



# Business Update

AWARD-WINNING MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **JULY 18 & 22:**  
Coffee & Conversation with Your Chamber CEO  
Time: 8 a.m.  
Location: Facebook Live
- **JULY 23:**  
Ambassador Monthly Breakfast-TENATIVE  
Time: 8 a.m.  
Location: Visalia First



- **Discover Panama: The Land Between Seas:**  
Feb. 4-12, 2021
- **Irish Discovery:**  
March 16-23, 2021
- **Heritage of America:**  
April 11-19, 2021
- **Culinary Italy/13-Day Tour:**  
April 20-May 3, 2021
- **London & Paris Discovery:**  
Oct. 19-27, 2021

Travel provided by:  
Collette Vacations-CST#:2006766-20  
Mayflower Tours -CST#:2044099-20  
Chamber Explorations-CST#:2048841.40  
For more information, go to visaliachamber.org/travel

Visalia Chamber of Commerce  
222 N. Garden St., Suite 300  
Visalia, CA 93291

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## SJV Homes closes on 2,000th home



**SG The Sun-Gazette** A local homebuilding celebrated closing its 2,000th home by giving the homeowner a check for \$2,000 and Kaweah Delta a check for \$20,000. On June 5, San Joaquin Valley Homes announced it had closed its 2,000th home seven years after entering into the homebuilding business. The home was purchased by Victor and Nancy Chavez at Vista Robles in Dinuba. "Personally, I really do like the builder as a company and I like how they build homes," Victor Chavez said. "The layouts are open and spacious. The quality is very high. We were very happy with our first SJVH home but needed to upgrade to a larger place when we had

another baby. It was a little stressful buying and moving into a home during COVID, but their team did a great job helping us through it." This is the second home that Victor and Nancy have purchased from San Joaquin Valley Homes. Their first home was at Viscaya and though they were happy there, with a growing family of three kids it was time to move up to a more spacious home. "We're always pleased to add another homeowner to our expanding SJV Homes family," said Lissa Walker, marketing director for SJV Homes. "We're proud of the homes we build and the service we provide to our homebuyers. Whether you're buying your first home, preparing for an empty nest or moving up, we are committed to making every homebuyer's experience a happy one."

Continued on page 2

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### We need your support

This period will produce a long list of lessons and frankly, that list is still growing. As I speak with business and community leaders, I realize I'm not the only one learning. This period has reinforced strengths and exposed weaknesses. Every business has had to rethink its approach. The community has had to wrestle with tough real-life issues in a very very short amount of time.



**Gail Zurek**  
Visalia Chamber  
President & CEO

This 120-year-old organization has been the foundation of economic growth and vitality for Visalia and ultimately our region. We have helped businesses launch and grow; the Chamber is responsible for our rail lines, airport, waterways, and the development of our brew district. Our list of accomplishments is impressive. We have very strong strengths.

When this pandemic hit, the Visalia Chamber lead the way ensuring we were included in federal aid, businesses had critical information and pushed consumers to be loyal to local. We leaned into being the voice of local business, a trusted resource partner, and providing up to sometimes the minute information. We leveraged social media, electronic communication, launched webinars, and virtual meetings. We showed up for businesses and Visalia in big and important ways.

But like so many other businesses, we have been hit hard our weaknesses exposed. While we immediately made budgetary cuts and have changed the way we operate, we face real and substantial challenges.

Perhaps this exposed my greatest weakness as a leader, asking for help. I like to operate from a place of strength and I, wrongly, assumed asking for help as a weakness. I was wrong.

It is not weak. I guess I'm still learning important lessons. God isn't done with me yet!

As I've learned to share that the Chamber needs support, I've discovered the most wonderful things. First, this town is tremendously appreciative of the work this Chamber has done for business and Visalia over the years. When asking for help, I get to hear these wonderful stories.

Those stories reinforce our work. I've also learned people want to help. They want to be a part of our work, they are a part of our

work. Not asking means we aren't including them. Asking allows us to increase our relationships and our reach.

So in the spirit of learning, allow me to share your Visalia Chamber of Commerce needs your support.

There are several ways you can support Your Chamber and our work.

