



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY – APRIL 2013

## Supervisor's Message: Progress Being Made in District Four



Water quality is a major concern for all San Joaquin Valley residents. In northern Tulare County, in rural communities like Seville and Monson, the importance of this issue has been paramount.

In both communities, residents are concerned with the water quality, and, at times, water quantity. The old, aging infrastructure that carries water to homes is in part to blame. Tulare County and a non-profit group are doing their best to provide short- and long-term solutions to these water issues for residents.

### Seville & Yettem

In April 2009, the Board of Supervisors approved the County assuming temporary receivership of the Seville Water Company (SWC) a private water company in the community of Seville. The purpose of assuming receivership was to obtain grant funding to find a safe water supply and replace the water system, which serves 74 houses, approximately 375 people, and a school. In 2012, the County obtained grant funding from the California Department of Public Health to move the project forward.

Tulare County took another important step in March. The Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with a consulting group to complete a feasibility study for a project that will provide safe drinking water to not only Seville, but to residents in Yettem as well.

The project will include the design of a new water distribution system for Seville, the identification of a new water source and the possibility of an interconnection with nearby Yettem. The scope of the work also includes developing a more robust blending program for the Yettem water system which will increase the reliability of that community's water supply.

At the conclusion of this study, Tulare County will be in a position to assist in the construction of a new water system for Seville and deliver safe drinking water to residents in both communities.

### Monson

Rotarians throughout Tulare County recognize the importance of clean drinking water for rural communities. They have developed an interim plan to provide safe water to Monson's 200 residents and are looking to expand their efforts in the future to other communities.

Since September 2012, Rotarians have been working with Monson families to install under-the-sink water

filtration systems for the 49 households. Upon installation, volunteers took the time to teach residents how to maintain their new filtration systems.

While Rotarians are pleased with the progress in Monson, they recognize that other communities need help as well. The next goal is to provide safe drinking water for students at Stone Corral School in Seville through similar systems.

Solving a broad issue such as water quality and quantity takes a collaborative approach from multiple agencies, organizations, jurisdictions, and residents. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I would like to thank County staff and Rotarians for their hard work to address an important issue.

Steve Worthley, District Four Board of Supervisors

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## April is Healthy Tulare County Week



Tulare County is encouraging all residents to live healthier lifestyles by hosting a variety of live awareness events and through social media outreach during “Healthy Tulare County Week,” which is scheduled from April 1 – April 6 in conjunction with National Public Health Week.

As part of his State of the County Address, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Pete Vander Poel said health and wellness of residents will be a priority during his chairmanship. Healthy Tulare County Week is one aspect of heightening health awareness.

“The more we can educate residents about making positive decisions involving their health, the better,” Chairman Vander Poel said. “Overall, the mission of Healthy Tulare County Week is to improve life in Tulare County.”

Health & Human Services Agency (HHS) Director Dr. Cheryl Duerksen said Healthy Tulare County Week is a collaboration among Tulare County Public Health, the Tulare County Health Advisory Committee, community partners, and

County departments.

“Collaborating with our community partners to promote healthy lifestyle choices, thereby strengthening the well-being of our community, is an integral part of the mission of HHS,” Dr. Duerksen said. “We encourage all Tulare County residents to participate in increasing awareness about public health and prevention.”

Here is a list of community events during Healthy Tulare County Week:

April 1: The Tulare County Fire Department will distribute and install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in homes in pre-authorized residences in Pixley.

April 2: County Health Officer Karen Haught, M.D., will make a presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting at 9 a.m.

April 3: All Tulare County residents are encouraged to “Walk a Block” during break time or lunch hour.

April 4: County Fire Stations will conduct free bike safety checks for children after 2:45 p.m. and Tulare County Area Transit (TCAT), Visalia Transit,

and Tulare Intermodal Express (TIME) Lines free for the day – Fixed Routes Only

April 5: “Kids Town Hall” at the Tulare City Library with Chairman Pete Vander Poel and County Health Officer, Dr. Karen Haught, at 11 a.m.

April 6: The Visalia Walking Series continues at W. Main Park Trail in Visalia at 8:15 a.m. with Supervisor Cox

Online events and connections with community partners who are focused on health will be featured on the Tulare County HHS Facebook page and on [www.tchhsa.org](http://www.tchhsa.org) in the spotlight section. Community partners being featured include: Be Healthy Tulare UC Co-op, Tulare County Joint Union High School, and Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE), Share the Road (TCAG), Tulare County Treasures, Visalia Transit, Tulare Intermodal Express, and the Visalia Farmers Market.

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## Dates Set for Five Night Meetings in 2013



In March, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved dates for its five night meetings in 2013.

The first of the five night meetings was held at Farmersville City Hall at 7 p.m. on March 12. More than 70 people attended the meeting.

Chairman of the Board of

Supervisors Pete Vander Poel said the goal of hosting the night meetings is to improve the public’s access to the Board.

### Remaining dates include:

May 14, 2013: 7 p.m. at the Tulare Joint Union High School District Office.

July 16, 2013: 7 p.m. at the County of Tulare Board of

Supervisors Chambers.

