



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY – DECEMBER 2012

Supervisor's Message: 5th District is Stepping Up



One of the top priorities in the 5th Supervisorial District is gang prevention. Residents understand gang violence or have been victimized by gang violence and activity in their neighborhoods and communities.

In response, many agencies and individuals have taken the task of educating residents about the impact of gangs and should be commended. However, while there are many great resources that serve the 5th District in terms of gang prevention, there has traditionally been one glaring issue: community collaboration. That all changed in May 2011 when Porterville and Tulare County leaders hosted the first Step Up Porterville Gang

Conference. Since that first conference, nine additional events that reached more than 3,000 people have been held. The attendees are being educated about the negative consequences of gangs or are being connected to organizations that can help. Having the Step Up events demonstrates that ongoing gang education and prevention efforts are a priority in Porterville and in the 5th District. I would like to commend the City of Porterville and all its residents for pulling together and addressing an important issue.

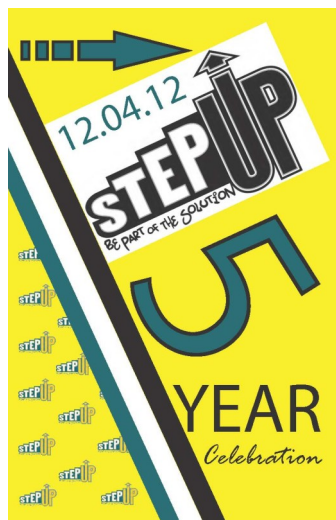
Some perceive the Step Up Initiative as a County-ran program. That is furthest from the truth. Step Up is a collaborative effort with many contributors. Those contributors include concerned citizens, community leaders, community-based organizations, the faith-based community, school officials, city and county

leaders, and law enforcement officials from throughout Tulare County. All of these different contributors play key roles in making Step Up a success in Tulare County and in Porterville. If you are concerned with gang violence in your neighborhood or community, I would encourage you to participate in the Step Up Initiative. If you are interested in being connected to the Step Up Initiative in your community, please contact Step Up staff member Allison Pierce at 559/636-5000 or email stepuptc@co.tulare.ca.us.

For more information about the Step Up Initiative, please visit www.stepuptc.com.
Mike Ennis, District Five
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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Step Up Celebrates 5th Anniversary!

Please join us as we celebrate five years of Step Up. We will be highlighting success stories, key partners and Step Up's future.

Tuesday, December 4, 2012
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Lamplighter Inn
3300 W. Mineral King Ave.
Visalia, CA 93291

RSVP: Allison Pierce. agpierce@co.tulare.ca.us

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Librarian Brian Lewis to Retire in December



Brian Lewis

Longtime Tulare County Librarian Brian Lewis announced in mid-November that he will retire after 39 years of public service. Lewis' last day will be Saturday, December 29, 2012.

"On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I would like to thank Brian for his decades of dedicated public service," said Allen Ishida, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. "We appreciate that Brian worked tirelessly to bring and maintain critical services to Tulare County and believe the county benefitted under his leadership."

The County Librarian is responsible for planning, directing and evaluating the operation of Tulare County Library services. The Tulare County Library operates 15 branches countywide and provides library services,

including reader's advisory, information retrieval, and programming. The Library's collection includes more than 300,000 volumes of books, magazines, newspapers, videos, and audio books.

Lewis was hired by Tulare County on September 19, 1983 as County Librarian. Prior to holding his position with Tulare County, Lewis served for 10 years in a variety of library positions with Los Angeles County, Clark County in Nevada, and the City of Brigham in Utah.

Under Lewis' leadership in Tulare County, the Tulare County Library Foundation and the Friends of Tulare County Library were established; major renovations of several libraries – Earlimart, Ivanhoe, and Visalia – were finished; new services were created

with a historically low budget; and he helped bring County libraries into the digital age by introducing book machines, e-readers, and other web-based tools that helped improve access to residents.

"I have been extremely fortunate to work with so many caring individuals in my career with Tulare County," Lewis said. "I truly believe that public libraries are the great American Institution. A public library helps people who want to help themselves. My main goal when coming to Tulare County was to leave the library a better place due to my leadership. With the help of great staffs, wonderful support groups, a loving family, and patient county employees and administrators I feel that my goal was met. I thank you for the opportunity to serve."



County Receives Grant for Water Study



Tulare County is continuing to make strides in providing clean, reliable drinking water to the communities of Seville and Yettem.

On November 13, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$691,000 funding agreement for the "Seville and Yettem Water Systems Planning Study."

Upon completion, the study will include the design of a new water distribution system for the community of Seville; the identification of a new well; the study of an interconnection between the existing water system in Yettem to the new water system in Seville; the determination of the form of governance to operate the new water

system in Seville; and the necessary environmental documentation.

The study also includes developing a blending program for the Yettem water system to address nitrate issues.

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. In June 2009, the Tulare County Superior Court granted temporary receivership for the SWC to the County for a two year period. The receivership was later extended to allow Tulare County more time to seek

funding.

District Four Supervisor Steve Worthley, who represents Seville, said Tulare County is seeking to fulfill its mission of repairing the water system which serves 74 houses, approximately 375 people, and a school.

"The Board's decision in April 2009 to seek temporary receivership has allowed the County to take proactive measures to fix the aging water system in Seville," Supervisor Worthley said. "Tulare County will continue to seek grant opportunities that will deliver reliable, clean water to Seville and other rural, unincorporated communities."

Annual Toy Drive Off to a Great Start

The Tulare County Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Friends of Tulare County annual "Brighten a Child's Winter Sky" toy drive is off to a great start, thanks to the support of Tulare County businesses, agencies, and community members.

