



**MERCED**

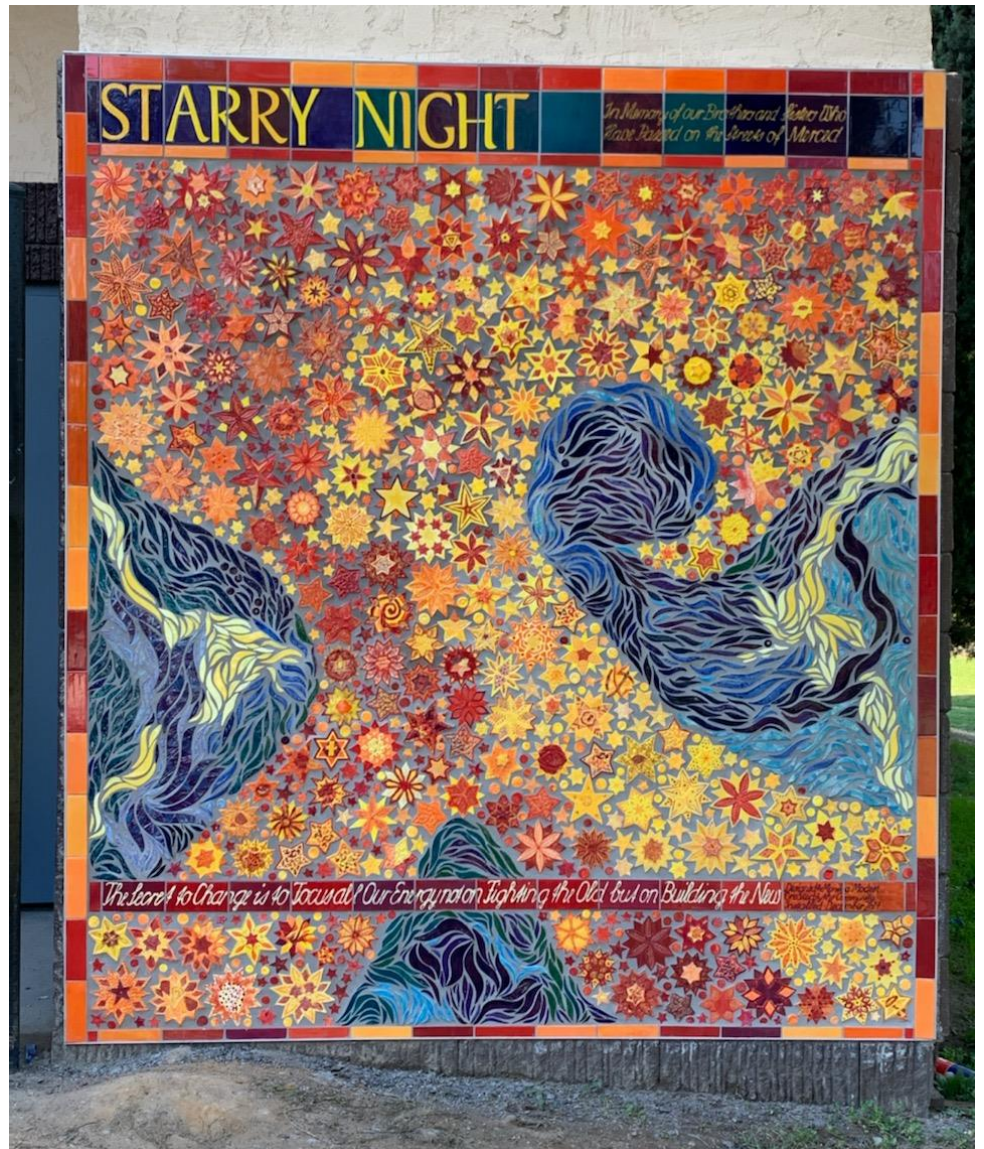
# THE CI

**To:** The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Stephanie R. Dietz, Interim City Manager  
**Date:** October 23, 2020  
**Re:** City Council Information Report

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## THE MOAT SHINES

On Monday, Merced artist Monika Modest, and tile contractor Ed Contreras, completed the “Starry Night” Homeless Remembrance Project at the Applegate MOAT.



## PAINTERS IN THE PARK

The Merced Open Air Theater (MOAT) was the backdrop for a Painting in the Park lesson for area youth. Local artist Tonia Hemme lent her talents to the Parks and Recreation Department, instructing attendees how to paint various Halloween-themed canvases. The events were held on Oct. 10 (grades K - 6) and Oct. 17 (grades 7 - 12). All supplies were provided by Mrs. Hemme and artists followed her step-by-step instructions to create the masterpieces. Each session was limited to 50 participants, with social distancing and mask requirements at the forefront of the events.



