



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

DECEMBER 2016

Supervisor's Message: It Has Been an Honor Serving You



I appreciate the voters of District One allowing me to serve twelve years on the Board of Supervisors. This has been the most rewarding and gratifying job that I have ever had.

I have met and become friends with so many people both within and outside of county government.

The most gratifying part of my twelve years is seeing the change in the culture of county employees. We have seen a shift from the culture of no and why make change, to the attitude of how can we best help the people of Tulare County. This is especially true in the Resource Management Agency (RMA).

I and my fellow Supervisors believe that we have the finest employees in county government. The reason for this belief is mainly based on the sharp decrease in

constituent complaint calls that we receive and the positive attitude we receive during our interaction with county personnel.

Supervisor Cox and I were sworn into office with many common goals for the county. A few of our goals were based on a lack of knowledge and were discarded after a short period of time, but most of our goals were valid. The rewarding part of my tenure has been accomplishing many of our goals with the entire Board of Supervisors.

For example, the raising of compensation for our lowest paid employees who were receiving food stamps and better overall compensation of all of our employees to be competitive with our surrounding government agencies to reduce employee turnover.

The Board has improved the working conditions of our employees by remodeling over 500,000 sq. feet of office space, in addition the several hundred feet of remodel that is set to take place in 2017.

Many of you may remember the plastic sheeting and the waste paper basket in HHSA at Government Plaza to catch water from a leaking roof. There are those of you who remember the four story

annex building in downtown Visalia. Not ideal working conditions and I'm proud we set out and changed that.

Other proud accomplishments include the establishment of the Tulare County Fire Dept.; Tulare County Information and Communications Dept.; reopening Pre-trial; Tulare County Water Commission; passing Measure R; the Step-Up program; our 85% funded pension fund; purchase of the CIGNA Building; South County Jail; and Zero long term debt.

There are too many more accomplishments to list.

All the rewards and gratification that I feel would not have been possible without the leadership of the Board of Supervisors and all of you, our county employees, who made it happen.

It has been an honor and privilege to have served as a Tulare County Supervisor.

Thank you!

Allen Ishida
District One
Tulare County Board
of Supervisors

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County Adopts Ordinance on NonMedical Marijuana

With the passage of Proposition 64, officially known as the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, Tulare County Board of Supervisors addressed the new law and took regulatory actions at their December 6 board meeting.

Proposition 64 decriminalized under State law the possession, use, and cultivation of nonmedical use of marijuana by adults 21 years and older. It also establishes a statewide regulatory and licensing framework for commercial nonmedical marijuana cultivation, distribution, and sales, and imposes state taxes on sales and cultivation.

Proposition 64 allows local governments to regulate or ban commercial nonmedical marijuana activity; enact restrictions on the types of nonmedical marijuana activities

or the locations where nonmedical marijuana businesses can operate within its jurisdictions; or to impose local taxes on such activities.

With respect to individual (noncommercial) cultivation under Proposition 64, only six marijuana plants are allowed per private residence, regardless of the number of people living in the residence. Local governments are also able to prohibit outdoor cultivation, and to reasonably regulate indoor cultivation.

Prior to December 6, Tulare County did not currently have any regulations specific to nonmedical marijuana, but the Supervisors adopted an Interim Zoning Ordinance prohibiting a number of nonmedical marijuana uses in the unincorporated areas of the County until the County

has an opportunity to study the impacts of Proposition 64 and develop appropriate regulations for the County.

Despite the passage of Proposition 64, any use of marijuana still remains illegal under federal law and therefore subject to federal prosecution.

Proposition 64 has limited impacts on the possession, use, cultivation, and distribution of marijuana for medical purposes, and current zoning and medical marijuana use ordinances remain in place and enforceable by County agencies (including the Interim Zoning Ordinance, No. 3498).

The new law does not alter existing policies for marijuana use by County employees and within the workplace.



Annual Winter Computer Giveaway

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors, Tulare County Office of Education, The Rotary Club of Visalia and Office Depot have partnered together to deliver 75 computers to worthy children. School officials nominated children to receive computers based on their outstanding character and good citizenship.

The County of Tulare contributed 75 computers and matching flat screens that were due to be sold

as surplus. The Rotary Club donated funding so that the surplus computers could be given

away to worthy children. Tulare County Purchasing tested the computers, erased all sensitive files and proprietary software, and installed fresh Windows operating systems.

County staff, Rotarians and other volunteers met at the Tulare County Surplus Store on

December 14 to load up vehicles with the computers and begin delivering the computers to school sites throughout the County.

School officials recently nominated students to receive the donated computers. The chosen students and most of their

teachers are unaware the gifts will be delivered in time for the holidays.



> Right

Supervisor Vander Poel gives a computer to Thomas Morgan, a senior at Tulare Western High School, with Principal Kevin Covert for the Annual Winter Computer Giveaway on December 14.

Board Appoints New Department Heads

Supervisors took action at their December 13 meeting in appointing two new department heads due to the upcoming retirements of Kathleen Bales-Lange and Dr. Cheryl Duerksen.

County Counsel Appointment

The Board has appointed Deanne H. Peterson as County Counsel for Tulare County. The appointment will be effective on March 26, 2017 immediately following the retirement of County Counsel Kathleen Bales-Lange.

At that same meeting, the Board also took action to add the position of Associate County Counsel to the office's position allocation plan. It is anticipated that Peterson will be appointed to this position effective January 15, 2017, to allow for an effective and orderly transition.

