



COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

August 18, 2023

Meet Applegate Lead Zookeeper Josh Moreno

Parks and Community Services proudly announces the promotion of Josh Moreno to the position of Lead Zookeeper at Merced's Applegate Zoo.

Josh has an extensive history with Applegate Zoo. His passion for animal rescue and care started at a young age through an occasional visit. In high school, Josh spent as much time as his schedule permitted volunteering at the zoo.

After formally committing to the field through higher education, he left the area to work for Fresno's Chaffee Zoo. Eventually, there was an opportunity for Josh to return to Applegate Zoo in a full-time capacity. He worked directly with former Lead Zookeeper Donna McDowell and the Merced Zoological Society for several years.

Josh deeply respects the animals under the zoo's care and understands the responsibility to rescue native species while educating our community.

In his new role, Josh has initiated substantial changes to the zoo, including new animal acquisitions. Look out for the Great Horned Owl coming soon.

Additional updates include exciting new guest experiences, such as a new Docent Program where guests are encouraged to get close and personal with furs, fossils, and eggs of various species of animals, and new exhibit upgrades, such as renovations to the big pond area to reflect the wetlands and species found at the Merced and San Luis National Wildlife Refuge(s).

Josh brings a fresh perspective on the zoo's potential and a deep passion for its residents and the Merced community. We are excited to have him lead our efforts at Merced Applegate Zoo.



Thank you, United Way Merced

Merced PD Community Liaison Rosa Alcaraz recently picked up dozens of boxes of Bombas socks with the help of United Way Merced Representative Janet Kasper.

The United Way of Merced County is a Bombas Giving Partner and receives a shipment of socks annually. This year the donation consisted of 50,000 pairs of socks.

The folks at Bombas work with a network of over 3,500 giving partners who make meaningful changes in their communities. Donations are made possible by retail purchases and support for overnight shelters, transitional living facilities, street outreach teams, rehabilitation centers, Title 1 schools, and medical service professionals.

For more information about United Way Merced, visit unitedwaymerced.org.

For more information about Bambas Giving, visit <https://shop.bombas.com/pages/giving-back>.



Parks & Recreation Flag Football Combine Skills Clinic

Last Friday and Saturday, Community Service Officers Jacob Partlow, Aliyah Moreno, Alfredo Arroyo, and Community Liaison Rosa Alcaraz helped the Parks and Community Services team with the Flag Football Combine Skills Clinic.

The Clinic gave young athletes an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and abilities for various skills sessions.



Community Bike Ride with Merced Police Department

On Sunday, August 13th, the Merced Police Department organized a community bike ride on the new bike path along Yosemite Parkway.

Before the event, Merced PD conducted helmet inspections and fitted cyclists with new helmets. During the event, PD Explorers assisted with traffic control at bike route crossings to ensure cyclist safety. It was a great way to spend a Sunday morning.



Congratulations to Merced Police Officers Megan Aponte and Paloma Chavez.

Officer Megan Aponte and Paloma Chavez recently graduated from the Police Academy in Stanislaus County.

Interim Chief Gundlach, Lieutenant Tony Aponte, Sergeant Barajas, and Officer Martinez attended the ceremony and welcomed each officer to the department.

Before attending the academy, Officer Aponte was a Community Service Officer in the Property and Evidence Department, and Officer Paloma Chavez was a Reserve Officer with Merced PD.

This week, Interim Chief Gundlach held a swearing-in ceremony for Aponte and Chavez. These officers are now attending the department's field training program.

Congratulations, and welcome back.



Celebrating the Caltrans Merced Mural Project

This week, Caltrans Officials and the City of Merced hosted a reception at the McCombs Youth Center to celebrate the completion of the Caltrans Merced Mural Art Project. During the event, friends, family, community members, and Caltrans officials took a bus tour of the project while each artist shared the inspiration for their designs. All murals reflect and celebrate our community's diverse culture and rich history.



