



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY – FEBRUARY 2015

## Chairman's Message: County Ready To Lead State By Example



*Editor's Note: Below is an excerpt from the State of the County, delivered by Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Steve Worthley on Jan. 13, 2015. To see the full speech, please visit [aroundtularecounty.com](http://aroundtularecounty.com)*

As chair for 2015 it is my privilege to share with my colleagues, county staff and county residents a vision for Tulare County in the coming year which I sincerely hope will become a vision shared by one and all.

The finances and employee base of the county have never been stronger. As of August, 2015, the county will have only a \$4 million outstanding long term financial obligation other than our defined benefit retirement plan which at 89% is the highest funded 37 Act retirement system in the state. This is a far cry from where we have come in the last 15 years when 5% of our annual budget was dedicated to servicing the debts of the county. But more important to

the health of our county than a strong financial position are our employees. We have, in my opinion, a team from management to line staff, of unparalleled abilities and work ethic benefiting the residents of Tulare County and providing great services. Without our employees and their commitment to service, nothing could be or would be accomplished and to them I say, thank you.

Now as to short term goals, most of which are already in progress, mention of some of the highlights is appropriate. My apologies to departments that go unmentioned. Even a cursory review of each department's plans would take up the entire morning. The following are representative of ongoing improvements which are occurring throughout the county.

In the Sheriff's Department, newly elected Sheriff Boudreaux continues the transformation using civilians where appropriate while strategically increasing the numbers of sworn officers to benefit our residents and their property. Progress continues on the planning, design and beginning construction of a new jail facility in Porterville and the demolition and reconstruction of training and housing facilities at Sequoia Field.

The county library systems new County Librarian Darla Wegener, will soon be on board and charged with continuing the work already

underway to re-open the Farmersville Branch. Beginning with the vision of one individual, the unincorporated community of London will soon have its own library branch. With no public school or county public facilities of any kind, the library represents a renewed county commitment to the residents of our disadvantaged communities, and to Mr. Robert Isquierdo, raised in London, goes a sincere thanks for remembering his heritage.

Child Support Services Director, Roger Dixon, has recently come on board and is charged with working with our employees in that department to transform the work environment and improve service delivery.

The District Attorney's office under the newly elected DA Tim Ward will be planning on moving its investigative unit into the court house consolidating its operations and improving communication within the department.

Health and Human Services is moving forward on several fronts expanding its workforce to deal with expanded state and federal programs and constructing and staffing a new mental health facility in Porterville.

TO SEE THE FULL SPEECH, PLEASE VISIT:

[aroundtularecounty.com](http://aroundtularecounty.com)

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and

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## Tulare County Hosts 2015 Tech Fair

The Central Valley Technology Expo & Conference (CVTEC) once again brought technology information, products, and services to the underserved audience of Central California.

CVTEC took place in the City of Visalia and was open to all local governments, organizations and businesses in central California.

Hosted by the Tulare County Information & Communications Technology Department (TCiCT), CVTEC is the only large technology conference that occurs between the cities of Sacramento and Los Angeles. TCiCT staff touts decades of experience with technology and its implementation in local government settings.

CVTEC offered companies an efficient and uniquely interactive method for exhibiting and presenting their information to decision makers, as well as general attendees.

Together with TCiCT's technical knowledge and the collaboration with vendors and other governments, CVTEC held more than 40 sessions encompassing trainings, presentations, and panel discussions.

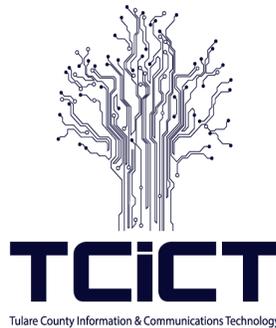
All public sector, education and health employees were invited to attend, along with local businesses and organizations. There was no charge for attendees who were free to view the exhibits and/or participate in the many activities and sessions at the event.

