



City of Modesto

# CITY PRIDE

December 2001

City Wide

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W I N T E R

CITY OF MODESTO SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO CITY RESIDENTS ONLY

## Modesto traffic stats, forms now available online

Some days it can feel like you're sharing the road with 10,000 other cars while you're driving around Modesto. Now you can find out just how many cars are traveling local streets on the

City of Modesto's website.

The traffic flow map is one of the recent additions to the City's website. It shows the number of car trips made on certain stretches of city streets last year.

The map shows, for instance, that 36,053 cars traveled on Standiford between McHenry Avenue and Tully Road, and 39,000 trips are made down some stretches of McHenry

Avenue daily.

The map also shows traffic flow on the portion of Highway 99 that travels through Modesto.

Also new to the website is a traffic delay feedback form. The information provided by residents will help the city's Traffic Engineering staff to identify bottlenecks in the city's roadways.

Residents may use the feedback form to report issues such as traffic delays at intersections, potential accident problems or street sections that need to be widened.

If you would like to call the city to report traffic delay issues instead of using the website form, you may call the Traffic Engineering department at 577-5297.

Both the traffic flow map and the traffic delay feedback form can be viewed online at [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com). For the traffic flow map, click on Traffic. For the traffic delay feedback form click on Traffic and then Engineering and Transportation.

## Pelandale Expressway opens at McHenry



The final leg of the Pelandale Expressway opened last month, making cross-town travel to and from Highway 99 faster.

The three mile expressway extends from Dale Road to McHenry Avenue and cost \$3.7 million. George Reed,

Inc. of Modesto and Fagundes & Son, Inc. of Oakdale were contractors on the project.

Nearly 100 civic leaders celebrated the opening of the expressway at a ribbon cutting ceremony last month.

Future improvement to the expressway include widening to six lanes and a bike trail addition.

***Pictured above, Modesto Police Department officers ride motorcycles down the new Expressway as part of the opening ceremony.***

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**David Paladini**

## THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR STUDENT REPORTER

### Modesto uses community policing to prevent crime

Gunshots, screeching tires, barking dogs, and slamming car doors. That's the traditional view of police work, and it has its "exhilarating moments" according to veteran officer Don Watson. But these days our Modesto Police Department puts its effort toward a new type of "action," one that works from inside the community. This new police philosophy is called Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPS).

"It is a philosophy. It isn't just a 'program' the police department is trying out. This is a new way of doing things,"

says Lt. David Cooperider, of the southwest area command center.

There are various elements to community policing, many of them focusing on crime prevention.

The neighborhood crime watch program is one successful element to community policing. Many neighborhoods around Modesto already have watch programs, which are mainly awareness programs. Neighborhood groups hold meetings where neighbors can meet each other's families. This way the neighbors can tell if something unusual is going on in the neighborhood.

The D.A.R.E. program is for drug awareness. Officers visit schools, give presentations, and hand out red bracelets to kids to show their pride in being drug free.

Finally, there is improved interaction between police officers and the public. The philosophy of C.O.P.S. is to get a better and more friendly link between police officers and citizens, bringing back the bond that some remember from the old idea of the neighborhood "beat cop." When passing a police officer on the street, they want residents to feel free to wave to the officers or just be friendly.

To deal with Modesto's growth, the police department decided to spread themselves out so they can react more quickly to emergencies and catch problems before they start.

They split Modesto into four main areas: Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and

Southwest, and placed an area command station in each of these sections.

So now we have four substations in addition to the main station downtown. A lieutenant is in command of each substation which houses a tactical patrol sergeant, a station officer and

secretaries and staff. With the area of command spread out, the police can stop trouble before it begins.

*David is our 13-year old reporter who provides us with a youth's perspective on city issues. He's pictured below with Lt. Joel Broumas and K-9 Officer Dave Corder.*



#### Modesto Police Department Fast Facts

*"The mission of the Modesto Police Department is to provide professional police services. Together, in a partnership with our community and through the effective use of resources, we will achieve a safe and secure environment in which to live and prosper."*

- The Modesto Police Department was created in 1870.
- In 1911 the first police chief was named. His staff consisted of two other police officers.
- Today, the MPD has 258 sworn officers and 107 additional employees.

#### Blue bags make recycling easy

City of Modesto residents are encouraged to recycle with the blue bag program. Toss all your glass, paper, cardboard, plastics (numbers 1-7), aluminum and metal containers in a blue bag and place the bags in your black garbage can. Before placing items in your blue bag, please lightly rinse containers and remove bottle lids; labels may be left on. Blue bags are free and available at the following locations:

<b>City Hall at the Mall</b>	Vintage Faire Mall
<b>Tenth Street Place</b>	1010 Tenth Street, Floors 2 & 4
<b>King-Kennedy Center</b>	601 N. Martin Luther King Drive
<b>Senior Citizen's Center</b>	211 Bodem Ave.
<b>New Deal Market</b>	832 Oakdale Rd.
<b>Police Area</b>	3705 Oakdale Rd.
<b>Command Centers</b>	2005 Evergreen Ave.
	1550 Yosemite Blvd.
	409 Paradise Rd.