**Mermaids and Pirates at Applegate Park Zoo
Saturday, August 19th and 26th
Join the fun.**



**Mermaids
and Pirates**

Join us every Saturday in
August from 10am – 2pm!
Meet Costumed Characters,
Have Animal Encounters,
Enjoy Fun Crafts,
A Scavenger Hunt,
Water Activites, and more!


Costumes and Swimsuits encouraged!
Cash Only See QR code for prices
Applegate Park Zoo
1045 W. 25th Street
Merced, CA



Parks & Community Services Programs and Activities

TAP & BALLET

DANCE CLASS




LOCATION: ROSSOTTI CENTER
1075 W. 25TH STREET

WHEN: EVERY MONDAY
DATE: SESSION 1: SEPT 4TH- JAN 15TH
SESSION 2: JAN 22ND - MAY 27TH

COST: \$125 A SESSION
(4 1/2 MONTH SESSION)
1 HR. CLASS FOR AGES 5 & UP

AGES: 3-4YR OLD- 10AM, 11AM& 2PM
5-6 YR OLD- 3PM
7-8 YR OLD - 4PM
9- 12 YR OLD - 5PM
18 AND UP - 6:30PM

REGISTER AT: PARKS & RECREATION
632 W. 18TH ST
OR CALL 385-6235



CITY OF MERCED PARKS & RECREATION



FLAG
POWERED BY USA FOOTBALL

Registration on July 5th - August 4th

LEAGUE INFO

- \$80 per child/ \$100 non residents
- Divisions
 - Tiny Tots: K-2nd
 - Pee-Wee: 3rd & 4th
 - JV: 5th & 6th
 - Varsity: 7th & 8th
- 10 week season (August -October)
 - NFL style Combine Skills Assessment
 - 2 weeks of intro practice
 - 8 weeks of play
 - One game, one practice per week
 - 6 Saturday morning games
 - 2 Saturday night games
- Each player will receive official NFL flag performance jersey, flags, and certificate of completion
- No team/ buddy/ coach requests in Pee-Wee, JV, or Varsity divisions
 - Coaches will draft teams after Combine (skills assessment)

LEAGUE SPONSORS WELCOMED!
CALL PARKS & REC FOR MORE INFO ON PRICING AND PROMOTIONS

LEAGUE DATES

- Parent Orientation- 8/10 @ 5:30 pm
- Coaches orientation- 8/10 @ 6:30 PM
 - Location: Both orientations held at Senior Community Center 755 w. 15th St, Merced
- PLAYER COMBINE (skills assessment)
- Location: McNamara Turf Fields 1040 Canal Street, Merced
- Mandatory for Pee-Wee, JV, and Varsity Divisions
 - Pee- Wee- 8/11 @ 5:30 PM
 - JV & Varsity- 8/12 @ 9:00 AM
 - Coaches must be present to rank each player in their division for the draft
- Coaches Draft- 8/14
 - Pee-Wee draft 6pm- 7pm
 - JV draft- 7pm- 8pm
 - Varsity draft- 8pm-9pm
- Intro practices begin the week of August 21st
- Games run Sept. 4th- Oct. 30th
 - All games played on Saturdays at Joe Herb Park softball fields (2200 Yosemite Parkway)

REGISTER AT PARKS & RECREATION- 632 W. 18TH ST. MERCED
MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00AM - 12:00PM & 1:00PM - 5:00PM
QUESTIONS? GIVE US A CALL AT (209) 385-6235



Merced Police Department Community Programs and Activities

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
3RD ANNUAL COPS FOR CRITTERS

**TRUNK or TREAT
CAR SHOW**

Eventbrite

SPACE IS LIMITED,
REGISTER NOW!



ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT APPLEGATE PARK AND ZOO

Saturday, Oct 28th • 10AM-2PM

611 W. 22ND St. Merced CA 95340

Vehicle Registration
\$25 until 10/16
after deadline \$30

Adult & Child Costumes welcome
CANDY-GAMES-MUSIC-FOOD VENDORS
&MORE!

