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 VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO WEBSITE AT:
www.modestogov.com

Are You a Wiser Water Miser?



Warm summer months mean increased water use. **Last year, Modesto residents used three times more water in the summer than they did in the winter!**

Much of this increase was directly related to outdoor water use.

The following are some ways that you can help to ensure that we all have enough water this coming summer:

- **Consider putting your landscape irrigation on a timer.** The best timers allow you to select specific days of the week for watering and have a battery backup. Purchasing this type of timer will also help you comply

with the water use schedule (every other day) to be considered by the Modesto City Council for the upcoming summer months.

- **Think about the type of soil you have at your home.** If you have very hard soil, it's better to water twice a day for five minutes each time than once a day for ten minutes. That way, you will experience less run-off and the water will stay where it should!
- **Buy drought-tolerant plants and shrubs.** If you are unsure about what is drought-tolerant, ask at your local nursery. To learn more about

Xeriscape Landscaping, a systematic concept for saving water in landscaped areas, visit such websites as www.xeriscape.org.

- **Use a shut-off nozzle whenever you use a hose.** Wash your car before Noon or after 7:00PM and only use a hose with a positive shut-off nozzle. Use a broom rather than hosing down concrete areas, such as sidewalks, driveways, patios and building exteriors.

Remember, with water there's never enough to waste!

DON'T WASTE WATER! Water-Wise Tips for Inside Your Home

- If you have a leaky faucet, valve or toilet, repair it as soon as possible. A leaky valve can waste hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- Limit your showers to five minutes. Install flow restrictors on showers and faucets and replace old-style plumbing fixtures with low-flow fixtures whenever possible.
- Run full loads in your laundry or dishwasher, and don't leave water running to rinse dishes.
- Use a rubber spatula to scrape dishes clean and limit the need to pre-rinse. Let really dirty dishes or pans soak to speed up washing.
- Cool drinking water in the refrigerator or with ice, not by running the tap. Use leftover drinking water for pets or to water plants.

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City Pride—CityWide 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

Education Key to Water Conservation

There I was, standing under a nice hot shower singing Italian opera at the top of my lungs. I was feeling awake and excited to be up and about on this fine day.

Suddenly, long before I was planning on being finished, I had a very



David Paladini

untimely interruption—the beating of my mom’s hand on the bathroom door.

I turned down my vocal volume and asked her if she had a good reason for completely disturbing my utterly perfect shower. Her reply was a simple: “You’ve been in there long enough.”

Suddenly, I remembered that I had been studying about water conservation, and I recalled that shorter showers are one of the key ways to conserve water.

Did you know that 97% of the world’s water is salty and 2% is frozen in icecaps

and glaciers? That only leaves 1% readily consumable for all of humanity’s needs. And, only 1% of that 1% is actually consumed. The rest is put on lawns, in washing machines, down toilets and down drains. Amazingly, if everyone in the United States flushed the toilet one less time a day, it would make a lake one mile long, one mile wide and four feet deep.

Recently, the City of Modesto created a new staff position—“Water Conservationist.” I had the opportunity to speak with the man who filled this position, **Jose Cavazos**. He explained to me that his job is to educate the public on ways to conserve this valuable resource.

Have you ever heard a term and been unsure about its meaning? Well, as silly as it may seem, I was unsure about what water conservation really meant. So I asked Jose about the essence of his program. He explained that water conservation is basically not misusing our water.

It means to most effectively use the water we have, thus eliminating “drips” within our system.

People tend to waste water without consciously realizing it. Probably the most common way households waste water is by over-watering their lawns, which often floods gutters and sidewalks. The same principle applies when people leave the hose running as they wash their vehicles by hand. Unfortunately, there are many opportunities to waste our water. But, if every person in Modesto could manage to use one less gallon of water per day, our city would conserve 68,620,000 gallons of water a year. That is enough water to fill 3,431 average backyard swimming pools!

Every one of us has the responsibility to help conserve water, and there are many ways you can do it! For example, always run full loads of laundry and dishes. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving. Another idea is to buy energy-efficient products. Some dishwashers only use one gallon of water instead of five or six gallons, and they work just as well! Another good idea that my mom has done for years is to use the fish tank water to water her plants when it’s time to clean the aquarium. (The nutrients from the fish water are also good for the plants!) Some of these conservation ideas might sound like a lot of work, but



Jose Cavazos points to the water table on an illustrated city map.

in the long run they will pay off.

Wouldn’t it be great if Modesto became a leader in conserving our nation’s most precious resource?

With your help, and the help of Jose Cavazos, we can all make this possible.

Jose said that one way he educates the public on water conservation is through classroom presentations at schools where he gives out frisbees, water bottles and sun visors with a conservation message on them. He also distributes information packets, non-drip hose ends and water-saving shower heads.

Jose says that he feels it is very important to educate people about water conservation. One of the key things I have learned through studying this water conservation issue is that if you can teach yourself to sing Italian opera in the shower just a little faster and use a water-saver shower head, then you can do your city a good service!

Only Rain Down the Drain!
YOU are the Pollution Solution!

DON'T DUCK RESPONSIBILITY—KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN!

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

Vintage Faire Mall Now Home to CHATM and Modesto Police



The Vintage Faire Mall, home to City Hall at the Mall (CHATM) since 1997, will soon become home to the Modesto Police Department's Northwest Area Command Office, which was previously located at 2005 Evergreen Avenue. The new office is located in City Hall at the Mall, Suite 284, on the lower level near JC Penney.

Not only will the new Northwest Command Office continue to provide you with the same excellent service as was given at the Evergreen location, but you will also be able to take care of other city business, pay utility bills, go shopping and enjoy a variety of restaurants as well.

