



## COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

November 17, 2023

### Congratulations Captain Joey Perez

This week, Police Chief Steven Stanfield had the honor of promoting Lieutenant Joey Perez to Captain.

Captain Perez's journey with the city began in September 2002 when hired as a police officer trainee, sponsored through the academy. With a commendable five-year tenure on patrol, followed by another five years in the Gang Unit (earning the Stephan Gray Gang Officer of the Year award in 2012), Captain Perez has consistently demonstrated excellence.

Perez played a pivotal role in founding the DART unit, contributing many years to its success. He then spent three years as a detective and was promoted to sergeant in April 2018, which marked a significant milestone. During this time, Perez oversaw patrol and supervised the Gang Unit while dedicating a decade to the PD Bomb Squad.

Perez's promotion to lieutenant in May 2021 brought administrative responsibilities, where he oversaw key units such as detectives, the Gang Unit, Records, Dispatch, and the professional standards unit.

Now, with the well-deserved promotion to captain, the focus shifts to operations and additional administrative duties, showcasing a rich and diverse career dedicated to public service.

Congratulations, Captain Perez, on this significant achievement.



### Community Conversations

Tune in this Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> to listen to Chief Stanfield's interview on Community Conversations. Stanfield talked about his career in public service and his commitment to leading the police department and serving the City of Merced.



## Merced PD Supports Career Day at Sheehy Elementary School

On Wednesday, School Resource Officer Avery participated in Career Day at Sheehy Elementary School, sharing insights with kindergarteners through sixth graders about the inspiring world of law enforcement. Students were thrilled to learn about keeping our community safe and what it takes to be a Police Officer.



# MARCELINA GUERRERO

## INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

MARCELINA GUERRERO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN MADERA, CA. SHE GRADUATED FROM FRESNO STATE IN MAY 2023 WITH HER BACHELOR'S IN FORENSIC BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE. SHE COMES FROM A FAMILY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND ALWAYS KNEW SHE WANTED TO GO INTO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE FIELD. SHE LOVES HELPING OTHERS.

JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING OUR NEWEST PART-TIME COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER GUERRERO! WE ARE EXCITED TO SEE YOU SUCCEED IN OUR MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT!

# COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER

## SPOTLIGHT



## Meet L’nyssa Ledford, Full-Time Zookeeper at Applegate Zoo.

Congratulations to L’nyssa Ledford on her promotion to full-time Zookeeper. Beyond her admirable animal handling expertise, L’nyssa brings a diverse set of skills, holding certification as a phlebotomist and possessing a degree in Welding and Fabrication.

L’nyssa’s passion for animals shows through her experience fostering a variety of animals and working in diverse animal care roles. Known for her deep empathy towards every animal she encounters, L’nyssa consistently goes above and beyond to ensure the well-being of the animals under her care. An example of her commitment, during the January 2023 floods, L’nyssa accompanied the evacuated zoo animals to Monterey to provide animals with a sense of familiarity in their temporary conditions.

Having contributed part-time to Merced Applegate Zoo for several years, L’nyssa has shown enthusiasm for community outreach and the coordination of special events. Looking ahead, she’s eager to collaborate with her fellow Zookeepers to create more opportunities for public engagement.



## Junior Warriors Basketball Season Set for January

The eagerly anticipated Junior Warriors Basketball season is set to kick off in January. This year's registration period saw over 300 enthusiastic youth sign up, confirming the program's popularity. Additionally, in an effort to create opportunity, more than 30 full scholarships have been awarded to give talented young athletes a chance to participate in the upcoming season.

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the dedicated parents, coaches, and, of course, the spirited kids who will invest their energy to create a positive experience for everyone in the upcoming season. Here's to a promising yet another outstanding season ahead.



## Respecting Wildlife and Their Habitats.

Exciting news – the elusive river otter recently made an unexpected appearance.

This playful creature was captured on camera by a local hunting enthusiast.

This serves as a friendly reminder of the rich biodiversity that shares our parks, waterways, and open spaces.

Embrace responsible outdoor practices. Pack out what you bring in and leave these shared spaces in a better condition than you found them.

Please contribute to the preservation of the natural beauty that makes our local environment truly special.



