



Market on Main comes back to Downtown Merced this Spring and runs through October with lots of farm-fresh produce and plenty of fun. Along with all the fresh fruits and veggies, there will be hand-made crafts, jams, honey and entertainment. The market will have a variety of theme nights and offer fun for all ages. Look for more details on the City website and on "The Streets of Merced" Facebook page.

Yosemite Avenue Project moves ahead with work

The next phase of the Yosemite Avenue Improvement Project begins Monday, March 19. During this phase the north side of Yosemite Avenue will be widened to accommodate a fourth lane of traffic and a sidewalk and a new traffic signal system will be installed at G Street and Mansionette Drive.

The end of Mansionette Drive at Yosemite Avenue will be blocked during the construction from March 19 through May 11. Traffic is being diverted around the neighborhood. Motorists are asked to use Paulson Road, Mercy Avenue or G Street to access the neighborhood.

Yosemite Avenue will remain open during the construction, however traffic lanes will be shifted as needed so that work can proceed.

The entire Yosemite Avenue Improvement Project is expected to be

finished in August. Once completed, the project will eliminate the bottleneck at the G Street intersection and allow better flow of traffic along Yosemite Avenue. There will be four full lanes along that stretch of Yosemite, plus a left turn lane at G Street, improved driveway access and improvements to the sewer and water lines that run under the street.

The project timeline was stretched out after lengthy talks with businesses in the area. They requested that construction be halted during certain periods when their business would be heavy to allow their customers better access to their stores.

People with questions or problems about the project can call 209-724-8235, calls will be returned by Public Works Director/Operations Stan Murdock or his representative.

Long-range plans eye development and reducing hazards

Long-term urban growth will occur in the area between the City and UC Merced and there is a need to plan for that growth.

The Bellevue Corridor Community Plan covers a 3.5 square-mile area that will guide future growth along Bellevue Road between G Street and Lake Road.

It will establish a land-use map, a mobility plan, and tackle questions such as the location and demand for student housing, research and development parks, and the design of Bellevue Road.

The City's *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* will be crafted in a process through which natural hazards that threaten communities are identified, likely impacts of those hazards are determined, mitigation goals are set, and appropriate strategies to lessen impacts are determined, prioritized and implemented.

The goal is to save lives and reduce property damages. On average, each dollar spent dealing with the hazards ahead of time saves society an average of \$4 in avoided future losses in addition to saving lives and

preventing injuries.

Both plans are primarily funded through state and federal grants that cannot be used for general fund purposes such as road repair or paying for public safety personnel.

City Planning Staff encourages public participation. Project details for both these projects can be viewed at the Planning Department's webpage at www.cityofmerced.org.

There are online surveys (or forms in Planning) to share your concerns and how the City should deal with those hazards.

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, Council meets the next day. The agenda is posted online at www.CityofMerced.org.

Contacting us

The Web site, 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: A question about the HUD Plan

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.

How do I find out about the City's HUD spending plan. I want to find out more about it.

Asked at the City Housing Office

There are a number of meetings with the public to discuss the contents of the HUD and HOME plans before the final drafts are written for the City Council. The City of Merced Housing Draft HUD 2012 Annual Action Plan for July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 will be presented to the City Council at the April 16 council meeting. The draft plan outlines the proposed expen-

diture of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds.

A public hearing will be held at the City Council at 7 p.m. Monday, May 7 for final adoption of the HUD Annual Action Plan FY 2012.

The public will be allowed, and encouraged, to comment on the plan at both of the City Council meetings.

The agendas for the Council meetings will be posted online at the City website. To receive a copy of the Draft Plan contact the City Housing Program at 385-6863 (TDD/TTY 385-6816) and ask that one be sent to you, or stop by the office on the third floor of the Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced 95340. Once the Draft Plan is available, the plan can be viewed at the City of Merced's website www.cityofmerced.org.

Spring Cleanup is a chance to get rid of that junk

The City Public Works Department will be having the annual Spring Cleanup on the weekends of April 14/15 and April 21/22.

A flier will be mailed to every utility customer with details about what kinds of materials will be accepted, the drop off locations and the hours of operation.

This is only for Merced residents or people who can show a utility bill. This service is paid for by refuse rate payers, so they are the only ones who can take advantage of this service.

The County has similar programs in the unincorporated areas.

Save some water this Spring

Think Green

- ✓ Water your lawn only when needed, three times a week on your watering days late at night or early in the morning to keep evaporation to a minimum.
- ✓ Check your sprinkler timers and reduce watering times to less than 10-15 minutes.
- ✓ Apply a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce moisture loss and prevent excessive weed growth
- ✓ Use a broom to sweep outdoors. Don't hose off your driveway or sidewalks.
- ✓ Ask your local nursery for suggestions on drought tolerant plants. They do not need to be watered as much and can survive a dry period without any watering.
- ✓ Check your sprinkler heads, valves and drip emitters monthly for leaks and make sure the sprinkler heads are aimed properly.
- ✓ Check for other household leaks. Leaks allow water and your money to go down the drain. To help detect hidden leaks, turn off anything that uses water and see if your water meter is still moving. If it is, there



could be a leak somewhere on your property.

- ✓ Install low-flow shower heads, kitchen and bath faucet aerators.
- ✓ Adjust your watering schedule for each season. Next fall, you can reduce your watering by half. By December, you can turn off your irrigation system completely.
- ✓ If you notice someone wasting water, call the Public Works Department at 385-6800 to report it or send us an email at, publicwks@cityofmerced.org. In your e-mail include time of day, date, and address of location of water wasting.