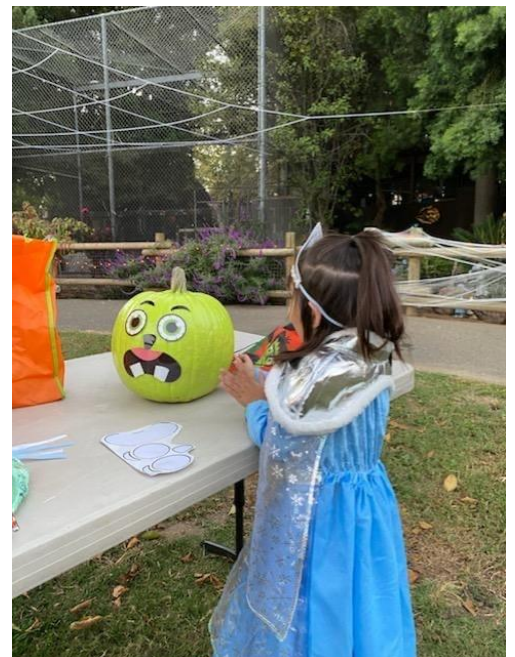
The final Painting in the Park session will be Sat., Nov. 14, 10 a.m. to noon at the MOAT, when entire families will have the opportunity to paint together. Space is also limited to 50 participants and all safety precautions will be in place.



## TINY TOTS PARTY AT THE ZOO

The Applegate Park Zoo was host to over 100 tiny tots and their families who took time to revel in the lights, load up on candy and decorate pumpkins at the 5th Annual Tiny Tots Pumpkin Party. The Oct. 21 event was held in two sessions to ensure all social distancing rules were followed.

Participants were given a goodie bag, which included crafts and pumpkin decorating items. The tots and their families then enjoyed a stroll through the Zoo, taking pictures near the animals, trick-or-treating, and choosing their pumpkins along the way. Tables were socially distanced for participants and families to spruce up their pumpkins.



## MORE HALLOWEEN NIGHTS AT THE ZOO

Oct. 22-24 is Zpooky Nights at the Zoo from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person (kids under 2 are free) and there are three sessions per night to choose from: 5:30-6 p.m.; 6:15-6:45 p.m., and 7-7:30 p.m. Time between each session will be used to sanitize stations and the restrooms.

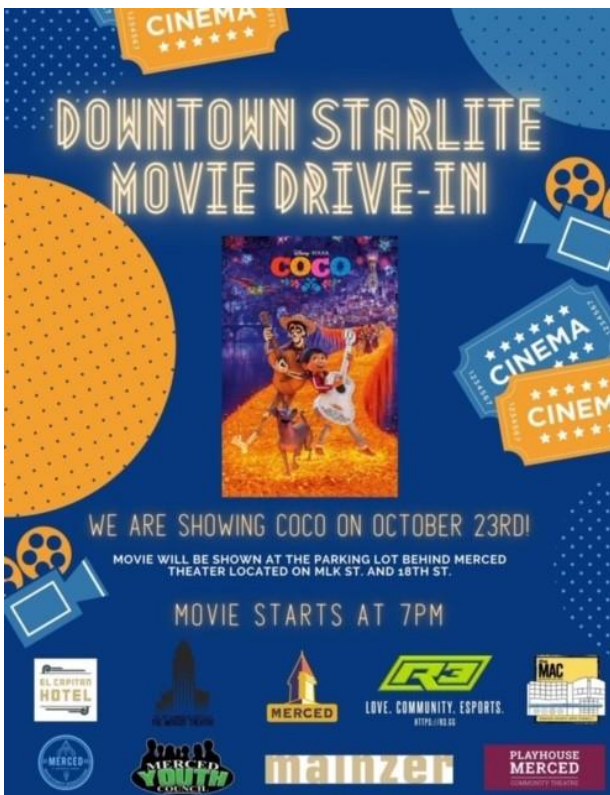
Zoo-goers will enjoy spooky decorations, lights galore and cauldrons of candy for trick or treating. Photo opportunities are available throughout the Zoo.



## YOUTH COUNCIL WELCOMES DRIVE-IN MOVIE GOERS

The Merced Youth Council has been busy preparing for the Downtown Starlite Movie Drive-in to be held tonight (Oct. 23) in the Merced Theatre parking lot. The featured movie is Disney's, "Coco." The City of Merced Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with the Merced Theatre, Playhouse Merced, The Merced Main Street Association, The El Capitan Hotel, Mainzer Theater, R3 and the MAC to host this community event.

