



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

Chairman Vander Poel Delivers State of the County Address



Note: Excerpt from January 29, 2013 State of the County Address.

Before I begin I would like to publicly thank past Chairman Allen Ishida and fellow Board members, elected officials, our CAO and his staff, and County of Tulare department heads and employees for their efforts, dedication, and leadership last year.

With a team approach in 2012, Tulare County managed to deliver a number of important programs and projects in addition to critical day-to-day services for the public. For example: a Customer Service Program and Economic Development department were established, the General Plan was updated, funding was secured for a jail facility in Porterville, and participation in Public Safety Realignment continued with success. In addition, Tulare County remained fiscally sound and passed a balanced budget without having to reduce department budgets, deferring step and merit pay increases, implementing furloughs, or instituting a hiring freeze. This Board will remain dedicated to fiscal responsibility and living

within our means, regardless of Federal and State budget impacts.

As we begin 2013, I have never been more proud to serve the people of Tulare County. I also believe that the residents of Tulare County have a lot to be proud of. We have one of the most productive agriculture economies in the world, we are home to many natural and scenic attractions, and most of all, I believe our residents are proud to live in Tulare County. Because of this, I am confident that we will continue to see opportunities and growth.

However, Tulare County, like many Counties, faces challenges during these difficult times. Our residents have shown their desire to improve life here and have voiced the priorities that need to be addressed: Low ranking health statistics. High crime in some neighborhoods. A growing marijuana problem. Nuisance properties. Inadequate recreational opportunities for youth. Aging infrastructure. High unemployment numbers.

Like the residents of Tulare County, I too see challenges, but I also see opportunity to improve and be proactive.

As your Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I want to lead this organization in an effort, with the help of all residents, to Improve Life in Tulare County.

Today, I want to address four broad issues that I believe will help Improve Life in Tulare County. These issues are: Health & Wellness; Public Safety; Investing in Youth; and Building Communities. Under each issue, I offer solutions and some key strategies that the County can and will take to Improve Life in Tulare County. Although each strategy will not solve all of our problems entirely, each one is a major step in the right direction.

The first goal for a better life in Tulare County is to improve the Health & Wellness of our residents and employees. In 2012, Tulare County residents ranked 47th among California's 58 counties in the nationwide *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* survey. Here, according to the survey, 31 percent are obese, 27 percent are in poor health, and 24 percent are physically inactive. Those are all alarming statistics.

As the largest employer in the region with more than 4,000 employees, the County of Tulare will lead the charge to improve these statistics through its own Health & Wellness Program and by implementing strategies under the California Community Transformation Initiative.

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Read the full text of Chairman Vander Poel's 2013 State of the County Address by visiting:

www.aroundtularecounty.com

Orosi-Cutler Library Branch Reopens in January



Want to see more pics of the event? Visit the County of Tulare's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/countyoftulare

Tulare County's Orosi-Cutler Branch Library, the last Carnegie library to be constructed in California, hosted a grand reopening on Wednesday, January 30.

The library, located at 12646 Ave. 416 in Orosi, was recently closed for an \$18,000 renovation project paid for by a donation of the Orosi Friends of the Library and the Tulare County Library Foundation. The renovation project included new carpet and the walls and shelves were repainted.

"Tulare County appreciates the donation from the Orosi Friends which will improve library services in the community while preserving a valued historic landmark," said Fourth District Supervisors Steve Worthley, whose district includes Orosi.

The Orosi-Cutler Library was established in March 1911 in Ryan's Cyclery. It was officially established as a Tulare County Branch Library in July 1913. In 1917, the county obtained a \$3,000 Carnegie grant to build a

library in Orosi. Carnegie libraries were built between 1883 and 1929 with funds donated by businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. In 1983, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"The Orosi-Cutler Library represents the history of libraries and the strength of the community," said Jeff Scott, interim County Librarian. "The work performed on this renovation will ensure the library will provide the same great service for many more years."

Urban Art Tour Showcased in County Facilities

Urban Art Tour Dates:

Lindsay Library:

Jan. 30 - Feb. 6

Porterville Library:

Feb. 6-13

Earlimart Library:

Feb. 13-20

Tulare Library:

Feb. 25 - Mar. 18

Government Plaza:

Mar. 18-29

Three pieces of urban art, inspired by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias, will be showcased in several Tulare County buildings through March 29.

Tulare County Supervisor Phil Cox unveiled the urban art during the "Urban Art Kick-Off Reception" in January at Tulare County's Visalia Branch Library. Other stops include libraries in Exeter, Lindsay, Porterville, Earlimart, and Tulare. The last showing of the art will be at Tulare County Government Plaza in Visalia from March 18-29.

This marks the second year urban art will be displayed in county facilities.

"Tulare County is pleased to showcase this art to the public," Supervisor Cox said. "We hope people take the time to take a look and admire the creative work."

Tulare County acquired the urban art through the September 2012 Taste the Arts event held by the Visalia Arts Consortium and sponsored by the Step Up Gang Task Force. Three artists – representing San Jose, Reedley, and Los Angeles - were in-

vited to create the paintings inspired by the mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sequoias, which enables all young people, especially those who need help the most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

At the conclusion of the tour the artwork will be donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias.

Visit www.stepuptc.com to view schedule for the Urban Art tour.

Justice Run Provides Funding to Local Orgs



District Attorney Tim Ward, joined by members of the Board of Supervisors, provided checks to several local agencies in January. The financial donations were raised by the Tulare County District Attorney's Justice Run on October 20, 2012.

