



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

OCTOBER 2016

## Supervisor's Message: Reflection on Our Board of Supervisors



During my ten years as a Supervisor for District 5, this is the only elected Board I have worked with. Early on, I took some time to get to know the other Supervisors and what their districts were all about. These Supervisors helped guide me to understand just what it took to be a member of this Board.

Now, after working together for ten years, I consider them friends. With Supervisor Ishida and Supervisor Cox leaving our Board in January, we face some big changes ahead. Both of these Supervisors have made important and unique contributions to their districts, to the Board, and to the people of Tulare County.

Throughout his twelve years on this Board, Supervisor Ishida has been involved in many important committees and has been an advocate for the residents of Tulare County in the areas of District 1. One example is his advocacy for the railroad. Supervisor Ishida serves on the California Rail Advisory Committee and his

advocacy work in this area shined during his efforts to save the rail line to Strathmore. Rails and railroads are vital for industrial use and this is an important issue to our Board of Supervisors.

Besides Supervisor Ishida's work in this area, his district is the next door neighbor to my district. Our constituents share many of the same concerns and we both have mountain areas, heavy tree mortality areas, and incorporated cities. Because of this, we have worked closely over the years and have become good friends.

Supervisor Cox represents District 3. When I look at the Board and the districts each Supervisor represents, Supervisor Cox has it the most difficult out of all of us. Our role as Supervisors is to represent the constituents in the unincorporated communities and District 3 has few unincorporated communities, so it makes it difficult to advocate on their behalf and not interfere with the City of Visalia.

However, one of Supervisor Cox's many accomplishments during his tenure on the Board of Supervisors is his role in creating the Step Up program. The Step Up program unifies efforts county-wide to create and implement plans to combat gang activity in Tulare County. Through this, several youth-centered programs

emerged including: the Summer Night Lights events; Loop Bus program; the #LEAD program; and the Step Up Youth Challenge.

These programs all provide opportunities for youth to get involved in their communities and be a part of the solution of combating gangs in Tulare County. They also engage many community partners with this goal, including those in the business sector, education sector, residents, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and local law enforcement agencies.

Each Supervisor brings their own unique background and experiences to the Board when they are elected. During their time on the Board, they get involved with different committees and causes that are important to their districts. During this time of transition, we reflect on the accomplishments that both Supervisor Ishida and Supervisor Cox have achieved during their time on the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and we wish them well in their new endeavors.

Mike Ennis,  
District Five  
Tulare County Board  
of Supervisors

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## Supervisors Host Community Resource Fairs



October is National Energy Awareness month and each year the County of Tulare collaborates with the VIEW Partnership (Valley Innovative Energy Watch) to organize community resource fairs. These outreach events focus on energy cost savings and low to no cost energy efficiency programs available to residents.

This year, Supervisor Worthley and Supervisor Vander Poel both hosted events within their districts.

On October 15, Supervisor Worthley teamed up with the Tulare County Public Library to organize an energy resource fair in conjunction with the grand opening of the London

Library Branch. On October 26, Supervisor Vander Poel brought an energy resource



fair to the community of Tipton.

The VIEW Partnership, Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern

California Edison, SoCal Gas Company, Proteus and CSET all attended each fair handing out energy saving resources along with energy efficient light bulbs and prizes provided by the VIEW Partnership.

In addition, numerous county agencies were on hand to share the range of programs offered by the county including: Alcohol and Other Drug, WIC, Mental Health Services, Tulare County Warmline, Kings View South Tulare County Mobile Unit, Tulare County Fire, Sheriff's Office and many more.

Tulare County Public Health department also provided free flu shots to attendees, which is always a popular service offered during this time of year.



*Supervisor Worthley and Tulare County Librarian Darla Wegener speak at the Grand Opening event.*

## London Library Opens!

October 15 was a BIG day in the community of London - The Library opened! The day was full of speakers; presentations; kids activities; a resource fair; checking out library books; getting library cards; and of course the power of reading! Check out photos from the grandiose event.



