

Name this newsletter

JULY 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1

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This is the first edition of the City of Merced's new monthly newsletter that is inserted with utility bills.

The newsletter will help keep residents informed of events and projects in the City.

Utility customers will receive the newsletter with their bill on the first and 15th of the month. The newsletter also will be available at counters in the Civic Center, other City buildings and online.

We need your help selecting a name for this newsletter. The name must be concise, creative and family-friendly. In case of duplicate entries, the first entry received will be the winner.

All entries must be received by Aug. 30 and the winner will be announced in the October issue. The winner will receive a variety of gifts and souvenirs from the City of Merced, along with a certificate of appreciation.

Send your entry to: Newsletter, 678 W. 18th St. Merced or e-mail it to newsletter@cityofmerced.org.

For more information, call 385-6232.

www.cityofmerced.org

Looking for the City's budget, or how to sign up for a class? The City's Web site holds the key. It's loaded with information on the City and the services provided. The site is updated regularly and new features are planned for the site.

Council approves 2006-07 City budget

City to create 42 positions in the police and fire departments

The City Council approved the 2006-07 budget in June. The \$279,794,204 budget was written based on Council direction given during a March goal-setting session.

The budget adds 68 new positions in the City, almost half funded by Measure C. The budget would create positions for 22 new police officers, two dispatchers and two police clerks, 16 firefighters and 26 other positions in the City.

Funds from the Measure C half-cent sales tax will be used to fund 19 of the new police positions and 13 firefighter positions. The sales tax increase is expected to raise \$5,371,000 during the fiscal year.

It will take more than a year to fill all of the new public



safety positions.

Mello Roos funds, levied on new developments in Merced, will pay for six police positions and three firefighter positions. One additional police position would be paid for from the City's general fund.

The budget contains \$111.2

million of restricted funds for capital projects, including: \$24.2 million for new water wells, \$7.5 million for work on the Campus Parkway, \$4.1 million for new park projects and more than \$3 million for improvements at the Airport industrial Park.

Wayfinding signs will show folks the way around town

People will be seeing a downtown historic landmark all over town soon. The Merced Tower Theater will be prominently displayed as part of the new "wayfinding" signs that were recently approved by the City Council.

The signs are intended to help visitors and residents find their way to destinations in the City and the surrounding areas.

The signs will orient peo-

ple to destinations such as the Downtown, Merced College, the County Fairgrounds and UC Merced.

The drawing on the left shows what a sign would look like to identify the destination. The direction signs will have three to four locations listed with arrows pointing out the proper path.

The 14-foot tall signs are part of the 1999 Downtown Merced Strategy plan.



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Odd/Even Address Watering Schedule

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Midnight to 11 AM and 7PM to Midnight	ODD	DO NOT WATER ANYTIME	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN
NO MIDDAY WATERING — 11 AM to 7 PM							

Watering the lawn and yard? Never on Monday!

The City of Merced has a Water Conservation Ordinance in effect year-round.

The Odd/Even Address system is used to determine watering days.

If your address is an odd number (ending in 1,3,5, 7, or 9) it's OK to water on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

If you have an even address (ending in

0, 2, 4, 6 or 8) your watering days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Do not water between 11 AM and 7 PM, and never water anytime on Monday.

Remember not to wash down sidewalks, driveways or other outdoor surfaces except when needed to protect health and safety. Buildings may be washed down

once a year.

Use a hose with an automatic shutoff device when washing boats, cars, RVs and trucks.

Do not water plants so much that it causes runoff and flooding.

Repair any broken or leaky irrigation and plumbing systems where water leaks.

South Merced resident needed for Measure C Oversight Committee

The Measure C Oversight Committee needs one more member to fill out its roster. Eight members have been appointed to the panel that oversees the spending of Measure C sales tax funds and recommends to the City Council how the money is spent. The ninth member must be a registered voter living in the City limits south of Highway 99. For more information visit the City website or call 385-6838.

City maintains its high ISO firefighting rating



The City has retained its fire protection rank as a Class 2 city from the ISO, a group that grades a community's ability to fight fires. Communities are ranked on a 1 to 10 scale, with Class 1 being the best service possible.

The rating was based on the fire alarm and communications system, the fire department staffing and equipment and the excellent water supply system maintained by the Public Works Department.

The City Council

Mayor Ellie Wooten
 Mayor Pro Tem Joe Cortez
 Councilwoman Michelle Gabriault-Acosta
 Councilman Rick Osorio
 Councilman Carl Pollard
 Councilman Jim Sanders
 Councilman Bill Spriggs

Contacting us

The City of Merced wants www.cityofmerced.org to be a one-stop source for information on the City. It contains

City Council agendas and minutes, the Municipal Code, the General Plan, news releases from the City, department listings e-mail addresses and information on local officials. It is regularly updated.

But we also want to hear from people in person or on the phone.

Merced Civic Center
 678 W. 18th St.
 Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., except holidays

Phone numbers
 City Council 385-6834

City Manager 385-6834
 City Attorney 385-6868
 Code Enforcement 385-6855
 Finance 385-4718
 Personnel 385-6839
 Planning Department 385-6858
 Public Works 385-6800
 Recreation/Parks 385-6855

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Fire Department 385-6876
 Police Department 385-6912