

Council to meet at Rivera School

The Merced City Council will hold another meeting outside of City Hall this month, this time at Rivera Middle School.

The Council wants to bring the meetings to the residents, making it easier for people to get to meetings. The Council also wants to make it a little less intimidating for people to address officials by holding meetings in less formal settings.

The meeting will be held at Rivera Middle School from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday Feb. 25.

February 25
7-8:30 p.m.
Rivera Middle School
945 Buena Vista Dr.

The Council was able to take its meetings outside of the Merced Civic Center on West 18th Street as a result of an amendment to the City Charter in 2007. Prior to that all City Council meetings had to be held in the Civic Center.

The Council is limited in the action it can take at the meetings.

The meeting will include time for the Council to hear from City residents about what issues they have and challenges they face.

Take time to visit the Zoo

The Applegate Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. The Zoo is located at 1045 W. 25th St. in Merced (25th and R streets).

ADMISSION PRICES

Under 5	Free
Ages 5-15	\$2.00
Ages 16-61	\$3.00
Ages 62+	\$1.50

City starts to work on Bike Plan

Comments, suggestions needed from the public

The community is invited to an open forum for public input contributing to a revision of the Merced Bike Plan. The forum will occur on Weds., Feb. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the Sam Pipes Room in the Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th St.

The City of Merced Planning Division and the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) has begun to update the City's 2008 Merced Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP).



Bike paths wind through City parks.

This document is necessary to compete for funds made available each year by Caltrans for a variety of bike-related improvements.

Projects previously awarded funds from Caltrans include bike paths, lanes and routes; rehabilitation of pavement and associated markings; bike and pedestrian bridges and road undercrossings; street intersection redesigns; lighting; bike racks and lockers; bike education events, bike commuter maps and way-finding signs.

The plan is updated every 5 years and will contain a prioritized list of projects. Using public comments, suggestions and other data, the City's Bicycle Advisory Commission will recommend to the City a list of prioritized projects for improvement during the next 5 years.

This workshop is an opportunity for the public to give input on ways to make the City friendlier to bicycle transportation.

Maps of existing, current and proposed bike-related projects will be displayed at the meeting.

Assisting the City and MCAG will be members from the Merced Bicycle Coalition, Building Healthy Communities, and the Merced Golden Valley Health Center.

More information is available at the



Merced has many Class 2 Bike Lanes on City streets.

City's Planning Division's website (cityofmerced.org).

If people can't make the public workshop they can submit written comments. Send those to our partner: MCAG, 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, or fax to (209) 723-0322 Attn: Ty Phimmasone, or e-mailed to ty.phimmasone@mcagov.org.

Please contact Ty at (209) 723-3153, ext. 309 if you have any questions.

Merced City Council

Mayor Stan Thurston
 Council Members:
 Bill Blake
 Tony Dossetti
 Noah Lor
 Mike Murphy
 Josh Pedrozo
 Mary-Michal Rawling

Contact the City Council by email at Citycouncil@cityofmerced.org, by calling 385-6834 or writing to Council members at the Civic Center address below.

Council meetings

The Council meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Civic Center, 678 W. 18th St. When Monday is a holiday, such as Feb. 18, Council meets the next day. The agenda is posted online at www.CityofMerced.org.

Contacting us

www.CityofMerced.org, contains City Council information, the Muni Code, General Plan and other information. Contact the Newsletter at newsletter@CityofMerced.org, call the Public Information Office at 385-6232 or write:
 Merced Civic Center
 Attn: Public Information Office
 678 W. 18th St.
 Merced CA 95340

The Civic Center is open Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., except holidays.

Call us

City Council	385-6834
City Manager	385-6834
City Attorney	385-6868
City Clerk	388-7100
Airport	385-6873
Code Enforcement.....	385-6861
Finance	388-7900
Inspection Services	385-6861
Personnel.....	388-7100
Planning Department.....	385-6858
Public Works (7:30-4:30) ...	385-6800
After hours	385-6905
Recreation	385-6855
Utility payments.....	388-7289

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Fire Department..... 385-6891
 Police Department 385-6912

Ask the City: Party Central? Look no further

Ask the City is an ongoing column answering questions that have been submitted to us by mail, email or phone. Readers can submit their questions to the addresses in the column on the left.

***I'm looking for someplace to hold a birthday party? Does the City have any place that I can rent?
 A call to the Office of Recreation***

We get that call a lot, with people looking for a place to hold a birthday party, a wedding reception, or sometimes it's a business meeting.

The City has a number of facilities that are available to rent. Give a call to the Office of Recreation at 385-6855 and staff can make that event happen.

Buildings

- *Merced Senior Community Center, 755 W. 15th St., 323 guests banquet-style, 400 audience style
- *Sam Pipes Conference Room, Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th St. 100 audience -style, 60 luncheon/classroom

- *Rotary Scout Hut, Applegate Park, near N Street, 49 people
- *Rossotti Ed-Zoo-Cation Center, Applegate Park, next to the Zoo, 60 people
- *Merced Open Air Theater, outdoor amphitheater in Applegate Park
- *Gazebo/Rose Garden, in Applegate Park near M Street

Picnic shelters

- *Rahilly Picnic Shelter, Rahilly Park, 3400 N. Parsons Ave.



The Senior Center shown decorated for a wedding.

- *Joe Herb Shelter, 2200 Yosemite Park Way
- *Soroptimist Shelter, next to Kiddieland in Applegate Park on W. 25th.

Think Green

Save electricity with power strips

Did you know that if your TV, computer and other appliances are plugged in, they are quietly draining electricity all day, even when they are turned off?

This phenomenon is known as standby power, or the electric power consumed by products when they are switched off or in a standby mode. Standby power is a

big issue. It accounts for 5 percent to 10 percent of residential energy use, costing the average U.S. household \$100 per year.

Use a Power Strip with Switches. You can use a power strip with on/off switches to plug in your appliances. For example, use a power strip in the living room, where the TV, DVD

player, game system and sound system are all plugged in. Have another power strip in an office, where the computer, printer, paper shredder, lamp and phone charger are plugged in. If you plug all of your products into a power strip and flip off the power strip when these items are not in use, they are truly off. *from energy.gov*

City offices are closed for President's Day holiday

All City of Merced offices will be closed for the President's Day holiday, Monday, Feb. 18.

There will not be a City Council meeting that night. The Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

Refuse collection also will be delayed by one day because of the holiday. Those residents scheduled for Tuesday pickup will

have trash collected Wednesday, those with Wednesday collection will have refuse picked up Thursday, etc.

This schedule applies to people with City refuse pickup.

If you have questions about your trash collection schedule call the Public Works Department at 385-6800 or check the website at www.cityofmerced.org.