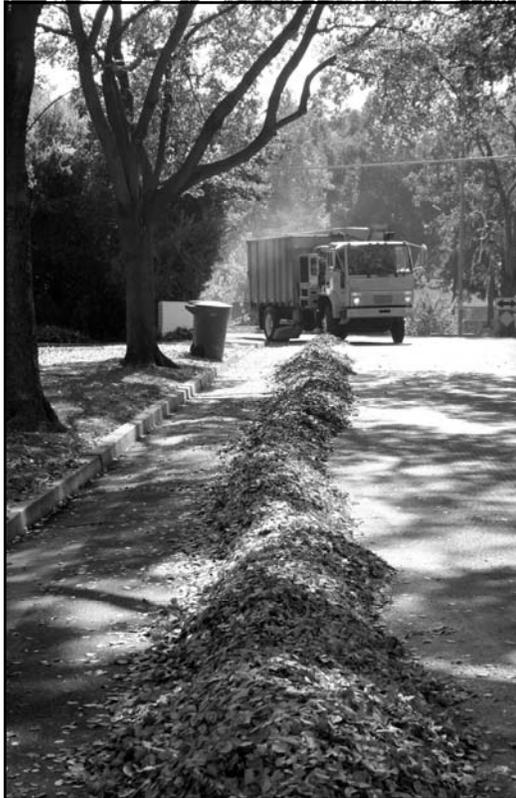


City of Merced *Your City Connection* CityofMerced.org

DECEMBER 2012



Pile leaves in rows for better pickup.

All Fall down

It's leaf collection season in the City

Last month, leaf collection began in Merced. Public Works vehicles started covering the streets searching for leaves piled in the streets.

Residents were mailed a flier with the expected dates of collection in four zones of the City.

Those dates may vary a bit depending on weather, holidays and the like, but the sweepers will come through your neighborhood between now and Jan. 15 when the collection ends.

Here are some tips from the Public Works Department:

- ✓ Do not park at the curb on collection days.
- ✓ Sweep leaves into rows at least four feet from the curb.
- ✓ No branches, brush clippings, pine needles, pine cones and lawn clippings will be

collected.

- ✓ Please put as many leaves as possible in your green can.
- ✓ Program will operate six days a week, EXCEPT for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holiday.
- ✓ Due to unforeseeable variables, routes may be delayed or be ahead of schedule. If we get ahead of schedule we will be back during your scheduled days. We appreciate your understanding and patience.
- ✓ Area service dates are next to the corresponding color/area on the map.
- ✓ Collected leaves are used for mulch and compost on local farms.

This program is available only within City of Merced limits.

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

Please look for us on Facebook

Merced Fire Department, Streets of Merced offer City news

The Merced Fire Department recently created a Facebook page to let the public have a closer look at the department.

It worked. The page has items about a Department open house, training exercises and responding to various fires in town.

Then the Fire Department's social media site hit a home run. A short item about Firefighter Kevin Buccola caught on like wildfire.

Buccola had wrapped up a day's exercise at a local gym when he spotted a man in the parking lot showing no signs of life.

His training kicked in and Buccola began giving the man CPR while asking others to call 911 and get the gym's defibrillator. The man's

life was saved and he was taken to the hospital to recover.



In less than 36 hours the Fire Department's Facebook page had more than 40,000 views and the item had more than 4,900 likes.

This was a short testament to the power and value of social media and how much it is used by the public.

The City also has a Facebook page, although not quite as popular as the Fire Department's page. Called *The Streets of Merced*, the site posts everything from Council meeting updates to water line breaks.

Google Facebook and Merced Fire Department or Streets of Merced. Go ahead, LIKE us!

Sign up now to join Neighborhood Watch

The City's Neighborhood Watch Program is always looking for new members. Sign up today to become an active member of the program.

The program is designed to fight crime in the neighborhood, but also open up communications between neighbors. A wide range of safety materials are available to those in the program.

The program is operated by the Merced Police Department, with cooperation from Merced Fire Department, Code Enforcement and the Public Works Department. It is coordinated by the Office of Recreation.

Call 385-6835 to leave a message for more information.

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 Sept. 3, 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: Twelve tips for happy holidays

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.

Happy holidays? Bah humbug! *Overheard in a Merced store*

- *Wash hands often to keep yourself from spreading germs and getting sick. Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds.
- *Bundle up to stay dry and warm. Wear appropriate layers of outdoor clothing.
- *Manage stress. Don't over-commit yourself and prevent holiday anxiety and pressure. Get enough sleep.
- *Don't drink and drive or let others do it.
- *Be smoke-free. There is NO safe amount of tobacco or secondhand smoke.
- *Fasten seat belts and always buckle your

- child in a child safety seat or booster seat.
 - *Get exams and screenings. Update your personal and family history.
 - *Get your vaccinations, which help prevent diseases and save lives.
 - *Monitor the children. Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, and other objects out of kids' reach. Develop rules about electronic media.
 - *Most residential fires occur during the winter months, so never leave fireplaces, space heaters, stoves, or candles unattended.
 - *Remember these food safety steps: wash hands and surfaces often, avoid cross-contamination, cook foods to proper temperatures, and refrigerate promptly.
 - *Eat healthy, and get moving. Eat fruits and vegetables. Limit your portion sizes and foods high in fat and sugar. Be active for at least 2½ hours a week, teens an hour a day.
- From the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention*

There's a green way to dispose of your tree

Every year the City Public Works Department collects Christmas trees, grinds them up and turns them into useful compost. Your tree can be part of the green solution. Help turn your green tree into compost.

Think Green

First off, remember this is not the 1990s! Trees placed at the curb WILL NOT be collected.

Christmas Trees should be placed in the GREEN container when:

All ornaments have been removed, including tinsel and tree stand.

- ✓ Cut into segments of no longer than 4 feet each.
- ✓ There is no flocking or treatment.
- ✓ Christmas Trees should be placed in the GRAY container if flocked or treated.
- ✓ Please make sure the lid closes; cans that are overloaded *will not* be emptied.

Trees should **NOT BE BURNED** in fireplaces. This can be very dangerous and a picture of your house might end up on the Fire Department's Facebook page after they respond to the fire.

City offices closed for Christmas, New Years Day

All City of Merced offices will be closed for Christmas, Tuesday, Dec. 25 and New Year's Day, Tuesday, Jan. 1 so that employees can spend time with their families.

Refuse collection 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 only applies to people who have 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.

Changes in airline schedule

The Great Lakes Airlines schedule for flights from Merced Regional Airport has changed.

	DEPARTS	ARRIVES
MERCED TO LOS ANGELES		
DAILY	6:00 AM	7:42 AM
DAILY	2:20 PM	4:02 PM
LOS ANGELES TO MERCED		
MON-SAT	7:30 AM	9:17 AM
SUN	8:00 AM	9:47 AM
SUN-FRI	5:20 PM	7:07 PM
SATURDAY	4:27 PM	6:14 PM
MERCED TO LAS VEGAS		
FRI-SAT-MON	9:27 AM	10:57 AM
SUN	9:57 AM	11:27 AM
LAS VEGAS TO MERCED		
FRI-MON	12:40 PM	2:10 PM

Schedule Effective Dec. 01, 2012