



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

APRIL 2017

## Supervisor Message: It's Spring & Tulare County is Keeping Busy



Spring has arrived and with it comes new beginnings and opportunities. This has certainly been the case for myself since being sworn in as District Three Supervisor in January.

While my nine years on the Visalia City Council gave me a foundation of the inner workings of local government, being on the Board has expanded that foundation tenfold!

Thank you to all the staff and department heads who have met with me and introduced me to the numerous services Tulare County provides. I know I have only touched the tip of the iceberg and look forward to meeting many more of our great employees in the coming weeks.

May is gearing up to be a very busy month.

On May 3 at 9:00 am, law enforcement officers from

throughout Tulare County will gather at our Peace Officers Memorial to pay tribute to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty. If you're able, I invite you to join us for this very moving ceremony.

As a member of the Mental Health Board, I look forward to the activities in store during Mental Health Awareness Month in May that will bring awareness and help reduce the negative stigma of mental illness. Here's a portion of the what we have planned for Mental Health Awareness Month:

May 5 - Mental Health Awareness Night at the Rawhide

May 12 - Expressions of Lived Experiences Art Show

May 18 - Wellness and Recovery Champions Picnic

Our Step-Up program is going strong! The Youth Challenge Red Carpet event will take place at the Fox Theater on May 18.

We will celebrate and recognize schools and students who took on the challenge to make a difference in their community by implementing projects that will have a positive impact.

A May 22 graduation will bring together youth from Visalia, Tulare, and Porterville who participated in our #LEAD program (Leading, Education, Advocating, and Dedication).

#LEAD engages high school students to be leaders and mentors. Participants learn life skills, College and career planning and service learning.

These are just a handful of the events happening over and above the daily workings that make our County thrive, and we have all of you to thank for your dedication to make it happen.

I'm focused on maintaining an open line of communication with staff and my constituents, and encourage you to contact me with questions or concerns that you feel could provide more transparency and efficiency.

Amy Shuklian,  
District Three  
Tulare County Board of  
Supervisors

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## Tulare County Museum's Main Street Jamboree



The Tulare County Museum celebrated the wonderful history of Tulare County on Saturday, April 22 at the annual Main Street Jamboree!

The entire community was invited to come and experience fun and interesting activities that connect us to Tulare County's past and present.

There was a great turnout as people brought their family and friends to share in all the fun! Many community members also participated in the event by providing demonstrations



and served as representatives from a variety of service providers in the County.

The purpose of the event is to provide a forum for the community to connect, to learn about, and to celebrate the rich history of Tulare County.

The day was filled with hay rides; learning about local Native American culture and how to grind acorns with a real mortar and pestle; watching a real blacksmith at work; model train displays; informational talks and videos; strolls through our Pioneer Village; Chinese brush painting; quilting and woodworking demonstrations; an antique car show with Visalia Vapor Trailers; an antique tractor display and much, much, more!

This is an annual event held at the Tulare County Museum in Mooney Grove Park and we hope to see you next year!

## Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony set for May 3



You are invited to the 2017 Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony at 9 a.m. on May 3 at the Peace Officer Memorial on the corner of Woodland Street and Burrell Avenue in Visalia.

This Monument honors the memory of the Peace Officers from law enforcement agencies in Tulare County who were killed in the line of duty.

Sheriff Mike Boudreaux invited Ashley Ritchie, former anchor at KMPH, to be the keynote speaker. She's a 3rd generation Visalian and grew up working summers on her family's ranch.

After pursuing a career in broadcast journalism which took her first to Springfield, Missouri, for three years, and later to



KMPH in Fresno, Ritchie is staying closer to home with her husband and their three sons.

The day before, at 10 a.m. on May 2, Sheriff Boudreaux invites you to a unique look at the

Tulare County Peace Officer's Memorial. This educational opportunity will include an in-depth look at the history of our local memorial as well as

an introduction to each Officer who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with local Law Enforcement Officers and hear stories from the wall, dating back to Deputy John Wren who was killed in the

line of duty in 1889.

This education opportunity has been extended to schools throughout Tulare County, but is also open to all members of the public.

## Employee Spotlight: Sam Conant



colony strength which is something I never expected to be doing back when I was in school.

**Family?** I have two sisters who live in Oregon and my parents live in southern California.

pest control advisors, beekeepers, and structural fumigators.

**Please tell us something other employees might not know about you?**

From middle school through college I competed in and judged mathematics and robotics competitions. It's always fun to see how much a group of middle schoolers can accomplish in just their free time after school.

**Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?**

The Galaxy Theater in Tulare has been one of my favorite places lately. It's hard to go back to the other movie theaters once you've watched a movie in the recliners there.

