



DECEMBER 20, 2011

COUNCIL MEETING RECAPS

Kings-Tulare High Speed Rail Station Receives Spirited Debate: At its Dec. 19 meeting, City Council members heard from residents, staff and elected officials from Kings County in response to a proposed \$600,000 high speed rail station planning grant application by both the City of Visalia and Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG). The City had approached TCAG about submitting a joint application, and the organization approved applying for the grant at its Dec. 6 meeting. City staff recommended the application be filed so the potential for a future station is preserved. The grant application is to be used for planning activities associated with the proposed Kings-Tulare High Speed Train Station at the juncture of State Highways 198 and 43 and the Cross Valley Railroad. The grant application would include detailed planning for a basic station site. The work would also include analysis and strategies to enhance transit connectivity and promote transit-oriented development among cities in the region. But after hearing concerns raised by Hanford residents and staff and elected officials from Kings County, Council unanimously voted to delay taking action on the grant application until its January 17 meeting to allow time for more discussion with Kings County representatives. For the staff report, click [here](#).

A Look Back, Ahead at Valley Oak Golf Course: A wet year, a major construction project, and the economic downturn contributed to a modest 3% downturn in the rounds of play at Valley Oaks Golf Course from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. During this time period, the course saw 62,670 rounds of play, down 2,177 rounds. Significant amounts of rain in March and April, a total irrigation replacement on 18 of the 27 holes at the course, and decreased discretionary spending among golfers all factored into the decline. The course did see an increase in the number of rounds from tournaments, which capture more revenue per round than regular play. In Fiscal year 2010-11, the course saw 4,230 tournament rounds of golf, up by 576 rounds from the previous year. The top complaint among golfers is the condition of the bunkers on the Lakes Course. CourseCo, Inc., which manages the operation of the course and facilities, proposed the renovation of these bunkers as the next capital improvement project at a cost estimated between \$150,000 and \$200,000. Council OKed staff to work with CourseCo to prepare a definitive cost estimate for Council approval. For the complete staff report, click [here](#).

City's Safety Program Revamped: Angela Cantrell, the City's new Safety Officer, outlined the work of the dynamic program to the City Council at its Dec. 19 work session. The goal is to provide education and guidance to prevent injuries, illnesses, and exposures while achieving and maintaining regulatory compliance. Over the next year, the City's required written protocols will undergo in-depth evaluation, revision and expanded distribution. For the complete staff report, click [here](#).

Boards, Committees To See New Council Faces: Mayor Amy Shuklian's recommendations of Council representatives to City boards and committees were approved at the Dec. 19 meeting. Several changes were made, including the appointment of Mayor Shuklian and Vice Mayor Steve Nelsen to the Public Safety Communications (9-1-1 Center) committee; deleting representatives and removing the now-completed Visalia Unified School District Trustee Area Election Boundary Committee and Natural Resources committee. City Manager Steve Salomon and Assistant City Manager Mike Olmos will serve on the Tulare County Economic Development Corporation as elected officials are no longer required by its bylaws. Former City Council member Evan Long will continue to serve as the City's representative to the Lake Kaweah Expansion Project. For the complete list of representatives, click [here](#).

Other Council News: Council authorized the City work with Habitat for Humanity of Tulare County and \$480,000 from Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds to purchase and rehab a minimum

of five foreclosed single family homes for at or below 50% of the area median income. The City's been using NSP funds to resell 27 homes to qualified, low-income households and 1 four-plex to Visalia Rescue Mission. The City recently purchased its 28th home, and another home is in escrow.

CITY CALENDAR

Recycle Your Christmas Trees for Free from Dec. 26 through Jan. 7: Nine locations will be set up to accept your Christmas Trees for recycling. Ornaments, lights, tinsel and metal stands must be removed. Locations are as follows:

- College of the Sequoias' farm at the southeast corner of Walnut and Atwood;
- Food 4 Less at 2025 N. Dinuba Blvd.;
- Neighborhood Church at 5505 W. Riggan Ave. at Akers;
- Parkside Chapel at 3200 W. Walnut Ave., east of Lovers Lane;
- Parking area at the corner of St. Johns and Lovers Lane;
- SaveMart at Akers and Goshen (drop of area at the southeast corner behind the shopping center);
- SaveMart at Campus at Demaree behind BJ's Express Market;
- Sequoia Mall at the northwest corner, behind Hobby Lobby, and;
- Sierra Baptist Church at 1437 E. Walnut Ave.

Mark your calendars for 2012 Dump On Us Events on Jan. 21, April 21, July 21 and Oct. 20. For more information, go to www.dumponus.org.

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 Business Challenge: Healthy Visalia Committee & Visalia Parks and Recreation Department are teaming up to provide the first Business Challenge. The Visalia Business 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 "Business 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.

