



City of Modesto

CITY PRIDE

July 2002

City Wide

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY



Water's precious, today and every day

The average Modesto home uses 400,000 gallons of water each year -- that's the equivalent of 20 backyard swimming pools.

Simply saving a little bit of water today can make a sizeable difference to the future of our water supply. Best of all, saving water is easy!

Here are just a few of the simple water saving measures you can use right away:

- Remember, outside watering is prohibited between 12 noon and 7 p.m. every day.
 - Install low-flow shower heads.
 - Turn off the faucet when you are brushing your teeth or shaving.
 - Run washing machines and dishwashers with full loads only.
 - Avoid watering your lawn and plants on windy days.
 - Fix toilets that are running or leaking.
 - Sweep off your patio and sidewalks rather than use a hose to wash them.
 - Defrost frozen foods in the refrigerator overnight or in a microwave instead of defrosting them with running water. You'll save 50 to 150 gallons of water monthly.
- For more information and tips, call the City of Modesto's Neighborhood Preservation Unit at 571-5103.

VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO ON THE INTERNET!

<http://www.modestogov.com>

This information brought to you by the Modesto City Council.

Mayor Carmen Sabatino

Vice Mayor Bill Conrad

Councilmember Denny Jackman

Councilmember Tim Fisher

Councilmember Janice Keating

Councilmember Bruce Frohman

Councilmember Will O'Bryant

Keep kids water safe this summer with these tips

Beware bathers. As the summer heats up, the water in rivers, lakes, ponds, canals, streams, creeks and ditches can seem pretty tempting.

Keep in mind that it is illegal and dangerous to swim in any of these bodies of water within the city limits, particularly in canals and the Tuolumne River. Bathers caught swimming illegally will be cited.

Since water is a great attraction for youngsters, parents of children should watch children carefully around any body of water, including pools, bathtubs, toilets, spas and buckets.

Here are water safety tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Journal of the American Medical Association, Medem.com and the American Red Cross:

- Never allow a child to swim alone or play by or in water.

• Parents should learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

• Teach children to use the buddy system even when swimming in large groups of friends.

• Do not allow kids to engage in horseplay that might result in injury.

• Flotation devices are not a substitute for adult supervision.

• Keep basic lifesaving equipment by the pool and know how to use it.

• Empty water out of blowup pools and put them away after each use.

Modesto Irrigation District provides free water safety coloring booklets suitable for children. MID is located at 1231 11th Street.

Children older than four years old should learn how to swim. Swim lessons are available through the city's Recreation and Neighborhoods division. For class details, call 577-5344.

Water Safety Resources on the web

American Academy of Pediatrics

www.aap.org

Medem.com, Smart Parents' Health Source

www.medem.com

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org



THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR STUDENT REPORTER

Lucky the hamster survives storm drain adventure after daring rescue by city employee

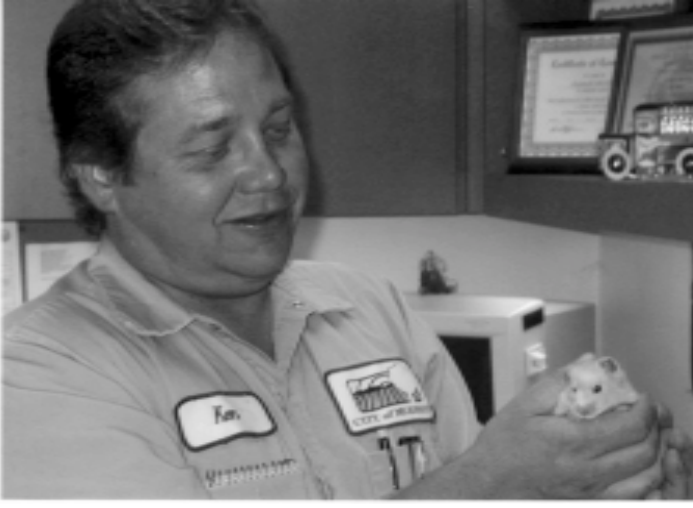
David Paladini

Hello! Welcome to my cage, "Lucky's Desert Paradise." It's nice and warm in here, and now that you're here I can tell you my story. I myself am surprised I'm not dead!

Oh, I'm sorry, we haven't been introduced. I'm Lucky the hamster. Right now, I'm sitting in Ken Merkle's office at the city's Water Quality Control Facility. This is where I spend most of my time nowadays. Well anyway, back to my adventure...

