

Paradise South News



P A R A D I S E S O U T H W E E D A N D S E E D

W E L C O M E ! B Y C I N D Y R H E A

MODESTO RANKS FIRST!

Modesto ranked first in the nation for the best turn out during National Night Out for a second consecutive time! Thanks for your participation!

“What is Weed and Seed?” This is by far the most common question I hear as the Weed and Seed Program Coordinator. Weed and Seed is many things, but what is most important for residents of Paradise South to know is that Weed and Seed is an initiative to fight crime and improve the Paradise South neighborhood.

We are very fortunate to have a Weed and Seed Community in Modesto. There are only a handful of other Weed and Seed Communities in California, and every year hundreds of cities all over the U.S. compete for this valuable federal designation. As a Weed and Seed Community, we are eligible for up to \$1 million in federal funding over a five-year period.

Weed and Seed brings together partners from government, law enforcement, social services, businesses and residents to do much more than

they could individually. This is especially important for Paradise South, because our community consists of both City of Modesto and Stanislaus County jurisdictions.



Weed and Seed Family Night at the Ballpark on August 3, 2007. Kids received free baseballs and gloves.

In July, we began our second year of funding and were awarded \$200,000 to help continue the efforts to reduce crime and blight and increase services for the approximate 17,000 residents who live here. These activities include: extra law enforcement to focus on gangs and drugs; increased code enforcement to

reduce blight; youth programs such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Jr. Cadets, camps, and Friday night activities at Maddux Youth Center; and free income tax preparation at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance center.

Early next year the new Weed and Seed office will be open at the Neighborhood Center at Marshall Park. This center is the first of its kind in Modesto – a facility that will house a Fire station and a shared Police and Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods office. I look forward to having a variety of Weed and Seed activities and meetings at the Neighborhood Center.

I encourage residents to take advantage of the activities and services available in the Paradise South neighborhood and to get involved in the Weed and Seed efforts. **You can help make a difference in Paradise South!**

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D R U G H O T L I N E ~ 2 0 9 - 5 7 1 - 3 7 8 4

Every week, Weed and Seed officers receive tips about illegal drug activity from the Drug Hotline. The purpose of the Drug Hotline is to allow residents to anonymously report possible drug problems in their neighborhood. Officers will dedicate 100 hours to investigating drug hotline tips in

Paradise South. This year, Weed and Seed officers have already conducted many successful investigations that have resulted in arrests. The Drug Hotline is available all day, every day.

If you have information about any illegal drug activity, please call the Drug Hotline: (209) 571-3784 or email Crime

Stoppers: crimestoppers@modestopd.com.

Please leave as much information as possible, include vehicle and suspect descriptions. It is also very helpful if officers can speak with you about the tip. If you are comfortable doing so, please leave a return phone number.

COCK-A-DOODLE-DON'T

BY PAM LIAL, COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT

We all love Foghorn Leghorn, one of the most famous roosters of all time. Remember one of his most common sayings? That's a joke... "I say, that's a joke, son." But, it is no laughing matter to most people who live in neighborhoods where the roosters can be heard crowing - sometimes all day long. Contrary to popular belief, roosters don't just crow at the crack of dawn, they crow all day long!

Foghorn Leghorn was appropriately named. The dictionary provides two definitions for a foghorn, one being, a horn used by ships to sound warning signals in fog or darkness. The other definition is a resounding, insistent voice. Roosters certainly do have a resounding, insistent voice. Many of you would more accurately describe the voice as a loud, obnoxious one.

Neither the Stanislaus County Codes nor the City of Modesto Municipal Codes allow the raising or keeping of roosters in

residential neighborhoods. In addition to roosters, the following animals are not permitted as well: quacking ducks, geese, guinea fowl, peafowl, goats, sheep or similar livestock. We are asking that you voluntarily remove your roosters from your properties.

If Code Enforcement and/or Animal Control receives a complaint, you will have to rid yourself of the roosters or any of the above listed animals, or it could cost you some money (\$100 fine or more), and that's no joke!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Stanislaus County Code Enforcement at 525.6700 if you live in the unincorporated areas of the county or call the Neighborhood Preservation Unit at 577.5250 if you live in the City of Modesto.

"In 2007, VITA Volunteers served 114 clients resulting in over \$140,000 in tax refunds."

