



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

JUNE 2016

## Supervisor's Message: Tulare hosts Area Leaders at SJVRACC Conference



Last week we joined other county leaders from throughout the region for the 2016 San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of California Counties (SJVRACC) Conference.

This year's conference was hosted by our county and we had the pleasure of organizing a leading program of speakers and engaging panelists that focused discussions on the highest priority issues we face in our region.

One of the major topics discussed was the upcoming Federal Clean Air Act Mandates we will encounter in the near future. We face many challenges with these new mandates, and many do not project much in terms of a viable solution.

For example, the needed technology to achieve the set emission reductions does not yet exist. Even if it did, the funding needed to cover associated costs of such technology is a challenge as well. Funds are necessary to expedite fleet turnover in our area, and the federal funding sources are simply not available.

Time has shown that Federal Standards on air emissions are not feasible to accomplish in our area. On top of that, EPA believes local leadership cannot, and should not, tell the Federal Government what to do.

To date we have seen an 80% reduction of air emissions in the San Joaquin Valley, but we need another 90% to meet the new standards. If these mandates are not met, our local communities will suffer from numerous costly federal sanctions. This will continue to be an ongoing effort, local leadership and counties will continue to work to advance common sense revisions to air standards.

Another hot topic was the implementation of the statewide Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). An expert panel provided updates on the law and current implementation activities taking place in the region.

Efforts are underway amongst the three identified subbasins in the County which include the Kings Subbasin in the northern portion; the Kaweah Subbasin in the middle section; and the Tule Subbasin to the south. The first step in SGMA is establishing Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) which is currently underway.

The County does play a role in this process including coordination with the various established GSAs on land use and County General Plan

matters. The County is the presumed entity to manage any areas not covered under a GSA although it can elect not to serve as the GSA for unrepresented "white" areas.

However, your County Supervisors are committed to doing all we can to prevent any state intervention under SGMA. We are working with the various developing GSAs in the county and making sure we have complete SGMA coverage within our boundaries.

Attendees also heard the latest updates on legislative activities in Sacramento. The new \$170.9 billion state budget was approved by the legislature last week. We do expect some budget trailer bills to be worked up and included in the coming weeks.

An update was given on the misallocation of funds by the state Board of Equalization. A 2015 audit by the State Controller's Office showed a significant amount of misallocated tax funds throughout agencies across the state as well as a lack of internal controls.

With the number of errors discovered dating back significantly, exact amounts are not currently known. The rough estimates shared would result in reallocation of funds from local agencies to the state General Fund, a disappointing reality we may have to face in funding short falls to the County.

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Overall our time at the conference was well spent and we took home a significant amount of knowledge to better serve the residents of Tulare County. I applaud all the generous sponsors, panelists, and our staff for their excellent work in making this year's conference a success.

Allen Ishida, District One Tulare County Board of Supervisors

## County Breaks Ground on Largest Construction Project in Over 20 Years

It's been a long day coming, and it's here. Tulare County officially broke ground June 8<sup>th</sup> on its first detention facility built since 1999. The new South County

Detention Facility will continue the ongoing efforts in improving public safety services to residents throughout the county, and allow law enforcement to meet future demands.

The new 100,000 square foot facility will have a kitchen, bakery, laundry, medical, intake, administration and visitation services; including 510 beds to house inmates. It will also be equipped with a recreation space, storage space and multi-purpose rooms for programming and training.

"It's a monumental day," said Board Chairman Mike Ennis on the groundbreaking event held at the site location in Porterville. "This is going to be great not

realignment. The State granted \$60 million for this facility, and the County is contributing a minimum of \$6.6 million to match.

Over the past four years, the County has taken great care in working with numerous State agencies, the City of Porterville, and other local partners to make this project a reality.

The County partnered with Bernards Brothers Inc. to construct this building, which over the next two years of construction, will

employ several hundred workers creating local jobs in turn utilizing local services, further expanding the economic impact of this facility.

The South County Detention Facility will be able to house

*See GROUNDBREAKING on Back Page*



only for the county, but for the City of Porterville as well as south county residents."

The project began in 2012, when the County received notification that it had been selected to receive state funding to improve inmate facilities to meet the needs of state

## County Library Goes All Out to "Read for the Win"



What is the most important library program? If you ask Tulare County Librarian Darla Wegener, she'll say "Summer Reading."

Summer Reading this year is 'Read for the Win,' a sports and gaming theme that goes along with this year's Summer Olympics. Come join us for summer fun during the six weeks of activities in all fifteen branches for children, teens, and adults.

Children ages 3 through 12 can register at any Branch to receive a daily log where they record their reading activities. Though reading is its own reward, prizes are given when a child meets the reading goals.

In addition, Branches hold special events, including

favorite performers as the Fratello Marionettes, Wild Child Adventures, the E & M Reptile Family, Steve Martin's Wild Animals, Tim Show Magic and Boswick the Clown.

Teen options include reading regular books or graphic novels, and prizes are also awarded. Summer Reading also offers teen movies and games such as We Didn't Play Test This, Quelf, and One Night Ultimate Werewolf.

Adults reads are 'March Madness' style with 64 books to choose from, with weekly programs including 'Spa Product' making and the First Tuesday book club. Adults also can be entered to receive a prize.

