



Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - July 2010

Chairman's Message: Employees Should be Commended



In March 2009 the County Administrative Officer encouraged all County departments to participate in the Strengthening the Bottom Line Program. Each department developed its own Budget Action Team. Each Budget Action Team generated ideas to create ways to reduce expenditures, increase revenues, and improve operations.

Tulare County's employees stepped up, met the challenge, and are commended for their innovations.

I would like to share two ideas that have been

implemented by the County because of employee suggestions:

Going Paperless

Employees suggested that going paperless would save Tulare County money. The Human Resources & Development Department responded and now sends its employee newsletter, The Grapevine, via email. HR&D estimates that this measure will save the County around \$3,600 each year in printing costs.

Code Enforcement Hotline

Employees at Tulare County's Resource Management Agency created an easier way for constituents to report code enforcement violations. Effective June 30, constituents can call the "Code Violation Hotline" at 559/624-7060.

RMA staff says creating this hotline allows employees to work more efficiently by

having all code enforcement calls go to one phone number. The hotline creates an additional benefit to constituents by providing the ability to report code violations 24-hours a day.

Additional Benefits

The County Administrative Office is gathering more successful results from the Strengthening the Bottom Line Program and will be presenting them at a future Board of Supervisors meeting.

Again, I commend all the employees who participated in the Strengthening the Bottom Line Program and came up with innovative ways to improve County of Tulare Government.

J. Steven Worthley, Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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TCSO Scholarship Winners Announced

The Tulare County Sheriff's Chaplain Corp., along with the assistance of the Sheriff's Posse and Mounted Patrol, awarded six, \$250 scholarships on June 24.

To qualify, the applicants had to be a dependant child of a full-time TCSO employee, be a graduating high school senior with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and be attending a college or trade school on a full-time basis in the Fall.

The applicants also had to fill out an application and complete a 1-2 page essay

describing their educational and career goals, history of their community service and extra-curricular activities. This year six applicants were presented their awards at a ceremony in the lobby of the Sheriff's Headquarters. Family members, staff and the community members attended.

The winners are:

*Natalee Bianca Fernandez, 18, of Visalia: Planning to attend Sierra College of Court Reporting

*Mollie L. Langston, 17, of

Visalia: Planning on attending University of Reno, NV

*Matthew Hutton, 18, of Lemoore: Planing on attending West Hills Community College

*Kelley E. Bowen, 18, of Visalia: Planning on attending Cal Sate Long Beach

*Charely C. Gonzalez, 18, of Sanger: Planning on attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

*Elizabeth Gerling, 18, of Tulare: Planning on attending College of Sequoias



Scholarship recipients.

County Receives USDA Grant for Youth Center in Ivanhoe



Ivanhoe, a small unincorporated community in north Tulare County, will receive a \$200,000 boost to repair and renovate the community's only youth center.

Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Steve Worthley, who represents Ivanhoe, said officials with the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Department informed Tulare County in June about a \$200,000 grant award in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.

The \$200,000 grant award will be used to repair and renovate a building recently acquired by Tulare County, which will be operated by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tulare County as a youth center. The funding will be used for construction of a games room, classroom, computer learning center, art room, "Kids Café,"

and kitchen. A new heating and air conditioning unit will be installed and insulation and structural improvements will also be made.

"This funding will serve as a tremendous benefit to the community of Ivanhoe," Chairman Worthley said. "Tulare County will continue to strive to provide positive activities for our youth."

Boys & Girls Clubs of Tulare County Executive Director Galen Quenzer said the grant award is the result of a collaborative effort between the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tulare County, and the community of Ivanhoe.

"This is such an exciting project; not only because it will provide a beautiful new building for Ivanhoe's youth, but because the entire community – the county, the surrounding farmers, those who used to live in Ivanhoe,

and those who now live and work in the town, are 100 percent behind this clubhouse," Quenzer said. "We received overwhelming support for what we are working to accomplish. This is not just a Tulare County or Boys & Girls Club project; this is true community collaboration."

Currently, the Boys & Girls Club of Tulare County is operating out of the Ivanhoe Lions Club building until the new site is complete.

Tulare County Capital Projects Manager Brian Summers said Ivanhoe's youth will be able to use the facility by January 2011. In the upcoming months, Tulare County and community volunteers will work to make improvements to the facility.



Ivanhoe's youth attended a check presentation ceremony.



The youth center is at the corner of Azalea Ave. and Rd. 159

District 2 Supervisor Elected As TCAG Chair



District Two Supervisor Pete Vander Poel

Pete Vander Poel, the District Two representative on the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, was elected June 21 chair of the Tulare County Association of Governments, or TCAG, for the next two years.

TCAG is responsible for overseeing and planning projects with the county and each of its cities, helping to bring tax money back home to fund bus service, road improvements, projects that will improve air quality, and more.

Every two years TCAG elects

a chair and vice-chair to its board. The term for this selection runs from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012. Any member of TCAG's governing board may hold the position of chair or vice-chair. The TCAG governing board includes a representative from each incorporated city, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, and three at-large members.

The TCAG governing board unanimously elected Supervisor Vander Poel as chair and Lindsay City Councilwoman Pam Kimball as vice-chair. Councilwoman

Kimball's election will mark her second two-year term as TCAG vice-chair.

