



Around Tulare County

Delivering Information about Tulare County - November 2009

Supervisor's Message: County works to address issues



Around Tulare County has given you an insight on the different issues the Board of Supervisors is working on. Our board is very proactive and we are working on issues that will impact Tulare County's future. Many of the projects that we work on may take years to accomplish. For example, the widening of Road 80 is finally taking place after more than 20 years of planning and work. There are other programs that take a relative short time to implement such as the Step Up anti-gang initiative.

I am currently working on several long-term projects with the Tulare County Water Commission. First, we are formulating a plan for

our rural communities to have reliable safe drinking water and adequate waste water disposal at a sustainable cost. Second, ground water in east Tulare County has a high level of nitrates. The Water Commission is working to physically map the areas of high ground water nitrates and to identify the source of the nitrates. Last, the commission is also tracking the state wide water issue and legislation. We all have heard of the 40 percent unemployment in Mendota because of the lack of water to grow crops. Tulare County could be the next Mendota if we can not secure enough water to replace the surface water loss resulting from the San Joaquin River Settlement.

Diversifying our economic base is an ongoing goal. Supervisor Ennis and I have been working with the Tulare County Association of Governments to protect the existing rail line in east

Tulare County. We believe that this rail line will provide future economic opportunity for the residents of Tulare County. Tulare County is working with the Kern and Fresno Council of Governments to plan a way to reconnect Bakersfield to the existing rail line in Jovista. If we can make this connection, we will be able to attract new business. Other benefits of expanding the use of rail in the San Joaquin Valley are reducing truck traffic and increasing air quality.

I believe that the future is very bright for our residents and we will see more economic opportunity for our children to live and prosper in Tulare County.

Allen Ishida, District One
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Inside this issue:

- LINDSAY TO HOST STEP UP YOUTH SUMMIT **2**
- SHERIFF'S DEPT. GETS BOOST IN DEPUTIES **2**
- EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: NANCY GOMES **3**
- PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: LOOP BUS PROGRAM **3**
- EMPLOYEES RAISE MONEY FOR GOOD CAUSE **3**
- SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBERS ATTEND GOVERNMENT 101 **4**
- COUNTY DATES FOR EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND MORE **4**

Board of Supervisors Honor County Employee, Ray Moreno

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors honored Ray Moreno of Orosi at their Oct. 27 meeting for his service to the United States Army.

Moreno, an employee with the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, was formally honored at the White House in early October with a Presidential Unit Citation for his bravery as a tank gunner in Vietnam almost 40 years ago. The

Presidential Unit Citation is a senior unit award granted to military units which have performed an extremely meritorious or heroic act, usually in the face of an armed enemy.

During his tour in Vietnam, Moreno served as a soldier with the Alpha Unit of the 11th Armored Cavalry Division. A few weeks after landing in Vietnam, Ray and Alpha Troop rescued nearly 100 members of Company C,

2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry on March 26, 1970.

After Ray returned from war, he eventually took a job with Tulare County in the public works department. Ray currently serves as the Superintendent of District 4.

At the Oct. 27 meeting, the Board of Supervisors recognized Ray's achievements and presented him with a proclamation.



District Four Supervisor Steve Worthley presents a proclamation to Ray Moreno of Orosi.

Around Tulare County



"FOR SOME YOUTH, A VISIT TO THE MC DERMONT FIELD HOUSE IN LINDSAY WILL DEFINITELY BE AN EYE-OPENER TO THE GREAT THINGS THIS COUNTY HAS TO OFFER," DISTRICT ONE SUPERVISOR ALLEN ISHIDA

2010 Step Up Youth Summit to be held in Lindsay

Tulare County's Step Up Youth Summit, a one-day event aimed to educate at-risk youth about the impacts of gangs, will be held on March 11, 2010 at the McDermont Field House in Lindsay.

District One Supervisor Allen Ishida said the McDermont Field House was selected by the youth summit's planning committee because of its central location, vast space to accommodate a large event, and input from youth.

"We sought opinions from youth, and they all agreed that exposing their peers to a different community in Tulare County would be beneficial," said Supervisor Ishida, who serves as the Step Up Youth Summit Chairman. "For some youth, a visit to the McDermont Field House in Lindsay will definitely be an eye-opener to the great things this county has to offer."

