

## THE WEEKLY

## COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

May 17, 2024



#### **Progress at Laura Fountain**

The Laura Fountain Restoration Project crew has successfully replaced all underground utilities, including new water connections, drain lines, an advanced pump filtration system, and upgraded electrical systems for enhanced lighting. The fountain has been carefully cleaned and features a new aged copper finial, four matching granite obelisks, and restored brass gargoyles that will soon spout water.

The new lighting system is in place, and natural rock has been added around the base. A new stand for the memorial plaque has also been completed. Remaining tasks include applying a final protective coating, installing the lights just before filling the fountain, reattaching the gargoyles' heads, and replacing the surrounding concrete path.

We anticipate the project will be ready to be enjoyed by the community this summer. Stay tuned for information about the grand reopening!



#### Shout Out to Zookeeper Hannah

Hannah has dedicated countless hours to caring for the Merced Applegate Zoo's animals for almost two years. Her favorite, Wizzer the Gray Fox, especially loves to see her each day. She never hesitates to lend a hand; she even accompanied the animals to the Monterey Zoo helping with evacuation efforts during the January 2023 floods. Not only can the animals count on Hannah; her fellow coworkers also know they can. Hannah fosters a positive environment enabling the animals to thrive at Applegate Zoo,





#### **Representing the California Wetlands**

Andrew Barela, Wildlife Technician for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has been helping us revamp our large pond exhibit to better represent the wetlands of California. He has collected various types of native plants and grass seeds to plant in the exhibit. On top of that, he has been volunteering his time to plant them at the zoo as well. He has been bringing plants the past two weekends and plans on bringing in more to help complete the exhibit.



## Merced Yosemite Regional Airport Terminal Replacement Project Progress

This week, the new terminal building reached a significant milestone as its steel columns were installed, marking the start of vertical construction.



#### One Voice Advocacy Days Washington DC

Elected officials and staff from across Merced County, including representatives from Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Los Banos, Merced, Merced County, and the Merced County Association of Governments, participated in the annual "One Voice" advocacy event in Washington, DC. This event allows city and county representatives to engage with federal legislators and agencies to advocate for their communities.

Council Member Sarah Boyle, Director of Parks and Community Services Christopher Jensen, and Sr. Management Analyst/PIO Jennifer Flachman met with Congressman John Duarte, Senator Laphonza Butler, and Senator Alex Padilla. They also met with various federal agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Department of Transportation, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Veterans Affairs, and the Federal Aviation Administration. These discussions focused on current and future projects shaping Merced, such as the Highway 59 Black Rascal Creek Bridge Widening Project, the Childs and Canal Street Roadway Project in South Merced, the Bear Creek Restoration Project, the Airport Terminal Replacement Project, and the urgent need for affordable housing and homeless voucher services.

This face-to-face interaction is crucial for reviewing federal funding requests supporting these essential infrastructure projects. Twenty-five local elected officials and city and county staff participated, bolstering the advocacy efforts for all jurisdictions within the county.



Meeting with Senator Alex Padilla



Meeting with White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs



Meeting with Army Corps of Engineers

**Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool** 

#### The Value of City of Merced Boards and Commissions

Volunteering to serve on a City of Merced board or commission offers residents a unique opportunity to directly impact their community. By participating, volunteers can provide input about local policies, contribute to the development of projects, and ensure that community needs and perspectives are represented in city decisions. This involvement not only helps shape the future of Merced but also fosters a sense of civic pride and connection among residents, making it a rewarding and valuable experience.

## Appointments

District 3 Term Ending District 4 Term Ending At-Large Term Ending One Vacancy Ex-Officio\* (\*nonvoting)

## Roles

Advise the City Council on public art, art projects, cultural programs and activities, and promoting the arts within the city.

# Arts and Culture Advisory Commission

## Duties

MERCED

Offer recommendations to the City Council for public art projects on city-owned properties and right-of-ways that foster cultural connections and community pride and fulfill other duties as directed by the City Council.

## Meeting

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every oddnumbered month at 4:00 PM

## **City of Merced Public Works Annual Safety Fair**

Today, the Public Works Department hosted its annual safety fair, where employees enjoyed a BBQ lunch, participated in a Cornhole competition, and explored a vendor fair, all while enjoying the company of great coworkers.



#### Inspection Services Bi-weekly Report for April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 through April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Single Family Dwelling (SFD) permits:

- SFD Permits Issued: **5**
- SFD Permits in Plan Review: 105
- SFD Certificates of Occupancy: 9

Multi-Family Dwelling (MFD) permits in review:

- Affordable housing located at 3015 Park Ave.; 57,812 SF 3 story new construction, including a 2,744 SF community building. The project will provide 65 1 bedroom, 1-bathroom units and a single 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom unit.
- Two 1,336 SF duplexes located at 103 and 107 R St.
- A 4,624 SF 4-plex located at 1125 H St.
- Emerald Village: 228 units in 18 buildings totaling 142,416 SF of living space, plus a 1,736 SF clubhouse located at 3622 N Hwy 59.
- A 2,680 SF fourplex located at 40 W 13<sup>th</sup> St.
- A 4,020 SF 6-unit apartment located at 30 W 13<sup>th</sup> St.

MFD permits issued:

• No new multi-family dwelling permits issued for this time period.

Commercial & Industrial permits issued:

- There were 0 new construction commercial permits issued during this period.
- There was 1 new tenant improvement permit issued during this period; for a 4,053 SF IMAX Theater located at 403 W. Main St.

Commercial & Industrial permits submitted:

- There were 3 new construction commercial permits submitted during this period; one for s 6,171 SF convenience store & carwash located at 2010 Yosemite Parkway, one for a 6,034 SF Chick-Fil-A located at 265 W 15<sup>th</sup> St., and one for a 4,655 SF shell building for future retail and Starbucks located at 1285 Yosemite Ave.
- There were 2 new tenant improvement permits submitted during this period; one for a 2,992 SF meat market & taqueria located at 9 W Alexander Ave., and one for a 4,265 SF laundromat located at 1388 W Olive Ave.

Commercial & Industrial Certificates of Occupancy (CofOs)

• There was 1 commercial, industrial, and multi-family apartment CofO issued for this period for a 1,922 SF medical office located at 125 E 18<sup>th</sup> St.



#### THE WEEKLY CI - May 17, 2024





Multijurisdictional Housing Element The Public Review Draft for the Multijurisdictional Housing Element will be posted on the City's website and a link will be shared on our social media platforms on Monday, May 13, 2024. We welcome your review and look forward to your comments.