



**OCTOBER 4, 2011**

## **NEWS YOU CAN USE**

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON OCT. 22:** The City of Visalia sponsors its annual Make a Difference Day on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Project locations include Riverway Sports Park, Packwood Riparian, Seven Oaks Park, Main Street, Cobblestone Ponding Basin, Blain Park, Plaza Park, Mill Creek, Houston and Santa Fe roadside areas, Summers Park and the St. John's River. To sign up, contact Melissa Tracy at 713-4384 or by email at [mtracy@ci.visalia.ca.us](mailto:mtracy@ci.visalia.ca.us).

**VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT HOSTS OPEN HOUSE:** To commemorate National Fire Prevention Month, the Visalia Fire Department will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, at Fire Station 55, 6921 W. Ferguson Ave. Activities include information booths, bounce houses, rescue and fire attack demonstrations, and a free hot dog lunch.

**PREPARE FOR FIRST WINTER STORM:** The National Weather Service is forecasting the first winter storm for the Central Valley beginning early Wednesday morning. Early reports forecast anywhere from ½ to ¾ inches of rain during a 12-hour period. The city's emergency response personnel will monitor the storm's progress and respond as needed to affected areas. Water in the streets is to be expected during heavy rains. Motorists are encouraged to drive slowly through areas where water has accumulated. Homeowners are asked to sweep out any debris in the gutters or inlets and not to rake their leaves into the streets.

**NO CHANGE IN REFUSE SERVICE FOR COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY:** There will be NO change in either Residential or Commercial refuse services for the Columbus Day Holiday. City of Visalia business offices will be open for the holiday on Monday, October 10.

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECAPS**

**TRANSIT FINANCIAL ANALYST NAMED TO NATIONAL 'TRANSIT TOP 40 UNDER 40' LIST:** At its Oct. 3 meeting, the Visalia City Council recognized Transit Financial Analyst Carmen Quevedo who was among 40 professionals named to the third annual Mass Transit Top 40 Under 40 list. To date, she has been successful in securing funding for the expansion of public transit routes to serve two rural communities, funding for construction of a full-service transit center, construction of an operations and maintenance facility and the expansion of both facilities, replacing older diesel buses to cleaner CNG fuels, funds for a countywide informational call center, funds for a partnership service between Visalia Transit and the National Park Service—the Sequoia Shuttle; and an automatic vehicle locator system. "You really don't know what you are getting into until you are in the transit world," Quevedo said. "It has been very rewarding for me as I've grown, learned and continue to broaden my horizons in the last 10 years working for Transit."

**SEQUOIA SHUTTLE SEASON BEST EVER:** This year's season went from Memorial Day weekend through September 25, 2011. The Internal National Parks Service routes experienced a 28% increase in ridership from 2010 to 2011 and the Gateway Route grew by 47% during the same year. This year, staff anticipated an increase in demand for the shuttle and additional bus departures were added into the schedule. Ridership for the Gateway Route also was enhanced this year by 832 seats reserved through a special program funded through The America's Best Ideas grant. This \$10,000 grant, obtained by the National Parks Service, paid for shuttle trips for underserved groups such as seniors, youth, and the disabled. The cost of operating the Gateway route is between \$250,000 and \$300,000 per year. Funding for the Gateway Route has come from various sources over the past five years. For next year (2012), the Transit Division applied for and obtained a federal discretionary grant from the Intercity Bus Grant program for \$200,000, and is in the process of procuring additional funding for next year's season.

## **CITY UPDATES**

**BUILDING PERMITS VALUE UP 20% FOR THE YEAR:** A 283% increase in value for new commercial permits for 2011 boosted the total valuation of all permits 20% for the year, up from \$89,756,652 in the first nine months of 2010 to \$107,844,268 for the same time period this year. The number of new commercial and residential additions and alteration permits were also up 16% and 10% respectively for the year. The value of commercial additions, alterations and signs was up 48%, from \$19,992,330 in 2010 to \$29,668,616 this year.

## **CITY CALENDAR**

**VICE MAYOR TO HOLD OFFICE HOURS OCT. 12:** Vice Mayor Amy Shuklian will hold her regular monthly office hours on Wednesday, October 12. 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).

**VISALIA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU WELCOMES DIOCESE OF FRESNO:** The Diocese of Fresno will be in Visalia from October 14th through the 16th, holding both their 23rd Annual Diocesan Congress and their annual Youth Day at the Visalia Convention Center. This three-day event offers Catholics the opportunity to listen to various speakers and to participate in workshops and liturgy. The Diocese of Fresno's Youth Day is their largest gathering of high school students. Last year, the Visalia event attracted nearly 1,000 youth and their chaperones. Overall, the event attracted nearly 3,000 attendees.

**DUMP ON US FOR FREE ON OCT. 22:** The City of Visalia will hold a Dump on Us event from 7 to noon Saturday, Oct. 22 at the City of Visalia Corporation Yard at 335 North Cain in Visalia. The Dump On Us event is free and available for all Visalia residents. It is an opportunity to rid your property of any garbage, electronic waste, green waste and household hazardous waste items. A commercial shredding service will also be on site. Shred up to 3 standard bankers boxes of paper for free. For more information, please call 713-4500 or go to [www.DumpOnUs.org](http://www.DumpOnUs.org) for details. Dump On Us for Free Saturday, Oct. 22.

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