



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY - SEPTEMBER 2011

## Supervisor's Message: Remember, Give Back on 9/11



Where were you on September 11, 2001? Do you remember that day? What were you doing? How did you feel? Can you believe it has been a decade since then? Do you make an effort to memorialize that day?

I was a senior at Tulare Union High School and was in my first period class when all means of broadcast were interrupted and began to reveal what had happened; the World Trade Center or Twin Towers had been destroyed. In absolute shock, we all watched in disbelief. How could the invincibility of the United States of America be attacked? How could we not have prevented this? When was it going to end? Were we safe? All questions that raced through my mind.

Feeling powerless but wanting to help, the Tulare Union Associated Student Body Leadership Class put our minds together. We

came up with the idea of collecting money from our fellow students to send in the form of a donation to the American Red Cross. We notified all students and staff of our effort that would take place that following day. The day came and we were able to collect more than \$1,000 to send to the American Red Cross to aid them in their efforts post 9/11.

Each and every one of us will remember that day for the rest of our lives. Every experience was different, however, we were all and are all united today as Americans because of 9/11. I would like to share with you how I, along with thousands of Tulare and Tulare County residents have chosen to commemorate that day year in and year out.

Every September 11, Tulare has their 9/11 Memorial Blood Drive. The event started in 2007, where over 400 pints of blood were donated. In 2008, over 700 pints of blood were donated. In 2009, 1,153 pints of blood were donated to the Central California Blood Center. In a few short years, the blood drive tripled the

number of pints of blood that were donated. Tulareans and Tulare County residents see this event as an opportunity to remember 9/11 and also to give the gift of life.

If you, your family, friends, or coworkers have time and want to give that special gift, I would love to see you there. The blood drive will be at the Tulare Veterans Memorial Building, located at 1771 E. Tulare Ave. in Tulare.

Remember 9/11 and the sacrifice that many brave men and women made that day to help save others, and take advantage of this opportunity to help save lives too!

For general information on the Tulare 9/11 Memorial Blood Drive, please contact Tulare Fire Battalion Chief Ken Dodson at 559/358-1331.

Pete Vander Poel, District Two  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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## Tulare County Receives \$90 million for Roads



### Did You Know?

Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), is an independent agency comprising the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and one council member from Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay, Porterville, Tulare, Visalia, and Woodlake. TCAG serves as the primary agency for executing the provisions of Measure R.

Tulare County obtained more than \$90 million in road project funding from the state, officials with the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) announced.

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved \$46.6 million for the widening of Highway 99, between Goshen and Caldwell Avenue, \$14.5 million for improvements to the Plaza Drive/Highway 198 Interchange and \$16 million for Road 80 (phase 3) widening. Several other Tulare County projects also received approval for more than \$15 million in funding.

"I would like to give credit to the taxpayers in Tulare County for voting to pass Measure R in 2006," said Pete Vander Poel, Chairman on TCAG. "Without Measure R, the hard work of both Tulare County and TCAG staff, funding for this award would not have been possible."

### Highway 99 Project

Due to a significant amount of cost savings from state bond funded SR-99 construction projects, the CTC programmed \$46.6 million of SR-99 Bond funding for the widening of SR-99 from four to six lanes from Goshen, through the SR-198 interchange to north of Caldwell Avenue. TCAG Executive Director Ted Smalley said the project would not have been possible without the partnership of Caltrans District 6 and TCAG. Construction is expected to begin by late summer next year. The project will be ready to advertise for construction by late summer

2012.

### Plaza Drive/Highway 198 Project

The CTC allocated \$14.5 million of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding for the Plaza Drive Interchange and widening project in the City of Visalia. This project includes improving the Plaza Drive Interchange with SR-198, adding auxiliary lanes to SR-198 between the Plaza Drive and SR-99 Interchanges and widening Plaza Drive from two to four lanes between Airport Drive and Goshen Avenue.

