

NEWSLETTER

CITY OF MERCED



Merced City Fire Joins the Fight Against Southern California Wildfires

Merced City Fire is proud to play a vital role in supporting our neighboring communities during times of need. This week, the department deployed one Type Three engine, one Type Six engine, one Rescue Task Force Team Member, and a Strike Team Leader, totaling eight skilled personnel, to assist with the Palisades and Eaton Fires. These wildfires underscore the vital role of coordinated mutual aid among fire agencies.

This week also brought a special moment for Captain Akers, who crossed paths with his son, Mason, during their firefighting efforts. Mason, a firefighter with CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit, and Captain Akers are working opposite shifts on the Palisades Fire but had a brief chance to reconnect between assignments. This highlights the generational commitment of the Akers family to serving and protecting our communities.

Reflecting on this family legacy, we are reminded of a 2008 photo featuring Captain Akers—then a young firefighter—working alongside his father, Chief Akers, during the Telegraph Fire. Their continued service is a symbol of the dedication passed from one generation to the next.

Merced City Fire is proud to contribute to these efforts, working alongside fellow fire agencies to safeguard lives and property throughout California.

Pathways to Success Team Explores Dos Rios, Applegate Zoo, and Merced National Wildlife Refuge

Parks & Community Services Recreation Coordinator, Fritzi Martinez, and Pathways to Success Peer Support Specialists, Vivienne Simpson, Edelmira Aguilar, and Shureese Farris recently took day trips to Dos Rios, Applegate Zoo, and the Merced National Wildlife Refuge to gain hands-on experience for future youth excursions.

These trips provided valuable experience in leading tours, engaging participants, and managing logistics. They also highlighted the importance of preparation and adjusting content to suit different age groups.



PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES JUNIOR WARRIORS PROGRAM AND REFEREE TRAINING

Junior Warrior practices have been in full swing for nearly two weeks, with exciting preparations underway for the upcoming games. With 342 athletes spread across 34 teams, the players have been honing their skills at three locations: Rivera Middle School, Tenaya Middle School, and McCombs Youth Center. The energy is building as the season nears, and the athletes are eager to showcase their talents!



This week, Parks & Community Services held a referee training session at Merced High School, where 14 referees gathered to review the official rulebook, practice referee signals, and learn how to make accurate calls.

The session provided hands-on experience, as the referees officiated and kept score for three scrimmages—two adult games and one Girls Junior Warriors game. It was a productive training that boosted confidence and refined the officiating skills of all involved, setting the stage for a strong start to the upcoming season!

NEW RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACONS AT E GERARD & STARLIGHT AVE



The City of Merced has installed Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at the crosswalk on East Gerard & Starlight Avenue to improve safety for both pedestrians and drivers.

These beacons increase pedestrian visibility, especially in low-light conditions, by flashing brightly when activated. This alerts drivers to the presence of pedestrians, encouraging them to slow down and yield. The addition of RRFBs promotes safer crossing, improves compliance with traffic laws, and provides a cost-effective solution to enhance overall safety at this busy intersection.

The upgrade helps create a more pedestrian-friendly environment, boosting both safety and confidence for walkers in the area.

SPRING SOFTBALL REGISTRATION IS HERE!

CITY OF MERCED PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES ADULT SPRING SOFTBALL

JANUARY 27TH - FEBRUARY 28TH

\$600 PER TEAM (10 GAMES)

20 PLAYER MAXIMUM PER TEAM ROSTER

***FULL PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED
TO SECURE SPACE IN THE LEAGUE***

**LEAGUES:
MEN'S (TUES)
COED (THURS.)**

**SEASON BEGINS WEEK OF
MARCH 24TH
SEASON ENDS WEEK OF JUNE
16TH**

**MANAGER'S
MEETING**

**MARCH 10TH, 2025
SAM PIPES ROOM
678 W 18TH ST.**

**COED: 5:30 PM
MEN'S: 6:30 PM**



For more information call (209) 385-6235 or email OrnelasS@cityofmerced.org

SANTA FE ENCAMPMENT CLEANUP



Earlier this week, staff completed a significant cleanup at the Santa Fe encampment, removing 15,500 pounds of trash.

