

RECYCLE:



Paper
including flattened
Cardboard

Plastic
bottles and jugs

Metal
cans and foil

Glass
bottles and jars



www.mercedrecycles.com

Not all plastics are alike

Recyclers only accepting bottles and jugs

What goes into the blue recycling container has changed, says the Merced County Association of Governments/Authority Board. MCAAG owns the landfills in the County.

There isn't a market for many of plastic items that had been accepted in the past. This is important because the City gets charged for non-recyclable items left in the blue containers.

Bottles and jugs are OK, because they are "blown" plastic that is easy to recycle. But tubs, like those for margarine, are made from molded plastic that is harder to recycle. Tubs also have a different melting point, even if they have the same number on the bottom as a bottle or jug.

Plastic bags aren't accepted because they can damage recycling equipment and cause litter issues. They can be taken back to grocery or retail stores to be recycled. Look near the entrance or by guest services.

This goes in the garbage

- ✓ Mixed-material items, (such as paper milk cartons (paper with plastic lining) and chip bags (plastic and aluminum))
- ✓ Face tissue, paper towels, napkins
- ✓ Plastic bags (recyclable at grocery and retail locations)
- ✓ Plastics NOT in bottle or jug form and Styrofoam



The G Street road closure went into effect July 12 for construction of the four-lane undercrossing at the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad tracks. The \$18 million project is expected to take 18 months to complete, aiming for in December 2011. The road closure will add to traffic congestion in the City and drivers are asked to plan extra time for their travels, consolidate their trips and try The Bus, car pooling, biking or walking to work.

Merced City Council

Mayor Bill Spriggs
 Council Members:
 Bill Blake
 John Carlisle
 Michele Gabriault-Acosta
 Noah Lor
 Josh Pedrozo
 Mary-Michal Rawling

Contact the City Council by email at Citycouncil@cityofmerced.org, by calling 385-6834 or writing to Council members at the Civic Center address below.

Council meetings

The Council usually meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Civic Center. The agenda is posted online at www.CityofMerced.org.

Contacting us

The Web site, www.CityofMerced.org, contains City Council information, the Municipal Code, General Plan and other information. Contact the Newsletter at newsletter@CityofMerced.org, call the Public Information Office at 385-6232 or write:

Merced Civic Center
 Attn: Public Information Office
 678 W. 18th St.
 Merced CA 95340

The Civic Center is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., except holidays. It will be closed Sept. 6.

Call us

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| City Council | 385-6834 |
| City Manager | 385-6834 |
| City Attorney | 385-6868 |
| City Clerk | 388-7100 |
| Airport | 385-6873 |
| Code Enforcement..... | 385-6861 |
| Finance | 388-7900 |
| Inspection Services | 385-6861 |
| Personnel..... | 388-7100 |
| Planning Department..... | 385-6858 |
| Public Works (7:30-4:30) ... | 385-6800 |
| After hours | 385-6905 |
| Parks/CommServices | 385-6855 |
| Utility payments..... | 388-7289 |

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Fire Department.....385-6891
 Police Department

Ask the City: Pay your utility bills by phone

Ask the City is an ongoing column answering questions that have been submitted to us by mail, email or phone. Readers can submit their questions to the addresses in the column on the left.

I don't want to stand in line to pay my utility bill. What are my options?

The City has several options for paying your utility

bill without coming to City Hall.

You can now pay with a credit card over the phone 24/7 by calling 209-388-7289 and following the instructions.

Want to pay on the Internet? Visit us at www.cityofmerced.org, look for "Pay my utility bill online." There you will be able to request a PIN number to access your account.

Customers can also set up their account to be deducted automatically from their checking account. If you have online banking from home, you also can set up your account so that it pays the City each month.

The City charges no fee for paying your bills online or by credit card.

The City will continue to accept payments by mail and at the front counter.

Think Green

City's 'green fleet' of vehicles is expanding



The City's 'green' fleet was on display before a recent City Council meeting.

The City has had "green" vehicles in its fleet for a number of years.

Beginning in 2002, the City bought four all electric GEM cars. In 2004, the City purchased seven pickup trucks and one van that are powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) to see how they would work for our operations.

The all electric GEM cars could only travel a couple hours on a single charge, but the CNG-powered vehicles passed the test.

Fuel economy isn't as good as gas-powered vehicles, but the cost for CNG is relatively cheap.

The cost of gas has continued to rise, while the cost of alternatively-fueled vehicles remains at least a \$1 a gallon lower than gasoline. There are other benefits of

green vehicles: They emit fewer greenhouse gases and particulates.

The City recently acquired two garbage trucks that are fueled by CNG. A benefit of those trucks is they are very quiet, something neighbors will appreciate during early morning pickups.

The City recently purchased four hybrid Ford Escapes averaging 29 mpg vs. 15 mpg in Ford pickups. The City's green fleet now includes five CNG-powered pickup trucks and one CNG-powered van, two CNG refuse trucks, two dual-fueled (gas/CNG) pickups, four all electric GEM cars and four gas/electric mini-SUVs.

Three more CNG refuse trucks are on order. There are plans to purchase three more hybrids and two more CNG garbage trucks this year.

Holiday means trash pickups are delayed

City offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 6 for the Labor Day holiday.

Due to the holiday, the City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7.

There will be no trash pickup Monday. People with

a Monday trash day will have their refuse removed Tuesday. That week, all residential trash collection will be delayed by one day from the usual pickup day.

We hope that everyone enjoys the holiday weekend.