"Visalia has always been prudent with the use of funding from the State," said Visalia Mayor Bob Link. "Because of this careful, proactive use, securing funding for the Plaza Drive improvements is a significant job-creating achievement because this is a major access point to the Industrial Park."

### Road 80 Project

The CTC allocated \$16 million of STIP funding for the Road 80, phase 3, widening project between the cities of Dinuba and Visalia. The project will widen Road 80 from two to four lanes between Avenue 342 and Avenue 384. This is the final phase of Road 80 widening between the two cities. Along with the Plaza Drive/Highway 198 project, this project will complete much needed safety and traffic flow improvements to the entire Road 80/Plaza Drive corridor from Highways 99 and 198 in Visalia to El Monte Avenue in Dinuba.

"Any time we can improve our roads systems between cities

throughout Tulare County we all benefit," said Mike Ennis, Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

### Avenue 416 Project

The CTC programmed \$5 million of State-Local Partnership Program (SLPP) funding for the Avenue 416 widening project in the City of Dinuba. The SLPP funding is leveraged with Measure R and City of Dinuba funding to widen Avenue 416 from two to four lanes between Road 56 and Road 80. The project is expected to begin construction next summer. In recognition of counties and cities that have passed local and regional transportation sales taxes, the State included SLPP funding as a part of the Proposition 1b transportation bond. Tulare County would not have been eligible to receive SLPP funding without the passage of the Measure R transportation sales tax.

### More Transportation Project Funding

The CTC also allocated \$10.5 million of State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) funding for pavement rehabilitation on SR-99 from Avenue 152 to Elk Bayou Bridge south of the City of Tulare. This project includes 10.4 lane miles of new pavement.

The CTC also released the draft program of projects for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled Transit Program. Included in the program is \$384,000 for four buses and other equipment for the Porterville Sheltered Workshop.

## Employee Spotlight: Dane Clark



**Name:** Dane Clark

**Title:** Probation Officer II

**Years of Service:** 25 years

**Duties:** Currently supervising a caseload of adult probationers.

**Family?** 4 daughters, 4 grandchildren

**Hobbies?** Coaching, fishing, family, travel

### Clubs/Organizations?

California Basketball Officials Association, California Football Officials Association

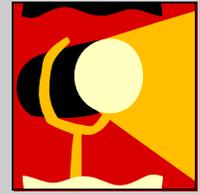
**What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?** Having kids I have worked with in the past come back as adults and tell me I had a positive effect on their lives.

**Please tell us something other employees might not know about you?** I enjoy donating my time to youth activities. I have been involved in a variety of youth activities in the Visalia area

for the past 20 years. This would include coaching youth football, NJB basketball, baseball, and softball teams. I have been a youth activities board member in the past and was President of the Central Valley CIF high school basketball official's organization from 2005 to 2007. I continue to actively participate in youth activities and currently I am coaching a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth football team.

### Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?

Visalia Rawhide games



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](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

## 4,300 Surge Protectors to be Replaced

In late September or early October 4,300 surge projectors will be replaced countywide.

There will be eight crews working to replace the protectors.

The goal is to have the work

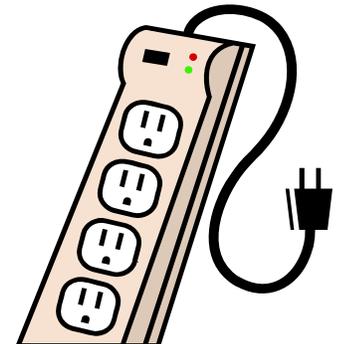
done within two weeks.

Once the schedule is determined, an email will be sent to all County employees.

There will be some minor inconveniences as the crews are coming through and

replacing the surge protectors.

The replacement surge protectors are more energy efficient.



## Program Spotlight: Tobacco Awareness & Education Project

The Tulare County HHSA Tobacco Awareness & Education Project is designed to reduce the number of persons beginning to use tobacco, decrease the use of tobacco products throughout the county, and raise awareness of health problems associated with tobacco use.

