



**COUNCIL APPROVES INCREASES FOR RETIREE HEALTH CARE:** The Visalia City Council voted Monday to increase health-plan contributions paid by City retirees and their dependents. The increases, to be implemented Feb. 1, were approved in separate votes, which were:

- 5-0 to increase rates to cover this year's \$108.80 increase per participant without any additional cost to the City;
- 4-1, with Council Member Warren Gubler dissenting, to have dependents bear 75 percent of any future cost increases and 25 percent for retirees themselves;
- 4-1, with Council Member Mike Lane dissenting, to offer a smaller increase for retirees with household income less than \$37,000 and allow those older than 65 an option to purchase a high-deductible option through the City, and;
- 5-0 to formulate and adopt a long-term policy toward retiree insurance coverage.

**MOONEY ZONING AMENDMENTS AUTHORIZED:** Zoning amendments to expand the permitted land uses and to ease many of the setback and parking constraints in the Mooney retail corridor were authorized by the City Council. These changes were identified to the City Council by many businesses and property owners who cited they were needed now to reduce building vacancies while enhancing the customer base along the Mooney Corridor from Noble Avenue to Visalia Parkway.

**REFUSE SERVICE FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY:** Residential refuse service normally scheduled for Thursday, November 25th will be collected on Wednesday November 24th. There will be no change in residential refuse collection on Friday. Commercial refuse normally scheduled for Thursday, November 25th will be collected on Friday November 26th. Commercial refuse normally scheduled for Friday, November 26th will be collected on Saturday, November 27th. City of Visalia business offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

**FALL DROP OFF RUNS NOV. 16-JAN. 8:** The City of Visalia annual free Fall yard waste recycling event will be held from Friday, November 16-Saturday, Jan. 8, at the Tulare County Compost and BioMass and WC Wood Industries. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tulare County Compost and BioMass, 24478 Road 140 (Lovers Lane), and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at WC Wood Industries, 7715 Avenue 296 (southwest corner of Highways 99 and 198). All City of Visalia residents are urged to recycle yard trimmings, grass clippings, leaves, branches, wood and lumber scraps. This event will be the last where Visalia residents may receive 1-yard compost FREE for each load of material recycled. The event is free to all Visalia residents, and proof of residency is required. All commercial gardeners must provide a City of Visalia business license. For more information, call 713-4500.

**GET FIT IN 12 WEEKS FOR ONLY \$10:** The City of Visalia's Park & Recreation Department offers a 12-week program to "Get Healthy" on Tuesdays, Jan. 4 through March 22. Registered participants will receive information on nutrition, exercise, and overall wellness. Each week, participants will weigh in and participate in activities, ranging from Zumba, meal planning, cooking class, cardio workout, yoga and abs classes, walks, and more. Awards will be given to participants with the most total body fat loss. Information: John Bradley at 713-4585 or email [jbradley@ci.visalia.ca.us](mailto:jbradley@ci.visalia.ca.us).



**HOLIDAY LIGHT EXCHANGE DEC. 1-10:** From December 1 through Dec. 10, you can exchange those traditional strands of incandescent holiday lights for new, energy-efficient LED lights – for **free**! Bring in a strand of incandescent holiday lights (one strand of lights per person, please) and receive a new strand of LED lights for free, while supplies last. Bring your strand of lights to either the Visalia Senior Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 310 N. Locust St. or at the Recreation Ballpark Ticket Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 300 N. Giddings from December 1<sup>st</sup> through the 10th or while supplies last. A total of 250 strands of new LED lights are available through this exchange program, which is administered by the Valley Innovative Energy Watch (VIEW) and Southern California Edison under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. If you plan to use lights to decorate during the holiday season, make the switch to LEDs. They have a long life - 30,000 to 50,000 hours - and will save you both energy and money. LEDs reduce energy consumption by as much as 95 percent compared to traditional incandescent bulbs and can produce bright light for up to 20 holiday seasons. LEDs don't give off heat, reducing the risk of fire. They are more durable and perform well in cold weather, provide a brighter, bolder light color, and never have that annoying problem where one burnt out bulb darkens your whole strand. For information, call the City of Visalia's Natural Resource Conservation Division at 713-4532.