



**OCTOBER 18, 2011**

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECAPS**

**CITY MOVES AHEAD ON DISPATCH CENTER ON ITS OWN:** Despite a seven-year effort to consolidate 911 services countywide, at its Oct. 17 meeting, the Visalia City Council voted to build its own public safety communications center. The move was prompted by the decisions of the cities of Tulare, Dinuba, Porterville, Lindsay, Woodlake and Tulare County Consolidated Ambulance Dispatch to not work toward a consolidated 911 dispatch center. In addition, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors decided in September against moving forward with consolidation and a joint-powers agreement. Council members decided against a co-location with the City and the County in favor of building its own expanded communications center. Staff will now explore site options to replace the current location of police and fire dispatchers in the basement of the Visalia Police headquarters on Johnson Street. For a copy of the staff report, click [here](#).

## **COUNCIL HEARS OPTIONS FOR DOWNTOWN PARKING**

**STRUCTURES:** Council approved paying WRN Studios \$10,000 to continue its efforts to improve parking downtown and adding a new parking structure. Six possible locations were presented for a new downtown area parking structure including: Center Avenue between West and Floral streets; Main Street between West and Floral streets; Acequia Avenue between Willis and Floral streets; Center Avenue between Court and Church streets; Acequia Avenue between Stevenson and Johnson streets; and Acequia Avenue between Stevenson and Conyer streets. To learn more, click [here](#).

**OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:** In other Council action, Council members approved \$141,890 in additions to the widening of Plaza Drive project, which is currently in the bidding process and construction is expected to begin early next year. Additions to the project approved include landscaping, utility relocation, landscaping, paving repairs, signs and sewer and storm additions. For more information on the project, click [here](#).

## **CITY UPDATES**

### **CITY AWARDED THREE FEDERAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

**GRANTS TOTALING \$732,000:** City of Visalia staff received word Monday that it was awarded \$732,000 for three grants that will provide improvements at five elementary and two middle schools. The grants, awarded by the Federal Safe Routes to School Program, will install a traffic signal and construct intersection improvements and curb ramps at Green Acres Middle School with \$389,000 in federal funding. Sidewalks and curb ramps will be constructed and crosswalks installed at Linwood Elementary School and La Joya Middle School with \$123,600 in federal funding. Crosswalks, sidewalks and curb ramps will also be constructed at Royal Oaks, Mountain View, Pinkham and Annie R. Mitchell Elementary Schools with \$219,400 in grant funding.

**CITY'S HISTORIC RECOGNITION PROGRAM KICKS OFF:** The Palace Hotel received the first plaque on Thursday, Oct. 13, through the City's Historic Recognition Program sponsored by the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. The Palace Hotel, currently owned by Martin & Martin Properties, LLC, opened on Oct. 12, 1876. According to local historian, Terry Ommen, "1876 marked the beginning of a more inviting and metropolitan Visalia. A 'large and commodious' hotel was slated for construction on the northeast corner of Main and Court streets. It would be called the Palace Hotel." The Historic Recognition Program allows interested building owners to be considered for a plaque to identify buildings and their local historical significance to the community. Individuals and/or organizations can nominate a building for the program. An application and property owner authorization form is required to be submitted for all nominated structures. Participation in the program is voluntary, with the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee making the final determination for the awarding of

plaques. For information, contact Community Relations Manager Nancy Loliva at 713-4535.

## **CITY CALENDAR**

**HEALTHY VISALIA HOSTS FESTIVAL ON OCT. 22:** The Healthy Visalia Committee is pleased to announce the annual Healthy Visalia Festival Saturday, October 22 from 1-4pm at the C R Shannon Baseball Complex at Riverway Sports Park. The free festival will highlight health and wellness booths, activities, and much more. For more details visit [www.healthyvisalia.com](http://www.healthyvisalia.com)

**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).

**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.

## **PARKS & RECREATION HOSTS SPOOKY SPRING AND KIDS FUN**

**RUN:** Visalia Parks and Recreation Department is happy to announce the Spooky Sprint 5k Walk/Run and Kids Fun Run on Saturday, October 29 at 8am at Plaza Park. This spooky event is a fun way for people to be healthy and show off their Halloween Costumes. 5K awards will be available per age division and best costume awards will be given. Sign up now! For more information call 713-4585 or visit [www.liveandplayvisalia.com](http://www.liveandplayvisalia.com).

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