

Inside City Hall

Beyond the headlines

VOLUME 11

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COUNCIL APPROVES 45-DAY MORATORIUM ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES:

On a 5-0 vote, the City Council approved an urgency ordinance which imposes a 45-day moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries and collective or cooperative cultivation and distribution enterprises. The moratorium provides time for staff and the City Attorney to analyze recent and currently pending court decisions which are central to a determination of whether these enterprises are operating legally or illegally under current state law and to determine appropriate revisions to the City's Medical Marijuana Business Ordinance, including the zoning provisions contained in that ordinance which was adopted in 2006. Council may extend the ordinance for an additional 10 months and 15 days and may further extend the ordinance for an additional year for a total of two years. Each extension requires a noticed public hearing prior to Council action and consideration of mandatory findings as it relates to State law.

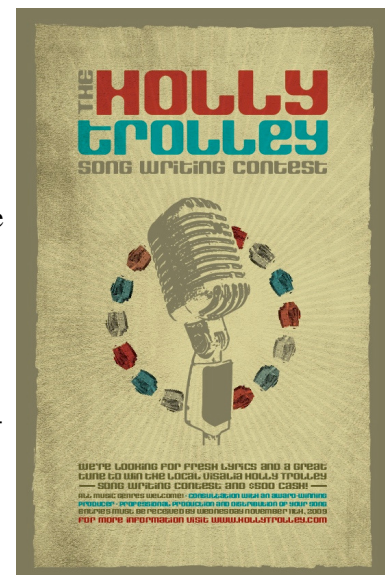
COUNCIL APPROVES HIRING CONSULTANT TO DESIGN ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY:

Following two years of discussion,, the Visalia City Council voted 5-0 to hire a design consultant for the new Animal Control Facility. The new 17,250-square foot facility will be built on the same 4.6-acre spot along Highway 99. City staff will issue an immediate Request for Proposals, then begin the process of selecting and negotiating with a design consultant. The City has allocated \$521,880 for architectural, operational and construction plans. The new facility will feature about 100 dog kennels and 100 cat cages, allowing more room for animals. As many as 20,000 animals are expected to come through the operation this year. For the first six months of the year, Visalia Oaks SPCA Board President Tami Crawford said 90 percent of the cats and 50 percent of the dogs were euthanized. Crawford cited the lack of space at the existing shelter as at least, in part, responsible for the high numbers.

ASPIRING SONGWRITERS HAVE SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT:

With the holiday season upon us, The Visalia Transit Division is looking to make this the loudest silent night possible; with help from the local community. Between now and November 11th, all Tulare County residents have the opportunity to submit a unique song about the Holly Trolley; either in person or on the new Holly Trolley website. All music genres are welcome. The winning artist or band will receive: \$500 Cash, A consultation with an award winning producer, and professional production and distribution of the song. "The goal is to interact with the community" says Visalia Transit Manager, Monty Cox. "We are excited to combine our popular Holly Trolley promotion with the talent from local musicians."

Entries must be received by November 11th and can be submitted on the website www.HollyTrolley.com, by mail, or in person at the Visalia Transit Center located at 425 E. Oak Ave in Visalia. All entrants must



be a Tulare County resident and all songs must be about the Holly Trolley. A complete set of rules can be obtained on the Holly Trolley website. The Visalia Town Trolley operates all year long in Down Town Visalia for \$.25 per ride, or with an unlimited monthly pass for \$5. However, during the holiday season the Visalia Town Trolley turns into the Holly Trolley and with this comes the spirit of giving... free trolley rides that is! Starting the day after Thanksgiving and running through Christmas Eve (November 27th – December 24th) Holly Trolley not only runs it's typical Down Town routes, but increases services to include Mooney Boulevard; so all major shopping can be accessed by riding the Holly Trolley. PLUS all Holly Trolley rides are FREE! Less traffic congestion, less gas money, less worry about where to park!

