

Inside City Hall

Beyond the headlines

DECEMBER 6, 2011

CITY UPDATES

Building Permits Show Bump in Commercial Projects, Residential Additions:

The total value of all permits issued this year through November is up 18% - \$127,298,311 compared to \$107,904,187 for 2010. Single family dwelling permits continued their decline, down 31% from 279 in 2010 to 192 for 2011. In contrast, new commercial permits were up 45%, from 20 in 2010 to 29 in 2011, and the value was up 177%, from \$13,968,175 in 2010 to \$38,627,950 in 2011.

Multi-Family Affordable Housing Development Completed: The Court and Paradise Apartments in Visalia will celebrate its grand opening at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 1526 S. Court St. The apartments are the result of the efforts of a partnership with Kaweah Management Company, the Tulare County Housing Authority, Visalians Interested in Affordable Housing, the City of Visalia and the Visalia Redevelopment Agency. The project is unique because Kaweah Management Company and the Tulare County Housing Authority were able to acquire an existing apartment complex immediately adjacent to an old home and vacant lot, renovate the 11 rental units, relocate the home and construct a total of nine new rental units on the vacant lot and parcel where the home once stood. The City and the Redevelopment Agency contributed \$1 million toward the construction and rehabilitation phases of the project, with \$500,000 in HOME funds and another \$500,000 loan in Redevelopment low-mod funds.

COUNCIL MEETING RECAPS

Council Hears Update on Status of Downtown Infrastructure: The City's century-old downtown buildings and modern fire codes and regulations are not a match made in heaven. City staff members from Administration, Engineering and the Fire Department formed a committee five months ago with Downtown property owners/representatives Harvey May, Don Celillo, Stephen Peck, and Mike Fistolera. The group, including representatives from Southern California Edison and California Water Service, has focused on trying to find practical solutions to the cost-prohibitive issues that often prevent anyone from attempting to rehabilitate or expand downtown structures. The group has identified infrastructure issues (electrical service upgrades and fire protection systems) and developed a strategy to address each. The problem is how to finance the concepts. The City will discuss options and develop possible solutions with the Downtown Property Owners Association. For the complete staff report, click [here](#).

RFP Process Begins for 911 Communications Center: The City Council received an update for the new 9-1-1 Communications Center/Public Safety Facility Project from the Core Project Committee. Council authorized the committee to proceed with the RFP process to hire an architectural/engineering and design consultant to plan, design and provide construction documents for the project. Phase 1 will include the evaluation and selection of a site for the 9-1-1 Communications Center, a facility needs assessment, preliminary design and estimate, and the development of an overall site plan to include essential and non-essential service facilities. The following timeline for the RFP process is anticipated: January / February 2012— Begin RFP Process (open bid 30 days); February / March 2012—Committee Review RFP's, invite consultants to Pre-Interview Conference, select consultant; April 2012—Update Council and recommend consultant for hire.

CITY CALENDAR

Mayor to Hold Office Hours on Dec. 13: Mayor Amy Shuklian will hold her regular monthly office hours on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Office hours will be held 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

conference room in City Hall, at 767 W. Acquila Ave. The first hour, from 5 to 5:45 p.m., will be a time for drop-in visits. 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.

Fall Drop Off On Through Jan. 7: The City's annual fall yard waste recycling event runs through January 7. Locations accepting yard trimmings, grass clippings, leaves, branches, wood, lumber and food scraps from City of Visalia residents are the Tulare County Compost & Biomass, 24478 Road 140 from 8 to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and WC Wood Industries at 7715 Avenue 296 from 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday and 8 am to 3 pm on Saturday. The event provides a free way for residents to rid property of yard waste and compostable material. Residents must provide proof of residency, and a utility bill or driver's license is acceptable. For more information, call 713-4500 or to go www.gogreenvisalia.com.

Tule Fog 5K/10K & Kids Fun Run: Kick off your new year with a healthy step. The Tule Fog Race event on Saturday, January 21, 2012 will feature a 5K/10K run and Kids Fun Run. The event will start at Cutler Park and will run along the scenic St. John's River Trail. Race day events include registration 7am, Kids Fun Run 7:45am and 5K/10K run at 8:00am. Early registration fees include \$10 Kids Fun Run, \$20 5K run and \$25 10K run. All participants will receive goodie bags and healthy snacks. T-shirts and great "raffle prizes" will be available for those early registrants who sign up before January 13th.

Healthy Visalia Corporate Challenge: Healthy Visalia Committee & Visalia Parks and Recreation Department are teaming up to provide the first annual Corporate Challenge. The Visalia Corporate Challenge is a fun way for your business to compete with other businesses by participating in ongoing Visalia Parks and Recreation health and wellness events. Participants sign up for races through Visalia Parks and Recreation and write their business name on the registration form. Participants then receive (1) point per person that participates from your business in each race throughout the year. The "Corporate Challenge Cup" will be awarded to the business with the most points at the Healthy Visalia Festival in Oct 2012. Participants will be able to follow point totals after each event at www.healthyvisalia.com. The first qualifying event is the Tule Fog run on Saturday, January 21, 2012. For more information visit www.healthyvisalia.com or www.liveandplayvisalia.com or call John at 713-4585 or email jbradley@ci.visalia.ca.us

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.