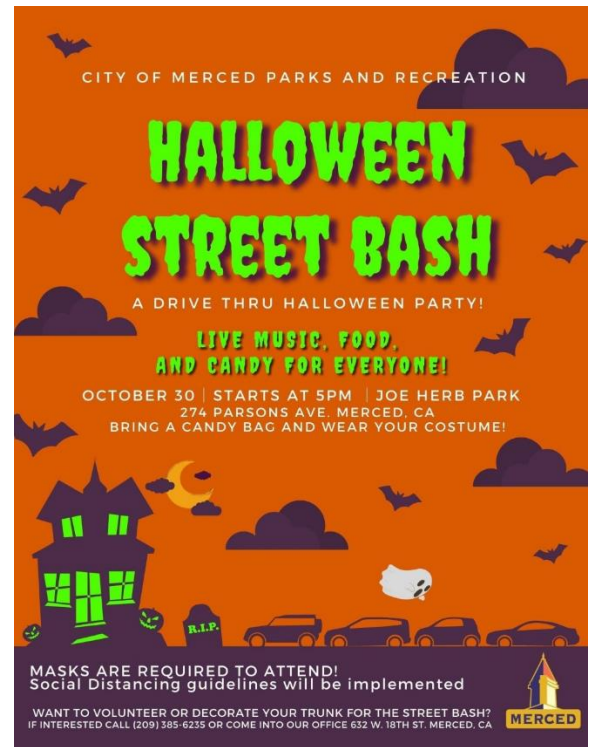
The Youth Council has provided goodie bags with popcorn, candy and glow sticks. Sponsors also donated stickers, toys, and a special Dia de los Muertos ornament from the Merced MultiCultural Arts Center. The lot will open at 4 p.m. to movie goers who would like to park and go enjoy a meal downtown. The movie starts at 7 p.m. and goodie bags will be distributed to each vehicle approximately 30 minutes before showtime. The event is free and open to the public.



## VENDORS WANTED FOR THE HALLOWEEN STREET BASH

The Parks and Recreation Department will host the Halloween Street Bash at Joe Herb Park on Fri., Oct. 30. The free event starts at 5 p.m. Participants will drive through the park and receive goodies, toys, promotional material and, of course, plenty of candy, at this trunk-or-treat-style event.

**Vendors are needed.** To participate, individuals and organizations must provide their own vehicle, trailer, float or tables, decorate their space, and distribute treats, toys and/or informational material. There is no charge to vendors and applications can be obtained by contacting Parks and Recreation.



THE CITY OF MERCED PARKS AND RECREATION

# CALLING ALL VENDORS, PERFORMERS, AND VOLUNTEERS!

*Come together to bring a smile to our community!*



We are looking for vendors, performers, volunteers, and organizations for our upcoming Drive-Thru events, *Halloween Street Bash* and *Christmas Street Lane* at Joe Herb Parking Lot!



## RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW!

*Join us!*

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**VENDORS:**  
We are looking for food vendors and vendors who would like to decorate their own vehicles' trunk! If your organization has a float they'd like to decorate, apply now! Vendors who decorate their trunks or have a float must be able to give out 500 pre-packaged goodie bags.

**PERFORMERS:**  
Showcase your talents! School Cheer/Dance Teams, and Entertainers are encouraged to apply! Performers will be responsible for bringing their own power and/or generators.

**VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:**

- Set up and Clean up
- Directing traffic
- Decorating

**EVERYONE IS REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES AND MUST FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES.**

Visit our website at [cityofmerced.org](http://cityofmerced.org) or call (209) 385-6895 for more info about the becoming a vendor or volunteer. We are located at 632 W. 18th St. Merced, CA 95341



## MERCED POLICE NEWS



### TREATING THE KIDS

Community Liaison Eugene Drummond participated in the Farmdale Fox Families drive-thru trunk-or-treat last week. Students and families stayed in their car and drove by showing off costumes and decorations. This event was hosted by Farmdale Elementary School.

### ONE MORE IN TRAFFIC UNIT

On Monday Officer Levi Crain was assigned to the Merced Police Department Traffic Unit. This brings the Traffic Unit staffing to a total of 4 officers and 1 sergeant.



## ENGINEERING UPDATE

### *Water Well site #20*

The Clark Bros., Inc., crew is working on the electrical systems at the wet well connected to storm water basin, and miscellaneous work around well house. This project is approximately 80% complete.



### *Cooper Lift Station*

The Phase 1 Construction crew is doing a week-long water test at the site. This project is approximately 85% complete.





### ***Brimmer Water Main***

The Mid Cal Pipeline & Utilities, Inc., crew is installing a water line along Brimmer. This project is 5% complete.



