



# Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - June 2011

## Supervisor's Message: Projects Moving Forward



The tough economy has impacted nearly all local government departments and services. However, amid the economic downturn, Tulare County and its capital improvement and infrastructure projects have charged forward.

These projects are improving our roads and making our facilities better for employees and the residents who use them. Making the improvements now, at historically low prices, will benefit everybody who lives in and visits Tulare County for years.

### Infrastructure Projects

More than \$40 million in infrastructure projects are underway in Tulare County.

Projects and totals include:

- Road 80 widening between Visalia and Dinuba, \$21 million.
- Road 108 widening

between Caldwell and Leland avenues, \$11 million.

- Betty Drive Grade Separation, \$11 million.

The Board of Supervisors has been pleased to approve these projects. Bidding for these projects has been coming in well under the engineer's estimates. Tulare County is getting more projects for the money. All of these projects will improve access and circulation and public safety.

### Capital Projects

From new roofs on rural libraries and emergency repairs to the Visalia Courthouse to gas line replacements and museum improvements, it's been exciting for our Capital Projects staff.

Some highlights include:

- Improvements to libraries in Alpaugh, Earlimart, Ivanhoe, Strathmore, and Tipton.
- Replacement of gas lines at Sequoia Field.
- New elevator at Farm Labor Museum.

Perhaps one of the most significant projects completed this fiscal year was Tulare

County's Fleet Services facility.

In May, Tulare County Fleet Services moved out of the garage it's occupied since the 1960s and into a larger facility at the County Road Yard on Lovers Lane.

The 10,000 square-foot facility has six repair bays that can each accommodate two vehicles and openings on both sides, in addition to seven lifts.

The extra space will allow for better service to County departments, providing enough bays for all technicians to work and for them to do simple jobs more quickly. Moving fleet services will also provide additional parking for employees and public at the Visalia courthouse.

This project has been planned for years. It was great to see this project, as well as others, come to fruition.

J. Steven Worthley, District Four Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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TWO COUNTY DEPARTMENTS ADD FACEBOOK FAN PAGES:

LIKE:

"COUNTY OF TULARE"

AND

"TULARE COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY"



## Redistricting Forums Set in June



Residents will have five opportunities in June to voice their opinions on how Tulare County's supervisorial district lines should be drawn.

Tulare County supervisorial districts are reviewed and redrawn every 10 years based upon the United States Census information. These district boundaries define the political representation on the Board of Supervisors.

Redistricting Committee Chairman Dick Eckhoff said the public is welcome to provide input on the drawing of new district boundaries. The committee is seeking suggestions from residents regarding specific placement of the boundaries. The Board of Supervisors will make the final decision on how the lines will be drawn.

The Tulare County 2011 Advisory Committee on Redistricting will host the public forums at the following locations:

Time: 6:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.  
Date: Monday, June 13  
Place: 210 Connect Meeting Hall. 210 W. Center Ave. Visalia, CA 93291

Time: 6:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.  
Date: Wednesday, June 15  
Place: Woodlake Union High School – PAB Hall. 300 W. Whitney. Woodlake, CA 93286

Time: 6:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.  
Date: Tuesday, June 21  
Place: Exeter Memorial Hall. 324 W. Kaweah. Exeter, CA 93221

Time: 6:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.  
Date: Wednesday, June 22  
Place: Barlett Middle School. Porterville, CA 93257

Time: 6:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.  
Date: Thursday, June 23  
Place: Tulare Public Library – Council Chambers. 475 N. "M" St. Tulare, CA 93274

Eckhoff said the public is encouraged to present comments about the community they live in, describing the kind of people who live there, important issues, community centers and community history.

Free refreshments and child care will be provided for attendees. Spanish translation will also be provided.

These series of forums will mark a total of eight public

meetings regarding the redrawing of district lines. At three separate public meetings, residents were asked in April and May to provide their input on what criteria should be used to draw Tulare County's supervisorial lines. Examples of criteria that were considered include: topography; geography; continuity and compactness; avoid dividing cities; and avoid dividing urban growth areas, among others.

For more information on these public meetings, please contact Tulare County Analyst Carol Pightling at 559/636-5005.

All information regarding the redistricting process and meetings can be found at <http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/redistricting/default.asp>.

## Job-In-A-Box Introduced in Tulare County



Tulare County's job hunters seeking tips on employment should look no further than a box.

That's the message Tulare County Library and Tulare County Workforce Investment Board officials conveyed when they unveiled the "Job in a Box" on May 10 at the Visalia Employment Connection in Visalia.

Deputy County Librarian Jeff Scott said the Job in a Box is

a freestanding, automated book-dispensing machine that allows library members to borrow and return books and media using a library card. Each machine will include 300 books that will focus on workforce needs, from resume writing, to interviewing, to career discovery.

"Job hunting can be a tedious and stressful process for anyone," Scott said. "The Job in a Box is another tool we want to offer Tulare County's

residents seeking employment."

Scott said the Job in a Box can be found at the Visalia Employment Connection and the Dinuba Employment Connection.

For more information please contact Jeff Scott, Deputy County Librarian, Tulare County Library, 559/713-2721.

