



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2016

Supervisor's Message: London Gets a Library



It's been a long time coming, but the time is here...London is officially getting a community Library this year.

The grand opening is set to take place on Saturday, October 15th beginning at 11:00am. We are looking forward to the big day and are pleased to have California State Librarian Greg Lucas join us for the monumental event.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, we have organized a special resource fair for residents in the community to learn and take advantage of county resource programs ranging from energy cost savings to no cost flu shots.

Many Tulare County agencies and community outreach organizations will be on hand with informational resources about their service programs including Tulare County Public Health, Pacific Gas & Electric, Proteus, Alcohol and Other Drug Services, Southern California Gas Company, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, County Probation Department, the WIC Program, Tulare

County Fire Department, and many more.

We envision this library to serve as a local community center for London. It is my hope that this facility becomes a place for community gatherings and celebrations for all both young and old.

Looking at London, our goal is to re-establish a County presence that has long since been missing in the community. Unfortunately, the County Fire Station once located in London was closed down many years ago and the only school is a country school belonging to the Kings River School District.



There is however a community service district that serves the area, but in the form of governmental services on location in London - that's pretty much it.

The absence of governmental entities can be noticeable in small communities especially in ones similar to London with a population of about 1,800 residents. So bringing in a public library is significant to this community, and highly needed.

I give thanks to Robert Isquierdo and members of the London community for initiating this process. The London Library serves as an example of how the County listened and responded to the community's voice.

A place of learning, knowledge and growth; this library will provide access to an array of books, computers and many resources to the people of London for which they have been without for a quite some time.

If you happen to be in the north county area on October 15th, stop by and join us to

celebrate this momentous occasion!

The new Library is located at 5711 Ave 378 in London, and the facility will be open from 10:00am to 3:00pm that day.

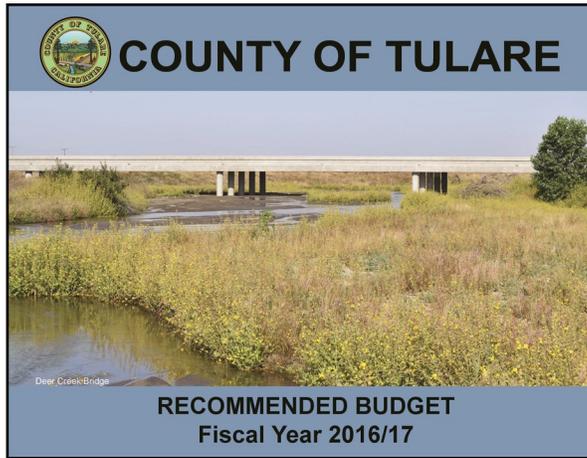
Steve Worthley,
District Four
Tulare County Board
of Supervisors

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County Adopts 2016-17 Budget

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a \$1.18 billion fiscally sustainable spending plan recommended by the County Administrative Officer Michael Spata for Fiscal Year 2016-17.



public law and safety. These included proposed allocations of \$3.1 million to the Sheriff's Office; \$722,000 in funds to the District Attorney; \$1.2 million to the Probation Department; \$540,000 to the Tulare County Fire Department; and \$625,000 to County Counsel.



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

Want your program to be in the spotlight? Please send suggestions to: newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

"Tulare County will continue to spend within its means and provide a balanced budget," stated Board Chairman Ennis.

"I commend our department heads and all county staff for their ability to keep county spending within the budget while still providing necessary services and continuing to prioritize funding to reserves."

The 2016-17 Recommended Budget reflects a 1.6% increase over last year's adopted budget, with a 5.8% increase in General County Reserves. The proposed strategic funding allocations include:

- \$1 million increase in County reserves, bringing total reserves to \$26 million.
- Continuing the County's contingency budget of \$5 million.
- Providing funds of \$1 million for Emergency Responses.
- Funds \$2 million to address the current deficit in Workers' Compensation.
- \$1 million for Pension Stabilization, in response

to anticipation of future pension spikes.

- \$1.8 million for County Economic Developments projects such as future community plans for various unincorporated communities like Goshen, Earlimart and Three Rivers.

"In its broadest sense, this Recommended Budget exceeding \$1 billion is balanced, fiscally sustainable, and structurally sound," stated Spata.

The budget includes allocation funding for various Capital Improvement Projects prioritized by County leadership.

For example, \$3 million to fund a property and evidence facility for Tulare County; \$1 million for the South County Detention Facility located in Porterville; funds of \$1.5 million to address the rehabilitation and major maintenance of various county parks; and \$1.5 million for a countywide financial software upgrade.

Various departmental needs and operational expenses are reflected in the Budget, specifically in the areas of

"The budget makes an effort to implement the Board's direction that the County is 'Open for Business,' by pursuing an economic development strategy propelled by strategic operations and management," said Spata.

Budget hearings continued an additional week with the inclusion of proposed salary adjustments to County elected officials. After examining the salaries of elected officials in neighboring counties, County administrative staff presented the recommended adjustments in addition to the 2% cost of living increase approved by the Board:

- Sheriff, 8% increase
- District Attorney, 2% increase
- Auditor-Controller, 5% increase
- Assessor/Clerk, 2% increase
- Board of Supervisors, 4.25% increase, based on average of the four elected officials.

