



# Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - December 2010

## Chairman's Message: Tulare County Shines in 2010



It has been an honor serving as Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors in 2010. This year proved to be another difficult year for local government, but Tulare County and its employees still continued to shine.

Each member of the Board of Supervisors, along with County employees from various departments, brought innovation and important services to residents.

- Supervisor Allen Ishida worked with the Tulare County Water Commission to obtain \$2 million in funding from the California Department of Water Resources to address the drinking and wastewater needs for disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin.

- Supervisor Pete Vander Poel helped launch a collaborative effort called Taste Tulare County, a program that seeks to educate the public about the rich variety of agricultural products here in our county. In May, Supervisor Vander Poel and County staff helped promote the Taste Tulare County program at Mooney Grove Park, the Sequoia

Foodie Fest in Exeter, and at the AMGEN Tour.

- Supervisor Phil Cox continued to serve on the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force and brought several Step Up community events and programs to cities and unincorporated areas.

- Supervisor Mike Ennis worked with the Tulare County Association of Governments to obtain funding for important regional road projects.

As Chairman, there were a number of items countywide and within my District that I'm proud of. Highlights include:

- The Board of Supervisors expanded the Step Up Service Learning Grant Program to reach youth at the middle school level.

- Tulare County obtained a \$200,000 grant to repair and renovate a youth center in Ivanhoe, which will be operated by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tulare County.

- Tulare County helped launch 2-1-1, an information and referral telephone service. Community members, taxpayers, and service organizations all stand to benefit from this free service.

- The Tulare County Museum of Farm Labor & Agriculture debuted several new exhibits which include "The African-American Experience in Tulare County" and "Winds

of Change: The Dust Bowl Migration to Tulare County."

- Tulare County's Resource Management Agency released the latest draft of the County's proposed General Plan Update for formal review.

- Tulare County staff is working on a project designed to bring high-speed Internet access to millions of San Joaquin Valley residents through an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded program. More than 11,300 businesses and 110,000 homes throughout Tulare County could potentially access the new fiber-optic lines the project seeks to install. This type of project is important for all counties who have residents in rural communities.

The listed projects and initiatives are a tribute to the hard work of all the County employees who went above and beyond in 2010.

I want to publicly thank my fellow board members, the other elected officials, our CAO and his staff and the many hard working employees of Tulare County for their collective contributions to local government.

J. Steven Worthley, Chairman  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

## Inside this issue:

SUPERVISOR TO SERVE ON STATE COMMISSION	2
MEASURE R GROUNDBREAKING	2
NOTE FROM AG COMMISSIONER	2
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: COUNTY EMPLOYEES	3
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: FILM COMMISSION	3
PIXLEY SHOWS COMMUNITY SPIRIT	4
COUNTY DATES FOR EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND MORE	4



Do you have an idea for a feature in the Around Tulare County newsletter? We would appreciate your feedback. Please let us know at

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

## **Supervisor Reappointed to State Commission**

**"I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THIS COMMISSION WHICH DEALS WITH CRITICAL ISSUES OF FINANCE AND FAIRNESS."  
CHAIRMAN WORTHLEY**

District Four Supervisor Steve Worthley was reappointed Nov. 23 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to serve on the Commission on State Mandates.

The objective of the Commission on State Mandates is to fairly and impartially hear and determine if local agencies and school districts are entitled to reimbursement for increased costs mandated by the State.

Supervisor Worthley said he appreciates the opportunity to be just one of two members, representing local government, in the state to be appointed by the Governor to serve on the commission.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve local government on this commission which deals with critical issues of finance and fairness," Supervisor Worthley said.

The Commission was created as a quasi-judicial body to

determine state mandated costs. The Commission consists of the Director of Finance, the State Controller, the State Treasurer, the Director of the Office of Planning and Research, a public member with experience in public finance, and two additional members from the categories of city council member, county supervisor, or school district governing board member, appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate.

## **Officials Break Ground on Measure R Funded Project**



Tulare County officials conducted a groundbreaking ceremony for a road widening project on Road 108 between Visalia and Tulare on Monday, December 6.

