



# Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County

September 2009

## Supervisor's Message: County Deals with Tough Times



Welcome to the second edition of *Around Tulare County*! We received many positive responses from our readers and our goal is to continue to produce an educational and informative newsletter. As always, if you have suggestions for topics to be included for future newsletters or would like to submit a comment, please email

[newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us).

Like all California counties, Tulare County is experiencing extremely challenging budget issues. The Board continues to work to balance staffing needs with the available revenues. The County's Health and Human Services Agency is particularly hard hit by large reductions in funding from state and federal agencies, which are the primary funding sources for our local agency.

Last year, Tulare County's total budget was \$884 million. Out of that total, \$744.7 (84%) is dedicated to state, federal and other programs which the County administers and only \$139.3 million (15%) is general fund, dollars that the Board of

Supervisors has discretion in spending. Moreover, the state recently eliminated \$3.1 million in Williamson Act subvention payments to the County, which funds are general fund monies.

For every dollar paid in property taxes, on average, only 16 cents goes to the County's treasury. Even so, these taxes are a major portion of the general fund. The recent burst in the real estate market has resulted in a reduction in the assessed values of hundreds of homes and farms in Tulare County and shows no sign of abating. Reduced assessments mean less property tax, which when coupled with reduced state and federal program dollars produces a devastating impact on the total revenues to the county.

Fortunately the County has been conservative in estimating current and future revenues in our budget planning. This conservative approach has positioned the County to weather the current financial storm relatively well, especially when compared with many of our sister counties. The County also successfully sought federal economic stimulus funds for numerous programs to help mitigate losses in the current budget cycle. Tulare County received nearly \$10 million for regional road projects, \$3.1 million for dislocated workers and just under \$4 million to

employ youth this summer. The latter program enabled businesses, non-profit and governmental organizations within the County to employ approximately 1,800 youth in need of employment.

The Board of Supervisors wants to express their heartfelt thanks to all County employees for working with the Board to reduce our costs through furloughs and wage reductions and their efforts to continue to provide a high level of service for the residents of Tulare County during these difficult financial times.

J. Steven Worthley, Vice Chairman  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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### Mooney Grove Park's 100-year Anniversary

Tulare County will host a celebration to honor the 100-year anniversary of Mooney Grove Park.

The Mooney Grove Park Centennial Celebration is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2009. Park admission will be free.

Activities will include hayrides, face-painting, balloon sculptures, live music, bounce houses, slides and an assortment of food booths.

In addition, the new Tulare County History of Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum will be officially open to the public to celebrate the event. For more information about the Mooney Grove Centennial Celebration, contact Mila Magana, Parks Donations and Events Coordinator: 624-7222.

## Around Tulare County

### Pictorial: Ag Museum Construction



March 2009



April 2009



May 2009



July 2009

## Tulare County Ag History Museum to Open in October

The Tulare County History of Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum, located at Mooney Grove Park in Visalia, is set to open on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009.

The 10,000 square-foot two-story museum will house farming equipment, memorabilia, and exhibits that will tell the story of ethnic and immigrant populations that make up Tulare County's rich agricultural history. Displays will tell the story of the Armenians, Portuguese, Japanese, Mexicans, Chinese, Dutch and others who contributed to the history of farm labor in Tulare County.

### Collaboration/Educational Uses

The County of Tulare has partnered with the Tulare County Historical Society and the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) to create educational programming for the Museum and its Regional Learning Center.

TCOE brings a wealth of experience to the project in



Tulare County History of Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum

developing programs that address the California State Standards and the requirements outlined in the California Education Code.

Currently the Tulare County Museum hosts more than 10,000 students each year - mostly third-graders who are studying local history. Because of the wide-range of items and topics planned to be featured in the Tulare County History of Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum, there is a potential to meet the needs of more than 96,000 students in Tulare County alone, according to TCOE.

"This promises to be another awesome teaching and learning tool for students in our region," said TCOE Superintendent Jim Vidak.