A total of 51 executives/VIPs attended along with close to 500 general attendees. The event also hosted over 30 vendors- seven of which held demonstrations- that took advantage of the opportunity to show off the latest in technology resources.

"The Tech Fair has officially grown into the Central Valley Technology Expo & Confer-

ence," said IT Project Manager and Public Information Officer Megan Flynn. "We grew our name, attendees, variety of vendors, and offered over 40 sessions. We are looking forward to next year!"

For more information about the annual technology event, please visit CVTEC's website at <http://thecvtec.com>.



## Urban Art to Be Displayed at County Buildings

Three pieces of urban art, inspired by the Tulare County Office of Education's CHOICES Prevention Programs, will be showcased at eleven Tulare County locations through April 15.

In February, the art will be on display at the Woodlake, Exeter, Lindsay, Strathmore and Porterville libraries. The last showing of the traveling exhibition will be at Tulare County Government Plaza located at 5961 S. Mooney Blvd in Visalia from April 8 through April 15. This marks the fourth year urban art will

be displayed throughout the county.

Tulare County acquired the urban art through the October 2014 Taste the Arts event held by the Visalia Arts Consortium and sponsored by the Step Up Gang Task Force. Three artists from throughout California were invited to create the paintings inspired by the CHOICES Prevention Programs, which are committed to building the capacity of children to succeed. Part of the CHOICES program mission is to develop students of exceptional character who

are empowered to lead healthy, meaningful, and productive lives.

At the conclusion of the tour, the artwork will be donated to the Tulare County Office of Education. For more information including tour dates, please visit [www.stepuptc.com](http://www.stepuptc.com).



## Employee Spotlight: Roger Dixon & Darla Wegener

### Roger Dixon



In December, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors announced that it had hired Roger Dixon of Las Vegas, Nevada as the new Child Support Services Director.

Dixon has over 20 years of Child Support Services experience and served as an Administrator for the Clark County District Attorney Family Support Division for 8 years before being hired with Tulare County.

“Mr. Dixon will bring a lot of knowledge to the County’s child support system with his many years of experience in the field,” said Supervisor Phil Cox.

Dixon earned two degrees from the University of Phoenix, Arizona – a Bachelor of Busi-

ness Administration, Business Management and a Master of Business Administration, Technology Management.

At the time of his hire, Dixon said “I look forward to residing in Tulare County and serving the families in our community.”

Dixon’s official start date with the County was January 5.

### Darla Wegener



In January, the Board of Supervisors announced the hiring of Darla Wegener of Signal Hill, California as the new County Librarian.

Wegener has worked in library services for over 14 years and was most recently the Library Manager for the city of Long Beach.

“Ms. Wegener will be a

great asset and we look forward to having her be a part of our Tulare County family,” said Chairman of the Board Steve Worthley.

Wegener earned a Bachelor of Art in Child Development from California State University, Los Angeles and a Master in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. She also holds a Certificate in Management/Supervision from Mission College in Santa Clara and a Certificate in Public Library Administration from the American Library Association/Allied Professional Association.

“The work the County and Library does with the community is exemplary and I plan to continue that work and do even more,” said Wegener.

Wegener’s official start date with the County is set for February 9.



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)

## Program Spotlight: Speakers Bureau

Local clubs, civic groups, neighborhood associations, community organizations and schools are all encouraged to enlist the services of the Tulare County Speakers Bureau.

Local Tulare County government professionals are available to speak, free-of-charge, on relevant issues for your club or organization.

The Speakers Bureau is designed to provide public speakers for any event and engages a diverse group of educated, informed, and dedicated local government professionals who are prepared to speak on a wide range of topics relating to County issues.

Some of the more than 200 topics include:

- Crop Statistics
- Tourism
- Fire Safety
- Child Support Services
- Literacy Programs
- County Water/Land use
- Gang Awareness
- Marijuana Eradication
- Rural Crime Prevention
- Request a Supervisor

“Our mission is to make constituents more aware of the programs, services, and issues impacting local government and their communities,” said Supervisor Mike Ennis. “Tulare County government employees are an excellent resource in that they have many stories

to share and are capable of providing answers to questions about services.”

