

THE WEEKLY

COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

May 24, 2024

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Fire Academy Conducts Wildland Training: Insights from Los Banos to Midpines.

This week, the fire academy conducted wildland training in Los Banos and the Midpines. Each location allowed the recruits to see different fuel types and topography. On Tuesday in Los Banos, they practiced handling construction, hoselays, and mobile attacks in grass. Cal Fire assisted with two engine companies out of Santa Nella. The highlight of the training was an opportunity to meet the Helitack crew on helicopter 406 from Hollister. The helicopter dropped its crew, and while the crew discussed the mission in the wildland, the helicopter demonstrated its water-dropping capabilities.

Thursday in Midpines marked a change in topography and fuel types. Unlike the rolling grass hills of Pacheco Pass, Midpines was much steeper and covered in manzanita brush and pine trees. The recruits practiced cutting handlines with saws and tools to remove the fuel to bare dirt and putting hundreds of feet of hose on a much steeper terrain.













Merced PD and Public Works Inspire Future Leaders at Elementary School Career Days

Merced PD and Public Works Crews recently participated in career days at Gracie Elementary and Peterson Elementary Schools. These events are essential and allow City of Merced staff to inspire young students, introduce them to various career paths, and highlight the importance of public service in the community. Engaging with students at a young age helps to foster a sense of civic responsibility and showcases the diverse opportunities available within local government.









Wrapping Up the SLEWS Program at the Wildlife Area

This week marked the conclusion of the SLEWS (Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship) program at the wildlife area. The participating students showed commendable efforts in planting, weeding, and nurturing native plants and pollinator species throughout the program.

Public Works in Action

Tree Crews Trimming Along 8th Street.







Walmart's Support for Merced Police Department Officers

Walmart has generously supported Merced Police Department officers by providing drinks, snacks, and handy notepads with pens. This thoughtful gesture boosts officers' morale as they continuously serve our community.



BADGES WITH BUCKETS: Supporting SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Merced Police Department, local law enforcement partners, and Starbucks teamed up to raise funds for the Special Olympics of Northern California. Merced PD thanks everyone who donated at the Merced Starbucks locations.

The community's support is vital in providing yearround sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. These programs are free to the athletes and their families, empowering them to excel on and off the field through Special Olympics.



ELIAS GUTIERREZ

PATROL OFFICER

WE WANT TO CONGRATULATE OFFICER ELIAS GUTIERREZ FOR PASSING THE MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT FIELD TRAINING.

OFFICER GUTIERREZ WAS BORN AND RAISED IN MERCED. HE PLAYED FOOTBALL FOR MERCED COLLEGE AND ENJOYED THE TEAM ENVIRONMENT IN FOOTBALL, WHICH IS WHY HE DECIDED ON A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. PRIOR TO COMING TO WORK FOR MERCED PD, HE WAS A TECHNICIAN FOR XFINITY.

PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING HIM!

SPOTLIGHT



EMETERIO CUEVAS

PATROL OFFICER

WE WANT TO CONGRATULATE OFFICER EMETERIO CUEVAS FOR PASSING THE MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT FIELD TRAINING.

OFFICER CUEVAS WAS BORN IN MERCED AND RAISED IN DOS PALOS. HE ATTENDED MERCED COLLEGE WHERE HE OBTAINED HIS A.A. IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE. HE TRANSFERRED TO STANISLAUS STATE AND OBTAINED HIS B.A. IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE. HE WORKED AS A POLICE OFFICER FOR DOS PALOS PD FOR 5 YEARS AND AS A RESERVE OFFICER FOR MODESTO PD FOR A YEAR.

PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING HIM!



MERCED

What to Do with Used Batteries

Did you know that when you dispose of batteries in the trash, you could cause a truck fire? Even when batteries appear completely drained, they can have enough energy to injure or start fires. A 2021 report from the EPA found more than 200 fires reported at waste facilities across the country have been associated with lithium-ion batteries. The number of fires due to batteries is likely much higher since many go unreported. Batteries contain toxic elements that can leach out and contaminate the environment.

Batteries are Household Hazardous Waste and need to be disposed of properly.

Both household and automotive batteries are conveniently accepted at the Merced County Regional Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at the Highway 59 Landfill.

For information on disposal, you can easily check out their website at https://mcrwma.org/31/Household-Hazardous-Waste or call 209-723-4481.

Rechargeable batteries, such as those used in cordless power tools, cell phones, digital cameras, laptops and tablets, toys, power wheels, and other electronics, can also be taken to drop-off bins found at Home Depot or Lowe's stores. With a few exceptions, most electronic batteries are accepted at Best Buy.

In addition to the Highway 59 Landfill, car batteries can usually be recycled at most auto parts stores and even some metal recyclers.

For safety, please play it safe and dispose of batteries appropriately. Thank you – City of Merced Public Works.



(Merced Fire putting out a truck fire caused by a power wheel with the battery left inside)





Badges WITH Buckets

BENEFITING

Special Olympics Northern California



On May 24, 2024 law enforcement personnel are partnering up with Starbucks to spark joy & collect donations in support of Special Olympics Northern California Athletes





Design Proposals Sought for General Vang Pao Park and Inclusive Aletha June Playground

Parks and Community Services recently released a Request for Design Proposals for General Vang Pao Park and Aletha June Playground. The park will honor the Hmong culture in Merced and the contributions of General Vang Pao. Additionally, the playground will be all-inclusive, ensuring that all children, regardless of ability or limitation, have the opportunity to play.





Merced Theatre	May 30, 2024
301 W. Main Street	10:00 AM

