



APRIL 3, 2012

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### **City Updates**

#### **News from the Convention and Visitors Bureau:**

- **Visalia exhibiting at Sunset Magazine's exclusive Celebration Weekend:** Sunset magazine – the Western lifestyle publication that features travel destinations, is hosting the 15th Annual Sunset Celebration Weekend, June 2 and 3, at Sunset Magazine Headquarters– and Visalia will be there! The Convention and Visitors Bureau will be showcasing the many reasons Northern Californians should "Visit Visalia and Come Play in our Backyard" to nearly 20,000 event attendees.
- **Tour groups trek to Visalia:** Ohio based Buckeye Tours has scheduled a stop in Visalia, with a trek to Sequoia National Park and dinner at the Vintage Press Restaurant as a part of their West Coast route for luxury vacationers. The CVB looks forward to hosting a number of new tour groups throughout the summer, as buses of domestic and international travelers visit Visalia and see the Sequoias!
- **It's time to Cheer:** The Oregon-based Golden State Spirit Association has selected Visalia for the Central California Aloha Spirit Championships. This exciting cheerleading competition will take place at the Convention Center on Feb. 16, 2013. It is time to cheer and welcome the 675 + cheerleaders and 1,000 spectators!
- **Young Farmers & Ranchers will meet in Visalia:** The California Farm Bureau Federation has selected the Visalia Marriott at the Convention Center for the 2014 Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference. In March of 2014 we will welcome nearly 150 young ranchers, farmers and agricultural professionals to our community.

**New Commercial Projects Bump Building Permits Up 6%:** With the help of a total of 16 new commercial permits issued through March of 2012, a bump of 129%, the total number of permits issued year to date was 692, up from 654 in 2011. New residential additions and alterations saw a boost of 11%, up to 246 permits from 222 the previous year. The decline in new single family dwelling permits continues, with a 3% increase in value. Residential and commercial additions and alteration permits saw 11% and 34% increases respectively.

**Interviews for Planning Commission Applicants Set:** The City Council will conduct interviews with seven applicants for the three openings on the Visalia Planning Commission at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 12, in San Joaquin Room C at the Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Ave. Interviews will be scheduled in 20-minute blocks, and the Council will deliberate immediately following the last interview. The applicants for the three openings are: Paul Fry; Gary Gagliolo; Adam Johnson; Jim Kelly; Vincent Salinas; Larry Segreue; and Brett Taylor. Vincent Salinas, who will have served almost nine years at the end of his term in June, is termed out. However, appointments are the Council's prerogative and they can choose to waive a term limit if warranted.

### **Council Meeting Recans**

**Council Approves Burke Street Extension:** The City Council re-classified Burke Street between Houston Avenue and Tulare Avenue from a “local” street to a “collector” street, which will help create a north-south link to connect future developments downtown with new homes and businesses to the north. Burke Street is not currently connected all the way from Houston to Tulare and this re-classification will allow the City to pursue grants and other funding opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable. Future construction associated with connecting Burke Street will require the City to acquire right-of-way from nearby property owners, although no homes will be affected. For the complete staff report, click [here](#).

**Santa Fe Street Repairs Approved:** Council approved \$350,000 from the Major Overlay Project funding to pay for the street repairs on Santa Fe Street. The one-half block area from Main Street to the alleyway was closed on March 16 due to concerns of roadway settlement. Excavations revealed deteriorating wooden bridge approaches on the north and south side of Mill Creek along with soft, loose soils. The bridge structure appears to have been part of a railroad crossing constructed decades ago. The street is expected to reopen by mid-May.

## City Calendar

**Information Meetings for District Elections Set:** Is it time for district elections in Visalia? A Charter Amendment asking voters that question will go before them in November, 2012. While State law mandates district elections in certain circumstances, a Charter Amendment is required for the City Council to implement district elections. Be a part of the discussion and share your views at a community meeting or stop by an information table at the City’s Farmers Markets. City Council and Election Process Task Force members will lead the discussion. The schedule is as follows:

- **Tuesday, May 1, 6 to 7 p.m.**—Pinkham Elementary School’s Multi-Purpose Room, 2200 E. Tulare Ave.
- **Thursday, May 3, 4 to 7 p.m.**—Downtown Farmers Market, Church and Main Street.
- **Saturday, May 5, 8 to 11 a.m.**—Sequoia Mall Farmers Market.
- **Wednesday, May 9, 6 to 7 p.m.**—Manuel Hernandez Community Center, 247 W. Ferguson Ave.
- **Thursday, May 10, Noon to 1 p.m.**—210 Assembly Room, 210 W. Center St.

**Mayor’s Office Hours to Be Held April 10:** Visalia Mayor Amy Shuklian will hold her regular office hours on Tuesday, April 10, for Visalia residents to discuss issues of concern. Walk-ins are welcome from 5 to 5:45 p.m. in the large conference room at City Hall, at 707 W. Acequia Ave. Appointments from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. can be scheduled in advance by contacting Gladys Ruiz at 713-4314. Mayor Shuklian also can be reached through 713-4400, then enter 8313, or by email at [ashuklian@ci.visalia.ca.us](mailto:ashuklian@ci.visalia.ca.us).

**Egg-ceptional Entertainment Ahead:** The seventh annual Eggstravaganza will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 7 at the Riverway Sports Park Baseball Complex. Enjoy music, informational booths, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The egg hunt will begin at 11:45 a.m. Be one of the few to pick an egg containing a lucky ticket and win a special prize. Egg hunts will be divided into four categories by age: 3-4 years; 5-6 years; 7-8 years; and 9-10 years. Admission is free, but activity fees may apply. For vendor booth information, contact Michelle Fitzgerald at 713-4336 or [mfitzgerald@ci.visalia.ca.us](mailto:mfitzgerald@ci.visalia.ca.us).

**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](http://www.GoGreenVisalia.com). For more information on the event, click [here](#).

**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:

- 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](http://www.healthyvisalia.com).

**A Day for Children at Dia Del Nino Kids Festival:** This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to noon at Summer's Park, 247 W. Ferguson. Fun, interactive games and activities will all focus on the healthy living theme. Entertainment includes dance performances, live music, fitness activities and much more. Show children that they are our community's most precious resource. Admission is free, but activity fees may apply. Register to attend online at [www.liveandplayvisalia.com](http://www.liveandplayvisalia.com) or at the Anthony Community Center, 345 N. Jacob St., 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

*You can now self-subscribe to receive issues of "Inside City Hall". Go to the City's website at [www.ci.visalia.ca.us](http://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](mailto:nloliva@ci.visalia.ca.us)*