HELP DURING TAX SEASON

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Center assists low-to-moderate income families and individuals with free tax preparation and filing. The Paradise South VITA Center is located at the Housing Authority's Westview Gardens Community Center, 1701 Robertson Road, and is open one evening per week from February to April 15.

In 2007, VITA volunteers assisted 114 clients resulting in over \$140,000 in refunds. According to the Internal Revenue Service, 25 percent of the people who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit do not claim it. The VITA Center helps families claim the tax credit, which is said to be one of the leading contributors to bringing people

out of poverty.

The success of the VITA center in 2007 creates a great anticipation for what is to come in 2008.

The achievement of this year's VITA Center was made possible by the volunteers who have sacrificed their time and efforts for training and preparation to make VITA all that it is. Being a volunteer requires no tax experience and free tax training is provided! If you would like to be a volunteer for the 2008 VITA Center, contact the Weed and Seed coordinator, Cindy Rhea, at (209) 342-6105 or email her at rhac@modestopd.com. Appointments for tax assistance will be accepted beginning in January.

GIRL SCOUTS

This year, Weed and Seed is funding two outreach Studio 2B troops for Jr. High School girls.

Girls meet as a group on a weekly basis for one to two hours and work on Focus Books such as "Uniquely Me", a self-esteem program; "Positive Power", a relationship abuse prevention program; "Got Money?" one of our financial literacy programs; "College 101", a college planning program; or other topics as appropriate. When girls have completed the requirements of a Focus Book, they earn a charm.

The Outreach Program offers the entire traditional Girl Scout program to girls through hiring young women college students who work part time as

Program Specialists mentoring, leading, and advising girls. These young mentors reflect the cultures of the girls served, such as the girls who live in Paradise South Weed and Seed, including African-American, Hispanic and Southeast Asian. Many are the first in their families to have attended college. These Program Specialists provide girls with role models and life skills guidance, as well as instruction in specific topics, using nationally developed and tested Girl Scout curriculum. Program Specialists also work with family members to mentor them as future troop leaders.

"Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place."- Girl Scouts of America

BOY SCOUTS SOCCER & SCOUTING



Weed and Seed Teams 1 and 2 with Coaches.

The Boy Scouts of America has launched its Soccer and Scouting program as an outreach to Paradise South youth and families. Soccer and Scouting teaches soccer skills and provide exciting competition, and at the same time boys will be Cub Scouts and learn the life-long values taught in the Scouting program. All of the materials are published in English and Spanish.

practice on Thursdays and Saturdays for game day. Since we started this program in June we have seen a great impact in the community and an increase in parent involvement as the season has progressed. So far we have had a tournament with Salida, a Soccer and Scouting Camp for all youth and relatives filled with activities such as archery, BB-Gun Shooting, Fishing, Soccer, Frisbee Golf, Arts and Crafts, Wood projects and lots more along with an indoor tournament at the Turlock Indoor Arena where the youth participated with other Soccer and Scouting units from Turlock, Merced, Manteca and Salida. So at the end we can say that we have kept these kids off the streets and busy doing a lot of fun and positive activities this last couple of months."

"Through our Soccer and Scouting program we are serving approximately 80 youth plus families throughout the Weed and Seed program. We meet at Kirschen School twice a week, once for

Luis Jimenez
Scoutreach Executive

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES

Emergency 9-1-1

Emergency from Cell Phone: 558-HELP (4357)

CITY OF MODESTO RESIDENTS:

- Non-Emergency Dispatch: 552-2470
- Crime Prevention—Neighborhood Watch: 572-9676
- Nuisance/Code Enforcement: 577-5250
- Animal Control: 558-7387
- Abandoned Vehicle Abatement: 342-6172
- Graffiti Abatement: 342-2259
- PAL—Police Activities League: 572-9614

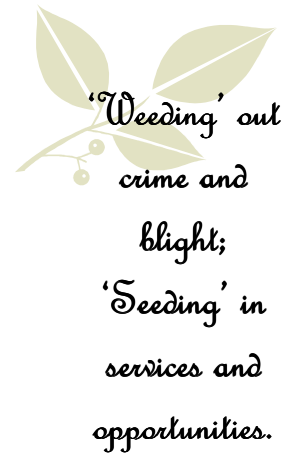
STANISLAUS COUNTY RESIDENTS:

