

Measure C funds helping make Merced safer

In 2005 voters approved Measure C, a half cent sales tax for increased services in public safety, transportation and other vital municipal improvements. A Citizens Oversight Committee reviews the spending and advises the Council on ways to budget the funds.

Half cent sales tax for public safety raises \$12.1 million

Measure C is funding road maintenance projects throughout the City. The Measure also will be used to fund \$2 million in additional street repair projects next spring.



ROADS
\$4,418,211

Measure C funds have been used to hire 13 additional firefighters. The additional staff allows the department to have three firefighters on every vehicle that rolls.



FIRE
\$2,477,736

POLICE
\$5,056,329



Measure C monies have been used to pay for 17 new police positions, along with two support staff members.

The funds also have been used to purchase additional equipment for the officers, and will be

used to buy a new "bomb truck" to replace the 1984 vintage ambulance that had been converted for the bomb squad.

The totals shown here include projected spending through June 2008. The total does not include \$184,224 initially spent to set up the fund.

Proposed City Charter amendments on the November ballot

On Nov. 6, voters in Merced will be asked to decide three proposed amendments to the City Charter. The City Charter spells out how the City is governed and operates.

The amendments would:

- ◆ Approve giving the mayor and council members the same salary as their counterparts in a general law city.
- ◆ Impose campaign contribution limits of \$500 per person and \$2,000 per entity each election cycle.
- ◆ Update the City Charter to eliminate obsolete portions and improve operations. One provision would increase the public works bid threshold from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and index it for

inflation.

The City Charter was enacted in 1949. It establishes how the City will be governed and cannot be changed unless a majority of voters approve the amendments.

The entire text of the amendments will be posted on the City's website for review. The Charter already is posted there.

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 staff will be taking Monday, Sept. 3 off for Labor Day. The City Council will meet Tuesday, Sept. 4. Trash pickup is on the normal schedule. 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.

Contacting us

The City of Merced Web site, www.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:

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 to become owner of historic Bell Station

The City of Merced has been told that it will soon become the owner of the Bell Station Post Office on 18th Street.

The General Services Administration (GSA) will turn it over to the City as long as it is maintained as a historic structure.

The City intends to lease space so the U.S. Postal Service can continue its operations in the building. The GSA had told the Post Office it would have to move.

Congressman Dennis Cardoza was instrumental in getting support for the transfer to the City. He once had his office in the building and has expressed an interest in returning to the landmark.

Built in the early 1930s, the 15,000-square-foot structure is on the National Register of Historic Places. It features two murals painted in 1937.



The historic 18th Street Federal build-

Keep it alive!



Foreclosed properties are often abandoned and left to decay, becoming a visual blight and a crime magnet. The City is exploring what it can do legally to keep homes maintained and neighborhoods safe and appealing when a home is in foreclosure.

Open House set

The annual open house will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20 at the Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18th St. All City departments will have representatives on hand to meet the public, answer questions and show some of the services they offer. There will be tours of the Civic Center, raffles, prizes and other goodies. City Council members, commission members and department heads will also be on hand.

DUI, traffic safety grants

The City recently received a \$201,749 grant from the Office of Traffic Safety to fund a police position and overtime for DUI enforcement. The City also received a \$430,000 grant to be the lead agency in a multi-agency anti-DUI campaign.

City Finance Department honored for its openness

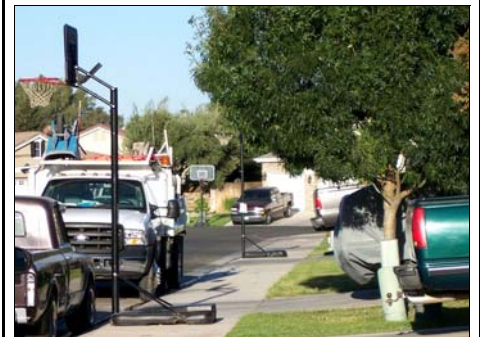
For the 11th year in a row, the City of Merced's Finance Office has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

The award was made for the report on the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.

The prestigious national award recognizes the City for a "spirit of full disclosure" in communicating its financial story and encouraging the public to read the report.

The award honored the department for publishing an easily readable and efficiently organized financial report that meets all accounting standards and legal requirements. The report is on the City website, www.CityofMerced.org.

Foul on the hoops



This isn't the site of Hoop Dreams, it is a safety hazard and it is illegal. Kids of any age shouldn't be playing on the street, and having basketball hoops in the street or on the sidewalk is a hazard. Be a Good Neighbor and move them off streets and sidewalks.