



THE WEEKLY COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

September 3, 2021

NEW PARAMETIC PROGRAM AT MERCED COLLEGE



Pictured above, the Department's two paramedics, Chief Derek Parker and Battalion Chief Brunelli

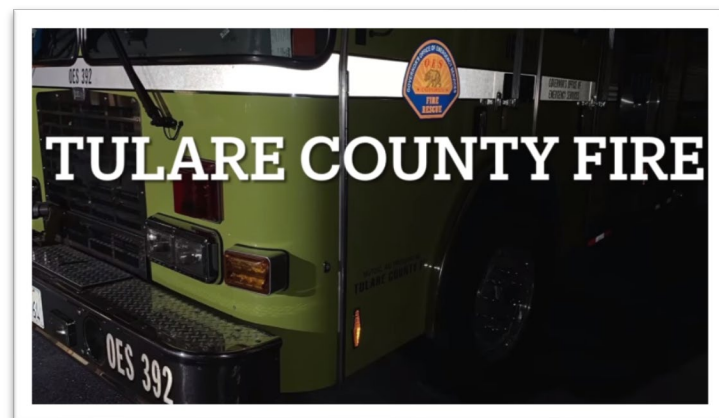
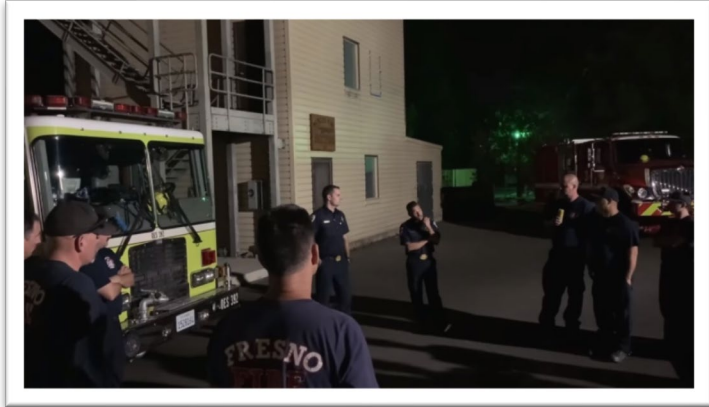
Merced College is partnering with the City of Merced Fire Department to offer a paramedic program. The program will welcome its inaugural class in January.

“Paramedics provide the industry standard for excellence of care in a prehospital setting,” said Chief Derek Parker. “And I want to be involved in the excellence of this city. That’s important to me. It’s an easy solution to build up a local program with local people and train them to provide great service.”

Interested in learning more about the collaborative efforts of this program? Check out this month's issue of the Blue Devil's Advocate! <https://mercedcollege.foleon.com/.../the-blue.../profile/>

Central Valley Teamwork

On August 31, 2021, the Office of Emergency Services Task Force 5811 assembled at the City of Merced Fire Department Headquarters and deployed to the Caldor Fire in El Dorado County. The task force consists of two strike team leaders from Merced and fire engines from the Cities of Fresno, Clovis, Selma, Hanford, and Tulare County. As the State of California is in drawdown it is important to provide personnel to support these devastating fires occurring statewide.



Congratulations Fire Engineer Poole

Congratulations to Firefighter Luke Poole. Poole will officially be promoted on Monday, September 6th, with his first tour on Wednesday, September 8th.



FEMA Grant Funding Provides for Updated Communications Tools

On Friday morning, September 3rd, Merced City Fire received notification from FEMA of a \$403,471 grant award, which the department will use to replace antiquated portable and mobile radios. Communication tools are essential to fire personnel during emergency incidents. This grant will provide critical funding for resources that will keep our firefighters and our community safe.

Award Letter

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20472

Effective date: 08/27/2021



Derek Parker
MERCED, CITY OF
678 WEST 18TH STREET
MERCED, CA 95340
EMW-2020-FG-12926

Dear Derek Parker,

Congratulations on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security. Your application submitted for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Grant funding opportunity has been approved in the amount of \$403,470.60 in Federal funding. As a condition of this grant, you are required to contribute non-Federal funds equal to or greater than 10.0% of the Federal funds awarded, or \$40,347.06 for a total approved budget of \$443,817.66. Please see the FY 2020 AFG Notice of Funding Opportunity for information on how to meet this cost share requirement.