Why does the Tulare County

Library place such a high priority on summer reading? Summer reading provides permanent benefits to all ages. For children and teens, it prevents summer learning loss. The loss accumulates, and by sixth grade non summer readers are two years behind their peers.

Additionally, summer reading offers the best chance for children and teens to read simply for enjoyment without the pressure of school assignments. This is important because studies show that the enjoyment of reading is critical to success in life. This holds true for everyone, children, teens, and adults.

For detailed information about all reading activities and programs, contact your local library branch or call the Visalia Library's Reference Desk at 713-2703 or Children's Desk at 713-2731.

## Employee Spotlight: Fire Captain Chris Ellorin



Chris pictured with his wife Michelle

**Name:** Chris Ellorin

**Title:** Fire Captain

**Years of Service:** 9

**Duties:** Currently assigned as the resident Fire Captain at Tulare County Fire Department Station #6 in California Hot Springs.

**Family:** Married to Michelle Ellorin going on 8 years. Two daughters, Isabella, 7 and Krista who is 4, turning 5 in July.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy hunting, fishing, archery, and pretty much anything that gets the family together outdoors.

I am a regular in donating blood and participates in as many local fundraisers/charity events as possible. His favorite event is the Muscular Dystrophy Association Fill the Boot campaign.

**What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?**

Serving and spending time in the county and communities I grew up in, and still live in.

To me there is no place like home!

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

I really enjoy cooking and love to experiment with ingredients. I don't like to follow recipes. Sometimes I hit a home run, other times it's safer to eat out.

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

Anywhere that gets us outdoors, at least when the temperature isn't soaring! The parks and forest would be on top of my list, camping in the Sequoias with the giant redwoods can't be beat.



## Step Up to Kick Off 6th Season of Summer Night Lights

Communities county-wide are stepping up to bring the Summer Night Lights program to youth and families throughout Tulare County featuring summer fun activities beginning this month and running through August.

Based on the Summer Night Lights program launched in Los Angeles, in 2011 Step Up tweaked the program to create a successful community oriented hybrid. Since then, the Tulare County Summer Night Lights Program has been largely ran by volunteers organizing a variety of activities including pool parties, dances, movies, sports nights and much more.

Summer Night Lights' main goal is to keep kids off the streets and engage them in positive activities. In 2015 the program served over 27,000 people. Seventeen communities are set

to participate this year and include Alpaugh, Allensworth, Dinuba, Ducor, Earlimart, Exeter, Lindsay, London, Pixley, Porterville, Strathmore, Teviston, Tipton, Tulare, Visalia and Woodlake.

A unique feature of Summer Night Lights is the hiring of two youth from each eligible community who are then employed during the summer to assist in the planning and running of program activities.

Community Partners for the program include: Alpaugh Unified School District; Boys and Girls Club of the Sequoias; City of Dinuba; City of Lindsay; City of Porterville; City of Visalia; City of Woodlake; Committee for a Better Allensworth; CSET; Cutler Orosi Joint Unified School District; Department of Probation; Ducor School District; Earlimart School District; Family

Health Care Network; Pixley Unified School District; Proteus; TCOE Services for Education and Employment; Tipton Community Council; Tulare County Sheriff's Department; and the Workforce Investment Board.



## June is Alzheimer's Awareness Month Sign up today to join the Walk in October

**GROUND BREAKING**  
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inmates while on trial a short distance from the new Porterville courthouse, reducing transportation time and costs dramatically. In addition, this building will create efficiencies in the delivery of public safety services in the southern portion of Tulare County.

The building is anticipated to be complete in 2019 and will bring a critical component of law enforcement services from the Tulare County Sheriff's Office.

June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month (ABAM), a time to shine a purple light for the millions of individuals world-wide and all the family members and caregivers locally affected by Alzheimer's disease. The end of Alzheimer's starts now, the End of Alzheimer's Starts with YOU.

Did you know:

- Alzheimer's is fatal. It kills more than breast and prostate cancer combined.
- Alzheimer's is not normal aging. It's a progressive brain disease without any cure.
- Alzheimer's is more than memory loss. It appears through a variety of signs and symptoms.

The fight against Alzheimer's is continuous and Tulare County residents can join the cause in October by participating in a local Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide. The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. This inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to reclaim the future for millions!

When you participate in Walk, your fundraising dollars fuel the fight and your participation helps to change the level of Alzheimer's awareness in your community.

Take the first step by finding a Walk near you—[Click Here](#). Once you register, you will have access to a wide range of tools and support through your customized Participant Center. Join us and be inspired by all the footsteps that fall into place behind yours. Together, we can end Alzheimer's!

Here is the link to the [Visalia Walk Page](#). Take part and sign up your today!



### 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 Carrie Crane.

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### JULY COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Event/Meeting: (Date/Time)	More Information:
Board of Supervisors Dark—No Meeting: July 5, July 12	(559) 636-5000
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: 9 a.m. July 19, July 26	(559) 636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: 9:00 a.m. July 6, July 20	(559) 624-7000
Tulare County Youth Commission: 3 p.m. July 18	(559) 636-5000
Water Commission: 3 p.m. July 11	(559) 636-5000

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[Facebook.com/CountyofTulare](https://www.facebook.com/CountyofTulare) and [@CountyofTulare](https://twitter.com/CountyofTulare)**



**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.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).