



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY – OCTOBER 2012

Supervisor's Message: Finding Inspiration



In a planter just a few feet from the back door to our office building is this peculiar looking rock. This rock has been an inspiration to me for the last two years. You see, this is no ordinary rock, it's special. In the right light you can see specks of copper and silver. If you look close enough, you can even see small strands of wire running through it. So how did these small wires get inside of this rock?

Many of you will remember February of 2011 when there was an explosion in front of the courthouse; the lights went out. Were we under attack? Was the courthouse under siege? No! It was just some old wires buried in the ground, long forgotten and ignored. That

explosion was so hot that the sand in the bottom of the vault melted and formed several rocks. Some were small, but some rocks were larger like the one in our planter. So why do I keep this rock around?

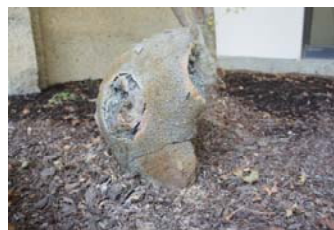
Every day I look at that rock and am reminded that I have a responsibility to be a good steward. Simple things like having enough air in my tires and checking and changing the oil in the truck I own matter. I must also examine larger physical assets I am responsible for, like the roof on my house. If I spend a few hours each year cleaning my roof off and making sure there are no small leaks, it will last many years longer than if I just forget it because "it's working."

This special rock also reminds me to think about my own character. Over the years it has been my pleasure to work with people from other cultures. Along the way I learned to speak German, Swiss, Hmong, and American

Sign Language. Neglecting these language skills makes them just like the wires buried in the ground, long forgotten. As time goes by and I don't brush up or study the languages once fluent, it has now become difficult just to understand basic daily conversations.

I encourage each of you to look deep into those long ago buried wires of your past, whether they be talents forgotten, or relationships that need to be repaired. My daily reminder is a rock, what's yours?

**Phil Cox, District Three
Tulare County Board of Supervisors**



Inside this issue:

- COUNTY ADOPTS FY 12-13 BUDGET **2**
- CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER RETIRES **2**
- COURT APPOINTS CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER **3**
- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: STEP UP YOUTH CHALLENGE **3**
- RMA KEEPS RURAL ROADS SAFE **4**
- COUNTY DATES FOR EVENTS, ACTIVITIES **4**
- RED RIBBON WEEK KICKOFF **5**

District 3 Supervisor Hosts Constituent Forum

Residents who want to have an open dialogue about the services or issues within Tulare County are invited to meet in a group setting with District Three Supervisor Phil Cox at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 4 at the Visalia Senior Center.

"I want to take the extra step in making myself available during the evening so that District Three constituents

have the opportunity to have their voices heard," Supervisor Cox said. "The doors to my office are always open, but many of my constituents have busy day schedules and are unable to make an appointment from 8 to 5."

Concerned Citizens meetings will initially be held quarterly.

If you are unable to make it to the Concerned Citizens meeting, you can reach Supervisor Cox by:

- Visiting his office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 2800 W. Burrell Ave. in Visalia
- Calling his cell phone at 559/471-8927
- Emailing him at pcox@co.tulare.ca.us

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www.facebook.com/CountyofTulare

Board Approves Recommended Budget for FY 12-13

**“Tulare County survived the Great Recession of 2008 without the use of reserves and without permanent reductions to employee salaries and benefits.”
Allen Ishida,
Chairman of
the Board of
Supervisors**

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors on September 18, 2012 unanimously approved a \$962.3 million balanced spending plan recommended by County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau for Fiscal Year 2012-13.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Allen Ishida said the FY 2012-13 Budget is much different compared to previous budgets adopted after the Great Recession began in 2008. Since the recession, Tulare County took fiscally conservative measures that included reducing department budgets, deferring step and merit pay increases, implementing furloughs, and instituting a hiring freeze.

“Tulare County survived the Great Recession of 2008 without the use of reserves and without permanent reductions to employee salaries and benefits,” Chairman Ishida said. “I want to thank all employees who have continued to provide excellent service through these tough times.”

County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau said that, for the first time in years, Tulare County did not face a General Fund budget deficit going into the budget process.

“The Board’s consistent conservative spending plans have allowed Tulare County to be in sound fiscal shape,” Rousseau said. “I would like to thank our department heads for doing a great job in watching their budgets and adhering to budget targets.”

The FY 2012-13 Adopted Budget reflects an \$8.9 million increase in expenditures over last year’s adopted budget. Within the budget, general fund expenses rose more than \$38 million. The increase in the general fund can be attributed to additional funds for capital improvement projects, Mental Health Services Act programs, and Public Safety Realignment.