To request a speaker visit: [www.aroundtularecounty.com](http://www.aroundtularecounty.com) and click “Speakers Bureau”. Fill out the reservation form and select a topic. Requests must be received three weeks in advance of a scheduled meeting, conference, or event to ensure appropriate time for scheduling.

Staff of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors looks forward to assisting event organizers and will make every attempt to schedule a speaker on the date requested.

Want your program to be in the spotlight? Please send suggestions to: [newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)



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# Board of Supervisors Seeks Candidates for Boards & Commissions

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors is actively seeking candidates to fill vacancies on County Boards, Commissions, and Special Districts that have positions available for appointment.

The Board of Supervisors appoints to 42 Boards and Commissions and 24 Special Districts. If you are interested in applying for an available position, application forms are available on the County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors website, [www.tularecounty.ca.gov/clerkoftheboard](http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/clerkoftheboard).

The vacancy listing to the right is a partial list of the current Boards, Commissions, and Special Districts currently seeking candidates. A full listing is available online.

For additional information or questions, please feel free to contact the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors' Office at (559) 636-5000.



**Month: February 2015**

**District Specific Appointments**

**District 1 - Supervisor Allen Ishida**

Board/Commission/Special District	Position Available	Term Ending Date
Fish and Wildlife	District 1	September 4, 2016
Health Advisory Committee	Resident - District 1	February 1, 2017

**District 2 - Supervisor Pete Vander Poel**

Board/Commission/Special District	Position Available	Term Ending Date
Public Facilities Corporation	Regular Member	July 1, 2015
Youth Commission	District 2 - Seat 2	June 30, 2017

**District 3 - Supervisor Phil Cox**

Board/Commission/Special District	Position Available	Term Ending Date
Public Facilities Corporation	Regular Member	July 1, 2016

**District 4 - Supervisor Steve Worthley**

Board/Commission/Special District	Position Available	Term Ending Date
Youth Commission	District 4 - Seat 1	June 30, 2015

**District 5 - Supervisor Mike Ennis**

Board/Commission/Special District	Position Available	Term Ending Date
Library Advisory Board	District 5 - Member	December 31, 2016
Planning Commission	Director 5	December 31, 2015
Health Advisory Committee	District 5 - Resident	February 1, 2017

**Other Vacancy Appointments - Not District Specific**

Boards & Commissions	Position Available	Term Ending Date
Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee	Member No. 7 - Non Perm Crop Farming	June 30, 2016
Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee	Member No. 6 Livestock/Range	June 30, 2018
Airport Land Use Commission	Member No. 2 - Aviation	December 31, 2015
Child Care Planning Council	Child Care Provider	June 30, 2016
Child Care Planning Council	Parent/Consumer	June 30, 2015
Child Care Planning Council	Community Representative	June 30, 2016
Child Care Planning Council	Community Representative	June 30, 2016

**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 Melissa Withnell.

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**FEBRUARY COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS**

Meeting: (Date/Time)	More Information:
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: 9 a.m., Feb. 24.	(559) 636-5000
World Ag Expo: Feb. 10-12.	(559) 688-1030
Tulare County Youth Commission Grant Workshop: 9 a.m., Feb. 11	(559) 636-5000
Tulare County Association of Governments: 1 p.m., Feb. 17.	(559) 623-0450
Tulare County Planning Commission: 9 a.m., Feb. 25	(559) 624-7000



**Places to Go Play:** The Tulare County Museum of Farm Labor and Agriculture is located at Mooney Grove Park in Visalia. The 17,000-square foot structure showcases the people who have lived in, used and farmed the San Joaquin Valley during the past 500 years. Learn more about the Museum of Farm Labor and Agriculture and other places in Tulare County to "Go Play" at

[www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).