

NEWSLETTER

CITY OF MERCED

Congratulations Battalion Chief Mickey Brunelli

Brunelli was recently honored at the State EMSA Awards Ceremony, where he received the prestigious Community Service Award from the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA). This competitive award—representing more than 86,000 EMS providers statewide—recognizes his exceptional leadership and contributions to emergency medical services and public safety. Through his dedication and service, Chief Brunelli has helped advance EMS in Merced, earning well-deserved recognition at both the local and state levels.



Teen Hero Plaque Reinstalled at Applegate Park

As part of ongoing beautification efforts at Applegate Park, the Teen Hero plaque honoring local hero Steven Stayner has been reinstalled, thanks to the support of the Merced American Italo Lodge. City staff joined the effort to recognize the plaque's significance and pay tribute to Steven's legacy, which continues to raise awareness about child safety and inspire community vigilance.



Merced Police Department Welcomes New Team Members and Promotions

This week, the Merced Police Department welcomed three new officers—Gabriel Rodriguez, Juan Perez, and Josiah Mardirosian—and celebrated the promotions of Detectives Peter Villarreal, Megan Aponte, and Nick Dabney. Congratulations to all as they begin or advance their service to the Merced community.



Welcome Dispatcher Xenia Gonzalez

Welcome Xenia Gonzalez, Merced PD's newest dispatcher. Dispatchers play a critical role as the first point of contact in emergencies, helping coordinate fast, accurate responses when every second counts. We also want to thank all of our dispatchers for their continued dedication and support—your work is essential to keeping our community safe.



Strengthening Skills and Connections: Rosa Alcaraz Represents Merced PD at Regional Networking and Development Event

This week, Merced PD Community Liaison, Rosa Alcaraz, attended a networking and professional development event hosted by the County of Monterey.

The day featured a seminar on AI implementation and policy led by the County's IT Department, offering practical knowledge on how emerging technologies are being used in the field. Attendees also received a behind-the-scenes tour of the County's Emergency Operations Center, which included a detailed briefing on the Moss Landing disaster response—highlighting the importance of strong communication during emergencies.

Another highlight of the day was the visit to the Sea Cave Media Studio, where participants saw firsthand some of the innovative and creative approaches to public outreach.



County of Monterey

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Tennis H.I.T.S. Program Got Off to a Great Start

The first of the Parks and Community Services Tennis H.I.T.S. program was a success. From warm-up drills to learning the fundamentals, young athletes brought energy, enthusiasm, and a great attitude to the court.

Thanks to the families who participated and helped make the day such a positive experience. This beginner-friendly program introduced kids to tennis through fun activities focused on movement, teamwork, and positive play.



McGregor Sidewalk Project

Crews are working on forming driveway approaches on Parkwest Street.



Big Progress at the Merced Regional Sports Complex

Major strides were made at the Merced Regional Sports Complex this week. The eight new pickleball courts are nearly complete, marking a significant milestone for the project. Construction is on track to wrap up by this summer, with a grand opening anticipated in Spring 2026. This fall, the Parks and Community Services Department will offer guided tours of the facility and begin accepting reservations for 2026.



LUIS GARNICA

DOWNTOWN DART

PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING OFFICER LUIS GARNICA ON HIS NEW ROLE AS THE DOWNTOWN DART (DISRUPTIVE AREA RESPONSE TEAM) OFFICER! OFFICER GARNICA HAS BEEN WITH OUR DEPARTMENT FOR 4 AND A HALF YEARS, AND TODAY MARKS HIS FIRST OFFICIAL DAY IN THIS NEW ASSIGNMENT.

HE'LL BE MAKING HIS WAY AROUND TO MEET WITH BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT THE DOWNTOWN AREA. HE'S EXCITED TO START BUILDING CONNECTIONS AND HELPING ENSURE OUR DOWNTOWN REMAINS A SAFE, WELCOMING PLACE FOR BOTH THE COMMUNITY AND VISITORS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE POSITIVE IMPACT HE'LL BRING TO OUR DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY!

OFFICER SPOTLIGHT



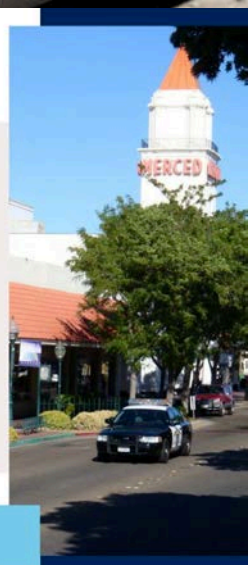
Downtown Dart

Some of my tasks will be the following:

- Responding to Calls for Service
- Address Unhouse issues
- Attending Downtown/Community Outreach Meetings

Useful tools recommended:

- Merced Connect →
- Online Reporting
- Community Camera Program



DOWNTOWN DART

OFFICER LUIS GARNICA
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(209)769-1959

Merced Youth Mayor for the Morning!

On Friday, City officials and staff were excited to welcome Oscar Sablan as Mayor for the Morning! Oscar got a behind-the-scenes look at City Hall, met with the City Manager, toured downtown with local leaders, and even helped share updates on key projects like the Downtown Roadway Construction Project. His morning also included a visit to Fire Station 51, where he met firefighters and learned about their vital role in the community.

This special experience was part of a donated auction package supporting a local non-profit fundraiser. We're happy to have had the opportunity to support a great cause while giving a young community member the chance to step into the mayor's shoes—donuts and all! Huge thanks to Oscar and his mom for spending the morning with us.



FREE Yoga in the Park

Every First & Third Sunday
of the Month : 9:30am -10:30am

Location: Bear Creek Park Strip
on 28th & H Street

Instructors:

Aron Scott & Jamie Pangelina



Bring a Towel or Mat

For more information contact:

City of Merced
Parks and Community Services
(209)385-6235

**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**



CITY OF MERCED

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

CURRENT VACANCIES LISTING

ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION	1 Vacancy, Ex-Officio* (*Nonvoting)
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION	3 terms ending (At-Large, District 1 & 4) 4 vacancies, District 2, 3, 6, & Ex- Officio* (*Nonvoting)
PERSONNEL BOARD	2 terms ending (Council Appointed & Board Nominated)
PLANNING COMMISSION	2 terms ending (District 4 & 6)
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION	2 terms ending (District 2 & 5)
REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY	2 terms ending, 1 vacancy
TAX TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION	1 vacancy, District 2 1 term ending (District 6)

Deadline: June 27, 2025 & Council Appointments: July 7, 2025

Contact the City Clerk's Department for more Info!
cityclerk@cityofmerced.org or (209) 388-8650

