



Volume 24

Sept. 4, 2008

MOBILE HOME OWNERS SHARE CONCERNS: It was a full house at the Sept. 2 work session of the Visalia City Council. Mobile home owners from throughout Visalia came to hear a consultant's report on the status of the City's mobile home parks. On a 4-0 vote (Council Member Don Landers was absent from the meeting), the Council approved to continue participating in mobile home issues. Staff was also directed to explore the possibility of the City assuming responsibility for enforcement of State codes in local mobile home parks. Since the mid-1990s, the City has been an active participant in issues related to mobile home parks. In 1997, the City brokered an agreement between the owners of nine of the 10 mobile home parks in Visalia, resulting in the creation of a long-term lease agreement for mobile homes to assure residents that rents would not be increased (at least over the term of the lease) and conditions of tenancy at the park would not be changed. The Model Lease program will "sunset" in 2010, and as the deadline approaches, the concern for some type of control on rents continues to grow for park residents.

CONVENTION CENTER STUDY APPROVED: HVS International, a leading hospitality industry consulting firm, recently completed a market study for the Visalia Convention Center. Council approved the recommendations from the study which included developing a new sales and marketing campaign targeting meeting planners in California. Expansion was not recommended at this time, but will likely be necessary by 2015. The economic impact of the Convention Center on the local economy was calculated to be \$24.6 million annually.

OTHER COUNCIL NEWS: Visalia Fire Chief Mark Nelson and Battalion Chief Danny Wristen gave an update on the City's emergency preparedness efforts, including the advent of a Reverse 911 system in conjunction with Tulare County . . . Council members gave unanimous support for Measure I, a bond measure on the November ballot to support the expansion of and technology improvements to the Visalia campus of College of the Sequoias.

FIREFIGHTERS HOST 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY: The Visalia Fire Department will host a September 11th Remembrance Ceremony at 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 11, at the Visalia Fire Station No. 51, 309 S. Johnson St. The ceremony, which is open to the public, will include an invocation, lowering of the flag to half staff and the ringing of the bell in memory of the firefighters who were lost on Sept. 11, 2001.

BUILDING PERMITS DOWN 18% FOR 2008: Despite a 20% increase in the number of new commercial permits for the year, the total number of building permits was down 18%, from 3,422 to 2,810 from January through August in 2007 and 2008, respectively. The value of the permits was down 28% over the eight-month period, from \$251,137,126 in 2007 to \$181,702,099 in 2008.

TRAINING OFFERED ON PUBLIC RECORDS ACT: The Visalia Police Department will host the California Public Records Act Training on April 23-24 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Visalia. The training is specifically for law enforcement agencies throughout the state, and marks the first time it will be offered in Visalia.

GREAT LAKES AIR SERVICE STARTS SEPT. 8: Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd. will begin serving Visalia, California with daily flights to Ontario International Airport on Sept. 8. Ontario currently has the following airlines providing service: Alaska Airlines; American; Continental; Delta; Southwest; United; and US Airways. The Visalia flight schedule is:

- Visalia to Ontario: Flight 5045, departs 6:47 a.m., arrives 7:32 a.m., operates daily; and Flight 5064, departs 2:04 p.m., arrives 2:49 p.m., operates daily.
- Ontario to Visalia: Flight 5065, departs 11:30 a.m., arrives 12:15 p.m., operates daily; and Flight 5061, departs 5:45 p.m., arrives 6:30 p.m., and operates daily.

To purchase tickets on Great Lakes Airlines, visit www.flygreatlakes.com, call the Great Lakes' reservation center at 800-554-5111 or through your travel agent.

REGISTER ON-LINE FOR PARKS & RECREATION FALL/WINTER

PROGRAMS: The Visalia Parks and Recreation Department constantly looks for cost-effective means of advertising programs and events. Instead of mailing the Fall/Winter Brochure to 46,000+ households, a postcard was mailed out, directing recipients to the city website (www.ci.visalia.ca.us) to find the Fall/Winter Brochure, program and event information, and register online for most activities. A postcard recipient emailed the Park & Recreation Staff, complimenting them on their cost-efficient, environmentally-friendly marketing approach. Additionally, brochures are also available at the Anthony Community Center at 345 N. Jacob St. For more information, email recreation@ci.visalia.ca.us or call 713-4365.

PARKS AND RECREATION FOUNDATION SEEKS

PRESIDENT/CEO: The Board of Directors of the Visalia Parks and Recreation Foundation is currently accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of President/CEO of the Foundation. This position is a part-time, independent contractor position, and will be responsible for all the day-to-day activities of the Foundation. Applications should be directed to Alex Peltzer, Chair of the Board of Directors, Visalia Parks and Recreation Foundation, P.O. Box 1032, Visalia, CA 93279. An application, consisting of a letter of interest describing the candidate's qualifications for the position, and a complete curriculum vitae or resume, must be received by the Foundation no later than Friday, Sept. 19. For more information, call 713-4599.