Upgrade your membership or refer a friend. Have you been a loyal chamber member for years? Now is the time to recommit to your chamber and try out the next level of

membership. Benefits increase with each level. We'd be happy to chat with you about ways we can deepen our partnership. Membership Information can be found at <http://www.visaliachamber.org/membership> and Charlie Saponara [charlie@visaliachamber.org](mailto:charlie@visaliachamber.org) is more than willing to talk to your friends and colleagues about joining. Membership is the lifeline of our Chamber and has real and important benefits for members. Our average member has been with us for 19 years. Clearly, local business benefits from a long relationship with us. As a thank you, we give \$50 off your next membership invoice for every member you refer to. Those referrals become a win/win/win!

1. Support a program near to your heart. Did you graduate from Leadership Visalia? Did the Chamber help you launch your first business or hire that key employee? You can donate directly to those programs or directly to the chamber. These gifts are tax-deductible and are a wonderful way to reinforce the work we're doing. It's a wonderful way to ensure we can keep offering these services.

2. Share this the Chamber's work with others. Follow us on social media, like and share our posts. Pop into a Coffee with a CEO and share the resources we have with others. Even as a 120-year organization, we still find a few business owners and community members could use a brush up on all we do. You're key to that education. Share what you know with others.

The lessons keep coming and I'm still learning. I am confident these lessons will make our Chamber stronger, businesses better, and ultimately Visalia even more vibrant.

## VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MISSION ICONS



Catalyst for Change



Community Convener



Champion for Business

## COMMUNITY LOYAL MEMBERS

*A thriving community starts here!*



### New

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome our newest members. We encourage individuals and businesses to support Chamber Member businesses.

#### Small Business Members:

- CENTRAL VALLEY VEIN AND WOUND CENTER
- HATHERLEY LAW
- THE SALAD SHOP

### Renewing

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce thanks the following companies for renewing their commitment to the community of Visalia.

#### Keystone Member:

- Visalia Medical Clinic, Inc., an Affiliate of Kaweah Delta Medical Foundation\*

#### Community Investor Member:

- Central Valley Community Bank
- Jack In The Box | VTP Enterprises\*
- McDonald's | RLMK INC
- Smith Promotions\*
- Vintage Press Restaurant

#### Business Builder Members:

- American Pacific Mortgage
- City of Visalia
- Gallagher\*
- Echelon Executive Protection
- Financial Credit Network, Inc.
- Quality Paint & Body, Inc.\*
- National University
- Tulare Outlets

#### Business Connector Members:

- Bank of America - Main St
- California Wire Cloth, Inc.
- Central Valley Business Forms, Inc.\*
- Century 21 Jordan-Link & Company\*
- IDEA! Printing & Graphics Inc\*
- Park Visalia\*
- Prestige Assisted Living
- QK

- RE/MAX Visalia\*
- Ryan Purkiss - Thiesen-Dueker Financial Consulting Group
- Tulare County Workforce Investment Board
- United Wholesale Lumber Company
- Valley Oak Credit Union
- Visalia Ceramic Tile, Inc.\*
- Zeltmacher Structural Design Engineering, Inc

#### Small Business Members:

- Alex's Paint & Body
- Bay Alarm\*
- Bruce Evans Property Management\*
- Burgundy House Apartments\*
- Care at the Courtyard
- Central Valley Recovery Services
- Chimienti & Associates Insurance Services\*
- Del Taco - MTE Foods, Inc\*
- Educational Employees Credit Union
- EMD Networking Service
- Gilman Harris Travioli Slover
- Gunning & Gunning, C.P.A.\*
- Hocking, Denton, Palmquist & Company
- Housing Authority of Tulare County
- Integrated Vision Care Optometry
- J.C. Lansdowne, Inc.\*
- Keith Williams DDS
- KFSN - TV Channel 30
- Lucky Day Laundry\*
- Mangini Associates, Inc.\*
- Mill Creek Management, Inc.\*
- Nothing Bundt Cakes\*
- Pacific Capital Strategies, Inc.
- Pacific Employers\*
- Patrick L. Salazar State Farm Insurance Agency
- Peck Planning and Development\*
- Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
- Realty Stars
- Redi-Rooter Plumbing\*
- Rethought Reborn Media
- Sciacca & Company, C.P.A.'s

- Scott, Mainord Langley & Simmons, Inc.\*
- Screw Conveyor Corporation
- Sign Time
- The Barn\*
- Trilotech
- Tulare County Association of Governments
- Tulare County Association of Realtors, Inc\*
- Tulare County District Attorney
- United Signs International, Inc.
- Valley Steel Construction\*
- Visalia Auto Body\*
- Visalia Senior Housing\*
- Williams, Brodersen, Pritchett & Burke LLP

