

Zoo turns 50

Community filled with golden zoo memories

The Applegate Park Zoo celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year with on-going activities to highlight the zoo.

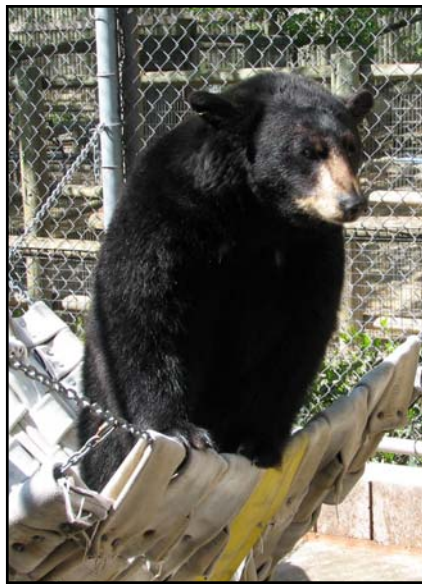
Built in 1962, the Zoo has provided a safe place to live for many wild animals unable to live in their normal habitat.

The Zoo is home to approximately 75 Native California mammals, birds and reptiles, most of which came from wildlife rescue centers.

The Golden Anniversary was kicked off with a gala event in April by the Merced Zoological Society, which handles the daily operations of the Zoo.

The Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week during the summer.

For information or to volunteer at the Zoo call 756-4014.



ADMISSION PRICES

Under 5	Free
Ages 5-15	\$2.00
Ages 16-61	\$3.00
Ages 62+	\$1.50

Free entry to Zoological Society members

Road projects keep streets busy

The City has several major street projects that are underway during the next few months, so sorry for the inconvenience, but the end product will be worth it.

The North Highway 59 project is adding a signal to the intersection of 59 and Cooper Avenue, along with putting in new pavement, sidewalks, undergrounding utilities and other improvements.

This project will continue until the end of August. Two lanes of traffic will remain open except for temporary closures. While the project is under construction the lanes may be shifted in order to work on the project.

Paving on the Parsons Avenue Corridor Project adjacent to Ada Givens School will take place this summer while students are on vacation. The section will connect Parsons from E. South Bear Creek Drive to Stretch Road.

The last major project is the Yosemite Avenue improvement piece between G and Mansionette. That project is adding lanes and a turn lane, improving the traffic signal at Mansionette and installing sidewalks to the road opposite Raleys.

None of these road projects used General Fund dollars that could be used to pay for personnel such as public safety officers.

Start thinking about conserving water for spring and summer

We had some wild weather in April, but not enough to make up for a dry winter that left us with half of our normal rainfall.

The month that saw an inch and a half of rain and hail coat

the ground like snow, ended with 90 degree days. Anybody who didn't have their sprinklers on has them up and running.

Remember to check the sprinkler heads to make sure they

are pointed to vegetation and not concrete or asphalt.

Make sure the timers are set so that they comply with the watering schedule that coincides with your address.

The schedule was created to conserve water. The reason for the mid-day watering ban is simple: much of the water doesn't soak into the ground, a lot of it evaporates into the air.

Odd/Even Address Watering Schedule

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Water from 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 ON ANY DAY

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 Council385-6834

City Manager385-6834

City Attorney385-6868

City Clerk388-7100

Airport385-6873

Code Enforcement.....385-6861

Finance388-7900

Inspection Services385-6861

Personnel.....388-7100

Planning Department.....385-6858

Public Works (7:30-4:30) ...385-6800

After hours385-6905

Recreation385-6855

Utility payments.....388-7289

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Fire Department.....385-6891

Police Department385-6912

Ask the City: How do I register to vote

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 register to vote? Can I do it at City Hall?

Caller to the City Manager's Office

You can't register to vote at the Civic Center but you can register to vote at the Merced County Registrar of Voters. They handle the upcoming June 5 primary election.

The deadline is coming up quickly. The last day to register is May 21. You also need to reregister if you have moved, changed your name or want to change your party affiliation.

This is an important election because it

comes right after the 2010 Census and the redistricting. Boundaries have changed for supervisorial districts, Congress, state Senate and for Assembly districts.

The elected representative you have now may not be the one you have after November because of the boundary line changes.

The Census also could have resulted in your polling place moving. The new boundaries have created new election precincts, so when you get your sample ballot look at it carefully and see where you are supposed to go to cast your vote.

Of course, if you are one of the people voting by mail, it doesn't matter if your precinct changed. You mark up your ballot, put it in the mail (remembering to allow enough time for it to arrive by election day) and are finished.

If you have questions, call the Merced County Registrar of Voters at 385-7541.

City offices will be closed for Memorial Day

The City of Merced offices will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 28. All City office buildings will be closed to the public while employees observe the holiday.

Refuse collection will be delayed by one day because of the holiday. People with resi-

dential collection on Monday will have their trash picked up Tuesday, and those with Tuesday collection will have it picked up Wednesday, etc.

If you have questions about your trash collection schedule call the Public Works Department at 385-6800.

Save some energy on your pool

A pool filter pump can be one of the largest users of electrical energy in a home, according to the California Energy Commission website. If you reduce the amount of time you run the pump, you'll save energy and money.

Of course, the amount of time you'll have to run your pool filter will vary according to the size of the pool, how much it's used, and factors such as leaves or dirt that can blow into the water. A rule of thumb says that all the water in the pool should be filtered once every 24 hours.

Consider the pool filter operating recommendations established by the *California Swimming Pool Industry Energy Conservation Task Force*:

Reduce filter operating times to no less than 4 to 5 hours per day during the summer and 2 to 3 hours per day during the winter period. This will reduce annual electrical consumption by 40 to 50 percent. Normal and heavier swimming use may require as much as eight or more hours fil-

tration per day. Should water clarity or chemical imbalance indicate inadequate filtration, immediately operate the filter until acceptable water clarity is established.

If additional filtration is still needed, increase filter operating time in one-half hour increments until the water remains clear and properly balanced chemically. When the pool is being heavily used, it is recommended that the pool be operated manually and that the filtration system be run under such conditions. Under no circumstances should the water quality of any swimming pool be so poor that the main drain cover is not clearly visible from the deck.

Consider a Time Clock

An automatic time clock for your filter and cleaning system is one of the smartest investments you can make. With it, you can avoid the electric power "rush" hour by not running your pool or spa filter on hot summer afternoons when demand for electricity is at its highest, generally, 1 to 9 p.m.

Think Green