



If fall is in the air, then leaves will soon be on the ground. The City's Public Works Department is preparing for annual Leaf Collection. Maps detailing the days of collection will be mailed to homes in the City. For more information, check the City's website, or call 385-6800.

City gets \$1.9 million grant now needs match for theater

The City of Merced received a \$1,935,000 grant from the California Cultural and Historic Endowment for the Merced Theatre restoration project.

The funds will be used to help restore the historic theater to its 1930s glory. However, the grant requires that the funds are matched. The Merced Theatre Foundation is develop-

ing fundraising ideas to obtain the match.

Complete restoration is expected to cost \$6 million.

The theatre opened in 1931 and could seat 1,645 people. It was one of the first air-conditioned buildings in the Valley and quickly became home to most major community events, from graduations to weddings.

HALLOWEEN FUN

Four events offer kids of all ages a treat

There are lots of safe, supervised Halloween activities for kids this month, including four events organized by the City of Merced to give kids a treat, and maybe a trick or two.

The activities are scheduled over the weekend and on Halloween so kids and their parents can find something that will fit into their busy schedules.

The events are:

TRUNK OR TREAT: 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31, 755 W. 15th St., (with the Christian Life Center, between the Senior Center and the Boys & Girls Club parking lot. \$1.

ZOO BOO: 6 to 9 p.m., Friday and

Saturday, Oct. 26 and 27, trick or treat in the Haunted Zoo at the Applegate Park Zoo, 1045 W. 25th St. \$1, ages 2 and up.

HAUNTED HOUSE: 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26 through Oct. 31, McNamara Park, 1040 Canal St. \$1.

DIME CARNIVAL: Saturday, Oct. 27, 1 to 4 p.m. in the alley between the Merced Civic Center and the MultiCultural Arts Center. Tickets are a dime, some activities may require multiple tickets.

For more information, call the Parks and Community Services Department at 385-6855.

Be extra safe this Halloween

Exercise caution when going out trick-or-treating

Halloween is a fun time for ghosts and goblins and scary creatures that scream, "Boo!" And Halloween is a blast for kids of all ages.

But there are some real dangers out there, so we offer these tips to make sure everyone enjoys Halloween.

Tips for trick or treaters:

- ☛ Start early, end early.
- ☛ Use make-up instead of a mask to see better. Put reflective tape on costumes.
- ☛ Wear light-colored clothing and costumes that are flame-resistant.
- ☛ Carry a flashlight or light stick, never a lighted torch or candle.

- ☛ Keep the costume short enough so you won't trip.
- ☛ Go out with a parent or older brother or sister.
- ☛ Only stop at well-lit houses, don't go to houses that are dark.
- ☛ Walk, don't run.
- ☛ Don't go inside a stranger's house no matter what anyone says.
- ☛ Keep a safe distance between you and moving cars.
- ☛ Don't go between parked cars or crisscross back and forth across streets.
- ☛ Be respectful of other people and their property.
- ☛ Have a parent check the treats before you eat them.

Merced City Council

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

Holiday

City offices will be closed Monday, Nov. 12 for Veterans Day. Refuse collection is on the regular schedule.

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. The agenda is posted online at www.CityofMerced.org.

Contacting us

The City of Merced Web site, www.CityofMerced.org, contains City Council information, the Municipal Code and General Plan and other information. To contact the Newsletter, e-mail 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	385-6866
Airport	385-6873
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
After hours	385-6905
Recreation/Parks	385-6855

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

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

City honors employees for years of service

This year 61 employees received Service Awards for their years with the City of Merced.

These employees have a total of 745 years of experience serving City residents.

40 Years

Nobie Reynolds, Executive Secretary

30 Years

Manuel Berumen, Fire Captain; Curt Cunningham, Fire Inspector II; Jaime Ortega, Fire Engineer; Randy Starkweather, Fire Engineer; Julie Sterling, Associate Planner

25 Years

John Fister, Senior Police Officer; Virginia Gonzales, Parking Enforcement Officer II; Terri Lucas, Secretary III; Mike O'Brien, NPDES Coordinator; Tom Phillips, Fire Engineer

20 Years

Kim Espinosa, Planning Manager; Paul Johnson, Senior Police Officer; Tom

McCall, Fire Battalion Chief; Don Staiger, Fire Engineer; Tom Trinidad, Police Lieutenant

15 Years

Ron Daugherty, Maintenance Worker III; Perry Flowers, Senior Police Officer; Judy Jones, Police Clerk II; Jim Marshall, City Manager; Rosa Winzer, Insurance Coordinator; Ignacio Yanez, Refuse Equipment Operator

10 Years

Dana Davidson, Assistant City Clerk; Joe Deliman, Senior Police Officer; Paul Eleshio, Park Worker II; Randall Honnette, Land Application Program Lead Worker; Richard Morgan, Senior Police Officer; Corey Plagenza, Traffic Signal/Lighting Technician; James Ragus, Street Sweeper Operator; Donald Roe, Fire Captain; Chuck Rockholt, Police Clerk II/

5 Years

Thirty employees

Parking structure progress report



The Merced Center Project is on schedule, with construction expected to be completed by the end of the year. The parking structure will have 335 spaces and 10,180 s.f. of retail space. Work on the Merced College building, in yellow, also is expected to finish by the end of the year. The college building will hold classrooms, offices, a resource library and conference facilities.

Community task force works on gang prevention

Gangs have destroyed lives and property in Merced, and the community has had enough. A three-pronged effort is under way to reduce gang membership.

Local law enforcement agencies have formed a regional task force to arrest and suppress the gang members plaguing the community.

Experts say the other essential elements are intervention and prevention. The Merced Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Task Force is working to provide those pieces.

The task force includes representatives from local government, schools, the faith-based community, courts and probation and social services.

The group has a Web site that is providing resources to parents and others in the community to help them identify gang lifestyles and behaviors.

Work is under way on developing a summer jobs program for young people and also gang awareness workshops for parents.

For more information, go to the Web site www.MercedComVIP.org.