



THE WEEKLY COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

December 20, 2024

Recently, it was all about spreading joy

The Merced Police Department partnered with the Merced City School District, Marketplace at Merced, and Walmart Merced for the annual Shop with a Cop event. Each child was paired with an officer, had their photo taken with Santa, enjoyed lunch at the mall, and even had their gifts wrapped by Walmart. A huge thank you to everyone involved for making this special day one that these children will remember for years to come.



Did You Know?

Every Tuesday, Merced City Fire personnel conduct a thorough inspection of all fire apparatus to ensure everything is in working order.





Don't Let Your Car Be A Victim

> Prevent Vehicle Theft

- GET A HIDDEN KILL SWITCH
- Thieves do not like them because they can't find them.
- They are affordable and easily installed.

OTHER WAYS TO PREVENT THEFT

- Use a brake pedal lock
- Always lock your doors
- Park in secure or gated areas when possible
- **NEVER** leave keys in the car even for a minute.

LOOKING FOR A NEW CAR?

Consider a vehicle with OnStar or tracking capabilities

> PREVENT VEHICLE BURGALARY

- **NEVER** leave valuables in view, even if your car is locked.
- Electronics, wallets, purses, backpacks, briefcases, credit cards/money or sporting equipment.

Call 911 if you see suspicious activities such as:

- Pulling on door handles
- Looking into car windows
- Lookouts.
- Nervous-looking around, moving slowly or quickly.
- Checking for car alarms by bumping or hitting the window or bumpers for sensitivity.

Congratulations Graduates of the Merced PD Community Academy

Merced PD recently concluded its final Community Academy of the year, which featured a special visit from Chief Stanfield, who personally congratulated the participants on their achievement.

The department extends its gratitude to the individuals who took part in this academy. Participants gained valuable insights into public safety, enhanced their understanding of community engagement, and learned the importance of collaboration between law enforcement and the community. These experiences empower participants to become informed advocates and active contributors to a safer, more connected community.

While this marks the end of this year's academy, the Merced Police Department is excited to announce that the next Community Academy will take place in Spring 2025. Stay tuned for updates and the opportunity to participate next year.



Exciting News at Market Place Merced –

The Merced Office of Economic Development announced that Sage Investco, the new owners of the former Sears building, officially began construction on a major renovation project. This redevelopment will be anchored by prominent retailers, including Burlington, Five Below, and Ulta, among others.

Thank you to Sage Investco for their investment in Merced and their commitment to revitalizing our community spaces.



Hincapie Rides Again!

This week, the City of Merced and the Hincapie team kicked off planning for the 2nd annual Gran Fondo Hincapie gravel cycling event, which will take place the weekend of March 15, 2025.

Last year's inaugural event brought close to 500 cyclists from near and far. 2025's event organizers are expecting even more participants, and the course lineup will have something for just about everyone, including a short ride and two longer rides. For those who have never experienced beauty of Merced's surrounding grasslands, a visit promises to be a memorable adventure. Our farmlands offer stunning views and are well worth the journey. they're in for a treat – our farmlands are absolutely stunning and well worth the visit and ride.

Don't miss your chance to join the adventure. <https://www.bikereg.com/gran-fondo-hincapie-merced>

Also, the event will need volunteers. If you know a group or organization that would like to host a water and food station, please contact Jennifer Flachman – flachmanj@cityofmerced.org



MAR 15 2025 **HINCAPIE GRAN FONDO**
MERCED

Experience the Merced Hmong New Year This Weekend.

The Merced Hmong New Year Celebration is happening this weekend, from December 20th to December 22nd, 2024, at the Merced County Fairgrounds. This tradition marks the end of the harvest season and the start of a new year, bringing the Hmong community together to honor heritage and celebrate progress.

Experience the sights, sounds, and flavors of Hmong culture with traditional music, dance performances, and authentic cuisine. Attendees can join in traditional games, explore vibrant displays of Hmong attire, and learn more about this rich cultural heritage.

This family-friendly event offers an opportunity to connect with the Hmong community and appreciate its history and traditions.

For event details, visit the Merced Lao Family website at <https://www.mercedlaofamily.org/>.