SANTA FE OVERCROSSING TIME CAPSULE ITEMS ON DISPLAY: Life in Visalia in 2009 will come back to life when time capsules to be placed in the Santa Fe Overcrossing will be opened in 2059 and 2109. A committee working with the City of Visalia have been collecting items to include in both capsules. The items will be on display at the Visalia Convention Center until Oct. 23, and then placed in the bridge around the middle of November. Work on the bridge is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

8TH ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BADGES BLOOD DRIVE SLATED TO BEGIN: Get ready to roll up your sleeves beginning Monday, November 2, for the eighth annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive. The Visalia Fire and Police Departments, Cal-Fire, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department, and AMR Ambulance will host a free tri-tip luncheon at the Central California Blood Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, at 1515 S. Mooney Blvd. Donors are encouraged to come and donate blood on behalf of their favorite department. The competition runs from 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 2, until 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10. For information regarding blood donations, go to www.cencalblood.org.

UPDATES ON CITY'S ROAD PROJECTS: Work is proceeding on the Houston Roundabout and Widening Project and the Santa Fe Overcrossing. The timeline for the next two weeks for Houston Roundabout is as follows: **Week of Oct 19-Oct 23:** Santa Fe Street, with connections to NE 1st and NE 2nd, to remain closed to through traffic. Douglas Avenue will remain closed from Santa Fe east for 400 feet (between Santa Fe and the old Soroptimist Park) for the installation of storm drain pipe in Douglas Avenue; **Week of Oct 26-Oct 30:** Santa Fe Street, with connections to NE 1st and NE 2nd, to remain closed to through traffic as storm drain is completed. NE 3rd will remain closed at Santa Fe and Houston Avenue for approximately one more week for reconstruction work on Houston Avenue and Santa Fe Street. Douglas Avenue could re-open to through traffic at some time during the week. Road closures and detours to remain in effect. Work in the intersection around the roundabout will continue. The timeline for the next two weeks for the Santa Fe Overcrossing is as follows: **Week of Oct 19-Oct 23:** Daytime ramp closures are planned for this week for Highway 198 near the Santa Fe Bridge. Westbound Central Visalia off-ramp (Court Street) and eastbound Central Visalia on-ramp (Court Street) are scheduled to be closed daily from 9 AM to 3 PM. Nighttime lane closures are planned for Highway 198 Monday night, 10/19/09, and Tuesday night, 10/20/09. The nighttime lane closures are scheduled from 8 pm to 6 am. Single lanes and Court Street on- and off-ramps will be closed as crews continue work over travel lanes and construct traffic barriers on the highway shoulders. A minimum of one highway lane will be open in both directions at all times during the nighttime closures. **Week of Oct 26-Oct 30:** Work will be done on Mineral King and Noble Avenues to prepare the roadway for paving. All work will be done during daylight hours.

EVEN CYCLISTS CAN TWITTER, TOO: With the growing popularity of Twitter, it's not difficult to keep track of your favorite cyclists. Levi Leipheimer (@LeviLeipheimer), Dave Zabriskie (@dzabriskie) and George Hincapie (@ghincapie) all keep us posted through their daily tweets. With the host city announcement for the 2010 Amgen Tour of California (@AmgenTourofCali) coming up on Oct. 22 at 10 a.m., you might want to double check your account to make sure you're following your favorites so you don't miss any big news that they might leak earlier that morning. Even Gov. Schwarzenegger (@Schwarzenegger) has been known to tweet about cycling from time to time...

WORKPLAN FOR BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW: Project documents for the Visalia Brownfields Cleanup project are available for public review online at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public and at the Visalia branch of the Tulare County Library at 200 W. Oak Ave. The project is at the site of the City's proposed Civic Center on Burke Street, north of East Center Street. Cleanup work is necessary for the Site to be ready for the redevelopment of the Civic Center, and is expected to begin the week of Nov. 2. Work hours will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and will take two weeks to complete. Work includes the excavation and removal of contaminated soil in areas where lead and arsenic exceed levels appropriate for residential uses. For more information or to discuss the project, contact Fred Brusuelas, Assistant Community Development Director, at 713-4364 or by email at fbrusuelas@ci.visalia.ca.us.