



Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - June 2010

Supervisor's Message: Measure R Exceeds Expectations



I like good news stories and have one to share with you! Three years ago the citizens of Tulare County voted to add a half cent sales tax with the funds dedicated to regional road projects, local street repair and the improvement of public transportation. Our county was the only one to pass a sales tax measure that year and we have reaped the benefits.

A study was just completed that shows just how much Measure R has helped move major road projects along in the county. In addition to the projects being funded and scheduled for construction, in some cases several years in advance, we have used those funds as matching monies

with the State of California as a partner to multiply our investment by more than 400%! That's right, we have turned \$50 million into \$200 million.

Not only are these much needed road projects years ahead of schedule, but an additional benefit is the jobs created in our area because of them. Using the California Alliance for Jobs information, we know that for every one \$100 million in transportation infrastructure projects, more than 2,000 new jobs are created. That means more than 4,000 new jobs because of Measure R.

Each of the incorporated cities in the county has benefitted as well with funds for local projects. A total of \$23.7 million dollars has been poured into local street repairs. That means fewer pot holes, more side walks and safer intersection crossings. A number of trail and walk way projects have been either completed or are under way at this time. As

you can see, Measure R is not just for roads, it provides funding for transit, bike and pedestrian paths and environmental preservation.

Thanks to the voters of Tulare County. Your willingness to sacrifice a little for the greater cause is a success! My personal thanks goes out to Ted Smalley the director of the Tulare County Association of Governments as well. Ted has worked tirelessly to make sure Tulare County projects get the recognition and funding they deserve.

Our county has become a safer place to work, play and live. Our children will look back many years from now and hopefully understand the hard work and sacrifice it took to get these projects done for them.

Phil Cox, District Three
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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Measure R: A Three-Year Glance

In its first three years, Measure R has allowed Tulare County to secure \$200.3 million to fund road projects, according to the Tulare County Association of Governments. Here is a list of projects being worked on right now:

- Scranton Widening
- Ben Maddox overcrossing
- Santa Fe overcrossing
- Betty Drive widening
- Avenue 416 signal
- Avenue 416 widening
- Road 108 widening
- Road 80 widening phase 1
- Road 80 phase 2
- Avenue 280/Road 156 Signal
- Mooney Blvd. widening
- Cartmill/SR 99
- Road 80 - Phase 1
- Avenue 416 bridge
- Betty Drive Railroad Crossing
- State Route 190
- Bardsley Avenue Railroad Crossing
- Cartmill Avenue Railroad Crossing



Do you have an idea for a feature in the Around Tulare County newsletter? We would appreciate your feedback. Please let us know at newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

Funding for Two Major Road Projects Secured



“Anytime we can improve Highway 99 it helps all of us.”
District Five Supervisor Mike Ennis

Tulare County obtained more than \$92 million in road project funding from the state, officials with the Tulare County Association of Governments announced.

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) on May 20 approved \$83 million for the widening of Highway 99, between Goshen and Kingsburg, and \$2.3 million for the widening of Road 80, between Avenue 328 and Avenue 342. The CTC also approved \$7 million for three Caltrans operations and rehabilitation projects in Tulare County.

District Five Supervisor Mike Ennis, who also serves as chairman of the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), said motorists traveling through and in Tulare County will have an easier drive in the near future with the widening of Highway 99 and Road 80.

“Anytime we can improve Highway 99 it helps all of us,” Supervisor Ennis said. “Highway 99 is a backbone for goods movement for Tulare County and the San Joaquin Valley.”

Ennis credits TCAG staff, Measure R, and lobbying trips to Washington, D.C. and Sacramento as factors in receiving the funding. TCAG is responsible for overseeing and planning projects with the county and each of its cities, helping to bring tax money back home to fund bus service, road improvements, projects that will improve air quality, and more.

Highway 99 Project

TCAG Executive Director Ted Smalley said the funding for Highway 99 will be used to expand the road to six lanes – three lanes on north and south bound lanes - from Goshen to Kingsburg.

Smalley said both projects will start within a year. Bids typically go out between six months after allocation, but actual start/end dates depend on the details of the bid process and the timing of the construction season.

Road 80 Project

The \$2.3 million in funding for Road 80, between Avenues 328 and 342, will be used to widen the stretch of road from two to four lanes. This is

one of four phases to widen Road 80 to four lanes from Visalia to Dinuba.

Smalley credits Measure R, a one-half cent sales tax approved by Tulare County voters in 2006, for the approval of funding from the California Transportation Commission.

“Tulare County is using Measure R funds to leverage for additional state funding,” Smalley said. “The result is a true stimulus funding to Tulare County and its incorporated cities.”

More Road Project Funding

The CTC also approved funding for the following projects:

Sidewalk curb ramps at various locations for ADA requirements: \$428 thousand

SR 216 road rehabilitation from McAuliff Road to Friant-Kern Canal - \$2.6 million

SR 245 road rehabilitation from SR 198 to SR 201 - \$3.9 million

Four High School Teams Honored at BOS Meeting



On May 18, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors recognized the efforts of three teams from Strathmore High School and one team from Farmersville High School for winning the Division VI Valley Championships in their respective sports.

District One Supervisor Allen Ishida, who represents Strathmore and Farmersville, invited the teams to receive recognition.

Teams Pictured:

Strathmore Girl's Tennis:
Upper left

Strathmore Boy's Tennis:
Upper right

Strathmore Girl's Soccer:
Lower left

Farmersville Boy's Soccer:
Lower right



Employee Spotlight: Heather Freitas



Name: Heather Freitas

Title: Self Sufficiency Counselor III

Years of Service: 4

Duties: I manage a case load for cash continuing, medical, food stamps and welfare to work. For example: process quarterly reports, process annual reviews, place participants in welfare to work activities to help them become self sufficient.

