

Inside City Hall

Beyond the headlines

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CITY SALUTES EMPLOYEES FOR YEARS OF SERVICE: Forty years is a long time, and Public Works Inspector Ed Juarez has seen the City from a variety of different angles. Hired as an engineering aide in 1967, Ed has been promoted four times as an Engineering Technician and was reclassified to a Senior Public Works Inspector in 1987. Ed was one of 66 employees honored for their years of service by the City of Visalia. Three employees recognized for 35 years of service were Joe Alvarez, senior park maintenance worker, Roberto Cadena, lab technician, and David Gamez, senior industrial waste water inspector. Abel Lopez, lead traffic safety worker, was recognized for 30 years of service. Those honored for 25 years of service were: James Bean, public works manager; Joe Castillo, solid waste operator; Abel Flores, solid waste supervisor; Anthony Morfin, lead convention center technician; Judith Morgan-Ronding, senior police records specialist; and Tereso Romero, recreation supervisor. Seven employees were honored for 20 years of service, 14 for 15 years, five for 10 years, and 28 for five years of service.

GIVE GREEN - RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREES:

From December 26 to January 9, drop off your Christmas tree at any one of nine locations in the city and do your part to help in the recycling efforts. Make sure you remove ornaments, lights, tinsel, and the metal stand. These events are for Christmas trees only. Take them to the following locations: Save Mart Shopping Center at Campus and Demaree; College of the Sequoias Farm at Walnut and Atwood; Fairway Market at 1845 N. Dinuba Boulevard; Neighborhood Church at 5505 W. Riggin Ave.; Parkside Chapel at 3200 W. Walnut Ave.; the parking lot at St. John's and Lovers Lane; Save Mart at Akers and Goshen; Sequoia Mall parking lot near Old Cinema I, II, and III; and Wal-Mart, 1819 E. Noble. For information, call the Solid Waste Department at 713-4500.



TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEES EXAMINED: Funding for street improvements are lagging behind the need for improvements. Visalia's Administrative Services Director Eric Frost said impact fees may need a boost. The last analysis suggested the rate should be \$667 per trip, but currently only residential is paying that rate. Current rates are \$370 per trip for commercial/office and \$463 per trip for industrial. Staff has reviewed all General Plan amendments, revised the Circulation Element Map to reflect all updates, identified areas of concern such as streets that need to be added to the Circulation Element, identified potential phasing of the fee to allow for phasing of the plan, and held an initial meeting with MuniFinancial to review the City's process and jointly develop a work plan to bring to Council in March. If approved, the fee implementation is expected at the end of June. "We may end up changing the program, which may lead to a reduced rate if the area to develop is smaller," said Frost. "But, until we do the work, we won't know."

LOOP WINTER HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: With the exception of no service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, the LOOP bus will operate from noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays through January 5. The loop offers transportation to area youth centers.

VISALIA BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE SEEKS MEMBERS: Since 1969, the Visalia Beautification Committee has worked to protect the city's natural beauty, honoring citizens and businesses who have contributed to its preservation and enhancement. The Committee advises the City Council concerning Tree City U.S.A., and general beautification efforts. The committee works with California ReLeaf, a statewide campaign to expand, enhance, and preserve urban and community forests. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Interested in joining? Contact Melissa Tracy at 713-4384.

HR WORKSHOP EARNS AWARD: Thumbs up to the Society for Human Resource Management of Tulare and Kings County which earned a 2007 Pinnacle Award for excellence in chapter, professional, and membership activities. SHRM of Tulare and Kings County received this honor for its "Tag, You're It!" workshop series, designed to introduce entry-level human resource professionals to functional areas of human resources. Human Resources Manager Janice Avila and Management Analyst for HR/Risk Sonni Burrell served as instructors. Kim McGee, Lupe Hernandez, Jonda MacLennan, and Michele Martin participated in the workshops.

VISITVISALIA.ORG PROVIDES ELECTRONIC GATEWAY TO THE

VALLEY: The city-owned Visalia Convention and Visitors Bureau has launched a new website for all to see and do in the Valley. From lodging and dining, to information for visitors, to the natural beauty that is blessed with natural beauty, the world's richest farmland, and some of the most adventurous fun of a lifetime. The Visalia Community Calendar, at www.visitvisalia.org, posts everything from the arts to business, dances to films, fund-raiser to family-friendly, music to theater and sports to recreation. For more information, contact the Visalia Convention and Visitors Bureau at (559) 334-0141.

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GIVES THANKS: A special gift of appreciation came from members of the Mountain Communities to the Visalia Firefighters who recently returned from battling fires in San Diego, Malibu and near Magic Mountain. Here's a sampling of what they wrote:

"They say superheroes 'fly'. You Guys Soared! Thank you." - Prat.

"Thanks from the 'Pin the Bone on the Skeleton' house! Thank you for saving our reserve" - Modjeska Ranch Reserve.