## Employee Spotlight: Martin Meier



**Name:** Martin Meier

**Title:** Deputy County Administrative Officer-Budget  
**Years of Service:** 9.5

**Duties:** Coordinating the preparation of the annual County Recommended Budget and Budget Book; CAO liaison to assigned County departments; participating in various countywide groups and projects.

**Family:** Wife-Alexandra; sons: Alan and David.

**Hobbies:** Collecting big band/swing phonograph records; listening to old time radio programs; traveling with my wife and exploring downtown architecture of areas visited; reading books on diverse subjects; performing "handyman" work around the house.

**Clubs/Organizations:**

Professional member: International City-County Management Association (ICMA); American Society for Public Administration (ASPA); Municipal Management Association of Southern California (MMASC). Other member: Vietnam Veterans of America.

**What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?** Working with professional, dedicated coworkers in every department to complete multiple-department projects.

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

I am looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities of the next phase of my life, beginning with retirement at the end of this month.

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

Three Rivers.

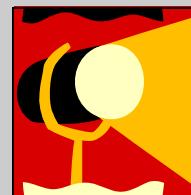
**Martin retires at the end of the month. Here is what the CAO and Assistant CAO have to say about Martin:**

"Martin has done an outstanding job for the County during his ten year tenure. In addition to the budgeting system he helped create, Martin has been instrumental in moving the county to performance based budgeting. Martin's efforts will help the County concentrate on improving it's core functions during this difficult economic time."

**Jean Rousseau, County Administrative Officer**

"Martin took our antiquated budget preparation system and working with IT converted it to a user-friendly, web-based, real-time system. His efforts have saved hours of labor and mountains of computer printouts. We are very fortunate to have benefitted from Martin's dedication and knowledge. He will be missed."

**Kristin Bennett, Assistant CAO**



**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: Farm Labor Museum - Bracero Exhibit

Tulare County's History of Farm Labor and Agriculture Museum at Mooney Grove Park in Visalia premiered a new exhibit exploring the contributions to Tulare County agriculture made by Mexican farm workers.

The exhibit, "Hands of Harvest: The Mexican Farm Worker Experience in Tulare County," debuted on May 14. This exhibit highlights the Mexican farm worker

experience in Tulare County with an emphasis on the Bracero Program. The exhibit will feature historical photographs, a replica of a domestic dwelling, life-size figures created by local artist Leticia Valencia-Martinez, music representative of the time period, an authentic Visalia saddle, as well as a museum garden with local crops.

For more information please call 559-733-6616.



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

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

## Summer Night Lights Program, Logo Unveiled



**Summer Night Lights Logo:  
Created by Tulare Union High  
School Student Jessie Segura**

For more information on the Tulare County Summer Night Lights Program, please call Jeff Forbes at 559/636-5000.

Tulare County's youth will have safe alternatives this summer on Saturdays through the Summer Night Lights Program.

At a May Board of Supervisors meeting, County staff unveiled the Summer Night Lights logo and program, which will provide positive programming and a safe environment for youth of all ages during the summer months in the cities of Farmersville, Porterville, and Visalia.

The program aims to curb violence and other negative activity by keeping selected parks and recreational facilities open 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. every Saturday night from June 11 through July 30. Each location will hold a resource fair and positive programming for youth and families that attend. The program is modeled after the Summer Night Lights Program

created by the office of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Participating in the program are the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, California Highway Patrol, Tulare County Sheriff's Department, Tulare County Probation, City of Farmersville, City of Porterville, City of Visalia, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tulare County, Tulare County Workforce Investment Department, Pro-Youth/HEART, CSET, and the Tulare County Office of Education's SEE Program.

"The Board of Supervisors is pleased to partner with all agencies to reduce crimes committed by and against youth during the summer months," said Supervisor Phil Cox, who helped bring the Summer Night Lights program to fruition.

Supervisor Cox said 18 youth will help market and staff

Summer Night Lights locations through the summer, as well as work during the week at selected locations.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Mike Ennis said the work experience for the youth will be invaluable.

"I'm proud of the fact that this program will employ youth," Chairman Ennis said. "This is the type of work experience that our young people need to succeed later on in life."

### Logo Contest Winner

Tulare Union High School Senior Jessie Segura was recognized at a Board of Supervisors meeting for creating the winning logo for the 2011 Tulare County Summer Night Lights Program. More than 250 entries were submitted by students countywide. Segura was rewarded with \$250.

### 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)

Quarterly Deferred Comp. Meeting. June 6. 1:30 p.m.  
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: June 7, 21, 28. 9 a.m.  
Tulare County Water Commission: June 13. 3 p.m.  
Tulare County Planning Commission: June 8, 22. 9 a.m.  
Tulare County Youth Commission: June 20 3 p.m.  
T.C.A.G. Meeting: June 20. 1 p.m.

#### More Information:

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

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



**Places to Go Play:** Cutler Park is located 5 miles east of Visalia on Hwy. 216 as you drive toward the community of Ivanhoe. The 50-acre park was founded in 1919 and is home to a large stand of heritage-quality Oak trees. The park has a large playground and several picnic areas. Learn more about Cutler Park and other places to "Go Play" at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).