

Inside City Hall

Beyond the headlines

NOVEMBER 22, 2011

CITY UPDATES



CITY DEDICATES NEWEST PARK: The Perry Family Neighborhood Park, Visalia’s newest park, recently opened to the public. The 3.5 acre park is located at Visalia Parkway and County Center in southeast Visalia. The new park, located adjacent to Packwood Creek, features a sheltered playground with play equipment for both younger and older children. The park also has a small shade shelter for parties, a half-court basketball court, open space turf area for active play, a perimeter sidewalk that loops around the park for walking enthusiasts, several picnic tables and benches, new trees and drought tolerant landscaping. The park was designed by Royston, Hanamoto, Alley & Abey from Mill Valley, and the general contractor was BMY Construction from Fresno. The park was built on time, and on budget, at a final cost of about \$850,000. In addition to the Perry family donation, financing for the park project came from new housing development park impact fees. For more information, please contact the Visalia Parks and Recreation Department at (559) 713-4365, or email at recreation@ci.visalia.ca.us or check out the City’s website at www.liveandplayvisalia.com.

TREAT YOURSELF TO UP TO \$500 IN ENERGY SAVINGS THIS

HOLIDAY: Help yourself to home energy savings. The Home Energy Tune-up Program and California Energy Commission have joined forces to help you find permanent home energy savings and lower your monthly energy costs. Programs like this are part of the City’s ongoing efforts to reduce energy usage and costs for its citizens. To learn more about this program, click [here](#).

OPERATION SAFE HOLIDAY KICKS OFF NOV. 25: For over 20 years, the Visalia Police Department has implemented a special community policing project called Operation Safe Holiday. Operation Safe Holiday is the extra effort put forth by our Department and the many Citizen Volunteers who team up with us, to reduce criminal activity in our community around the holiday season. This year Operation Safe Holiday will begin Friday Nov. 25. Patrol officers and citizen volunteers will increase patrols at the cities shopping centers. The traffic unit will increase the number of D.U.I. checkpoints during the holiday season to discourage drunk driving. The 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.

COUNCIL MEETING RECAPS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY RESULTS: The City Council received a recap of the annual Make a Difference Day, held on Oct. 22, with 428 volunteers performing 1,643 hours of work on projects. This year’s effort was coordinated by the City’s Parks and Urban Forestry divisions with assistance from the Urban Tree Foundation. Volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, Neighborhood Church, El Diamante High School Green Club, private businesses, service organization members, and citizens participated in work at project sites at Riverway Sports Park, Packwood Riparian, Seven Oaks Park, planters along Main Street, Cobblestone Ponding Basin, Blain Park, the alleyways along Houston Avenue, Mill Creek at Stevenson and Conyer and at Hyde and Main, the roadside along Santa Fe, Summers Park, Stonebrook Park, Soroptimist Park, and along the St. Johns River.

POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDED “AVOID THE 18” DUI GRANT: The Visalia Police Department received notification of a \$272,000 grant award from the California Office of Traffic Safety for the AVOID the 18 DUI grant. The Governor’s Office of Traffic Safety is sponsoring the AVOID grant, which provides participating agencies the overtime funds, equipment, and resources necessary to operate complete DUI enforcement programs. The AVOID campaign is dedicated to reducing the number of alcohol related collisions, increase the number of DUI related arrests, and raise general public awareness regarding the problems associated with drinking and driving. The AVOID grant is a regional DUI effort in Tulare and Kings County. Based upon its size and prior history with grants, the Visalia Police Department is serving, at the request of OTS, as the host agency for this campaign. Participating agencies include police departments from the cities of Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Tulare, Porterville, Woodlake, the College of the Sequoias, the Tulare County Sheriff’s Office, the Tulare County Probation Department, and the Visalia office of the California Highway Patrol. Kings County is represented by police departments from the cities of Hanford, Lemoore, Corcoran, Avenal, the Kings County Sheriff’s Office, the Kings County Probation Department, and the Hanford office of the California Highway Patrol. As the host agency, the Visalia Police Department will oversee the grant during this collaborative effort. The DUI enforcement and education grant will provide up to \$272,000 with no matching funds required by the City of Visalia.

CITY CALENDAR

HOLLY TROLLEY MAKES HOLIDAY SHOPPING EASY: The Visalia Towne Trolley is a marque symbol of Downtown Visalia. But now, during the holiday season, Visalia Transit is gifting Trolley service to another major shopping corridor to help ease traffic congestion. Starting the day after Thanksgiving and operating through Christmas Eve, the Visalia Towne Trolley service will be extended to Mooney Boulevard, giving riders more than 40 stops along Mooney and in downtown Visalia. And even better yet, the Holly Trolley will waive its 25 cent fee. For more information on route schedules, visit www.HollyTrolley.com or call the Visalia Transit Greenline at 1-877-40-Go-Green. (1-877-404-6473).

HOLIDAY LED LIGHT EXCHANGE SET FOR DEC. 3 IN DOWNTOWN

VISALIA: The City of Visalia and Southern California Edison want to help you to save energy this holiday season. Visalia residents are invited to exchange up to 5 of their old incandescent holiday lights for new, energy efficient LED strands – for free! Come on out to the Downtown Visalia Open House event scheduled for Saturday December 3rd and be sure to stop by 207 W. Main St. (in front of Nature’s Pharmacy) between 11 am and 3 pm. Don’t forget to bring up to 5 strands of incandescent holiday lights and exchange them for new LED lights - for free. Five hundred strands of new LED lights are available through this exchange program, which is administered by the City of Visalia and its partnership with Southern California Edison under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Exchanges are first-come, first-served, while supplies last. If you plan to use lights to decorate during the holiday season, make the switch to LEDs.

Some more reasons to make the switch:

- LEDs reduce energy consumption by as much as 95% compared to traditional incandescent bulbs;
- A typical 50-bulb incandescent strand of lights uses 250 watts and an equivalent 70-bulb LED strand uses only three watts;
- LEDs can produce bright light for up to 20 holiday seasons;
- LEDs do not give off heat like conventional decorative bulbs, reducing the risk of fire, and;
- LEDs are more durable, perform well in cold weather, and provide brighter and bolder light colors.

For more information call the City of Visalia’s Natural Resource Conservation Division at 559-713-4531. Light up your Holidays and SAVE!

REFUSE SCHEDULE FOR THANKSGIVING: Residential refuse service normally scheduled for Thursday, November 24th will be collected on Wednesday November 23rd. There will be no change in residential refuse collection on Friday. Commercial refuse normally scheduled for Thursday, November 24th will be collected on Friday November 25th. Commercial refuse normally scheduled for Friday, November 25th will be collected on Saturday, November 26th. City of Visalia business offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 24th and 25th in observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

NEED A HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA? Just in time for the Holidays! Purchase your Father-Daughter Dance tickets now for the 2012 event. This year’s theme is “Night at the Oscars.” Live music, prizes, appetizers and a complimentary photo help to make this a night to remember. The event will be held at the Visalia Convention Center on February 24th from 6 to 9pm. Tickets are \$45 per couple and \$20 for each additional daughter. For more information contact 713-4365 or email mfitzgerald@ci.visalia.ca.us.

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, contact Community Relations Manager Nancy Loliva at nloliva@ci.visalia.ca.us or call 713-4535.