



AUGUST 16, 2011

PRIVATE FLOOD INSURANCE MAY BE THE ANSWER FOR SOME –

Homeowners who were part of the former and current flood control maps may be able to qualify for private flood insurance that may be several hundred dollars less than the Federal government's offering. The City Council heard about this option and encouraged staff to hold a public meeting with home owners who may get some financial relief with this option. A meeting schedule will soon be made available.

City staff is continuing to issue eligibility letters for citizens who qualify for the reduced cost preferred risk policy. This extension is only available to those who were included in the high risk flood zone when the revised maps were released.

The City is also working on the flood insurance on several fronts including looking at how the City may benefit from a new approach to analyzing levees, working to qualify for an additional 5% discount for floor flood insurance, and applying for grants to fund flood mitigation projects. For more information, contact the City of Visalia flood map information hotline at 713-4640 or fema-info@ci.visalia.ca.us

ELECTION TASK FORCE APPLICATION PROCESS REOPENED: While expressing appreciation to the 14 people who applied for the Election Process Task Force, the City Council also voiced an interest in making certain all interested residents had a chance to apply. The Council will accept applications until 12 noon on August 31. The task force will be responsible for considering several areas, including:

- Reviewing the types of City Council election formats being used in other cities that comply with federal and state election law;
- Considering whether the Council should consider changing how it is elected, including the implementation of a by-district election process, and;
- Considering the current demographic and voter makeup statistics in the 2010 Census and recent election data, and how these statistics relate to whether and how the City's election process should be changed.

Based on the research, the Task Force will then make a recommendation on if an at-large election is still appropriate for the City, how many districts would be included if a by-district election is recommended, and other changes to the election process. Applications are available on the City's website at <http://www.ci.visalia.ca.us/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=550&targetID=1> or by contacting Kathy Rouse at 713-4355 or krouse@ci.visalia.ca.us.

OTHER COUNCIL NEWS: The Visalia Police Department gave an update on current gang-related violence and gang suppression efforts/activities. For the first months of 2011, gang violence has dropped by 60% in gang homicide, assaults with a deadly weapon and drive-bys according to statistics tracked by the Special Enforcement Bureau. It's believed this decrease began with Operation Street Sweeper in 2010 and the continued focused efforts of the Gang Suppression Unit.

HAVE A CONCEPT IN MIND FOR THE SCENIC CORRIDOR? If you are interested in how the proposed 200 foot set-back along Highway 198, often referred to as Visalia's scenic corridor, is developed, consider attending the public meeting on this subject scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 6 p.m. at Visalia's City Hall, 707 W. Acequia.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has been asked by the City Council to develop an open space corridor design for the 200 foot setback areas inside the City limits including a City owned 16 acre parcel. More information on the meeting and the corridor design can be found by clicking [here](#).

PLAZA DRIVE INTERCHANGE PROJECT NETS \$14.5 MILLION IN

STATE FUNDING: The California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved \$14.5 million of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding for the Plaza Drive Interchange and widening project in the City. This project includes improving the Plaza Drive Interchange with SR-198, adding auxiliary lanes to SR-198 between the Plaza Drive and SR-99 Interchanges and widening Plaza Drive from two to four lanes between Airport Drive and Goshen Avenue. Tulare County obtained more than \$90 million in road project funding from the state. The CTC also approved \$46.6 million for the widening of Highway 99, between Goshen and Caldwell Avenue and \$16 million for Road 80 widening. "Visalia has always been prudent with the use of funding from the State,* said Visalia Mayor Bob Link. *Because of this careful, proactive use, securing funding for the Plaza Drive improvements is a significant job-creating achievement because this is a major access point to the Industrial Park."

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD: The City of Visalia's Disability Advocacy Committee (DAC) is seeking nominations from the community for the 2011 Community Partner Award. The deadline for submission is Sept. 9, 2011. The award will be presented at the DAC-hosted "Barrier Awareness Day," which will be held Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011 at the Garden Street Plaza from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. "We want to honor individuals and businesses within Visalia who are going above and beyond to break down barriers that our disabled residents face on a daily basis while going about their day-to-day business within our community," said Trilby Barton, chair of the Barrier Awareness Day event. "Examples of that service is staying in compliance with ADA [American Disabilities Act] requirements, or advocating for change." The award will be presented to an individual, community group, neighborhood, organization or local business that strives to make a difference in the disabled community of Visalia. The criteria for the award include:

- The act of courage or service to the community can be ongoing or have occurred after Jan. 1, 2010.
- Nominees must reside, work, or be active in the City of Visalia.
- Entries must be submitted by mail, fax or email by Sept. 9.

For a nomination form, click [here](#). For information on the award, call Carlos Estrada at (559) 738-2283.

911 COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY: The Visalia Fire Department will join in an evening Honoring 911 and Celebrating Freedom. The event is supported by local pastors and congregations from throughout Visalia and will be held at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, at Visalia First Assembly Church. The evening will include honoring those who lost their lives on 9/11, presenting of colors, worship led by Terry and Nancy Clark, testimonies and prayer for local law enforcement, and others who serve the community. A free hamburger feed will follow the meeting. For information, call 687-0220.

CORPORATE GAMES RETURN TO VISALIA - Dodge Ball anyone? A competitive trivia contest? A rousing game of ping pong? Visalia companies and agencies interested in encouraging their employees to stay active in the community, promote healthier lifestyles, and encourage teambuilding are encouraged to sign up for the Corporate Games. Visalia Corporate Games will bring the spirit of the Olympics to a local and more intimate playing field. This event will be held September 15th – 23rd and teams will compete in a variety of events earning points in an effort to become the 2011 Corporate Games Champion. Team entry fee is \$500. Teams must be registered by September 2nd. For more information please contact Michelle Fitzgerald at 713-4336 or email mfitzgerald@ci.visalia.ca.us. **BRING ON YOUR GAME!!**

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.