

Be a Good Neighbor and move those cans

Those refuse cans belong behind a fence, not decorating a driveway

Let's face it, City trash cans are not works of art worthy of permanent display in front of your home or out on the street.

The cans are highly functional — they hold a lot of garbage, lawn clippings and old newspapers and they work well with the City's automated refuse collection system.

But the gray, green and blue cans aren't that pretty. That's what led to the creation of an ordinance spelling out where residents are supposed to store their trash cans.

The bottom line, according to

the City ordinance, is the cans shall not be stored between collection days "in such a manner that it is visible from the public right-of-way."

Most people just stick the cans on the side yard behind the front fence. New housing developments are even required to put in a concrete pad in order to accommodate the containers.

Another problem in some neighborhoods is containers left out on the street for days on end. It doesn't improve the looks of the neighborhood, it interferes with traffic on the street and takes



A City Code Enforcement specialist took this photo of three refuse containers that are being stored in the front yard of a Merced home. Containers should be hidden from public view except when they are put on the street for trash collection.

up parking spaces.

Containers are supposed to be placed on the street after 4 p.m. the day before collection and stored by 9 p.m. on pick up day.

City Code Enforcement specialists enforce the ordinances covering the trash cans. They aren't out to nab somebody because they got home late one day and didn't move the cans in until the next morning.

But they do act when residents call to say that someone isn't being a Good Neighbor.



Good Neighbors put their cans away after the trash collection day, instead of leaving them on the street. Containers can be moved to the street at 4 p.m. the day before collection and should be moved off the street by 9 p.m. the day of pick up.

By the numbers

Code issues:

Code Enforcement 385-6855

Animal issues:

Animal Control 385-6912

Graffiti issues:

TagBusters 385-8807

Loud noise, parties:

Merced Police 385-6912

Charter Committee sets its priorities and starts to work

Its mission is to review Merced's Municipal Charter, the document that controls the structure and operations of City government, and that's not an easy task. The Charter is 16,350 words, and would be 33 pages long if converted to a Word document.

At its first meeting the nine-member Charter Review Committee elected officers and quickly got down to business.

After some discussion, the Committee

selected its five priorities:

- City Council compensation;
- City Council term limits;
- Continuation of direct election of the mayor;
- Council election process; district election versus at-large (set for April 25).
- The Committee also received the OK from the City Council to explore making cam-

paign contribution rules.

Any changes proposed by the Charter Committee must be approved by the City Council, and then put on the ballot for a public vote.

The Charter Committee meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th St. All meetings are open to the public.

The City Council

Mayor Ellie Wooten
Mayor Pro Tem Joe Cortez
Council member Michele Gabriault-Acosta
Council member Rick Osorio
Council member Carl Pollard
Council member Jim Sanders
Council member Bill Spriggs

City Council meetings are usually the first and third Monday of the month. The Council meets at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor of the Civic Center.

Contacting us

The City of Merced wants the site www.CityofMerced.org to be a one-stop source for information on the City. It contains City Council agendas and minutes, the Municipal Code, the General Plan, news releases, department listings, street closures, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, information on officials and an online survey.

To contact the Newsletter, e-mail newsletter@cityofmerced.org, call the Public Information Office at 385-6232 or write to Newsletter at the address below.

Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th St.
Merced CA 95340
Open Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.,
except holidays

City Council	385-6834
City Manager	385-6834
City Attorney	385-6868
Code Enforcement	385-6855
Finance	385-4718
Inspection Services	385-6861
Personnel	385-6839
Planning Department	385-6858
Public Works (7:30-4:30)...	385-6800
Recreation/Parks	385-6855

E-waste is household electronics and other items that can no longer be disposed of in City garbage cans. Call 723-4753 to learn how to properly dispose of those items.

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Fire Department	385-6891
Police Department	385-6912

View the entire Council agenda packet online

The thick agenda packet given to City Council members has always been available for public viewing at the City Clerks Office Thursday before a council meeting. Now it's even easier to see because the packet is posted online before the meeting.

New software allows residents to go to www.CityofMerced.org and look at the background material at their leisure.

The online packet posting began in February. Once posted, the packet will remain online for reference.

Spring Cleanup near

It's time to toss out that busted up couch and get rid of those dead plants.

The City of Merced's free annual Spring Cleanup will take place on the weekends of April 21-22 and April 28-29 between 6:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

This month residents will be mailed a flier with all the details. People dropping off items must prove residency.

Cleanup locations will be at Merced College, Golden Valley and Merced High Schools and the Merced County Fairgrounds. An e-waste collection will also be held at the fairgrounds during the Cleanup.

Just about anything can be tossed out, except for household hazard waste like oil, chemicals and batteries.

There is a charge to dispose of household appliances and there is a limit to the number of tires that can be dropped off.

New look for old tower



The water tower near Childs Avenue sports now the logo that will be used on the City's new wayfinding signs. Travelers on Highway 99 get a good view of the new signage.

Did you know...

One of the essential services provided by the City is a safe water supply. The well water is regularly monitored by the City and tested by an outside lab. The State conducts a monthly review of the water.

The annual report on City water quality is available online and at the City Clerk's Office in the Civic Center and at the Public Works Department, 1776 Grogan Ave. It's in English, Spanish and Hmong.

Contact: Public Works at 385-6800.

Lots of dirt being turned at the Merced Center



After a January groundbreaking, work at the Merced Center has been progressing steadily. The block across from the Merced Civic Center will be the site of a three-story parking garage (on the right in the photo) and the Merced College Downtown Center (at the back left). An eco-friendly hotel is planned for the land in the left foreground. One parcel of land remains unsold.