

Inside City Hall

Beyond the headlines

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WEST HIGHWAY 198 CORRIDOR CONCEPT MOVES FORWARD: Visalia City Council and Planning Commission members approved a package of proposals which, in part, starts a process to preserve a “scenic corridor” for motorists entering Visalia from the west along Highway 198 and allows consideration of future land development opportunities in the areas on both sides of the corridor. With Vice Mayor Amy Shuklian dissenting, Council and Commission members authorized staff to proceed with incorporating the area referred to as the West Visalia Highway 198 corridor, from Goshen Avenue on the north to the Visalia Parkway extension on the south, into the General Plan update process. They also approved the following: A 200-foot setback area for properties currently within the City limits located on the north side of Highway 198, east of Shirk Street; Parks and Recreation Commission to study and make recommendations to the General Plan Update Review Committee on a detailed boundary area for the open space component of the Corridor for properties currently under County jurisdiction, and develop an open space corridor design for the setback area. Council members will consider authorizing the use of park impact fees to pay for design efforts and potentially hiring a landscape architect to assist in the design effort.

OTHER NEWS: The City Council and Planning Commission simplified the development process for the Business Research park zone, along Plaza Drive north of Highway 198.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANE TO SERVE ON VALLEY AIR BOARD: Visalia City Council Member Mike Lane has been appointed by the Valley-wide Special Cities Selection Committee to serve out a three-year term on the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Governing Board. “We welcome new Board Member Lane, and believe his very diverse background will bring a valuable voice on the Board,” said Seyed Sadredin, the District’s executive director. Council member Lane, a management analyst for Self-Help Enterprises, also serves on the board of directors for the Tulare-Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He is also on the Visalia Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Council. “We can attain healthy air and a healthy economy at the same time, and I am committed to pursuing both of these goals,” Lane said. “I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Governing Board and will work diligently to improve the quality of life for the residents of the San Joaquin Valley.” The District is a public-health agency charged to meet health-based air-quality standards in the air basin, which covers eight counties in Central California: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and portions of Kern.

LOW-COST SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC OFFERED BY VALLEY OAK

SPCA: Does your pet have a license? Are vaccinations current? Valley Oak SPCA will hold a low-cost spay and neuter clinic from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 10, at 2622 E. Main St. Low-cost vaccinations, micro-chipping for \$25 and licenses will be available for purchase. In compliance with the City of Visalia, every owner of a dog or cat must secure a license for each pet over four months of age. The numbers tell the story. Out of 15,102 animals received at the Animal Control Shelter, over half—8,973 animals were euthanized. Pet ownership comes with responsibility—take advantage of this opportunity to have your pets spayed or neutered at the low-cost clinic. For information, call 713-4686.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY ON APRIL 10:

The City of Visalia's Citizens Advisory Committee will conduct an annual Public Opinion Survey on Saturday, April 10. The survey, now in its 22nd year, will be conducted by committee members, City staff, and volunteers from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at four different grocery stores throughout the city. The stores, each representing a residential quadrant of the City, are: Food 4 Less, at 2025 N. Dinuba Blvd., and Save-Mart Supermarkets at 3615 W. Noble Ave., 5203 W. Walnut Ave., and 1591 E. Noble Ave. The survey takes about 5 minutes to complete. Any Visalia resident is welcome to take the survey, which provides the City Council with important feedback on how the City and its services are meeting the needs of its residents. Last year, 275 surveys were collected. For more information on the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Public Opinion Survey, go to the City of Visalia's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us.

PROPOSED SOUTHWEST FIRE STATION FOCUS OF PUBLIC OUT-REACH MEETINGS:

Visalia Fire Chief Mark Nelson will discuss a proposed Southwest Visalia Fire Station at two public outreach meetings set for April 15 and 21, from 7 to 9 p.m. A meeting will be held in southeast Visalia at the Kings Counties Builders Exchange, 1223 S Lovers Lane, on Thursday, April 15, and in southwest Visalia in the boardroom at the Visalia Unified School District Office at 5000 W. Cypress St.