Before you request and receive any of the Federal funds awarded to you, you must establish acceptance of the award through the FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) system. By accepting this award, you acknowledge that the terms of the following documents are incorporated into the terms of your award:

- Summary Award Memo - included in this document
- Agreement Articles - included in this document
- Obligating Document - included in this document
- 2020 AFG Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) - incorporated by reference

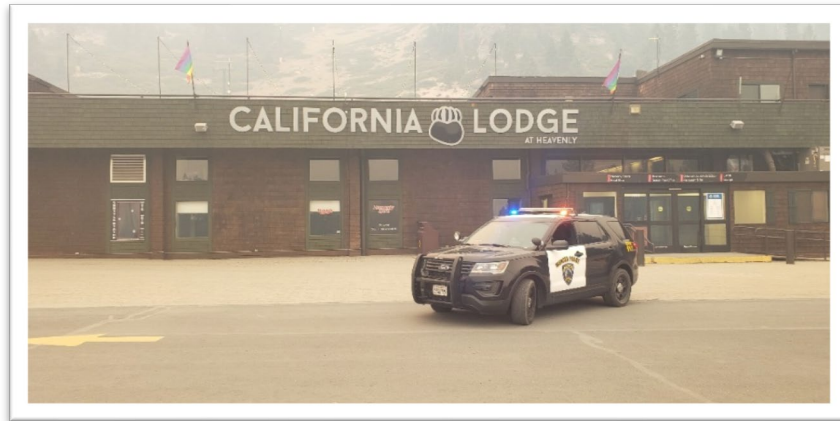
Please make sure you read, understand, and maintain a copy of these documents in your official file for this award.

Sincerely,

Christopher Logan
Acting Assistant Administrator
Grant Programs Directorate

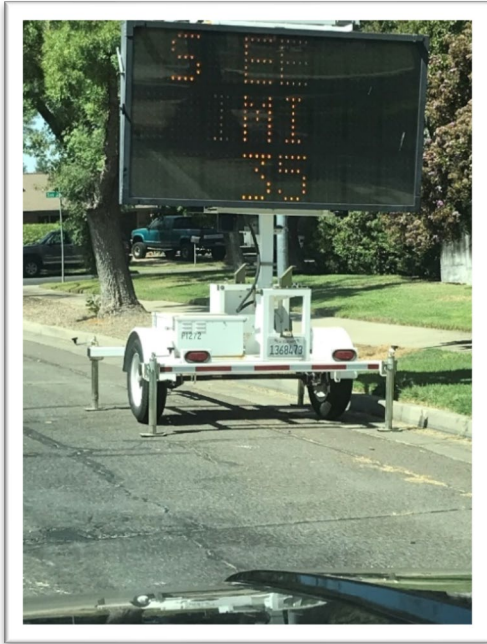
Mutual Aid

Merced City Police continue to provide mutual aid at the Caldor Fire.



Addressing Traffic Concerns

Police Captain Joe Weiss met with Council Member Sarah Boyle and City Engineer Mike Beltran in the 800 block of West Donna Dr to address traffic complaints from community members. Merced Police Department’s Speed Trailer was placed on the side of the road to remind drivers of their speed and to slow down and travel at or below the 35 miles per hour speed limit.



Community at the Mercado

Members of the Merced Police Department had fun at Thursday evening’s Mercado! This month’s focus was on Tobacco Education, which is a primary goal of a grant award received by the Department of Justice. Merced County Health Department was on-site to distribute educational materials to teens and young adults. These materials provide information about the dangers surrounding the use of tobacco products.



Welcome Reserve Officers Vanessa Carias and Chance Smith



Reserve Officer Vanessa Carias was born and raised in Visalia.

Vanessa attended College of the Sequoias as well as the Art Institute in Los Angeles. Vanessa's brother is a CHP officer and has been a big influence in her decision to pursue a career in law enforcement. Vanessa put herself through the Academy at College of the Sequoias and will graduate in November.

Welcome to the Merced Police Department family Vanessa.



