

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION GIVES UPDATE: At its April 26 joint meeting with the Visalia City Council, Parks & Recreation Commission Chairperson Robert Mijares gave an update on commission accomplishments and anticipated items of concern for 2010, including an anti-smoking campaign in the parks, a comprehensive bikes and trails network, increased facility program use, and encouraging sporting tournaments and regional programming in the City. Revitalizing the Lincoln Oval Park and advocating for healthy lifestyles and environmentally friendly practices at all Parks and Recreation venues were identified by the Commission as its predominant area of focus for this year.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: Watch for the Parks & Recreation Brochures in the mail this weekend—chocked full of activities for people of all ages. Go to www.liveandplayvisalia.com for more information.

OTHER COUNCIL ACTION: Council authorized staff to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Energy to use a consultant to conduct planning efforts required in the Local Assurance Planning (LEAP) initiative grant. The City was awarded \$200,000 through the LEAP initiative to fund the development of an energy assurance plan. The LEAP grant is a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

FIRST OF FOUR COUNCIL TOWN HALL MEETINGS SET FOR APRIL 29: A series of four Council Town Hall meetings kicks off Thursday, April 29, at 6 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Hall, at Garden and Murray. Council Member Steve Nelsen will moderate the informational meeting discussing issues of interest to citizens in the northeast quadrant of the City. Staff will provide brief presentations on the following topics: Update on City efforts related to the flood plain issue; gang suppression; and road projects in the area. The other three meetings will be held in July, September and November, will each be moderated by Vice Mayor Amy Shuklian, Council Members Warren Gubler, or Council Member Michael Lane, and will be held in the other three quadrants of the City.

SANTA FE OVERCROSSING DEDICATION CEREMONY SET FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 29: After nearly 15 months, the Santa Fe Overcrossing at Santa Fe and Mineral King Avenue will be officially dedicated at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 29. The dedication ceremony will include the sealing of the 50- and 100-year time capsules into the bridge. Speakers include Visalia Mayor Bob Link, Tulare County Board of Supervisor Chairman Steve Worthley, Tulare County Association of Governments Vice-Chair and Lindsay Council Member Pam Kimball and Mike Rastegar, Caltrans Deputy District 6 Director, Program and Project Management.

VISALIA OFFICER RECEIVES STATE 'HERO AWARD': On Saturday, April 24th, Visalia Police Officer Jason Logas was awarded a "California Hero Award" by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) for his DUI enforcement efforts throughout 2009 that totaled 88 arrests of drunk drivers in the City of Visalia. Approximately 100 different Law Enforcement Agencies from throughout the state attended the event which was sponsored by M.A.D.D., The California Office of Traffic Safety, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Association. The Visalia Police Department currently has three grants involving DUI enforcement. The grants cover DUI check points, saturation details, DUI warrant details, and county wide DUI consolidation efforts.

PREVIEW AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA AT KICK-OFF DINNER: Visalia will again play host to some of the best athletes in the world when the Amgen Tour of California returns for the start of Stage 5 on Thursday, May 20. Get a preview of the race at the Visalia Amgen Tour of California Kick-Off Dinner at 6 p.m. Monday, May 10, at the Hall of Fame Club at Rawhide Stadium. Join Dave Towle, the voice of American cycling and on-site announcer for the Amgen Tour of California, as he shares insights and anecdotes about the race and the racers. Participate in a silent auction featuring items autographed by Lance Armstrong, Levi Leipheimer, and other race favorites, as well as unique experiences associated with the Visalia stage start. The reception and silent auction starts at 6 p.m., with dinner and the program at 7 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person and seating is limited. For reservations, call 734.5876, or e-mail steve@visaliachamber.org.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP ON RACE DAY: There are a number of ways to participate on race day as a volunteer or spectator. On the morning of the race, over 300 volunteers will be needed to act as course marshals, direct traffic and parking, and provide staff support. Anyone who is interested in volunteering must register on the ATOC website: www.amgentourofcalifornia.com.

VISALIA POLICE STAFF COMPLETE LEADERSHIP TRAINING: Visalia Police Lt. Jason Salazar and Police Systems Analyst Robin Meyst recently completed an intensive four-week Los Angeles Leadership Program. The program is a 136 hour course and teaches 27 behavioral science and adult education theories compiled from top universities in the nation.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE VISALIA CONVENTION AND VISITORS

BUREAU AND UPCOMING EVENTS: Want to help your community? Volunteers are currently being sought to assist the Visalia Convention & Visitors Bureau by participating in welcoming attendees to various events in the City. A database of prospective volunteers is currently being developed. Volunteers willing to contribute their time to accommodate the inquiries of individuals attending local functions can contact Jackie Bean at 334-0141 or email her at jackie@visitvisalia.org. Your name will be added to a database of volunteers and you will be notified by email of a list of upcoming events needing volunteers. Duties may include: Sign in/Check in of attendees at functions; distribute welcome/registrations packets and itineraries; assisting attendees with direction and shuttle times; and serving as an usher at events. A scheduled volunteer meeting will be held prior to each event to review details and duties.

OPENINGS ON COMMITTEES, COMMISSION : The City of Visalia is accepting applications from interested citizens for its City committees and commission.

- **Citizen's Advisory Committee** – Acts as a liaison between the general public and the City Council concerning community issues. The Committee has openings for three alternate members.
- **Disability Advocacy Committee** – advises the City on the needs of disabled people. The committee promotes physical, social, communication and attitudinal access for every citizen of Visalia. The Committee currently has three regular member vacancies and two alternate member vacancies.
- **Environmental Committee** – heightens environmental awareness and conservation in Visalia. Issues addressed include air quality, hazardous waste, recycling, water conservation and all other natural resources. The Committee currently has one regular member vacancy and one alternate member vacancy.
- **North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee** – serves as a liaison between the City and the North Visalia community. The Committee has openings for two regular members.
- **Parks & Recreation Commission** – advises the City Council and City staff in matters pertaining to parks, playgrounds and recreation centers. The Commission currently has one alternate vacancy.
- **Transit Advisory Committee** – researches and analyzes the community's continuing transit needs, reviews operations, markets the transit program and makes recommendations about the business affairs of the transit system. The Committee currently has two vacancies for regular members and two vacancies as alternate members. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis and kept for a period of two years. Visit www.ci.visalia.ca.us, "Committees/Commissions" to view the informational handbook and application or contact the City Clerk's Office (559) 713-4512.

BOOK NOW FOR SEQUOIA SHUTTLE'S FOURTH SEASON: Sequoia Shuttle starts its fourth season of public transportation from Visalia to the majestic Sequoia National Park on May 27th. To date, the partnership service between the City of Visalia and the National Park Service has transported close to 15,000 patrons. The \$10 roundtrips, for trips taken before June 11th (not including weekends and holidays), is perfect for those looking for an easy get-away from the heat for themselves or their families. For the remainder of the season, which ends on September 20th, the cost is only \$7.50 each way. Groups of eight or more can get discounted seats for \$6 each way but will need to book by calling Transit Analyst Gamaliel Anguiano at 713-4595 for the discount. Scheduled pick-up times are easy and convenient. Visit www.sequoiashuttle.com for more information and booking arrangements.