"I'm thankful that my peers elected me to serve as TCAG's chair for two years," Supervisor Vander Poel said. "I look forward to representing all eight cities and the county when it comes to important regional transportation projects and other regional issues."

District Five Supervisor Mike Ennis served as TCAG chair for the past two years.

Employee Spotlight: Chris Wenzinger



Name: Chris Wenzinger

Title: Sheriff's Lieutenant

Years of Service: 19

Duties: Commander of the Sheriff's Porterville Substation (Patrol), K-9 Unit and Bomb Unit

Family? Carol (my beautiful wife of 23 years) sons Roger, 21, and William, 18.

Hobbies? Road bicycle riding with friends, tending to my rose garden, reading/ studying history and tactics, and the extended family members, our dogs Cooper & Wolfgang

Clubs/Organizations?

Professional : PLEMA (Professional Law Enforcement Managers Association) TCDSA (Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's Association) LPOA (Latino Peace Officer's Association, CNOA (California Narcotics Officers Association) and CGIA (California Gang Investigators Association).

Personal: March of Dimes, Susan G. Kommen Breast Cancer, Relay for Life, American Heart Association, and American Cancer Society.

Social: The American Legion and ECV

What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?

The people that I work with and the community that we serve.

I am very fortunate to have some excellent leaders, teachers, mentors and role models at the Sheriff's Department. What I have learned is passed on to those that I teach and mentor. But also it is refreshing to learn from a very dedicated and committed staff. I'm very proud of our Sheriff's Department and our staff and the service provided to the community. We are successful because of the teamwork within the Sheriff's Department but also our partnership with other agencies, businesses, community service groups, schools, churches and members of the community.

Working for the Sheriff's Department is very rewarding. The opportunity to experience the various applications in law enforcement is available. One of the benefits is the varying communities and cultures rich in traditions. In some areas it may be a larger community and then to a rural community with a population that may only be 15 to 50 people until the tourists arrive. The people in our County are friendly and have been a pleasure to meet and serve. (The tourists can be very entertaining)

Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?

I enjoy any place that time can be spent with my family. I was recently at a community meeting at Kennedy Meadows. It was a very unique area everything operating off solar power or generators. I brought my wife and youngest son with me. We enjoyed the area and look forward to future visits.



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: RMA GIS Mapping

The GIS division is all about maps and the information that goes into making them.

They are responsible for developing and maintaining accurate, up to date, computer-based mapping files for use by all County departments. They also provide support for other county GIS software users and train new GIS users when needed. Some of the recently completed projects are:

- Precinct maps for the Elections Department.
- Analysis of the conversion of farmland to urban uses for TCAG.
- Integration of the Pavement Management System into GIS for more ease of mapping for the Transportation Branch.
- Presentation maps for the

Kaweah Scenic Highway Study.

- Comparison of Tax Rate Areas and the Assessor's Parcels for the Auditor's Office.
- Maps for the recent flood emergency for the Emergency Operations Center.



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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

Step Up Service Learning Grant Program Kicks off in Visalia



Service learning participant paints dugout at Green Acres.

Extra:

In addition to the Green Acres project, there are seven other service learning projects taking place in Farmersville, Orsi, Porterville, Tulare, and Visalia at the high school level this summer.

A group of Green Acres Middle School students are learning the value of community service this summer.

A dozen students in June spent two weeks beautifying their campus by repainting baseball dugouts and door safety lines, removed on-campus graffiti, cleaned the school's multi-purpose room, and assisted the school's custodian. This is just one project funded by a Step Up Service Learning Grant, a Tulare County Board of Supervisors-funded program that aims to support service-learning projects that address gang activity and youth at-risk of joining a gang.

Green Acres Middle School Service Learning Grant Advisor Robert Crow said the project served as a valuable lesson for the students.

"Students generally feel

disengaged from school activities and from their community," Crow said. "The goal of this program is to develop an ongoing, vibrant and meaningful community service opportunity."

During the program, eight Green Acres Middle School students painted basketball poles and the school's baseball dugouts, among other projects.

The Green Acres Middle School service learning program is the first of its kind in Tulare County. Traditionally, the Step Up Service Learning Grant Program is targeted at high school students.

"Providing service learning projects at the middle school level is an important step to addressing the gang issue," said Phil Cox, District Three Supervisor. "More and more

students are getting involved in gangs at an early age. We want to engage our youth in meaningful community service projects before gang influences impact them."

Supervisor Cox said the Tulare County Board of Supervisors will consider increasing funding for middle school projects based on the success of the Green Acres Middle School project. The Step Up Service Learning Grant Program provides participating schools \$5,000 for project materials and stipends for advisors and youth.

"This grant program, at the high school level, has proven to be a major success," Supervisor Cox said. "We want that same success at the middle school level as well."

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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JUNE COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

More Information:

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: July 13, 20, 27. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: July 14, 28. 9 a.m.	559/624-7000
T.C.A.G. Meeting: July 19. 1 p.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Youth Commission: July 22. 2 p.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Water Commission: July 26. 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	559/636-5000

For more information, visit: 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. Learn more about Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club and other places to "Go Play" at www.tularecountymap.com.