



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2016

Supervisor's Message: Reflections from District Three



In this, my last month with the county, I look back over the last twelve years grateful for the many people it has been my pleasure to work with. I think of great men like Jim Maples who served this county as a supervisor. His genuine concern for people living in his district and for people in general has been inspiring. Great women like Connie Conway who moved on to serve as our Assembly representative. Her influence in Sacramento has been a blessing to all of us. Her connections continue to be a benefit as she speaks up for us on many issues. We have received funding for state programs that would have gone elsewhere had it not been for her. The many men and women that work in this office building have become like family to me. Without their help and dedication, this job would be impossible. There is no time clock in this building. We work as a team and do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Supervisor Ishida and I came onto this Board at the same time and will leave at the same time. We had common goals as

businessmen that have set the stage for many years of progress. Sometimes it is difficult to make financial decisions that impact so many people, but we have approached those decisions conservatively with the future in mind. As I leave this seat, I know I leave it in good financial condition. We have not borrowed or put the county in debt for any of the projects underway right now. That is over one hundred million dollars in construction without debt! We purchased and paid cash for the CIGNA building that will provide space for expansion over the next ten years. Our retirement contributions are well planned out and we have a good partnership with the Retirement Board that will keep the employees retirement dollars safe. When Supervisor Ishida said, "Tulare County is open for business," he didn't mean that we wanted all development to happen in the county. He set the stage for improved customer service in all departments county-wide. As we leave, I can truly say that Tulare County is still open for business. We have excellent customer service and the growth that is taking place in this county is proof.

We have built an army of team players working hard to keep our youth off the streets and out of gangs. Jim Vidak has been a great partner in the Step Up programs committing support and funding. Without partnerships like these with the

Tulare County Office of Education, CSET, and the Probation Department, Step Up would not be what it is today. There are too many individuals who work in these programs to list, but I want them all to know how much it has meant to me to have their support and efforts.

I have tried to live my life and leave my own legacy that my family, for generations to come, can be proud of. There are too many accomplishments to list, but I would like to leave you with a thought that has given meaning and inspiration to me as I have served in Tulare County. We can build buildings, construct hundreds of miles of roads, build new bridges and save millions of dollars, but unless we have left our community a better place for our children, we have done nothing. I hope this inspires you as it has inspired me.

Phillip Cox
District Three
Tulare County Board
of Supervisors

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Ave 416 Groundbreaking



On November 4th, members of both Tulare County and Fresno County broke ground on the project that will expand Avenue 416 from a two-lane road to a four-lane road between Tulare and Fresno Counties. This event brought Supervisor Steve Worthley and Supervisor Buddy Mendes from Fresno County together, along with the mayor of Dinuba, Joey Morales, and Ted Smalley, the director of TCAG. This busy road, only getting busier with time, will be beneficial to all parties involved. In his speech, Supervisor Worthley noted how this project will help local businesses by moving goods and people from the 99 freeway and allow

greater ease of access into Tulare County.

Additionally, this project will improve the safety for those traveling on this road. There will be dedicated turn lanes and traffic signals to improve road conditions for drivers. The safety aspect is what

pushed all the involved parties to make this project a priority.

This project would not be possible without Measure R funds and the collaborative effort between agencies.



Breaking ground at Avenue 416

Sheriff's Office UAV Program is Officially Airborne



In March of 2016, the Tulare County Sheriff's Office received its first unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) commonly called, a law enforcement drone. At the time, Tulare County was only the third department in the state to use this technology along with Alameda and Ventura Counties.

The Sheriff's Office has been working diligently during the past nine months preparing official policies and procedures for the safe and compliant use of the drone during law enforcement and emergency response missions.

The Sheriff's drone has a useful flight capability of one-and-a-half miles for approximately one hour at a time but can remain working on-station for an

unlimited amount of time due to a sophisticated battery and charging platform that travels with the system.

The drone also has state-of-the-art electronics and imaging capabilities that can capture live-feed video up to two miles away and "boomerang" technology that will return the drone to base if it is low on power or outside its safe flight parameters.

This technological advancement supports the vision of the Sheriff by improving the Sheriff's Office's ability to efficiently and effectively enforce the law, protect lives, and save valuable resources in time, personnel and money.