## Meet at Bob Hart Square Cheer on Participants

### Gateway to Yosemite 5K/10K Race

The inaugural Gateway to Yosemite 5k/10k race is right around the corner, and with a surpassed goal of more than 150 participants.

Although it's been raining this week, there should be clear skies on race day. The race takes place rain or shine.

Main Street and Canal Street are not accessible to cars during this event, but free parking is available in the lots next to 16th Street behind 510 Bistro and Destino's.

Participants can pick up their bib on Sunday at 6:30 a.m. at the Merced County Office of Education Downtown Center at 501 W. Main Street, Merced.

The race is sponsored by the Merced County Office of Education, City of Merced Parks and Recreation Kiwanis Club of Greater Merced, Cultiva La Salud, Dignity Health, Golden Valley Health Centers.



### Public Art Around Town

Local artist Patricia Pratt (Kreepy Kawaii Designs) is busy installing her mural art on the dumpster enclosure in the parking lot behind the Merced Theatre.

Several local artists are working on additional art projects throughout the city. These city sponsored art projects are part of the City Council's 2023/24 Public Works and City Beautification, Goals and Priorities.



## UC Merced Medical Education Building Gains Final Approval

Congratulations UC-Merced on the final approval from the UC Board of Regents for a new medical education facility. Here's to training the next generation of physicians who are committed to addressing the valley's healthcare needs. To read more about this milestone, visit [ucm.edu/BQIosz](http://ucm.edu/BQIosz)

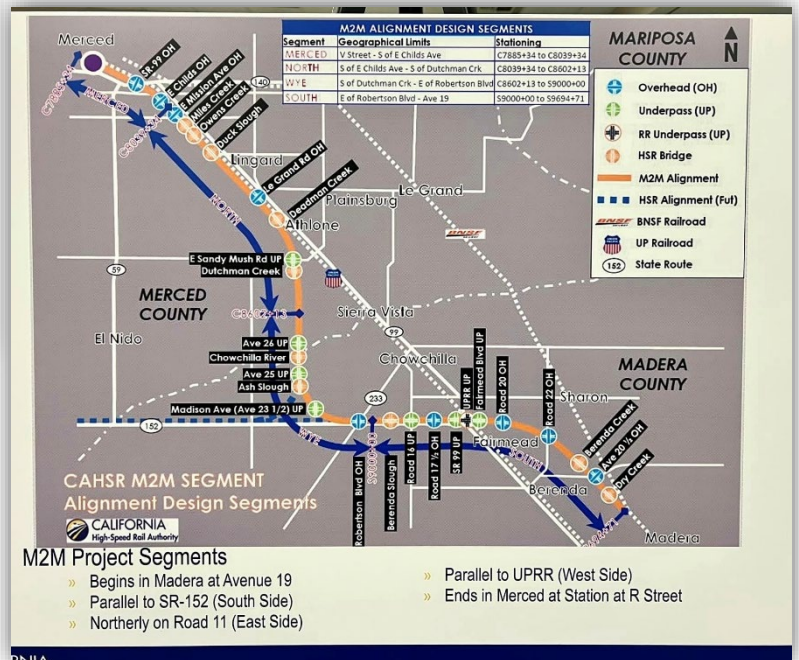
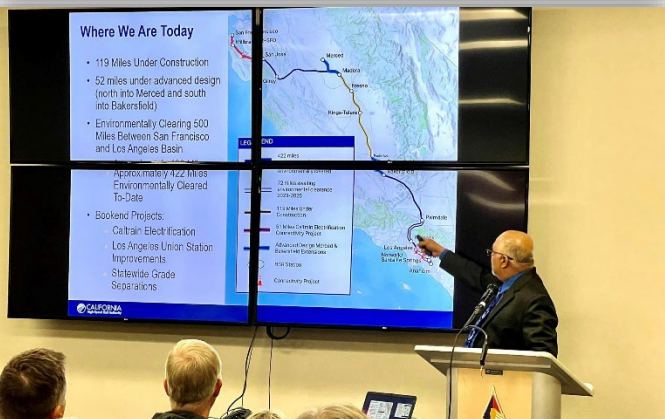


Images courtesy of UC Merced

## High Speed Rail Authority Hosts Open House at Civic Center

The California High Speed Rail Authority held an informational open house at the Merced Civic Center. It was standing room only as many interested community members attended to learn about the Merced to Madera High Speed Rail Project. For more information, please visit the Authority's website at [www.hsr.ca.gov](http://www.hsr.ca.gov)

Thanks to the City's facilities and Parks and Community Services teams for event set up and support.