*Assemblyman Devon Mathis presents an official resolution.*



*Signing up for Library Cards.*



*Fun activities available at the NEW London Library.*

## Woodard Names New Assistant Auditor-Controller



Cass Cook

Tulare County Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector Rita A. Woodard is announcing the appointment of a new Tulare County Assistant Auditor Controller.

Cass Cook received his Bachelor's degree as well as a Master's degree in Public Administration from Brigham Young University.

Mr. Cook joins Tulare County on November 7, 2016, from the City of Dinuba where he worked as Finance Director. Prior to his employment at

Dinuba he worked in various financial positions with the City of Visalia.

In addition to serving as a Scout Master for the Boy Scouts of America, Cook has served on the boards of the California Municipal Treasurer's Association and the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers.

For more information, please contact the Tulare County Auditor-Controller's Department, Financial Reporting and Audits Division at (559) 636-5200.



## Brighten A Child's Winter Sky! - Annual Toy Drive

"Brighten a Child's Winter Sky," by participating in the annual Child Welfare Services (CWS) Toy Drive. Tulare County employees team up with the Friends of Tulare County in support of the annual event bringing holiday cheer to children across the County.

The CWS Children's Toy Drive kicked off October 3 and runs until December 2. The goal is to ensure that over 1,600 children receive a gift and feel special during this holiday season. Participation is simple. Drop-off a new, unwrapped toy at one of the donation sites

established at agency and department offices throughout the county. For a full list of donation drop-off locations visit [www.friendsoftularecounty.org](http://www.friendsoftularecounty.org).

the child for whom you would like to buy a gift. Follow the three easy steps to purchase and deliver a gift for your selected star.



Friends of Tulare County, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is the agency that accepts donations

If you wish to give a monetary donation, checks can be mailed to:

**Friends of Tulare County**  
**5957 S. Mooney Blvd.**  
**Visalia, CA 93277**

Donations can also be made through the "Pick a Star" option. Visit the Friends of Tulare County website, and click on the CWS Toy Drive to choose the age and gender of

on behalf of Tulare County. This allows for donations to be potentially tax-deductible for the donors.

The Friends of Tulare County tax identification number is: 84-1635929.

For more information visit [www.friendsoftularecounty.org](http://www.friendsoftularecounty.org) or contact Belinda Boylan at (559) 624-7484.



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< Left - Pink with Pride

Tulare County Fire Department's administrative staff are decked out in pink in support of October's Breast Cancer Awareness month. October 4th was PINK Tuesday in Tulare County where employees sported pink clothing to work and took part in this year's theme "Think Pink".



^ Above - Supervisor Ennis Holds First California Hot Springs Town Hall

District Five Supervisor, Mike Ennis, held his first Town Hall meeting in California Hot Springs at the Capineros Community Center on October 20th.

Various countywide agencies joined him in addressing the concerns of the community and gathering feedback from residents on possible improvements to the mountain community.

Tulare County Sheriff's Office, Tulare County Fire Department, Resource Management Agency, Office of Emergency Services, Cal Fire and Southern California Edison were all present on the Town Hall meeting panel.



^ Above - 2016 Red Ribbon Week

Supervisor Vander Poel pictured with HHS staff at their October 18th meeting proclaiming October 23-31, 2016 as Red Ribbon Week in Tulare County.

**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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**NOVEMBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS**

**Event/Meeting: (Date/Time)**

**More Information:**

Board of Supervisors Meeting: 9 a.m. November 8, November 15.  
*No Meeting: November 22, November 29*

(559) 636-5000

Tulare County Planning Commission: 9:00 a.m. November 16

(559) 624-7000

Tulare County Water Commission: 3 p.m. November 14

(559) 636-5000

Tulare County Youth Commission: 3 p.m. November 21

(559) 636-5000

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Facebook.com/CountyofTulare and @CountyofTulare**



**Places to Go Play:** Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club has a 7,482-yard championship golf course created by noted golf course designer John Fought. This golf course boasts one of the longest par fives in California, measuring out at a massive 653 yards. This 18-hole public premium golf course features the largest driving range west of the Rockies (more than 25 acres) as well as Three Finger Jack's. Learn more about Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club and other places to "Go Play" at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).