



THE CI

MERCED

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Stephanie R. Dietz, Interim City Manager
Date: September 25, 2020
Re: City Council Information Report

CALTRANS CLOSING PART OF HWY. 59

Caltrans is closing southbound Hwy. 59, between Olive and Cooper Avenues, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 27 through Thurs., Oct. 2. Drivers can expect a 10 minute delay and are advised to take R Street. A news release on the closure is attached.

FLU SHOT CLINIC A SUCCESS



The City of Merced's first Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinic was a huge success. Patient's First administered 81 flu shots to employees and their dependents.

We would like to thank the Fire Department, Public Works, Human Resources for all their hard work that made the event possible.



ENGINEERING UPDATE

Water Well Site #20

The Clark Bros. Inc., crew is working on piping inside the well house, making connections in the well and grading the water retention basin. This project is approximately 70% complete.



Cooper Lift Station

The Phase 1 Construction crew is waiting for concrete to cure before placing utility cabinets on the site. This project is approximately 60% completed.



Lab Building & Solid Handling Building Restrooms

The Daguerre Construction crew finished painting the primer on the building. The project is approximately 10% complete.



Upcoming Construction Projects (Council Award Date)

1. 113031 – Brimmer Water Main Construction (09/28)
2. 117020 – Gerard Ave. Sewer Main Hwy 99 to Kibby Road (10/19)
3. 119006 – Alpine Drive – G St. to Wainwright Ave. Improvements (10/19)
4. 119003 – R St. Rehabilitation Loughborough Dr. to Buena Vista Dr. (10/19)

Projects in Design

1. Highway 59 Widening (9/24)
2. Highway 59 and 16th Street Signal and Channelization (90%)
3. Motel Drive Multi-Use Path (100%)
4. V Street, 16th to 18th Streets, Road Improvement (90%)
5. N Street, 16th to 18th Streets, Roadway Improvement (100%)
6. R Street, 16th to 18th (40%)
7. B Street Improvements (30%)

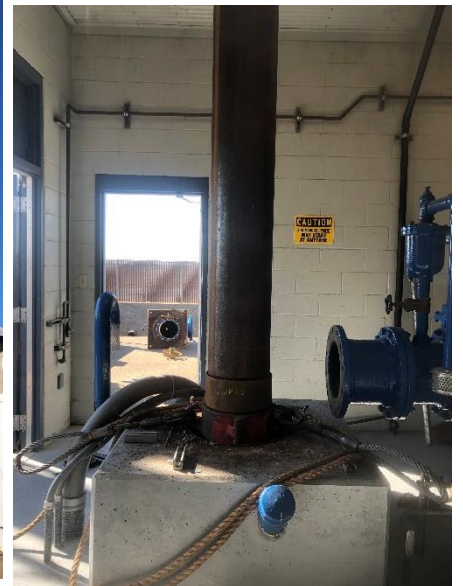
FIRE HYDRANT REPLACEMENT ON VILLA DRIVE

Public Works Water crews are replacing a fire hydrant on Villa Drive this week. A new gate valve, lateral, and hydrant have been installed; see in-progress photos:



WELL REPAIRS ON EAST GERARD

San Luis Pump Company has begun repairs to Well Site 10R2 (East Gerard) this week under the direction of the Public Works Department. As part of the first stage in the process, they will disassemble the well, identify parts for repair, and video the well casing.



EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION ON TREE TRIMMING VEHICLES

Through a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE) grant, as part of the California Climate Investments Program, staff has purchased vehicle signage to help promote education on the benefits of trees. You can spot these three signs on our tree trimming vehicles!

<i>Trees help your family be healthy.</i>			
Urban nature supports outdoor activities, promotes exercise, reduces stress and violence, and combats obesity.		Kids living in areas with more street trees have less asthma.	
	Views of trees improve recovery from stress within 5 minutes as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension.	TREES HELP US LIVE LONGER.	
<i>Trees make the places we live feel like home</i>			
Trees provide privacy and more comfortable settings.	Trees slow traffic.		
TREES REDUCE NOISE.	Trees help reduce crime.	Trees are beautiful.	
<i>Trees clean the air and the water</i>			
Tree leaves absorb and filter rainwater, helping slow down stormwater runoff from rainstorms.	Trees help reduce carbon that builds up in the air. This carbon build up increases temperatures and leads to changes in our climate.	Trees absorb odors and filter pollution out of the air by trapping them in their leaves and bark.	

ILLEGAL MATTRESS DUMPING

Public Works Refuse Crews picked up approximately 35 illegally dumped mattresses throughout the Downtown area this week.