The goals of the Project are:  
- To protect Tulare County residents from the effects of secondhand tobacco smoke.  
- To reduce minors' commercial and social access

to tobacco products.  
- To counter pro-tobacco influences in the community.  
- To promote tobacco cessation services in the County.

The Project provides:  
- Tobacco use prevention,  
- Cessation resources,  
- Policy education,  
- Technical assistance,  
- Collaboration with other groups and agencies,  
- Public awareness opportunities via special events of the media.

Tobacco Awareness & Education Community Coalition is a group of individuals dedicated to protect and preserve Tulare County citizens from the harmful effects of tobacco and tobacco smoke. [Click here](#) for more information about our mission and how to join the coalition.

For more information contact us at (559) 623-0158.

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

[newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

## 1st Tulare County Fire Chief Retires



“We were very fortunate to have Chief Sunderland take the reigns when Tulare County made its decision to create our own fire department.”  
Mike Ennis,  
Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

Steve Sunderland, the first person appointed to fire chief of the Tulare County Fire Department, retired after nearly 28 years public service in Tulare County and more than 40 years in fire service. Sunderland's last day on duty was August 12.

Tulare County Administrative Office Jean Rousseau said Division Chief Ted Mendoza has been appointed as the interim chief until a replacement is hired.

Chief Sunderland was hired in February 2006 when the Tulare County Fire Department was created. He and his executive staff officers were tasked with developing Tulare County's first self-managed, self-directed Fire Department.

During Chief Sunderland's leadership, highlights with the Tulare County Fire Department include:

- Working with CAL FIRE for

seamless transition of emergency services.

- Handling more than 12,000 emergency calls for service each year with 108 full time employees and 350 extra help firefighter employees.

- Establishing a new fire station in Badger and bringing back full time staffing to Lemon Cove fire station, Doyle Colony fire station and part-time staffing at the Dinuba fire station with existing personnel.

- Developing a more reliable fire apparatus fleet by lowering the average age of the equipment.

- Completing an aggressive facility maintenance program over the first three years of operation.

- Implementing a more effective Fire and Life Safety (Fire Prevention) education and enforcement program.

“We were very fortunate to have Chief Sunderland take the reigns when Tulare County

made its decision to create our own fire department,” said Mike Ennis, Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. “The Board of Supervisors wishes Steve the best of luck in his retirement and thanks him for his decades of public service.”

Chairman Ennis said one of the great achievements under Chief Sunderland's tenure was the ability to absorb the effects of the economic downturn with no loss of allocated positions over several fiscal years and maintain the level of excellent service to the residents of Tulare County.

“The past five and one-half years have been some of the most rewarding in my career,” Chief Sunderland said.

“Having been given the opportunity to develop a new fire department is something few fire officers ever get to experience.”

### 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.

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### SEPTEMBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

#### Meeting: (Date/Time)

L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Sept. 7. 2 p.m.  
Tulare 9/11 Memorial Blood Drive: Sept. 11 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Tulare County Youth Commission: Sept. 12. 3 p.m.  
Tulare County Water Commission: Sept. 12. 3 p.m.  
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Sept. 13, 20, 30. 9 a.m.  
Tulare County Planning Commission: Sept. 14, 28. 9 a.m.  
T.C.A.G. Meeting: Sept. 19 1 p.m.  
Quarterly Deferred Compensation Meeting: Sept. 26. 1 p.m.  
Tulare County Health & Wellness Fair: Sept. 29. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### More Information:

559/624-7000  
559/553-5511  
559/636-5000  
559/636-5005  
559/636-5000  
559/624-7000  
559/624-7000  
559/636-5225  
559/636-4900



**Places to Go Play:** Col. Allensworth State Historic Park is located in southwest Tulare County. This park memorializes the first town that was founded, financed and governed by African Americans. The park is open Friday thru Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and for special events. Learn more about Col. Allensworth State Historic Park and other places to “Go Play” in Tulare County at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).