Over the course of two days, Merced PD DART and a team of five Public Works staff members, supported by a tractor and two rear-loader trucks, worked to clear the area.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO

Parks & Community Services is wild with excitement about the zoo's new sign, featuring its updated logo. This fresh design captures the heart of the rescue zoo, where every animal has a special story and a second chance.

A big thank you to The Sign Guys for creating a sign that's as bold and beautiful as the animals we care for. You've truly brought our mission to life.

Next time you visit Applegate Park, be sure to stop by the zoo—you won't be able to miss it! If you're up for it, snap a selfie and share it on the zoo's Facebook page, Merced Applegate Zoo.



COMMUNITY PARK 42 CREWS FOCUSED ON INSTALLING IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.



AS PART OF THE CMAQ PROJECT ON CHILDS AVENUE MULTI-USE PATH, CREWS INSTALLED RETAINING WALL BLOCKS.



STEPHEN LEONARD BUILDING REHABILITATION: CREWS WORKED ON HVAC DUCTING AND FIRE SPRINKLER INSTALLATION.



Inspection Services Bi-weekly Report December 23rd, 2024, through January 5th, 2025

Single Family Dwelling (SFD) permits:

- SFD Permits Issued: 0
- SFD Permits in Plan Review: 130
- SFD Certificates of Occupancy: 10

Multi-Family Dwelling (MFD) permits in review:

- Affordable housing located at 3015 Park Ave.: 57,812 SF 3 story new construction, including a 2,744 SF community building. The project will provide 65 1 bedroom, 1-bathroom units and a single 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom unit.
- Two 1,336 SF duplexes located at 103 and 107 R St.
- A 4,624 SF 4-plex located at 1125 H St.
- Emerald Village: 228 units in 18 buildings totaling 142,416 SF of living space, plus a 1,736 SF clubhouse located at 3622 N Hwy 59.
- A 2,680 SF 2 story 4-plex and a 4,020 SF 2 story 6-unit apartment both located at 40 & 30 W 13th St.
- Bella Vista Apartments: 108 units in 5 buildings totaling 135,100 SF of living space, plus a 8,000 SF clubhouse located in the 1800 block of Parsons Ave.

(No change since last report)

MFD permits issued:

- There were 0 multi-family dwelling permits issued during this period.

(No change since last report)

Commercial & Industrial permits issued:

- There were 0 new construction commercial permits issued during this period.
- There were 2 new tenant improvement permits issued during this period; one for a 2,400 SF dental office located at 155 W El Portal Dr. and one for a 2,283 SF covered walkway and façade renovation located at 1640 Yosemite Pkwy.

Commercial & Industrial permits submitted:

- There were 0 new construction commercial permits submitted during this period.
- There were 0 new tenant improvement permits submitted during this period.

Commercial & Industrial Certificates of Occupancy (CofOs)

- There were 2 commercial, industrial, and multi-family apartment CofOs issued for this period; one for a 25,087 SF grocery store tenant improvement located at 1125 W Main St., and one for a new 12,488 SF office building located at 690 W 19th St.



CITY OF MERCED

City Council Chamber
Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Meeting Agenda

Planning Commission

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

6:00 PM

City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Merced Civic
Center, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

WELCOME TO THE MEETING OF THE MERCED PLANNING COMMISSION

At least 72 hours prior to each regular Planning Commission meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the City's website at www.cityofmerced.org or at the Planning Division Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relating to an open session item that are distributed to a majority of the Commission will be available for public inspection at the Planning Division Office during regular business hours. The Planning Commission also serves as the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Design Review/Historic Preservation Commission. Assisted hearing devices are available for meetings held in the Council Chamber.

PUBLIC COMMENT: OBTAIN SPEAKER CARD FROM THE CLERK

Members of the audience who wish to address the Planning Commission are requested to complete a speaker card available at the podium against the right-hand side of the Council Chamber. Please submit the completed card to the Clerk before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins. Speakers will be called up, 3 to 5 at a time, in the order in which the forms are received. Please use the microphone and state your name and city of residence for the record. For permits, licenses, and other entitlements, the applicant will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), the appellant/leader of the opposition will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), and all other speakers shall have 3 minutes each, unless the number of speakers is over 10, which in that case, comments shall be limited to 2 minutes each. For all other issues, for 3 or less speakers, 3 minutes each and for over 10 speakers, 2 minutes each shall be allotted. A timer clock is located above the City Council dais illuminating the remaining time. Once the buzzer sounds, please be courteous and conclude your remarks.