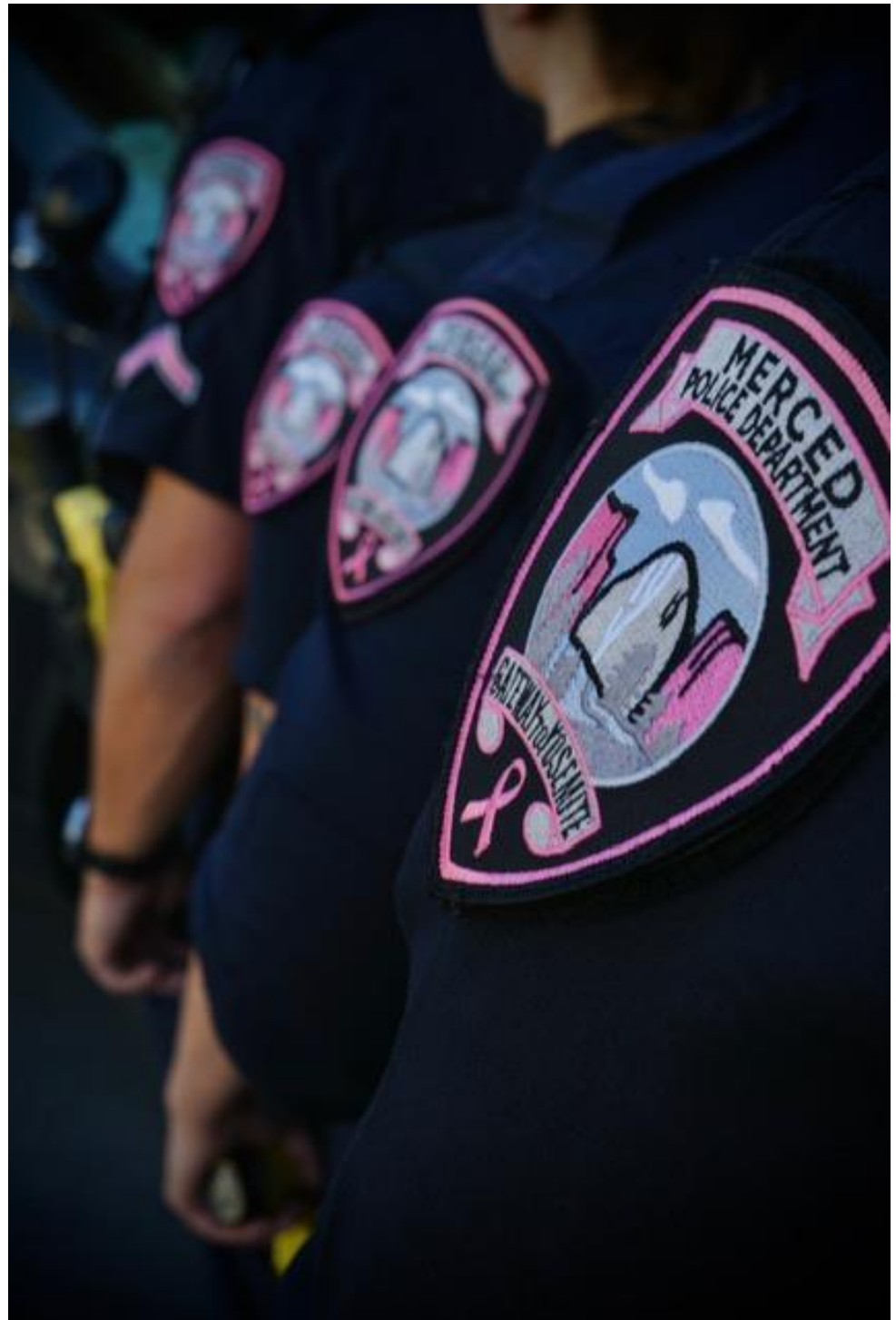
PLAYGROUND GUIDELINES POSTED AT CITY PARKS

Public Works crews began posting the “Playground Guidelines” at City parks this week. The signs remind visitors to #MaskUpMerced and practice social distancing.



PINK FOR OCTOBER

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and the Merced Police Department has collaborated with the Merced City Fire Department to produce a brief video for social media. MPD Pink Patches and Fire Pink Shirts will be sold by the associations to raise money for charity.



SIESTA MOTEL CLOSED



DART and Code Enforcement has been hard at work addressing blight issues throughout the City of Merced. Most significant was closure of the Siesta Motel on 16th Street for a safety issues. The rooms were substandard due to standing sewage, lack of plumbing, exposed electrical, roach infestation and unpermitted construction. Open sewage was located behind the buildings causing a stream of sewage into the parking lot.

City Fire deemed the open/exposed electrical panels a violation of the fire code which authorized an emergency disconnect for health and safety. PG&E responded to conduct the disconnect.

City Water staff responded and disconnected the water to stop the flowing of sewage water. The pipes were inspected and were clear, so the sewage issue was on the property.

