



THE WEEKLY COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

July 30, 2021

SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Kids Time Summer Program at Lifeline Loughborough Community Center recently visited the Merced Police Department. Officer Hernandez led youth members on a tour of the building, and grounds and gave everyone a chance to sit in a patrol car. The tour included time with Chief of Police Thomas Cavallero. After the tour Chief Cavallero passed out stickers and complimented the group on how well-behaved and attentive they were.





MEET MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT'S NEWEST DETECTIVE

Christian Lupian has been assigned to the Detective's Division of the Merced Police Department. Christian previously worked in the Gang Violence Suppression Unit for one year and has been with the Department for eight. Congratulations Detective Lupian.



CHIEF CAVALLERO SWEARS IN NEW SERGEANT



Chief Cavallero had the pleasure of swearing in Sergeant Jose Barajas Wednesday, July 28th.

Barajas began his career as a Reserve Officer in 2012. In September of 2013, he was sworn in as a full-time officer with Merced Police Department.

Before his promotion, Barajas worked in the department's Detective Division for one year and the Gang Violence Suppression Unit for three.

He is a member of the Honor Guard Team, an Arrest and Control instructor, and an instructor in Strategic Communications.

Barajas' favorite aspect of his job is the opportunity to make a positive impact on our community. As a Sergeant he is looking forward to using the skills throughout his career and pass them on to the officers he'll be supervising. In his new promotion, Barajas will be assigned to the Patrol Division.



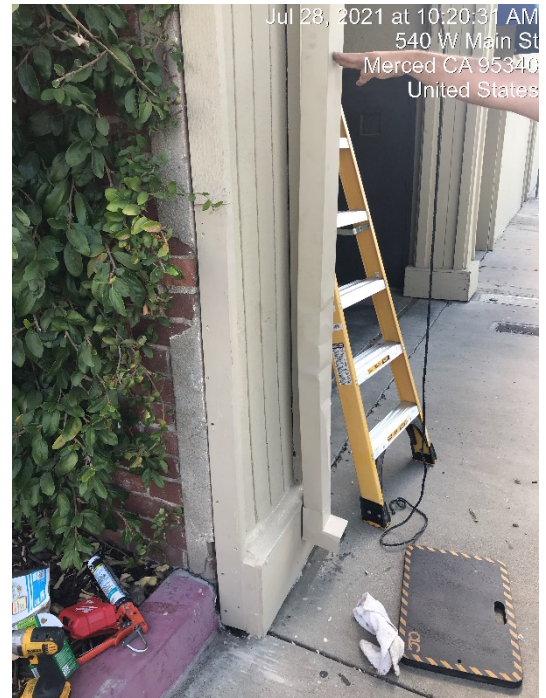
PUBLIC WORKS CREWS IN ACTION

Public Works Facilities Crews repaired a damaged down-spout and trim at Arbor Walk South in downtown Merced.

Before Repairs



During Repairs



Public Works Parks Crews replaced valves and sprinklers at Ada Givens Park. Crews also started work at Bob Hart Square to replace a valve and Fahrens II to upgrade the irrigation timer.



Public Works Streets Division is preparing the City's transfer site for this fall's Leaf Collection Program.



TREE PRUNING CONTRACT

Contracted tree pruning services continued this week with crews working in the area of Highway 59 and Buena Vista



Before
(Sarasota at Buena Vista)

After
(Sarasota at Buena Vista)



Before
(Highway 59)

After
(Highway 59)



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – PROJECTS UPDATE

PROJECT #117047 – G ST. – WELL SITE 3 TANK REMOVAL.

Standard Demolition crew demoing tank.

This project is approximately 10% complete.



PROJECT #117020 – GERARD SEWER MAIN, HIGHWAY 99 TO KIBBY RD.

Rolfe Construction Co., Inc. crew removing and replacing sewer line.

This project is approximately 80% complete



PROJECT #120060 – N ST. IMPROVEMENTS – 16TH ST. TO 18TH ST.

TBS Contractors, Inc., crew pouring sidewalks

Project is approximately 75% complete.



CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

1. 117047 – Well Site 3 Tank Removal
2. 117020 - Gerard Ave. Sewer Main Hwy 99 to Kibby Road
3. 120060 – N Street, 16th to 18th Streets, Roadway Improvement
4. 121053 - G St. – Park Ave. to Bear Creek Rehabilitation (Emergency)
5. 117038 - V Street, 16th to 18th Streets, Road Improvement

PROJECTS IN DESIGN

1. Highway 59 Widening (14%)
2. Highway 59 and 16th Street Signal and Channelization (90%)
3. Motel Drive Multi-Use Path (100%)
4. R Street, 16th to 18th (90%)
5. B Street Improvements (70%)
6. G Street Improvements Childs to 13th St. (100%)
7. Orchard Avenue Sewer (70%)

FIREFIGHTER RESCUE TRAINING

The Merced Fire Department routinely assists victims stranded along the banks of Bear Creek and our firefighters regularly train to hone their rescue skills. Yesterday, Merced Police Officer King was able to role play as the victim thereby allowing our probationary firefighters to receive valuable training. Thank you, Officer King, for your participation.



STRIKE TEAM LEADER MANAGES CREWS AT THE DIXIE FIRE

On July 26th, the Fire Department deployed Fire Captain Nathan Frankhauser to assist as a Public Information Officer trainee at the Dixie Fire, which is California’s largest wildfire and threatening thousands of structures. Last week, the Fire Department deployed a Strike Team Leader to manage fire crews from the following fire departments: City of Fresno, City of Visalia, City of Selma, City of Los Banos, and Merced County.



Fire Captain Nathan Frankhauser



Location, Location, Location

On July 22nd at approximately 12:30 a.m., Merced Fire Department's Engines 51 and 53, and Battalion Chief 506 responded to the area of Phelps and Freemark Drive for a reported vegetation fire. Engine 53 arrived and did not locate a fire in the area however, they located the fire near the area of Horizons Ave. and Monaco Drive.

The fire was about one-half mile away, but the drive distance was closer to three miles. Fortunately, the fire was away from structures and infrastructure. The potential for damage was very low.

After an assessment, a plan was developed to extinguish two large and freely burning debris piles. Each pile was approximately 20 feet wide and one was approximately 8 feet tall. The taller pile was a mixture of dried vegetation and dirt. Extinguishment was difficult and time-consuming. Crews worked smarter and not harder utilizing large diameter permanently mounted nozzles referred to as deck guns to break down the piles. Commitment time was approximately one hour for the two engines.

Fortunately, there were no injuries or damages. One takeaway from this call for community members to provide accurate details of the location of the fire to allow first responders to respond promptly. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.



PRODUCTIVE AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

On July 23rd, the City of Merced Fire Department Engines 51 and 54 assisted Merced County Fire Department with a vegetation fire that spread to a trailer and an RV located in a junkyard.

Productive, positive relationships are important. Local resources have the potential to be overwhelmed by large incidents when multiple units are required to mitigate the problem. The City of Merced Fire Department participates in various types of mutual aid to help our neighbors and in return, our neighbors help us when the need arises.

City of Merced Fire Department Engines 51 and 54 were committed for approximately one hour and two hours respectively without report of injury or equipment damage. Quick response by all units kept this fire contained to a relatively small area. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL PARKS & RECREATION MONTH



Parks are at the center of so many experiences and memories — moments that park and recreation professionals help make happen. Our local parks are often our first experiences in nature, our introduction to a favorite hobby or physical activity. They are places to gather with friends and family, spaces to celebrate life’s special moments, spots of respite and healing, sites that connect us with essential community services, and so much more.

Local parks have been essential throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with many community members finding a new appreciation for the essential spaces City staff maintains and vital programs to enhance the quality of life.