Measure R, Tulare County's half-cent sales tax approved by voters in 2006, is funding \$25.8 million of the \$30.5 million project. The remainder

of the funds come from the State.

Construction is expected to be complete by the summer of 2012, which will widen Road 108, known as Demaree Street, from two lanes to four between Caldwell Avenue in Visalia and Leland Avenue in Tulare.

The ceremony feature speakers from the cities of

Tulare and Visalia, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, the Citizens Oversight Committee and the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, which is leading the project.

Measure R has already generated nearly \$80 million for transportation improvement projects. Visit [www.tcmeasurer.com](http://www.tcmeasurer.com) for more details.

## **Ag Commissioner Offers Tips on Buying Firewood**



**Tulare County Ag Commissioner/  
Sealer Marilyn Kinoshita**

This is the time of year when firewood vendors start advertising in newspapers and on the Internet. Be a smart consumer and know the legal requirements for these transactions.

Firewood has its own special unit of measurement called a "cord." Firewood, in units of 1/8th of a cord and above, must be sold by the cord or fractions of a cord. A cord of wood, by law, must equal 128 cubic feet. To determine if you have a cord, the wood must be measured when it is "ranked and well stowed." This means the wood is stacked neatly in a row with the pieces of wood parallel

and touching with as few gaps as possible. If, when measured, the width times the height, times the length equals 128 cubic feet, it is a cord of wood.

Be wary of terms such as "face cord," "rack," "rick," "tier," "pile" or "truck-load," as these terms are illegal to use in the sale of firewood. If a seller uses such terms, consumers should be on alert for a possible problem. Some wood dealers try to sell firewood from a pick-up truck. Be on your guard, because a pick-up cannot hold a cord of firewood. An 8-foot truck bed can hold one-half of a cord while a

6-foot bed can barely hold one-third of a cord.

Make sure you get an invoice or delivery ticket that contains the name and address of the seller, the date purchased or delivered, the quantity purchased, and the price. The seller is required by law to give you this information in writing. You may want to take note of the license plate of the delivery vehicle.

If you have questions please contact the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer at 559/684-3350.

### Spotlight: County of Tulare Employees

Tulare County employees have joined the Friends of Tulare County (FTC) in support of the Annual Health and Human Services Child Welfare System Children's Toy Drive.

The Children's Toy Drive is conducted every year to provide gifts to Tulare County children within the Child Welfare System (CWS) system, commonly known as Child Protective Services. Many of these children are in the CWS system due to child abuse or neglect, but in all cases these children undergo the trauma of disruption to their families.

Last year, through the generosity of the Tulare County community organizations and residents, employees were able to distribute more than 2,000 gifts to the more than 1,400 children within the CWS system. Their joy of being remembered by their

community and opening these wrapped gestures of love was truly a magical moment for these children. Tulare County employees have assisted in the mission to brighten these children's holiday season by making donations this year.

The Children's Toy Drive is made possible by employees of Tulare County Health & Human Services who have volunteered their time. The toy drive committee consists of staff from CWS, Probation and the CAST program. Gift wrapping more than 1,500 toys will be done by staff from the HHS Administration Team and TulareWORKs. The IT department has also stepped up to the plate and will be assisting with collecting toy boxes throughout Tulare County. CWS Social Workers will be delivering all the donated items to each of the children represented in the Toy Drive

during the next couple weeks.

Of course, FTC will still be accepting monetary donations for the CWS Toy Drive via mail, as in previous years. Checks made out to Friends of Tulare County may be sent to 5957 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277, Attn: Katie Arnst. Write CWS Toy Drive in the memo line.

Friends of Tulare County, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is the agency that accepts donations on behalf of Tulare County. This allows for donations to be potentially tax-deductible for the donors. The Friends of Tulare County tax identification number is: 84-1635929.



**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: Film Commission

The Tulare County Film Commission was established to encourage filming in Tulare County and provides support and assistance to the film industry. The Tulare County Film Commissioner responds to location requests and assists production staff with everything from finding locations and securing permits to providing a list of resources they might need while working here.

Filming activities create widespread economic benefits to Tulare County. The temporary influx of a film crew is like a shot in the arm for local hotels, motels, restaurants, and retail

businesses. Occasionally, production companies hire local residents, providing temporary employment.