### Funding

**State Grant:** Tulare County Historical Society secured a \$1.4 million grant in 2006.

**County Funding:** \$2 million

**Fundraising:** Private and public fundraising is under way by the Tulare County Historical Society. The group has set a goal of raising \$2 million.

## Subscribe: Around Tulare County & County Services



Do you want to receive Around Tulare County, property tax notifications, election information, and other County information via email?

Tulare County employees and interested residents can do so by subscribing to the Tulare County eZine.

All you need is access to a computer and an email address to sign up.

### Step-by-step instructions:

- Log on to [www.co.tulare.ca.us](http://www.co.tulare.ca.us)
- Click on the "Subscribe" icon located below the County Spotlight
- Click on the "New Subscription" icon
- Mark the boxes for information you would like to receive
- Enter your first and last name
- Enter our email address
- Create a password
- Reenter password

- Select Preferred email Format
- Click on submit
- An email will be sent to the address you submitted to confirm your subscription

**Please Note:** County employees will be sent a copy of Around Tulare County through the Tulare County Announcements email address.

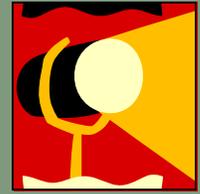
## Employee Spotlight: Stacy Sanders



**Name:** Stacy Sanders  
**Title:** Patient Account Representative II, HHSA  
**Years of Service:** 7 years  
**Duties:** A Patient Account Representative processes insurance billings, reviews records of patients, verifies billings codes, and prepares other correspondence. I recently transferred to the

County Mental Health Clinic's Billing Department.  
**Stacy on her most rewarding experience as a County employee:** I have had the opportunity to work in a few county departments. I have enjoyed being able to work with many county employees. I enjoy working with my clients to answer their questions and help them find the resources they need.  
**Family:** Single with no children.  
**Clubs/Organizations:** I am an avid booster of the Tulare Union Band. I also attend the

Women's Trade Club of Tulare County.  
**Hobbies:** I like to travel, play card and board games, read, play Frisbee golf, softball, and attend sporting events.  
**Something you might not know about me:** I do a lot of volunteer work for the Tulare Union Band which includes working their weekly Saturday bingo sessions.  
**Favorite place to visit in Tulare County:** Mooney Grove Park to play Frisbee golf.



There are many Tulare County employees who are doing outstanding things for their community outside of their job.

Do you know a Tulare County employee who should be in the spotlight? Let us know at:

[newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

## Program Spotlight: Chip Rock Seal Operation

Tulare County's Resource Management Agency (RMA) will implement its annual Chip Rock Seal Operation through September on 104 miles of roads throughout the county.

Chip rock seal, designed to extend the life of road surface, is applied by spraying a heavy coating of asphalt oil onto a road surface and then covering the oil with rock. Rollers are then utilized to

embed the rock into the oil forming a new wear surface when complete. After the application of the chip rock seal, the roads will be swept as soon as possible for the safety of motorists.

RMA's Transportation Division advises motorists to find an alternate route or adhere to the posted speed limit on County roads during the scheduled September

maintenance. The County urges citizens to drive with caution, adhere to a safe speed, and be alert for work crews in these areas. For more information regarding scheduled road projects, please click [HERE](#).



### Chip Rock Seal Operation

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

[newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

## Board of Supervisors Appoint Jake Raper as RMA Director

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors appointed Jake Raper as Director of the County's Resource Management Agency (RMA) on Aug. 25.

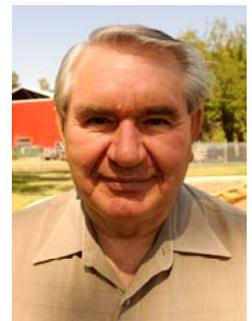
Jake has more than 25 years of municipal and county management experience in the field of planning, public works, redevelopment and economic development. He has been employed since Oct.

