



THE WEEKLY COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

April 1, 2022

FINISHING UP WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Meet Maggie Fuentes

Maggie has been with the City of Merced since June of 2016, when she was hired as a Human Resources Technician 1. Recently, she was promoted to Risk Analyst and is responsible for collaborating and supporting our Human Resources Department and City staff.



Maggie has spent her career in the private and public sectors and says what interested her most about working for the City was knowing she'd be able to help make an impact in our community.

What Maggie likes about working in the City's Human Resources Department is learning information that allows her to support people she is in contact with every day. When asked what she likes most about coming to work each day, she said, "I need to find purpose in everything I do in life, whether home, work, or fun. I found purpose in my job when I realized my primary "customer" is our employees. I get to take care of coworkers while taking care of our community and citizens of Merced. I can't think of a greater privilege than to serve those who serve everyone else."

Continued on page 6.

Meet Lieutenant Emily Foster

Lieutenant Emily Foster began her career with the Merced Police Department in a non-sworn position in 2002 shortly after earning her undergraduate degree in business administration from California State University Stanislaus at Turlock, California.



Initially, Foster was interested in pursuing opportunities in line with her degree. However, while working for the Merced Police Department, she learned more about law enforcement and enrolled in the Reserve Police Academy at Merced College. Shortly after graduating, Foster accepted a position as a Police Officer Trainee with MPD and went on to attend the Fresno Police Academy.

In 2004, Foster became a Reserve Officer with Merced PD. She was hired as a full-time officer in 2006. Lieutenant Foster's assignments have included School Resource Officer at Merced High School, Golden Valley and Yosemite High Schools, the Crime Scene Response Team, Crisis Negotiations Team, and Field Training Officer.

Continued on page 6.

Public Works Retirement Bill Glaser



After 20 years of service, Bill Glaser will be retiring from the Public Works Water Department as of Friday, April 1st. Bill started in the Water Department as a Technician and moved up the ranks to the Cross Connection Control Specialist. His supervisor said that “Bill is a great Water employee who takes pride in everything he’s done. He’s very thorough and always makes sure the job is done right. Bill was one of the most dependable people, he’s definitely going to be missed.”

Bill, the Public Works Department would like to wish you the very best in retirement. Congratulations and thank you for all your years of service!

Teamwork makes the Dream Work.

The Merced Police Department and Merced County Behavioral Health continue to succeed in the community as a team. Since July 2020, MPD has partnered with Merced County Behavioral Health to work together to assist people in crisis and provide referrals and services to those in need in our community. For more than six months now, Officer Shaw and Amy, a Mental Health Worker from Merced County Behavioral Health, have teamed up to help find solutions for two of the most challenging problems facing our community, mental health, and homelessness.

Together Amy and Officer Shaw have been able to attain housing for seven people living on the street. They have also placed 11 people living on the street in Mental Health facilities to achieve much-needed long-term medical care. In addition, they have been able to get one person into conservatorship with assistance from Merced County Adult Protective Services. Our partnership with Merced County Behavioral Health is ongoing. Keep up the great work, team!





Merced Youth Council Presents the first Town Hall at Merced High School.

On March 28th, the Council had the opportunity to present at Merced High School for over four periods, targeting students from first-year students to seniors. The Council held a rally-style town hall, which included interactive activities and physical engagement from students and teachers. The information presented updated information on city projects, ARPA, council recruitment, and youth employment. There were Q & A opportunities for students to speak as well.

Merced Youth Council will hold another town hall at Golden Valley High School on April 13th.



Honors High School Art Show

The exhibition on the first floor of the Civic Center features the artwork of high school students throughout Merced County.

Sponsored by the Merced County Arts Council, this artwork will be on display through April 15th



What's New at the Zoo?

Earth Day @ Applegate Park Zoo

Spend Earth Day with us and enjoy a fun kids' day during Applegate Park Zoo's regular hours. Come to our educational plant talks about Venus Flytrap plants on April 23rd by one of our Zoo plant specialists. Special live bear feeding at 2:30 pm with ZooKeeper Josh.

Earth Day Scavenger Hunt will continue from April 22nd-April 24th as kids are given a list of trees to locate around the Zoo. All participants will receive a prize after finding everything on the list.

