

SEALS/BIEHLE AWARDED \$2 MILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR TRANSIT MAINTENANCE FACILITY: At its May 3 regular meeting, the City Council authorized the Transit Division to award the construction contract for the Transit Operations & Maintenance Facility expansion in the amount of \$2,070,000 to Seals/Biehle General Contractors of Visalia. The City will use \$1.1 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funds that were left over from the Transit Center expansion project toward the Operations Facility. The remaining funds will come from the Local Transportation Fund initially and be replaced by Prop 1B funds that the Transit Division is programmed to receive as the State is able to sell bonds. Both the LTF and Prop 1B funds are not scheduled to be used for any other purpose until the Prop 1B funds are received, at which time the LTF funds can be redirected to other capital or operating expenditures.

OTHER COUNCIL ACTIONS: City Council also authorized a contractual agreement with Quad-Knopf for \$27,450 for consultant services for the Mooney Boulevard Corridor Zoning Study. The study is intended to identify practical zoning measures that the City could implement with very little public cost to encourage more appropriate, practical development and remove inappropriate/outdated “zoning barriers” for projects along the Mooney Corridor.

MAY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE: Here are the dates for upcoming Council Meetings: Today at 6 p.m., joint meeting with the Visalia Unified School District, Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Ave.; Monday, May 10, 7 p.m., joint meeting with College of the Sequoias Board of Trustees in the COS Administration Building Room 1, 915 S. Mooney Blvd.; Monday, May 17, 4 p.m. Work Session, 7 p.m. Regular Session; City Hall Council Chambers at 707 W. Acequia Ave.

BUILDING PERMITS HOLD STEADY WITH ‘09: As of April 30, 2010, the total number of permits issued in the City was 2009, one ahead of the total for the same time period in 2009. A total of 1,009 permits have been issued since Jan. 1, at a value of \$40,743,087. For the same time period in 2009, 1,008 permits were issued at a value of \$54,508,325, about 25% higher value than this year. New single-family dwelling were down 3%, from 139 in 2009 to 135 in 2010. Residential additions were up 12% from 258 in 2009 to 289 in 2010.

VICE MAYOR TO HOLD OFFICE HOURS ON MAY 5: Vice Mayor Amy Shuklian will hold her regular monthly office hours on Wednesday, May 5, to allow the public to meet and discuss issues one-on-one. The monthly office hours are held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the large conference room at City Hall, at 707 W. Acequia Ave. The first hour, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. will be a time for drop-in visits, and appointments can be scheduled in advance for the second hour, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, contact Office Assistant Gladys Ramirez at 713-4314. Shuklian can be reached through 713-4400, then enter 8313, or by email at ashuklian@ci.visalia.ca.us. You also can receive information and updates from Vice Mayor Shuklian through Facebook. Mayor Bob Link can be reached at 559-713-4400, Ext. 2313 or by email at blink@ci.visalia.ca.us. Council Member Warren Gubler can be reached at 559-713-4400, Ext. 3313 or by email at wgubler@ci.visalia.ca.us. Council Member Michael Lane can be reached at 559-713-4400, Ext. 4313 or by email at mlane@ci.visalia.ca.us. Council Member Steve Nelsen can also be reached by calling 559-713-4400, Ext. 7313, by email at snelsen@ci.visalia.ca.us, or at his [personal web address at www.stevenelsen.com](http://www.stevenelsen.com).

150 TREES TO BE PLANTED ON ARBOR DAY: Join the Parks & Urban Forestry Division in celebrating Arbor Day 2010 by planting a tree. The planting event will be held on Saturday, May 8th from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Valley Oaks Golf Course. Over 150 trees will be planted. This event is family friendly with children of all ages welcome. Bring a shovel and help support Arbor Day 2010.

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.

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 713-4594 for the discount. Scheduled pick-up times are easy and convenient. Visit www.sequoiashuttle.com for more information and booking arrangements.