

Save some money and get a Zoo pa\$\$

One of the great bargains in Merced is a visit to the Applegate Park Zoo. Mom, Dad and two kids can visit for less than \$10. An even bigger bargain is the annual pass to the Zoo, currently \$20 for a family and \$10 for an individual. For more information on the annual pass, pick up an application at the Zoo store, 1045 W. 25th St. or call 725-3337. Summer zoo hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.



Newsletter makes changes

"Your City Connection," the City of Merced's newsletter has been a color publication since it was first published in July 2006.

This edition marks the first black and white print edition of the publication. It will still be available online in color, so people can enjoy the photos and view the graphics better.

Shifting to a black and white publication cuts the printing costs by 25 percent. Because it goes out with the utility bills, there are no distribution costs.

We will continue to provide residents with as much news and information as we can fit in the two pages.

Home carbon monoxide detectors required

Goal of state law is to prevent more deaths, injuries

As of July 1, all existing single family dwellings are required to install carbon monoxide (CO) devices if they have a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace or attached garage.

All other dwelling units (multi-family duplexes, triplexes, apartments, dorms, etc.) are required to have them installed by January 1, 2013.

The CO devices are required to be listed by the California State Fire Marshal's office and installed per the manufacturer's instruction.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is responsible for an average of 480 deaths and more than 20,000 emergency room visits in the United States every year.

The California Air Resources Board cites 30 to 40 avoidable deaths occur in the state each year from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning.

Fetuses, infants, elderly people and people with anemia or with a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible.

It is produced from heaters, fireplaces, furnaces and many types of appliances and cooking devices and can also be produced by vehicles that are idling.

A recent study found that nearly nine in 10 California households did not have a CO detector. Having a CO detector is a small investment that really can help save your life and the lives

of your family.

For more information, contact the City's Inspection Services office at 385-6861.

DON'T idle the car in a garage -- even if the garage door is open. DON'T use a gas oven to heat your home, even for a short time. DON'T ever use a charcoal grill indoors -- even in a fireplace. DON'T sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater. DON'T use any gasoline-powered engines (mowers, weed trimmers, snow blowers, chain saws, small engines or generators) in enclosed spaces. DON'T ignore symptoms, particularly if more than one person is feeling them.

Carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms

It pays to know the symptoms of CO poisoning.

At moderate levels, you or your family can get severe headaches, become dizzy, mentally confused, nauseated or faint.

You can even die if these levels persist for a long time. Low levels can cause shortness of breath, mild nausea and mild headaches, and may have long term effects on your health.

Since many of these symptoms are similar to those of the flu, food poisoning or other illnesses, you may not realize that CO poisoning could be the cause.

If you think you have CO poisoning, call 911 and find fresh air outside immediately.

Merced City Council

Mayor Bill Spriggs
Council Members:
Bill Blake
John Carlisle
Michele Gabriault-Acosta
Noah Lor
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, except when there is a holiday, such as July 4, then it is on July 5. 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 8 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
Parks/CommServices	385-6855
Utility payments.....	388-7289

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Fire Department.....	385-6891
Police Department	385-6912

Ask the City: Where to find swimming lessons

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.

I want my children to learn how to swim, but I heard that the City isn't offering swim lessons anymore. Is that true and where can they get lessons?

Anonymous

The caller is correct, due to budget constraints the City is no longer offering swimming lessons at its pools.

It wasn't the swim lessons that weren't cost-effective, it was maintaining the pools the rest of the time.

The biggest problem was the pools and equipment were old and in need of major upgrades, and the funds are not there to pay for the overhauls needed to make them cost-effective.

We didn't get enough day use swimmers through the gates to recover costs, and with tight budgets, if a service doesn't pay for itself, we often can't offer it. (And there just



aren't grants out there to pay for the on-going costs of pool maintenance.)

Swim lessons are available through the Merced College for Kids Program at reasonable rates. The College said it will add classes to accommodate any increase in students due to the elimination of the City program.

Information on the College lessons can be found online at www.mccd.edu or by calling the Merced College Community Services Office at 384-6224.

Staff also has learned that there are swim lessons available at the Millennium Sports Club in Merced for non-members. Call 722-3988 for more information.

Put crime on the map

Crimemapping.com let's you know what is happening in your neighborhood so you can be better prepared.

The maps are refreshed daily to provide the most up-to-date information.

You can find the maps at the City web site under the Police Department listing. Sign up for alerts that will give you daily updates on what is happening around you and you can follow the trends in your area.

City offices closed for Fourth of July

City offices will be closed Monday, July 4 to observe the Independence Day holiday. Refuse collection will be delayed for all residential users by one day that week.

People with regular collection on Monday will have their trash picked up Tuesday, and people with Tuesday pick up will get it collected Wednesday, etc.

Think Green

Pay online and save paper, postage or gas

The City of Merced offers a variety of ways for people to pay their utility bills without having to write a check and pop it in the mail or drive Downtown and wait in line to pay at the counter.

The different methods of paying utility bills are all listed on the City website, www.cityofmerced.org, under the Finance Department.

The greener ways include signing up for monthly automatic payments. The amount of your bill is taken out of your bank account every month. You can sign up to use your credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Dis-

cover or American Express - no fee) on our website at [Municipal Services On Line](#). Then you can just go online and pay the bills at your convenience.

Another easy green method is to pay with a credit card by phone by calling 209-388-7289.

Credit and debit cards can also be used at the counter or by mail. And we do take checks.

But if you are going to pay by cash, please do so at the counter at the Civic Center, 678 W. 18th St. Check your bill for the business hours.