



Staff Reports

October 17, 2024

TO: BCSD Board of Directors

FROM: Elaine Cervantes

RE: Staff Report

Cc: Marisol Camacho, Morelia Avila

Board Members,

District Responsibility for Maintenance along Shaw Avenue and Alleys

We want to clarify the district's responsibility for maintenance along Shaw Avenue and the adjacent alleys. The district has managed the upkeep of weeds along Shaw Avenue walking path up to Well #3. Beyond this point, maintenance responsibilities fall to the respective property owners. As for the alleys they are sprayed and maintained for weeds twice a year. The District is not responsible for picking up trash, furniture, broken down fences or any other greenery that may be impeding the alley way. That is the responsibility of the property owner.

Specifically, the corner lot at Shaw Avenue and 3rd Street, as well as the property on Shaw Avenue next to Shaw Market, are not maintained by the district. We have contacted the owners of these properties regarding the necessary upkeep, but unfortunately, no action has been taken to our complaints.

As a next step, we will be reaching out to the County for further assistance in resolving these maintenance concerns. Please see attached photos as to the concerned areas.

ATP 5 Biola Community Sidewalk Improvement Project

On June 17, 2024, work commenced on the Biola Community Sidewalk Improvement Project, which is focused on Biola Avenue from Shaw Avenue to G Street. The construction activities will include:

- Storm drain improvements
- Electrical upgrades
- Concrete work
- Asphalt enhancements

Final Walk through of the current project is Tuesday, October 14, 2024. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to enhance and beautify our community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Staff Report: District Maintenance Position Now Closed

The Biola Community Services District (BCSD) is seeking a dedicated and hardworking individual for a part-time Maintenance position. The role will involve:

- Maintaining the grounds of the District
- Upkeeping downtown Biola
- Caring for District Well sites
- Overseeing the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
- Reading water meters on a monthly basis

The position has been posted on Indeed, our social media channels, and the district website. We aim to fill the position immediately upon selecting a qualified applicant as soon as possible.

Community Center Kitchen Freezer and Refrigerator

The refrigerator and freezer in the Community Center have unfortunately stopped working. A technician assessed the situation and determined that the compressor has failed, with repair costs estimated at approximately \$4,000.

In the meantime, we are borrowing a refrigerator to address immediate needs. However, we will need to purchase a new refrigerator soon.

We will provide updates on the purchase process and any further actions required.

Community Outreach

***Valley Health Team Resource Fair**

The Valley Health Team has partnered with the district to host a resource fair for our community. The event was scheduled for October 3, 2024, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Biola Community Center.

Attendees had the opportunity to benefit from:

- Free health screenings
- Raffle prizes
- 17 different organizations of resources from across Fresno County were present

This resource fair, organized by the district and Valley Health Team, was an essential opportunity for the Biola community. Unfortunately, only three residents attended. It's important to remember that these resources were specifically brought in for you, including services like Medical, EOC, Central la Familia, Fresno City College, PG&E, Financial Aid assistance, Transportation, Head Start, and more. We understand that everyone has busy schedules, but we encourage at least one member from each household to participate in these events. Gathering this information can be crucial for your family's current needs. Let's show our support for the Valley Health Team and make the most of their efforts to help our community. Valley Health Team is

present during the Food Distribution on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, for more information on the recent Resource Fair, please speak to their team.

Jakara Movement and UC Merced

On Wednesday, October 3, 2024, we met with representatives from Jakara Movement and UC Merced. They presented a grant opportunity that could help the district secure a surveyor to conduct another census in Biola. Currently, Fresno County claims that Biola is no longer below the poverty level, reporting a figure of 41%, down from the previous 51%. This change affects our ability to apply for past and current CDBG Grants. We have census and HUD reports that contradict this claim, and it's our responsibility to demonstrate that their assessment is incorrect. We are grateful to Jakara Movement and UC Merced for their collaboration with the district in seeking solutions.

***Biola Food Distribution Schedule and Important Information**

The Biola Food Distributions are held three times a month:

- **1st Thursday of the Month** at 8:00 AM
- **2nd Wednesday of the Month** at 8:00 AM
- **4th Wednesday of the Month** at 4:00 PM

On the 2nd Wednesday of the month, United Health will be present to provide free health screenings to residents and anyone interested, at no cost.

Please be mindful that all participants are volunteers, especially during these hot months. We also want to remind everyone that the quantity of food we receive from the Fresno Food Bank can vary—sometimes there's plenty, and other times, there isn't enough. Unfortunately, this is beyond our control, and we appreciate your patience and understanding.

***BOARD PACKETS** – Agendas and Board Packets will be sent by email effective August 1, 2023. If a hard copy is needed copies will be available at the office for pickup at your convenience, every Friday before the scheduled Board Meeting of every month. Thank you for your patience as we try and be a little more efficient with staff time and safety.

As a reminder the office hours are as follows:

Monday – office closed

Tuesday – 8:00am –5:00pm

Wednesday – 8:00am –5:00pm

Thursday – 8:00am – 5:00pm

Friday – 8:00am – 2:00pm