



MAY 8, 2012

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City Updates

CVB Launches New Website and Recaps Events: Never one to be idle, the Convention and Visitors Bureau launched a newly designed and developed VisitVisalia.org last week that will allow the CVB to better attract prospective tourists, media, group tours, service convention attendees, and sell meeting space! The site features new itineraries, deals, restaurant and hotel listings, blog, events calendar and hot links to major area attractions. Read more online at VisitVisalia.org!

- **Visalia Welcomed 3,000+ Fan Festival Attendees:** The Convention and Visitors Bureau, Visalia Convention Center and hotel properties welcomed Fan Festival attendees to Visalia from April 26-29 for the third consecutive year. Visitors enjoyed nightly concerts at the Convention Center and spent time shopping, dining and exploring Visalia during their stay. The CVB looks forward to hosting the Great Western Fan Festival in 2013 and 2014 as well!
- **California's Our Little Miss Pageant Takes Center Stage at Visalia Convention Center:** The Visalia Convention Center and Convention and Visitors Bureau hosted the California's Our Little Miss Preliminary Pageant on Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6. The Pageant celebrated its 50th Anniversary in Visalia and contestants in this pageant will compete in the State competition later this year.

Temporary Lane Closures on 198: The right lane of eastbound State Route 198, near the Central Visalia (Watson Avenue) exit will be closed Wednesday, May 9 through Friday, May 11 from 6 am to 4 pm to allow construction crews to perform work as part of the current exit ramp widening project. Avoid delays and take alternate routes.

Light Replacement in East Acequia Parking Structure This

Week: New energy efficient fluorescent lights are being installed now through May 17 on the 1st, 2nd & 3rd levels of the East Acequia downtown parking structure. The lights on the 3rd floor are scheduled to be replaced through Wednesday, May 9; on the 2nd floor on Wednesday, May 9, through Friday, May 11; and on the 1st floor on Monday, May 14, Wednesday, May 16, and Thursday, May 17. Portions of these floors will be closed to parking from 7 am to 5 pm during the light replacement. Parking above and below the closure areas will remain open. The new bi-level fluorescent lights will use approximately 20% less energy than the existing lights. The project is being funded through the City's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

Looking for Involvement? City Committees, Commissions Have Openings:

If it's community involvement you're after, apply today for one of several openings on City committees and Commissions. Here's a sampling of what they do.

- **Disability Advocacy Committee** – advises the City on the needs of disabled people. The committee currently has vacancies for one regular member and one alternate.
- **Environmental Committee** – heightens environmental awareness and conservation in Visalia. The Committee is accepting applications for one regular member for a vacancy that will occur in June and has one vacancy for an alternate member.
- **Historic Preservation Committee** – administers and carries out the standards and specifications of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and promotes historic preservation including encouraging building owners to initiate preservation efforts. The committee has two alternate member vacancies.
- **Parks and Recreation Commission** – advises the City Council and staff in matters pertaining to parks, playgrounds and recreation centers. The Commission has two alternate member vacancies.
- **Transit Advisory Committee** – researches and analyzes the community's continuing transit needs, reviews operations, markets the transit program and makes recommendations about the business affairs of the transit system. The Committee currently has two vacancies for alternate members.
- **Waterways and Trails Committee** – advises on matters related to the Bikeway Master Plan and the Waterway and Trail Master Plan. The Committee currently has two vacancies for regular members and two vacancies for alternate members.
- **Tulare Mosquito Abatement District Board** – monitors, controls, abates and otherwise controls mosquitos. The Board currently has one vacancy representing the City of Visalia.

Go to ourvisalia.com and click on "Committees/Commissions" to view the informational handbook and application or contact the City Clerk's Office at 713-4512.

Sequoia Shuttle's Sixth Season Kicks off May 24: Summer's just around the corner and with it, the start of the Sequoia Shuttle's sixth season. Enjoying the Sequoias has never been easier! The season starts on May 24 and runs seven days a week through Sept. 9. A new diesel/electric hybrid transit fleet is 90% cleaner and use up to 25% less fuel running on electric engines. Reservations are required and can be made at www.SequoiaShuttle.com or by calling 1-877-287-4453. The cost is still \$15 per person and discounts for groups of six or more are available. For more information, contact Gamaliel Anguiano at 713-4594.

Council Recaps

Balancing the Budget: At its May 7 meeting, the City Council reviewed the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund Budgets for transportation related funds, including the Gas Tax, Measure R Local, and Transportation Impact Fee Funds. Council directed to staff to return to Council with more information regarding the Transportation Impact Fee (TIF) Program. In 2010, the transportation impact fees were reduced as a temporary economic stimulus measure. The fund continues to have a large negative balance resulting from both the economic downturn and the temporary 26% reduction in fees. Leaving the reductions in place would result in an increasingly larger deficit in the fund. At an upcoming meeting, Council will consider whether or not to return these fees to their 2009 levels.

Kiwanis Park to Open Late Summer: Council approved a recommendation by the Visalia Parks and Recreation Commission to name a new neighborhood park Kiwanis Park which is currently under construction off of McAuliff Street and Tulare Avenue in southeast Visalia. The three local Visalia Kiwanis Clubs have agreed to work with the City on annual maintenance projects associated with the park, especially in the large riparian areas that will need upkeep in the future. The combination storm pond basin/City park adjacent to Packwood Creek is under construction and is scheduled to open late this summer.

City Calendar

Information Meetings for District Elections: Is it time for district elections in Visalia? A Charter Amendment asking voters that question will go before them in November, 2012. While State law mandates district elections in certain circumstances, a Charter Amendment is required for the City Council to implement district elections. Be a part of the discussion and share your views at a community meeting. City Council and Election Process Task Force members will lead the discussion. The remaining meetings are as follows:

- **Wednesday, May 9, 6 to 7 p.m.**—Manuel Hernandez Community Center, 247 W. Ferguson Ave.
- **Thursday, May 10, Noon to 1 p.m.**—210 Assembly Room, 210 W. Center St.

Make May 14-18 Your Week to Bike to Work: Wheels up! The City's Waterways and Trails Committee and Visalia Farmers Market are co-sponsoring Bike to Work Week May 14-18. Here's a rundown of events for the week:

- Join Visalia Mayor Amy Shuklian at Garden Street Plaza at 7 a.m. Monday, May 14, for a four-mile ride followed by schmoozing at Tazzaria's.
- Get the kids together and join a Family Bike Ride on Tuesday, May 15. Meet at the Ben Maddox parking lot for the St. John's River Trail at 5:30 p.m. All participants will receive a buy-one-get-one-free coupon good for frozen yogurt at Yodigity Yogurt.
- Bike and Brew kicks off at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, at Garden Street Plaza for a 12-mile ride, followed by a gathering at Brewbaker's (with an extension of Happy Hour prices for all participants).
- Ride your bike to work on Thursday, May 17, then head to the Downtown Visalia Farmer's Market for \$2 in Market Money.
- Bike to the Downtown Expo and receive 50% off admission, courtesy of the Downtown Visalians, on Friday, May 18. Expo starts at 5 p.m.!

You can now self-subscribe to receive issues of "Inside City Hall". Go to the City's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us and click on About Visalia and go to Inside City Hall Newsletter. For information, contact Community Relations Manager Nancy Loliva at nloliva@ci.visalia.ca.us or call 713-4535.