



COUNCIL TO REVISIT RETIREE HEALTH CARE AT MAY 16 COUNCIL

MEETING: City Council members will revisit a phase out of city contributions toward medical-insurance premiums paid by retirees until its May 16 regular meeting. No vote was taken on the proposal that would phase out the City's share of medical insurance costs to retired workers by 2014. Council members did agree to give staff time to come up with options for retirees, and also agreed on the following:

- Full cost of the retiree health care will be determined on a three-tier basis of single, two party and family;
- Exceptions should be made for those retirees with a lesser income, and;
- At some point to be determined, the City's contribution will be phased out.

For the staff report, click [here](#).

BIKE LANES ON MINERAL KING, NOBLE TO STAY: Council approved the bike lanes that have been installed on Mineral King and Noble Avenues, between Mooney Boulevard and Akers Street, per the approved bike plan. They also directed staff to work with property owners interested in developing alternative "off-street" parking options along these bike routes, which would be designed, constructed and paid for by the property owners. The bike lanes, installed in March, will improve connectivity and coverage for bicycles, and were originally adopted by Council in the 2006 City of Visalia Bikeway Plan and was reaffirmed in the 2011 Plan. The lanes were installed using a Bicycle Transportation Account grant obtained in October 2008. Business owners had been given written notice during the site plan review process for their facilities that on-street parking could be eliminated in the future. Based on random parking lot counts, off-street parking appears to be adequate for current uses. For more information, click [here](#).

OTHER COUNCIL NEWS: City Manager Steve Salomon presented a status report on the Tulare County Economic Development Corporation and the City's work with other organizations to urge TCEDC to make improvements in their performance and accountability. For more information, click [here](#) . . . A Neighborhood Traffic Management Program was approved to be funded at an amount not to exceed \$50,000 from the Gas Tax Fund. For additional information, click [here](#) . . . Council approved the removal of local amendments regarding fire sprinklers in non-residential buildings and to apply fire sprinkler standards contained in the 2010 or most recently adopted California Fire Code. For more information, click [here](#). A settlement has been reached between the City and Citizens For Responsible Planning. The association had sought to overturn changes in zoning which allowed supermarkets 30,000 square feet or smaller as a permitted use along the Mooney Boulevard Commercial corridor. Council adopted an ordinance on April 18 which reversed the prior decision as it relates to the supermarkets and allowed the dismissal.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FAN FEST: The 2nd annual [Great Western Fan Festival](#) returns to Visalia April 28-29! Since the inaugural year, the event has grown to become the largest three-day Christian Music event west of the Rockies. The event merges the biggest names in Southern Gospel Music with many of the most popular West Coast-based Gospel recording artists. The Visalia Convention and Visitors Bureau would love to have your help in welcoming Fan Festival's 3,000+ attendees to Visalia once again! Want to be an usher, ticket taker, or help at the Visalia concierge booth? All event volunteers will have access to enjoy the event! Please call Danika Heatherly at the Convention and Visitors Bureau (559) 334-0141 or email danika@visitvisalia.org to sign up!

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION: Join the City of Visalia and the Parks & Urban Forestry Division at the 28th annual celebration of Arbor Day from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 7, along Packwood Creek behind the Stonebrook Car Wash at Stonebrook and Caldwell. Over 100 volunteers are needed to plant about 100 native trees. The cost is free, and bring a rounded shovel and rake to use. To volunteer, contact Melissa Tracy at 713-4384.

APRIL 30 IS DRUG TAKE BACK DAY: Turn in your unused or expired medication and vitamins for free, safe disposal on Saturday, April 30, National Drug Take Back Day, at 11 locations throughout Tulare County. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and local law enforcement agencies are providing the public with the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by disposing, free of charge, potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medication (including pet medication), both in pill and liquid form, and unused vitamins. Place pills, capsules, and tablets of unwanted medication and vitamins into a zip-lock plastic bag. Keep liquid medication in its original container. Medication from hospitals, pharmacies, doctor's offices, etc., will not be accepted.

In Visalia, medications can be dropped off at the Visalia Police Department, 303 S. Johnson St., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 30. Call 713-4216 for information. Other locations include:

- Cutler-Orosi Sheriff's Substation, 40765 Road 128 (591-5810);
- Dinuba Police Department, 680 S. Alta Ave. (591-5914);
- Exeter Police Department, 100 N. C St. (592-3103);
- Farmersville Civic Center, 909 W. Visalia Road (747-0321);
- Lindsay Department of Public Safety, 185 N. Gale Hill (562-2511);
- Pixley Sheriff's Substation, 161 N. Pine St. (757-3525);
- Porterville Sheriff's Substation, 379 N. 3rd St. (782-9650);
- Tulare City Hall, rear parking lot, 411 E. Kern Ave. (684-4238);
- Tulare County Sheriff's Office, 2404 W. Burrel (636-4625);
- Woodlake Police Department, 350 N. Valencia (564-3346).

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE MOVES INTO SECOND PHASE: The General Plan is a long-range planning and policy document which guides city growth and public services. The 25-member General Plan Update Review Committee is leading this effort. Topics to be addressed include: Land use, transportation, street patterns, parks and open space, public services, city design, noise, safety, conservation, and air quality. The Plan is now at the stage where several different "growth concepts" – maps showing the potential locations of future housing, job centers, parks, schools, greenbelts, transit and other amenities – are being prepared. They show a range of concepts to guide future growth and development in Visalia.

Community meetings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. will be held at the following locations:

- **Tuesday, May 10** – Annie Mitchell Elementary School Cafeteria, 2121 E. Laura St.
- **Thursday, May 12** – Cottonwood Elementary School Cafeteria, 4222 S. Dans St.
- **Tuesday, May 17** – Four Creeks Elementary School Cafeteria, 1844 N. Burke St.
- **Thursday, May 19** – Oak Grove Elementary School Cafeteria, 4445 W. Ferguson Ave.

Interpreters for non-English speaking residents will be available at these outreach meetings :

- **Tuesday, May 24**, Fairview School Cafeteria, 1051 Robin Drive, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.; and the Founder's Room at CSET, 312 N.W. 3rd Ave., from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
 - **Wednesday, May 25**, Manuel Hernandez Center, 247 W. Ferguson Ave., from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- Residents will also be able to call in their questions and comments about the General Plan and the growth concepts in an on-line chat on Wednesday, May 4, hosted by the Visalia Times-Delta, with

General Plan Update Committee members. A citywide public workshop in June at the Convention Center will provide opportunities to learn about the growth concepts, participate in small group discussions, and record your ideas for the Update Committee to consider as they move forward. For dates and times of upcoming events, go to www.visaliageneralplanupdate.com.

EGGSTRAVAGANZA ON APRIL 23: The Visalia Parks & Recreation Department will play host to its 6th annual Eggstravaganza from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 23 at the Riverway Sports Park C.R. Shannon Baseball Complex. Activities will include an egg hunt, live entertainment, a basket raffle and bunny photos. Admission is free, but some activity fees may apply.

You can now self-subscribe to receive issues of “Inside City Hall”. Go to the City’s website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us, 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.