CWS and Friends of Tulare County began collecting toys in October and continued to accept donations through November. Although foster and group homes receive funds for providing basic necessities such as clothing and food, it is difficult to stretch that allowance to include anything special during the holiday season. The CWS Toy Drive aims to provide at least one gift to each child in the CWS system, which averages about 1500 children.

Every child looks forward to the joy of the holiday season,

but without the help of the community, hundreds of abused, neglected, and troubled children may not receive gifts.

"We truly appreciate the community supporting our children, who through no fault of their own, are spending the holiday season in foster care," said Jason T. Britt, Tulare County HHS Director of Human Services. "This work demonstrates that our children are not forgotten and creates a brighter holiday for the children within our child welfare system."

Making a donation is easy, just visit the CWS Toy Drive web page at: www.tularehhsa.org/index.cfm/cws-toy-drive/ and follow these steps:

Click on the star at the top of the web page.

Select an age range and gender

Pick a child's name and print out the star with the child's information.

Attach the star to the new unwrapped gift(s) you purchase.

Drop off the new, unwrapped gift(s) at any one of the 30 locations listed on the website. Each location will have a collection box to place the unwrapped toy(s).

There is no limit to the number of stars you print, if you chose to print off more than one, you just have to repeat the steps listed above. Please note: for health and safety reasons, do not provide gifts or toys that promote violence or adult-related themes. We ask that all donations are positive in nature and age-appropriate.

How to Help

Community members wishing to brighten the holidays through a monetary donation may make a donation to the Toy Drive through Friends of Tulare County. Donations may be mailed to Friends of Tulare County, Attn: Katie Arnst, 5957 S Mooney Blvd, Visalia CA 93277.

For additional information on the CWS Toy Drive, locations of specific drop-off sites, or how you can print a star to provide a toy for a specific boy or girl, visit: www.tularehhsa.org/index.cfm/cws-toy-drive/

D.A.'s Office Issues Fraud Alert

Editor's Note: The Tulare County District Attorney's Office issued this statement on November 14, 2012. To read more information from the D.A.'s Office, please visit www.da-tulareco.org/press_releases.htm

Recently, some Tulare County residents have been receiving mailers as part of a scheme to defraud them.

In these matters the victim receives a letter with a check in the mail stating they won a lottery or sweepstakes; it may even state it is from the Publisher's Clearinghouse or Reader's Digest. The letter instructs the victim to deposit the enclosed check and wire a

portion back to cover taxes or fees. It may take a few weeks, but the check will be returned to the bank and unfortunately, the victim is out the dollar amount that was wired back allegedly to cover taxes and fees.

Our community should be aware that you should never send money to receive any winnings from a lottery or sweepstakes. Legitimate lotteries and sweepstakes do not place strings on their prizes. You should never have to pay handling charges, service fees, or any other kind of charges up front to receive your prize or winnings — those are sure signs that the alleged notification is a scam.

To avoid being scammed never wire money to someone you don't know

For more information about businesses operating legitimately in our community consumers can contact the Better Business Bureau at (559) 222-8111.

If you have questions about a potential scam or are aware of any business practices which are unlawful, misleading or unfair please contact the District Attorney's Consumer Protection Hotline at (559) 636-5410.

Want your program to be in the spotlight? Please send suggestions to: newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us



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County, Cities Sign MOU's For Land Use Planning



Lindsay Mayor Ed Murray and Chairman Ishida sign the MOUs.

Allen Ishida, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and Lindsay Mayor Ed Murray met Monday, November 19, 2012 to formally sign a City/County Memorandum of Understanding that outlines an agreement to coordinate land use planning in unincorporated areas just outside city limits; share revenues on future growth and collect reciprocal impact fees.

"This process is a win-win for the City of Lindsay and for Tulare County," Board Chairman Allen Ishida said. "City officials don't want to spend millions fixing roads and infrastructure to make these areas compatible with city services and standards. And in return, the County can be assured cities will collect county impact fees that help pay for facilities used by city and county residents alike."

- buildings and infrastructure.
- Requires the county and the city to collect reciprocal impact fees.
- In addition, the Lindsay MOU provides the county with a future share of Transient Occupancy Tax and sales tax for new development occurring outside the Lindsay city limits.



Lindsay and County planning staff were present at the MOU signing.

Tulare County and its eight incorporated cities have been in negotiations for four years to agree upon Memoranda of Understanding that outline how to implement city development standards around cities within urban development boundaries. These MOUs are intended to establish new urban development standards in unincorporated areas adjacent to current city limits so new development will meet city standards.

"We are on track to reach agreement with seven of our cities by the end of the calendar year," said County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau, adding this means by signing their MOUs, the County and seven cities have also agreed to work collaboratively from this point forward.

The Lindsay MOU:

- Requires new development in county areas near cities to meet city requirements for

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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DECEMBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

More Information:

Step Up 5-Year Anniversary Reception. Dec. 4. 5:30 p.m.	559/636-5000
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Dec. 4, 11, 18. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Dec. 5. 2 p.m.	559/624-7274
Tulare County Association of Governments: Dec. 10. 1 p.m.	559/624-7274
Tulare County Water Commission: Will not meet in December.	559/636-5005
Tulare County Planning Commission: Dec. 12. 9 a.m.	559/624-7000



Places to Go Play: Lake Success is located at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley about eight miles east of Porterville on Highway 190. With the scenic Sierra Nevada in the background, Lake Success provides great fishing, boating, water skiing, camping, picnicking, and more. Learn more about Lake Success and other places to "Go Play" at www.tularecountymap.com.