

## Impact fee reduction continued for two more years

The City Council approved extending the reduction in developer impact fees for two more years.

The fee reduction approved last month will remain in effect until 2013.

The development fees are collected to offset the impacts that a project has on the City's infrastructure such as fire stations, roads and bridges.

The severe economic downturn in the State and City is still negatively impacting the amount of commercial development in the City of Merced.

A comprehensive review of Public Facility Impact Fees is scheduled to take place after the beginning of 2012.

In Fall 2009, the City Council took action to reduce the Commercial Category of the Public Facility Impact Fees by 28 percent with the hope that it might help spur construction and attract new businesses to the community.

In addition, the City Council created an Infill Area reducing Public Facility Impact Fees by an additional 25 percent for all categories.

The City's infill zone is an area approximately bounded by Childs and Glen avenues, X Street and Bear Creek.

The reduction was for a two-year time frame expiring November 2011.

The fee reduction became possible when a replacement project along Old Nevada-Old



Fire Station 55 on Parsons Avenue was funded through City impact fees.

Lake Road was eliminated because the economic slowdown reduced the need for that road improvement.

Commercial fees also were adjusted because customers come from outside the city, and have less of an impact than permanent residents.

City staff recommended the fee reduction be extended for two more years because the sluggish national and local economy contin-

ues to limit commercial and residential development in the City.

The reduced fees have generated interest from companies outside of the City looking into locating here, according to the City's Economic Development Department.

In addition to the impact fees, the City also has reduced fees charged to developers to pay for new park lands and sewage treatment plant construction.

### On time

Construction of the G Street Underpass continues on schedule for completion in December. Sidewalks have been poured and the road bed is being prepared. Testing of pumps used to drain rain water will take place this month.



## Meet the Recreation Division

To save some money, the City of Merced's Recreation Division has moved a couple blocks to the first floor of the Merced Civic Center.

The Recreation Division, formerly known as the Parks and Community Services Department, is now part of the Economic Development Department.

The Division still offers sports leagues like the ever-

popular softball and leisure classes such as women's self-defense.

The Division also oversees the operation of the Applegate Park Zoo and the Merced Senior Center.

To find out what the Recreation Division currently has to offer, visit the City's website at [www.cityofmerced.org](http://www.cityofmerced.org). The Division phone number remains 385-6855.

## 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](mailto: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. The agenda is posted online at [www.CityofMerced.org](http://www.CityofMerced.org).

## Contacting us

The Web site, [www.CityofMerced.org](http://www.CityofMerced.org), contains City Council information, the Muni Code, General Plan and other information. Contact the Newsletter at [newsletter@CityofMerced.org](mailto: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: Measure C Committee has vacancy

*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 interested in serving on one of the City's boards. Where do I find out more information?

*Anonymous caller*

The City has more than a dozen boards and commissions and we are constantly looking for public participation.

You have good timing with the vacancies on the Measure C Committee, which oversees our 1/2 cent sales tax measure.

Information on that Committee and the others is available on our website and through the City Clerk's Office. On the City

home page look for the Boards and Commissions button. You can visit the Clerk's office at City Hall or call 388-7100.

In most cases you must be a City resident, but some of the boards do allow a County resident to serve. Another requirement is that members must be 18 or older and a registered voter.

All members are required to fill out a financial disclosure statement to bolster government transparency and to show the public there is no conflict-of-interest. They also must take a two-hour ethics class.

All of the material is available for review online, along with an online application for the positions. If there are no current vacancies for the position you want, your application will be held for a year.

## City offices closed for Veteran's Day holiday

City offices will be closed Friday, November 11 to observe the Veteran's Day holiday.

Friday refuse collection will be delayed for residential users by one day that week and trash will be picked up Saturday.

### Finance Department open at lunch

The Finance Department is open at lunch so residents can pay their utility bills from noon to 1 p.m. The Department opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m.

Effective August 1  
City Hall is open 10 am-5 pm

Efectivo el 1° de Agosto el  
nuevo horario de la Ciudad  
Sera 10 am-5 pm

Pib lub 8 hli ntuj vas thib 1,  
cov xooj hmoos tshiah rau  
City Hall yog 10am – 5pm

The regular 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. employee work day will not change, only the Civic Center building hours at 678 W. 18th St.

## Leaf collection program has a 'green ending'

The City of Merced will begin collecting leaves October 31.

The program helps keep storm drains from getting clogged and leaves from being dumped into area creeks and waterways.

Collected leaves are used for mulch and compost for a future park site.

Funding for the leaf collection comes from utility bill payments and cannot be used for outside purposes, such as funding police or fire personnel.

To make the pickup more efficient:

- ✓ Do not park at curb on

### Think Green

collection days.

- ✓ Sweep leaves into rows at least four feet from the curb.
- ✓ Do not put brush or grass out for collection.
- ✓ Do not put household waste into the gutters.

The City of Merced is divided into four areas for the leaf collection program. You will find your area service dates next to the corresponding map that will be mailed to households before the program begins.

The program operates

six days per week.

Each area will be allotted three days every two weeks for collection.

Street Sweepers will follow the leaf collection schedule.

This program is available only to residents of the City of Merced.

If you have questions regarding this program, call Public Works at 209-385-6800.

For information regarding the proper disposal of household chemical waste call the Merced County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 723-4753.