

## Grants will improve City bike path, intersection, airport

The City has recently received three grants that will help improve the quality of life in Merced.

The grants are for enhancing the bike path along Fahrens Creek and adding nature interpretive kiosks, an airport improvement grant and funds to design and build a three-way traffic signal at Merced College.

### TRAFFIC SIGNALS

The City of Merced has been awarded a \$207,000 federal Highway Safety Improvement Program grant to install traffic signals at the intersection of Yosemite Avenue and Stadium Lane. The traffic signals are expected to be in operation by early 2008.

The grant requires a 10 percent match of \$23,000, for a total project cost of \$230,000.

The "T" intersection at the Merced College campus has been the site of two recent pedestrian fatalities.

The three new stoplights will allow pedestrians to safely cross the street while traffic is controlled. The new signal project will include additional streetlights for visibility and crosswalks.

Since the most recent fatal accident involving a college student on Sept. 27, 2006, Merced College has installed sidewalks along the north side of Yosemite Avenue. The College also has agreed to pay half of the 10 percent match required for the grant.

### AIRPORT

The Merced Municipal Airport has received a Federal Aviation Administration



The Fahrens Creek bike path will be getting nature kiosks to explain the wildlife.

grant of \$272,000. The City must match the grant with \$13,600.

The grant will be used to complete an airport drainage and irrigation pipeline project. The money will convert several drainage ditches into underground pipelines and it will also replace a pipeline that is failing under the main runway.

### BIKE PATHS

The City of Merced received a \$30,000 grant from Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002.

The Fahrens Creek money will upgrade a stretch of the bike path from the confluence of Fahrens and Black Rascal Creeks north to Yosemite Avenue and R Street where a dog park is planned.

Interpretive kiosks will be near the Frisbee golf park and near the planned dog park. The kiosks will include information on the bike routes in the City and explain what kind of wildlife can be viewed from the path.

There are herons, cranes, eagles, hawks, water turtles, muskrats and beavers visible along the path.

### Odd/Even Address Watering Schedule

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Midnight to 11 AM and 7 PM to Midnight	ODD	DO NOT WATER ANYTIME	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN

NO MIDDAY WATERING — 11 AM to 7 PM

## Merced City Council

Mayor Ellie Wooten  
 Mayor Pro Tem Joe Cortez  
 Council members:  
 Michele Gabriault-Acosta  
 Rick Osorio  
 Carl Pollard  
 Jim Sanders  
 Bill Spriggs

## Holiday

City staff will be taking Monday, Sept. 3 off for Labor Day. The City Council will meet Tuesday, Sept. 4. Trash pickup is on the normal schedule. 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.

## Contacting us

The City of Merced Web site, [www. CityofMerced.org](http://www.CityofMerced.org), contains City Council agendas and minutes, the Municipal Code, the General Plan, news releases, department listings, street closures, e-mail addresses, phone numbers and information on officials.

To contact the Newsletter, e-mail [newsletter@cityofmerced.org](mailto:newsletter@cityofmerced.org), call the Public Information Office at 385-6232 or write to Newsletter at:

Merced Civic Center  
 678 W. 18th St.  
 Merced CA 95340

The Civic Center is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., except holidays.

## Call us

City Council .....	385-6834
City Manager .....	385-6834
City Attorney .....	385-6868
City Clerk .....	385-6866
Airport .....	385-6873
Code Enforcement.....	385-6855
Finance.....	385-4718
Inspection Services .....	385-6861
Personnel .....	385-6839
Planning Department.....	385-6858
Public Works (7:30-4:30) ...	385-6800
After hours .....	385-6905
Recreation/Parks .....	385-6855

## IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Fire Department.....	385-6891
Police Department.....	385-6912

## 'You're Hired!'

### City workshop tells what it takes to hear those words

Getting a job with the City of Merced is a lot like getting on "American Idol" -- many people apply, but only a few are accepted. Last year the City posted openings for 163 jobs, and had 2,023 applications turned in.

"You're Hired! Piecing Together the Employment Puzzle" is a workshop designed to help people get a job with the City. It will be held from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Satur-

day, August 18 in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the Merced Civic Center, 678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> St.

Organized by the City's Human Resources Department, the workshop will help explain the hiring process used by the City and many other employers. It also will include tips for job-seekers to help market themselves better for City jobs and other employment opportunities.

## Beautification project on MLK nearing the end

Work on the Martin Luther King Jr. Way beautification project is scheduled to end in September.

The \$1.7 million project includes complete road reconstruction, the installation of landscaped medians, decorative streetlights and other landscaping.

The price tag covers the design and construction of the project, along with the cost of acquiring some land.

Also included in the project are traffic signals at the intersection of W. 15th St. and MLK at a cost of about \$250,000.

The Redevelopment Agency project started in June and the road was completely blocked for reconstruction in late July.

The final result will be a gateway into the City that is appealing to visitors, and also a stretch of roadway that is safer for drivers.



It's illegal to put yard sale signs up on utility poles, street signs or any other public property. It's tacky too. And any legal sign that is put up must come down within 24 hours after the yard sale ends. Let's keep Merced uncluttered and litter-free.

## Staying cool in the heat can be a lifesaver

After the thermometers hit triple digits, the City of Merced opened its cooling center to 25 people the first night. The center offers an air-conditioned refuge from sweltering summer heat.

Guidelines call for the shelter to be opened when the heat index reaches 105 degrees, based on the outside air temperature and humidity.

Local media will be contacted when the center will open and the information will be posted on the City Web site. To find out if the center is open during business hours, call 385-6855. On weekends and after 5 p.m. call 385-6905.

During heat waves, City residents are encouraged to check on the welfare of fam-

ily members, friends and neighbors.

Last year temperatures stayed in the triple digits for more than two weeks, killing at least 143 people in the state.

During a heat wave:

- ◆ Never leave children or pets inside a vehicle.
- ◆ Keep yourself hydrated with water — not sodas or alcoholic beverages.
- ◆ Dress appropriately for the heat, and wear sunscreen outdoors.
- ◆ Try to stay out of the sun, preferably in an air conditioned building.
- ◆ Save your strenuous work for the morning or evening hours.
- ◆ Keep an eye on high risk people, infants, the elderly, overweight or ill.