Easter at Applegate Park Zoo

Join us for some Easter Fun on April 16th from 10 am-2 pm. The Zoo will host a painting station, Hop and Go Seek Scavenger Hunt, Arts and Crafts, and Egg Dyeing. In addition, the Easter Bunny will make a special appearance.

Hop and Go Seek: Come and join us every Saturday now until April 16th and find our local Zoo Bunny, Mr. Raffle! All participants will earn a prized egg and a chance to win the Grand Prize.



Let's play ball!

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 YOUTH LEAGUE
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 City of Merced
 Sign up online starting April 4!
 League starts beginning of June | Ages 5-13
 For questions, please contact:
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Ceremonial Matters Congratulations Fire Engineer Sletto and Fire Marshall Abeyta

At the March 21st City Council Meeting, Fire Chief Derek Parker swore in newly promoted Fire Engineer Tom Sletto and Fire Marshall Manny Abeyta. Congratulations to Fire Engineer Sletto and Fire Marshall Abeyta.



Maggie Fuentes continued,

When not at work, Maggie is an advocate for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors at Valley Crisis Center. Additionally, she prepares and serves dinner for residents at D Street Shelter. Her drive to support people in need in our community is because she firmly believes everyone needs to know they matter. Maggie believes, “Regardless of their situation or circumstances, they matter for exactly who they are at that exact moment. So, all I really do is listen to people and treat them the way I would want one of my kids treated if they were in that situation. I want people to know they can survive anything if they don’t give up and that I personally believe in them.”

In her spare time, Maggie is with her family and spends as much time as possible with her grandson “because he is perfect.” When asked about self-care, she quickly listed cooking and baking.

Maggie and her family have lived in the Merced area for nearly seven years. She will call Merced her forever home because of her work with the City and the unbelievably amazing circle of friends she’s met while here.

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. PC Meeting Agenda Page 7
- 2. Earth Day Flyer Page 11
- 3. Easter at Applegate Zoo Page 12
- 4. City County Dinner Flyer Page 13
- 5. Village of Hope Opening Flyer Page 14
- 6. Junior Giants Program Flyers Page 15/16

Emily Foster continued,

In 2019, Foster was promoted to Sergeant and supervised Patrol, and the Administrative Division. Additionally, she oversaw the Crisis Negotiations Team, Field Training Officer Program and Crime Scene Response Team. In May of 2021, Foster earned the rank of Lieutenant. She is the first female Lieutenant in the history of the Merced Police Department and is currently assigned to the Operations Division.

In addition to her responsibilities with Merced PD, Lieutenant Foster completed the State’s Academy Instructor Certification Course (AICC) and is a member of the teaching staff at the Merced College Police Academy.

Foster enjoys sharing her experience with others and believes mentoring provides support and helps others understand their capabilities. Foster knows a career in law enforcement is available for men and women and believes everyone has equally valuable qualities and experiences.

In the Fall of 2022, she will be teaching her first non-academy class for the criminal justice program at Merced College. When not serving the City, Emily enjoys traveling, remodeling projects, gardening and playing roller derby.

Interested in seeing a co-worker featured in the CI? Please submit your request to pio@cityofmerced.org. Tell us their name and why you believe they should be featured in the City’s weekly Council Information Report.



CITY OF MERCED

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

Meeting Agenda

Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

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.

Material may be emailed to planningweb.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 one (1) minute. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, 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 [22-272](#) **SUBJECT:** Planning Commission Minutes of March 23, 2022

ACTION:

Approving and filing the Planning Commission Minutes of March 23, 2022

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes of March 23, 2022

D.2 [22-222](#) **SUBJECT:** Vacation #21-04, to vacate the excess portion of a bicycle path at 897 Lehigh Drive. The subject site is generally located on the north side of Lehigh Drive, approximately 500 feet West of San Jose

Avenue. The eastern portion of the parcel (6,777-square-feet) would be retained by the City to provide access to a City bike path, and the remaining portion of the parcel would be transferred to the original developer of the subdivision, Warren W. Wainwright, Inc.

ACTION:

Finding

The proposed vacation is consistent with the General Plan.

