



COUNCIL APPROVES ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR DESIGN OF PLAZA DRIVE WIDENING:

Council members approved allocating an additional \$884,350 for the design for the Plaza Drive widening project in west Visalia. The original design plans were made in 1999, according to city of Visalia documents. The change in cost is because of additions to the project requested by the state Department of Transportation, as well as changes in predicted traffic flow, as the original plan was made 12 years ago. The additional money won't come from the city but from other sources, such as Measure R, a county-wide sales tax for needs. The design is expected to be complete by June 10 and construction to begin either the end of this year or beginning of 2012. The entire project should take about 18 months. The Plaza Drive widening project was initially estimated at \$8.9 million, but as the years went by and the plan grew, that cost has grown to \$29 million. For more information, click [here](#).

VALUES UP, NUMBERS DOWN IN BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED: While the total number of building permits issued so far in 2011 was down 11%, the value was up by 36%. The number of permits issued in 2010 was 1,009, compared to 902 for year-to-date in 2011. The valuation was \$40,743,087 in 2010—up to \$55,603,201 in 2011. Increases in number of permits issued were seen in residential additions and alterations (327) and valuations for new commercial (up 914% with \$30,364,000) and commercial additions, alterations and signs (up 40% with \$9,884,287).

VICE MAYOR HOLDS OFFICE HOURS: Vice Mayor Amy Shuklian will hold her regular monthly office hours on Wednesday, May 4 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the large conference room at City Hall, at 707 W. Acequia Ave. The first hour, from 5 to 5:45 p.m. will be a time for drop-in visits, and appointments can be scheduled in advance for the second hour, from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, contact Gladys Ruiz at 713-4314. Shuklian can be reached through 713-4400, then enter 8313, or by email at ashuklian@ci.visalia.ca.us.

CHAT WITH COUNCIL MEMBER STEVE NELSEN: Visalia City Council Member Steve Nelsen will hold a “Chat with the Council Member” community meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 5, at the Lovers Lane Trailhead by the St. Johns River Trail. This informal meeting will give the citizens of Visalia a chance to meet with Council Member Nelsen to discuss recent steps the City has taken to deal with flood control issues related to the FEMA flood control maps. Bring your lawn chairs and any questions you may have related to flood control measures. City staff continues to work aggressively toward minimizing the financial impacts of FEMA’s new Flood Insurance Rate Maps on our residents. Staff continues to work with our consultants, lobbyist, and FEMA itself on a number of fronts including: FEMA’s new approach to analyzing levees; federal legislation pertaining to the National Flood Insurance Program; FEMA’s Community Rating System Program; work related to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps ; and assisting residents with flood insurance program-related issues. Council Member 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).

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE MOVES INTO SECOND PHASE: The General Plan is a long-range planning and policy document which guides city growth and public services. The 25-member General Plan Update Review Committee is leading this effort. Topics to be addressed include: Land use, transportation, street patterns, parks and open space, public services, city design, noise, safety, *contact Community Relations Manager Nancy Loliva at nloliva@ci.visalia.ca.us or call 713-4535.*

conservation, and air quality. The Plan is now at the stage where several different “growth concepts” – maps showing the potential locations of future housing, job centers, parks, schools, greenbelts, transit and other amenities – are being prepared. They show a range of concepts to guide future growth and development in Visalia.

Community meetings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. will be held at the following locations:

- **Tuesday, May 10** – Annie Mitchell Elementary School Cafeteria, 2121 E. Laura St.
- **Thursday, May 12** – Cottonwood Elementary School Cafeteria, 4222 S. Dans St.
- **Tuesday, May 17** – Four Creeks Elementary School Cafeteria, 1844 N. Burke St.
- **Thursday, May 19** – Oak Grove Elementary School Cafeteria, 4445 W. Ferguson Ave.

Interpreters for non-English speaking residents will be available at these outreach meetings :

- **Tuesday, May 24**, Fairview School Cafeteria, 1051 Robin Drive, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.; and the Founder’s Room at CSET, 312 N.W. 3rd Ave., from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

- **Wednesday, May 25**, Manuel Hernandez Center, 247 W. Ferguson Ave., from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Residents will also be able to call in their questions and comments about the General Plan and the growth concepts in an on-line chat from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, hosted by the Visalia Times-Delta, with General Plan Update Committee members. A citywide public workshop in June at the Convention Center will provide opportunities to learn about the growth concepts, participate in small group discussions, and record your ideas for the Update Committee to consider as they move forward. For dates and times of upcoming events, go to www.visaliageneralplanupdate.com.

BAD LUCK AND TROUBLE - Blues, Brews & BBQ is moving to the Convention Center Courtyard for one night only on Friday, May 6th from 6 to 10 pm. The FREE concert is the second of the series and will feature the dynamic band Bad Luck and Trouble. Audiences of all ages are encouraged to come out and enjoy amazing live music, cold beverages and barbeque from 6 to 10 pm at the Convention Center Courtyard on Acequia between Court and Bridge. For more information or to see a full schedule of bands, visit www.DowntownVisalia.com or call (559) 732-7737.

DUI CHECKPOINT ON MAY 6: The Visalia Police Department will be conducting a DUI/ Drivers License checkpoint on Friday, May 6. Traffic volume and weather permitting, all vehicles may be checked and drivers who are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs will be arrested. The public is encouraged to help keep roadways safe by calling 911 if they see a suspected impaired driver. Funding for this operation is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

PARKS AND RECREATION EVENTS PREVIEW: Experience a showcase of art programs sponsored by the Visalia Parks & Recreation Department from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 20 at the Visalia Senior Center. Enjoy a tasty barbecue while you admire the art. Admission to the showcase is free, and the cost for the barbecue is \$3.50 per person, and will be served from 12:30 to 2 p.m. The second annual Dia Del Nino and Hands of Harvest Exhibit will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 14 in Mooney Grove Park. The Tulare County Museum, the Board of Supervisors, the Tulare County Office of Education, the Tulare County Historical Society and the Visalia Parks & Recreation Department will present the Hands of Harvest Exhibit, highlighting the Mexican Farmworker Experience in Tulare County from 1910 to 1964. The Dia Del Nino Celebration will be held at the Tulare County Museum of Farm Labor and Agriculture in Mooney Grove Park. Admission is free.

You can now self-subscribe to receive issues of “Inside City Hall”. Go to the City’s website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us, click on About Visalia and go to Inside City Hall Newsletter. For information, call Nancy Loliva, Community Relations Manager, at (559) 713-4535 or email nloliva@ci.visalia.ca.us.