



Volume 25

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OPERATION SAFE HOLIDAY: For over 20 years, the Visalia Police Department has implemented Operation Safe Holiday, a special community policing project by the City and citizen volunteers to reduce criminal activity in the community around the holiday season. Operation Safe Holiday, which began Nov. 28, takes several steps to increase the safety in and around shopping centers in Visalia. Patrol officers and citizen volunteers will increase patrols at the city's shopping centers. The traffic unit will increase the number of D.U.I. checkpoints during the holiday season to discourage drunk driving. Citizen volunteers will assist with the shopper escort program and increase the hours of the police service centers. The investigations units will conduct several surveillance details to prevent burglaries and auto thefts around shopping centers. These are some of the steps taken every year by the Visalia Police Department to make the holiday season a safe environment for our citizens and those guests who frequent our community. For more information, contact Sergeant Steven Phillips at 713-4216.

COMPLIANCE WITH NEW FIRE CODE STANDARDS STEPPED UP:

There have been some changes to the California Building and Fire Codes affecting commercial cooking systems in restaurants. Fire Codes now clarify the Underwriters Laboratories test standards, UL 300, which became effective January 1. UL300 implies a pre-engineered automatic fire extinguishing system, the test methods and standards to protect commercial cooking equipment. With the exception of public school kitchens, compliance with the new standards is required no later than the second mandatory serving of a commercial cooking system. All new automatic fire extinguisher systems and all existing dry and wet chemical fire extinguishing systems installed for the protection of commercial cooking operations that produce grease-laden vapors should comply with UL 300. Most Type 1 Hoods comply with the UL 300 standards. Any necessary changes required to an existing hood will be addressed by the City of Visalia Fire Chief. If you've had your cooking hood system inspected within the last year, you should be compliant. For more information, go to www.osfm.fire.ca.gov or contact Fire Marshal Charlie Norman or Fire Inspector Kurtis Brown at 713-4266.

POLICE TEAMS WITH UNITED WAY ON 'FIRST CALL': The Visalia Police Department has been working jointly with the United Way of Tulare County and Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency to enhance the United Way of Tulare County "First Call" program that will act as a social services referral clearinghouse. The First Call Program utilizes a toll free number (1-800-283-9323) that community members can call to obtain assistance from a multitude of resources available through the United Way's Community Resource Directory and is currently available Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. Effective Monday, Dec. 1, the Visalia Police Department, United Way of Tulare County, and the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency implemented a First Call Program enhancement that will make the toll-free number and a multitude of community resources available on a 24-hour, 7-day a week basis. The toll-free number provides services in both English & Spanish and the operators will connect the caller to an appropriate organization or agency to assist with their needs.

BUILDING PERMITS DOWN 21%: The total number of building permits issued from January through November was 3,606, down from 4,542, or 21%, from the same period last year. The total valuation of all permits was down 40% for the same time period, from \$349,368,814 in 2007 to \$208,675,442 this year. The only increase was in the value of commercial additions, from \$31,018,224 in 2007 to \$41,491,892 this year.

‘AVOID THE 11’ BOOSTS DUI ENFORCEMENT DURING HOLIDAYS:

Beginning Dec. 12, 11 law enforcement agencies within Tulare County will participate in the “Avoid the 11” program as part of the state’s Holiday DUI Enforcement Campaign. The campaign is asked to call 911 to report suspected drunk drivers. As part of the regional AVOID program, sobriety checkpoints, local saturation patrols, warrant/probation sweeps, will be conducted to help make the holiday commutes safer and deter people from driving while impaired. The Visalia Police Department will conduct sobriety checkpoints Saturday, Dec. 13, at an undisclosed location within city limits. Alcohol-related fatalities dropped 6.7 percent between 2006 and 2007, the first year since 1998 in which these fatalities have declined in California.

DECEMBER’S CHOCKED FULL OF GOODIES AT PARKS & RECREATION:

Family events abound during the holidays at the City’s Parks and Recreation Department. Here’s a sampling:

- **TAMALE & SALSA FESTIVAL:** The Visalia Parks and Recreation Department is planning the 3rd Annual Tamale Festival and will be adding an extra kick this year with a newby adding the category of “Salsa Challenge”. Applications are now being accepted for tamale & salsa contestants as well as informational booths and vendors.” to its cooking contests. This is a great family event that will be held on Saturday, December 6th and includes entertainment, provide music, food and fun. The Parks & Recreation Department is located at 345 N. Jacob Street, and open from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. Call the Recreation Hotline at 713-4365 or visit our website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us.
- **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA & CANDY CANE HUNT:** Join us for the first Breakfast with Santa & Candy Cane Hunt at the Anthony Community Center on Saturday, December 13, 2008. This is a family tradition that you can’t afford to miss! Be sure to join Santa for a hearty breakfast and crafts in his workshop. These youth sport leagues are for youth in pre-school to 8th grade. What better way to keep your child busy and active, sign them up today! For more information contact Hugo at 713-4528. A candy can hunt will also be available for children ages 1-6. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Photos will be available on site for an additional charge. The Parks & Recreation Department is located at 345 N. Jacob Street, and open from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. Call the Recreation Hotline at 713-4365 or visit our website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us.
- **ACADEMY FOR SUPERHEROS:** Come join our new Specialty Camp- “Academy for Superheroes”. Every child has a favorite super hero! The City of Visalia is issuing a call to all potential super heroes to enroll in one week of vigorous super hero training running from January 5-9th. Activities will include exercise, play, learning and a field trip to the mall to build your own “Super Hero” Build a Bear. There are two age groups: (4-7 years of age will be in session from 9-12 noon & 8-10 years of age will be in session from 1-4pm) Sign up at the Anthony Center now! The Parks & Recreation Department is located at 345 N. Jacob Street, and open from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. Call the Recreation Hotline at 713-4365 or visit our website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us.



FALL DROP-OFF NOW THROUGH DEC. 20: All City of Visalia residents and commercial gardeners to recycle yard trimmings, grass clippings, leaves, branches, wood, and lumber scraps and participate in the City's Fall Recycling program by dropping off yard waste now through Saturday, Dec. 20, at Tulare County Compost and Biomass, 24478 Road 140, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, or Wood Industries, 7715 Avenue 296, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Commercial gardeners are limited to a maximum of a 1-ton vehicle and 12-foot trailer. Residents receive 1-yard of compost for each load of material. The event is free to all Visalia residents and commercial gardeners. Residents must provide proof of residency. A utility bill or driver's license is acceptable. All commercial gardeners must provide a City of Visalia Business License. The following is accepted as yard waste: branches; grass clippings; leaves; lumber (not treated); pruning; yard trimmings; and wood (not painted). Bamboo, palm fronds and yucca tree is not recyclable—place these items in the garbage side of your split can. For more information, call 713-4500.

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