



THE WEEKLY

# COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

September 27, 2024

TACO TUESDAY WITH MERCED PD



Thank you to Jack in the Box on South Parsons for hosting Taco Tuesday and generously donating food and a gift basket. Events like these play a vital role in bringing our neighbors together, fostering connections, and strengthening our sense of community. If you know a business interested in hosting a community event with Merced PD, reach out to the department’s community liaison, Rosa Alcaraz at [alcarazr@cityofmerced.org](mailto:alcarazr@cityofmerced.org).



## Employee Spotlight: Leah Brown Management Analyst, Development Services



### Say Hi to Leah Brown, the heart behind affordable housing in Merced.

Leah's been part of the City for over 21 years and with the Development Services Department for nearly three years (and counting!) and is on a mission to bring more affordable housing to Merced.

If you've seen new housing projects popping up around town, chances are Leah's been working on them and is dedicated to expanding housing opportunities for everyone in our community.

Why does Leah love her job? "I love being part of projects that make a difference. We've all seen people living in parks, under bridges, and around our neighborhoods. These projects aren't just about building homes—they're about giving people a real shot at stability. The more affordable units we create, the more we help folks avoid or escape homelessness. And no, these aren't shelters—they're permanent homes that provide real support!"

So, what's Leah been working on lately? Here are some projects she's excited about:

**Bella Vista Apartments** – Coming in early 2025! Bella Vista is going to bring 108 brand-new apartments to Merced, with a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units. And it's not just about the housing—there will be live-in managers, a community center, Head Start childcare, a computer lab, a teen center, two playgrounds, and even a basketball court.

**CC915 Veterans Village** – This one's close to Leah's heart. CC915 is a 21-unit container village for veterans, complete with on-site management and supportive services from partners like the Merced Rescue Mission, the County, and the Veterans Administration. And get this—it's set to be finished by the end of this year.

**Devonwood Apartments** – If you've driven by Devonwood Dr behind Lowe's, you've probably noticed the construction. That's 156 new apartments going up! These will offer a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units for families and individuals earning 80% or below the median income, with completion expected in 2025.

Best part? All of these projects come with 55-year deed restrictions, meaning they'll stay affordable for decades, no matter what.

Leah's passion for making Merced a better place shows in every project she touches. We're lucky to have her leading the charge in bringing more affordable housing to our community.

\*If you'd like us to feature an employee, send a message to [flachmanj@cityofmerced.org](mailto:flachmanj@cityofmerced.org).

## It's National Finance and Accounting Appreciation Week!

So, we're giving a big shoutout to the City of Merced's Finance and Accounting team. We're recognizing the folks who keep everything running behind the scenes. From managing budgets to making sure everything adds up (literally), they're the reason our financial systems stay on track.

We don't often think about it, but their hard work and attention to detail is much appreciated. So, here's to our finance team for all they do—thank you for keeping things balanced and making it look somewhat easy!



## Honoring First Responders

Each year, Our Lady of Mercy School in Merced hosts a First Responder Mass, inviting all current and former first responders and their families to attend. This year's mass took place on Friday, September 27th.



UC Merced SBDC Serving Merced and Mariposa Counties

Contact: UC Merced SBDC



Helping Your Business Start, Grow and Succeed

Get Started



Each week, Jennifer Flachman with the City of Merced, Nathan Quevedo with Merced County Office of Education, Mike North with Merced County, and host Roger Wood bring six great episodes covering Entertainment, Clubs, Arts, Education & Government, and more in Merced County to Community Conversations at 1480kyos.com. Tune in live every Saturday morning at 7 a.m. or catch the episodes on-demand to stay informed about what's happening in the community.

Recently, the city invited Maisie Silva, interim regional director of the Central California Small Business Development Center (SBDC), to discuss the important work being done at UC Merced's SBDC. The SBDC is a critical resource for entrepreneurs and small business owners, offering expert consulting, training, market research, and access to funding. Silva highlighted how the SBDC serves 14 counties, including Merced, and provides valuable services such as strategic planning, digital marketing support, and help launching tech startups. These efforts empower small businesses to grow, innovate, and contribute to our local economy's strength and resilience.

