



# Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County

October 2009

## Supervisor's Message: Rail, Watershed Issues Important



There are many issues that members of the Board of Supervisors are involved with. Two issues I have been focusing on that are important to my constituents are protecting rail along the eastside of Tulare County and encouraging proper watershed management.

In early 2008 it was proposed to abandon 39.77 miles of rail from the southern Tulare County line near Jovista to Exeter. As Chairman of the Tulare County Association of Governments and Supervisor of the 5<sup>th</sup> district, which the rail runs completely through, I have been working diligently to protect this rail for businesses along the eastside of

Tulare County.

The efforts underway to save the rail include exploring opportunities with private companies to preserve short-haul rail in the County and to avoid the abandonment of the San Joaquin Valley Railroad line from Jovista to Strathmore. Tulare County is not interested in owning and operating a rail line. The County is, however, interested in working hard to promote a business friendly environment.

Another area of concern is the need for proper watershed management. Because of increased environmental regulations, the ability to care for our forests through thinning, clearing brush and treating vegetation has been severely restricted. Approximately 75 percent of California's water originates in forested watersheds. Managing the watershed has large impacts on the quality and quantity of downstream water delivered to our farms

and families.

Forests that are left alone have the potential to catastrophically burn. These devastating fires put communities at risk and damage waterways and water systems downstream. The topsoil, ash and debris are washed downstream and fill our water systems, including contamination of municipal drinking water.

These issues have ramifications throughout Tulare County. Protecting our rail helps the economy in Tulare County and beyond. Managing our watersheds in the mountains protects our forests from catastrophic wildfires and reduces potential damage to drinking water for our communities.

Mike Ennis, District Five  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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## UPDATE: Mooney Grove Celebration & Ag Museum Opening

The Board of Supervisors announced September 15 that Peter Carrion of Visalia is the winner of the Mooney Grove Centennial Celebration Logo Contest. (Pictured to the right.)

Carrion's design was chosen out of 115 entries in a design competition the County held. The logo will be used to promote and recognize the 100 year anniversary of the founding of Mooney Grove

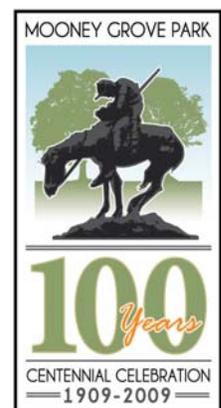
Park in 1909. The County will host the Mooney Grove Park Centennial Celebration at the park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17. Park admission will be free.

Activities include hayrides, face-painting, balloon sculptures, live music, bounce houses, slides and food booths. For more information contact Mila Magana, Parks Donations and Events Coordinator: 624-7222.

### Ag Museum Update

Due to construction issues, the grand opening of the Tulare County History of Farm Labor & Agricultural Museum will be delayed until November.

The September edition of Around Tulare County stated the opening was to be held in October.



## Around Tulare County

### County to Hold Three Immunization Clinics on Oct. 1



#### Immunization Clinic Schedule

If you are interested in attending one of the immunization clinics, the following sites will be open from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Oct. 1, 2009:

**- Mooney Grove Park** in Visalia Drive-Thru Flu Clinic, 27000 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277

**- Jamison Stadium Parking Lot** in Porterville, Drive-Thru Flu Clinic, 100 E. College Ave., Porterville, CA 93257

**- International Agri-Center Heritage Center** in Tulare, Walk-In Flu Clinic, 4500 S Laspina St., Tulare, CA

Tulare County continues to put a twist on drive-through convenience with their third-annual drive-thru seasonal flu immunization clinics.

Scheduled for Oct. 1, 2009, the Tulare County Department of Health has planned two drive-thru clinics, and one walk-in clinic, all in Tulare County. Drive-through clinics are scheduled for Porterville and Visalia, while Tulare will feature a walk-in clinic.

"For those residents who visit our drive-through locations, all they have to do is put their vehicle in park, roll down the window, and roll up their sleeve," said Judy Richmond, Tulare County Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. "We are pleased to also offer our Tulare location, where residents will be able to walk-in for their seasonal flu shot."

The mass seasonal flu vaccinations will be held at the Jamison Stadium parking lot in Porterville, Mooney Grove

Park in Visalia, and a walk-in clinic at the Heritage Center in Tulare. Each clinic will be open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Any adult over the age of 18, except for pregnant women and those with severe allergies, will be eligible.