The annual Justice Run takes place as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

More than 400 participants took part in either a 5k run or a one mile walk. The total proceeds from the event were approximately \$12,000, which was equally distributed between the Central California Family Crisis Center in Porterville and Family Services of Tulare County in Visalia. These are the two primary organizations that provide shelter and vital ser-

vices to victims of domestic violence and their children. District Attorney Ward expresses to the Board that he will continue to show his support for vulnerable victims and look forward to a continued collaborative effort in the future.

Employee Spotlight: Undersheriff Boudreaux



Tulare County Sheriff Bill Wittman recently appointed Cpt. Michael Boudreaux to Undersheriff to replace Dahl Cleek, who recently retired. On January 9, 2013, a ceremony was held to make the appointment official.

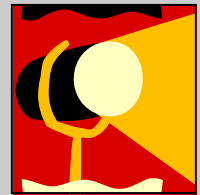
Undersheriff Michael Boudreaux grew up in California Hot Springs and Porterville. His father worked for the Sheriff's Office as a Deputy retiring as a detective after 30 years of service. Undersheriff Boudreaux began his career as a Sheriff's Cadet in 1986. In 1987, Michael was promoted to the position of Deputy Trainee and was sponsored through the Tulare-Kings County Police Academy. Upon graduation he was promoted to the Ranks of Deputy I and II while

working in the Detentions Division. Through years 1991 -1995, Michael transferred to the Patrol Division and also became a Field Training Officer. In 1995, he was assigned as a narcotics detective and was a part of the Sheriff's Tactical Enforcement Personnel team in investigations.

Undersheriff Boudreaux has obtained a wide variety of education through his years of service. He has attended Tactical Commander, Basic and Advanced SWAT Schools. He has attended Executive Leadership School and holds a Certificate in the Administration of Justice. Undersheriff Boudreaux has an Associate of Science Degree in the Administration of Justice, A Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology and Management and a Master's Degree with course of study in the Administration of Justice. Undersheriff Boudreaux in 2009 and 2010 was an adjunct

professor at Fresno Pacific University instructing criminal justice. Undersheriff Boudreaux is a graduate of WestPoint Leadership Academy provided by the Los Angeles Police Department and is a graduate of class 251 from the eleven week Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy in Quantico, VA.

Undersheriff Boudreaux is an active member of Downtown Visalia Rotary and sits on the Anti-crime and violence committee. He received the Paul Harris fellow Award in 2011 from the Visalia Rotary Club. Boudreaux is an Ambassador with the after school program Pro-Youth Heart. Undersheriff Boudreaux volunteers with the Tulare and Kings County homeless project as well as Soled out for Kids which is a program to aide children in receiving a new pair of shoes during Christmas.



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: Landfill Salvage Program

To help keep usable and recyclable materials out of our landfills, the Solid Waste Division of the Tulare County Resource Management Agency provides a landfill salvage program that helps keep recyclable items out of the landfill.

If you have been out to Tulare County's landfills before, you are probably aware that they salvage various materials. A recovery area is set up where you can divert wood and green waste, metal and white

goods, tires and pesticide containers.

Tulare County currently owns and operates three landfills with salvage programs:

- [Visalia](#) – Northwest of the city of Visalia on Road 80
- [Teapot Dome](#) – Southwest of the city of Porterville on Avenue 128
- [Woodville](#) – Southeast of the city of Tulare on Road 152

The County asks you to separate metal and white goods, green and wood

waste, tires and pesticide containers into a separate recovery location for recycling. The scrap metal is recycled and it is very possible that something you own may have been made from scrap metal from our landfill. All material diverted to the landfill salvage area is recycled and kept out of the landfill.

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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

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Fire Department Issues Public Service Announcement on Electrical Fires

Electricity has become a basic need and the Tulare County Fire Department is encouraging you to get grounded in the basics of electrical safety. During the month of December 2012, Tulare County Fire Department responded to approximately 19 reported building fires throughout the County. Of those calls, three were attributed to electrical problems.

Electrical distribution and lighting equipment can be a contributor to building fires. These fires create thousands of dollars in property damage and can also result in injuries and deaths.

The best way to keep the home safe from electrical hazards is to take good care of appliances and to use all electrical equipment properly. Respect for electricity and the power it provides must occur every day throughout the year.

HELP REDUCE ELECTRICAL FIRES:

- If a fuse blows or a circuit breaker trips often, find out why and correct the problem. Replace fuses with the correct amp rating for the circuit they protect; never replace a fuse with a higher rated fuse. If the problem continues, call an electrician.
- Only plug one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- Buy only appliances that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords.
- Avoid pinching cords against walls or furniture or running them under carpets or across doorways. This can cause a fire.
- Use extension cords for temporary wiring only.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for plugging an appliance into a receptacle outlet.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- If an appliance is malfunctioning, unplug it if it is safe to do so. If necessary, cut off power by unscrewing a fuse or turning off the circuit breaker.

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.

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FEBRUARY COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

More Information:

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Feb. 5, 26. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Feb. 6. 2 p.m.	559/624-7274
Tulare County Water Commission: Feb. 11. 3 p.m.	559/636-5005
World Ag Expo: Feb. 12, 13, 14.	559/688-1030
Tulare County Association of Governments: Feb. 19. 1 p.m.	559/624-7274
Tulare County Planning Commission: Feb. 12, 26. 9 a.m.	559/624-7000



Places to Go Play: The Tulare Historical Museum preserves and showcases the history of the City of Tulare. In addition, the museum features holdings such as an art glass collection and has an entire wing devoted to military history - the Manuel Toledo Military Collection. The museum serves as a cultural center for the community, and also hosts a revolving collection of special exhibits. Learn more about the Tulare Historical Museum and other places to "Go Play" in Tulare County at www.tularecountymap.com.