



# Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County– March 2010

## Supervisor's Message: County Continues to Fight for Funds



Tulare County's public and private sector leaders continue to fight hard on behalf of constituents through annual visits to Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

The purpose of these visits is to lobby on important Tulare County issues such as water and protecting agricultural land and to secure funding. Past face-to-face meetings with our state and nationally elected officials and staff have proven to be successful. For example, more than \$25 million in stimulus money was secured for the widening of Road 108 south from Visalia to Tulare after the annual One Voice visit to Washington, D.C. in February

2009.

In February 2010, a delegation of Tulare County public and private officials traveled to Washington, D.C. as part of the annual One Voice visit.

A transportation delegation requested funding and/or legislative support from federal representatives for projects chosen for their regional significance, their ability to bring prosperity to Tulare County, and their potential contribution to improved air quality and transportation mobility.

Some of the projects included:

- Funding for Highway 198 and Highway 99 projects.
- Promotion of a short-haul rail for the eastside of Tulare County.
- Continuation of air-quality funding.

In addition to transportation requests, members of the

Tulare County Board of Supervisors met with federal representatives to lobby for funding requests for the following items:

- Gang Prevention Initiative: \$517,500.
- Lake Success Dam Seismic Remediation: \$10 million
- Rural Community Water Systems: \$1.5 million

Tulare County will continue to keep you informed of the results from this visit and others. Please follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/CountyofTulare](http://www.twitter.com/CountyofTulare) or visit [www.aroundtularecounty.com](http://www.aroundtularecounty.com) for up to date information.

I hope you find these methods of communication to be beneficial.

Mike Ennis, District Five  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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## More County Info Offered Through Twitter and Web

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](http://www.twitter.com/CountyofTulare) or visit [www.aroundtularecounty.com](http://www.aroundtularecounty.com)

### Twitter

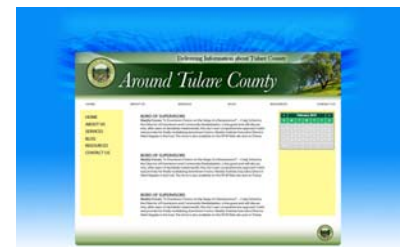
The County of Tulare regularly posts new information on its Twitter account. If you are not a member of Twitter, it's easy and free to join by following the instructions on the home page.

### Around Tulare County on the Web

Read more in depth information regarding the County of Tulare at Around

Tulare County's web site. For example, information was posted during Tulare County's One Voice visit to Washington, D.C.

This web site will bring readers information through news stories and will include information on a weekly basis. Feel free to send suggested topics for the new web site. Feedback is always welcome.



## Around Tulare County

### Step Up Youth Summit To Be Held In March



“The purpose of the youth summit is to connect, educate, equip and inspire Tulare County’s youth to live violence- and drug-free lifestyles, pursue educational achievement and connect to their community in a positive manner.”

More than 800 high school students will attend the second annual Step Up Youth Summit on March 11, 2010 at the McDermont Field House in the city of Lindsay.

The goal of the Step Up Youth Summit is to educate and inform at-risk students about opportunities available to them and provide them with information on positive decision-making.

The purpose of the youth summit is to connect, educate, equip and inspire Tulare County’s youth to live violence- and drug-free lifestyles, pursue educational achievement and connect to their community in a positive manner.

The Step Up Youth Summit is a collaborative project developed by the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force - a coalition made up of the general public, media, local businesses, faith-based organizations, schools, non-profit and community-

based organizations, local government and law enforcement agencies.

The Step Up Youth Summit will offer a variety of powerful featured guest presenters, breakout sessions geared toward youth and a resource fair.

#### Speaker Line Up

**Gabe Salazar, Emcee** Gabe is a nationally known, professional youth speaker. His message challenges teenagers and encourages them to make positive choices in their lives. Through the use of powerful skits, dynamic insights and real-life illustrations, Gabe’s message inspires and motivates his audience to action.

#### Bill & Ezra, Presenters

Dr. Bill Michaelis and Ezra Holland are co-owners of [www.Children-Together.com](http://www.Children-Together.com). Bill is a Professor Emeritus at San Francisco State University. Ezra is a faculty member at San Francisco State Univer-

sity. Together they have presented more than 2,000 fun filled, thought provoking workshops, events, and keynotes around the world and are experts on play and its applications to creativity, learning, development, self esteem, leadership and healthy living for all age groups.