*Pictured is Sam working in the field with a bee swarm on a net in a Mandarin orchard.*

**Name:** Sam Conant

**Title:** Agricultural & Standards Inspector

**Years of Service:** 2.5

**Duties:** Currently working in the pesticides division, conducting agricultural and structural pesticide use monitoring inspections around the County. I've also been inspecting bee hives for

**Hobbies Clubs/Organizations?**

Since moving here from Oregon, I've been enjoying being able to go to all of the concerts, theme parks, and film festivals that are around California.

**What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?**

I would say getting to meet and work with so many people from around the County has been my best experience, from farmers to



Have a program you want to highlight? Please send suggestions to: [newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

## It's Mosquito Season...Protect Yourself from Zika

Community members who are traveling to Mexico, Central and South American countries should take precautions against mosquito bites to prevent contracting the Zika virus. Pregnant women and women considering becoming pregnant are encouraged not to travel at this time to countries where the Zika virus is widespread.

Zika is an emerging mosquito-borne virus that produces symptoms such as mild illness with fever, joint and muscle pain, skin rash, and redness of the eyes. Symptoms may last 2-7 days after a bite and the virus stays in the blood system for about one week.

Because the Zika virus in pregnant women can cause microcephaly in the infant, pregnant women should take extra precautions. Additionally, the virus has been associated with miscarriages and fetal loss.

Although there is no evidence that the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes present in Tulare County carry the Zika virus, travelers may become infected and inadvertently spread the virus, which can be passed through blood transfusions and sexual contact. There are no vaccines and no medications to speed up recovery; the best form of prevention is protection against getting mosquito bites.

**If community members travel, they should protect themselves by:**

-Using mosquito repellent which is safe for anyone over two months of age;

-Protecting skin from exposure to mosquitoes by wearing hats, long sleeved shirts, and pants;

-Using insecticide-treated mosquito nets for sleeping; and

-Staying in screened-in or air conditioned areas.

-Wear condoms for sexual contact if you have been exposed to mosquitoes in an area of Mexico/Central America (or other areas) where the *Aedes aegypti*/Zika is present

**Information for pregnant women and women who may become pregnant:**

-Before traveling to other countries, check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (<http://www.cdc.gov/>) for the most current information about areas included in the travel advisory and postpone travel to risky areas. Some airlines are allowing women to cancel or postpone flights to Zika affected areas. Contact your travel provider directly for more information.

-Using EPA approved insect repellent according to the product label is safe and effective for pregnant and nursing women.

-At this time there is no evidence that the Zika virus infection poses a risk of birth defects in future pregnancies; babies conceived after the virus is cleared from the blood should not have an infection.

-Pregnant women should have regular prenatal care appointments with a doctor to receive health recommendations, and consult with a doctor before travel.

-Mosquitoes can breed in areas with small amounts of water, so residents should also be aware of any standing water such as:

- Backyard pools
- Water features
- Discarded tires
- Any other items that holds water.

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^ Above - Farmersville Library Grand Opening

On April 22, Tulare County opened its 17th Library Branch in Farmersville. Supervisor Crocker is pictured with community members at the Grand Opening event.

^ Top Right- 2017 Walking Works! Challenge

Supervisor Steve Worthley leads the pack of walkers to kick off the Walking Works! Challenge during Healthy Tulare County Week on April 24.



> Right- Denim Day in Tulare County

On April 26, Tulare County employees participated in Denim Day to bring awareness of the misconceptions of sexual assault. Pictured is CAO/BOS staff sporting their denim at work for Denim Day.



**AROUND TULARE COUNTY**

Around Tulare County is published once a month as a service to the public. Unless otherwise noted, articles are written by County staff. For additional information, contact Carrie Crane.

Around Tulare County  
2800 W. Burrell Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93291  
Phone: (559) 636-5000  
Fax: (559) 733-6898

E-Mail/Subscribe:  
[newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

Internet:  
[www.aroundtularecounty.com](http://www.aroundtularecounty.com)

**UPCOMING COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS**

| <b>Event/Meeting: (Date/Time)</b>   | <b>More Information:</b> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Board of Supervisors Meeting: May 9 (7:00 p.m.), 9:00 a.m. May 16, May 22 <b>No Meeting: May 2 and May 30</b> | (559) 636-5000           |
| Tulare County Planning Commission: 9:00 a.m. May 10, May 24   | (559) 624-7000           |
| Tulare County Water Commission: 3:00 p.m. May 8   | (559) 636-5000           |
| Tulare County Youth Commission: 3:00 p.m. May 22  | (559) 636-5000           |

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**Places to Go Play:** Experience the best of antiques, art and agriculture in Exeter. Exeter is also known for its abundant supply of citrus, deciduous fruits, nuts and table grapes. The area has scenic beauty, thriving business community, and a population who take great pride in the town's heritage, quality housing and good schools. Learn more about Exeter and other places to "Go Play" at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).