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Social Security Building Update: While no permit application for any location has been submitted, much has been written in recent weeks about the Social Security field office moving to a new location on South Lovers Lane in Visalia. Director of Community Development Mike Olmos stated that to monitor city permits on the proposed office, the location is being flagged in the city's Community Development database. The "flag" does not allow any permit to be released on the parcel without Olmos' approval. It in no way "suspends" the permit process that the department has no authority to halt, but ensures that all necessary permits are submitted and processed for the proposed South Lovers Lane facility. "The conditional use permit, when submitted, will get a fair and objective evaluation by the City," Olmos said. "The Planning Commission, or City Council if appealed, will make a decision to approve or deny the application based on its merits, public hearing testimony, and applicable state and local land use laws and policies."

'Gangs: Suppression, Intervention, Prevention' Focus of Cable Show: October's segment on "Visalia Today" deals with the impact of gang violence on the community and highlights suppression, intervention and prevention efforts by local law enforcement. Visalia Police Chief Bob Carden, Lt. Jason Salazar and Rob Zieg with the Special Enforcement Bureau, and Wittman Center Director Juan Guerrero will be featured on the program, which airs on Comcast Cable Local Affiliate Channel 14. The program will highlight outreach efforts by the Special Enforcement Bureau to send a preventative message to Visalia's children on the dangers of gang affiliation and what options are available to them. It will also feature helpful information for parents, including signs to watch for and tips for helping their own children stay out of gangs. Host of the program is Community Relations Manager Nancy Loliva. Have an idea for a future broadcast? Email her at nloliva@ci.visalia.ca.us.

Who You Gonna Call?: This new feature of "Inside City Hall" lets Visalia residents know which agencies to call for which problem. The 24-hour hotline gets help on the line in a hurry. **Have a weed or trash problem? Abandoned vehicles on private property? Call 713-4207.** Give location and cross streets, a description of the problem, and your name and phone number. Calls are kept confidential, but for best results, the inspector may need to contact you. Remember: The process is put in motion with your one call.

McAuliff Street Opens: McAuliff Street, south of Houston Avenue to Mill Creek Parkway in Visalia, is now open to traffic. The construction of the new street promises to relieve traffic congestion around Golden West High School.

Inside City Hall is a publication of the City of Visalia.

For more information, visit the City's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us, email nloliva@ci.visalia.ca.us or call 713-4535

Green Light for Traffic Signal at Pinkham/Walnut Intersection: The green light is “on” for the installation of the new traffic signal before school opens next August at the intersection of Pinkham Street and Walnut Avenue. Traffic engineers, anticipating a significant increase in traffic on an already busy Pinkham Street with the opening of the new elementary school, conducted a traffic study at this intersection. A stop sign was installed in August.

Dump on Us: The City of Visalia will hold a “Dump-On-Us” event at the Sound of His Voice Church, 525 S. Atwood, from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 6. Information: 713-4500. These events are limited to City residents (proof of residency is required). Take advantage of free disposal of these hard-to-dispose-of items: air conditioning/heating units, bamboo, cactus, cell phones, computers, monitors and televisions, dryers, fencing material, furniture, mattresses, palm fronds, printer toner cartridges, scrap metal, small appliances, tires (limit of 4, with rims removed), washers and yucca trees.

Consultant to Evaluate Transportation Impact Fee Process: City Council approved the hiring of an outside consultant to evaluate the transportation impact fee process and recommend improvements at its Sept. 17 meeting. Up to \$50,000 of the fees are to be allocated to conduct this review. Visalia builder Harvey May was among several present who spoke in favor of the evaluation of the process. “It’s a pay-as-you-go system now,” he told Council members. In addition, the Council approved the completion of the fiscal review of the City’s transportation impact fees for all development. The review plan would include: Confirming and conforming existing plans to ensure the City’s base information is properly identified; consideration of potential options to the circulation element; a cost analysis of all options and what the impact to the fee would be; meet with developers to hear their concerns about the fees; and have the Engineering Division create a standard reimbursement schedule for developer provided improvements.

Alternative Fuel Fleet grows by 22: In an effort to continue the city’s quest to convert its transit fleet to alternative fuel, the City Council Monday approved the purchase of six 35-foot buses which use compressed natural gas. The purchase is the result of City transit staff’s research into the options available from various bus manufacturers. These purchases are major steps toward making the city’s bus fleet 100% alternative fuel. This purchase brings the number in the alternative fuel fleet to 13 fixed route buses, five Dial-A-Ride buses and three hybrid electric trolleys for a total of 21 out of 42 transit vehicles. The Council also awarded contracts for the purchase of 16 new marked police patrol vehicles from Groppetti Automotive. Chief Bob Carden said the flexible fuel vehicles together can bring up to a 30% reduction in fossil fuel emissions.

District 2 Substation Open House: The Visalia Police Department’s District 2 Sub-Station will hold an open house from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, at 4100 S. County Center. Staff will conduct tours of the new facility and refreshments will be served. District 2, which officially opened on Aug. 27, is the second sub-station to be opened in Visalia. Sub-Station 1, at 204 N.W. 3rd St., was dedicated on Aug. 6, and Lt. Michele Figueroa is its Commander. Lt. Steve Puder is the newly appointed Commander of Sub-Station 2. Both sub-stations have a full complement of officers and front office staff. “We continue to move forward with plans to ex-

pand our Community Policing efforts, and feel these two new sub-stations will play a major role in the success of the program,” said Visalia Police Chief Bob Carden.

Visalia ‘Honorably’ Among Best Mid-Sized Downtowns: Visalia was among five cities who received honorable mention honors in the best-and-worst downtown ratings among cities of 75,000 to 250,000 people in the California Planning and Development Report. A sense of place and a feeling of vibrancy were critical in the ranking decisions. Other considerations: Land use mixes; public spaces; architecture; pedestrian friendliness; and cultural facilities and activities. In the top 5 were Pasadena, Santa Barbara, Chico, Berkeley, and Santa Rosa. The bottom five, in order of most disappointing: San Bernadino; Redding; Antioch; Costa Mesa; and Richmond.

Strong Numbers in Passport Processing: Efficient, effective front-counter service brought the numbers of passports processed at 707 W. Acequia Ave., to 1,583 from Oct. 1, 2006-Sept. 30, 2007. The U.S. State Department reported 16 million passports were processed from during that same time period, compared to 12.1 million for the previous year. Passport Services staff were commended for efficient, effective front-counter service which ensures the ability to offer Passport services to our community. Customers frequently marvel at the speedy service, lack of lines, and appreciate the friendly atmosphere the staff provides.