#### Cornerstone Non-Profit Member:

- CSET-Community Services Employment Training

#### Business Builder Non-Profit Members:

- Visalia Emergency Aid Council\*
- Visalia Unified Teachers Association\*

#### Business Connector Non-Profit Members:

- Arts Visalia
- ProYouth\*
- United Way of Tulare County\*
- Visalia Rescue Mission\*

#### Small Business Non-Profit Members:

- ABLE Industries\*
- Brandman University
- CASA / Court Appointed Special Advocates of Tulare County
- FoodLink for Tulare County, Inc.
- Happy Trails Riding Academy\*
- Proteus, Inc. Employment & Training\*
- RiverCross Church
- Sequoia Symphony Orchestra\*
- Sons of Italy In America\*
- Students International\*
- Tulare-Kings Right To Life

\*Indicates membership in the Visalia Chamber 110% Club.



### BOARD SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Marisol de la Vega Cardoso  
**Company:** Family HealthCare Network  
**Title:** Chief Business Development Officer

#### Why do you serve on the Chamber Board of Directors?

I was raised in Visalia, and consistently amazed at the growth of the community. I value serving on the Chamber Board of Directors as it has offered me the opportunity to learn about a variety of business perspectives while allowing me to share the health care sector's perspective.

#### What has the Chamber done in the last 12 months that has helped your business?

The Chamber offers an opportunity to engage with other businesses, and to learn about key issues that could potentially impact the overall business community.

#### What's your favorite family tradition?

Since my kids are now teenagers, I am holding on to the simple moments that I can spend with them before they are off to college.

#### Does your family have a "motto" – spoken or unspoken?

"Do your best, find meaning in what you do, and never take any day for granted".

#### What was your first job?

My first professional job was in social services at the Kings Community Action Agency.

#### Continued from page 1

In addition, to mark this 2,000th home milestone, SJV Homes has donated \$20,000 to Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation. "We feel it is important we give back to the communities where we live and build," said founder and President Joe Leal. "Kaweah Delta Hospital is a major regional facility that serves many of the cities where we build, and given the recent COVID-19 situation, we felt the hospital would be the perfect recipient."

Founded in 2013 by Joe Leal, Jim Robinson and Randy Merrill, SJV Homes is a local homebuilder currently developing new home neighborhoods in Dinuba, Hanford, Kingsburg, Porterville, Tulare and Visalia. In 2020, SJV Homes made the prestigious Builder 100 list, a ranking of the top 100 homebuilders in the U.S.



#### About this publication ...

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put out each year by Builder magazine. For more information, visit [www.sjvhomes.com](http://www.sjvhomes.com).

Since the beginning, SJV Homes has partnered with Presidio Residential Capital, a real estate investment firm in San Diego, on 23 projects totaling more than 2,700 units. The firm's goal is to invest in

excess of \$75 million in capital for home-building projects in the Western United States in the next 12 months. It currently has investments in Arizona, California, Nevada, Colorado and Washington with current committed capital of \$400 million focused on 65 projects. The firm is affiliated with a privately held registered investment

advisor specializing in alternative investment strategies who has a long history of investing in the home-building sector. Current assets under management total more than \$2 billion. For more information, visit [www.presidioreidential.com](http://www.presidioreidential.com) or find them on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

FACEBOOK LIVE

# COFFEE WITH THE CEO

WEDNESDAYS FROM 8:00-9:00AM

## THE LUNCHBUNCH

COMMUNITY • GREAT FOOD • CONNECTION

Friday, July 10th, 11:00AM-1:00PM  
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\* CARRYOUT EDITION  
SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Congratulations to **Momentum Broadcasting Company**, they were announced as a finalist for the 2020 Celebration of Service to America Awards by the National Association of Broadcasters Leadership Foundation. The awards recognize outstanding community service by local broadcasters.

**Bank of America** announced their four-year commitment of \$1 billion of support to help local communities address economic opportunity initiatives. Areas of focus will be health, jobs/training/reskilling/upskilling, support to small businesses, and housing.



**Visalia Rawhide** partnered with **A Combat Veteran's Hope (ACVH)** on a D-Day Jersey Auction to benefit ACVH's mission of empowering local Combat Veterans. In addition, ACVH recently launched a new online store: [acvhope.org/store](http://acvhope.org/store).