Family? Married 7 years to Mike, with 2 children, Nicholas, 18, and Jeremy, 6.

Hobbies? I enjoy cooking and I love to read. Jody

Piccoult and Nora Roberts are two of my favorite authors. I enjoy spending time with my family, playing volleyball, fishing and having water balloon fights.

What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?

Helping clients with their needs, like getting them enrolled in school, assisting them with what they need to get a job and with housing.

Also, as a SSC III it is my job to assist my clients in becoming able to stand on their own two feet and take an active role in their lives and lives of their children. Some of my goals are to advise my clients on the assistance we at Tulare Works can provide. One thing that can be done is making sure clients have graduated from high school or that they obtain a GED. A

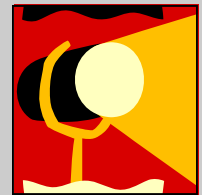
referral to the Library Literacy Center can help them with earning a GED and taking the next step to self sufficiency. It has been my honor to receive three awards from Library Literacy Center for the most referrals. It has been an honor working with them.

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

I really love our yearly tradition of going to Magic Mountain for Fright Fest with my husband. It is something I look forward to. We usually have a good time.

Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?

I love spending time in Sequoia National Forest with my family walking the trails.



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

Program Spotlight: Law Library

The [Tulare County Public Law Library](#) is a free library open to the public that provides materials and reference service to assist people in finding answers to their legal questions.

It is the county's only ready and professionally guided resource center providing print and electronic versions of California and federal laws and procedures.

Its mission is to make available current legal materials that meet the research and information needs of all Tulare County citizens. The library's collection includes core California legal material as well as specialized information that support specific areas of law.

Reference service is available to assist in finding resources

needed; however, staff is prohibited from interpreting or providing legal advice. The law library is located on the ground floor (basement) of the Tulare County Courthouse at the corner of Mooney Blvd. and Burrel Ave.

For further assistance, please contact the Library directly in person, by phone at 559/636-4600, or by email at lawlibrary@co.tulare.ca.us

Law Library:

Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address:
Tulare County Courthouse
221 S. Mooney Boulevard,
Visalia, CA 93291.

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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

Residents seeking more information about the County of Tulare and its meetings, activities, conferences, special events and more can turn to two new forms of media. Residents are encouraged to follow the County of Tulare on Twitter at www.twitter.com/CountyofTulare or visit www.aroundtularecounty.com

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County Employees/Residents Encouraged to “Flex”



Save Energy At Home

Setting your air conditioner 5 degrees higher will save up to 20% on cooling costs.

Use fans to make indoor temperatures feel cooler, most ceiling fans use less energy than a light bulb.

Have your air conditioner unit serviced to cut 15% of cooling costs.

Keep windows and doors shut and shades closed during the day, to keep your house cool and reduce air conditioning needs.

Source: www.fypower.org

As part of its continuing effort to support energy efficiency and conservation measures, the County of Tulare is participating in the Flex Alert program that is sponsored by Flex Your Power®, a California statewide energy efficiency marketing and outreach campaign.

Flex Your Power® is a partnership of California’s utilities, residents, businesses, institutions, government agencies and non-profit organizations working to save energy.

Flex Alerts are an urgent call for all California businesses, governments and residents to voluntarily reduce electricity use. The alert is used to prevent a Stage 1 Electrical Emergency which can occur at times when the demand for electricity is at its peak, typically during very hot

weather. The high peak periods in Tulare County are usually considered to be between noon and 6 p.m.

There are three measures the Flex Alert program asks individuals to do when they are at home or work when a Flex Alert is issued:

1. Turn off all unnecessary lights, computers and appliances
2. Postpone using major appliances until after 7 p.m.
3. Turn your air conditioning thermostat to 78° F or higher

When a Flex Alert is called a County e-blast will be sent to inform employees and ask them to reduce energy use in their work area wherever possible. The email will also include news and peak conservation tips. This is an opportunity for each County employee to participate in

the reduction of energy use and make a difference. With the cooperation of individuals and organizations participating in this program, rolling blackouts can be averted and the lights can be kept on for all of us during critical periods.

Non-County of Tulare employees can also receive Flex Alerts. To receive Flex Alerts, please visit www.fypower.org/flexalert and click on the “Sign-up now!” link.

This web site is also a great tool for all residents to visit to learn more about:

Simple actions to save money and prepare for warm weather.

Learn about income-based discounts, assistance and free retrofits.

Replace aging appliances.

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.

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JUNE COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

- L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: June 2. 2 p.m.
- Board of Supervisors’ Meeting: June 8, 15, 29. 9 a.m.
- Tulare County Planning Commission: June 9, 23. 9 a.m.
- Deferred Compensation Meeting: June 14. 9 a.m.
- Tulare County Youth Commission: June 21. 3 p.m.
- T.C.A.G. Meeting: June 21. 1 p.m.
- Tulare County Water Commission: June 28. 4 p.m.

More Information:

- 559/624-7000
- 559/636-5000
- 559/624-7000
- 559/636-5225
- 559/636-5000
- 559/624-7000
- 559/636-5000

For more information, visit: www.co.tulare.ca.us and click on “County Calendar”



Places to Go Play: Visalia is the oldest city between Stockton and Los Angeles. This vibrant town of more than 120,000 is the county seat, and offers dozens of fine dining and cultural arts experiences. The historic Fox Theatre routinely showcases concert artists, performances by the Tulare County Symphony and live theatre. Learn more about Visalia, Fox Theatre and other places in Tulare County to “Go Play” at www.tularecountyemap.com.