



Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County

August 2009

Chairman's Message: Welcome to Around Tulare County



Welcome to the first Tulare County newsletter - *Around Tulare County*. I hope you will find this to be educational and informative. The purpose of the newsletter is to have direct communication with Tulare County's employees and residents.

There are many items of note to celebrate in this first edition. From outstanding Tulare County employees and the programs they help run to collaborative efforts empowering our youth, *Around Tulare County* highlights many different aspects of County government.

In future editions, the monthly newsletter will feature many facets of Tulare County and its residents. Budget updates, program spotlights, construction updates and employee spotlights will all be in the newsletter. Articles in *Around Tulare County* will be written by members of the Board of Supervisors, the County Administrative Office and County departments.

The last page will have a list of upcoming events and important dates. Grand openings, property tax deadlines and key election dates will be listed to keep everyone informed of events and deadlines. If you or your organization has an event or important date you would like included in *Around Tulare County*, please submit the information to newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us.

There will also be a section on the lower half of the back

page that highlights a great place to visit in Tulare County through the County web site www.tularecountymap.com. This month *Around Tulare County* gives mention to the City of Lindsay's McDermont Field House.

Please pass this newsletter along to fellow employees, neighbors, friends and family. If you have suggestions for topics to be included in the newsletter, or have other feedback, please email it to newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us. The newsletter will always be evolving and improving, and we will do our best to incorporate your comments and suggestions in future editions.

Phil Cox, Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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Tulare County's 2008 Employee of the Year: Sarah Shena

Sarah Shena, an attorney in the Public Guardian's office, was named the County's 2008 "Employee of the Year" at the July 7 Board of Supervisors meeting.

"Sarah Shena has guaranteed the success, reputation and credibility of our legal services program for seniors through her notable professional accomplishments, unyielding service to the community and her impeccable

leadership in all areas of Senior law," said John Davis, Director of Tulare County's Health and Human Services Agency.

Sarah has worked for Tulare County since 2004. Prior to working for Tulare County she was an attorney with Bourdette & Partners. Some of Sarah's achievements include coordinating conferences and trainings for seniors, recruiting three

volunteer attorneys to increase services, and managing an average caseload of more than 90 clients a month. Shena is also involved in many community organizations including the Three Rivers Women's Club and United Way of Tulare County, where she was recently named Advocate of the Year.

Tulare County employs 4,200 people.



Pictured from left to right: Supervisor Pete Vander Poel, Supervisor Phil Cox, Supervisor Mike Ennis, Sarah Shena, Supervisor Allen Ishida, Supervisor Steve Worthley

Around Tulare County



The new TulareWORKS Office is located at 1845 N. Dinuba Boulevard in Visalia.



“THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO REVAMP THE TULAREWORKS BUSINESS MODEL AND CHANGE THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS.” DAVID CRAWFORD, TULARE COUNTY HHS&A DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES

TulareWORKS Opens new Visalia District Office

Tulare County officials held a grand opening ceremony and ribbon-cutting on July 17 to commemorate the official grand opening of the TulareWORKS Visalia District Office.

The new office, located at 1845 N. Dinuba Boulevard in Visalia, was chosen to better accommodate the needs of clients, be more accessible to mass transit, and to contribute to the city’s continued revitalization of north Visalia.

“We found that a number of our clients who accessed TulareWORKS services at our downtown Visalia location reside in the northern Visalia area,” said David Crawford, Director of Human Services for Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency. “We wanted to relocate where most of our clients live to reduce access issues and improve customer services. This is a wonderful opportunity to revamp the TulareWORKS business model and change the way we do business.”

An additional reason for the move, Crawford said, was the County workforce outgrew

the former Visalia District Office, located on Center Street in downtown Visalia.

The result?

A modern, energy-efficient workplace that is far more comfortable for the public that will be served at the new Visalia District Office, and county employees. Additional interview rooms were integrated into the design to both preserve the dignity and privacy of clients and to reduce wait times. The new office design also incorporates more space for staff training - a necessary process due to the constantly changing regulatory environment of public assistance programs.

New elements of the Visalia District Office include:

Improved client services: The expanded number of interview rooms reduces wait times and better addresses privacy and confidentiality concerns.

Expanded services: In addition to processing claims for food stamps and public assistance, staff will also provide

assistance and advocacy for people applying for social security.