A couple of months ago I couldn't have dreamed up where I am now. Basically I thought it was all over. I was sitting in the deep, dark depths of a rockwell storm drain. All alone. I was scared stiff and, at night, I would sit up and wonder what was going to happen to me. Sometimes I would hear a ton of water coming down the gutter to pour down on me and possible end my life! Fortunately that didn't happen.

Anyway, the best that I can figure (it's all still kind of blurry) is that I was chased by a cat, until I found refuge in a hole in the gutter which turned out to be a storm drain. You might remember from David Paladini's article on storm drains that water, hamsters and other small objects flow down into the catch basin, which is located in the gutter. From there the water flows through a pipe on the wall of the catch basin



and ends up in the core pipe. This was quite a long trip for me and I was thoroughly exhausted by the time I was in the core pipe under the sidewalk. I realized that the odds were 99% against me! I was doomed!

Then from the heart of that rockwell storm drain I saw the light! Literally. From the hole of the storm drain cover above I saw the silhouette of the head and shoulders of Ken Merkle, a wonderful man who I have come to love over these last months. Anyway, I was still groggy from being so tired that I even pinched myself to see if I was dreaming.

Suddenly I felt a prodding and heard a chuckle. It wasn't a mean chuckle. It was one of those chuckles that says, "Oh boy. This is incredible! How in the world did you get in here little guy?" I was so excited.

I later heard Ken referring to the moment: "Well," he

would say, "I was out checking rockwell drains for location evaluation, to see if they needed to be cleaned or rejuvenated. I looked in and saw a little round dirty ball of fur." (I had never in my life thought I was a dirty ball of fur but I realized now what I must have looked like).

Now I am very grateful to Ken for not leaving me there. I mean, some people would have said, "He'll probably bite me!" But Ken tells people that he could tell I wasn't vicious. At least I still had some dignity left.

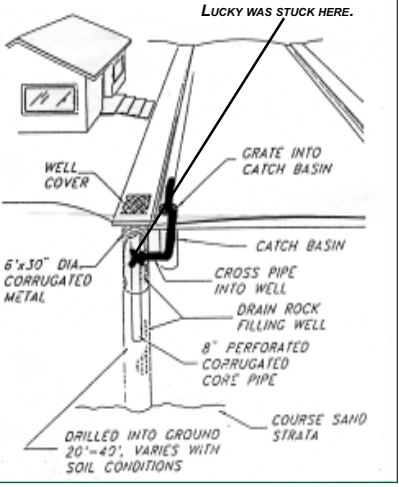
Ken carefully reached down with a rake and scooped me out. That was another adventure - being lifted four to five feet, riding on a rake! Ken placed me in a bucket and took me home to get all cleaned up so I could make a great first impression on everyone back at the office.

So far as I can tell, I have made a good impression down here. The secretaries hold me and say nice things to me. In fact one of them named Christine said, "She's the nicest little hamster I have ever seen!" Isn't that sweet?

During the week I stay here at the office and guard the place. But on the weekends I go home with Ken. Sometimes when Ken is cleaning out my cage he puts me in my orange ball and I get to run around on the floor. Sometimes Ken's little 4-year old son plays down on the floor with me. It's a lot of fun to watch him chase me around the house.

So, that's my story. I am now the mascot of the Water Quality Control Facility and the happiest, most spoiled hamster in Modesto -- maybe, I'm even the most famous. I really am thankful for all everyone has done for me!

The End



VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO ON THE INTERNET!

<http://www.modestogov.com>

OR CALL US AT (209) 577-5463



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 8/15/2002

Available at these local nurseries:

Scenic Nursery
1313 Scenic Drive

Westurf
1612 Claus Road

FREE BACKYARD COMPOSTING CLASSES

The City of Modesto is offering free backyard composting classes to Modesto residents.

Wednesday Classes

Sept. 11, Oct. 30

Modesto Junior College • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

To register call 575-6063

BACKYARD COMPOST BINS
\$26.30 each plus tax
To order call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5495.