2008 as Assistant Director of RMA, directly overseeing the Planning Division. In this role he supervised progress on Tulare County's General Plan update and the evaluation of pending changes to land use policies such as the Williamson Act. Jake began his duties as RMA Director on Aug. 31.

"I'm really looking forward to the challenge of helping

Tulare County prepare for its future, and to molding RMA into the responsive organization needed to carry us into that future," Jake said.

"I am pleased to have someone of Jake's caliber working in this position," District Four Supervisor Steve Worthley said. "Jake is a real problem-solver."



RMA Director Jake Raper



## Probation Department hosts G.R.E.A.T. Summer Camp for Youth

One hundred youth from throughout Tulare County attended the Probation Department's Third Annual Gang Resistance Education and Training, or G.R.E.A.T., Summer Camp at the Sequoia National Forest this summer.

The Tulare County Probation Department partnered with Community Services & Employment Training, or CSET, to host this camping experience for the youth. Attendees were all G.R.E.A.T. program participants during the preceding school year.

G.R.E.A.T., funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, is a program offered to 4th through 7th grade students and is designed to encourage abstinence from gang and drug involvement, and to encourage youth to make "great choices" for their future. Tulare

County's participating sites are primarily rural K-8 schools. Two full-time G.R.E.A.T. certified Probation Officers - Gene Fernandez and Lupe Gomez - teach the curriculum-based program to more than 1,800 elementary and middle school students each year.

A critical element of the G.R.E.A.T. Program is the month-long Tulare County Summer Camp. The five-day camp is repeated during a month for up to 25 students at no cost to their parents. Most of the children who attend come from small, poor, rural communities and have never camped or even been to the mountains.

This year the summer camp student lessons included keeping a daily journal; instruction on cultural awareness; conflict resolution; team building;

goal setting; leadership; conservation and recycling.

G.R.E.A.T. lessons were reinforced through daily activities that included nature hikes, star gazing and astronomy, forest and fire safety, and the fundamentals of camping such as tent set-up and break-down, packing gear properly, wilderness and wildlife awareness and horse-back riding.

At the end of each week, students wrote a letter for their parents as a way to share their camping experience. The students also received a Certificate of Participation and group photos to capture and cherish their experience.

For more information on the G.R.E.A.T. Program, please visit: [www.great-online.org](http://www.great-online.org)

### 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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### SEPTEMBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

#### Meeting: (Date/Time)

CPR & First Aid Training: Sept. 9, 23, 30, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Tulare County Planning Commission Meeting: Sept. 9, 23, 9 a.m.  
Step Up Youth Summit Meeting: Sept. 11, 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Sept. 15, 22, 29, 9 a.m.  
Suicide Prevention Task Force Meeting: Sept. 17, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
Deferred Compensation Meeting: Sept. 21, 9 a.m. to Noon  
T.C.A.G. Meeting: Sept. 21, 1 p.m.  
Tulare County Youth Commission: Sept. 21, 9 a.m.  
Tulare County Youth Commission Grant Workshop: Sept. 23, 2 p.m.  
Tulare County Water Commission: Sept. 28, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

#### More Information:

559/713-5026  
559/624-7000  
559/636-5000  
559/636-5000  
559/733-4660  
559/636-5225  
559/624-7000  
559/636-5000  
559/636-5000  
559/636-5000

#### Event: (Date/Time)

Secured Property Tax Bills Mailed: Sept. 25, All Day  
Tulare County Historical Society BBQ Fundraiser: Sept. 26 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Unsecured Property Tax Payment Deadline: Sept. 30

559/733-6526  
559/732-2581  
559/636-5265

For more information, visit: [www.co.tulare.ca.us](http://www.co.tulare.ca.us) and click on "County Calendar"



**Places to Go Play:** Cutler Park is located 5 miles east of Visalia on Hwy. 216 as you drive toward the community of Ivanhoe. The 50-acre park was founded in 1919 and is home to a large stand of heritage-quality Oak trees. The park has a large playground and several picnic areas. Learn more about Cutler Park and other places to "Go Play" at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).