The seasonal flu vaccination is completely free of charge to the attendees, but officials stress that the vaccination will only be a seasonal flu shot, and no H1N1 Flu vaccinations will be given. The clinic is being held as an exercise for a mass vaccination process in the event of an epidemic.

"This is a great way for people to get a seasonal flu shot," said Ray Bullick, Director of Public Health for Tulare County. "And, it is a wonderful exercise for our agency in terms of preparedness for health emergencies. We hope people will take advantage of the opportunity."

For more information on the drive-thru clinics, additional immunization schedules or

health related issues, visit [www.tularehhsa.org](http://www.tularehhsa.org), or call 1-800-834-7121.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would also like to share the following flu prevention tips:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick. If possible, stay home from work, school and errands while you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
- Washing your hands will help protect you from germs. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, which would spread the germs.

### Public Safety Employees Raise Money for Wish Upon A Star



Sheriff Wittman's before and after shave pictures.



Members of law enforcement, firefighters, emergency and military personnel from Tulare, Kings, and Fresno counties had their heads shaved on Sept. 12 as part of the sixth annual Shave the Brave at Plaza Park in Visalia.

Shave the Brave is a fundraiser for California Law Enforcement's Wish Upon A Star, a non-profit organization that grants wishes to children with high-risk and life-threatening illnesses.

"It's touching to know that the people who keep us safe are so supportive of these children who have big dreams, but little time," said Carmen Perez, Executive Director of California Law Enforcement's Wish Upon a Star. "The support that they provide to these children is overwhelming."

Perez said the Visalia event raised more than \$43,000 for the Wish Upon a Star.

The Tulare County Sheriff's

Posse volunteered its time and barbecued for the event. Along with the posse came Sheriff Bill Wittman, who raised \$360 by shaving his mustache, Perez said.

For more information about Wish Upon a Star please visit [www.wishuponastar.org](http://www.wishuponastar.org) or call Carmen Perez at 559/733-7753.

## Employee Spotlight: Forrest McLean



**Name:** Forrest McLean

**Title:** Supervising Child Support Officer

**Years of Service:** 10 years

**Duties:** Plan, organize, and direct work of family support staff involved in determining paternity and child support obligations, and collecting

child support payments; review, investigate, and evaluate support cases.

**Family:** Married to wife Vicki. 2-year-old daughter Farrah and 4-year old son Ewan.

**Hobbies?** Surfing, classic cars of the 1950's, playing soccer, and international travel.

**Clubs/Organizations?** Student with the Business Management Program at Fresno Pacific University. Will graduate next year with a B.A. degree. Will enroll in the M.B.A. program next year.

**Most rewarding experience**

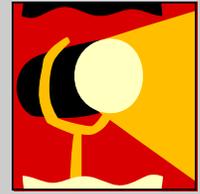
**as a County employee?**

Having the opportunity to establish a career.

**Please tell us something other employees might not know about you?** I enjoy classical music and opera.

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

Cherry Falls in Three Rivers off of North Fork. During the off season my son and I enjoy exploring the river system that runs from Three Rivers, through Kaweah Dam, and down through the Valley floor. During the summer, floating the St. Johns River.



**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: Animal Control Shelter

The Tulare County Animal Control Shelter was opened in July 2001 in an effort to provide animal control services to the unincorporated areas of Tulare County. The Animal Shelter responds to field emergencies including dog bites, vicious animals, animal neglect, law enforcement requests and public complaints.

The Animal Shelter focuses on good adoptions and makes

every effort to ensure the dog or cat and it's new family are a good match. October is Adopt a Shelter Dog Month, with prices reduced in honor of dogs awaiting adoption.

Stop by the Animal Shelter, 14131 Avenue 256 in Visalia, to take a look at the animals. If you don't have time to stop by, please visit the Animal Shelter's web site at

<http://lostpets.tularehhsa.org> and click on "Available Animals."

If you would like to adopt an animal, please contact Animal Control for more information at 559/636-DOGS (3647).

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

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



Pictured above, Cinders, a 4-month-old female retriever/hound mix, is one of more than 80 animals available for viewing on the Tulare County Animal Shelter's web site.