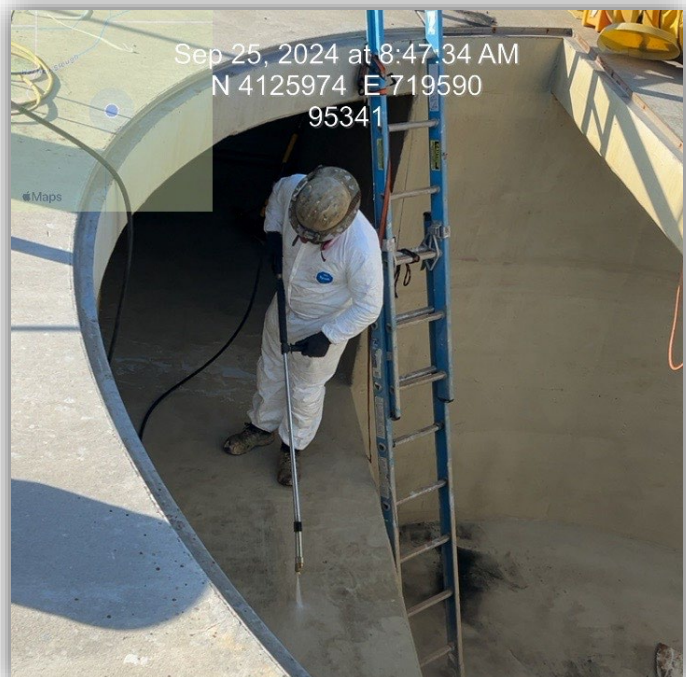


### Engineering at Work!

At Community Park 42, crews are busy grading the pickleball court and installing irrigation systems.



Crews at the Wastewater Treatment Plant are getting ready to apply a coating to the wet well.





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Crews are finishing up the final commercial driveway as part of the R Street sidewalk replacement project.



Crews have finished installing two ADA ramps just south of Main Street as part of the Orchard Sewer project, with restoration work nearing completion.





CITY OF MERCED  
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES PRESENTS

**1ST ANNUAL  
NIGHTMARE  
ON MAIN STREET PARADE**

**Parade begins @ 5 pm**  
(East side of Main st.)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH**

**PRE FESTIVITIES:  
GAMES | CRAFTS | PUMPKIN ACTIVITIES  
COSTUME CONTEST  
KID ZONE AT BOB HART SQUARE**

**\$50** non-refundable entry fee  
**Parade Registration**  
October 4th

MERCED VETERANS SPONSORSHIP SPONSORSHIP SPONSORSHIP SPONSORSHIP SPONSORSHIP SPONSORSHIP  
KID ZONE SPONSORED BY FIRST5

482 W. 18TH ST. MERCED | MON - FRI | 9 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM | (209) 385-4339



CITY OF MERCED  
PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**4TH ANNUAL  
HALLOWEEN  
COED SOFTBALL  
TOURNAMENT**

**COSTUME CONTEST!**

**FOOD VENDORS!**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH**  
JOE HERB PARK , 276 PARSONS AVE

**\$200**  
PLUS 10 BAGS OF CANDY  
PER TEAM

CONTACT: ANTHONY ALMANZA  
AT (209)509-5412 OR CALL  
PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
AT (209)385-6855 FOR MORE INFO

**CANDY NEEDED FOR ZOO BOO**

6 MEN/ 4 WOMEN FORMAT  
3 GAMES GUARANTEED

City of Merced Adult Softball Rules Apply

# 4TH ANNUAL COPS FOR CRITTERS

CHIEF'S AWARD      BEST DECORATED AWARD      PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

**TRICK  
OR  
TREAT**

**DRESS UP AND COME HAVE FUN WITH YOUR FAMILY!**

# CAR SHOW

<b>TIME:</b> 10AM-2PM	<b>REGISTRATION FEE:</b> \$30 PAY AT ENTRANCE	<b>LOCATION:</b> 611 W 22ND MERCED CA 95340
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**OCTOBER 26TH 2024**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
ROSA ALCARAZ  
AT [ALCARAZR@CITYOFMERCED.ORG](mailto:ALCARAZR@CITYOFMERCED.ORG) OR (209) 385-6297



# 5K / 10K ROUTES



# RACE for the ACE