Improved technology: The new phone systems use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology, reducing costs considerably, and the system can handle a far greater number of phone calls, resulting in less waiting time and the ability to handle more cases by phone.

Improved access to mass transit: The TulareWORKS Visalia District Office is serviced by Visalia City Coach, increasing accessibility.

Urban revitalization: Located on Dinuba Boulevard, the TulareWORKS Visalia District Office contributes to the City’s ongoing effort to revitalize and redevelop northern Visalia.

Improved workplace conditions: The new building includes more energy efficient climate control, improved lighting and more ergonomic workstations.

Tulare County departments adopt new phone numbers



As part of an ongoing effort to improve the reliability of the County’s telephone communications system and to reduce costs, several County departments have changed their phone numbers. Departments are switching to Voice over Internet Protocol, or VoIP. VoIP is a technology that allows for voice communication over computer networks.

Department/New Phone Number:	
Ag Commissioner/Sealer Main Line:	559/684-3350
Ag Commissioner/Sealer Pesticides:	559/684-3352
UC Cooperative Extension Main Line:	559/684-3300
Probation Department Main Line:	559/713-2750
Probation Department Accounting:	559/713-2786
Risk Management Main Line::	559/733-6263
RMA Main Line:	559/624-7000
RMA Service Desk	559/624-7047
RMA Mail Room and Print Shop:	559/624-7200
RMA Zone Information:	559/624-7100
RMA Solid Waste Information Line:	559/624-7200
TCAG Main Line:	559/624-7274

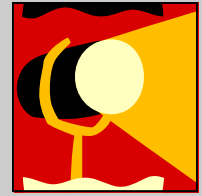
Employee Spotlight: Denise Ybarra



Name: Denise Ybarra
Title: Deputy Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Years of Service: 5 years
Duties: The Deputy Clerk assists in keeping official records for the Board of Supervisors; prepares official Board agendas; and acts for

the Chief Clerk in his/her absence.
Denise on her most rewarding experience as a County employee: I was in charge of getting the ordinance code book online. When it was done it was very polished and professional looking. Also, when somebody walks away and I know that they received the best customer service that I can provide, it's very rewarding for me.
Family: Married to husband Joe Ybarra for 18 years. Joe and Denise have a son, Dennis, who is 16-years-old.

Hobbies: I am an avid fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Farm Town on Facebook.
Something you might not know about me: I was born in Alhambra, CA. I met Michael Jackson when I was 10-years-old at a bookstore in Hollywood. I love the beach, my family, and friends. I love reading books.
Favorite place to visit in Tulare County: My family and I have had some wonderful times on Lake Kaweah.



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: Youth @ Work

Youth @ Work is a summer work experience project which will provide more than 1,600 Tulare County youths aged 14-24 with paid work experience. Supported by Federal Stimulus funds secured by the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board, this program is improving our community through public service, beautification projects, weatherization, and education. It is also changing

the lives of the youth people participating in the projects.
"My eyes have been opened to see what it means to truly help people," said Gerardo, a 14-year-old participant serving as a recreational leader at the Porterville Heritage Center.

Youth @ Work focuses on providing education on life skills, work ethic, cultural di-

versity, responsibility and meaningful work to the youth. Local WIB officials say youth participants are gaining vital work training that will increase their job skills while performing important services that benefit the public.

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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

"MY EYES HAVE BEEN OPENED TO SEE WHAT IT MEANS TO TRULY HELP PEOPLE."
GERARDO, 14, YOUTH PARTICIPANT SERVING AS A RECREATIONAL LEADER IN PORTERVILLE

Step Up Youth Activities Grant: \$100,000 available in August

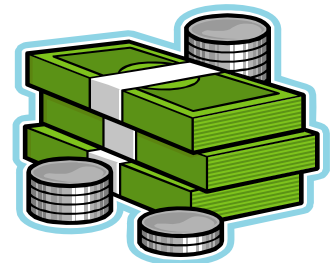
The Tulare County Board of Supervisors and the Tulare County Youth Commission are pleased to announce that applications for the 2010 Step Up Youth Activities Grant Program will be available on August 17, 2009. The grant application deadline is Friday, October 16, 2009 at 5:00 pm.

