



Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - September 2010

Supervisor's Message: August 2010 - "Landmark Month"



August 2010 turned out to be a landmark month in the fight to address the drinking and wastewater needs for disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin, which includes Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties.

The Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with the California Department of Water Resources to accept \$2 million in funding for the Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study Project.

This funding came as a direct result of lobbying efforts by the Tulare County Water Commission, an advisory board made up of local water experts including

engineers, water district managers, elected officials and community activists. I would like to commend the members of the Water Commission for being diligent in seeking this funding.

The \$2 million grant will fund a water study project which will seek to identify the water and wastewater problems affecting disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin and develop recommended solutions to address these problems through pilot projects and studies. The project will develop a plan that provides rural, disadvantaged communities with a safe, clean and affordable potable water supply and effective and affordable wastewater treatments and disposal.

Tasks included in the water study project are: developing a database of all disadvantaged communities in the Tulare

Lake Basin that includes data covering groundwater, groundwater recharge areas, etc.; stakeholder consultation and community outreach; selecting and designing pilot projects and studies to develop priority issues; implementing pilot projects; and preparing and finalizing a report to the State Legislature, among others.

This study will be a tremendous first step to address the drinking and wastewater needs for some of our region's poorest communities.

Allen Ishida, District One
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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2009 Employee of the Year Announced

Gloria Simoes, a Tulare County Fire Department emergency dispatch supervisor, has been selected the 2009 Tulare County Employee of the Year, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors announced on August 10.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Steve Worthley said Gloria Simoes is the first Tulare County Fire Department employee to be recognized as the employee of the year. The Tulare County Fire Department was

created in 2006.

"Being recognized as the first employee of the year from the Tulare County Fire Department is an exceptional honor," Chairman Worthley said. "The Board commends Gloria for her hard work and dedication, which has proven to be second to none."

Tulare County Fire Chief Steve Sunderland said Simoes was nominated for her willingness to take on additional duties such as updating databases, scheduling maintenance,

ordering supplies, fulfilling duties of an emergency dispatcher, and more.

"Ms. Simoes takes her job very seriously and she frequently goes the extra mile to ensure that the citizens and visitors of Tulare County get the 9-1-1 dispatching service they pay for and deserve," Chief Sunderland said. "Gloria is an employee that gives true meaning to the words dependable and trustworthy."



Gloria Simoes takes a picture with the Board of Supervisors after being announced the 2009 Tulare County Employee of the Year on Aug. 10.

Step Up Youth Activities Grants Available for Non-Profits

“PAST PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE STEP UP YOUTH ACTIVITIES GRANTS HAS PROVIDED AT-RISK YOUTH WITH POSITIVE EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD,” DISTRICT THREE SUPERVISOR PHIL COX

The Tulare County Youth Commission is accepting applications for the 2011 Step Up Youth Activities Grant Program. The grant program provides \$100,000 in grants for 501 (c) 3 non-profit organizations that operate within Tulare County.

The Step Up Youth Activities Grant Program is designed to provide financial support for non-profit organizations that provide programs and services aimed at improving the quality of life for at-risk youth. Preference is given to programs working with youth that are in a gang or are exposed to the gang culture in an underserved area, new start up programs or programs that leverage other funds.

The Step Up Youth Activities Grant program allocates \$100,000 for grants to Tulare County non-profit organizations. There is \$20,000 in funding available for each Supervisorial district; grants will be awarded in

amounts ranging between \$2,000 and \$10,000.

Thirteen Tulare County non-profit organizations received \$100,000 in funding in 2009, the second year of the program. Funding was provided last year for organizations that mentored at-risk youth, taught etiquette training, mentored teen dads, and created after school sports leagues, among others.

“Past programs funded by the Step Up Youth Activities grants has provided at-risk youth with positive experiences and opportunities they might not have had,” said Phil Cox, District Three Supervisor.

The Tulare County Youth Commission will review the submitted grant applications and recommend to the Board of Supervisors which organizations should receive funding and at what level. The Tulare County Board of Supervisors will make the final funding decision.

Before making its recommendation, the Tulare County Youth Commission will host a mandatory grant workshop for all applicants at 2 p.m. on Thursday, September 23, 2010, located at 2800 W. Burrel Ave. in Visalia, CA 93291. The Youth Commission will vote on the funding recommendations on Monday, November 15, 2010. The final grant awards will be made on December 7, 2010 by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

Applications can be obtained by visiting www.stepuptc.com, by phoning (559) 636-5000 or at the Board of Supervisors office located at 2800 W. Burrel Ave. in Visalia, CA 93291. The deadline to submit an application for a grant is 5 p.m. on Friday, October 15, 2010. Late applications will not be considered. For more information, please contact Youth Commission staff Jeff Forbes at (559) 636-5000 or jforbes@co.tulare.ca.us.

Annual Health Fair Scheduled for County Employees



Tulare County’s Human Resources and Development Department and Health and Human Services Agency are collaborating in the planning of the County’s third health and wellness fair; Share the Health - It’s All About You!

The fair will take place at the Visalia Convention Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, September 30, 2010. The health and wellness fair is open to all Tulare County employees.

New to the fair this year are

the Anthem Blue Cross Health Assessment Bus and the Central California Blood Mobile, where participants can donate the gift of life – blood – during their visit to the health fair. HHS and Friends of Tulare County are planning a Wii Fit virtual bowling demonstration and competition. There will be educational breakout sessions planned throughout the day and local area businesses will be at the fair with information booths on health and fitness. Seasonal flu shots (depending

on vaccine shipments), and free health screenings will be available throughout the day of the fair.

All Tulare County employees are invited to visit the fair.