#### Homeboy Industries, Presenters

Homeboy Industries is a Los Angeles-based non-profit organization that assists at-risk and formerly gang-involved youth to become positive and contributing members of society through job placement, training and education.

Former rivals find themselves working side by side, finding true community and friendship in place of the limited community of gang life. Homeboy Industries is now the largest gang intervention program in the nation, serving 12,000 clients a year and 8,000 gang members from 700 different gangs.

### Author to Discuss History of Tulare County Railroads



Friends of the Tulare County Library are pleased to host another “Meet the Author” event featuring John Bergman, as he discusses his latest book, “The Southern San Joaquin Valley, a Railroad History.”

In addition to coverage of the Southern Pacific (UP) and Santa Fe (SNSF) main and branch lines, “The Southern San Joaquin Valley, a Railroad History,” covers the area in California described in the title and provides a historical overview of all of

the lines between Fresno and Bakersfield from 1872 to 2008. The book includes chapters, maps and photos of the Fresno Interurban Railway and the Bakersfield and Kern Electric Railway.

Listen to Mr. Bergman as he describes a brief overview of some of the rail lines and enjoy his amazing photographs.

This free event will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, March 12, 2010. The event will be held at the

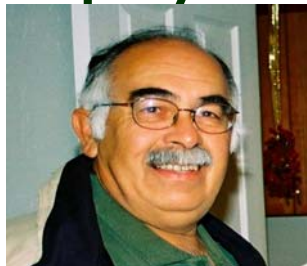
Visalia Branch Library, 200 W. Oak Ave., Visalia.

For more information regarding the event, please call Sheryll Strachan at 559/713-2709.

For more information regarding the Tulare County Library system, please visit the following web site:

[www.tularecountylibrary.org](http://www.tularecountylibrary.org)

## Employee Spotlight:



**Name:** Al Guzman  
**Title:** Purchasing Agent  
**Years of Service:** 22 years  
**Duties:** Generally responsible for all purchases of service and supplies as may be required by the County of Tulare.  
**Family:** Married to wife Sue,

whose nickname is Rockie. 3 daughters, who live in Portland, Paso Robles, and Visalia.

**Hobbies?** Golf and fishing.

**Clubs/Organizations?** Sequoia Kiwanis, Board Member of United Way of Tulare County, American Legion, and California Association of Public Purchasing Officers.

**Most rewarding experience as a County employee?** Having Purchasing become its own County department and creating the Surplus Store, which has generated \$1.9

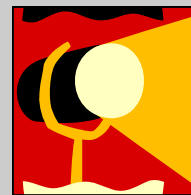
million in revenue since opening in 2004.

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

I was raised in a labor camp in Clovis. During the holidays, in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club, I help the needy with food, clothing, and bedding.

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

Just about any place in Tulare County.



**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: Ag Crimes Unit

The Agricultural Crimes Unit is a team of investigators dedicated to the fight of prevention of agricultural crimes.

The Ag Crimes Unit investigates any property crime against a farmer, rancher, agricultural-related business or other designated industry. Investigations generally take place in the unincorporated rural areas of the state and impact the

victim's commercial production, distribution, or economic livelihood derived from agricultural livestock, petroleum, chemicals, farm implements and equipment.

The unit consists of three detectives and a sergeant from the Sheriff's Department and a Deputy District Attorney, and a District Attorney Investigator along with a part-time secretary from the District Attorney's

Office.

**To contact Ag Crimes Unit:**

**Phone:** 1-800-808-0488 or 559/735-1853

**Fax:** 559/740-4301

**Email:**

Sgt. Cox: [JOCox@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:JOCox@co.tulare.ca.us)  
Det. Hallum: [Mhallum@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:Mhallum@co.tulare.ca.us)  
Det. Marks: [Gmarks@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:Gmarks@co.tulare.ca.us)  
Det. Rubalcaba: [Mrubalca@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:Mrubalca@co.tulare.ca.us)



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

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

## Free Income Tax Services Offered

This is an important message from the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency.