Chairman Ishida said he was pleased with the high level of performance from County

staff during the last year. Highlights from County staff in Fiscal Year 2011-12 included:

- Successfully implemented provisions of the Public Safety Realignment Act.
- Completed new fire stations in Alpaugh and Badger.
- Established a Tulare County Economic Development Office.
- Implemented a Countywide Customer Service Program.
- Made last pension debt payment.

The Board of Supervisors is responsible for reviewing and approving budgets for all County operating funds, internal service and enterprise funds, County Service Areas, and dependent special districts. The State Controller issues guidelines for the organization and presentation of county budgets so that they are standardized among all counties.



Chairman Ishida presented Chief Honadle with a proclamation and County seal.

County Chief Probation Officer Retires

Tulare County Chief Probation Officer Janet Honadle retired on September 21, 2012 after more than 40 years of public service. She was honored during the September 25 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Chief Honadle was appointed to the Tulare County Chief Probation Officer position in 2002. In her position with Tulare County, Chief Honadle was responsible for more than 350 employees assigned to five departmental divisions,

including two juvenile facilities. She has been involved in a myriad of projects and committees with Tulare County and on a statewide basis. She has been a member of the Tulare County Chiefs Association, the Children’s Services Network, Juvenile Court Delinquency Prevention Committee, Child Protective Planning Committee, the Blue Ribbon Commission, and the Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force.

Prior to her career in Tulare

County, Chief Honadle spent 34 years with the Orange County Probation Department where she gained extensive experience in Court and field services, in addition to training, administration and program development.

Christie Myer Appointed Chief Probation Officer



The Tulare County Superior Court appointed Christie Myer as Tulare County Chief Probation Officer on September 26.

The appointment of Chief Probation Officer is based on recommendations and approval by the Tulare County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and Tulare County Superior Court Juvenile Presiding Judge.

Tulare County Superior Court Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Juliet Boccone said Myer was selected based on her many years of experience with Tulare County Probation, her work ethic and the many contributions she has made to the community by serving on

various boards and committees.

Myer has served with the Tulare County Probation Department for more than 35 years. Myer began her employment with Tulare County in March 1977 as a Probation Officer I. Since then, she has held the positions of Probation Officer II, Probation Officer III, Supervising Probation Officer, and Probation Division Manager.

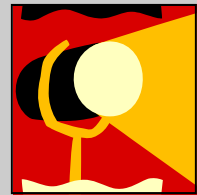
Most recent, Myer has served as the Assistant Chief Probation Officer since October 2006.

“Christie Myer is an excellent choice and has the support of the Board of Supervisors,” said Allen Ishida, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. “In our experience in working with Christie, she is more than competent to manage this large agency.”

Myer will be responsible for

more than 370 employees assigned to five departmental divisions, including two juvenile facilities. Probation Department staff supervises more than 5,000 adult felons and juvenile offenders on court-ordered probation/supervision, post release community supervision or in diversion programs.

Tulare County’s Probation Department was established in 1908. The first Chief Probation Officer, S.J. Cross, was appointed in 1909. Myer is the twelfth Chief Probation Officer appointed in Tulare County since the department was established.



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: Step Up Youth Challenge

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) honored Tulare County’s 2011 Step Up Youth Challenge program with a Merit Award in the 2012 CSAC Challenge Awards Competition.

“Tulare County is pleased to have received recognition for the Step Up Youth Challenge program,” said Allen Ishida, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. “This award would not have been possible without all of the valuable partnerships that it took to create this program.”

The Step Up Youth Challenge was created to provide an opportunity for 16 middle and

junior high schools to engage a diverse group of students in a project-based learning challenge throughout the course of the 2011-2012 school year. Based on its success, the program is being offered for a second year in a row and is being expanded to include high schools. Partners included: Community Services Employment & Training; Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District; Pro-Youth H.E.A.R.T.; Tulare County Board of Supervisors, Probation, and Sheriff’s departments; Tulare County Office of Education; Visalia Police Department; Visalia Unified School District; and

Visalia Youth Services.

The 2012 CSAC awards were announced September 14. The statewide awards program honors innovation in county government. Overall, 18 counties were selected as recipients for 37 awards from 225 entries, which were evaluated by an independent panel of judges.

Tulare County received one of three Merit Awards that were awarded to counties with populations ranging from 200,001 to 700,000 people.

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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

Did you know?

The primary purpose of CSAC is to represent county government before the California Legislature, administrative agencies and the federal government. CSAC places a strong emphasis on educating the public about the value and need for county programs and services.

AROUND TULARE COUNTY - BACK PAGE

County RMA Keeps Rural Schools Safe



RMA staff installs radar vehicle speed feedback signs.



Radar vehicle speed feedback signs we installed east and west of Hope Elementary School.

A number of traffic safety tools were put in place in September to ensure that students and parents at Hope Elementary School are safe when crossing a heavily used unincorporated road.