Vendor Registration \$25





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2023

Contact: Michelle Reid, Recreation Supervisor
209-385-6895, reidm@cityofmerced.org

CALL FOR WAHNETTA HALL TRUST FUND APPLICATIONS

The Wahnetta Hall Trust Fund was established in 1995. Provisions of the Trust require the City of Merced to use a portion of the endowment fund to establish and maintain a mini-train system and band concert program in Applegate Park.

The Merced City Council annually approves the disbursement of funds to qualified nonprofit organizations that meet eligibility criteria and can perform the services as described in the Trust.

This year \$2,395 is available for distribution. Past recipients have included the Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced for the mini-train operation and the Merced County Regional Arts Council, Merced Symphony Association, and Merced Community Band for concerts at the Merced Open Air Theater in Applegate Park.

The application deadline for 2023 funding is Friday, September 15, 2022. Nonprofit organizations interested in applying should submit a letter of request to the Office of Parks and Recreation, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340, attention Michelle Reid, Recreation Supervisor. Electronic submission and hard copies will be accepted.

For information about eligibility criteria and application requirements, please call 209-385-6895 or email reidm@cityofmerced.org.

MERCED MULTI-JURISDICTION HOUSING ELEMENT

ELEMENTO DE VIVIENDA REGIONAL DE JURISDICCIÓN MÚLTIPLE DE MERCED



JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY MEETING ON HOUSING! ¡ACOMPÁÑANOS A LA JUNTA COMUNITARIA DE VIVIENDA!

You are invited to attend a community meeting on the Regional Multi-Jurisdiction Housing Element. Your input will help create a housing plan for the region for the next eight years.

Está invitado a asistir a una junta comunitaria sobre el Elemento de Vivienda Regional de Jurisdicción Múltiple. Su aporte ayudará a crear un plan de vivienda en la región para los próximos ocho años.

ABOUT THE HOUSING ELEMENT

The Housing Element is a plan to support housing for people at all income levels and needs. This Housing Element includes the cities of Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Livingston, Los Banos, Merced, and Merced County. The Housing Element directs locations for new housing and includes policies to support:

- New housing development
- Preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing
- Affordable housing
- Homeownership opportunities
- Emergency shelters and supportive/transitional housing
- Housing for seniors, students, farmworkers, and people with disabilities

El Elemento de Vivienda es un plan para apoyar la vivienda para personas de todos los niveles de ingresos y necesidades. Este elemento de vivienda incluye las ciudades de Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Livingston, Los Banos, Merced, y condado de Merced. El Elemento de Vivienda dirige las ubicaciones para nuevas viviendas e incluye regulaciones para apoyar:

- *Nuevo desarrollo de viviendas*
- *Conservación y mantenimiento de viviendas existentes*
- *Vivienda asequible*
- *Oportunidades para ser propietario de vivienda*
- *Refugios de emergencia y viviendas de apoyo/transición*
- *Vivienda para personas mayores, estudiantes, trabajadores agrícolas y personas con discapacidades*



Tuesday, August 22, 2023
Martes, 22 de Agosto 2023

6 pm - 8 pm

Saturday, August 26, 2023
Sábado, 26 de Agosto 2023

9 am - 11 am

Merced Civic Center
678 West 18th Street

Merced, CA



**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT:**

Para mas información por favor visite:

<https://mercedmjhe.com/>



Can't attend? Check the website for a list of additional in-person and virtual meetings taking place across Merced County. Meetings will be streamed live on Facebook Live, or Comcast Public Access Channel 96.

If you need assistance, please call the Planning Department at (209) 385-6858 or contact Leah Brown or Julie Nelson at brownl@cityofmerced.org or NelsonJ@cityofmerced.org

¿No puedes asistir? Visite el sitio web para obtener una lista de juntas presenciales y virtuales que se llevarán a cabo en todo el condado de Merced. Las reuniones se transmitirán en vivo en Facebook Live o en el Canal 96 de acceso público de Comcast.

Si necesita ayuda, llame al Departamento de Planificación al (209) 385-6858 o comuníquese con Leah Brown o Julie Nelson por correo electrónico brownl@cityofmerced.org o NelsonJ@cityofmerced.org