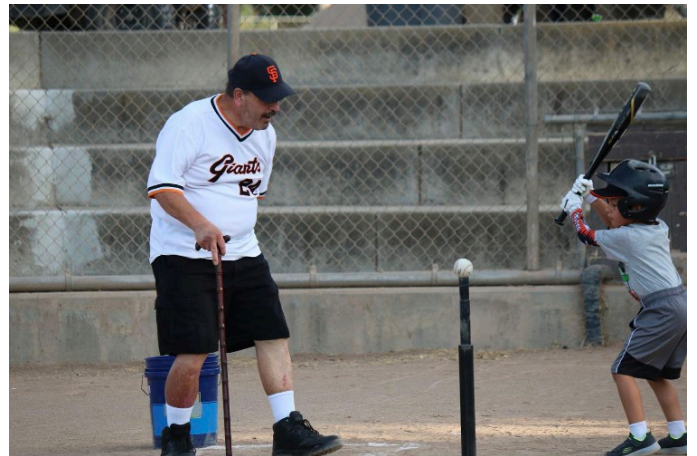
Thank you for taking time to celebrate Parks & Recreation Month!



MERCED JUNIOR GIANTS WINDDOWN

Merced Jr. Giants hosted Last Pitch event for the final game day on July 28th, with tons of support from parents, players, and coaches. Players and Coaches had the opportunity to take team and individual pictures in front of a large backdrop to commemorate the season. Trophies were given to players and coaches received personalized baseballs. The Willie Mac Award was given to one coach and one player. These recipients will have the opportunity to go to the SF Giants stadium where they will be recognized nationally.





JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS AT MOVIES IN THE PARK

In honor of the Merced Jr. Giants, the movie Sandlot will show at Joe Herb Park on Friday, July 30th at sundown. Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy a movie with family and friends. All movies begin at sundown. Relax on a blanket or bring a chair. Light snacks will be available for purchase.



ATTACHMENTS

1. Planning Commission Report
2. Board & Commissions Vacancies
3. Save the Date Children's Summit
4. Merced County Office of Ed Safe Return to School

INSPECTION SERVICES

For the period of July 12th, 2021 through July 25th, 2021, there were **41** New Single-Family Dwelling Permits **Issued**.

The running total of New Single-Family Dwellings in Plan Review is **226**.

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.

There is a fire damage repair that is also adding an ADU located at 1740 Shirley St.

There were 0 multi-family permits issued during this period.

(No change from last report)

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

There was 1 new tenant improvement permit issued during this period; for Loiter Street Kitchen, a new 1,592 SF restaurant located at 426 W. Main St.

There was 1 new commercial submittal during this period; for a 2,200 SF Panda Express located at 165 E. Yosemite Ave.

There were 3 new tenant improvement submittals during this period; one for a 4,458 SF coffee shop located at 847 W. Main St., one for 1,310 SF improvements for Verizon located at 145 E. Yosemite Ave Ste A, and one for renovations at the Siesta Motel located at 1347 W. 16th St.

There were 0 CofOs issued for this period.

There were 43 CofOs for Single Family Dwellings during this period.

**MERCED COUNTY FOOD BANK 2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

Please follow the link provided below to view the Merced County Food Bank 2020-2021 Annual Report to learn about how and who they serve:

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/14301148/>

"CENTRAL VALLEY PORTRAITS" EXHIBIT

"Central Valley Portraits" Exhibit Showcases Everyday Life, Including Grief and Hope, in Merced.

Global Arts, Media and Writing Studies Professor Yehuda Sharim's exhibition "Central Valley Portraits," presented by the Merced County Arts Council, will be on display at the Merced Multicultural Arts Center from Aug. 4 through Oct. 3. The photography and multimedia installation reflects everyday life in changing urban complexes of Merced.

An opening reception will be held at 6 p.m. on Aug. 4 and an artist talk with Sharim is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Sept. 9. A screening of his documentary "Songs That Never End" and a question-and-answer session will take place at 7 p.m. on Sept. 23. The events are free and open to the public.

The Merced Multicultural Arts Center is located at 645 W. Main St. Additional details about events and exhibits can be found [here](#).



CITY OF MERCED

Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Meeting Agenda

Planning Commission

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Merced Civic
Center, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

WELCOME TO THE MEETING OF THE MERCED PLANNING COMMISSION

At least 72 hours prior to each regular Planning Commission meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the City's website at www.cityofmerced.org or at the Planning Division Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relating to an open session item that are distributed to a majority of the Commission will be available for public inspection at the Planning Division Office during regular business hours. The Planning Commission also serves as the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Design Review/Historic Preservation Commission.

