



MARCH 20, 2012



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City Updates

Recruitment Open Until March 28 for Planning Commission Positions:

Applications are being accepted until March 28 for three positions on the Visalia Planning Commission. Three Planning Commission terms will end June 30, 2012. Two of the current Commissioners, Larry Segure and Terese Lane, are eligible for reappointment. The third commissioner, Vincent Salinas, has served more than eight years and is not eligible for reappointment. The Planning Commission makes recommendations to the City Council concerning land use, building, subdivisions, administers the Zoning Ordinance and handles matters that affect the growth and development of Visalia. The Commission meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Additional work sessions and meetings may be scheduled to address specific matters. This position requires the filing of a Fair Political Practices Commission Conflict of Interest Form (Form 700). Recruitment will continue until Wednesday, March 28, at 5 p.m. Interviews, which are open to the public, would be held on Monday, April 9, beginning at 4 p.m. The format of those interviews would depend upon the number of applications received. The Council would consider formally appointing the 3 Planning Commissioners on April 16, for the term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2014. Applications are available on the City's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us, "Committees/Commissions, and will be accepted until 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, either by FAX at 713-4800 or via email to Deputy City Clerk Donjia Huffmon at dhuffmon@ci.visalia.ca.us.

Council Meeting Recaps

City Shows SMART Side: Cleaning up some of the City's struggling neighborhoods can be a messy job, but the SMART team appears up to the task nicely. During its seventh semi-annual update since it formed three years ago, the SMART team (which stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timebound) touted their efforts and accomplishments from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2011. The Team consists of staff from police, fire, parks & recreation, and code enforcement which target problem properties which are the subject of multiple citizen complaints. The impressive results from the six-month effort revealed:

- 855 complaints on substandard housing were down 893 in the last half of the year;
- 136 felonies, down 184 from 2010, were reported in the Oval area;
- Burglaries fell by 40 percent in the Washington School area;
- 1,205 cases of graffiti were abated citywide, comparable to the 1,290 cases abated the first half of the year, with a significant number of cases within City parks, and;
- \$356,292 in fines were levied by the City.

New Attendance Policy Takes Effect April 1 for City Committees,

Commissions: With the optimum goal of preventing the cancellation of meetings due to a lack of quorum, the Council approved a new attendance policy that automatically removes a member of a City Committee or Commission if four meetings are missed in a 12-month period. Concerns about meetings being canceled due to the absence of a voting majority of members prompted the change. A subcommittee of the mayor and vice mayor could grant exceptions. The new policy takes effect April 1, and replaces the City's current policy which allowed for excused absences for members due to work, health or family commitments.

Other Council News: In other Council action, a City Council Electronic Communications Policy was approved. With the implementation of an Agenda Management System, Council members will soon receive and review Council agenda packets electronically and conduct meetings using an iPad. The policy outlines parameters for the Council to not have access to information during the meeting that could influence their decision without members of the public having access to the same information as part of the decision-making process. To review the policy, click [here](#).

City Calendar

Earth Day Includes Mill Creek Clean-up: Join volunteers to spruce up Mill Creek during Earth Day, from 8 a.m. to noon on Sunday, April 15. The City's Environmental Committee invites families, service and school clubs to participate in the two beautification projects planned for this year's event. Volunteers will help remove trash and recyclables which have collected along the banks of Mill Creek and plant about 300 trees and 600 shrubs along St. John's River just east of Highway 63. To register or for more information, call 713-4531 or visit www.GoGreenVisalia.com.

Wellness Begins with That First Step: Join Healthy Visalia's 2012 Walking Series to help promote health and wellness in Visalia. All walks begin at 8 a.m., and the schedule is as follows:

- March 24, Blain Park at South court and Parkview at the restrooms near the south entrance;
- March 31, West Main Park Trail at Main and County Center at the river wooden bridge;
- April 7, Sunset Park at Monte Verde and Lisendra at the playground, and;
- April 14, Riverway Sports Park at 3611 N. Dinuba Blvd., at the north concession stand/restrooms.

Healthy Visalia is sponsored by the City's Parks & Recreation Department, Kaweah Delta Health Care District, First 5 of Tulare County, Tulare County Office of Education, College of the Sequoias, The Lifestyle Center, Family HealthCare Network, Visalia Unified School District and Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency. For more information on additional events, visit www.healthyvisalia.com.

Tune in and Tune Up on March 24 for Free Smog Repairs: Owned your car for more than 6 months? Purchase gasoline in California between 1995 and 2005. If so, receive a free car emission test and diagnostic inspection from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (or be one of 525 cars to be processed) on Saturday, March 24, at College of the Sequoias Parking lot 7 on Woodland Avenue. This event is part of the Healthy Air Living program and the City is a Healthy Air Living partner with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. For more information, click [here](#).

You can now self-subscribe to receive issues of "Inside City Hall". Go to the City's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us and 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.