"It's been a privilege working with Kathleen all these years and she has worked hard to safe guard the Board and the County," said Chairman Ennis. "We look forward to working with Deanne and feel she is the most qualified to take the office and will make it even better."

Prior to her appointment, Peterson served as the Assistant County Counsel for Merced County. Peterson is no stranger to Tulare County, she has worked in the Office of County Counsel as a Deputy Attorney for 18 years and rose to the rank of Chief Deputy for the Labor and Employment Team prior to her move to Merced County.

County Administrative Officer, Michael Spata, stated that he is delighted with Peterson's appointment and he added that she will heighten the Board's approach to implement a business model when conducting departmental operations.

Peterson received her Juris Doctor degree from New York Law School and is a former President of the Tulare County Bar Association.

"I am grateful to the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to serve as the County Counsel," stated Peterson. "I am looking forward to leading the very capable staff as we continue the mission of the office to provide quality and innovative services to our clients, and which support the public good."

Peterson will fill the position upon the retirement of Kathleen Bales-Lange, who has served the County for 36 years including the role of County Counsel since 1997. "I am very pleased with the Board's choice and confident that Deanne will lead the office in continued success," shares Bales-Lange.

HHSA Director Appointment

Supervisors appointed Jason T. Britt as the Director of Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency effective December 24, 2016.

"Jason has been working for us in HHSA for many years working his way up through the ranks and was the best fit for the job," shared Chairman Ennis. "He is very knowledgeable in the many different fields within HHSA and with that knowledge will move our largest agency in the county.

Britt fills the position previously held by Dr. Cheryl L. Duerksen, who is set to retire on December 23 after serving as HHSA's director since 2012.

County Administrative Officer, Michael Spata, stated, "Jason is a team player who understands Strategic Management and the operation of a Business Model; and as such, he will be an excellent leader of a critically important public agency."

In total, Britt has served Tulare County since 1994 and has held a variety of senior management positions including Director of Human Services, Director of Public Health and Associate HHSA Agency director.

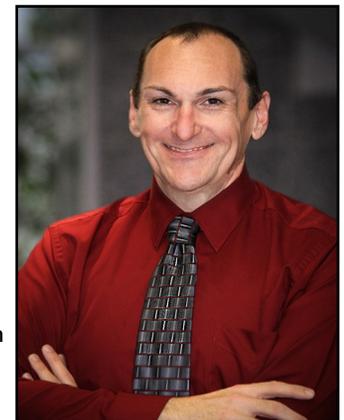
"Mr. Britt is the ideal candidate to serve as the next director of HHSA," stated Duerksen. "He has exhibited exceptional leadership as the director of several branches over the past years, and contributed to the improvement of relationships with a number of organizations and agencies across the County."

"I am humbled and honored by the confidence the Board of Supervisors has in my ability to lead a large and diverse organization such as HHSA", says Britt. "HHSA will continue to effectively work with the constituents of Tulare County to deliver programs reflecting our mission of protecting and strengthening the well-being of the community.

Britt is a lifelong resident of Tulare County. He holds a Master of Science in Leadership from South University and a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts from Excelsior College.



Deanne Peterson



Jason Britt

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^ *Above* - Movember Challenge Results

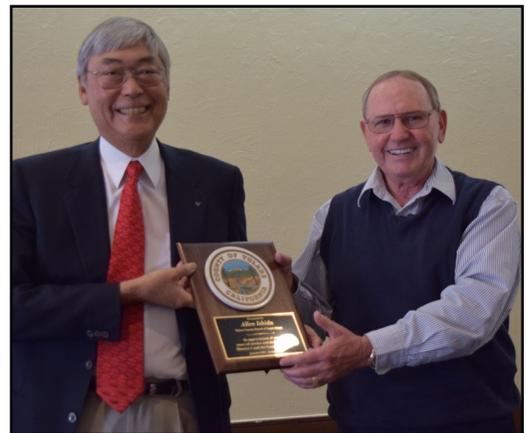
Supervisors recognized the winners of the Movember Challenge at their December 13 meeting. Congratulations to Clint Sims, this year's winner.

^ *Top Right* - CSAC Conference in Palm Springs

Supervisors pictured with Michelle Baldwin (center) Clerk of the Board at the annual CSAC (California State Association of Counties) following her recognition in serving as President of the California Clerk's of the Board Association.

> *Right* - Supervisor Ishida Retires

Supervisor Mike Ennis pictured with Supervisor Ishida during his retirement celebration on December 14. Thank you Supervisor for your 12 years of service to 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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DECEMBER / JANUARY COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS

| Event/Meeting: (Date/Time) | More Information: |
|--|--------------------------|
| Board of Supervisors Meeting: 9:00 a.m. December 20, January 10, January 24 <i>No Meeting: December 27, January 3, January 17</i> | (559) 636-5000 |
| Tulare County Planning Commission: 9:00 a.m. January 11, January 25 | (559) 624-7000 |
| Tulare County Water Commission: 3:00 p.m. January 9 | (559) 636-5000 |
| Tulare County Youth Commission: 3:00 p.m. January 23 | (559) 636-5000 |

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Places to Go Play: Lake Success is located at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley about eight miles east of Porterville on Highway 190. With the scenic Sierra Nevada in the background, Lake Success provides great fishing, boating, water skiing, camping, picnicking, and more. Learn more about Lake Success and other places to "Go Play" at www.tularecountymap.com.