**Central Valley Community Bank** announced its fifth Business Food Fund Challenge campaign to benefit food



banks from the San Joaquin Valley to the Greater Sacramento region. Along with its own donation of \$8,000 to ten food banks in its territory, the Bank challenged other businesses to join the effort to fund local food banks.

**Kaweah Delta Health Care District's** Family Medicine Residency celebrated the class of 2020, their fifth graduating class. Including their current graduates, the program has graduated a total of 31 physicians, 26 who have remained in California and fourteen in Visalia.



Thank you to **Precision Prep** who donated food to Chamber Staff! Through their Feeding the Frontlines Initiative they have provided over 1,100 meals to essential and frontline workers in our community.

Congratulations to **Frank's Appliance Sales & Service** who is celebrating their 55th Anniversary in business!

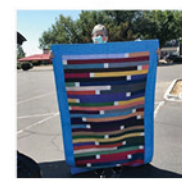
For the fifth consecutive year, **Valley Children's** was recognized as one of the nation's best children's hospitals in the country, nationally ranked in seven pediatric specialties. This is the highest number of rankings Valley Children's has

ever received.

**Fresno Pacific University Visalia Center** partnered with **Seven Oaks Church** for a free food distribution drive in June. They provided over 600 boxes of food to local families.



Mary Beatie of **Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group** and Adam Peck of the **Tulare County Workforce Investment Board** were named to the **City of Visalia Planning Commission**.



**Family Services of Tulare County** received 30 "quilts of hope" donated by the Orange Blossom Quilt Guild to families of Karen's House.

**Assistance League of Visalia** raised \$12,680 through this year's Disney raffle. Funds raised will assist their programs that serve children in Tulare County.

Congratulations to **Mill Creek Management and Real Estate Sales**. On July 15th they will celebrate their 40th Anniversary in business!

## LEADERSHIP VISALIA

# Making an sound investment...in your people

BY Raquel Garcia, Leadership Visalia Facilitator



When companies invest in their employees, those employees feel valued and appreciated. The investment ensures effective leadership in the workplace and opens the door for new opportunities. At the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, our purpose in providing such a top-level program for participants is to help develop knowledge, experience and skills for effective and visionary leadership that will benefit them, their workplace, and the community.

Last fall, we began the 31st class of Leadership Visalia and have watched tremendous professional growth among the cohort. Sixteen participants from companies like Cal Water, VUSD, Tulare County, OK, City of Visalia, Proteus and KDDH among many others, are investing in their employees leadership potential, and in doing so, they are not only benefiting from a stronger more equipped employee, but they are investing in Visalia.

Growth, during times of change means something different for everyone. Folks have found themselves facing

challenges with the way they do business, with health-care needs, with financial hardships, and the list goes on. There are two sides to these challenges: what we can see and what we cannot. Whether you believe what you see in the news or not, there is obvious hardship and hurt in our communities. It is what you cannot see that I think is inspiring. Local churches, non-profits and small businesses have come together to serve one another; large companies are coming through to sponsor events and fund causes like never before, and local leaders are stepping up in these times of need, to spread encouragement and make Visalia better. From Community Gardens, advanced library resources, SPCA projects, and water conservation education to this year's community project, "Buddy Benches" in local elementary schools, your Leadership Visalia is doing the work and they are making a difference!



I invite you to share this opportunity with your teams.

Who is your next rising leader? Who is already demonstrating leadership growth or potential? Who do you want us to equip to identify, examine and confront local and regional issues from a variety of perspectives? Who can we help gain knowledge and exposure to a variety of community agencies and opportunities for involvement and impact? Someone has likely already come to mind, make the investment in your company, make the investment in Visalia, and send them to the next Leadership Visalia cohort! They will develop lasting relationships with influential mentors, they will make impactful connections in the community and network at new levels. Applications for fall are at [www.visaliachamber.org/leadership](http://www.visaliachamber.org/leadership) and the deadline to apply is July 31, 2020. There is hope in our comeback as a community, we want you to be a part of it!

For more information, contact the Chamber office at 559-734-5876 or email to [info@visaliachamber.org](mailto:info@visaliachamber.org).

## CITY UPDATE

# Supporting Local



As we continue to move through the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no crystal ball to clearly see the future. At the time this was written, California was moving into Stage 3 of the Recovery Roadmap. Now that you're reading this, there is likely additional reopening activity taking place, and things are hopefully looking just a bit more 'normal.' However, 'normal' is going to look a little different for a while. As such, we encourage Visalians to support our local business community as best as you can, in

whatever ways you are able and most comfortable.