The program, in its second year, makes \$20,000 in each

Supervisorial District available to Tulare County non-profit organizations. The grants are for organizations that work with youth that are in a gang or are exposed to the gang culture. Grant applications should be for programs and services aimed at improving the quality of life of at-risk youth in Tulare County through gang intervention/prevention services.

Grant applications can be obtained by visiting www.stepuptc.com or by contacting Tulare County Youth Commission staff Jeff Forbes at (559) 636-5000 or jforbes@co.tulare.ca.us.

Other questions regarding the grant application should also be directed to Jeff Forbes.





“TULARE COUNTY WANTS TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE POSITIVE EXPERIENCES FOR OUR YOUTH,” CHAIRMAN PHIL COX

Fresno State Football Coach meets with County’s Youth

Fresno State Football Coach Pat Hill gave an inspirational speech to more than 130 youth from throughout Tulare County on July 15 at 210 Café in downtown Visalia.

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors partnered with the Fresno State Athletic Department to bring Coach Hill to Visalia to speak to the youth.

“Tulare County wants to continue to provide positive experiences for our youth,” said Phil Cox, Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

The youth in attendance were from Visalia’s youth centers, Goshen, Orosi High School, J.J. Cairns High School in Lindsay, and Step Up Service Learning Grant Program participants.

Social Work Counselor Junior Cerda, who chaperoned 15

Orosi High School students, said the goal of many Cutler-Orosi youth is to someday attend California State University, Fresno, so meeting Coach Hill was exciting.

“This was a great opportunity for the youth to listen to someone speak to them who already has a great influence in Cutler-Orosi,” Cerda said. “For the youth to be able to

come and listen to a person of this caliber...this was exciting for them.”

The inspirational speech was just part of Coach Hill’s two-hour visit to Visalia. Coach Hill’s visit was part of the Bulldog Football Caravan. The caravan travels throughout the San Joaquin Valley to promote the upcoming college football season.



After his speech, Coach Hill met with the children and signed autographs.

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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Internet: www.co.tulare.ca.us

AUGUST COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

- CPR & First Aid Training: Aug. 5, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Aug. 5, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- New IHSS Provider Orientation: Aug. 7, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Board of Supervisors’ Meeting: Aug. 11, 9 a.m.
- CPR & First Aid Training: Aug. 12, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- New IHSS Provider Orientation (Spanish): Aug. 14, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- T.C.A.G. Meeting: Aug. 17, 1 p.m.
- Tulare County Youth Commission: Aug. 17, Time TBD
- Board of Supervisors’ Meeting: Aug. 18, 9 a.m.
- CPR & First Aid Training: Aug. 19, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Tulare County Water Commission: Aug. 24, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- Board of Supervisors’ Meeting: Aug. 25, 9 a.m.
- CPR & First Aid Training (Spanish): Aug. 26, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Unsecured Property Tax Due/Delinquency Deadline: Aug. 31, 5 p.m.

More Information:

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

For more information, visit: www.co.tulare.ca.us and click on “County Calendar”



Places to Go Play: McDermont Field House, located in the City of Lindsay, is a premier sports and entertainment destination in Tulare County. Originally a fruit packinghouse, it has been transformed into a state-of-the-art, 172,000-square ft. venue where families can be together, be active and have fun. Learn more about the McDermont Field House and other places to “Go Play” at www.tularecountymap.com.



Mooney Grove Park Centennial Celebration Logo Art Contest

Art & Design Requirements:

Design a logo, hand drawn or electronically, on an 8-1/2" x 11" white paper that commemorates the 100-year anniversary of Mooney Grove Park, scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2009. For participants submitting electronic artwork, the image must be a minimum of 8.5" x 11" and 300 dpi.

Logo needs to include the following: Mooney Grove Park; 100 year anniversary or Centennial Celebration; or 1909-2009. All submissions are subject to digital enhancement and will become property of Tulare County. Contact Jed Chernabaeff or Jeff Forbes at 559/636-5000 for more information.

**Winner receives \$250 and recognition at the Grand
Opening of the Tulare County Museum of Farm Labor
and Agriculture on Thursday, October 15, 2009**

Submit your logo design by: 5 p.m. Wed., September 9, 2009 to:
Around Tulare County
2800 W. Burrel Ave.
Visalia, CA 93291

Or email to: newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us