

Contract will help City be greener, more efficient

The City has entered into an energy efficiency and facility improvement contract with Siemens Industry, Inc.

The contract guarantees that the City will save 3.3 million kilowatts of electricity during each of the first three years of the contract. Savings are expected to continue beyond the three years, especially with the continued rising cost of electricity.

The savings will more than pay for the improvements, which are \$7.5 million.

The City is using federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funds and a long-term loan that will be paid off with the energy savings. Once the 16-year loan is paid off, there will still be more than \$2.6 million in savings.

The program will be applied to 17 main City buildings, seven City parks and the Merced Re-



The Civic Center will soon be getting an energy make-over.

gional Airport. The buildings include the Merced Civic Center, the Merced Police Central Station, the Public Works Buildings, the Parks and Community Services office, the Senior Center, the Transportation Center, the Bell Station, the Purchasing Of-

fice, the Police South Station, the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the five fire stations.

A large part of the project will be replacing 6,644 street lights in the City at a cost of \$3 million.

Antiquated heating, air condi-

tioning and ventilation (HVAC) units will be replaced at a cost of \$1.8 million and another \$507,000 will be spent on internet-based HVAC controls that will result in more efficient use of the machinery.

Some of the improvements are low-tech, but helpful, such as the low flow water fixtures that will be installed throughout the City at a cost of \$72,000.

The project was undertaken after three years of study. Siemens has a year to implement the improvements.

The City is looking at a possible Phase II project that could include some photovoltaic solar panels on City buildings such as the airport or wastewater treatment plant. There also is the possibility of installing them on some water wells that are not connected to the local non-profit electricity provider.

Merced gets daily flight to Los Angeles International

Great Lakes Airlines recently announced it will begin daily flights to Los Angeles starting May 15.

The airline already has two flights a day to Las Vegas McCarran International Airport, along with two daily flights that arrive from Las Vegas.

It has been more than a decade since there have been flights from Merced to Los Angeles.

It will benefit a variety of customers ranging from students and faculty at UC Merced to businesses and tourists.

Los Angeles International is the fifth busiest airport in the world, with more than 80 passenger carriers and 20 cargo carriers operating at the airport.

The new airline connection will position

Merced as a hub between Yosemite National Park and global travelers coming into LAX.

Flights will leave Merced at 3:25 p.m. and arrive at LAX at 5:07 p.m. daily.

Flights will leave Los Angeles at 8:31 a.m. and arrive in Merced at 10:18 a.m.

To purchase tickets on Great Lakes Airlines, visit www.flygreatlakes.com, call the Great Lakes reservation center at 800-554-5111 or contact your travel agent.

Merced Regional Airport offers plenty of free parking to customers.



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. 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: Lots of rental facilities in the City

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'm looking for a place to hold a meeting and am wondering if the City has some facility I could rent?

A recent caller to the City Manager's Office

Have we got a place for you! It all depends on what you need.

We have everything from the Senior Center with its commercial kitchen that is perfect for a banquet or wedding reception for up to 400 people, down to the cozy and quaint Scout Hut, which is a log cabin

located in Applegate Park.

The best way to find out about our facilities is our web site. Look at the "Parks and Facilities" listing under Parks and Community Services Department.

To discuss your needs with one of our staff members call (209) 385-6855 .

You can also find out about renting one of the picnic shelters at our parks. If you are going to have a bounce house in one of our parks you must rent one of our park facilities.

Adjacent to the Applegate Zoo is the new Rossoti Ed-Zoo-Cation Center. A Zoo package is available with the facility rental.

The Center also is near the Kiwanis KiddieLand, which also is available for rent to private parties.

Mike McLaughlin named chief

Mike McLaughlin has been named the new Merced fire chief. A fire division chief for the City since 2007, he replaces Ken Mitten who served in the department for more than four decades.

As fire division chief, McLaughlin was in charge of budget planning for the department, training city staff for the City's Emergency Operations Center and spearheading the replacement of the department's aging communications system.

As the fire chief, he will



oversee a department with 69 firefighters. The City recruited nationally to fill the position.

McLaughlin has worked as a firefighter since 1988.

City offices closed for Memorial Day

City offices will be closed Monday, May 30 to observe the Memorial 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.

Think Green

Celebrate Bike Month in May

The Bicycle Advisory Commission and the Merced Bike Coalition are sponsoring a variety of biking activities in May to celebrate Bike Month.

Ride with the Mayor on Saturday, May 14 starts at 10 a.m. at Rahilly Park on Parsons Avenue and tour some of the City's scenic bike paths. Perfect for a family outing.

Bike to Work & School Day is Friday, May 20: Bicycle commuters will be treated to "energizer" stations around town with snacks, T-shirts and goodies. The location of the stations in the City can be found at mercedbicyclecoalition.org.

Other events during Bike Month are listed on the Coalition's website above.

For maps of bike paths in Merced and the surrounding area and other information on biking go to www.mercedrides.com.