Material may be emailed to planningweb@cityofmerced.org no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Item # or Oral Communications. Your comments will be presented to the Planning Commission at the appropriate time. Any correspondence received after 1 PM will be distributed to the Planning Commission and retained for the official record.

A. CALL TO ORDER

A.1. Moment of Silence

A.2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

B. ROLL CALL**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public who wish to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda may speak during this portion of the meeting and will be allotted 3 minutes. The Chairperson may, at their discretion, reduce the time to 2 minutes if there are more than 10 speakers, in order to accommodate as many speakers as possible. State law prohibits the Planning Commission from acting at this meeting on any matter raised during the public comment period. Members of the public who wish to speak on a matter that is listed on the agenda will be called upon to speak during discussion of that item. Please submit a Request to Speak card prior to the item being called.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Adoption of the Consent Calendar may be made with one motion of the Planning Commission provided that any Planning Commission member, individual, or organization may request removal of an item from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration. If a request for removal of an item from the Consent Calendar has been received, the item will be discussed and voted on separately. With Consent items, there is generally no staff presentation but staff is available for questions.

D.1 [25-092](#) **SUBJECT:** Planning Commission Minutes of January 8, 2025**ACTION:**

Approving and filing the Planning Commission Minutes of January 8, 2025

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

Members of the public who wish to speak on public hearings listed on the agenda will be heard when the Public Hearing is opened, except on Public Hearing items previously heard and closed to public comment. After the public has commented, the item is closed to further public comment and brought to the Commission for discussion and action. Further comment will not be received unless requested by the Commission.

E.1 [25-030](#) **SUBJECT:** Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1334, initiated by Stonefield Homes Inc., property owner. This application involves a request to subdivide approximately 9.9 acres of land into forty-eight (48), residential lots ranging in size from 6,000 square feet to 14,995 square feet. This property is generally located at the southwest corner of Campus Parkway and East Childs Avenue and has a General Plan designation of High to Medium Density Residential (HMD) and a Zoning designation of Medium Density Residential (R-3-2). **PUBLIC HEARING**

ACTION: Approve/Disapprove/Modify
1) Environmental Review #24-39 (CEQA Section 15162 Findings)
2) Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1334

SUMMARY

The applicant is proposing a tentative map for forty-eight (48) single-family residential lots, south of East Childs Avenue, west of Campus Parkway (Attachment B). The proposed subdivision would subdivide approximately 9.9 acres of land into forty-eight (48) residential single-family lots ranging in size from 6,000 square feet to 14,995 square feet, with no lot being smaller than 6,000 square feet. Planning staff, along with other City staff, have reviewed the project and recommend approval subject to conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve Environmental Review #24-39 (CEQA Section 15162 Findings) and Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1334 (including the adoption of the Draft Resolution) subject to the conditions in Exhibit A and the findings/considerations in Exhibit B of Draft Resolution #4147 at Attachment A.

E.2 [25-003](#)

SUBJECT: Study Session on the Rezones for the Housing Element to meet the Requirements for the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

ACTION

For information and discussion.

SUMMARY

Study Session on Rezoning Required to meet the needs of RHNA.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

F.1 [25-093](#)

SUBJECT: Report by Temporary Director of Development Services of Upcoming Agenda Items

ACTION

Information only.

F.2 [25-094](#)**SUBJECT: Calendar of Meetings/Events**

Jan.	21	City Council, 6:00 p.m. (Tuesday)
	22	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.
Feb.	3	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	5	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.
	18	City Council, 6:00 p.m. (Tuesday)
	19	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.
	25	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, 4:00
p.m.		
Mar.	3	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	5	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m. (To Be Cancelled)
	17	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	19	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.

G. ADJOURNMENT