NUMBERS TO KNOW

Emergency - Police/Fire/Medical	9-1-1
Graffiti Vandalism (in progress)	9-1-1
Flooding (24 hours)	577-6200
Sandbags	342-2244
Fire Department	572-9590
Fire Prevention (hazards, complaints, etc.)	571-5553
Police Department (24 hours - Dispatch)	552-2470
Police Department (main)	572-9500
Police Department NE Area Office	572-9657
Police Department NW Area Office	572-9635
Police Department SE Area Office	572-9638
Police Department SW Area Office	572-9676
Abandoned Autos Hotline	572-9511
Animal Control (City of Modesto only)	552-2470
Graffiti Abatement (24 hours)	342-2259
Neighborhoods (Blight, Illegal Dumping, etc.)	577-5250
Water Wasters	571-5103
City Hall Information	577-5200
City Hall at the Mall	571-5590
TDD Only	526-9211
Modesto City Council	571-5169
Modesto Centre Plaza	577-6444
Dial-A-Ride	527-4900
MAX Buses	521-1274
Building Inspections	577-5232
Dog Licenses	577-5389
Garbage Information	577-5494
Garden Refuse/Sidewalk/Street Hazards	342-2249
Golf Reservations & Information	491-4653
Park Repairs	342-2248
Public Information Office	577-5222
Recreation Programs/Park Reservations	577-5344
Recycling Information	577-5495
Street Lights	342-2296
24-hour street light hotline	342-4561
Street Trees	342-2249
Sewer/Storm Drain (Illegal Discharge)	577-6200
Traffic Signal Problems	342-2297
Traffic Signs	342-2247
Used Oil Recycling	577-5493
Water-Sewer-Garbage Billing	577-5395
Water Repairs/Temporary On-Offs(24 hours)	342-2246

CLIP AND SAVE . . . CLIP AND SAVE . . . CLIP AND SAVE

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





Report offers water quality info

A report detailing information about Modesto's drinking water was mailed to Modesto residents and water users late last month.

The 2002 Consumer Confidence Report shows information for the eight water systems operated by the City of Modesto.

If you did not receive a water quality report and are a City of Modesto water customer, please call the Water division at 342-2246.

Reservoir: only MTBE-free fuel

Remember, MTBE-free fuel is the only gasoline sold at the Modesto Reservoir. Visitors are not allowed to enter the park with their own gas containers.

The policy is part of Stanislaus County's plan to reduce methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) at the local reservoir. The reservoir provides a large portion of the drinking water to Modesto area residents.

Owners of jet skis and boats with standard two-stroke carbureted engines must enter the park with empty fuel tanks and fuel up at the marina or loading dock in the reservoir.

Another alternative is to fuel up with

Spare the Air

June 6th kicked-off the Valley's Spare the Air season. Our San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVUAPCD) announces Spare the Air days when air pollution is expected to reach unhealthy levels. You can help prevent additional air pollution on high risk days by carpooling or bicycling to work. For more information from the SJVUAPCD on how to Spare the Air, go to www.valleyair.org.

MTBE-free fuel at C.L. Bryant's Union 76 station in Waterford.

MTBE is a gasoline additive designed to reduce engine pollution. California planned to ban it by December 2002, but Governor Davis delayed that action. In the meantime, City of Modesto and Stanislaus County officials continue to work to reduce or eliminate the amount of MTBE detected at the reservoir.



Play it safe when cooking outdoors

What's summer without a few barbecues and cookouts? And while they may signal the arrival of summer, outdoor cooking also poses safety and health threats if a few precautions aren't taken. Here are a few safety tips offered by the Modesto Fire Department:

- Never use gasoline to start or freshen a barbecue grill.
- Charcoal or propane grills should be used **outside** the house, camper or tent.
- Do not use barbecue grills on wood porches or decks.
- A heated grill should never be left unattended.

• Children should never play near a heated barbecue grill.

• Never throw away ashes into paper or plastic bags and never place heated embers in your garbage container.

For more safety and

fire prevention tips, call the Modesto Fire Department Prevention Bureau at 571-5553.



Rechargeable battery program

Residents may now dispose of their spent rechargeable batteries through a new collection program established by the City of Modesto and the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC).

Rechargeable batteries from cell phones, pagers, cameras, power tools and other devices may be dropped off at the following locations for free:

- City Hall at the Mall - downstairs next to JCPenney's
- Northeast Area Police Command, 3705 Oakdale Rd.
- Southeast Area Police Command, 1550-A Yosemite Blvd.
- Senior Citizens Center, 211 Bodem Ave.

The program accepts rechargeable batteries made from Ni-Cd, Ni-MH, Li-ion, and Pb **only**. Directions are clearly printed on each box.

All other batteries must be disposed of at the Stanislaus County Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at 1716 Morgan Road. Drop-off hours are Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please call the City of Modesto Solid Waste office at 577-5494 if you have any questions.