For some, that may be going out to dinner, shopping at your favorite store, or taking the kids somewhere fun. For others, that support may be picking up gift cards for a local business or having a little extra takeout this week.

As a smaller urban area in between two larger metropolitan areas to our north and south (in a state that has some of the largest metro populations in the country), Visalia and the Tulare County region have always had to be a bit independent and capable of helping ourselves. As a result, Visalia has developed a strong spirit that is key in dealing with tough times. This pandemic's scope has been far reaching, and committing to keeping our dollars in Visalia means shopping local and choosing to patronize businesses ranging from restaurants to retail, auto shops to salons, and all those in between.

No matter what is going on at the state or federal level, local is where folks

build their lives and create the communities we are all committed to. As the economy opens back up, please consider doing what you can to support our business community.

Choose local - Choose Visalia.

For the latest updates and news from the City of Visalia, visit [www.visalia.city](http://www.visalia.city) or visit them on social media @Cityof-Visalia.



GROWTH is feeling fear and **CHOOSING** to move forward. **LEADERS TAKE ACTION.**

-JUSTIN PATTON  
2019 IMPACT LEADERSHIP KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**LEADERSHIP VISALIA**  
VISALIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leadership Visalia provides opportunities in leadership style, networking, mentoring, problem solving techniques, insight into local, county and state government.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE JULY 31, 2020**

**MORE INFORMATION:**  
(559) 734-5876 | [INFO@VISALIACHAMBER.ORG](mailto:INFO@VISALIACHAMBER.ORG)

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	4in x 4in*	\$300	\$240	\$195	\$160
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For more information or to purchase an ad please contact Jena: [info@visaliachamber.org](mailto:info@visaliachamber.org) 559.7345976

\*Sizes may be slightly larger based upon availability Available on a first come first serve basis Must maintain Chamber Membership for duration of ad

**YOUR AD HERE**

## THE LAW AT WORK

## What are an employer's responsibilities when employing minors?

**GUBLER & ABBOTT**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

rely on workers under the age 18. But what are the key rules regarding employment of minors? Below is a summary of some state and federal regulations.

Federal law prohibits the employment of minors under the age of 14 except in a few specific occupations, such as agricultural firms, the entertainment industry, newspaper delivery, and employment on a farm owned or operated by a parent or guardian. As for minors over 14, an employer must acquire a work permit before employing a minor. A work permit limits the maximum number of workdays and hours allowed for the minor. The total number of hours a minor can work varies depending on the age of the minor and the time of year in which the work will be performed. Generally, it is a crime (misdemeanor) to require a minor to work more than eight hours in a day.

Federal law allows employers to pay workers who are not yet 20 years old an "opportunity wage" that is less than the regular minimum wage during their first 90 days of work. California law doesn't have such a provision. As such, minor employees should be paid the minimum wage. Furthermore, minors cannot be employed in certain "hazardous" occupations, such as mining, logging, roofing, or excavation. Also, it is not legal to employ minors for the purpose of driving a motor vehicle on public highways and

Many reading this article will remember their first job. For some, it was mowing lawns or babysitting. For others, it was working in an office or at a summer camp. Many employers



**Brett T. Abbott**  
Gubler & Abbott LLP

streets, i.e., no delivery work.

But what about employing minor children? Generally, when parents employ their minor children they must comply with all state and Federal child labor requirements, including obtaining work permits. The only parent-employers who are exempt from California child labor laws are those who employ their minor children in (1) agriculture, (2) horticulture, or (3) domestic labor on or in connection with premises that the parent owns, operates or controls. However, parents cannot employ minors in even these occupations during school hours, even if the minor is under school age. Parent-employers in these industries are entirely exempt from state and Federal minimum wage/overtime requirements – in fact, parents are not required to pay their employee children any wages at all.

There are of course other legal requirements for hiring minors; this article merely provides a basic overview. Suffice it to say that California law, by design, does not make it easy to employ minors. Public policy dictates that minors should be in school, not in the workforce. Thus, before hiring a minor, make sure you follow these and other regulations.

This article is for education and information purposes only; it should not be construed as legal advice. If you have an employment law question for inclusion in a future article, contact Brett T. Abbott at Gubler & Abbott (brett@thecalifornialawyers.com). For specific employment law advice or other legal assistance, contact Gubler & Abbott (559) 625-9600, 1110 N. Chinowth St., Visalia, CA 93291 (www.thecalifornialawyers.com).

## MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



**Name:** Nikki Scholl

**Company:** Train Like a Girl Studio

**Title:** Founder/Owner

Train Like a Girl (TLAG) is the Valley's only all-female training studio. TLAG is a community-oriented gym that offers body-positive training to women and girls. We are a come-as-you-are kind of gym. Instead of measuring what you want to lose, let us show you what you have to gain. Strength, power and confidence... and the list doesn't end there.

**News to Share?**

We are stoked to be back in the studio! Starting in July we are launching our GET JACKED program! Get Jacked is a strength program written by the top female professionals in the fitness industry. Designed specifically for the female body and to address the unique challenges women and girls face daily.

**Tell us something interesting about your business or product(s).**

We focus on the specific challenge's women face inside and out of the gym. In addition to strength training sessions our specialized coaching includes; Certified Prenatal/Postpartum training, Eating Disorder Recovery in positive body movement, Pelvic Floor coaching, self-defense courses and Intuitive Eating guidance.

**How does your company get involved in the local community?**

We love the community we live in! We also know that health is often a privilege here. Because we know this to be true a portion of all membership fees are used to offer free/discounted memberships to women who may not typical have access to a training environment. In addition, we partner with local nonprofit agencies to provide onsite nutrition and training services at no cost. Our team believes that when women find their strength inside a training environment they also find the confidence to go out into the world and make the changes they wish to see in their own community.

**The best part of working for your company is?**

Ummmm, HELLO! The women! It's like going to work with your BFFs. We believe that a strong group of women are a force to be reckoned with. One voice can make a echo, may will make a ROAR!

**How has the Chamber and/or the Ambassador Program helped you and/or your business?**

I joined the Chamber during Covid shelter-in-place. I can't begin to express how much they helped me navigating through operating a business during times of uncertainty. I have appreciated all the resources and support offered.

**Top thing you wish Visalia knew about your business?**

That we exist! LOL. In all seriousness, that we are here to offer support to women and girls in the Valley who may not feel comfortable in a typical gym setting.



**Name:** Armondo Apodaca

**Company:** CVRS, TEA, Library Foundation, Visalia Emergency Aid

**Title:** Board of Director

**How has the Chamber and the Ambassador Program helped you or your business to grow?**

Being a community minded individual I have found the Chamber is a terrific tool for marketing the organizations to which I belong. It offers me the opportunity in various Chamber events to inform people of what the organizations that I belong to are about.

## AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

**Why is it important to employees to get involved in the Visalia Chamber programs and events?**

The events are great exposure and offer a way for an individual to network and grow as an individual. As you meet people you can utilize them or they can become a part of your extended marketing team.

**The best part of working for your company is?**

I am thankful to be able to serve my community and help those organizations and they in turn allow me to expand my view of the whole community.

**Where is your favorite place to go in Visalia with friends and family?**

As I know so many owners of places to go that I would hurt someone's feelings by stating a particular place, so what I can say is that Visalia offers many wonderful places to go eat and have fun.



## Reaching the top is no easy task

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# ‘Vintage Visalia’ gated neighborhood now open

The developers of the elegant Montecito Luxury Apartments in Visalia have unveiled Vintage Visalia, their new 55-plus rental community.

The gated neighborhood in northwest Visalia offers granite countertops, energy-efficient stainless steel appliances, washer and dryer, vinyl hardwood flooring, and a private patio. The community offers the choice of a three-bedroom/two bath duplex or a two-bedroom/one-and-a-half-bath apartment.

Residents can enjoy a well-equipped clubhouse featuring a large kitchen, bar area, televisions, a coffee bar, universal Wi-Fi and a 24-hour, state-of-the-art fitness center. A pet-friendly park is also open to residents, and on-site maintenance is available.

Vintage Visalia was conceived and developed by Paloma Development and Ginder Development, both known for creating attractive, quality projects in the Visalia area. The community is conveniently located near shopping centers, restaurants, churches and the golf course, and offers quick access to Highway 99.

“We are pleased to be able to offer a rental project that delivers what independent, active people over the age of 55 want today,” May said. “There is no community like this in Visalia, offering both high-quality amenities and a convenient location, and the interest has already been very strong.”

