

PRIVATE CARTS PHASED OUT AT VALLEY OAKS GOLF COURSE: On a 4-1 vote, with City Council Member Mike Lane dissenting, the City Council authorized the elimination of private cart privileges effective Oct. 31 at the Valley Oaks Golf Course. Aaron Hensley, general manager at Valley Oaks, said that a monthly carts pass is now available for \$100. In addition, all time restrictions will be removed from the monthly ticket holders allowing unlimited golf at all times. In November 2000, Council approved a 5-year phase out of private golf cart privileges at the golf course. CourseCo, which assumed management of the course in 2000 under a 10-year management contract, said the elimination of private golf carts was in the best financial interest of the course.

COUNCIL AUTHORIZES PURSUIT OF BOND FUNDING FOR ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY AND STREET PROJECTS: City Council unanimously approved authorizing staff to pursue bond financing for the Animal Control Facility with Build America Bond or tax-exempt bond financing. They also authorized the acceleration of various street improvement projects and to pursue bond financing options for the projects. Low interest rates, economic benefits of creating jobs and a favorable bid environment were components in the decision. The street improvement projects are not currently budgeted in the 2010/11 and 2011/12 budget and do not have a funding source. Authorizing the acceleration of the projects, provided bond financing is secured, would benefit the City from long-term traffic circulation and economic development promotion and potential for temporary job growth. Staff will return to Council for final authorization for bond financing and provide updated estimates of costs.

TASTE THE ARTS FESTIVAL KICKS OFF SEPT. 9: Join in the fun of a three-day festival of art, music, food and agriculture at "Visalia's first "Taste the Arts" Sept. 9-11. The festival is the result of a joint effort of musicians, composers, sculptors and painters, dancers and singers and dramatists. It connects several popular venues downtown as well as incorporating established events to create an event that has something for everyone. Here are just a few of the highlights: **Thursday, Sept. 9**—The 17th annual Waiters Race, 5:30 p.m., Main Street; free concert by Mezcal with Zumba dancers from In-Shape Health Clubs, 8 p.m., Garden Street Plaza; **Friday, Sept. 10**—Arts Council Art Tours, 6-8 p.m. at various locations along Main Street; **Saturday, Sept. 11**- Taste of Mozart, an opera at the 210 theater, 6:30 p.m., Taste of the Pops, a performance by the Tulare County Symphony Orchestra with a special guest appearance by Visalia Rawhide mascot "Tipper," 8 p.m. at the Transit Center, 424 E. Oak Ave.; and Visalia Teen Idol, 6-9 p.m., at the Visalia Fox Theatre, 308 W. Main St. For more information, contact Caroline Koontz at the Visalia Arts Consortium at 713-4324.

SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL SERVICE: On Saturday, Sept. 11, at 9 a.m., the Visalia Fire Department will hold a 9/11 memorial service at Fire Station 51, at 309 S. Johnson St. The service is expected to last 30 minutes, and the public is encouraged to attend.

IT'S OFFICIAL—HOBBY LOBBY COMING TO VISALIA: Nationwide craft retailer, Hobby Lobby, hits a milestone with the signing of a lease to open a store in Visalia, CA. The 59,283 square-foot retail facility will be located at 3231 S Mooney Blvd in the Sequoia Mall. Visalia is a city rich in history and full of culture, and is a strong economic center to the region. "It has everything you need in one location making it the perfect locality for Hobby Lobby to open its first store in California. With the many requests we received to open a store here, we are overjoyed to finally become

a member of the Visalia community,” stated John Schumacher, Assistant Vice President of Advertising. He added, “Our unique store gives our loyal patrons and new shoppers an enriched customer experience while filling the void that currently exists in the crafts and home décor arena.” The store’s grand opening is expected to be this fall. Hobby Lobby will offer crafts, hobbies, picture framing, jewelry making, fashion fabrics, floral, scrapbooking, cards and party, baskets, wearable art, home accents, holiday supplies and much more. The store will be open Monday through Saturday, and will be closed on Sundays. Hobby Lobby was founded in Oklahoma City, OK in 1972 with 300 feet of retail space. The chain has grown into 452 stores in 38 states and operates from a 4.1 million square foot office, manufacturing and distribution center. For more information, visit www.hobbylobby.com

BUILDING PERMITS UP SLIGHTLY FOR RESIDENTIAL,

COMMERICAL ADDITIONS: The total number of permits issued for 2010 saw a slight bump due to increases in permits for residential and commercial additions. Permits for new single family dwellings was down 19% and multi-family unit permits down 70%. The total number of permits for the year is 2,115, up 1% from 2009’s year to date total of 2,089. Total valuation of all permits was down 14%.