



# Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - April 2011

## Supervisor's Message: Child Abuse Prevention Month



No child should ever have to endure abuse or neglect. Unfortunately, one in eleven children in Tulare County does. April is National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. I urge all residents to educate themselves on ways to prevent child abuse or simply support organizations and individuals who work full time to prevent these unforgiveable acts.

There are a number of organizations in Tulare County who are doing their part to educate and inform residents.

For example, Court-Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, held its 16th annual "Blue Ribbon March on Main Street" in Visalia, which recognizes victims of child abuse. More than 500 people attended this event in late March.

CASA works year around to advocate and support approximately 400 of our neglected children. More than 160 people are trained volunteers, but this important organization can use 500.

A CASA volunteer develops a one-on-one relationship with their appointed child becoming a positive role model and an advocate for their well being.

Should you wish to become a trained advocate for CASA, don't hesitate to call them at 559/625-4007 or visit their website at [www.casatulareco.org](http://www.casatulareco.org).

Another organization that addresses this issue is the Tulare County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC). CAPC is a private, non-profit community council whose primary purpose is to organize and oversee the community's efforts to prevent child abuse.

CAPC also promotes public awareness of abuse and neglect and available resources; oversees services provided by public community based and private agencies to abused and neglected children; encourages and facilitates training of professionals in detection, treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect; and provides funding recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for local child abuse programs, among other tasks.

In April, CAPC is bringing local attention to the important issue of Child Abuse by placing blue ribbons on trees in various communities of Tulare County as a way to raise awareness. City council members, community leaders, those in the faith community and others are wearing blue ribbon label pins for 30 days in support of children who are neglected and abused. Blue ribbon magnets are

being placed on patrol cars throughout the county. Ministers and pastors are speaking out from the pulpits. Schools are also participating in increasing awareness efforts.

Residents of Tulare County are being asked to put the reporting number for child abuse and neglect in their cell phones and to make a personal commitment to make the call. That number is 1-800-331-1585. This call can be made anonymously 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This call is not only important for a child's safety, but it also serves to alert Child Welfare Services that the family may need services in order to help the family stay together.

Those interested in helping CAPC can do so by becoming a "Friend of the CAPC," which involves a \$10 contribution. "Friends" receive a blue ribbon label pin, a blue ribbon car magnet and an annual newsletter.

If you would like more information on how to help prevent child abuse and neglect, or to become a "Friend of the Tulare County Child Abuse Prevention Council," please call 559/735-0456.

Pete Vander Poel, District Two  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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## County Fills Water Analyst Position



Tulare County Administrative Analyst -  
Water Resources: Denise Akins

District One Supervisor Allen Ishida announced in March Denise Akins has been hired to fill the newly-formed water analyst position in Tulare County's Administrative Office.

"Tulare County is pleased to have hired someone with extensive knowledge on groundwater quality and supply," Supervisor Ishida said. "This position is unique to County government. I believe that we have made a very important step in devoting time and staff energy to look at water issues in Tulare County."

The analyst is charged with oversight of clean-water projects in unincorporated areas and seeking additional water-related grants for

Tulare County, among other duties.

Akins, who has worked at the County's Resource Management Agency since 2005, started on March 14.

"I look forward to the opportunity to work with the Board of Supervisors and the many stakeholders who seek improved quality, supply and delivery of our water resources," Akins said.

Akins began her career with Tulare County in 2005 as an administrative aide in the solid waste department within the Resource Management Agency (RMA). Since then, Akins has served as an Engineering Technician I and II, and was promoted to Staff Services Analyst II in 2009 at

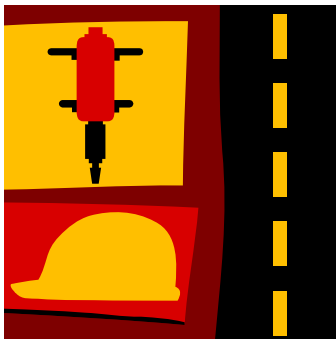
the Resource Management Agency.

