



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2017

Protecting and Connecting With Our Mountain Communities



On August 29 the Pier Fire started off Highway 190 along the Tule River between Springville and Camp Nelson. One of the greatest fears of our local mountain communities along Hwy 190 became a reality, with a wild fire ravaging through some of the County's highest tree mortality areas within very steep and rocky terrain. It's a recipe for disaster for the 700 plus mountain homes in the area.

I own a cabin in Sequoia Crest and I knew along with many of my neighbors that if a wild fire ever broke out in that canyon, we'd surely be toast.

The Pier Fire burned nearly 40,000 acres and remarkably we had only minimal damage including: one outdoor building, a water flume, a Southern California Edison powerhouse and some power line polls. Considering the circumstances, that is amazing!

And I give credit to the firefighters for their extraordinary achievement!

In the height of the fight we had over 1,700 personnel from near and far battling the Pier Fire. This included firefighters, emergency management workers, helicopter pilots, water tender drivers, and the list goes on and on. Because of their effort, our mountain homes and communities were saved from the Pier Fire.

I thank you for the hard work and the long hours put in to make sure everyone had a home to return to.

It's important that we work to provide essential services to the many mountain communities in Tulare County. We are limited on the types of resources we can provide as a County to these rural communities in the higher elevations, however we always try our best to meet their needs.

This is why I hold my annual community meetings in the mountains. It's a way to stay in touch and hear their issues and concerns. In doing so, we are able to bridge gaps and find areas of services the County is able to accommodate.

Not only do we discuss County services, we also provide an open forum for residents to connect with other governmental agencies in the mountain areas such as the U.S. Forest Service,

California Highway Patrol, CalTrans, and the utility companies working to remove dead trees in the mountains.

I like to host these meetings once a year, one for all the communities surrounding in the Highway 190 mountain corridor and the other in the California Hot Springs area. Unfortunately, due to the Pier Fire we had to cancel the Hwy 190 meeting.

But we are gearing up to host the annual California Hot Springs meeting on October 12th at the Capineros Community Center. Many agencies will be on hand to address resident's concerns including RMA, the Fire Department, CHP, CalTrans, Cal Fire, U.S. Forest Service, SoCal Edison, and others.

I'm looking forward to our continued work in providing services to the mountain communities of Tulare County, and when the need arises, protecting them from any natural or human caused disasters.

Mike Ennis,

District Five
Tulare County Board of
Supervisors

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County Adopts 2017/18 Recommended Budget

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved a \$1.2 billion fiscally sustainable spending plan recommended by the County Administrative Officer Michael Spata for Fiscal Year 2017/18.

“The budget approved by the Board is one the County can be proud of,” stated Board Chairman Pete Vander Poel. “We have worked to set aside funds in preparation for the future uncertainties we as a County are bound to face.”

The 2017/18 Recommended Budget reflects a 4.3% increase over last year’s adopted budget, with a \$2 million increase in General County Reserves.

The proposed strategic funding allocations include:

- \$1 million for County Economic Development projects.

- Provide funds of \$1.5 million for a financial software upgrade.
- Allocating \$6.6 million to Capital Projects.
- \$1 million for the Tulare County Sheriff’s Property and Evidence Facility.
- \$200,000 to be used for a County-wide homelessness program.
- Funds of \$1 million for County Parks Development projects.
- \$694,000 for numerous water programs.

“In its broadest sense, this Recommended Budget of \$1.2 billion is balanced, fiscally sustainable, and structurally sound,” stated Spata.

“In doing so, the proposed funding allocations address both strategic and operational responsibilities.”

The Fiscal Year 2017/18 Recommended Budget implements the County’s Strategic Business Plan to address strategic and operational opportunities, and responsibilities.

As an example, new building permit value amounted to \$197.4 million and during the past four-years over \$790 million in new permit value was conferred on the County through application of strategic management emphasizing fiscal sustainability and economic development.

The Board of Supervisors is responsible for reviewing and approving budgets for all County operating funds, internal service and enterprise funds, County Service Areas, and dependent special districts. The Board also sits as the Redevelopment Agency and is responsible for those budgets.

8th Annual Red Ribbon Week Celebration

Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency and the Tulare County Office of Education are taking a stand against alcohol and drugs during Red Ribbon Week by hosting the 8th Annual Red Ribbon Week Celebration on Wednesday, October 18, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the Visalia Convention Center.

Students and their families are invited to attend the free event, which features live entertainment, information booths, games,

family and student-oriented activities, and more.