Reserve Officer Chance Smith was born in San Jose and raised in the Murrieta/Temecula area.

Chance earned his AS degree from College of the Sequoias and BS degree in Criminology from CSU Fresno. Chance's major influences in deciding to become a police officer were friends and neighbors who were in law enforcement. He is attending the Academy through College of the Sequoias and graduates this November.

Welcome to the Merced Police Department family Chance.

National Night Out 2021



Applegate Park 5:30-8

Free fun for the whole family!

Police & Fire vehicles * Free hot dogs * Public safety displays * Community resources * Face painting

Join the Merced Police Department, Community Organizations and area businesses to learn more about crime prevention and public safety.



National Night Out is an annual community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood unity to make our neighborhoods safer, kinder and more connected places to live. National Night Out enhances and creates relationships between neighbors and law enforcement, while reinforcing the value of community. National Night Out provides a great opportunity for the police and neighbors to come together and build positive and meaningful relationships for mutually beneficial outcomes. We hope to see you Tuesday, October 5th from 5:30 to 8 pm.

Visit cityofmerced.org/departments/police/programs for information about Booth registration.

Engineering in Action

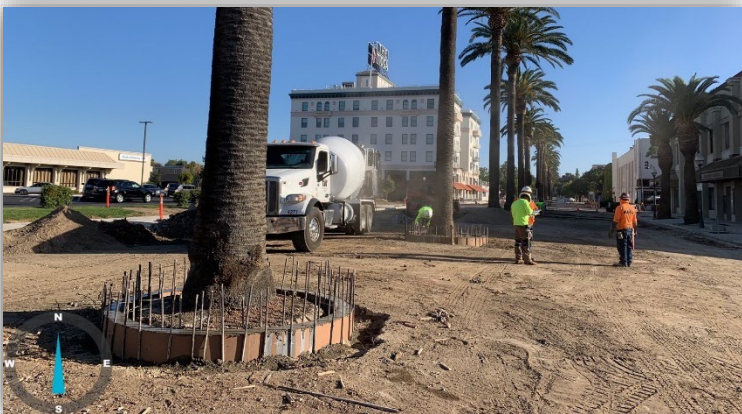
Project #117047 – Well Site #3 Tank Removal
Standard Demolition crew installed fencing.
This project is approximately 97% complete.



Project #117038 - V Street Improvements –(16th to 18th)
Agee Construction Corporation crew. First day on the
job. Demo has started. Crews were saw cutting.
This project is approximately 0% complete.



Project #120060 – N St. Improvements – 16th St. to 18th St.
TBS Contractors, Inc. crew poured new median curbs.
Project is approximately 83% 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 Improvements – (16th to 18th)

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%)
8. CMAQ (044) Right-turn Channelization of Hwy 59 at 16th Street
9. CMAQ (040) New Traffic Signal at Hwy 59 and 16th Street
10. CMAQ (048) John Muir Sidewalk
11. CMAQ (049) Motel Drive
12. CMAQ (050) Sidewalks R St., S St., and Stuart Dr.
13. CMAQ (052) Sidewalks 7th St., 8th St. and Linda Ln.
14. CMAQ (051) Sidewalks Olive Ave., Parsons Ave. and Alexander Ave.
15. CMAQ (055) Nottingham Sidewalks
16. CMAQ (057) Merced North Transit Hub

Public Works in Action

Leroy H. Foster

A memorial sign was recently installed near Merced College on M Street north of Yosemite Avenue to honor and pay tribute to Leroy H. Foster, TSgt U.S. Army.



ATTACHMENTS

1. Planning Commission Agenda – Pages 11 -14
2. Merced College Save the Date Annual State of the College – Page 15
3. MCOE Newsletter – National Attendance Awareness Month – Page 16-17
4. Merced College Save the Date Soccer Kick-Off Event – Page 18



CITY OF MERCED

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

Meeting Agenda

Planning Commission

Wednesday, September 8, 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.

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 Board/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, Report 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.