Perhaps the most poignant expression of gratitude came from Judy Myers on behalf of the Mountain Communities and the Inter-Canyon League. She wrote:

"Dear Firemen: Our mountain communities wish to thank you for your brave defensive action in saving our homes. Most of us were able to come back and find our homes still standing. Little do we know of all of your heroic efforts for we were hearing everything from afar. Like knights in yellow helmets, most of you were gone before we were able to return home. But, we knew you were here, standing guard, and we will never be able to thank you and your families enough!"



PEERS GIVE PUBLIC SERVICE NODS FOR PARK/REC STAFF: Four Parks & Recreation Department employees were recognized for their outstanding public service at an annual holiday luncheon held Dec. 13 at the Anthony Community Center. Vincent Elizondo, director of Parks & Recreation, said, "What really makes these awards meaningful to the employees is that the selection was made by their fellow employees. Being selected by your peers is a great honor." Employees of the Year were: **Jason Glick**, Recreation Division; **Craig Anders**, Parks & Urban Forestry Division; **Nathan Stearns**, part-time in Recreation; and **Larry McIntosh**, part-time in the Parks & urban Forestry Division.

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS POSTED ON TIMES-DELTA WEBSITE: The City of Visalia has teamed up with the Visalia Times-Delta to provide weekly updates on city public works projects involving major city roadways on its website (www.visaliatimesdelta.com). For the week of Dec. 17, the following Public Works/Development projects are being conducted and may interrupt

major routes of transportation within the City of Visalia:

- **Road widening and median island installation on Walnut Avenue from Simon Street to Casablanca Street:** Days and hours of work being done - Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; expected completion by Jan. 18; work is being done for the new subdivision on the south side of Walnut Avenue; and contractor/contact is Crawford Construction, Russ Anderson at 908-9949.
- **Building remodel construction at Garden, Center, and Bridge Streets:** Days and hours of work being done-Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; expected completion by Jan. 8, 2008; work is being done to replace curb and gutter, sidewalks, and drive approaches; and contractor/contact is Mangano Homes, Inc., Evert Dixon at 804-5333.
- **Multi-family housing at the southeast corner of Sunnyside and Lovers Lane:** Days and hours of work being done: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Jan. 8; work is being done to install curb and gutter, sidewalks, and street widening; and contractor/contact is L & S Grading and Paving, Larry Catrell at 686-8032.

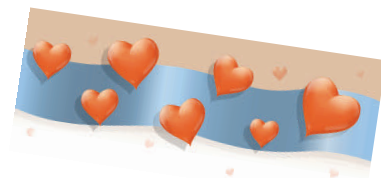


- **Water line tie-in at Nicholas at Elko (Industrial Park):** Days and hours of work being done: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Jan. 14, 2008; work is being done as part of new building construction with new water line tie-in; and contractor/contact is Todd Plumbing, Inc., Tim Whitelock at 651-5820.
- **Building remodel construction at Kaweah Delta Co-Generation plant on West Street between Mineral King Avenue and Willow Street:** Days and hours of work being done: Four hours daily, one day a week through Jan. 8; work is being done as part of the installation of new co-generation facilities; and contractor/contact is Kovaleff Mechanical Services, Inc., Mike Montgomery at (562) 244-1743.
- **Sewer installation on Green Acres Drive between Midland and Hyde Way:** Days and hours of work being done: Work began Monday, Nov. 26, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m., and the completion deadline has been extended because of utility crossing issues; and contractor/contact is Adam Ennis, City of Visalia, 713-4323.
- **Sidewalk and electrical reconstruction at the northwest corner of Locust and Acequia:** Days and hours of work being done: Work began Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m., and has been extended to Dec. 21 due to installation of electrical extension; work is being done as part of a building remodel and upgrade; and contractor/contact is Joe Leal, Longview Development Co., 804-7421.

REFUSE SCHEDULE FOR HOLIDAYS: Residential refuse service normally picked up on Tuesday, December 25th will be picked up on Wednesday December 26th. There will be no change in residential refuse collection on Monday, Thursday, or Friday. Residential refuse service normally picked up on Tuesday, January 1st will be picked up on Wednesday January 2nd. There will be no change in residential refuse collection on Monday, Thursday, or Friday. Commercial refuse will run one day late both weeks, from Tuesday through Friday for both holidays. Instead of running Monday through Friday, it will be picked up on Monday as usual, then Wednesday through Saturday. City of Visalia business offices will be closed on Tuesday December 25th and Tuesday January 1st in observance of the holidays. Check out the City of Visalia Solid Waste holiday schedule at www.ci.visalia.ca.us.

A SWEETHEART OF A HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA:

Tickets for the Parks and Recreation Department's annual Father-Daughter Sweetheart Dance are now on sale, just in time for holiday gift buying. This year's event offers two nights to choose from. Young ladies, ages 5 to 12, can treat Dad to a new dance that includes dinner from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, at the Visalia Con-



vention Center. Tickets are \$45 for couples, \$20 for additional daughters. The third annual Sweetheart Dance will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Convention Center. This event, which includes refreshments and dancing, is \$25 for couples, \$10 for additional daughters. Tickets are available at the Parks and Recreation Department, 345 N. Jacob St. For more information, call 713-4365 or go to the city's website at www.ci.visalia.ca.us.