This event is free for students and parents. It will commemorate Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent Enrique S. “Kiki” Camarena. He served in the military, became a police officer, then an undercover agent with the DEA investigating drug cartels in Mexico, where he was murdered.

Camarena declared, “I am only one person, but I want to

make a difference.”

Red Ribbon Week promotes a healthy, drug free lifestyle and is a collaboration of community partners including the County of Tulare, The Tulare County Office of Education, the Tule River Tribe, Family Health Care Network, ProYouth, and others.

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors is presenting a proclamation for Red Ribbon week on Tuesday, October 3 at 9:00 a.m. at 2800 W. Burrell Ave in Visalia.

Employee Spotlight: Christopher Greer



Name: Christopher Greer

Title: Agricultural & Standards Inspector IV

Years of Service: 6 years

Duties: Currently work for Tulare County's Agricultural Commissioner/Sealers office where I assist in directly supervising all 30 of our Standards and Exclusion district Ag Inspectors.

Family? Recently got married to Myca Greer on October 1st, 2016 and expecting first child, a little girl, on September 24th.

Hobbies Clubs/Organizations? I enjoy spending time with family and taking regular trips to Disneyland and California Adventures with my family.

I enjoy swimming and basically anywhere there's a beach and the ocean. I'm also a member of the Tulare Council Knights of Columbus group and volunteer with fundraising activities throughout the year.

What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?

I was born and raised in Tulare and my family has lived here going on four generations. I can say I truly have pride in where I

live and in working with the County's Agricultural Industry. My grandfather and great uncle started a dairy in Tulare from nothing and it is now passed on to two generations. The Agriculture is in my blood and knowing that I am helping make a difference is tremendously rewarding.

Please tell us something other employees might not know about you?

I enjoy reading whenever I can find time. My wife loves to read and sometimes goes through a book or two a week. Anything interesting and fictional that will catch my attention, I will read. Also my wife and I love to find new restaurants to eat at especially when we take trips to the coast. Anything with great reviews, we are down to try.

Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?

Besides my family home in Tulare, my favorite place in Tulare County would be Three Rivers. My grandmother used to take me up there once a year when I was little and it holds great memories for me. From the candy store to eating lunch with a view of the river, it really is a great little town.



Paint Nite at the Tulare County Museum

On Friday, October 13, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the Tulare County Museum will be hosting a Paint Nite event to raise funds for restoration projects.

Tickets are \$45 and the museum will receive \$15 of every ticket purchased.

This is a fun way to spend the evening with friends while supporting the Tulare County Museum! You will be guided through a step by step process in painting a beautiful evening mountain scene on canvas by a professional instructor.

You don't have to be an artist to participate, just

willing to learn something new and have fun!

Must be 21 or older to participate. Seating is limited. Light refreshments and drinks will be served.

To purchase tickets visit the museum's website at www.tularecountymuseum.org or the Tulare County Museum Facebook page at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/TulareCountyMuseum/>.

Donations and fundraising events like this enable the museum to do restoration projects like our Clocktower, Caboose, Masonic Facade, and Main Street that have been restored to their original grandeur!



The Tulare County Museum appreciates your support in this fun way to raise funds for our projects at the museum so that we can provide the best possible experience for our visitors. We hope to see you there!

Have a program you want to highlight? Please send suggestions to:

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

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^ Above - Fire Department Secretary Retires

The Board of Supervisors recognized Tulare County Fire Department Secretary Jasmine Enfedjian upon her retirement on Sept. 11 and thanked her for the many years of service she gave to Tulare County.



^ Above - 2016 Tulare County Crop Report Released

On Sept. 19, Tulare County Ag Commissioner Marilyn Kinoshita release the 2016 Crop Report totaling \$6.3 Billion in value.

> Right - New HR&D Building Opens

On August 22, HR&D opened it's doors at its new location at 2500 W. Burrel Ave in Visalia. The grand re-opening ceremony and open house was complete with an unveiling of a painted mural that depicts and promotes Tulare County lifestyles.



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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UPCOMING COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS

Event/Meeting: (Date/Time)

More Information:

Board of Supervisors Meeting: 9:00 a.m. September 26, October 3, October 10, October 17, October 24, October 31

(559) 636-5000

Tulare County Planning Commission: 9:00 a.m. September 27, October 11

(559) 624-7000

Tulare County Water Commission: 3:00 p.m. October 9

(559) 636-5000

Tulare County Youth Commission: 3:00 p.m. October 16

(559) 636-5000

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[Facebook.com/CountyofTulare](https://www.facebook.com/CountyofTulare) and [@CountyofTulare](https://twitter.com/CountyofTulare)**



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.