### Parks and Community Services Fun Fact Friday

Recently, the City of Merced Parks and Community Services Department received over \$100,000 to support the purchase of two Hybrid SUVs that will reduce transportation barriers to outdoor spaces for local youth and expand the reach of the department’s My City Mentoring program.

The California Natural Resources Agency awarded nearly \$18 million to support 71 Youth Community Access projects across the state.

If you know a young person who could use quality time in open spaces, contact the City of Merced Parks and Community Services Department to schedule an appointment to learn about the My City Mentoring Program.





CITY OF MERCED PARKS & RECREATION

# ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE 2024

Men's League Now Forming:  
18 and older and out of High School

Season runs January- April 2024  
Games played on Sundays only

**Registration Period:**

November 8th, 2023 - December 29, 2023

**Team entry fee:**

\$600

**Format:**

10 games guaranteed plus playoffs

Location: El Capitan or Merced High School  
Gymnasium

**Mandatory Manager meeting:**

Date: January 8th, 2024

Location: 632 w 18th St. Sam Pipes rm.

Registration forms are available at our  
Parks & Recreation Office

Parks & Recreation

632 W. 18th St, Merced

Hours: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Closed 12:00 PM- 1:00 PM)

For more information call (209) 385-6235 or

email [Kindavongl@cityofmerced.org](mailto:Kindavongl@cityofmerced.org)



★ *All I want for Christmas* ★

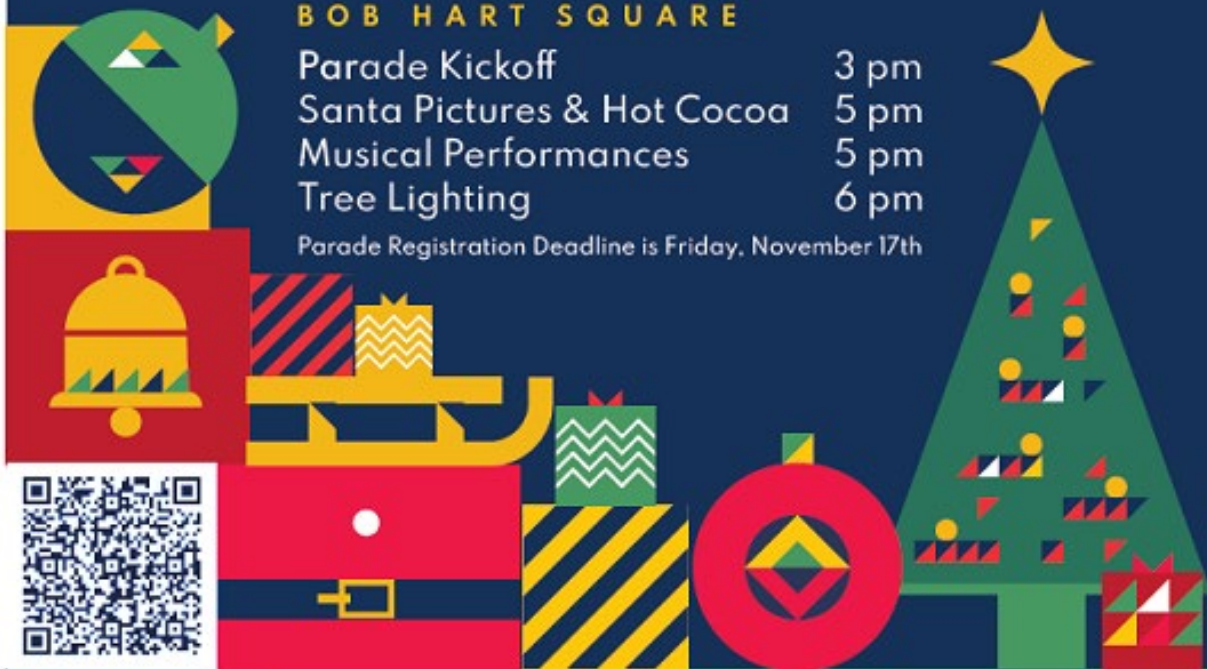
# MERCED CHRISTMAS PARADE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

