



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2019

Supervisors Message - World Ag Expo Returns to Tulare County



Thousands of people from all over the world will be traveling to our County this month to attend the 52nd annual World Ag Expo taking place February 12-14 in Tulare. The largest exposition of its kind, the World Ag Expo brings more than 1,500 exhibitors displaying the latest

cutting-edge agricultural technology and equipment; and with that comes local spending.

Last year over 100,000 people came from 49 states and 63 countries to attend the three day show. Local hotels, restaurants, and our regional airports are packed with World Ag Expo exhibitors and visitors expending funds in our local economy.

Yet beyond the taxes we receive from the many sales transactions that occur during the World Ag Expo, the annual event also brings business activity to our County in other ways.

For example our local nurseries benefit from the exhibitors who buy ornamental plants to spruce up their exhibit space during the show.

Or equipment dealers looking to show off their latest tractor model, contracting with a local car wash business to clean their display equipment so it shines for show goers. Finally, all the equipment making its way to and from Tulare for the show is often transported by local trucking companies.

From internet wifi sales to towing companies, security services and even ambulance contracts, many businesses benefit from the world's largest

Ag Exposition being held in Tulare County.

If you haven't been to the annual World Ag Expo before, take the time to attend this year's event. It is quite the site to see. For more information about this year's show visit www.worldagexpo.com.

Pete Vander Poel,
District Two
Tulare County Board of
Supervisors

TCAG Recognizes County Projects at Annual LocalMotion Awards

On January 24, the Public Works division of the Resource Management Agency received recognition from the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) for three of its public works projects at the annual LocalMotion Awards.

The annual LocalMotion Awards is dedicated to honoring the projects, citizens, public officials and plans that have contributed to transportation planning in Tulare County.

In the Outstanding Road Project category, TCAG recognized the County's

Avenue 280 Widening Project that turned a 2 mile long stretch of existing two lane roadway into a four lane divided roadway from State Route 99 to Road 100 (Akers St.) near the westerly limits of the City of Visalia.

TCAG also awarded the D-39 Bridge Project located at the Old State Highway 99 just a half mile northwest of the town of Traver as an Innovative Sustainable Transportation Project.

Also honored was Tulare County Area Transit (TCaT) and it's Social Services Transportation Provider for

over 1,010,178 miles logged last year.

Congratulations to the Resource Management Agency and all County staff involved in these award winning projects!



Trout Returns to Mooney Grove for the Winter

Tulare County Parks and Recreation and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced the return of trout fishing to Mooney Grove Park. This Winter, local outdoor enthusiasts and families can fish for trout in the park.

With its urban setting, Mooney Grove Park has the potential to become a very

popular urban fishery and provide a unique outdoor experience for families. CDFW plans to provide catchable trout every other week, depending on the amount of fishing activity by park goers.

Rainbow Trout is a cold-water fish and will only do well in Mooney Grove Park during the winter months. The water has been checked and will work well while it remains at cold

temperatures. When water temperatures exceed 75 degrees, the trout will not be able to thrive.

Fishing will be allowed from 8:00 a.m. when the park opens until sunset. No night fishing will be allowed.

For additional information please call Tulare County Parks at (559) 624-7227 or visit their website at <https://tularecountyparks.org/>



Tom Tucker Appointed as County Ag Commissioner

On January 29, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors announced the appointment of Tom Tucker as the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures effective March 30, 2019. Tucker will fill the position held by Marilyn Wright, who is set to retire after serving in the position since 2010.

Tucker graduated from

California State University, Fresno with a degree in Agricultural Sciences. He has worked as a Qualified Applicator and Pest Control Advisor in private business before beginning his work for the County in 2008 as an Ag & Standards Inspector for the Weights and Measures Division. He was appointed to the position of Assistant Ag Commissioner/Sealer in 2013,

the second highest ranked position in the department.

"I appreciate the Board's faith in me and pledge to do my very best for the County and our agricultural community," stated Tucker during his official appointment. "I'd also like to thank Marilyn for her service to the County and for providing me with her guidance and mentorship over the years."



Lutz Takes the Reins as HHSA Director

Tim Lutz took the reigns as Agency Director of the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) on January 7, after being appointed by the Board of Supervisor last December.

"I am very excited to be returning to Tulare County and the Health & Human Services Agency," shared Lutz. "The Agency does tremendous work at preserving and enhancing the critical safety net, health, and well-being of County residents and I am honored to be serving as the Agency Director."

Lutz has worked in the public sector for over 12 years bringing a wealth of knowledge in varied areas of government programs and services including: fiscal operations, human resources, social services, aging and veteran services, environmental health, animal services and administration. Lutz returns to Tulare County after previously serving as the County Administrative Officer for Calaveras County in San Andreas, California.

As the HHSA Director, Lutz will oversee HHSA's workforce of approximately 2,000



employees and its four branches of daily operations: Human Services, Public Health, Mental Health, and Fiscal Operations. Lutz fills the position previously held by Jason T. Britt, who was recently appointed as he Tulare County Administrative Officer.

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 Monteiro.

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