City Hall at the Mall offers pay stations for MID; city water, sewer and garbage; AT&T Broadband, Long Distance and Wireless; and PG&E.

Other pay services include U.S. Postal Stamps;

Business License Mill Tax; City Employee Retiree Insurance; parking citations; MAX public transit bus passes and books, Dial-A-Ride tickets and BART Express passes; gift certificates for municipal golf course green fees or Pro shops; old and custom-made signs; and old fire hydrants.

In addition you can register for City of Modesto Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods classes and sports leagues, fax the City Council or pick up free recycling "blue bags" (one roll per customer for city residents with proof of residence).

Applications are also available for County dog licenses, business licenses and City of Modesto employment.

City Hall at the Mall is open Monday through Friday, 10:00AM-9:00PM; Saturday, 10:00AM-8:00PM; and Sunday, 11:00AM-6:00PM.



City Offers Bulky Item Collection

City of Modesto residents with two-can garbage service are allowed two bulky item appointments per calendar year to dispose of large items, such as appliances, furniture, bicycles and mattresses. For appointments, call your garbage company.

To report bulky item piles in the street in front of a home for more than two days, call the **Solid Waste Office** at **577-5494**.



Help Keep Our Streets & Alleys Clear of Refuse

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!



Youth Award Nominations Sought

Nominations for the 2003 Honoring Outstanding

Youth Awards are now being accepted. The awards will recognize three young men or women age 18 and under who have made an outstanding contribution to the Modesto community in the areas of Community Service, Volunteerism or Heroism.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, May 2, 2003. For a nomination form, call 571-5897, email: jobryan@modestogov.com or visit the website at www.modestoyouth.org.



May Events Celebrate Mothers & More!

May is great month to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, enjoy family fun, honor our mothers and grandmothers, listen to local artists and more.

Don't miss these fun-filled, city-sponsored community events in May:

- Cinco de Mayo Celebration: **May 3** (577-5355).
- Mother's Day Brunch: **May 10** (577-5355).
- Mother's Day Tea: **May 10** (578-1524).
- Seranades on Sundays: **May 25** (558-8628).



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 5/15/2003

Available at these local nurseries:

Scenic Nursery
1313 Scenic Drive
Westurf
1612 Claus Road

Is Your Yard Impacting Our Clean Air?

Most people do not associate air pollution with maintaining their yard. However, emissions from lawn mowers, chain saws, leaf blowers and similar outdoor power equipment are a significant source of summer-time pollution.

Small engines emit high levels of carbon monoxide. They also emit hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, which are pollutants that contribute to the formation of smog.

As summer approaches, the following are yard maintenance steps you can take to reduce pollution:

- Avoid spilling gasoline when refueling power equipment by using a funnel and not overfilling the tank.
- Maintain your equipment. Change the oil and clean or replace air filters regularly. Get tune-ups, maintain sharp mower blades and keep the underside of your mower clean.
- Consider less-polluting equipment options, such as manual or electric tools.
- Reduce mowing time by using low-maintenance turf grasses or grass/flower seed mixtures that grow slowly, such as Marathon III variety of Rye Grass.

Contributed by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

SPARE THE AIR!

Two Days of Cycling Fun Coming to Modesto!



The **Family Cycling Festival and Criterium** will return to downtown Modesto on Saturday, May 17, 10:00AM to 3:00PM, at the Stanislaus County Courthouse on I Street. The criterium runs from 8:00AM to 5:00PM. The full day of fun includes all-day free cycling entertainment for the whole family!

The **Giant Bicycles Stunt Team** from Southern California will top the entertainment list. This team performs throughout the

United States and is world-renowned for their extreme spectacular, non-stop, action-packed bicycle stunt shows. They will perform at 10:00AM, Noon and 2:00PM.

Other entertainment will include John Foss-the Unicyclone, "Unipsycho" Mania, "Cop"-etition and an Interactive Traffic Safety City.

Bicycle safety checks, bicycle licenses and bicycle safety information will be available. Take the challenge and climb the rock wall!

Children's activities will include drawings for bicycles and helmets, free prizes, games and face painting.

The criterium will host beginner/children's races from 10:00 to 11:00AM. Pro races will run at various times throughout the day.

For more criterium details, contact Lynn at John Field DDS, 527-7857.

California Bike-to-Work Day Attracts over 15,000 Cyclists Statewide!

City of Modesto Rideshare, along with other community organizations, will host **Modesto Bike-to-Work Day** on Thursday, May 15, 6:30 to 8:30AM, at Tenth Street Plaza on 10th Street between J & K Streets.

A continental breakfast will be offered to all bicycle riders. The first 125 riders will receive a free t-shirt and bicycle incentives. There will be free prize drawings, music and lots of fun!

For more information on both events, contact Ann at 571-5193 or Nancy at 529-9303, or visit the website at www.modestogov.com/etd/ride.

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

It's that time of year again and the Modesto Fire Department would like to remind you to change the batteries in your smoke detector. If your smoke detector still does not work after changing the batteries, it can generally be replaced for less than \$15.

Each year, approximately 8,000 Americans die from fire and hundreds of thousands are badly burned.

Sadly, our children and senior citizens are the most likely to become fire victims.

By installing a smoke detector, you have twice the chance of surviving a fire in your home. It will sound at the first hint of smoke and can give you a few extra precious moments to either eliminate the danger or escape the threat to your life.

Families should also make sure you have two

ways out of every room and that you have a meeting place outside the home for the whole family.

Also, never enter a building that is on fire or full of smoke. Leave that to the professionals who have the proper training and equipment to handle these types of emergencies.

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