

That utility bill includes more than just trash fees

The City picks up 53,864 tons of stuff each year from the three trash cans, but keeping our town clean includes more than that.

There are many components to keeping the City clean, and they are all part of the monthly bill. Some of the services are required by other agencies, such as the City street sweeping program that is required to help improve air quality. Other services, such as storm drains, are a matter of public safety. All help make Merced a nicer place to live.

In 1996, voters approved Proposition 218, the Right to Vote on Taxes Act. That ballot

initiative required local governments to obtain voter approval before raising property-related fees, assessments and taxes.

The basic garbage collection fees aren't property-related because they are based on service, and these fees have risen over the years to reflect the rising costs of things like fuel, equipment and salaries. The other fees in the bill are pre-Prop 218 and grandfathered in with a cost-of-living adjustment feature.

If you were to break out just the costs of the curbside trash disposal services from your monthly utility bill it would be \$18.38.

Inside your refuse bill

Curbside can collection

Blue recycling can	\$3.73
Green waste can	\$3.71
Gray garbage can	\$10.94

Total can cost \$18.38

Other cleanup costs (Pre-Prop. 218)

Spring Cleanup	\$1.02
Storm drain	\$2.68
Street sweeping	\$1.66
Leaf collection	\$0.82
Alley cleanup	\$0.15

Total utility bill \$24.71

Airshow highlights activities at the Airport

The Merced Antique Fly-In zooms into the Merced Municipal Airport the weekend of Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2. A dinner and dance will be held Friday for arriving pilots and the public.

The big day is Saturday when people can begin exploring the hundreds of airplanes on display at the airport at 8 a.m. An airshow featuring five flying acts is set for 1 p.m. There also will be a car show on the grounds and a Kids Zone, offering fun for the younger set. Admission is \$6, \$2 for kids 6-12 and 5 and under free. Information: <http://www.antiqueflyin.com/> or call 725-1223.

The airport is located at 20 MacReady Drive. Take West Avenue to Grogan and left on MacReady Drive.

Merced Antique Fly-In



*Celebrating its 50th
year of flying fun*

Charter Committee says no to district elections, term limit changes

The Charter Review Citizens Advisory Committee continues to move forward in its review of the Municipal Charter.

The nine-member Committee was given the job of updating the Charter by the City Council.

Some of the changes recommended by the Committee are technical. The existing Charter requires that any project costing more than \$5,000 must go out to

bid, an amount selected back in 1949. The suggested change raises the amount to \$50,000.

Another change would make it clear that women and men can participate in City government by eliminating references to just "he."

Any recommendations must be OKed by the Council, and then approved by the voters. The goal is to have the changes on the No-

vember ballot.

The Committee recently considered a proposal to change the at-large election process to some form of district election. That proposal was turned down, with some members saying the City wasn't big enough at this time.

The Committee also voted against changing term limits for Council members or the Mayor and to leave the lifetime ban in

place once a member has served the maximum term in office.

The Committee also decided the current \$20 a month in out-of-pocket expenses for Council members should be increased to \$250 a month.

All Committee meetings are open to the public. Agendas for the meetings are posted on the City Web site at www.CityofMerced.org.

Odd/Even Address Watering Schedule							
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Midnight to 11 AM and 7PM to Midnight	ODD	DO NOT WATER ANYTIME	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN
————— NO MIDDAY WATERING — 11 AM to 7 PM —————							

Water wisely: Check the schedule for your days

The City of Merced has a Water Conservation Ordinance in effect year-round. It uses the Odd/Even Address system to determine watering days.

If your address is an odd number (ending in 1,3,5, 7 or 9) it's OK to water on Sundays,

Wednesdays and Fridays.

If you have an even address (ending in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8) your watering days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Do not water between 11 AM and 7 PM on any day, and never water anytime on Monday.

Remember not to wash down sidewalks, driveways or other outdoor surfaces except when needed to protect health and safety.

Buildings may be washed down once a year.

Use a hose with an automatic

shutoff device to conserve water when washing boats, cars, RVs and trucks.

Do not water plants so much that it causes runoff and flooding.

Repair any broken or leaky irrigation and plumbing systems where water leaks.

They moved!

Parks and Community Services offices have moved out of City Hall and are now at 690 W. 16th St. The offices offer one-stop registration for City programs and activities. It also is the place to go to reserve City park facilities and Code Enforcement. For more information, call 385-6855.



Council/Planners to meet together

The City Council and the Planning Commission will hold a joint public meeting at 5 p.m. May 21 in the Council Chambers to hear the latest information on the General Plan Update.

The General Plan is the City's blueprint for growth, laying out where housing, businesses and other uses will be located. Additional information on the General Plan Update is on the City's Web site.

The City Council

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

City Council meetings are held on the first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Civic Center.

Contacting us

The City of Merced Web site, www.cityofmerced.org.

CityofMerced.org, contains City Council agendas and minutes, the Municipal Code, the General Plan, news releases, department listings, street closures, e-mail addresses, phone numbers and information on officials.

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

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	385-6838
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

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

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