With Tulare County's varied landscapes and natural beauty, location options are limitless. Still photography, feature films, and commercials have all been filmed in this area. A portion of Jack Black's Tenacious D in: The Pic of Destiny was filmed on the Kern River near Johnsondale. Other past Tulare County productions include \* The Moment After, Star Trek VI, Wag The Dog, Forrest Gump, Mercy Streets, The Visitation, SIX, Bound For Glory, Lycanthrope

(Nightwatch), Blue Suede Shoes, Riders On The Storm, Under Crystal Lake, Son-In-Law, Death In California, Starman, MacGyver (\* portions of those listed were filmed in Tulare County).

Tulare County Film Commission is funded in part by the [Tulare County Association of Governments \(TCAG\)](#) and is a member of Filming Liaisons In California, [State-wide \(FLICS\)](#), [California Film Commission \(CFC\)](#) and Association of Film [Commissioners International \(AFCI\)](#).

Contact Info for Film Commission:

Eric Coyne, Tulare County Film Commissioner  
2800 W. Burrel Ave.  
Visalia, CA 93291  
Office: 559/636-5005

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

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

AROUND TULARE COUNTY - BACK PAGE

**Pixley Residents Gather; Show Community Spirit**



Volunteers helping dish out food.



District Two Supervisor Pete Vander Poel handed out plates and napkins.

**Extra:**

View a brief video of the Thanksgiving Dinner at:  
<http://www.twitvid.com/videos/countyoftulare>

*Editor's Note: This entry was submitted by Pixley residents. Photos and video were taken by Around Tulare County staff.*

More than 700 Pixley residents enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner served in the Pixley Veteran's Memorial Building and sponsored by the Association of Pixley Churches on November 23.

The kitchen crew duties for the event were shared by Daniel Martinez, Leticia Martinez, Robert Rodari, Arvella Terrel, Damian Martinez and Elena Saldivar.

Present to help with the event were: Rudy Mendoza, Field Representative from Congressman Devin Nunes' office; District 2 Supervisor Pete Vander Poel; Jed Chernabaeff, County Media Officer for the Tulare County Board of Supervisors; Explorers from the Sheriff's Office and the Fire Department; and, CBO

Deputies Cindy Anderson and Tim Johnson, and Lt. Mike Watson.

Other volunteer helpers included representatives and/or members from the following organizations: the Association of Pixley Churches; the Pixley Women's Club, the Pixley Girl Scout Troop; the Pixley Town Council; 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from the Pixley Middle School; Teachers and Students from Pixley Schools; CSET Junior Leadership members; Pixley Volunteer Fire Department, and several Deputies from the Pixley Sheriff's Office Substation.

The volunteers helped with the serving, cleaning tables, and resetting of tables.

A complete list of donors and supporters of the Pixley Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be included in the January 2010 issue of the

Pixley Post. The community is grateful for all of them.

The whole event was a tremendous success because of the efforts of so many and the coordination of Aaron Gay and Daniel Martinez. Pixley thanks and appreciates everyone who helped make it possible, including all those who contributed financially and the local churches and individuals who donated items for the event.

**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.

Around Tulare County  
 2800 W. Burrel Ave.  
 Visalia, CA 93291  
 Phone: 559/636-5000  
 Fax: 559/733-6898

E-Mail/Subscribe:  
[newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

Internet:  
[www.aroundtularecounty.com](http://www.aroundtularecounty.com)

**DECEMBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS**

**Meeting: (Date/Time)**

**More Information:**

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Dec. 7, 14. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County LAFCO: Dec. 8. 2 p.m.	559/624-7274
Quarterly Deferred Compensation Mtg. Dec. 13. 9 a.m.	559/636-5225
Tulare County Planning Commission: Dec. 15. 9 a.m.	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:** Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club has a 7,482-yard championship golf course created by noted golf course designer John Fought. This golf course boasts one of the longest par fives in California, measuring out at a massive 653 yards. This 18-hole public premium golf course features the largest driving range west of the Rockies (more than 25 acres) as well as Three Finger Jack's Restaurant. Learn more about Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club and other places to "Go Play" at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).