MODIFIED PUBLIC COMMENT: OBTAIN SPEAKER CARD FROM THE CLERK

Members of the audience who wish to address the Planning Commission are requested to complete a speaker card available at the podium against the right-hand side of the Council Chamber. Please submit the completed card to the Clerk before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins. Speakers will be called up, 3 to 5 at a time, in the order in which the forms are received. Please use the microphone and state your name and city of residence for the record. For permits, licenses, and other entitlements, the applicant will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), the appellant/leader of the opposition will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), and all other speakers shall have 5 minutes each, unless the number of speakers is over 3, which in that case, comments shall be limited to 3 minutes each. For all other issues, for 3 or less speakers, 5 minutes each and for over 3 speakers, 3 minutes each shall be allotted. A timer clock is located above the City Council dais illuminating the remaining time. Once the buzzer sounds, please be courteous and conclude your remarks.

For at risk individuals of those not wanting to attend an in-person meeting during the current Covid-19 pandemic, please submit your public comment to the Planning Commission electronically no later than 1PM on the day of the meeting. Comments received before the deadline will be sent to the Planning Commission and will be part of the record and mentioned as part of the Public Comment portion of the agenda.

Material may be emailed to planningweb@cityofmerced.org and should be limited to 300 words or less. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Item # or Oral Communications. Your comments will be presented to the Planning Commission at the appropriate time. Any correspondence received after 1 PM will be distributed to the Planning Commission and retained for the official record.

You may provide telephonic comments via voicemail by calling (209) 388-7390 by no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting to be added to the public comment. Voicemails will be limited to a time limit of three (3) minutes. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Report item #, Consent item #, or Oral Communications. Your comments will be played during the Planning Commission meeting at the appropriate time.

To view video (if available) or listen to the Planning Commission meeting live, go to the City's website www.cityofmerced.org, Facebook Live, or Comcast Public Access Channel 96.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Accommodation for individuals with disabilities may be arranged by contacting the Planning Division at (209) 385-6858. Assisted hearing devices are available for meetings held in the Council Chamber.

A. CALL TO ORDER

A.1. Moment of Silence

A.2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

B. ROLL CALL

C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public who wish to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda may speak during this portion of the meeting and will be allotted 5 minutes. The Chairperson may, at their discretion, reduce the time to 3 minutes if there are more than 3 speakers, in order to accommodate as many speakers as possible. State law prohibits the Planning Commission from acting at this meeting on any matter raised during the public comment period. Members of the public who wish to speak on a matter that is listed on the agenda will be called upon to speak during discussion of that item. Please submit a Request to Speak card prior to the item being called.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Adoption of the Consent Calendar may be made with one motion of the Planning Commission provided that any Planning Commission member, individual, or organization may request removal of an item from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration. If a request for removal of an item from the Consent Calendar has been received, the item will be discussed and voted on separately. With Consent items, there is generally no staff presentation but staff is available for questions.

D.1 21-628 **SUBJECT: Planning Commission Minutes of July 21, 2021**

ACTION:

Approving and filing the Planning Commission Minutes of July 21, 2021

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes of July 21, 2021

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

Members of the public who wish to speak on public hearings listed on the agenda will be heard when the Public Hearing is opened, except on Public Hearing items previously heard and closed to public comment. After the public has commented, the item is closed to further public comment and brought to the Commission for discussion and action. Further comment will not be received unless requested by the Commission.

E.1 21-599

SUBJECT: Zoning Ordinance Amendment #21-02, initiated by the City of Merced, Amending Section 20.44.170 "Regulation of Commercial Cannabis Activities - Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Required" of the Merced Municipal Code and Amendment of Merit-Based Selection Criteria for Cannabis Dispensaries. *PUBLIC HEARING*

ACTION:**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Recommendation to City Council

- 1) Environmental Review #21-21 (*Categorical Exemption*)
- 2) Zoning Ordinance Amendment #21-02
- 3) Draft Resolution re: Merit-Based Criteria

CITY COUNCIL:

Approve/Disapprove/Modify

- 1) Environmental Review #21-21 (*Categorical Exemption*)
- 2) Zoning Ordinance Amendment #21-02
- 3) Resolution re: Merit-Based Criteria