Several agencies responded to assist, including APS, The Mission, Merced County H.S.A. for the displaced tenants. Several of the 30-35 tenants received services, others found their own housing with family or friends.

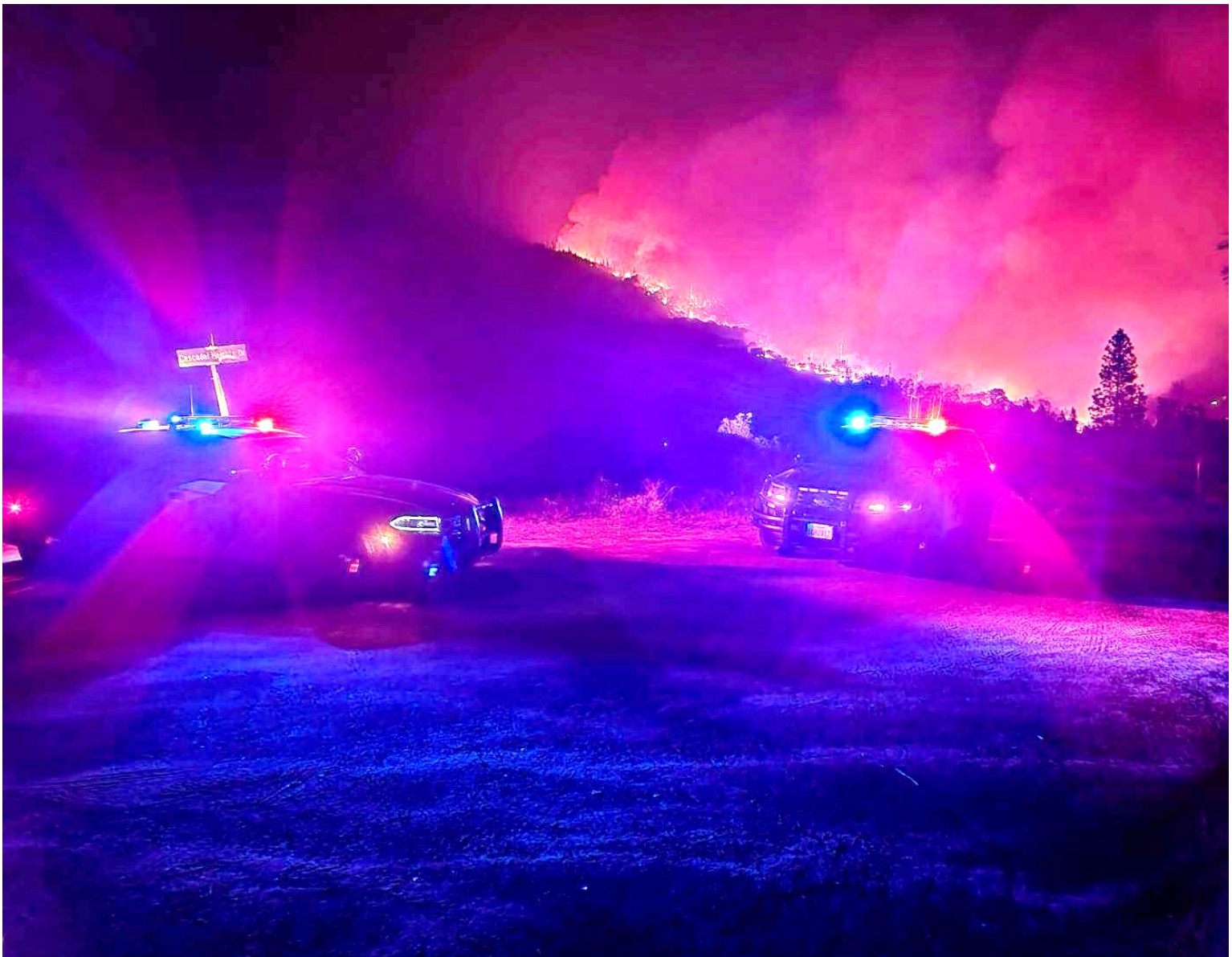


DART CLEAN UP EVENTS UNDERWAY

DART has also participated in several clean up events throughout the City of Merced, including this clean up of the area behind the ReStore thrift store on Main Street. Many more clean up events are planned for the month of October.

MUTUAL AID FOR THE CREEK FIRE IN MADERA COUNTY

On Sept. 7, CalOES Region 5 requested help with evacuations in the Bass Lake/Northfork area on Madera County. The request came to Merced PD through the Merced Sheriff's Office and Merced PD was able to send officers to assist in the effort. The Merced Police Department sent four officers each day to staff a day shift and night shift during the operation. Merced PD's portion of the operation concluded on Monday, Sept. 21.



INSPECTION SERVICES REPORT

Please find attached the biweekly Inspection Services report.

