

10-YEAR PBID AGREEMENT APPROVED: At its July 12 Special Meeting, the Visalia City Council approved a measure to re-establish the Property-Based Business Improvement District (PBID) to continue to maintain the vitality of downtown Visalia. The measure also had the approval of downtown property owners who voted 73 to 47 in favor of assessing fees over a 10-year period. Of the 246 ballots sent out to downtown property owners, 120 were returned. The PBID provides services beyond the security, graffiti removal and property maintenance provided by the City.

DESIGN OF NEW ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY MOVES FORWARD:

The City Council unanimously authorized moving forward with the design of the City's portion of a new Animal Control Facility. Council had previously authorized staff to enter into a contract with WLC Architects for the facility's design. At that time, it was envisioned that the City would build a joint facility with Valley Oak SPCA. In a draft of its Capital Campaign Plan, VOSPCA detailed a plan to fund their portion of the facility over a 3-5 year timeframe. Given the current economic environment and the condition of the existing shelter, it was agreed that time is right for design and construction to move forward of the City's share of a new facility. The VOSPCA building, which is to be constructed with private funds to be raised by the non-profit, will focus on owner-surrenders, adoption, voluntary spay/neutering, education, advocacy and outreach.

COUNCIL APPROVES CHANGES TO NONPROFIT GRANT FUNDING

PROCESS: The Citizens Advisory Committee's recommendations for changes to the non-profit grant funding process were approved for the most part by the City Council. The approved recommendations: To remove the three-year limitation on funding for any single program; require attendance at a CAC grant-writing workshop; and to allow funding to new program that have not received any funding in previous funding years. A recommendation to require a minimum of 25% of all annual funding to be awarded to programs directed specifically at gang prevention/intervention was increased to 50%. The grant applications are expected to be released this week. Email Jason Montgomery at jmontgomery@ci.visalia.ca.us to obtain a grant application.

VICE MAYOR TO HOST SECOND TOWN HALL MEETING: Vice Mayor Amy Shuklian will host the second of four City of Visalia Town Hall Meetings at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, at the Oak Grove School Multi-Purpose Building at 445 West Ferguson Ave., between Linwood and Demaree. This meeting is specifically for citizens in northwest Visalia, but is open to the general public. Vice Mayor Shuklian will provide a brief update of efforts in the northwest quadrant of the City, including the areas of Public Safety, Transportation and Economic Development. The meeting is designed to allow sufficient time to hear and respond to citizen's concerns.

VISALIA ROLLS OUT COMPOSTING PROGRAM: To make Visalia even 'greener', the city's Public Works Department has instituted a new program to divert more compostable waste away from landfills. "This is a great new program that provides our customers more choices to dispose of their waste products and at no extra cost," said Public Works Director. The program was tried successfully as a pilot program last year and was successful enough to be rolled out citywide. About four routes a month will be added and it will take six to eight months to get all 24 routes on board. There are about 900 customers per route. Those being asked to join in the program will be sent a brochure detailing what can be put in the green waste side of the container. Anything compostable, including soiled cardboard and paper, or anything that naturally breaks down is appropriate. What can't be placed in the green waste side are plastics, meat or metals. Recyclable materials can still be placed in the recycle side of the container. People who want to start, but haven't been notified, can go to the City's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us or www.GoGreenVisalia.com or call 713-4500 for more information.

VACANCIES FOR CITY COMMITTEES, COMMISSION: The City of Visalia is

accepting applications from interested citizens for its City committees. The following committees currently have vacancies:

- **Citizen's Advisory Committee** – Acts as a liaison between the general public and the City Council concerning community issues. The Committee has openings for three alternate members.
- **Disability Advocacy Committee** – advises the City on the needs of disabled people. The committee promotes physical, social, communication and attitudinal access for every citizen of Visalia. The Committee currently has three regular member vacancies and two alternate member vacancies.
- **Environmental Committee** – heightens environmental awareness and conservation in Visalia. Issues addressed include air quality, hazardous waste, recycling, water conservation and all other natural resources. The Committee currently has two regular member vacancies and one alternate member vacancy.
- **Historic Preservation Committee** – administers and carries out the standards and specifications of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and promotes historic preservation including encouraging building owners to initiate preservation efforts. The committee currently has one alternate member vacancy.
- **North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee** – serves as a liaison between the City and the North Visalia community. The Committee has openings for two regular members.
- **Parks & Recreation Commission** – advises the City Council and City staff in matters pertaining to parks, playgrounds and recreation centers. The Commission currently has one alternate vacancy.
- **Transit Advisory Committee** – researches and analyzes the community's continuing transit needs, reviews operations, markets the transit program and makes recommendations about the business affairs of the transit system. The Committee currently has one vacancy for a regular member and two vacancies as alternate members.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis and kept for a period of two years. If you have further questions, you may visit our website www.ci.visalia.ca.us, "Committees/Commissions" to view the informational handbook and application or you may contact the City Clerk's Office at 713-4512.