SUMMARY

On March 15, 2021, the City Council directed staff to make updates to the regulations regarding commercial cannabis businesses. The changes include expanding the zones that allow cannabis businesses, expanding operating hours for dispensaries, and several changes regarding the merit-based selection criteria for dispensaries. Staff is recommending approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval to the City Council of Environmental Review #21-21 [*Categorical Exemption*], Zoning Ordinance Amendment #21-02, and the draft Resolution regarding the Merit-Based Criteria (per the Planning Commission Resolution at Attachment A).

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

F. 1 21-629 **SUBJECT:** Report by Planning Manager of Upcoming Agenda Items

ACTION

Information only.

F.2 21-630 **SUBJECT:** Calendar of Meetings/Events

- Aug. 2 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 4 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 18 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission, 4:00 p.m.
- Sept. 7 City Council, 6:00 p.m., (**Tuesday**)
- 8 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 22 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.

G. ADJOURNMENT



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION

ABOUT THIS COMMISSION



Roles

Advises on matters relating to improving conditions for bicyclist, pedestrian activity, and other modes of transportation within the City



Duties

Advising the City Council on the design of capital improvement projects, changes and updates to the Active Transportation and Safe-Routes-to-School Plan



Meeting

Regular meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every even numbered month at 4:00 PM

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City Clerk's Office: 678 W. 18th Street, First Floor, Merced CA 95340 | cityclerk@cityofmerced.org



BUILDING AND HOUSING BOARD OF APPEALS

ABOUT THIS BOARD



Roles

Registered or licensed professionals in the trade design, engineering, construction, or inspection of buildings



Duties

Hears and decides appeals or orders, decision, determinations made by the Chief Building Officer



Meeting

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 3:00 PM

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CITIZENS OVERSIGHT - MEASURE C COMMITTEE

ABOUT THIS BOARD



Roles

Review projected revenues created by voted approved one-half cent sales tax



Duties

Recommends proposed expenditures to the City Council



Meeting

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday in February, May, August, and November at 6:00 PM

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PERSONNEL BOARD

ABOUT THIS BOARD



Roles

Hears appeals of any suspensions, demotion or dismissal of any person in the classified service



Duties

Makes recommendations to the City Council on adoptions, amendments, or repeals of civil service rules and regulations



Meeting

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 4:00 PM

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PLANNING COMMISSION

ABOUT THIS COMMISSION



Roles

Studies land subdivisions, planning, and zoning matters



Duties

Recommends to the City Council the adoption, amendment, or repeal of the City's Master Plan for the physical development of the City



Meeting

Meetings are held monthly on the first and third Wednesday at 7PM

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RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

ABOUT THIS COMMISSION



Roles

Consider the annual budget for recreation and parks, assist in planning of a recreation program



Duties

Advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to recreation and parks



Meeting

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 PM

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REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

ABOUT THIS BOARD



Roles

Oversees all airport matters including lease agreements and land use determination



Duties

Makes recommendations to the City Council on airport related matters



Meeting

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM

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City Clerk's Office: 678 W. 18th Street, First Floor, Merced CA 95340 | cityclerk@cityofmerced.org

~ RESERVA LA FECHA ~

CUMBRE DE NIÑOS

CONSTRUYENDO RESILENCIA

22 DE SEPTIEMBRE DEL 2021

TEATRO DE MERCED
301 West Main Street
Merced, CA 95340

INSCRIPCIÓN Y MÁS INFORMACIÓN A SEGUIR



~ SAVE THE DATE ~

CHILDREN'S SUMMIT

BUILDING RESILIENCY

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

MERCED THEATER
301 West Main Street
Merced, CA 95340

REGISTRATION & FURTHER INFORMATION TO FOLLOW



Please join us!

For an Event to Learn More About the Safe Return to School

Monday, August 2, 2021 • 11:00 a.m.

**MCOE Downtown Professional Development Center
501 W. Main Street, Merced, CA**

Entrance at 1715 Canal Street



READY TO
RETURN
— TO SCHOOL —



Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools