



**VOTE ON COUNCIL VACANCY TABLED UNTIL JUNE 13:** The City Council voted to table a decision on what steps to take to fill the seat vacated by former Visalia City Council Member Mike Lane on May 31 until the June 13 special meeting. The Council has until July 30 to either call for a special election to fill the remainder of Lane's expired term until November 2013, or appoint a resident of Visalia to fill the vacant seat for the remainder of the unexpired term. If the Council chooses to call a special election, and does so prior to July 15, the election would occur simultaneously with the election for the two regular seats that are to be filled at the regularly established election date of Nov. 8, 2011. The term of the person appointed or elected to fill the vacated Council seat will end in November, 2013.

**HOMEBUILDERS ADDITION DISCUSSED AT WORK SESSION:** Members and staff representatives of the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee discussed the status of the committee's action to add the Visalia Home Builders Addition to the City's Historic District. The Home Builders Addition is located on the south side of Noble Avenue between West and Conyer Streets to the north side of Mt. Whitney High School and is comprised of 115 properties. Being added to the Historic District would result in building exterior remodels or new construction to be done in a historically compatible architectural design. The Committee is recommending the addition of the district to preserve the historic character of the neighborhood and the houses in it. A survey was mailed to all property owners in the Visalia Home Builders Addition in February, 2010, asking for interest in joining the Historic District. To date, 19 have indicated they are interested, 4 have said no, and 62 have not responded. The Committee also held a work session to discuss the Home Builders Addition on May 18, and sent out 241 notices to property owners and site addresses. Council members advised committee members to continue outreach efforts as the historic designation process proceeds to the Planning Commission for review.

**OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:** Council Members voted unanimously to approve the assessment district for the Orchard Walk East-West utility district that reimburses developer Donahue/Schriber for the cost of laying underground utilities required by the city of Visalia.

**GREAT LAKES SERVICE TO LAX, LAS VEGAS OFF TO STRONG START:** On May 25, Great Lakes Airlines began operating twice daily service from Visalia to Los Angeles International Airport and one daily flight to Las Vegas. Fares start at \$59 one-way to LAX and \$95 to Las Vegas, with a 30-day advanced purchase. In the first two weeks of the service, 242 passengers have used the service to go to and from their destinations. There has been a 32% increase in the number of daily passengers, compared to the same time period last year and a dramatic increase in the number of passengers that are connecting to points beyond. Passenger count is currently averaging 14 total per day, well above the proposed 10 passenger minimum proposed in the Transportation Reauthorization bill. To get the lowest fares to those destinations, flights need to be booked online at [www.flygreatlakes.com](http://www.flygreatlakes.com). During the last week, Great Lakes has finalized their code share agreements with both United Airlines and Frontier Airlines which greatly adds to the benefits of flying out of Visalia. Local travelers can take advantage of these codeshare agreements to book one-stop travel, through Los Angeles, to over 50 destinations in the United States and Mexico; all while earning travel miles with the air carrier of their choice. Those flights can be booked through [www.united.com](http://www.united.com) or by using any of the popular online travel search engines.

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**VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS UP 16% OVER 2010:** With the help of a 735% boost in value of new commercial building permits, the total valuation of building permits for the year to date is 16% over this time last year—\$66,103,692 compared to \$56,927,743. The number of permits for new single family dwellings was down 53%, multi family permits down 67%, but residential additions and alterations were up 12%, from 409 in 2010 to 457 in 2011. The total number of permits issued year to date was down 10% over last year.

**SUMMER CAMPS, SWIM LESSONS AND CLASSES FOR KIDS:** Beginning this month, the City of Visalia Parks & Recreation Department will offer a variety of camps, swim lessons and classes for kids ages 1 to 16. Camps include: Jr. Rescuers, Fire Camp, Super Science and Math Camp, Animal Planet Camp, Project Runway Camp, and more. Classes include: Tiny Tot Adventures with Dr. Seuss, Tiny Tot Cheers and Dance, Tiny Tot Karate, Tiny Tot Gymnastic Cruisers, Piano and Guitar Classes, ballet/tap, jazzy hip hop classes and more. Register online at [www.liveandplayvisalia.com](http://www.liveandplayvisalia.com). For more information, contact Michelle Fitzgerald at 713-4336 or email [mfitzgerald@ci.visalia.ca.us](mailto:mfitzgerald@ci.visalia.ca.us).

**VICE MAYOR TO HOLD OFFICE HOURS JUNE 8:** Vice Mayor Amy Shuklian will hold her regular monthly office hours on Wednesday, June 8. Office hours will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the large conference room at City Hall, at 707 W. Acequia Ave. The first hour, from 5 to 5:45 p.m. will be a time for drop-in visits, and appointments can be scheduled in advance for the second hour, from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, contact Gladys Ruiz at 713-4314. Shuklian can be reached through 713-4400, then enter 8313, or by email at [ashuklian@ci.visalia.ca.us](mailto:ashuklian@ci.visalia.ca.us).

**FREEDOM 5K WALK SET FOR JULY 4 AT PLAZA PARK:** Celebrate Independence Day by enjoying your freedom and access to the natural surroundings of Visalia. Join in on the Freedom 5K Walk at Plaza Park, beginning with registration at 6 a.m. Participants that register by Friday, June 24, will receive a T-shirt. The cost is \$10. For more information, go to [liveandplayvisalia.com](http://liveandplayvisalia.com).

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