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 21-741 **SUBJECT:** Planning Commission Minutes of August 18, 2021

ACTION:

Approving and filing the Planning Commission Minutes of August 18, 2021

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes of August 18, 2021

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

E.1 21-688

SUBJECT: Zoning Ordinance Amendment #21-03, initiated by Ashley Investments. This application involves changes to the Merced Zoning Ordinance (Title 20 of the Merced Municipal Code) which would amend Merced Municipal Code Section 20.44.160 (Tobacco Sales Prohibited Near Schools). This amendment would modify the City’s regulations regarding tobacco sales near schools and other sensitive uses to more closely match similar requirements regarding Commercial Cannabis Business Permits. This would include prohibiting tobacco sales within 1,000 feet of schools (same as the current requirement), but reducing the required distance from other sensitive uses (day care centers, youth centers, libraries, and public parks) from 1,000 feet to 600 feet and allowing for exceptions with a Conditional Use Permit granted by the Planning Commission for tobacco sales near other sensitive uses (not including schools). The changes would also include using the same list of schools adopted by the City Council for cannabis permits for tobacco sales.
PUBLIC HEARING

ACTION PLANNING COMMISSION:
 Recommendation to City Council
 1) Environmental Review #21-24 (*Categorical Exemption*)
 2) Zoning Ordinance Amendment #21-03
CITY COUNCIL:
 Approve/Disapprove/Modify
 1) Environmental Review #21-24 (*Categorical Exemption*)
 2) Zoning Ordinance Amendment #21-03

SUMMARY

Ashley Investments is requesting a modification to the City’s regulations regarding tobacco sales near schools and other sensitive uses (parks, day care centers, youth centers, and libraries) to more closely match those required for the Commercial Cannabis Business Permits and to allow exceptions to be made for those other sensitive uses (not schools) with a Conditional Use Permit granted by the Planning Commission. Staff is recommending approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval to the City Council of Environmental Review #21-24 (Categorical Exemption) and Zoning Ordinance Amendment #21-03 as outlined in Exhibit B of the Draft Resolution #4073, subject to the findings/considerations in Exhibit A of the Draft Resolution at Attachment A.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

F.1 [21-745](#) **SUBJECT:** Report by Planning Manager of Upcoming Agenda Items

ACTION

Information only.

F.2 [21-746](#) **SUBJECT:** Calendar of Meetings/Events

- 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.
- Oct. 4 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 6 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission, 4:00 p.m.

G. ADJOURNMENT

SAVE *the* DATE

MERCED COLLEGE
ANNUAL
STATE *of* THE COLLEGE

OCTOBER 14, 2021
12 NOON

Honoring
The Late
Colonel Russell
&
Susie Downey

Invitations to Follow



National Attendance Awareness Month

EVERY DAY MATTERS



Regular school attendance is a crucial part of academic success. If students miss just two days of school per month, that equals 10% of the school year. When communities collaborate with families and schools, we can overcome barriers to attendance and engagement. Parents have an important role to ensure their children are on time and ready to learn each day.

For more information about school attendance and the safe return to schools, visit

www.mcoe.org/ReadyToReturn

READY TO

RETURN

— TO SCHOOL —



— MERCED COUNTY —
Office of Education

NURTURE • SERVE • LEAD

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

Mes Nacional de Concientización sobre la Asistencia

CADA DÍA CUENTA



La asistencia regular a la escuela es una parte crucial del éxito académico. Si los estudiantes faltan solo dos días de clases al mes, eso equivale al 10% del año escolar. Cuando las comunidades colaboran con las familias y las escuelas, podemos superar las barreras para la asistencia y la participación. Los padres tienen un papel importante para garantizar que sus hijos lleguen a tiempo y estén listos para aprender todos los días.

Para obtener más información sobre la asistencia escolar y el regreso seguro a las escuelas, visite www.mcoe.org/ReadyToReturn

LISTOS PARA

REGRESAR

— A LA ESCUELA —



— MERCED COUNTY —
**Office of
Education**

NURTURE • SERVE • LEAD

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



SOCCER IS HERE!

**MERCED COLLEGE INAUGURAL
KICK-OFF EVENT
SEPT. 7TH 12-1PM
ON THE SOCCER FIELD
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

**DOUBLE HEADER FOLLOWING EVENT
WOMEN'S 2:00PM, MEN'S 4:00PM**

MERCED
COLLEGE



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