Vintage Visalia is located at 6714 W. Oriole in Visalia. For leasing information, visit [www.vintagevisalia.com](http://www.vintagevisalia.com), or call 372-7384.

## KEEPING OUR CUSTOMERS SAFE



Restaurant and business owners are eager to reopen and welcome back customers. In many cases, the natural gas equipment at these businesses has been idle for months.

We encourage you to reach out to SoCalGas to have your equipment inspected for leaks to promote safe operation prior to opening. As a reminder, SoCalGas continues to make essential service appointments for things like suspected

natural gas leaks, carbon monoxide checks, gas meter turn-ons, natural gas outage and pilot re-lights. Business customers can schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-427-2000. We also want to provide our residential customers with some safety tips. Many people are taking advantage of the nice weather to start home improvement projects. Don't forget to contact 811 at least two business days before breaking ground, whether it's a landscaping project or you're starting construction on an addition to your home.

National Safety month is also a good time to remind everyone to always be aware of signs of a natural gas leak. Some of these signs include a dry patch of grass, a hissing or whistling sound and the distinctive odor of natural gas. Remember to “look, listen or smell.” In the event you suspect a gas leak, immediately evacuate the area and from a safe location call SoCalGas at 800-427-2200 or 911. More safety information can be found at [socialgas.com/Safety](http://socialgas.com/Safety)

### GAS ASSISTANCE FUND EXTENDED

We know that this has been a difficult time for many and that finances are stretched. SoCalGas would like to remind our customers that there are resources available to help pay their natural gas bill. United Way and SoCalGas' Gas Assistance Fund program usually closes in April, but the fund has now been extended into the fall months. The one-time grant awards have also been doubled from \$100 to \$200. More information, including how to apply, is available at [socialgas.com/Gaf](http://socialgas.com/Gaf) As a reminder, SoCalGas has suspended service disconnections until further notice. This means no residential or small business customer will have their natural gas service turned off due to non-payment.



**The Salad Shop**  
104 E. Main St. / (559) 759-4355

# How has COVID-19 affected Taxes?

BY Krystal Parreira, CPA.  
M. Green and Company LLP



In normal circumstances, filing your income taxes would already be in your rearview mirror since

Tax Day is typically recognized as April 15. However, due to COVID-19, there were various changes related to taxes. Some of those changes include, the deadline to file and pay was extended for all taxpayers (individuals, businesses, trusts and tax-exempt organizations), the deadline for making contributions to an IRA was also extended, and many individuals received an economic impact payment.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) extended the deadline to file and pay taxes to July 15. If for some reason, that extension did not allow enough time to gather everything to complete your taxes, it is still possible to file an extension, as done previously. When you file an extension, you will have until October 15

to file your taxes; however, any payment due must be paid by July 15 to avoid interest and penalties. If estimated payments are required for 2020 taxes, the first and second quarter payment are both due on July 15 as well, instead of the previously April 15 and June 15.

In addition to extending the deadline for filing and paying taxes, the deadline for making contributions to an IRA for 2019 has also been extended to July 15. Making a traditional IRA contribution may be beneficial to reduce your tax liability. The annual contribution limit for 2019 and 2020 is \$6,000, or \$7,000 if your age is 50 or older. The amount that is deductible on your tax return may be limited if you or your spouse is covered by a retirement plan at work and your income exceeds certain levels.

A reason some taxpayers may have taken advantage of the July 15th extension, even if they were ready to file by April 15 was to make sure they received the maximum amount for the economic

impact payment. For all US citizens and US resident aliens, the IRS issued an economic impact payment of \$1,200 (\$2,400 if married filing jointly) that was reduced by 5 percent if taxpayers' adjusted gross income (AGI) was above \$75,000 (\$150,000 married filing jointly). The amount of AGI used in determining the reduction was taken from either the 2019 or 2018 taxes filed. If a taxpayer was above the limit in 2019, but below in 2018, it would have benefited to wait on filing the 2019 taxes until the payment was received.

Despite having the extended deadline, if you have your information ready, you should still try to get your taxes filed as soon as possible, as the IRS is taking longer to process returns, refunds, and payments. It is recommended to electronically file tax returns through either a tax preparer, tax software provider or IRS Free File. If you need help filing your tax returns, whether individual or business, feel free to give us a call at (559) 627-3900.



## VISALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Reopening Schools under COVID-19



**Tamara Ravalin, Ed.D.,**  
Superintendent  
Visalia Unified  
School District

As Visalia Unified plans for the opening of our next school year, our number one priority continues to be protecting

the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. It is our hope that the situation surrounding the pandemic will improve so we may return to regular school in the fall; however, at this time, it appears the most likely scenario is a hybrid model where some students are at school on a given day while others are learning at home.

Visalia Unified has developed a group of committees that will inform our planning for the 2020-2021 school year. The committees advise the District on topics such as public health, sanitation, family and community engagement, student engagement and support services, technology, instructional scheduling models, and instructional

technology integration.

In our planning for a hybrid model, we will follow state guidelines and plan for six feet of physical distancing, increased sanitation measures, and supplemental health education for students, staff, and families. This model will differ from the distance learning we saw at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, with the integration of additional supports such as increased direct instruction and supplemental instructional technology platforms.

Installation of equipment for VUSD to become an internet service provider for our families has started, and we have ordered an additional 4,000 hotspots. We have also cataloged

29,000 Chromebooks so they are ready for checkout by students and we are purchasing an additional 7,000. For our younger students, the Chromebooks will be touchscreen. The instructional committees will be presenting recommendations for a District-wide Learning Management System, Videoconferencing platform, and instructional software packages.

Moving forward, we will remain optimistic that the situation will improve in such a manner that will allow us to return to school in the fall; but we will continue to plan and prepare for the various scenarios that may occur. Our commitment remains to return to school in a safe and responsible manner.

### HEALTHCARE NOTE

## FHCN leads effort in COVID-19 testing



Network (FHCN) also continues to observe CDC guidelines in order to provide quality care to our communities. Since our last update, Family HealthCare Network has been a leader in testing for COVID-19 and finding new avenues for patient care.

Toward the end of May, FHCN began antibody testing in addition to diagnostic testing. Antibody testing is different than diagnostic testing, because it only informs patients if they have been exposed to the virus and developed an immune response, not if they currently have the virus. At this time, Family HealthCare Network has five testing centers running both diagnostic and antibody testing. Since our testing centers opened, FHCN has conducted almost 6,000 tests.

In addition to working to detect and assist the health system in managing COVID19 in the population in Tulare County, FHCN saw

As the spread of COVID-19 continues to increase in Tulare County, Family HealthCare



**Kerry Hydash, MPA,**  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Family HealthCare Network

a need for and created a Mental Health hotline for patients dealing with anxiety and depression. As a consequence of the disruptions to daily routine that occurred to prevent the spread of COVID-19, many individuals have found themselves alone at home or unable to socialize with their family and friends. Our Mental Health Hotline is an avenue where patients can get same day virtual appointments with a behavioral health provider. It has been our goal to have the right care available to those who need it most. Our community partners need to be able to count on the health of their workforce members as restrictions on services have begun to open up, and FHCN has been a key player in providing the care that makes this possible.

As an organization, we have made communication one of our main goals during this pandemic. We have created and shared as much material as possible on preventing the spread of COVID-19. It is important to us that our communities know what they can do in order to stay healthy, whether they're isolating or going to work. Family HealthCare Network social media channels are full of consumable graphics and videos, we encourage everyone to head over and take a look.

### THANK YOU TO OUR PREMIER MEMBERS:

#### CHAMPION:



#### VISIONARY:



#### REGIONAL LEADERS:



#### KEYSTONE:



#### CORNERSTONE:

CIGNA, CSET, E.D.I.S.,  
Lamp Litter Inn,  
M. Green and Company, Naked Nut  
MilliporeSigma  
Southern California Edison

#### MEDIA PARTNERS:



*Ask Jena*

**WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON REOPENING MY BUSINESS?**  
The Chamber released a Re-Opening Business Resource Kit that includes members who can be a resource for your business. You can access the kit through your Member Portal. Need help? Contact me today!

**WHAT PROGRAMS DOES THE CHAMBER OFFER?**  
Leadership Visalia is a 9-month professional development program designed to help current and future leaders develop their leadership skills, community knowledge, and professional networks. Applications can be found at [visaliachamber.org/leadership](http://visaliachamber.org/leadership)

**WHAT CAN I DO THROUGH MY MEMBER PORTAL?**  
Through your Member Portal, you can connect with other members directly, post jobs and events to our Website, create Member-to-Member deals, access member-only resources and more!

Have a questions about the Chamber? Send me a message: [Jena@visaliachamber.org](mailto:Jena@visaliachamber.org)



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