The McDermont Field House, a three-acre center, houses basketball courts, arena soccer fields, a laser-tag battle-field, a 100-foot high rock-

climbing wall, a fitness center, a boxing ring, a full arcade, and a wave pool, among other activities.

Lindsay Councilmember Pam Kimball said the McDermont Field House is a perfect location to host a youth summit.

"The City of Lindsay is so pleased to have a facility that can host this type of event, and even enhance it," Councilmember Kimball said. "We are happy to showcase the McDermont Field House, but we are, more importantly, concerned about the gang issue and helping our youth. McDermont itself is inspirational to youth because it shows what can be accomplished when you stay positive, dream big, and work really hard - even in a challenging environment. And it shows that people care about them."

While the facility offers many attractions, Supervisor Ishida assured that the focus of the summit, gang education, will not be lost. The summit will offer a variety of powerful featured guest speakers, breakout sessions geared

toward youth and a resource fair. The purpose of the summit is to connect, educate, equip and inspire Tulare County young people to live violence- and drug-free lifestyles, pursue educational achievement and connect to their community in a positive manner.

The Step Up Youth Summit is a collaborative project developed by the Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force - a regional coalition made up of the general public, media, local businesses, faith-based organizations, schools, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, local government and law enforcement agencies.

For more information on the Step Up Youth Summit and the Step Up anti-gang program, please visit www.stepuptc.com or email stepuptc@co.tulare.ca.us.



Twelve deputies were sworn in on October 12, 2009 in Visalia.

Sheriff's Department Swears in 12 Community Officers

Tulare County Sheriff Bill Wittman swore in 12 new deputies on October 12 at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors' Chambers thanks to \$3.1 million received from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Recovery Grant Program.

The community-based officers funded by the grant will network daily with town councils, nonprofit organizations,

faith-based groups, school officials, business owners, other government agencies and community residents. The deputies will make crime prevention presentations to civic groups, schools and community groups.

This grant will allow the Sheriff's Department to offset the cost of the 18 vacant deputy positions that were frozen due to Tulare County budget

cuts. One deputy will be assigned to the following communities: Richgrove/Terra Bella; Strathmore; Poplar/Woodville; Earlimart; Pixley; Tipton; Alpaugh; Allensworth; Goshen; Ivanhoe; Cutler/Orosi; Traver/London.

This grant will extend through September 30, 2012.


Employee Spotlight: Nancy Gomes



Name: Nancy Gomes
Title: Licensed Social Worker
Years of Service: 20 years of service to Porterville Youth Services. Twelve years ago Porterville Youth became a County Agency.
Duties: Providing mental health services to children and

their families of southeast Tulare County.
Nancy on her most rewarding experience as a County employee: I have the unique opportunity to serve children and their families that are often facing multiple barriers to a better quality of life. It is a most rewarding experience to observe positive change in the lives of so many.
Family: Married to husband Gene. Two children, Philip and Rebecca. Three grandsons, one granddaughter, and one great granddaughter.
Clubs/Organizations: Active

in church. Teaches Sunday School to 4th and 5th graders.
Hobbies: Gardening
Something you might not know about me: I enjoy going to estate sales and my favorite place in the entire world is the Paris Flea Market. If I had a gazillion dollars, I might still be there.
Favorite place to visit in Tulare County: I enjoy spending time in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada and Three Rivers in particular.



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: County LOOP Bus Program

Tulare County's LOOP Bus Program provides at-risk youth with a free way to access community recreation centers in or near their community.

The LOOP (Local Organizations Outreach Program) concept was first developed in the City of Visalia as a collaborative effort of many entities after months of meetings and strategic planning.

The County's LOOP Bus Program is now accepting applications to transport at-risk youth to activities that connect them to mentoring and gang prevention programs throughout Tulare County.

LOOP Bus applications must be submitted two weeks prior to the requested service dates. For more information, please call the Tulare County

Board of Supervisors staff Jeff Forbes or Jed Chernabaeff at 559/636-5000 or by email at stepuptc@co.tulare.ca.us

Visit www.stepuptc.com and click on "LOOP Bus Program" to download an application.