- Non-Emergency Dispatch: 552-2468
- Nuisance/Code Enforcement/Abandoned Vehicles: 1-877-ASSIST
- Graffiti Abatement: 525-6700
- Report/Request Info on-line:

<http://user.govoutreach.com/stanislaus/>

OTHER RESOURCES

- Anonymous Crime Reporting:
Drug Hotline: 571-3784
Crime Stoppers: 521-4636
- Center for Human Services: 526-1440
- Salvation Army: 523-7577
- Women's Haven—Victim Assistance: 577-5980
- Bulky Item Pickup—Call garbage company:
Bertolotti 537-8000
Gilton 527-3781
- Modesto Disposal 800-283-1582
- Weed and Seed Meetings (Call to Confirm Time & Loc):
Steering Committee: Bi-Monthly
Weed Sub-Committee: 4th Wed. 3pm @ MPD
Seed Sub-Committee: 4th Thurs. 4pm @ Mancini Hall



STANISLAUS SHADE TREE PARTNERSHIP

The Stanislaus Shade Tree Partnership is a collaboration between the Modesto Irrigation District (MID), the Greater Modesto Tree Foundation, Modesto East Rotary Club, Stanislaus County and the City of Modesto that will provide shade trees to homes in Modesto's Weed and Seed neighborhood.

This developing community partnership is an innovative plan to enhance neighborhoods and reduce energy consumption. A mature shade tree can save as much as 40 percent on a summer electric bill.

Soon, Paradise South residents will be given the chance to receive free shade trees. Information will be coming in your mail.

Organizations such as the Honor Farm and Boy Scouts are joining Weed and Seed in beautifying our community and helping people with job training through planting trees.

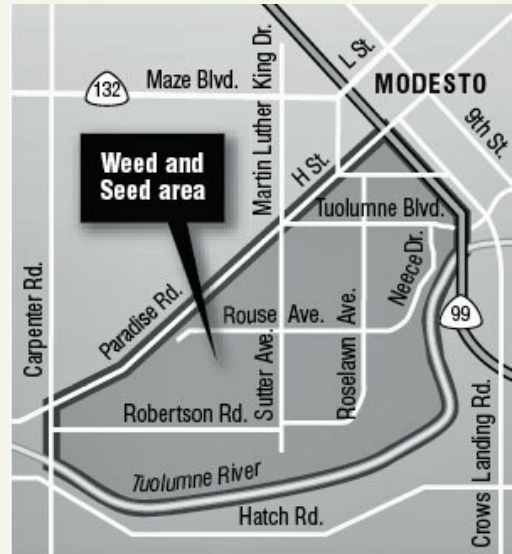
Don't hesitate to get involved, an opportunity such as this is golden!

Planting a tree will help add value to your property and help cool your home naturally.





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The Weed and Seed strategy consists of four components:

- Law Enforcement**
- Community Policing**
- Prevention, Intervention, Treatment**
- Neighborhood Preservation**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.PARADISE-SOUTH.COM

CRIME ALERT!
HELP PREVENT VEHICLE THEFT

Modesto is experiencing a rash of vehicle theft, residential and vehicle burglaries. We all need to take extra precautions to protect ourselves and our belongings.

Below are some precautions you can take to protect your vehicle from being stolen:

- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you're away from it, even for "just a minute."
- Always roll up the windows and lock the car, even if it's in front of your home.
- Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk or at least out of sight.

- Park in busy, well-lit areas, park in your garage if you have one
- Carry the registration and insurance card with you. Don't leave personal identification documents or credit cards in your vehicle

When you pay to park in a lot or garage, leave just the ignition key with the attendant. Make sure no personal information is attached. Do the same when you take your car in for repairs.

ADD EXTRA PROTECTION

Install a mechanical locking device-commonly called clubs, collars, or j-bars-that locks the steering wheel, column, or brake to

prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. USE IT! Install a security system in your car; this may also give you a discount on your car insurance.

For more Crime Prevention Tips and/or to have a Neighborhood Watch meeting contact Crime Prevention Officer Rosie Fabela at 572-9676

**TOGETHER WE CAN
 MAKE A
 DIFFERENCE!**