During her tenure at RMA, Akins prepared and administered budgets from solid waste and County-owned water and sewer systems; researched alternative funding resources for County-owned water and sewer systems; monitored groundwater at County landfills; and conducted maintenance for a groundwater monitoring program, among other duties.

Akins earned her Bachelors Degree in Management and Organizational Development from Fresno Pacific University and holds several certificates related to groundwater quality and maintenance.

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## Road 80 Construction Project Moves Forward



Construction will soon begin on a four mile stretch of Road 80 between Avenue 384 and Avenue 416, Tulare County officials announced. The contract was awarded at the March 15, 2011 Board of Supervisors meeting.

The work will consist of widening the roadway from two lanes to four with turn lanes and a center median. Intersections will be improved and signals will be installed as warranted. Upgrades will also be made to the existing

at-grade railroad crossings of Road 80.

"The widening of Road 80 is vital to the flow of people and goods in north Tulare County. Signal installations, especially at the vital intersection with Avenue 400, will greatly improve traffic flow and public safety," said Steve Worthley, Tulare County's Fourth District Supervisor. "The slow economy has resulted in competitive bids returning a good investment to the

citizens of Tulare County."

Emmett's Excavation, Inc. from Clovis was the lowest bidder in the amount of \$14,005,668. The awarded contract is \$2,485,931 lower than the engineer's estimate. The project is completely funded by federal dollars. Measure R funds will only be used to fund any costs exceeding the federal funds.

Work is expected to begin in April 2011 and be completed by March 2012.

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## Law Library Adds Free Wi-Fi



The [Tulare County Public Law Library](#) has added free wireless Internet (Wi-Fi) access for the public. The library is located on the ground floor of the Visalia Courthouse, 221 S. Mooney Blvd. Library patrons can enjoy free Wi-Fi on their

personal mobile devices in the library during normal business hours to access their favorite websites and services.

A device equipped with a Wi-Fi-compliant wireless card and the library's daily

password obtained from the reference desk will connect it to the Internet. Some limitations apply. For more information, please contact the Law Library (559) 636-4600.

## Employee Spotlight: Tim Lutz



**Name:** Tim Lutz

**Title:** Aging Services Manager

**Years of Service:** 5 ½ years

**Duties:** I manage and set the direction of the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and Veterans Services programs for Tulare County and I am the Director of the Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging (K/T AAA). My duties include overseeing program managers and supervisors, establishing performance goals and tracking progress toward those goals and ensuring that Aging Services meets its mission, which is to help the older and disabled adult population of Tulare County remain independent for as long as possible, in the least restrictive environment. We strive to help seniors and

disabled adults remain in their homes and communities.

**Family?** I have been married to my wife, Betsy, for almost five years. She also works for Tulare County in the Department of Child Support Services. We have three dogs – Snowball, Spot and Lady.

**Hobbies?** I love traveling and while on trips always squeeze in two other interests – photography and hiking. When I'm not lucky enough to travel, I absolutely love to cook up new creations, enjoy a good book (I'm currently reading Truman, by David McCullough) and watch movies.

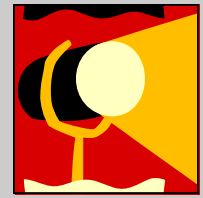
**Clubs/Organizations?** I am an alumni of CSU, Fresno where I earned my Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master of Business Administration.

**What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?** First, having a great team of staff who are truly dedicated to

servicing the military veteran, senior and disabled adult populations of Tulare County. My staff have worked hard to create innovative programs for our clients and to ensure their needs are met. Second, seeing how much seniors appreciate the services we provide and the genuine, positive impacts we make in their lives – it is a great feeling to know you have helped make a positive difference in a person's life.

**Please tell us something other employees might not know about you?** I grew up in Northern California, in Pollock Pines, a small mountain town halfway between Lake Tahoe and Sacramento.

**Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?** I love visiting Three Rivers to relax and enjoy the beautiful views. I also love Exeter: its downtown has the most charming, "old town" feel that I have found in Tulare County – I can spend hours meandering in and out of the shops and eateries.