## BOB HART SQUARE

Parade Kickoff	3 pm
Santa Pictures & Hot Cocoa	5 pm
Musical Performances	5 pm
Tree Lighting	6 pm

Parade Registration Deadline is Friday, November 17th



Email questions to: [mercedchristmasparade@gmail.com](mailto:mercedchristmasparade@gmail.com)

**Participate in the parade!**  
Scan the code above with your phone  
or visit [bit.ly/mercedparade](http://bit.ly/mercedparade) to  
register by Friday, November 17, 2023.

TITLE SPONSORS



CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS



## Cops and Fire for Kids

The Merced Police Department is accepting donations for its Cops and Fire for Kids program. Community contributions will positively impact the lives of children. For additional information, contact Merced PD Community Liaison Rosa Alcaraz at (209) 385-6297 or [alcarazr@cityofmerced.org](mailto:alcarazr@cityofmerced.org).

**2023 Toy Drive Drop off Location:**

- Radio Merced 514 West 19th Street
- Village Terrance Apartment Complex, 3827 San Jose Avenue
- Merced Golf & Country Club, 6333 North Golf Rd
- Ron Smith Buick (GMC), 1900 Auto Center Dr.
- JNT Auto Repair, 210 W 15th St
- West America Bank, 490 W Olive Ave
- Mix Bakery, 1110 W 16th St
- Garton Tractor Inc., 700 C-59
- Cruickshank Middle School, 601 Mercy Ave
- Crystaland, Inside Merced Mall 851 W Olive Ave
- Anberry Transitional Care, 1000 W Yosemite Ave
- Water Quality Control
- Raley's, 3550 N. G St
- Travis Credit Union, 1194 W Olive Avenue
- Trevino's Mexican Restaurant, 408 W Main St
- Village Landing Apartment Complex, 3601 San Jose Avenue
- Lowe's, 1750 W Olive Ave Merced
- El Captain High School, 100 Farmland Ave
- Four H, 1750 Wardrobe Ave
- State Farm, 830 W 19th St.
- UC Merced
- Elite Uniforms


**Last day to donate at these locations is Dec 6th! If you want to donate after, please drop off at the Police or Fire station!**



**2023 Toy Drive Drop off Location:**

- Aloha Florist, 2832 G Street
- Bagel Tyme, 3040 Park Ave Unit D
- California Autism Center, 1160 West Olive Avenue Suite E
- City of Merced Public Work Corp Yard, 1776 Grogan Ave
- City Hall, 687 W 8th Street
- Fire Station #51, 99 E 16th Street
- Fire Station #53, 800 Loughborough Dr.
- Fire Station #55, 3520 N Parsons Avenue
- Flanagan Reality, 2098 G Street
- Merced City School District Office, 444 W 23rd Street
- Merced Police Department Central Station, 611 W 22nd St
- Merced Police Department South Station, 470 W 11th Street
- Merced School Employee Federal Credit Union, 1021 Olivewood Drive
- Merced School Employee Federal Credit Union, 1935 M Street
- Merced Mall, 851 W Olive Ave
- MERCO Credit Union, 1911 M Street
- Mercy Hospital, 333 Mercy Ave
- West America 490 West Olive & 605 W 18th.
- Merced Golf & Country Club
- Toyota Merced, Auto Center Drive

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City of Merced Parks and Community Services  
Presents

# BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**You're Invited!**

**December 16th**

Session 1: 8:00 am - 9:30 am

Session 2: 9:30 am - 11:00 am

**Location:**  
Merced Senior Community Center  
755 W 15th st.

**COST: \$10 PER PERSON  
SPACE WILL BE LIMITED!  
\*CHILDREN AGES 0-5 ARE FREE\***

**\*PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED\*  
REGISTER AT 632 W. 18TH ST OR CALL  
OUR OFFICE AT 385-6235 FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

HOLIDAY CRAFTS    COOKIE DECORATING    PICTURES WITH SANTA