

# NEWSLETTER

## CITY OF MERCED

### **Strong Community Response Highlights Importance of City Investments**

The recent theft of the Applegate Park Zoo sign was disappointing, but the overwhelming public response has been a reminder of Merced's sense of pride and community. Residents have voiced their support for the zoo, shared encouragement, and even offered help in recovering the sign. This response underscores why the City continues investing in projects and public spaces that make Merced a great place to live, learn, raise families, start businesses, and of course, visit the zoo.

More than just a local attraction, the zoo is a place where families make memories, students learn about wildlife, and visitors experience the heart of Merced. The strong community reaction reaffirms that public spaces matter, and the City remains committed to enhancing parks, recreational facilities, and other quality-of-life improvements.

As the investigation continues, the City is also reviewing security measures to help prevent future incidents. More importantly, this moment highlights why ongoing investments in Merced are essential—to create a city residents are proud to call home.

To everyone who has shared their support, thank you. Your voices reinforce the importance of these spaces and the City's commitment to making Merced a welcoming and thriving community.



## TROOP 88 SCOUTS BEAUTIFY RICHARD BERNASCONI PARK

Recently, the Boy Scouts of Troop 88 dedicated their time and effort to improving Richard Bernasconi Park as part of the city's Adopt-A-Park program. The scouts picked up litter and gave two cement picnic tables a fresh coat of paint, using donated supplies from Girl Scouts Troop 3019.

With just a bit of paint, teamwork, and hard work, the scouts made a visible difference in the community. Troop 88 is already looking ahead to another service day in early April. The City of Merced thanks Troop 88 for their commitment to keeping our parks clean and welcoming.

If you know of an organization that's interested in adopting a park, please contact the Parks and Community Services Department at (209) 385-6855.





## JANUARY MONTHLY POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT



# Monthly Report

## January 2025



**Calls for Service: 5,815**

**Arrests Made: 339**

**Collisions Reported: 74**

**Tickets Issued: 447**

**Guns Recovered: 17**





## COMMUNITY PARK 42: PROGRESS UPDATE ON SHADE STRUCTURE AND IRRIGATION WORK





## MERCED WELCOME MONUMENT INSTALLATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Merced Gateway Welcome Monument Installation Project is underway, bringing two monument signs to Highway 99.

One sign will be placed northbound, facing the 16th Street exit, while the other will be positioned southbound, facing Mission Avenue.

These new gateway monuments will enhance the city's visibility and create a welcoming entrance to Merced for both residents and visitors.



## BOB HART SQUARE EXPANSION PROJECT

The Bob Hart Square Expansion Project kicked off this week. This project will transform the heart of downtown with a new outdoor plaza featuring a stage, a concrete arch, and bench seating. Additional improvements include essential infrastructure upgrades, such as water main replacements, new storm drains and inlets, enhanced landscaping, and electrical updates.

These enhancements will create a more inviting and vibrant space for community gatherings, performances, and events—further enriching our downtown experience.

We appreciate the patience of nearby businesses during construction. All shops and restaurants remain open, and we encourage the community to continue supporting our Downtown.

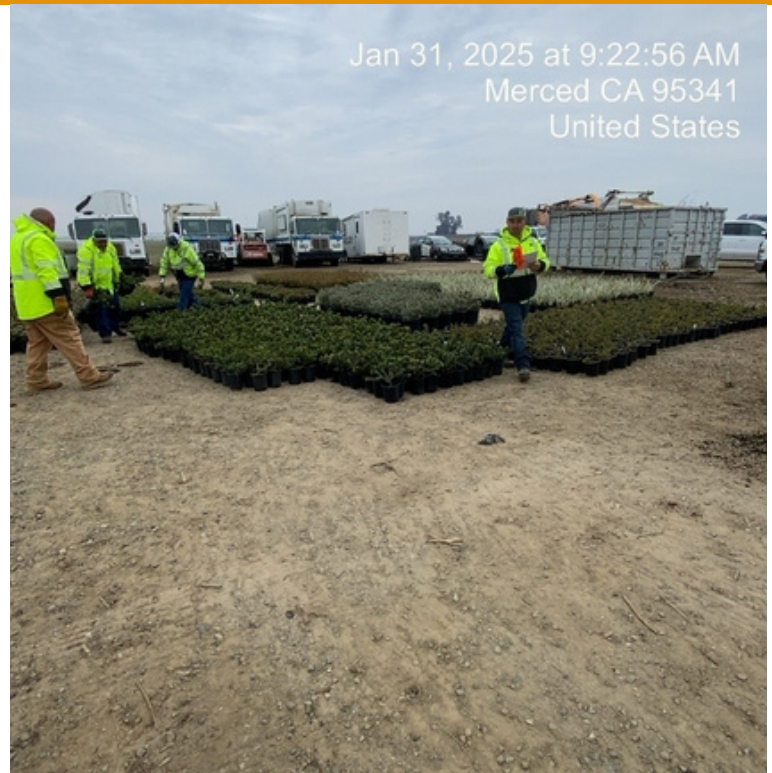
We look forward to completing these improvements and will share updates as the project progresses.





## PUBLIC WORKS PLANTS 2,489 NEW PLANTS CITYWIDE

In a continued effort to enhance the beauty and sustainability of our city, Public Works crews recently planted over 2,489 plants throughout the city.





Event starts on:

**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 23, 2025**

611 W. 22nd,  
Merced, CA 95340



**Learn more about your Police Department!**

- Class Activities • 10 Week Program
- Interactive hands on exercises!

Merced Police Department is hosting its Community Academy. This 10-week class is hosted twice a year. The goal of the program is to educate the community about the MPD and build trust. The academy is free to anyone who lives or works in the Merced. Participants must be at least 18 years of age to enroll.

 **Sgt. Rinder**  
**(209) 388-7765**

**rinderb@cityofmerced.org**



**JOIN OUR**

# **COMMUNITY ACADEMY**



## **LEARN ABOUT :**

Hiring Process  
Community Engagement  
Training Standards  
Field Operations  
Investigations and more!

## **SCHEDULE:**

The classes are from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. each  
Wednesday night starting April 23rd and  
a graduation ceremony in July 2025!



# STARGAZING NIGHTS



*Explore the Wonders of the Night Sky!*

## Wednesday Nights

Date & Location:

February 19th- Ronald Brooks Park

February 26 - Waste Water Treatment Plant

March 5th - General Vang Pao

March 12th - Dwight Amey

Lesson: **Telescope Viewing**  
**Guided Tour & Astronomy Talks**

Cost: **\$10 a lesson**

Time: **7pm - 8pm**

Ages: **8 & Up**

Register at :

Parks and Community Services

632 w. 18th or call our office at

(209) 385-6855 for more information



Parks Make Life Better!