Residents can also use the blue grocery bags provided by Richland Market, Save Mart, New Deal, O'Brien's and Raley's. Please do not use blue bags for garbage or non-recyclable items.

For more details, call the Solid Waste Office at 577-5494.

Please don't light tonight

## Valley air district works to keep air clean this winter



Reprinted from  
[www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)

To keep our air as clean as possible this winter, the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District launched its winter program, Please Don't Light Tonight, last month. On winter nights when air pollution is approaching unhealthy levels,

the Valley Air District asks residents in specific, affected areas to refrain from building a wood fire for 24 hours.

### **Does the program apply to my gas insert?**

Because natural gas inserts are virtually free of particulate matter emissions, curtailment requests are only for residents with wood-burning fireplaces and stoves.

### **Why is wood smoke a problem?**

Winter weather conditions such as fog can trap the toxic particles in wood smoke at ground level. These unhealthy particles can hover in the air,

posing a health risk to people and animals long after the fire goes out. Breathing these particles can reduce lung function, especially in children; aggravate heart conditions and lung diseases such as asthma, emphysema, pneumonia and bronchitis; irritate eyes, throat, and sinuses; and, even at low levels, trigger headaches and allergies.

### **Can one fireplace really make a difference?**

Due to winter meteorological conditions, smoke collects in localized, concentrated pockets. This means that the smoke from just one fire can cause a significant problem for the entire neighborhood. Because airborne particles take time to settle, the problem intensifies quickly.

Additionally, smoke particles are so tiny that they seep into homes despite closed doors and windows. Even in homes where wood is not burned, indoor wood smoke pollution can reach up to 70 percent of the outdoor level.

### **I don't light it often, but I don't want to give up my wood fire completely.**

The Valley Air District is only asking that you voluntarily postpone having a wood fire on the eight to ten evenings when air quality is at its worst and weather conditions will trap the smoke at low levels.

### **When you light, please do it right:**

- Install a natural gas insert or appropriately sized EPA-certified wood or pellet stove

- Burn manufactured fireplace logs

- Never burn trash, newspapers, magazines, or painted wood in your fireplace

- Build small, hot fires instead of large smoldering ones and give your fire a generous air supply

- Use only dry, seasoned wood

- Plan ahead — buy green wood in early spring so it will season by winter

- Remember to have your chimney periodically inspected and cleaned professionally for your family's safety and your peace of mind

By cooperating with an occasional Please Don't Light Tonight request, everyone can make a significant contribution to improving air quality. For more information, call the Valley Air District at (209) 557-6400.

## Flouride issue finalized

Modesto's City Council voted to rescind its order to flouridate the drinking water system and declined grant funding for flouridating equipment last month. The move came after Modesto voters rejected Measure M which would have flouridated the water and raised water rates by two percent to pay for the flouridation.

Measure M was opposed by 60.6 percent of Modesto voters early last month.



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 1/15/2002

Available at these local nurseries:

**Scenic Nursery**  
1313 Scenic Drive

**Westurf**  
1612 Claus Road



## Recycle your holiday tree

The City of Modesto street crews will begin picking up Christmas trees from the curb on Monday, January 7, 2002. 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, and tinsel
- Trees over 6 feet 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/Waste Management 538-2210. If you have any questions, please call the Solid Waste Management Office at 577-5494.

## Volunteers help get the word out

The City of Modesto thanks the following members of the California Conservation Corps who helped distribute pollution prevention door hangers in October: Brandon Torigian, Chris Friend, Jeremy Kremer, Michael Lynch, Suzette Castaneda, Ryan Kellerman, Jeremy Mentz, Linda Mayorga, and Marcus Walters.

The City of Modesto also thanks the following students from Modesto High School for their help in October: Samantha Obra, Janelle Laubacher, Alexandria Lemus, and Noelle Matthews.

Please remember: Only Rain Down the Drain! You are the pollution solution. To volunteer, or for further information, please call Cheryl Heller at 577-6257.

## Holiday hours

The City of Modesto will close its offices on Tuesday, January 1, 2002 in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.

The City of Modesto staff wish you and yours a very happy new year.

City offices will also be closed on Monday, January 21 to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

## Trash collection

### Holiday schedule

Garbage collection will be delayed one day for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. All Tuesday-Friday routes will be picked up one day late. Monday routes will not be affected. All residents who do not have alley service must place their garbage containers on the street for collection. Please do not block the sidewalks.



# Pruned refuse collection schedule for 2001-2002

## 2002 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	 →	<b>Only Days you may place out your Refuse for collection</b>
	 →	<b>Days crews start to pickup (First Monday of Each Month)</b>

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 31
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	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

LEAVES ONLY  
No Green Waste