Community, Services, Employment & Training, or CSET, is offering free income tax preparation services for households with incomes of \$50,000 or less. These services will be available through April 10, 2010 at CSET offices in Visalia, Tulare, Porterville and Orosi.

**Locations of CSET Offices:**

**Visalia:**  
312 N.W. 3rd Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93291

**Tulare:**  
115 E. Tulare Ave.  
Tulare, CA 93274

**Porterville:**  
1061 W. Henderson Ave.  
Porterville, CA 93257

**Cutler/Orosi:** 12384 Ave.  
416 Orosi, CA 93647

Electronic filing with direct deposit is also available free of charge, allowing you to receive your refund within 5 to 10 business days.

Please call 559/732-4194 for more information or visit [www.cset.org](http://www.cset.org) about this program.



TULARE COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
[WWW.TULAREHHSA.ORG](http://WWW.TULAREHHSA.ORG) - 1-800-834-7121

community  
services  
employment  
training

## Rx Prescription Drug Discount Program Launched

“AS HEALTHCARE COSTS RISE, PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNTS WILL HELP EASE SOME OF THE FINANCIAL BURDENS LOCAL FAMILIES ARE FACING AT A TIME WHEN THEY NEED IT THE MOST,” SAID CHAIRMAN WORTHLEY.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Steve Worthley, the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency, and Financial Marketing Concepts Inc., (FMC) launched a new Rx prescription drug discount program in February.

The new Coast2Coast Rx card will allow all Tulare County residents, regardless of income, age, or health status to participate in the program, which has saved cardholders an average of 38% on the cost of prescription drugs over the last two years.

Even family members that live outside the County and people's pets are able to take part in the program. The Rx card will be distributed free of charge and may be used at all pharmacy chains and most independent pharmacies in Tulare County and includes over 60,000 drugs in its formulary.

“As healthcare costs rise, prescription drug discounts will help ease some of the financial burdens local families are facing at a time when they need it the most,” said Chairman Worthley. “There are no eligibility requirements so the Rx card is expected to have a sizeable impact on uninsured residents.”

Several counties in California, including Alameda, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus have established arrangements with Coast2Coast Rx, and the counties are reporting significant savings. “FMC is proud to assist residents of Tulare County to save money on the cost of their prescriptions,” said Edward W. Rahn, President of FMC.

It is easy for interested Tulare County residents to pick up their Coast2Coast Rx card, with over 40 pharmacy

locations throughout Tulare County, including big name retailers and locally owned pharmacies.

To obtain a card, residents need only visit a participating retailer, and fill out the accompanying paperwork, or print their own Coast2Coast Rx card by visiting [www.coast2coastrx.com/tulareca](http://www.coast2coastrx.com/tulareca).

For information about Tulare County's Coast2Coast Rx program by phone, individuals can contact the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency at 559-737-4660, or by calling Financial Marketing Concepts at 1-800-797-3020.

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

Internet:  
[www.co.tulare.ca.us](http://www.co.tulare.ca.us)

### MARCH COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

#### Meeting: (Date/Time)

Unsecured Property Tax Statements Mailed: March 1  
Treasurer-Tax Collector mails reminders to tax payers with prior year taxes on a pay plan: March 1  
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23. 9 a.m.  
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Mar. 3, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Step Up Youth Summit Planning Meeting: Mar. 5, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Step Up Youth Summit: Mar. 11, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
New IHSS Provider Orientation: Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26. 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  
Tulare County Planning Commission. Mar. 10, 24. 9 a.m.  
T.C.A.G. Meeting: Mar. 15, 1 p.m.  
Tulare County Youth Commission: Mar. 15, 4 p.m.  
Tulare County Water Commission: Mar. 22, 3 p.m.

#### More Information:

559/733-6361  
559/733-6526  
559/636-5000  
559/624-7000  
559/636-5000  
559/636-5000  
559/713-5026  
559/624-7000  
559/624-7000  
559/636-5000  
559/636-5000

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



**Places to Go Play:** Bartlett Park is located 8 miles east of Porterville, off Highway 190 on Worth Drive. The 130-acre Tulare County park was established in 1972 to replace a former park which was inundated when the nearby dam was built and Lake Success was created. The park is home to a large pond that affords fishing and attracts much wildlife activity. Learn more about Bartlett Park and other places to “Go Play” at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).