Plan ahead for attendance by checking with your supervisors/managers for department coverage. For more information, contact Ruth Medlin at HRD in Visalia by telephone at 559/636-4900.



TULARE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
WWW.TULAREHHS.AORG · 1-800-834-7121

Employee Spotlight: Steve Chapman



Name: Steve Chapman

Title: Training Officer - HHS Training Services

Years of Service: 14

Duties: To provide training to county personnel in soft skills, computer, American Red Cross First Aid and, ARC CPR/AED for the professional and lay responder. Also, along with two other members of our training staff here at the Professional Development Center, I am responsible for the daily room set up and audio/visual support for various county, state, and UC Davis meetings, trainings and events held in our conference rooms. I want to take this public moment to thank members of the

Project Management/ CalWIN, Facilities and TulareWORKS staffs here at the PDC for their help with the daily setups.

Family: Lovely wife, beautiful daughter, and 3 terrific grandchildren.

Hobbies: Playing and listening to music, charity fundraising, and watching sports.

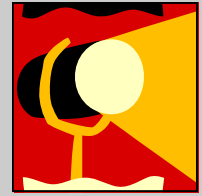
Clubs/Organizations: American Legion, Moose Lodge, Valley Musicians Benefit Fund, Visalia Turkey Transit Singers

What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee? Just one day after taking an American Red Cross CPR class from me, one of my students used the skills I had taught her to save an 81-year-old man's life. For her life saving actions, she won the American Red Cross Central Valley Chapters Good Samaritan Award.

Her success was an awesome experience for me.

Please tell us something other employees might not know about you: I lived in Hawaii for 6 years and studied at the Academy of Theatre Arts in Honolulu. That led to a period as a professional entertainer that allowed me to travel to more than half of the 50 states and several countries. I still use those skills to help raise money for various benefits and organizations throughout the year.

Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County? Allensworth State Historical Park. I love to sit at one of the picnic tables, watch the trains go by, and imagine the people and families in the early 1900's living there; doing business, going to school, and other daily tasks. The old buildings furnished with items of that era make it easy.



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: Library English Learner Program

The Tulare County Library Read to Succeed Adult Literacy Program announces a learning opportunity for non-English-speaking adults!

Residents of Dinuba, Traver, Pixley, Strathmore, Lindsay and Visalia will have a chance to enhance their English language speaking skills by signing up for the English Speakers of Other

Languages Conversation Circles in those communities.

These Circles are small groups of learners (no more than 7 in each group) who meet one hour each week, and with the assistance of a volunteer facilitator can improve their English speaking skills, as well as reading, writing and comprehension.

These Circles will start the week of September 20th and they fill up fast!

Anyone interested in signing up for the Circles, please call (559) 713-2745.



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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

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County to Receive Boost in Internet Access

“THIS ASSISTANCE WILL ALLOW PEOPLE TO ACCESS THE INTERNET IN A WAY THAT HELPS BUSINESSES AND FAMILIES,” STEVE WORTHLEY, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIRMAN

A project designed to bring high-speed Internet access to millions of San Joaquin Valley residents received a \$46.6 million boost in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds in August.

The Central Valley Independent Network (CVIN) will use the funds for a 1,371-mile fiber optic network called the Central Valley Next-General Broadband Infrastructure Project. This project will provide high-speed Internet service through 18 California counties, from Colusa to Kern counties. Tulare County officials began working with CENIC officials on this ARRA proposal in early 2010, drawing together a working group composed of technology leaders from the Tulare County Library, technicians with the Tulare County Office of Education, local cities and public safety officials from throughout the

region.

Steve Worthley, Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, said this project will be a benefit to County government and its residents.

“This assistance will allow people to access the Internet in a way that helps businesses and families,” Chairman Worthley said. “This type of project is important for all counties who have residents in rural communities.”

The project encompasses a service area of 18 counties covering approximately 40,000 square miles or roughly a quarter of the state's geography, and a population of more than 4 million, or more than 11 percent of the state's population. More than 11,300 businesses and 110,000 homes in southern and central Tulare County could potentially access the new fiber-optic lines the

project seeks to install, according to CVIN.

The fiber-optic lines will run from the Earlimart area through Terra Bella toward Porterville and Lindsay, then west near Exeter, Farmersville, Tulare and Visalia before continuing to Kings County.

Part of the plan is to lay fiber-optic connections directly to the Tulare County Office of Education and College of the Sequoias in Visalia, Porterville City College and the Visalia branch of the Tulare County Library, the Lindsay Library, and municipal libraries in Tulare and Porterville. Besides improving web speeds, the fiber-optic lines would allow greater numbers of public and business computers to be connected online.

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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SEPTEMBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Sept. 1. 2 p.m.
Tulare County Planning Commission: Sept. 8, 22. 9 a.m.
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Sept. 14, 21, 28. 9 a.m.
South County LOOP Program Workshop: Sept. 15. 10 a.m.
Tulare County Youth Commission: Sept. 20. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
T.C.A.G. Meeting: Sept. 20. 1 p.m.
Quarterly Deferred Compensation Meeting: Sept. 20. 9 a.m. to noon.
Step Up Youth Activities Grant Workshop: Sept. 23. 2 p.m.
Tulare County Water Commission: Sept. 27 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Tulare County Health Fair: Sept. 30. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

More Information:

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559/636-5225
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For more information, visit: www.co.tulare.ca.us and click on “County Calendar”



Places to Go Play: Three Rivers is the gateway community to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The town's namesake is the three forks of the Kaweah River - Middle, North, and South, which converge in Three Rivers. Three Rivers offers fine or casual dining, lodging in both town or riverside, and has an active arts and music community. There's also hiking, biking, camping, rock-climbing, and more. Learn more about Three Rivers and other places to “Go Play” at www.tularecountymap.com.