“Public safety is the Board of Supervisors number one priority,” said Mike Ennis, 5th District County Supervisor, who represents the Porterville and surrounding communities. “Installing traffic safety measures is just one way Tulare County strives to meet that goal. We want our children to be as safe as possible at all costs.”

County officials say the Hope Elementary School project is just one of four road safety projects that will be implemented near schools in the unincorporated areas in the next few months.

Hope Elementary School, just south of Porterville, is located

on Teapot Dome Avenue in between Highway 65 and Orange Belt Drive. All three of these roads are heavily used by motorists, especially large trucks hauling freight.

Hope Elementary School Superintendent Deborah McCaskill said she is pleased that the County is addressing this public safety concern.

“Ensuring the safety of our students, staff, and family members is a top priority for our school district, and one that is by those that we work with at the County level,” McCaskill said. “We are very grateful for the hard work that was put into securing this project and certainly for the Measure R funds that will be used to provide a much needed crosswalk and safe access for our entire school community.”

Tulare County Resource Management Agency Chief

Engineer Bruce Webber said staff installed:

- Two school zone speed limit signs with radar vehicle speed feedback just east and west of the school.
- Two school crosswalk signs with rectangular rapid flashing beacons.
- A freshly painted enhanced crosswalk.

More than \$21,000 in Measure R Pedestrian and Bike Funds are being used to pay for this project. Measure R is a half-cent sales tax passed by voters in 2006. An additional \$22,000 of those same Measure R funds will be used to fund similar projects near Palo Verde Elementary School in Tulare and Kings River Elementary School in Kingsburg. John J. Doyle School in east Porterville will also receive traffic safety improvements through Safe Routes to School funding.

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.

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

Internet:
www.aroundtularecounty.com

OCTOBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23. 9 a.m.
Tulare County Water Commission: Oct. 3 p.m.
Tulare County Planning Commission: Oct. 10, 24. 9 a.m.
Tulare County Association of Governments: Oct. 15. 1 p.m.
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Oct. 24. 2 p.m.

More Information:

559/636-5000
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559/624-7000
559/624-7274
559/624-7274

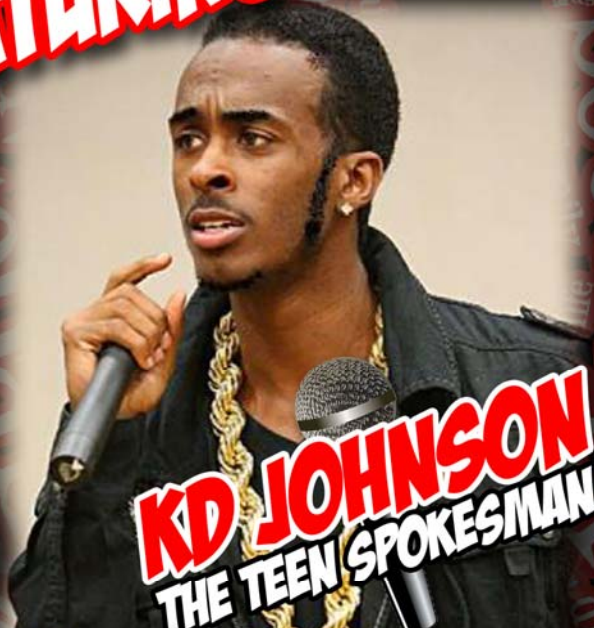


Places to Go Play: Visalia is the oldest city between Stockton and Los Angeles. This vibrant town of more than 120,000 is the county seat, and offers dozens of fine dining and cultural arts experiences. The historic Fox Theatre routinely showcases concert artists, performances by the Tulare County Symphony and live theatre. Learn more about Visalia, Fox Theatre and other places in Tulare County to “Go Play” at www.tularecountymap.com.

RED RIBBON WEEK KICKOFF

The 2012 Red Ribbon Week Kick Off event will allow Tulare County students & their families to participate in safe, educational, and fun activities without the use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. This event will provide multiple opportunities for the Red Ribbon message to be repeated and reinforced throughout the Central Valley.

FEATURING



KD JOHNSON
THE TEEN SPOKESMAN

FREE COMMUNITY INFO & RESOURCES

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

SAT, OCTOBER 20, 2012
VISALIA CONVENTION CENTER

ART SHOW

NOON - 4PM
FREE EVENT

FILM FESTIVAL

FREE EXHIBIT SPACES AVAILABLE

*RESTRICTIONS APPLY



HHSA
tularehhsa.org

The Best Me
Is Drug Free

Tulare County
Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

*For more information contact: Al Rodriguez, CHOICES Prevention Programs
559.651.0155 ext 3619 or alr@tcoe.org • www.tcoe.org