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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us



Sheriff's Employee and Chaplain Go Extra Mile to Raise Funds

Tulare County Sheriff's Lt. Larry Micari and Sheriff's Chaplain Nick Hilvers spent part of October making a 525-mile bike trek from San Francisco to Los Angeles as part of the California Coast Classic Bicycle Tour.

The bicycle tour benefits the American Arthritis Foundation by raising funds that enable the foundation to improve lives through leadership in the

prevention, control, and cure of arthritis and related diseases.

Lt. Micari and Chaplain Hilvers raised a grand total of \$9,150. Chaplain Hilvers total of \$6,085 raised ranked him No. 1 among participants. Lt. Micari's \$3,065 raised ranked him No. 5 among participants, respectfully.

The funds raised also provides educational resources to help adults, parents and children manage their arthritis through community-based services to make life with arthritis easier.

Learn more about the California Coast Classic at: www.ccneca.kintera.org.



Pictured: Chaplain Hilvers (left) and Lt. Micari (right)

Special Districts Receive Training in Gov. 101 Class



“WE WANT OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND APPOINTEES TO BE AS WELL INFORMED AS POSSIBLE,” DISTRICT 2 SUPERVISOR PETE VANDER POEL

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors sponsored **Special Districts: Government 101** on October 22 in Visalia to better educate and train elected officials who serve on special districts, such as community service districts that operate community water and sewer systems, memorial districts and cemetery districts.

Special Districts: Government 101 is a training seminar led by Tulare County Counsel that uses a combination of presentations from County legal staff as well as local attorneys. Training was provided in the following topics:

- Brown Act
- Conflict of Interest/Political Reform Act
- Public Records Act
- Proposition 218
- The role of elected officials and board member
- Local agency decision making

- Procedure for filing vacancies

District Two Supervisor Pete Vander Poel said while cities and counties regularly provide training in policies and procedures for elected officials, there is no similar cross-the-board training for people service on small service districts.

“We want our elected officials and appointees who serve on special districts to be as well informed as possible,” Supervisor Vander Poel said, adding that by helping to strengthen the operations of these districts, Tulare County also hopes to encourage the people who do serve to serve longer and avoid turnover. “It is hard to find people to serve on some of our smallest special districts, and yet their service can be vital to how well the local water systems,

cemeteries and other organizations function.”

Case in point: there are currently 112 contests for seats to serve on 52 districts on the November 3 election ballot. The Tulare County Elections Office said there are 154 seats, but only 92 candidates have filed to run. That means as many as 50 positions will have to be filled by appointment by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors or other boards in lieu of election, assuming someone applies to those offices.

“This is where a person can really make his or her voice heard and really make a difference in their local community (by serving),” said Rita Woodard, Tulare County Registrar of Voters.

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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NOVEMBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

Secured Property Tax 1st Installment Due Date. Nov. 1	559/636-5250
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Nov. 3, 10. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: Nov. 4, 18, 9 a.m.	559/624-7000
CPR & First Aid Training: Nov. 4. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	559/713-5026
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Nov. 4, 2 p.m.	559/624-7000
New IHSS Provider Orientation: Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27. 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	559/713-5026
Step Up Youth Summit Planning Meeting: Nov. 13, 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.	559/636-5000
LOOP Bus Workshop. Nov. 13, 10 a.m. - Noon.	559/636-5000
T.C.A.G. Meeting: Nov. 16, 1 p.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Youth Commission: Nov. 16, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Suicide Prevention Task Force: Nov. 19, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.	559/737-4660
Tulare County Water Commission: Nov. 23, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force: Nov. 30, Noon - 2 p.m.	559/636-5000

More Information:

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



Places to Go Play: Experience the best of antiques, art and agriculture in Exeter. Exeter is also known for its abundant supply of citrus, deciduous fruits, nuts and table grapes. The area has scenic beauty, thriving business community, and a population who take great pride in the town's heritage, quality housing and good schools. Learn more about Exeter and other places to “Go Play” at www.tularecountymap.com.