

18th Street open for business and it's better than ever

New storm drain system will help keep Downtown drier

The 18th Street road project was completed this summer and the street and sidewalks have been returned to normal use.

Residents can navigate the street without trouble, park in front of their favorite merchants and admire the new brickwork decorating the sidewalk.

And it is just in time.

This winter is expected to be a wet one, and that will serve as a showcase for the 18th Street road project, which stretched from N Street to G Street.

The National Weather Service has predicted that the state will get hit by the "Pineapple Express," the warm storms that pack lots of water.

A large part of the 18th Street project was to install a new — and improved — underground storm water drain system. When the rains hit, the water will be drained away instead of pooling along the roadside.

People walking along 18th Street in dry weather won't notice the underground piping, but they will notice the pedestrian improvements.

There is new brickwork along the sidewalks to match the Main Street improvements made more than a decade ago.

Drivers will appreciate the smoother, flat-



ter roadbed. The road bed was regraded and the crown of the road reconstructed. In the end, the cracked, pitted street was repaved.

In addition, new landscaping was added along the sidewalks to beautify that section of the Downtown.

New electrical and fiber conduit was installed in the street, so the roadway won't need to be torn up to add more lines.

The project was funded by a \$2 million grant from the American Recovery and Rein-

vestment Act (ARRA) as well as more than \$600,000 in local redevelopment funding.

The Downtown merchants along 18th Street and surrounding streets remained open for business during the construction phase and we appreciate everyone who shopped at those stores.

And for the people who avoided the construction zone, come down and rediscover those shops, stores and businesses. There's lots of good things happening Downtown.

Almost...

Construction of the G Street Underpass continues on schedule for completion in December. The road has been paved but there is still other work that needs to be done before it can be opened for traffic.



Texting Tip 411 helps police fight crime

A communication tool will help agencies share information, and helps the public improve community safety.

CitizenObserver is a web-based notification tool for local agencies that enables citizens to receive and respond to text, email, and web alerts.

Merced ComVIP – the Merced Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Task Force – took the lead on

getting five local law enforcement and school agencies to subscribe to CitizenObserver.

One of the CitizenObserver features allows people to submit tips anonymously to police.

To use the Tip Line a person texts Tip 411 (847411) and begins the text message with the word COMVIP. The text message will be sent anonymously.

For more information, check out the Police website.

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 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. The agenda is posted online at www.CityofMerced.org.

Contacting us

The Web site, 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: Check out Crimemapping.com

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 want to find out more information about crime in my neighborhood. Where can I get more information?

Anonymous caller

There are two good resources available to the public to find out about crime in their neighborhoods, and how to fight it.

The City has Crimemapping.com available to see what crimes are happening in your neighborhood. The website is updated daily and people can check the last three months of reports.

You can run reports to see trends in your area, and even print out charts. So far, more than 17,000 people have viewed the website since it opened a year ago.

There is another feature included in the software that allows people to subscribe to crime alerts. The alerts notify you of 15 types of crimes and you can select a radius from 500 feet around your home to 2 miles.

A good way to help prevent crimes from happening is to join Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch connects you with your neighbors and the Police Department. You learn how you and your neighbors can help each other lower crime in your area.

To get more information or sign up for Neighborhood Watch, please call 385-6835 and leave a message.

City offices closed for Veteran's Day and the Thanksgiving holidays

City offices will be closed Friday, November 11 to observe the Veteran's Day holiday and also Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving.

There will be no trash collection Nov. 11 or Nov. 24. Pickup will be delayed one day during those holiday weekends. People have their put the containers curbside by 6 a.m. the next day. Those with Nov. 25 service (Thanksgiving) should have their containers out by the morning of Nov. 26.

Effective August 1
 City Hall is open 10 am-5 pm

Efectivo el 1° de Agosto el
 nuevo horario de la Ciudad
 Sera 10 am-5 pm

Pib lub 8 hli ntuj vas thib 1,
 cov xooj hmoos tshiah rau
 City Hall yog 10am – 5pm

The regular 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. employee work day will not change, only the Civic Center building hours at 678 W. 18th St.

Leaves get composed after collection

The City of Merced began collecting leaves on Halloween and will continue until Jan. 21. A map on the program was mailed to households last month. The map can be found on the City Website.

To make the pickup more efficient:

- ✓ Do not park at the curb on collection days.
 - ✓ Sweep leaves into rows at least four feet from the curb.
 - ✓ Do not put brush or grass out for collection.
 - ✓ Do not put household waste into the gutters.
- The program helps keep

Think Green

storm drains from getting clogged and leaves from being dumped into area creeks and waterways.

Collected leaves are used for mulch and compost for a future park site.

Funding for the leaf collection comes from utility bill payments and cannot be used for outside purposes, such as funding fire or police personnel.

The program operates six days per week.

If you have questions on this program, call Public Works at 209-385-6800.

Please make time to take our survey

The City needs your help in developing a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This plan will be used to identify natural hazards for the community, what potential impact they could have and how to potentially deal with them.

Studies have shown that many of the effects of natural disasters can be avoided.

There is a short online survey that will help staff make the plan. To find the survey, go to the website, www.cityofmerced.org.

It won't take long and we appreciate your help.