

SEPTEMBER 2006

## It's Not Waste Until You Throw it Away!

Like most folks, you are probably storing clothing and other items in the back of your closet, garage or storage shed that you will never use again. The City of Modesto urges you to "recycle" them by putting them to good use! There are many programs and resources that can help you do just that.



Log onto [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org), get registered and start freecycling. The online user's group lets you list items you want to get rid of and shop for items you need...free! The website is free, the listings are free and all items are to be given away for free, no sales. Remember, reuse is the best form of recycling!

Have any light fixtures, doors, tiles, sheetrock or other construction items laying around? What about gently used furniture, hardware or hand tools? Donate them to the Habitat for Humanity. Some items will be used in their construction projects and others will be offered for resale in the ReStore at 50-75% below retail! Call the ReStore at 575-4585 ext. 112 to schedule a donation pick up or visit them at 630 Kearney Ave, Mon and Sat 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Tues.-Fri., 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Put your old cell phones to good use! Donated phones are distributed to local senior citizens for calling 9-1-1 in emergencies. It's easy! Just drop your phones, batteries and chargers (in working condition) in the designated box at all local Save Mart Supermarkets. The Area Agency on Aging coordinates the distribution. Contact them directly at 1-800-510-2020 with questions on program eligibility.

Another creative recycling option is through All Recycled Things - ARTs. Donated items are made available to local teachers, scouting groups, seniors and churches to use in arts and crafts projects. ARTs accepts sewing notions, paper, flowers, small wood scraps and other creative clean reusable items. ARTs is open Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and is located behind the Coroner's Office on Oakdale Road. Call 567-4516 for more information.

Help your community one closet at a time. Remember, it's not waste until you throw it away!

## Pollution Prevention Tips

### Used Motor Oil:

If you are a do-it-yourself kind of person and you change your own car's motor oil, here are ways to properly dispose of the used oil:



1. Call your garbage company to pick up the oil at your home.
2. Store the used oil in a 1-gallon plastic container with a screw-top lid.
3. Place your oil out in front of your garage or up near your home the evening before your collection appointment, and NOT in the street or sidewalk areas. Limit 4 gallons per week and please do NOT mix your oil with any other substance such as antifreeze. Oil cannot be recycled if it is mixed with other substances. For more information, call the Recycle Used Oil Hotline at (209) 577-5493.
4. You can also take your used motor oil to any of the following FREE collection centers: All Tune and Lube, AutoZone, Kragen Auto, Pep Boys, Pick-N-Pull and Quick Lube. You can recycle up to 1-gallon per day. Call 1-800-CLEANUP for additional locations.

### Household Hazardous Waste:

All residents and small businesses (call for restrictions) of Stanislaus County can recycle the following products at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at 1716 Morgan Road in Ceres. Best of all, it's FREE! Antifreeze, batteries, brake fluid, fertilizers, pesticides, gasoline, oil filters, paints, pool and spa chemicals, solvents, transmission fluid, televisions and computer monitors and more can be brought to this facility. Customers can bring 15-gallons or 125-pounds of liquid for disposal. Liquids must be in a 5-gallon or smaller container for disposal. For more information, call (209) 525-4123. Hours of operation are limited to Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



**Remember!!!** Unlike the water that goes down the drains in your sinks or bathtubs, storm drain water is NOT cleaned at the City's sewage treatment plant. Storm drains are not connected to household sewer systems; pollutants flow directly into waterways and our ocean without treatment.

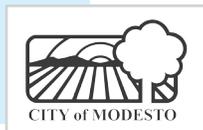
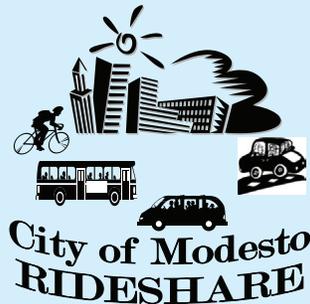
## Don't Ride Alone, Ride Along During Rideshare Week October 2-6

If you've ever thought about hopping on board a bus, carpooling or riding your bike to get around town, this will be the week to experiment, even if just for a day! The City of Modesto is promoting Rideshare Week in order to educate and remind individuals how easy it is to use sustainable transportation.

This year marks the 24th annual celebration of Rideshare Week, an annual promotion designed to increase awareness about the benefits of using sustainable transportation such as carpooling, vanpooling, riding the bus, bicycling and walking.

Modesto area residents are asked to make a commitment to use an alternate form of transportation at least one day during Rideshare Week, in order to help relieve our congested streets and highways, improve air quality and save energy and commute costs. If everyone used an alternative to driving just once a week, we would reduce traffic congestion by 20 percent!

Commuters can receive free information, including a carpool or vanpool matchlist, emergency guaranteed ride home program information and information on walking or bicycling by contacting Commute Connection at [CommuteConnection.com](http://CommuteConnection.com) or by calling 1-800-52-SHARE. Various prizes and incentives will be offered through Commute Connection, including \$5 gift cards for new registrants, \$50 gas cards for new employer referrals, and \$150 for vanpool subsidies.



## Water Conservation Restrictions Still Being Enforced

Water is one of the single most important elements of our lives, second only to the air we breathe.

Here are some important things to remember:

- Outdoor water use is prohibited daily between 12 noon and 7 p.m.
- ***NO OUTDOOR WATER USE ALLOWED ON MONDAYS.***
- Addresses ending in odd-numbers water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.
- Addresses ending in even-numbers water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- Hosing concrete areas, building exteriors, etc. may only be done with a City-issued permit and a positive shut-off nozzle. Retain as much water as possible on your property. It is against the law to introduce any type of discharge, pollutant or contaminant into storm gutters and storm drain systems.

For watering permit information or to request assistance setting automatic sprinkler timers, call (209) 342-4580.

## Did You Know...

It is illegal to rinse out your garbage cans in the driveway and gutter which eventually ends up in our City storm drains? So, what ***IS*** the proper way to clean and rinse out your garbage cans?



***Residential:*** find an unused space in your yard where you can rinse your garbage can and empty the wash water onto a grassy area. The water will not harm the grass and you can collect any solid material with a rake. Properly dispose of the waste in a paper or plastic bag and place it back into your garbage can.

***Businesses:*** contact your garbage hauler to exchange your dumpster for a clean one (NOTE: there will be a fee for this service). Also, restaurants should always double bag their garbage and clean spills with absorbent materials such as kitty litter or sand instead of hosing it into a storm drain.

For more information, contact the City of Modesto at (209) 577-5494.