



Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - October 2010

Supervisor's Message: Residents Can Make A Difference



As an advocate for community involvement, I would like to call on all Tulare County residents to participate in Make A Difference Day on October 23.

Make a Difference Day is the largest national day of community service in the United States. This day started in the early 1990's to give individuals the opportunity to volunteer in and improve their local community. Projects are held all over the country, including Tulare County.

Residents or organizations who are considering participating for the first time should start by contacting Raquel Gomez with Community Service

Employment Training, or CSET, by calling 559/732-4194.

CSET is one of the most active agencies in Tulare County when it comes to Make A Difference Day. For example, CSET encouraged around 1,000 residents to participate in numerous projects throughout Tulare County in 2009.

This year, CSET is coordinating at least 16 community projects, from Alpaugh to Orosi, which will make a difference. Some of those projects include painting murals at local schools, abating graffiti, conducting a blood drive, collecting books to distribute to youth, and cleaning up local communities.

Should you want to start your own community project, here are a few ideas:

Food Drive: Collecting non-perishable items for your local food bank will always help, particularly with the

holidays right around the corner.

Care Packages: Creating care packages for our men and women in the military is always a great idea.

Fundraiser to support youth: Local non-profits who provide services for youth can always use monetary support. Select a non-profit in your community and set a fundraising goal for Make a Difference Day.

There are many ways you can help and Make a Difference Day is a great time to start. Who knows, the project or activity you choose may be something you can do more than once a year and benefit the community for years to come.

Pete Vander Poel, District Two
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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Tulare County to host The Lisa Project in October

The Tulare County Child Abuse Prevention Council is bringing *The Lisa Project* to Tulare County in October as a community outreach program focused on the issue of child abuse and neglect. *The Lisa Project* is an interactive exhibition with rooms recreated from the lives of abused children. Visitors move through the exhibition with the use of an audio tour narrated by a

young woman named Lisa. The audio tour is available in English and Spanish.

As visitors travel through *The Lisa Project*, they learn about different kinds of child abuse and neglect beginning with Lisa's own story. A portion of the terrifying 911 call Lisa made while her drunken stepfather beat her mother gives visitors a glimpse into her world.

This free exhibition will be on display in downtown Visalia at the corner of Acequia and Court streets from Oct. 1-29. It will be open Thursday and Friday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Private tours can be arranged during weekdays.

Please visit www.TheLisaProject.org for more information.



The Lisa Project

County To Replace Natural Gas Distribution System

“IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT EVENTS IN SAN BRUNO, TULARE COUNTY HAS DECIDED TO TAKE A MORE PROACTIVE APPROACH BY COMPLETELY REPLACING THE GAS LINES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE INMATES AND COUNTY STAFF,” BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIRMAN STEVE WORTHLEY

Inmates and Tulare County Sheriff's Department employees housed at the Tulare County Correctional Center at Sequoia Field were moved to a nearby facility in conjunction with a capital project to replace an aging natural gas distribution system, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors announced in September.

Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chairman Steve Worthley said the facility was constructed in the late 1930's and early 1940's and the county has maintained the system and made needed repairs over the years.

"In light of the recent events

in San Bruno, Tulare County has decided to take a more proactive approach by completely replacing the gas lines to ensure the safety of the inmates and county staff," Chairman Worthley said.

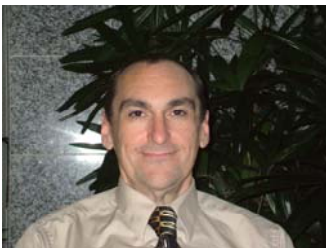
According to the County Administrative Office, all natural gas lines will be shut off to the facilities until the project can be completed. The new distribution system will serve the site well into the future. The project is expected to take approximately six months to complete.

Approximately 240 inmates housed at the site were moved to the nearby Pre-Trial Facility. Sheriff's

Alternative Work Program and Day Reporting Center functions were also relocated to the Pre-Trial Facility. Anyone needing specific information regarding inmate visiting or programs may call the Pre-Trial Facility at 559/735-1750.

According to the Sheriff's Department, all inmates were moved to alternate facilities within a few days. In addition to the detention functions, Sheriff's staff assigned to the site, which includes detective and administrative personnel, will be relocated to alternate facilities.

Jason Britt Appointed Human Services Director



Jason Britt, HHS Director of Human Services

The Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency announced that Jason T. Britt has been appointed to the position of Director of Human Services. The announcement came September 14 during the public comment period of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Agency Director John Davis appointed Britt to the position, which oversees the largest Branch in the Agency; constitutes about 40 percent of the workforce; and is responsible for programs that include, but are not limited to, TulareWorks, CalWORKs, SSI

Advocacy, and Employment Services.

"This is no small operation," stated Agency Director John Davis. "We rely on the creativity and commitment of the Director of Human Services to support many of the Health & Human Service Agency's and Tulare County's initiatives."

Before being appointed to Human Services Director, Britt served as Deputy Director of the Human Services Branch. Previous to that, Britt was the Tulare County Public Guardian. With 15 years in special service programs,

Britt's projects included Food Stamp Quality Control, Cal-WIN, and implementing an innovative document imaging program.

"I appreciate the confidence that Mr. Davis and Tulare County has entrusted in me, and I look forward to continue working with the constituents of Tulare County to deliver effective Human Services programs," expressed Britt.

Britt received his undergraduate degree in Liberal Arts, and holds a Master of Science in Leadership.

Flu shots available for County of Tulare employees: (Must have picture employee ID)

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 4. County Admin. Building. 2800 W. Burrell Ave. Visalia

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 5. Govt. Plaza. 5961 S. Mooney Blvd. Visalia

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 7. Govt. Plaza South. 1055 Henderson Ave. Porterville

Flu vaccine is combined this year to include both H1N1 and "regular" flu.