CENSUS COUNTED THOSE FACING HOMELESSNESS

Census workers were out Wednesday night to count unhoused people facing the challenges of homelessness. Attached is a memo from the County coordinator of the census project.

SAVE THE DATE

Oct. 5 – Council meeting

Oct. 19 – Council meeting

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Highway 59 closure news release | Pg. 12 |
| 2. Inspection Services Report | Pg. 13 |
| 3. Homeless census memo | Pg. 14 |



TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Today's Date: September 24, 2020
District: 10 - Stockton
Contact: Skip.Allum@dot.ca.gov
Phone: (209) 948-7176

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRAFFIC ADVISORY FULL HIGHWAY CLOSURE SOUTHBOUND STATE ROUTE 59 IN CITY OF MERCED

MERCED COUNTY – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will close southbound State Route 59 (SR-59) between West Olive Avenue and Cooper Avenue in the city of Merced for utility work.

Closures will begin Sunday, September 27, through Friday, October 2, 2020, from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.

Motorists are advised to use R Street as a detour during these nightly closures.

Motorists should expect 10-minute delays. Alternate routes should be taken whenever possible.

This work is scheduled to begin as listed, but is subject to change due to traffic incidents, weather, availability of equipment, and/or materials and construction related issues.

For the safety of workers and other motorists, please Be Work Zone Alert.

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www.dot.ca.gov



BE WORK ZONE ALERT



For current District 10 lane closure information, [please click here.](#)

Inspection Services CI

For the period of September 7th through September 20th, 2020, there were 24 New Single Family Dwelling Permits Issued.

The running total of New Single Family Dwellings in Plan Review is **530**.

Multi Family Permits in review:

Gateway Terrace Apartments located at 405 W 12th St; 1 office/lounge and 6, 2 story apartments: 2 buildings have 16 units, 3 buildings have 30 units, and 1 building has 4 units for a total of 126 units. Compass Pointe phase II: 128 units in 16, 8-plex buildings, plus a clubhouse.

Merced Station (Yosemite at Lake Apartments) located at 2850 E. Yosemite Ave.; **5** of 15 multi-family apartment permits are still pending issuance (for buildings 10-14).

The Childs & B St. project plan review is approved and the permit is pending issuance. It consists of 5 publicly funded apartment buildings and a community building in an affordable housing development consisting of 119 units on 4 acres located at 1157 B St.

There is also 1 new 2,438 SF duplex in review, located at 345 W. 23rd St.
(no change from last report)

There were no multi-family permits issued during this period.

There were 0 new construction commercial permits issued during this period.

There were 3 new tenant improvement permits issued during this period; one for a 2,528 SF medical office located at 105 W. El Portal Dr. Ste B.; one for walkway, deck, and balcony repairs at Oak Terrace Apartments located at 1019 Loughborough Dr.; and one for "Bag O Crab" located at 455 W. Olive Ave.

There were 0 new commercial submittals during this period.

There were 0 new tenant improvement submittals during this period.

There was 1 CofO issued for this period; for a drive approach for a 2nd lane, POS system, and shade canopy for Mr. Car Wash located at 1800 W. Olive Ave.

There were 14 CofOs for Single Family Dwellings during this period.

Good Evening All:

This email is a quick notification regarding US Census Bureau activities occurring this evening throughout the County. This evening the United States Census Bureau will be conducting their unsheltered homeless count in Merced County for Census 2020. Census Field Manager Rob Treis may have already reached out to you and your law enforcement agencies and provided a watchbill; however, here is a quick overview of the operation.

The operation will occur this evening from 7pm until tomorrow morning at 7am. Approximately 80 US Census Bureau enumerators will be deployed throughout the County to conduct an unsheltered homeless count. The basecamp will be housed at the United Way of Merced County office located at 531 West Main Street, in Merced.

- All COVID-19 safety protocols will be adhered to in accordance with California, Merced county, CDC and U.S. Census guidelines. Rob Treis is the point of contact. His contact information is as follows: Rob Treis, Census Field Manager, Fresno CA | ACO 3270, U.S. Census Bureau, Cell: 832-880-7694 | Office: 559-550-8008, robert.e.treis.ii@2020census.gov.
- Staffing for the project includes the following US Census Bureau staff: 1 Census Field manager in charge, and up to 9 more staff members present throughout the night at the basecamp.
- Besides the 10 full-time basecamp staff, there will be up to 80 personnel moving in and out of the facility throughout the 12 hour working period. They will be present long enough to exchange paperwork, receive supplies and possibly use the restroom facilities.
- Items that will be used/distributed: Questionnaires and paperwork, reflective vests, flashlights, water and food. All of these supplies will be provided by the U.S. Census.

Many thanks,

Alexandra Pierce, MSW, LCSW
Deputy County Executive Officer