



# THE WEEKLY COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

March 1, 2024

## HAPPY EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY CITY OF MERCED



## Women's History Month: Celebrating one remarkable woman at a time!

I requested a ride-along on one of our refuse trucks a few weeks ago. I've always been curious about "A Day in the Life of," and I needed photos and BRoll for some upcoming projects. I spent the day with Kristie Light, a member of our public works refuse team and one directed and determined woman.

There are 23 female public works crews at the city of Merced and two are refuse drivers.

BTW... women are better drivers! Statistics tend to show that women are less likely to get into a vehicle accident and break road rules. True story.... The DMV says so!

Kristie knows every street, road, avenue, lane, way, drive, cul-de-sac, one-way, dead-end, alley, dirt road, and shortcut, and probably more than half of the residents in our city of 90,000. She says the best part of her job is definitely the people, especially kids. Seeing their faces light up as the truck rolls by and getting those adorable waves makes her day. And hey, everyone appreciates people who make neighborhoods cleaner and nicer.

Speaking of nicer and cleaner neighborhoods, we're planning some additional outreach with simple instructions about proper trash receptacle etiquette.

Cheers to Kristie and all female public works crews, particularly refuse drivers, who do the work we often take for granted so our communities stay clean and thriving!



## Read Across America

Merced Police Officers Shaw and Avery recently participated in an inspiring event at Peterson Elementary commemorating Read Across America. Accompanied by high school students from El Captain, they shared the joy of reading with eager young minds.

Thanks to Ms. Taylor for the invitation and the teachers who were so welcoming. Together, we are fostering stronger communities, one story at a time.

**Fun fact:** Read Across America Day is an annual observance held on March 2, coinciding with the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Established in 1998 by the National Education Association, this celebration aims to recognize the paramount importance of reading and ignite enthusiasm for literacy among children.



### Fostering Community Connections: Officer Dennis Visits Sonshine Christian Preschool

Merced Police Officer Dennis recently visited Sonshine Christian Preschool to talk about public safety and the important role of law enforcement in our community. The children were thrilled to meet him and excited to see the patrol car up close!

It's visits like these that remind us of the positive impact officers have on young minds. Building trust and fostering positive relationships early on is key to a safe and connected community.



### Empowering Awareness:

### Detective Sannadan and Social Worker Stephanie Cone Address Fraud and Forgery with AARP Group

Detective Sannadan and Social Worker Stephanie Cone collaborated to address critical matters of fraud and forgery during a recent meeting with the AARP group. Thank you to Bernedette Castanada for inviting Merced PD to provide vital insights and safety tips to keep our community informed.



# CHRISTIAN LUPIAN

## DETECTIVE

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT DETECTIVE CHRISTIAN LUPIAN HAS BEEN SELECTED BY HIS PEERS AS THE MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 2024 OFFICER OF THE YEAR! DETECTIVE LUPIAN IS BEING RECOGNIZED FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO SERVING OUR COMMUNITY.

HE HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR DEPARTMENT SINCE 2013, CONTRIBUTING HIS EXPERTISE AND COMMITMENT TO VARIOUS ROLES SUCH AS PATROL, G.V.S.U., AND NOW AS A HOMICIDE DETECTIVE. HE EMBODIES THE VALUES OF INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM, AND COMPASSION THAT DEFINE OUR DEPARTMENT.

PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING HIM!

# DETECTIVE SPOTLIGHT



### Public Works in Action

Water crews repaired a water main line break on Dublin Ave and replaced a fire hydrant that was struck by a vehicle at the 300 block of Columbia Ave.



Street crews ground down the bump that developed on W. 16<sup>th</sup> Street near Ashby.



### Growing the City’s Urban Forest

The Public Works Trees crews are set to plant a total of 330 plants and trees, which will include varieties such as lavender, star jasmine, jack sprat, crepe myrtle, and Chinese Pistache. These green additions will be distributed across several districts, namely: Sequoia Hill, Lowes, Compass Point, Provance, Yosemite Gateway, Village Landing, Mansionette, and Silverado.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Earth Day**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 20th 2024  
10am-2pm

**APPEGATE PARK MOAT**  
(MERCED OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER)  
26TH & N ST

EDUCATION | CONSERVATION | SUSTAINABILITY | CLEAN AIR EMISSIONS

**VENDORS WANTED PLEASE CONTACT (209) 385-6854**

REGISTER HERE

## Public Works Hosts SLEWS Program

This week, Merced High School FFA students took part in the Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship or SLEWS program, where hands-on learning meets environmental stewardship.

In collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the City of Merced - Home, The Merced FFA students engage in habitat restoration projects, planting native trees and shrubs, building irrigation systems, and participating in ecological field studies.

These immersive experiences foster an understanding of the land and introduce students to potential careers in natural resource management and environmental science.

Did you know: The Wildlife Management Area, which is behind the City of Merced Wastewater Treatment Plant, is available to the public. Call (209) 385-6892 to arrange a visit.





Public Works crews set up pumps at Riggs and West Ave



*City of Merced*

# BADMINTON Clinic

with Coach Jim Xu



**Ages: 16 & up**

**SUNDAYS 9AM -12PM**

**\$5** drop-in fee  
or  
**\$15** a month


**@ THE MCCOMBS GYM**  
615 W. 15 TH STREET

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION VISIT OR CALL: **PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
632 W 18TH STREET  
(209) 385-6235

\*DISCLAIMER\*  
Availability of class is subject to cancellation or change.



City of Merced  
Parks & Recreation and Dignity Health Presents






**FREE ZUMBA CLASS**

**When: Every Tuesday, Starting Feb. 13th**  
**Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm**  
**Location: Merced Senior Community Center**  
**755 w. 15th street**

“Pre-registration required due to limited space.”  
“Scan QR code to pre-register.”  
Must register to receive links for weekly class sign-ups.  
For more information call (209)385-6235

SCAN HERE

**CITY OF MERCED PARKS & RECREATION**  
**ADULT SPRING SOFTBALL**

**REGISTRATION**  
**JAN 16TH- MAR 8TH**  
**\$600 per team (11 Games)**

\*\* A \$300 DEPOSIT MUST BE MADE TO SECURE A TEAM SPOT \*\*  
FULL PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 11, 2024

15 PLAYER MINIMUM PER TEAM/ROSTER  
\$15 FOR ADDITIONAL PLAYERS

**LEAGUES:**  
**MEN'S (TUES/WED)**  
**WOMEN'S (TBD)**  
**COED (THURS.)**  
**INDUSTRIAL (TBD)**

SEASON BEGINS WEEK OF MARCH 25TH  
SEASON ENDS WEEK OF JUNE 10TH

**MANAGER'S MEETING**  
MARCH 11TH, 2024  
SAM PIPES ROOM  
678 W 18TH ST.

WOMEN'S & COED: 5:30 PM  
MEN'S & INDUSTRIAL: 6:30 PM

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) 385-6854 or email [martinezf@cityofmerced.org](mailto:martinezf@cityofmerced.org)




# South Merced Clean Up Day

**10 AM**  
**Saturday, March 23rd**  
**Meet at McNamara Park**  
**1040 Canal Street, Merced**

Bring large trash bags, gloves, & trash grabbers

City Refuse Trucks & Large Dumpsters will be on site

**PICK UP TRUCKS WITH TRAILERS NEEDED!**

Lunch served at 12:30 PM  
Featuring “Clean Up Ribs” and Sam Cafe






**THE WALL THAT HEALS**  
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER  
★  
A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND  
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

**March 28 - 31, 2024**  
(Free to the public)

**Merced College**  
3600 M Street  
Merced, CA 95348

Presenting Sponsors:  
**Mike and Lori Gallo**  
&  
**Linda and Kenny Jelacich**



For additional information, please visit  
[www.thewallthatheals-merced.com](http://www.thewallthatheals-merced.com)

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER: 



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VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER  
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**MOTORCYCLE  
ESCORTS NEEDED**

Merced Sunrise Rotary invites area motorcyclists and motorcycle groups to participate in an escort of "The Wall That Heals," a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, from **Atwater, CA to Merced, CA** on **Tuesday, March 26, 2024** (rain or shine).

Riders are requested to **gather by 12PM** at Stage Stop-Atwater (601 Atwater Blvd, Atwater, CA) with **kickstands up at 1PM**, and **arrival by 2PM** at Merced College (3600 M Street, Merced, CA).

If you are interested in participating, please contact Ride Captains **Adam Conour** at 209-626-9906 or **Andre Matthews** 209-981-5902.

For additional information, please visit [www.thewallthatheals-merced.com](http://www.thewallthatheals-merced.com)