SUMMARY

Engineering and Planning Department staff have reviewed this request and recommend that the Planning Commission adopt a Finding stating that the proposed Vacation is consistent with the General Plan. The General Plan does not address the abandonment of easements; and thus, this action does not conflict with any General Plan policies, text, or maps, so it can be considered “consistent.” The area to be vacated consists of approximately 8,179 square feet.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a motion by minute action adopting a Finding that the proposed Vacation #21-04 is consistent with the General Plan.

D.3 [22-228](#)

SUBJECT: Vacation #21-05, to vacate 15 easements within the Merced Mall parking lot at 851 W. Olive Avenue to accommodate the Merced Mall remodel and expansion project. The subject site is generally located on the north side of Olive Avenue, approximately 450 feet east of R Street.

ACTION

Finding

The proposed vacation is consistent with the General Plan.

SUMMARY

Merced Mall is requesting the vacation of 15 easements located within the Merced Mall parking lot. Engineering and Planning Department staff have reviewed this request and recommend that the Planning Commission adopt a Finding stating that the proposed Vacation is consistent with the General Plan. The General Plan does not address the abandonment of easements; and thus, this action does not conflict with any General Plan

policies, text, or maps, so it can be considered “consistent.”

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a motion by minute action adopting a Finding that the proposed Vacation #21-05 is consistent with the General Plan.

D.4 [22-266](#)

SUBJECT: Planning Commission Annual Attendance Report

ACTION

Reviewing and approving the Annual Attendance Report.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS

E.1 [22-270](#)

SUBJECT: Report by Planning Manager of Upcoming Agenda Items

ACTION

Information only.

E.2 [22-271](#)

SUBJECT: Calendar of Meetings/Events

- April 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 and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, 4:00 p.m.
- May 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.

G. ADJOURNMENT



Earth Day

At Applegate Park Zoo!

Spend Earth Day with us and enjoy a fun kids day during Applegate Park Zoo's regular zoo hours!

Come to our educational plant talks about **Venus Flytrap plants** on April 23rd by one of our Zoo Plant Specialists!

Special live **bear feeding** at 2:30pm with Zoo Keeper Josh

Earth Day Scavenger Hunt will continue from April 22nd-April 24th

Applegate Park
Zoo

Page 11 of 16



CITY OF MERCED PARKS AND RECREATION

EASTER AT APPLGATE ZOO!

JOIN US FOR SOME EASTER FUN
APRIL 16TH FROM 10AM-2PM

1045 W. 25th Street

- Painting Station
- Hop and Go Seek
- Arts & Crafts
- Egg Dyeing

Special guest appearance by the

EASTER BUNNY

Saturday April 16th!

Call for more information:

209-385-6235

TUESDAY, APRIL 12 ~ 6:00PM

CITY-COUNTY *Dinner*

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COST: \$35
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RSVP BY APRIL 5TH

TO JOY YOUNG
JOY.YOUNG@MCAGOV.ORG

GRAND OPENING

You are cordially invited to attend the Grand Opening
and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at our new campus.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022
10:00 a.m.



Village of Hope
Merced County Rescue Mission

129 W Cone Avenue — Merced, California
(between Martin Luther King Jr. Way and G Street)

For inquiries, please call CEO Bruce Metcalf, 209-480-3899 or COO David Carr, 209-354-0559.



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LOS JUNIOR GIANTS CELEBRAN LA DIVERSIDAD
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LIGA DE JUVENTUD

Ntaus Pob Baseball & Softball Beisbol y Softball

LUB CAIJ NTUJ SOV/VERANO 2022



MUAJ SIAB DAWB PAUGI
CONFIANZA



KEV NTSEEG TUS KHEEG/
INTEGRIDAD



KEV UA HAUJ LWM SIB KHOOM UA
IB PAB/TRABAJO EN EQUIPO



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City of Merced

Sign up online starting April 4!

League starts beginning of June | Ages 5-13

For questions, please contact:

Lamguene Kindavong - (209) 385-6235

kindavongl@cityofmerced.org



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JUNIOR GIANTS CELEBRATES DIVERSITY
—ALL ARE WELCOMED TO PLAY!



YOUTH LEAGUE

Baseball & Softball

SUMMER 2022



CONFIDENCE



INTEGRITY



TEAMWORK



LEADERSHIP



TO SIGN UP VISIT: gojrgiants.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

City of Merced
Sign up online starting April 4!
League starts beginning of June | Ages 5-13
For questions, please contact:
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