Employee Spotlight: Sal Alaniz



Name: Sal Alaniz

Title: Parks and Grounds

Years of Service: Two

Duties: To coordinate, supervise and participate in the work activities and field personnel engaged in a wide variety of grounds maintenance and operational activities in the County's parks

and public building areas.

Family? Married sixteen years to my wife Ana, daughter Adrienne and son Aiden.

Hobbies? Collect coins, ride my motorcycle.

Clubs/Organizations? Coached tackle football at Woodlake, Golden West, flag football with 7-year-olds and presently with Pee Wee Blazers 8 to 10-year-olds. Also coached wrestling, track, and baseball.

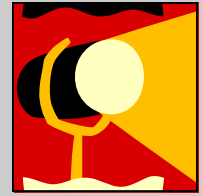
What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?

Working with the public.

Please tell us something other employees might not know about you? I was an All American in football and wrestling and I have an English bulldog named Gordo.

Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?

I like Balch Park because of the wildlife.



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: Adopt-An-Arbor

Adopt-An-Arbor is an innovative way for businesses, community groups, or individuals to provide financial support for the refurbishment and maintenance in Tulare County Parks.

The Adopt-An-Arbor program is simple: you choose an arbor to adopt, or sponsor, and provide donations in the form of labor and/or materials for repair at that arbor. There are 27 of 56 arbors to choose from in Tulare County Parks. We ask that you maintain the arbor that you adopt for a period of one year, giving you the first choice to adopt the arbor for the following year.

Program importance?

Each year the parks are visited by more than 150,000 people and county government budgets are not large enough to resolve the growing needs of its parks. Sincere community commitment, involvement, and ownership of the program have made it successful in assisting with the maintenance of the parks. The money donated goes directly into the park in your community.

How much does it cost?

We ask that sponsors donate a minimum of \$500 worth of materials per year.

What is your ROI?

In addition to personal gratification of knowing that you are making a difference

in your Tulare County Parks, the Parks and Recreation Department will recognize your contribution with appropriate signage on the adopted arbor of your choice. It gives businesses and organizations an opportunity to advertise and get the exposure they are looking for. It's also great to build employee morale and quality family time.

Requirements for Participation?

Time and effort are all that is needed! Call Mila Magana at 559/624-7222 or visit the Tulare County Parks and Recreation office to get further details on how you can make a difference in your local park today.

Want to Adopt-An-Arbor? See list below of number of arbors available for adoption at each park.

Cutler Park: 3

Bartlett Park: 10

Elk Bayou Park: 1

Ledbetter Park: 5

Pixley Park: 5

Alpaugh Park: 1

Mooney Grove Park: 1

*Info provided by Tulare County Parks

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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

The phone numbers for the Public Guardian and Adult Protective Services offices have changed:

Public Guardian's new phone number: 559/623-0650

Adult Protective Services' new phone number: 559/623-0651



“KAWEAH HIGH SCHOOL WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OFFER THE WOOF PROGRAM IF WE DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE LOOP BUS,” KAWEAH HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DENISE AKIN

County Expands LOOP Bus Program, Unveils New Look

Tulare County’s LOOP Bus Program, a service that provides at-risk youth with free transportation to activities that connect them to mentoring and gang prevention programs, has expanded from one to three buses.

The two new buses have a different look – inside and out. On the outside, the buses are equipped with more LOOP stickers and other marketing features. On the inside, youth who ride the bus will be able to watch educational programming on two new flat screen monitors.

On Monday, Sept. 13 at the Boys & Girls Club of the Sequoias in Exeter, one new loop bus was unveiled to dozens of Kaweah High School students. Kaweah High School students are transported every day to the Boys & Girls Club of the

Sequoias to participate in Working On Our Future, or WOOF, a newly developed after school program that targets at-risk youth.

Kaweah High School Principal Denise Akin said WOOF allows students to participate in extra hours of elective courses each day.

“Kaweah High School would not be able to offer the WOOF Program if we did not have access to the LOOP bus,” Akin said. “The LOOP Bus Program has made it possible for us to develop a wonderful partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Sequoias.”

District One Supervisor Allen Ishida, who represents Exeter, said the LOOP Bus Program is helping to achieve the Board of Supervisors’ commitment to providing positive experiences to Tulare County’s youth.

“The LOOP bus has filled a void in services for these youth, and they are benefitting greatly from participating in these programs,” Supervisor Ishida said. “The Board looks forward to continuing its partnership with school and service clubs in Exeter as well as other providers from throughout Tulare County who help better our youth.”

Tulare County’s LOOP Bus Service is now accepting applications to transport at-risk youth. Applications must be submitted two weeks prior to the requested service dates. Residents can download an application by visiting www.steppuptc.com and clicking on “LOOP Bus Program” or by calling Board of Supervisors staff members Jed Chernabaeff or Jeff Forbes at 559/636-5000.

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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OCTOBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

Board of Supervisors’ Meeting: Oct. 5, 12, 19. 9 a.m.
New IHSS Provider Orientation (Eng): Oct. 8, 14, 19. 8:45 a.m.
New IHSS Provider Orientation (Span): Oct. 5, 26. 8:45 a.m.
Tulare County Planning Commission: Oct. 12, 26. 9 a.m.
CPR & First Aid Training (Eng): Oct. 13, 27. 8:30 a.m.
CPR & First Aid Training (Span): Oct. 20. 8:30 a.m.
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Oct. 13. 2 p.m.
Tulare County Youth Commission: Oct. 18. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
T.C.A.G. Meeting: Oct. 18. 1 p.m.
Step Up Terra Bella Summit: Oct. 19. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Tulare County Water Commission: Oct. 25. 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

More Information:

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



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.