

Operating hours to change at landfills in the county



Hours at the Highway 59 landfill, used by most City residents, will change due to rising costs. The landfill had been open seven days a week, but will now only be open from 8 to noon Saturday and closed Sundays.

The change should not impact trash collection services for City residents, but will affect all the do-it-yourselfers who use the dump to get rid of yard clippings and other trash. Landfill opera-

tions were facing a \$4.3 million deficit and the choice was to reduce service or to raise monthly trash rates by \$2.40.

The landfills are run through a Joint Powers Agreement between the County and the six cities inside the County. Day-to-day operations are contracted to the County of Merced.

The landfill is located at 6040 N. Highway 59. For information, call 723-4481.

Wal-Mart Distribution Center project hearing dates set

The City Council will be holding a series of public hearings to give residents the opportunity to speak on the proposed Wal-Mart Distribution Center project.

A presentation by City staff and project representatives will be given during the regular City Council meeting set for Mon., Sept. 21.

The first public comment session will be Wed., Sept. 23 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and a second session will be Sat., Sept. 26 beginning at 9 a.m. The Council will vote on the project Mon., Sept. 28.

Spanish and Hmong translation services

will be available. Non-English speaking people attending the sessions will be able to hear the testimony via headsets.

Public comments will only be taken in English, so any non-English speakers must bring a translator to speak before the Council at the public hearing.

All of the sessions will be in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th St., with overflow seating in the Sam Pipes Room on the first floor.

Wal-Mart has proposed building a 1.1 million square foot distribution center on 230

acres of land at an industrial park at Gerard Avenue and Tower Road. The center would operate 24 hours a day with 600 employees at start-up, growing to 1,200 employees.

A complete Environmental Impact Report on the project is available at the City's website, www.cityofmerced.org. On the home page, look under Public Information for Wal-Mart EIR.

A series of public hearings on the project were held in August before the Planning Commission.

The Council sessions will be videotaped and broadcast live on public television.

New City Engineer hired



DARYL JORDAN

Daryl R. Jordan of Turlock has been selected as Merced's City Engineer. Jordan, 42, had been the owner of Jordan Pacific Engineering of Turlock.

As City Engineer, Jordan will serve as the primary engineering advisor for the City Council, City Manager and City staff.

He will monitor the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade, along with other capital improvement projects in the City.

Jordan will chair the City's Traffic Committee, manage the City's construction contracts and provide engineering and technical assistance to other departments.

Jordan has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Fresno State University and a bachelor's degree in biomechanics/exercise physiology, also from Fresno State. He is studying for a master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

As an engineer, Jordan has coordinated commercial programs for a number of major retailers and

served as a contract engineer for the City of Atwater reviewing its development plans.

Jordan has experience managing subdivision design for projects ranging from 5 acres to 600 acres.

He has worked on commercial projects all along the West Coast and Arizona and New Mexico. He has also evaluated and designed traffic projects in Tulare and Fresno counties.

Jordan and his wife, Lisa, were born and raised in the Central Valley. The couple has four children who are active in numerous sports.

Merced City Council

Mayor Ellie Wooten
Mayor Pro Tem John Carlisle
Joe Cortez
Michele Gabriault-Acosta
Noah Lor
Jim Sanders
Bill Spriggs

Contact the City Council by email at Citycouncil@cityofmerced.org, by calling 385-6834. Write to Council members at the Civic Center address listed 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. In September the Council will meet Tuesday, Sept. 8, due to the Labor Day holiday. For the agenda, go to www.CityofMerced.org.

Holiday

City offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 7 for the Labor Day holiday. Refuse collection will not be affected.

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
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
Recreation/Parks	385-6855

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

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

Ask 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 questions to the addresses below.

I heard the City was going to lay off five police officers if it didn't get some grant. Whatever happened? Are they getting laid off? And I thought Measure C was supposed to pay for all this?

D.B.C.

The good news is the City received the grant funding to pay for the five officers through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

The \$1.5 million comes from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Recovery Program grants.

The Department of Justice received almost 7,300 applications seeking nearly \$8.3 billion in funds to pay for 39,000

police officers.

There were 1,046 applications approved, funding 4,699 officers.

The funding was needed because the Department had already lost 23 positions due to hiring freezes and retirements. Those cuts, required because of the drop in City revenues, are going to mean slower response time to non-emergency calls.

Police will still make emergency calls the top priority, and will also be able to maintain officers in the gang violence suppression unit.

Measure C, the sales tax approved to fund public safety, saw a 12 percent decrease because people are spending less since the economic downturn. Reserve funds will be used to make up that \$659,000 loss.

Measure C funds pay for 21 police positions and another 16 positions in the Fire Department.

Applegate Zoo offers loads of fun for the family

The Applegate Park Zoo, located at 1045 W. 25th (at R and 25th streets) is open seven days a week, weather permitting. Zoo hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Winter hours, which begin Nov. 1, are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is \$1.50 for ages 11 to 59, \$1 for kids 3 to 10, 75 cents for seniors 60 and up and kids under 3 are free.

For information on the Zoo, call 725-3337.



Think Green

Green businesses are possible

Being a green business doesn't have to cost more green, in fact it can save some money along the way.

Here are some tips to improve operations and the environment.

Paper is one way to cut back. It's estimated that the typical American office worker uses 10,000 sheets of paper a year. Print on both sides to cut down on the reams used, or use old paper documents for drafts

or faxes. Don't print in color unless you need it.

Use paper with a high percentage of post-consumer recycled paper.

It's cheaper to buy remanufactured toner and ink cartridges. Some companies will pay to recycle the cartridges and even if they don't, you are keeping an estimated 2.5 pounds of plastic and metal out of the landfills, and saving a half gallon of oil.

Turn off unnecessary lighting or computer monitors.

The EPA estimates that using a computer's sleep mode rather than letting it go into the screen saver mode can reduce power used by 60 to 70 percent.

You can save even more if you just shut off the entire computer system which reduces the extra heat thrown off by the electronics, lowering the AC bills.