Projected revenues will accommodate the approved salary adjustments.

Board Appoints Ruiz as RMA Director



The Tulare County Board of Supervisors announced its appointment of Benjamin Ruiz as the County's Resource Management Agency Director on September 20. Ruiz has served as the department's Interim Director since January of this year.

"Ben's leadership and his 'get it done' type of attitude serves well as Director," said Board Chairman Mike Ennis.

"We look forward to working with Ben and his staff in taking RMA and the County to new heights."

In his role as Resource Management Agency (RMA) Director, Ruiz will oversee the day-to-day operations of the three branches of RMA which include: Economic Development and Planning, Public Works, and Fiscal Services.

"I am humbled and honored to receive the Board of Supervisor's appointment for this position," says Ruiz. "RMA is committed to implementing the Board's strategic initiatives."

"Our mission at RMA will be to continue providing the highest level of customer service with regards to private land use entitlements, while delivering much needed public infrastructure projects, such as road, bridge, flood control, water, waste water, and storm water projects in a timely manner; and at the lowest cost to the taxpayers."

Ruiz has held several senior management positions with the agency, including the positions of Engineer IV, Chief Engineer, and Director of Public Works.

He received his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from California State University, Fresno and holds professional registrations in Civil Engineering and Structural Engineering.

Ruiz's accolades include being named the 2013 Outstanding Civil Engineer in Public Sector by the American Society of Civil Engineers – Fresno Branch and was honored with the title once again at the state level in 2014.

Ruiz, his wife Sonia, and their four young children, reside in southern Fresno County near the community of Laton, where Ruiz grew up.



Paycheck Charity Donations, A Way of Giving

Employees of Tulare County are most generous. Give them a cause, or tell them of someone who is in need and they will step up. With the holiday season upon us, what better time to share the many ways of giving.

There are many of us who have the desire to make a difference in the communities we live in. However, life can get in the way and we find ourselves at the end of year wishing we would have done more or remembered to write that check. Great news, we have ways to giving through your paycheck!

Tulare County has two charities that are authorized for

automatic payroll deductions. Payroll deduction is an effortless way to satisfy your desire to give back. You never have to worry about remembering, you won't miss the money and you will have an automatic record of your tax deductible donation at the end of the year.

The County's two authorized charities are United Way and Friends of Tulare County. Both of these charities have long and respected reputations for providing funding to the many valuable organizations that serve our community. Donating to one or both of these charitable foundations is a great way to make a donation that funds the diversified needs

in our County. Below are just a few of the examples of where your contributions will go:

- Animal Control and Shelters
- At-Risk Youth
- Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging
- Step Up – Tulare County Gang prevention Task Force
- Suicide Prevention Task Force
- Tulare County Parks and Recreation
- ABLE Industries
- Arts Visalia
- FoodLink of Tulare County
- Girl Scouts of Central California South

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"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

-Winston Churchill



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GIVING

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- Habitat for Humanity.....and many other great causes.

For more information you can visit their websites:

United Way – www.unitedwaytc.org

Friends of Tulare County – www.friendsoftularecounty.org

Contact your payroll clerk today for the forms you need to get started.

AmazonSmile

What you may not know, is that you can also benefit these worthwhile causes every time you shop at Amazon through AmazonSmile.

When you shop using the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1635929>, this internet giant will donate 0.5% of your purchase value to your favorite charity.

This does not cost you anymore on your purchase but does benefit the programs of Tulare County.

What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop. You'll find the exact same low prices, selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charity.

You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support, but you may consider designating the Friends of Tulare County as the recipient of your AmazonSmile donations.

For more information on Friends of Tulare County and how to donate via AmazonSmile, call (559) 624-8000 or send an email to FriendsTC@tularehhsa.org.

Board Proclaims September as Rail Safety Month



Did you know there is a train involved incident every three hours in the U.S.? On top of that, California ranks #1 in both trespassing and grade railroad crossing deaths. These type of statistics is why the Tulare County Board of Supervisors believe its important to

reinforce rail safety in the County and officially proclaimed September as Rail Safety Month. Supervisor Allen Ishida pictured with California Operation Lifeaver Board Vice Chair Fred Payne on the September 20 Board meeting.

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 Carrie Crane.

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, AND MEETINGS

Event/Meeting: (Date/Time)	More Information:
Board of Supervisors Meeting: 9 a.m. October 4, October 11	(559) 636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: 9:00 a.m. October 12, October 26	(559) 624-7000
17Tulare County Water Commission: 3 p.m. October 10	(559) 636-5000
Tulare County Youth Commission: 3 p.m. October 17	(559) 636-5000
London Library Grand Opening: October 15	(559) 636-5000

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Places to Go Play: Balch Park is home to some of the most spectacular Giant Sequoia trees in the Sierra Nevada. The 160-acre County park has two lakes with excellent trout fishing. It is located 20 miles northeast of Springville and is surrounded by Mountain Home State Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Learn more about Balch Park and other places to "Go Play" at www.tularecountymap.com.