## Step Up Youth Summit Planning Underway

The Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force will hold its annual Step Up Youth Summit from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on March 11, 2010. The location is still to be determined.

The purpose of the Step Up Youth Summit is to connect, educate, equip and inspire Tulare County's youth to live violence- and drug-free lifestyles, pursue educational

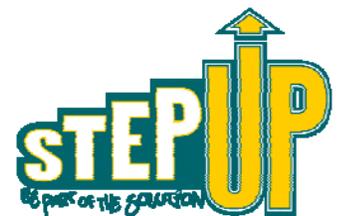
achievement and connect to their community in a positive manner. The summit will offer a variety of powerful featured guest speakers, breakout sessions geared toward youth and a career fair.

At the first meeting, Supervisor Allen Ishida volunteered to be Chairman of the planning committee. Supervisor Vander Poel volunteered to

be Vice Chairman. More than 60 people attended.

The next Step Up Youth Summit meeting is scheduled from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 9 at the County Administration Building, located at 2800 W. Burrell Ave., Visalia, CA. Call 559/636-500 for details or email

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



Visit [www.stepuptc.com](http://www.stepuptc.com) for more information about Step Up activities and grant programs.

# United States Census 2010

“PARTICIPATING  
IN THE CENSUS  
HELPS TO  
PROVIDE  
FUNDING FOR  
SCHOOLS,  
HOSPITALS AND  
SERVICES IN  
TULARE  
COUNTY.”

## Tulare County gets ready for 2010 Census

Every 10 years, a Census is taken to count all persons residing in the U.S., as mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Because Census results affect local representation and funding opportunities, it is important that the Census obtains a complete count.

The Tulare County Association of Governments has formed the Tulare County Complete Count Committee (CCC) to help make sure every resident is counted. The CCC is enlisting the help of local community organizations, schools and volunteers to increase awareness of the 2010 Census and encourage people to complete their Census forms.

Census forms will be mailed to households nationwide in March, 2010. Census Day is April 1, 2010. Areas in the county that do not have street address mail delivery will be

visited by Census takers in person.

Participating in the Census helps to provide funding for schools, hospitals and services in Tulare County. Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on Census data.

Answering the Census is important, easy and safe. The 2010 Census form asks only 10 questions and will take about 10 minutes to complete. It will be one of the shortest Census forms in history.

Census responses are protected by federal law and cannot be shared with the Internal Revenue Service, immigration office or any other agency or person.

The 2010 Census is for everyone, regardless of

citizenship or immigration status. It is a way to count all persons, including infants and children, living in Tulare County. It helps the county to plan for and provide needed community services.

The Census helps us to prepare for our future. Please make sure you're counted.

To learn more about the Census and Census jobs, visit [www.census.gov/2010](http://www.census.gov/2010).

For more information, call Barbara Pilegard at 559/624-7271.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

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

### OCTOBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

#### Meeting: (Date/Time)

Unsecured Property Tax Liens Recorded: Oct. 1  
New IHSS Provider Orientation: Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. , 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.  
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27. 9 a.m.  
CPR & First Aid Training: Oct. 7, 14, 28. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Oct. 7, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Step Up Youth Summit Planning Meeting: Oct. 9, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tulare County Planning Commission. Oct. 14, 28. 9 a.m.  
Mooney Grove Park Centennial Celebration. Oct. 17. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
T.C.A.G. Meeting: Oct. 19, 1 p.m.  
Tulare County Youth Commission: Oct. 19, 3 p.m.  
Tulare County Water Commission: Oct. 26, 4 p.m.

#### Event: (Date/Time)

Mooney Grove Park Centennial Celebration: Oct. 17. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Last Day to Register to Vote: Oct. 19. 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Last Day to Request Vote by Mail Ballots. Oct. 27. 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

#### More Information:

559/636-5250  
559/713-5026  
559/636-5000  
559/713-5026  
559/624-7000  
559/636-5000  
559/624-7000  
559/624-7222  
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:** Balch Park is home to some of the most spectacular Giant Sequoia trees in the Sierra Nevada. The 160-acre County park has two lakes with excellent trout fishing. It is located 20 miles north-east of Springville and is surrounded by Mountain Home State Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Learn more about Balch Park and other places to "Go Play" at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).