**There are many County employees who are doing outstanding things for their community outside of their job.**

**Do you know a County employee who should be in the spotlight? Let us know at:**

[newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

## Program Spotlight: Weed & Seed

Weed and Seed, a community-based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), is an innovative, comprehensive multiagency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. Cutler-Orosi has been a Weed and Seed site since October 2007.

The strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" violent

criminals and drug abusers. Public agencies and community-based private organizations collaborate to "seed" much-needed human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs. A community-oriented policing component bridges the weeding and seeding elements.

Cutler-Orosi Weed & Seed partner organizations include: Tulare County Sheriff's Department, Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District,

Community Services Employment Training (CSET), United Way of Tulare County, Tulare County Redevelopment Agency, and Christian Worship Center of Cutler and Dinuba. The Cutler-Orosi Weed & Seed strategy has been recognized nationally for its strong collaborations between agencies, as well as its dedication to the development of youth programs, such as the Step Up Youth Center and Sheriff's Explorers.



**Want your program to be in the spotlight? Please send suggestions to:**

[newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

## Update: Tulare County Redistricting Process

### Tulare County Redistricting Advisory Committee:

#### District One:

Newell Bringham  
Bernice Doan

#### District Two:

John Hobbs  
Mike Watson

#### District Three:

Phillip C. Bourdette  
Stephen Peck

#### District Four:

Maggie Florez  
Lewis Earl Mann

#### District Five:

Michael Carley  
Richard Eckhoff

#### At-Large:

Mary L. Burbery

Two important steps were completed in March to move the redistricting process forward in Tulare County.

### Redistricting Advisory Committee Selected

Eleven residents were nominated then appointed to serve on Redistricting Advisory Committee in March. There were 26 applications submitted to participate on the committee.

The Redistricting Advisory Committee is charged with developing criteria to be applied during the redistricting process and developing proposals to be presented to the Board of Supervisors. The committee will also conduct outreach meetings in various parts of Tulare County to solicit public input. The Redistricting Advisory Committee will present their final report to the Board of Supervisors by August 1, 2011.

### Public Relations Firm Hired

A Visalia-based public relations firm has been hired by the Board of Supervisors to conduct community outreach regarding meetings for Tulare County's redrawing of supervisorial district lines.

District Three Supervisor Phil Cox said Lali Moheno & Associates has been hired because of its expertise in reaching all Tulare County residents, both in incorporated cities and unincorporated areas. Lali Moheno, a former County Supervisor and community advocate, is the owner of the firm.

"Lali has an uncanny ability to reach all residents throughout Tulare County," Supervisor Cox said. "It's in Tulare County's best interest to hire a firm with a broad base of connections throughout the County to ensure residents are aware of the redistricting

process."

Lali Moheno & Associates will inform the community of the process, encourage participation, meet with residents to listen to their concerns, and ensure participation from all segments of the community during the redistricting process.

"We will assist the County of Tulare 2011 Advisory Committee on Redistricting in providing outreach and engagement on time," Moheno said. "Local community groups, organizations, schools, churches, and other interested groups will be invited to participate."

Supervisorial districts are redrawn every ten years based on population counts collected by the United States Census.

### 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 Jed Chernabaeff or Jeff Forbes.

Around Tulare County  
2800 W. Burrel 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)

### APRIL COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

#### Meeting: (Date/Time)

#### More Information:

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: April 5, 12, 26. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
New IHSS Provider Meeting: April 5, 7. 8:45 a.m.	559/623-0640
Tulare County Youth Commission: April. 11. 3 p.m.	559/636-5000
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: April 13. 2 p.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Planning Commission: April 12, 26. 9 a.m.	559/624-7000
T.C.A.G. Meeting: April 25. 1 p.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force Meeting: April 29. Noon.	559/636-5000

For more information, visit: [www.co.tulare.ca.us](http://www.co.tulare.ca.us) and click on "County Calendar"



**Places to Go Play:** Col. Allensworth State Historic Park is located in southwest Tulare County. This park memorializes the first town that was founded, financed and governed by African Americans. The park is open Friday thru Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and for special events. Learn more about Col. Allensworth State Historic Park and other places to "Go Play" in Tulare County at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).