Its operational value greatly enhances the capabilities of the Tulare County Sheriff's Office in a myriad of ways including the forensic photography of crime scenes, surveillance, natural or man-made disaster documentation, search and rescue missions, the apprehension of fleeing suspects, the service of high-risk search warrants, active shooter incidents, SWAT actions, crowd monitoring and explosive device inspection.

Sheriff Boudreaux is excited to add this amazing technology to the operational capabilities of the Sheriff's Office as he continues to protect and serve the citizens of Tulare County with his forward-thinking approach to law enforcement.

Bixler Appointed Tulare County Deputy Ag Commissioner

On November 2, it was announced that former San Mateo County Agricultural Biologist/Specialist IV, Jonathan Bixler, has been appointed to the position of Deputy Agricultural Commissioner by Tulare's Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, Marilyn Kinoshita.

Jonathan was raised on a Jersey dairy near Tulare and was active in 4-H and FFA. He attended California State University, Santa Cruz with a

degree in molecular biology and started his career with Sunkist Growers Inc.

As the Deputy Ag Commissioner in charge of our Standardization and Exclusion Division, Jonathan will oversee fruit and vegetable inspection, quarantine compliance, phytosanitary (export) inspection, insect detection, vertebrate pest control, crop statistics, and the glassy-winged sharpshooter control program.

"Our office has always enjoyed strong support from growers and local agricultural groups who have come to know and appreciate the quality of our work," Kinoshita stated. "We congratulate Jonathan and are confident that he will continue to serve our industry and the public with dedication and the highest level of professional competency."

Jonathan lives in Tulare.



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

Stockings for Senior Citizens Drive Needs You!

More than 300 homebound senior citizens, who often do not have friends and family visit them during the holidays, receive a stocking filled with donated cold-weather comfort items during the annual Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging (K/T AAA) Stockings for Senior Citizens.

Tulare County businesses, community partners, and residents are invited to collect stocking-stuffer items and ensure these senior citizens receive a gift during the holidays.

"This winter event complements Senior Day in

the Park, which encourages our seniors to get out and about,"

"The Stockings for Seniors event focuses on making sure that home-bound and isolated seniors have a gift and have folks who spend the time to go and visit them during this season."

Community members can help by donating cold-weather comfort items such as slippers, socks, gloves, scarves, beanie caps, and lap blankets. Volunteers then visit the senior citizens and

deliver the stockings filled with gifts.

Gift drop off locations include Government Plaza, 5957 S.

Mooney Blvd., Visalia, on the second floor landing outside of HHSA. For other drop-off locations, call Bonnie Quiroz at (559) 624-8086.

Community members wishing to make financial contributions can do so through Friends of Tulare County by logging on to www.friendsoftularecounty.org and clicking on the "Services and How to Donate" tab and choosing "Stockings for Seniors," or by mailing a check to 5957 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277. Please write "Stocking for Senior Citizens" on the memo line.

This annual event is made possible by collaborative partnerships including: Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging, Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency, Friends of Tulare County, CSET, Visalia Senior Housing Inc., and many others.



said Laura Silva, Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency Aging Services Manager and Director of the K/T AAA.

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^ Above - Tulare County Water Commission

Supervisor Ishida was recognized by fellow Water Commissioners at their November 14 meeting for his visionary guidance, undoubting leadership and uncompromising dedication in rebuilding an effective Water Commission for assistance in the development of programs for the benefit of all water users in Tulare County.

> Right - Scenic Tulare County

Porterville resident Michael Hansen captured this beautiful fall photo in October of Balch Park. Woven into the fabric and landscape of Tulare County are 460 acres of park lands managed by the Tulare County Parks and Recreation Division. To visit call 624-7227 for reservations.



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.

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DECEMBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS

Event/Meeting: (Date/Time)	More Information:
Board of Supervisors Meeting: 9:00 a.m. December 6, December 13, December 20. <i>No Meeting: November 29, December 27</i>	(559) 636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: 9:00 a.m. December 14	(559) 624-7000
Tulare County Water Commission: No Meeting	(559) 636-5000
Tulare County Youth Commission: No Meeting	(559) 636-5000

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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.