

Sewer rates going down

Construction costs lower than expected

Good news will be arriving in mailboxes throughout the City starting July 1 when the new wastewater rates go into effect.

Homeowners will see their bills drop 12.28 percent from \$45.93 to \$40.29, a savings of \$5.64 a month.

Other users, including churches, schools, condos and businesses, will see rate reductions, too.

Connection fees charged to hook up to the City's sewage system will also drop.

The decrease is due to the huge drop in construction costs for the wastewater treatment plant on Gove Road.

The rate cuts reflect the decreased cost of building the project, which is almost 50 percent complete.

There's more good news. Along with the rate cuts, the new rates will remain in place through at least June 30, 2015.

The upgrades had been expected to cost \$60 million, based

on construction estimates in 2005-2006. However, when the upgrades went out to bid, the economy had tanked and construction costs had also dropped.

The low bid on the project came in at \$30.6 million, far below expected costs.

The current rates were set in 2006, before the project went out to bid and were calculated based on the higher cost of the upgrades.

The improvements at the treatment plant were required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The Board imposed higher standards on the quality of the water that is discharged to the Hartley Slough after treatment.

The sewage will go through what is called tertiary treatment, leaving the discharge water at almost drinking quality.

New federal and state laws require the City to provide tertiary treatment of wastewater and eliminate sludge drying beds.

Cap 'n' Town 2010



**Food
'n'
fun
'n'
music
for
all!**

Cap 'n' Town 2010 returns to the Merced Downtown from 5 to 11 p.m. Friday, May 14. The festival is a salute to all of the area's graduates, from preschool to university, and beyond. The festival will feature more than half a dozen bands, live entertainment, bounce houses, fresh produce and food, food, food. High school, Merced College and UC students will have interactive booths on Main Street from M Street to MLK Jr. Way and up Canal Street.



Viva Las Vegas, from Merced

Passengers can now fly from Merced Regional Airport straight to Las Vegas.

In April, Great Lakes Airlines began flights to and from McCarran International Airport Las Vegas.

The airline had been flying into Ontario International Airport in Southern California, but that wasn't too popular with passengers.

Great Lakes offers two flights to Las Vegas and two flights from Las Vegas to Merced daily.

The new air service provides Merced with a destination that had been popular in past years for Merced residents. Under a previous air carrier, Merced saw nearly 10,000 enplanements to Las Vegas, which was going to the smaller North Las Vegas Airport.

Great Lakes passengers are able to connect to more than 30 different air carriers based at McCarran. Domestic flight connections include Honolulu, Washington and New York.

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 usually 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 Municipal 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. It will be closed Memorial Day, May 31.

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

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

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

Ask the City: Holidays mean trash pick up delayed

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.

“When are they going to pick up my trash?”
Anonymous callers

We get these calls every time there's a holiday and the trash cans sit out on the street still full on the usual pick up day.

Before this year, there were only three holidays when the City did not pick up trash: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.

That changed last year when there were changes in the hours at the County landfill (aka the dump).

Trash holidays

New Years Day
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
President's Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day



The rule of thumb (or trash) is simple: When there is a holiday, starting with the holiday, all trash pick up will be delayed one day.

For example, this month Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, is a holiday. Everyone's trash collection gets delayed one day.

If your regular collection day was Monday, it's now Tuesday and so on down the week when the people with a Friday collection date get

trashed picked up Saturday.

If you come home and discover your trash has not been picked up, the first question to ask is: Was there a holiday this week? If so, expect the trucks to come around the next day.

If it wasn't a holiday week and your trash wasn't collected, call 385-6800. Every now and then our guys make a mistake, usually when somebody is new to the route.

Think Green

May is Bike Month, so cycle on!!

Walking is the greenest form of transportation, but cycling is certainly a contender. True, there is a carbon footprint left behind when a bike is created, but after that, it becomes a green extreme.

And it's fun too!

The City of Merced is interlaced with bike paths just waiting to be used and enjoyed.

To remind people that bikes are also a legitimate form of transportation, the City's Bicycle Advisory Commission reminds everyone that Friday, May 21 is **Bike to Work Day**.

There are a number of Saturday events listed on the Commission's calendar that encourage people to hit the bike paths, trails and lanes. These events are planned by the Merced Bike Coalition and helmets are a must!

May 1, **All Merced Road Ride**: Ride out to Snelling and back, starting at Kevin's Bikes at 8 a.m. different speeds for different riders.

May 8, **Tour Merced's Bike Paths**: Start at Rahilly Park at 10 a.m. and spend two hours exploring the trails.



You don't have to be a professional cyclist to enjoy National Bike Month.

bike is adjusted to fit your body. A fun, family-friendly ride will follow.

May 29, **Bike Path Cleanup**: 10 a.m. at Lake Road and Yosemite Avenue meet to remove puncture vines that plague riders.

May 15, **Ride With the Mayor**: Meet at the Scout Hut in Applegate Park at 9:30 a.m. and pedal around on a fun, family-friendly ride.
May 22, **Bike Clinic**: At the Golden Valley Health Centers at 10 a.m. Learn how to maintain your bike, and make sure your