COUNCIL APPROVES CONTRACTS FOR TWO NEW CITY PARKS:

City Council members approved awarding two contracts for the development of Lions Neighborhood Park and Mill Creek Garden Park. BMY Construction Group in Fresno was awarded a construction contract for the development of Lions Neighborhood Park in the amount of \$652,194, and Hobbs Construction in Clovis was awarded a contract for the construction of playground improvements at Mill Creek Garden Park for \$138,756. Mill Creek Garden Park, at Lover's Lane and Mill Creek Parkway is a heavily used neighborhood park/storm pond basin with no playground amenities available to the area residents. The project will include the addition of new playground equipment, a pedestrian pathway, seating areas, irrigation upgrades, landscaping and security lighting.

BUILDING PERMITS DROP SLIGHTLY WITH MARCH NUMBERS:

After showing a gain in the first two months of 2010 over last year's number of building permits issued, March numbers slipped slightly to show a 9 percent decrease in the total number issued—from 763 in 2009 to 694 in 2010. Single family dwellings permits were down by 9, from 113 in 2009 to 104 in 2010 for January through March. Permits for new commercial projects were down by 43%, from 14 in 2009 to 8 for the first three months of this year. The total valuation of all permits was down 36%, from \$46,322,254 in 2009 to \$29,603,299 in 2010.

MONTHLY OFFICE HOURS WITH VICE MAYOR:

Vice Mayor Amy Shuklian will hold monthly office hours on Wednesday, April 7, to allow the public to meet and discuss issues one-on-one. Monthly office hours are held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the large conference room at City Hall, at 707 W. Acequia Ave., and will continue the first Wednesday of the month. She can be reached through 713-4400, then enter 8313, or by email at ashuklian@ci.visalia.ca.us. You also can receive information and updates from Vice Mayor Shuklian through Facebook. During the monthly office hours, the first hour, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. will be a time for drop-in visits, and appointments can be scheduled in advance for the second hour, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, contact Office Assistant Gladys Ramirez at 713-4314.

CITY NAMED TREE CITY USA COMMUNITY FOR 27TH CONSECU-

TIVE YEAR: The City of Visalia was recognized by the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community for its continued commitment to urban forestry. It is the 27th year the City has earned this national designation by meeting the four standards: Have a tree board or department; a tree-care ordinance; a comprehensive community forestry program; and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. For more information on Tree City USA, go to www.arborday.org.

SANTA FE OVERCROSSING DEDICATION CEREMONY SET FOR

APRIL 29: After nearly 15 months, the Santa Fe Overcrossing at Santa Fe and Mineral King Avenue will be officially dedicated at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 29. The dedication ceremony will include the sealing of the 50- and 100-year time capsules into the bridge. The winner of the design for the bronze plaques will also be announced.

CHAT WITH COUNCIL MEMBER SCHEDULED: Council Member Steve Nelsen will hold a “Chat with the Council Member” outreach meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, in the conference room at Café 210, at Center and Locust. The meetings are a chance for the citizens of Visalia to meet with their elected official who will be available to answer questions, listen to concerns, and receive input. No appointments are necessary.

AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA TEAMS ANNOUNCED: One of the strongest and most talented fields ever assembled for a U.S. cycling race has been invited to the upcoming **2010 Amgen Tour of California**. The City of Visalia returns as the Start City for Stage 5 on Thursday, May 20, on Main and Garden in downtown Visalia. The 16-team field will be comprised of a collection of the world’s best international professional cycling teams, along with a selection of top North American-based teams. The teams will be led by prominent UCI ProTour and Pro Continental teams, such as the three-time defending champion Levi Leipheimer and seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong’s team RadioShack; 2009’s No. 1-ranked Team HTC-Columbia, featuring sprint sensation Mark Cavendish; powerhouse Team Saxo Bank, featuring Tour of Flanders winner Fabian Cancellara and Tour de France runner-up Andy Schleck; Liquigas-Doimo, an exceptionally promising young Italian team; Colorado-based Garmin-Transitions; and BMC Racing Team, featuring current U.S. Pro champion George Hincapie. The more than 800-mile, eight-day stage race, modeled after the Tour de France, will take the world’s top professional cycling teams from Nevada City to Thousand Oaks/Westlake Village/Agoura Hills from May 16-23. The 2010 Amgen Tour of California roster includes the following 16 professional cycling teams: Bissell (USA); BMC Racing Team (USA); Cervélo TestTeam (SUI); Fly V Australia (AUS); Garmin-Transitions (USA); Jelly Belly Presented by Kenda (USA); Kelly Benefit Strategies (USA); Liquigas-Doimo (ITA); Quick Step (BEL); Rabobank (NED); Spidertech Powered by Planet Energy (CAN); Team HTC-Columbia (USA); Team RadioShack (USA); Team Saxo Bank (DEN); Team Type 1 (USA); UnitedHealthcare Presented by Maxxis (USA). For more information about the teams competing in the **2010 Amgen Tour of California**, please visit www.amgentourofcalifornia.com. For a full list of ancillary events to promote the upcoming race, see the flyer on the following page.

