees have been established for adoption of roadways and trails for litter removal. Planter areas and parks may also be adopted. Recognition signage is being provided by a grant from **Keep California Beautiful** and will be placed in the area of the adoption.

"We all need to do our part to improve the image of our community" said **Chris Murphy**, Co-Chair of the Steering Team. "This is not just about having a clean community, it is part of our economic development strategy." Murphy practices what he preaches—his family has adopted the corner of Scenic and Oakdale for litter removal and bulb planting.

While adoption is available for a fee, groups can also do the work themselves and still receive a recognition sign.

For more information, contact **Duane Frederick** at 342-2248 or dfrederick@modestogov.com.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES

Spring Cleaning Vital For Fire Safety

Spring is not only the time to set our clocks forward, but also a great time for spring cleaning. Just as the first crocus of spring ushers in a new beginning for nature, our spring cleaning habits signify a fresh start for us after the long winter.

Spring is also the ideal time to check our homes and yards for dangerous materials and unsafe conditions and to spend the

time to protect our families and our properties.

Start by taking a few minutes to plan your



family's "Safety Cleanup Day." Be sure to check each

room in your house, including the attic and basement. Also, don't forget the garage, yard and storage shed.

You can do a lot to protect yourself, your family and your property. A little time spent on simple prevention will do a lot to make your house a safer place.

For more ways you can protect your family, visit www.modestofire.com.

Safety Clean-up Day Checklist

Remove All Hazards

- Repair or replace frayed or damaged appliance cords, wiring, fuses or breakers.
- Remove piles of rubbish, trash and yard debris.
- Remove stacks of paper and magazines and take them to recycling centers.
- Check for water leaks, especially near electrical appliances.
- Check for good clearance between heating appliances and combustibles.
- adhesives, matches or other work items away and out of the reach of children.
- Inventory all home and yard chemicals, paints and poisons. Store them according to their label. Properly dispose of any that are expired or leaking or that look bad. Be sure you don't throw them in the trash or down the drain.
- Make sure that all chemicals are kept under lock and key and out of reach of children and pets.

Properly Store Flammable Liquids and Home Chemicals

- Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and out of the reach of children and pets. Store in a cool, dry place outside the house.
- Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools,

Check Fire Protection and Safety Equipment

- Check your smoke detector. If you need a smoke detector and can't afford to purchase one, call us at 572-9590. We'll help you. If you need help checking or replacing a smoke detector battery, call us. But most importantly, make sure your smoke detector works.

- Check fire extinguishers for proper type and placement.
- Make sure all doors and windows open easily for fast escapes.
- Make sure your street numbers are posted properly and are visible.
- Make sure you have a working flashlight and battery-powered radio for the approaching storm season.

Plan Your Escape Now

- Sit down with your family and make sure that everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire. Design a Family Escape Plan. (See website for info.)
- Make sure you have two ways out of every room and that you have a meeting place outside the house for the whole family.
- Practice the plan. Even the best plan isn't any good if you don't practice it!