Sept. 10, 2013: 7 p.m. at the City of Woodlake Council Chambers.

Nov. 12, 2013: 7 p.m. at the City of Porterville Council Chambers.

## Employee Spotlight: "Frozen Justice"



Team Polar Bear: Phil Esbenshade, Gil Cardenas, Renee George, Hortencia Casarez, Matt Darby, Lindy Gligorijevic, Floyd Hager, Alan Hunsaker, John Lee, Mark Lopez, Mark Lyon, Beatriz Reveles, Rose Denny, Chelsea Wayt and Jeffrey Sorenson.

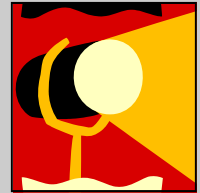
The Tulare County District Attorney's Office took a family approach in March to raise more than \$4,000 for Special Olympics Northern California.

On March 9, 19 District Attorney's Office employees and their family members braved the near-freezing waters of Lake Millerton in Friant during an annual Polar Plunge charity event.

The team, aptly named "Frozen Justice," donned ties, slacks, and briefcases during their dip into the icy water.

Following the plunge, Team Frozen Justice was presented the "Golden Plunger" award for being the highest fundraising law enforcement team competing in the Fresno event.

This event marked the third time the Tulare County District Attorney's Office has competed in the event.



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: Tulare County Grand Jury

The Tulare County Grand Jury is accepting applications for the upcoming term, which begins July 1, 2013.

Nineteen volunteer jurors will be chosen during a random drawing of names. The deadline to submit an application is April 26. Requirements include knowing English, no past felony convictions, potential jurors cannot be elected officials or candidates, must be 18 years or older and must be a United States citizen who has lived in Tulare County for the last year. The primary functions of the Grand Jury

are to study and review the operations of local government agencies and make recommendations.

For information or applications, please call 559/624-7295, or stop by the Tulare County Government Plaza, 5963 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277.

You can also email the Grand Jury at [grnd\\_jury@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:grnd_jury@co.tulare.ca.us).

For a full list of current Grand Jury members, please visit:

<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/grandjury/>

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

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



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**Do you need more info or want to provide feedback?**

To read the proposed ordinance, please visit: [www.tularecounty.ca.gov](http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov)

**To submit comments:**

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/countyoftulare](http://www.facebook.com/countyoftulare)

Twitter: [@CountyofTulare](https://twitter.com/CountyofTulare) #tcbusiness

**Send letters to:**

Attn: John Hess  
County Administrative Office  
2800 W. Burrel Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93291

**County Seeks Feedback on Business License Amendment**

The Board of Supervisors received a presentation in March regarding efforts to amend the County’s existing Business License Ordinance. After the presentation, the Supervisors directed staff to conduct outreach meetings to gather feedback.

Part of the amendment would include a requirement for nearly all businesses with a fixed-place of business in the unincorporated areas of the County to obtain a \$50 business license permit.

County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau said the purpose of the \$50 business license permit is part of an ongoing effort to enhance public safety efforts.

“Over the past several years, the County has created an independent Fire Department, improved mutual aid delivery for ambulance providers, and increased fire inspections for business sites,” Rousseau said.

“A countywide business license ordinance is the next step in continuing this improvement to public safety and enhancing delivery of services for the business community in the County.”

Rousseau said requiring unincorporated businesses to obtain a permit would assist with the establishment and maintenance of a database of businesses within the unincorporated areas and help guide business owners by providing an understanding of regulations affecting their businesses, including applicable building, planning and zoning requirements.

**Business Database**

The purpose of establishing a database would be to have an accurate inventory of businesses within the unincorporated areas. An accurate inventory would assure appropriate and

timely emergency response when an incident occurs. For example, if there is a fire at a business that stocks hazardous materials, the County will be able to dispatch appropriate resources and coordinate with other jurisdictions.

**Business Owner Guidance**

Having a countywide business license program in place creates a tool for the County to assist business owners to identify regulatory requirements. For example, if a business owner opens a new restaurant in an unincorporated area, they may not be aware of the existing local and state regulations that apply to them. By going through the business license process, County staff will have the opportunity to educate the owner and ensure that existing requirements are met, thus preserving public safety.

**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.

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**APRIL COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS**

**Meeting: (Date/Time)**

Board of Supervisors’ Meeting: 9 a.m. Apr. 2, 16, 23, 30.  
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: 2 p.m. Apr. 3.  
Tulare County Water Commission: 3 p.m. Apr. 15.  
Tulare County Association of Governments: 1 p.m. April 15.  
Tulare County Planning Commission: 9 a.m. Apr. 10, 24.

**More Information:**

559/636-5000  
559/624-7274  
559/636-5005  
559/624-7274  
559/624-7000



**Places to Go Play:** Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club has a 7,482-yard championship golf course created by noted golf course designer John Fought. This golf course boasts one of the longest par fives in California, measuring out at a massive 653 yards. This 18-hole public premium golf course features the largest driving range west of the Rockies (more than 25 acres) as well as Three Finger Jack’s. Learn more about Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club and other places to “Go Play” at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).