The City's newsletter, Inside City Hall, is published after all regular City Council meetings. To self-subscribe, go to http://www.ci.visalia.ca.us/about/inside_city_hall_newsletter.asp. For more information, contact Community Relations Manager Nancy Loliva at nloliva@ci.visalia.ca.us.



TIME TO GET READY FOR THE BIG RACE!

Tour of the Sierra Foothills-Saturday, April 17, 2010

Event Start: 8:00am at McDermont Field House (Registration opens at 7am)

The entry fee is \$40 and all proceeds benefit the children of Lindsay and Strathmore through the Lindsay Kiwanis. For more information call Bill Zigler at 559-333-4080.

Mayor's Bicycle Race- Orange Blossom Festival -Saturday, April 17, 2010

Event Start: 9:00am Parade starts at 10:00am; Location: intersection of Honolulu and Elmwood

Mayors and city councils from all 8 Tulare County cities will be invited to participate in this promotional "fun" race in preparation for the AMGEN Tour of California event coming to Tulare County on May 20. For more information call the Lindsay Chamber at 559-562-4929.

Official Stage 5 Pre Ride-Saturday, May 1, 2010

Pre-register by April 29 at www.socalreg.com/atoc

Hosted by the Bakersfield Sports Foundation. The race will start at Annie R Mitchell Elementary in Visalia and end in Bakersfield. \$100 fee includes ride, official t-shirt and post ride BBQ. For more information call 661-301-8489.

Cinco de Mayo Parade -Saturday, May 1, 2010

10am at Downtown Visalia.

Bicycle Art Exhibit-Public Reception: Friday, May 7, 2010

Dual locations: 210 at 210 W. Center and Cafe 225 at 225 W. Main. Meet the artists and enjoy hors d'oeuvres at both. Live music and art and craft sale at 210. Event runs from 5-7:00pm.

Bicycle Rodeo-Saturday, May 8, 2010

Event Start: 10:00-12:00noon at Corner of Mineral King & Conyer

The event is hosted by Jeff Barnes Brain Injury Foundation and the Visalia Police Department Traffic Division and is open to all youth ages 13 and under. Participants must bring their own bicycle which will be checked by the Visalia PD. Helmets will be checked, fitted and replaced, if necessary. For more information, call 559-679-3702.

Official Amgen Tour of California Fundraiser Dinner-Saturday, May 10, 2010

Dinner tickets will be available for \$50. The event will be at the Rawhide Baseball Stadium Hall of Fame Clubhouse. For more information contact the Visalia Chamber of Commerce at 559-734-5876.

Hungry Buzzard Century- Saturday, May 15, 2010

Event Start: 7:00am at Cutler Park (east of Visalia)

Hosted by the Sequoia Visalia Kiwanis and the Southern Sierra Cyclists. Participate in a 40 mile ride, metric century or Century Ride. For more information call Bill Zigler at 559-333-4080. To register visit www.sscbike.org/events.

Live Strong Alley/Visalia Blood Bank- Monday thru Wednesday, May 17-19, 2010

Stop by the Visalia blood bank to donate blood and receive a "Live Strong" T-shirt. For more information contact Leslie Caviglia at 559-713-4317.

Bike Night at 210! Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Event Time: 6:00-9:00pm at 210 (210 W. Center in Visalia):

The event is open to the public and will include local bike racers, reception, food, live music, and hors d'oeuvres.

Official Stage 5 Race- Thursday, May 20, 2010

Event Start: 10:00am at Garden Street Plaza in Visalia

The AMGEN Tour of California is the biggest bicycle race in North America, featuring the best cyclists in the world. Stage 5 starts in Visalia and weaves its way through the scenic Tulare County and ends in Bakersfield.

