

Road work will make our lives much smoother

ARRA funds used to resurface roads

The City of Merced has launched a major road overlay project in the Downtown Area.

Once completed, the project will make it a much smoother ride for people entering the community from Highway 99.

The \$1.1 million project will resurface 16th Street from V Street to G Street.

The section of G street from 16th Street to just south of 22nd Street also will be resurfaced.

The G Street road work will end right where the G Street underpass road work will begin this summer.

The project started in March, but is getting up to speed this month. It is due to be wrapped up by mid-summer.

The project is funded by money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) also known as the Federal Stimulus Plan.

Bids for the project came in so far below the engineer's esti-

mated cost that the additional road work on G Street was able to be included in the project.

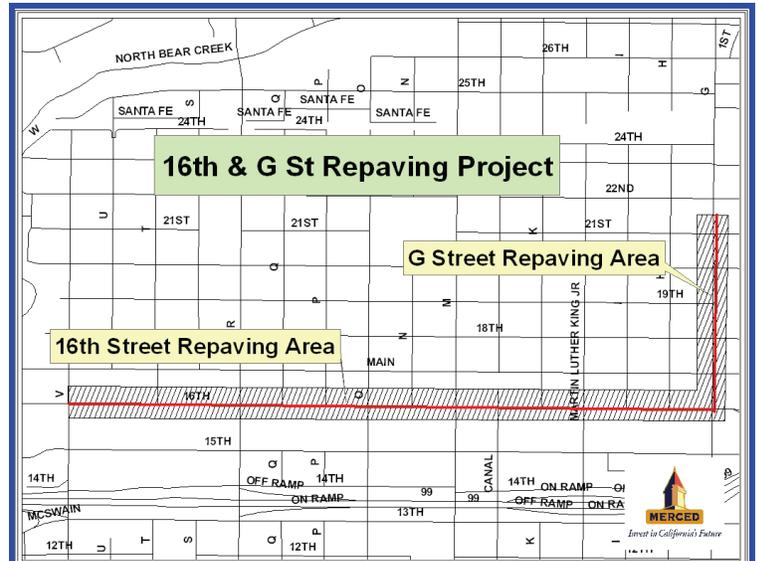
The project is called a "grind and overlay" where machinery grinds off the top layer of asphalt and then overlays it with new roadbed.

G Street and 16th Street are both major business routes containing a number of stores and restaurants. Businesses along Main Street also rely on 16th Street access for parking.

To make it easier for everyone, there will always be one lane of traffic open during the project.

City staff is working to schedule as much construction as possible for the early morning hours when it comes to the heavily traveled section of 16th Street between Martin Luther King Jr. Way and O Street.

Businesses in the area will be kept informed of the project and its progress with regular visits from City staff.



The Streets of Merced

Look for road updates on Facebook

The City of Merced has used social media in the past as a way of connecting with the public.

We are taking a bigger step with the 16th Street Resurfacing project and launching a Facebook page, *The Streets of Merced*, to keep residents in-

formed about the road work, lane closures and to remind people that the businesses are still open.

We will continue to use Facebook for regular updates on G Street and our other road projects in the City. We also will use other media to inform people.

Workshop offers help in dealing with foreclosures

A Foreclosure Education and Modification Workshop will be held later this month to help out people facing serious financial troubles with their home mortgages.

The event is sponsored by Assemblymember Cathleen Galgiani and Congressman Dennis Cardoza in conjunction with No Homeowner Left Behind (NHLB) and Merced County Office of Education.

The workshop will be held:

Friday, April 23
Noon to 7 p.m.

Atwater Community Center
760 E. Bellevue Road in
Atwater

From noon to 1 p.m. during the event an informational session will be held to discuss how to prevent foreclosure, survive foreclosure and life after foreclosure.

From 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. people

Lenders will be there to talk with borrowers

will have an opportunity to meet with a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved housing counselor to discuss their personal needs.

In addition to speaking with a housing counselor, people may have a chance to speak with a

representative from their respective lending institution.

The following institutions have been invited to attend:

- * Bank of America
- * Chase/WAMU/JP Morgan
- * Wells Fargo

For more information regarding this event, please contact (209) 726-5465 or visit <http://adc.asm.ca.gov/kw>.

For future events go to <http://nohomeownerleftbehind.org>.

Merced City Council

Mayor Bill Spriggs
 Council Members:
 Bill Blake
 John Carlisle
 Michele Gabriault-Acosta
 Noah Lor
 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 usually meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Civic Center. The agenda is posted online at www.CityofMerced.org.

Contacting us

The Web site, www.CityofMerced.org, contains City Council information, the Municipal 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
 678 W. 18th St.
 Merced CA 95340

The Civic Center is open Monday-Friday 8 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
Parks/CommServices	385-6855

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

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

Ask the City: Clean up after your dog (and cat)

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.

We received a call from a resident wondering if the City has a “pooper scooper” law on the books. The caller said there are way too many people walking their dogs on the bike paths who don’t clean up after their pets.

Anonymous caller

Yes, it is illegal to allow your dog to foul the City and not clean it up. And

it is gross, too!!!

Section 6.04.060 of the City’s Municipal Code spells it out in detail:

“It shall be the duty of any person having custody of a dog to curb said dog and to immediately remove any feces deposited by said dog on public property to a proper receptacle. Un sighted persons while relying on a guide dog shall be exempt from this section.”

The first offense is an infraction punishable by fines up to \$150. Repeat offenders could face misdemeanor charges which carry a fine up to \$1,000 and the potential for six months in jail. (Would you really want

to tell your cellmate why you are serving time?)

The reality is that a police officer is not likely to write you up for not picking up after your animal, but they can.

However, this is really about being a good neighbor and a good resident of Merced. We should all clean up after our pets.

Carry around a plastic bag and when Spencer makes a deposit, clean it up and toss it in a garbage can.

This isn’t just an issue on bike paths. Dogs and cats who litter your lawn could be considered a nuisance. Make sure to clean up after your pets wherever they go.

Mail that Census form back so that everyone is counted

The form for the 2010 U.S. Census arrived last month. If you didn’t fill it out and mail it back, please do so. The Census helps determine how much funding is received by our City.

If you and your family are not counted, the money goes elsewhere.

Information on the form will remain private and cannot be shared with other government agencies.

Think Green

Free appliance recycling at Spring Clean Up

The City of Merced’s annual Spring Clean Up continues to add more “green” elements to the event.

Several years ago the City added an E-waste pickup to the event, so people could drop off old computers, TVs and electronics for free and know they were going to be recycled.

Now the City has teamed up with a local company to recycle old appliances for free. In past years there was a charge to drop off appliances, but no longer. And while those old fridges and ranges might have ended up in the landfill, now they will see a second use as parts, or be rebuilt.

The Spring Clean Up will be from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. April 10 and 11 and April 17 and 18.

Treated lumbers, including creosote poles, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, paints, pesticides, motor oil and construction debris will not be accepted.



The drop off sites will be at:

- *Merced College (LeHigh Drive lot)
- *Merced High (G St. lot)
- *Golden Valley High (Childs Ave. lot)
- *Merced Fairgrounds (11th and G lot)

Everyone dropping off stuff will be required to prove they are a resident of the City of Merced. (There is no residency requirement to drop off E-waste at the Fairgrounds.)