### **Upcoming Construction Projects (Council Award Date)**

1. 117020 – Gerard Ave. Sewer Main Hwy 99 to Kibby Road (10/19)
2. 119006 – Alpine Drive – G St. to Wainwright Ave. Improvements (10/19)
3. 119003 – R St. Rehabilitation Loughborough Dr. to Buena Vista Dr. (10/19)
4. 120008 – Crack Filling Phase 1 (16<sup>th</sup>, G St, Olive Ave)

## **Projects in Design**

1. Highway 59 Widening
2. Highway 59 and 16<sup>th</sup> Street Signal and Channelization (90%)
3. Motel Drive Multi-Use Path (100%)
4. V Street, 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Streets, Road Improvement (90%)
5. N Street, 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Streets, Roadway Improvement (100%) Submitted to CTC
6. R Street, 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> (40%)
7. B Street Improvements (30%)
8. G Street Improvements Childs to 13<sup>th</sup> St. (100%) Submitted to CTC
9. Orchard Avenue Sewer (40%)

## **NEW ROUND FOR FOOD BOX PROGRAM**

The USDA today announced it has authorized \$500 million for a fourth round of purchases for the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box

Program: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/farmers-to-families-food-box>. USDA is issuing solicitations for the fourth round to existing Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) holders and expects to award contracts by Oct. 30 for deliveries of food boxes from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, 2020.

In the fourth round, as in the third round, states have been allocated boxes based on the internal need of the state. The program will continue the purchase of combination boxes to include fresh produce, dairy products, fluid milk and meat products. The program also will continue to require that proposals illustrate how coverage would be provided to areas identified as opportunity zones, details subcontracting agreements, and address the “last mile” deliver of products into the hands of the food insecure population. Entities who meet the government’s requirements and specifications will be issued agreements and submit pricing through a competitive acquisition process. The news release on the program is attached.

## **REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Food Box Program news release

## ***USDA Announces Fourth Round of the Farmers to Families Food Box Program***

### **Date**

Friday, October 23, 2020 - 1:45pm

### **Contact Info**

USDA Press

[press@oc.usda.gov](mailto:press@oc.usda.gov)

**(Washington, D.C., Oct. 23, 2020)** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced it has authorized \$500 million for a fourth round of purchases for the [USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#). USDA is issuing solicitations for the fourth round to existing Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) holders and expects to award contracts by Oct. 30 for deliveries of food boxes from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, 2020.

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“I’m gratified by the overwhelmingly positive response to the Farmers to Families Food Box program from families, distributors, food banks, faith-based organizations and non-profits in communities across the country. We recently surpassed 110 million boxes delivered, and millions more are headed to Americans in need,” U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said. “I’m very pleased that we are able to extend this program and continue our relief efforts for American farmers and families.”

“Across the country, I have seen firsthand how the Trump Administration is fueling millions of American families through the Farmers to Families Food Box Program,” said Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump. “President Trump’s commitment to extend this impactful program is ensuring healthy and nutritious produce, dairy and meat will continue to reach our Nation’s most vulnerable communities while supporting our farmers!”

## Background:

The third round of Farmers to Families Food Box program was [announced](#) July 24, 2020, and the [President announced](#) on Aug. 24, 2020, that up to an additional \$1 billion was being made available for deliveries through Oct. 31, 2020. USDA announced contracts for the third round on Sept. 17, 2020, and has purchased more than \$2.981 billion worth of food, to date.

In the [second round](#) of purchasing and distribution, which began July 1 and ended on Sep. 18, 2020, USDA purchased more than \$1.763 billion of food through extended contracts of select vendors from the first round of the program. It also issued new contracts focused on Opportunity Zones in order to direct food to reach underserved areas, places where either no boxes have yet been delivered, or where boxes are being delivered, but where there is additional need.

The [first round](#) of purchases occurred from May 15 through June 30, 2020, and saw more than 35.5 million boxes delivered in the first 45 days.

Updates to the number of food boxes verified as delivered will continue to be displayed on the USDA's [Agricultural Marketing Service \(AMS\) website](#), with breakdowns by performance period on the [Farmers to Families Food Box Program page](#).

This additional funding for the food box program is one of many recent efforts by the USDA to continue providing critical support to the American people. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also has [taken steps](#) to ensure Americans in need are able to feed themselves and their families.

Earlier this month, [USDA extended flexibilities](#) to allow free meals to continue to be available to all children throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year. This unprecedented move is part of USDA's unwavering commitment to ensuring all children across America have access to nutritious food as the nation recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. USDA previously extended child nutrition waivers through December 2020 based upon available funding at the time. The flexibilities extended allow schools and other local program operators to continue to leverage the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to provide meals to all children, at no cost, at over 90,000 [sites across the country](#) through June 30, 2021.

In April, USDA increased Monthly SNAP Benefits across all 50 states and three territories to increase food security during the coronavirus national emergency. These

emergency benefits represent a 40 percent increase in overall monthly SNAP benefits, significantly increasing food purchasing power for American families. In addition, USDA [announced in May](#) that 90 percent of participants would soon be able to use SNAP benefits to purchase food from authorized retailers online.

USDA has also [provided over \\$3 billion \(PDF, 539 KB\)](#) in food and administrative funds to food banks through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which provides 100 percent domestic USDA Food to families in need.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.