

# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY - JULY 2011

## Chairman's Message: County Offers Two New Customer Service Tools



As Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, I want to provide an update on two outreach initiatives I highlighted in the January 25, 2011 State of the County Address.

Both of these tools were launched in June.

### Online Citizen Request Form:

The online citizen request form provides Tulare County residents another way to communicate with County departments about an issue that needs resolving.

The online request form has a link on the Board of Supervisors page. After clicking the link, you will be taken to a page with a form to enter contact information, the department with which you need assistance, and a description of the problem. When you hit "submit," your correspondence will go to Board staff.

Upon receipt, County staff will forward the inquiry to the appropriate department and respond to the

constituent.

The Online Citizen Request Form is located at:

<http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/board/citizensrequest.asp>

### Tulare County Speakers Bureau:

Tulare County government features a collection of qualified professionals whose backgrounds, skills and talents serve as a primary framework for the County's dedication to outstanding service. Tulare County government employees are an excellent resource in that they have many stories to share and are capable of providing answers to important questions about services.

The Tulare County Speakers Bureau is designed to provide public speakers for any event. Presentations on anything from the budgeting process to road maintenance are available and can be of interest to local clubs, civic groups, neighborhood associations, community organizations and schools.

To request a speaker, please fill out the Speaker's Bureau Reservation Form and select a topic. The Speakers Bureau page is located at [www.aroundtularecounty.com](http://www.aroundtularecounty.com)

All requests must be received three weeks in advance of a scheduled meeting, conference or event to ensure appropriate time for scheduling. No request will be considered as confirmed without the submission of a completed Reservation Form and confirmation provided by Speakers Bureau staff.

Staff of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors looks forward to assisting event organizers with providing relevant and interesting information to their audiences. Tulare County will make every attempt to schedule a speaker on the date requested.

These two initiatives would not have been possible without the help of County departments. I would like to thank them for their help.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these programs, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at 559/636-5000 or by email at [mennis@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:mennis@co.tulare.ca.us).

Mike Ennis, Chairman  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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Do you have an idea for a feature in the Around Tulare County newsletter? We would appreciate your feedback. Please let us know at

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

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## Around Tulare County: [www.aroundtularecounty.com](http://www.aroundtularecounty.com)

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### Input Needed for Parking Lot VI Construction Project

“This construction project will create an inconvenience for people who are accustomed to parking around the courthouse and main jail.”

Capital Projects Manager Brian Summers

Tulare County is asking residents who park near the Tulare County Superior Courthouse in Visalia to take an online survey in order to plan and lessen the impacts of a construction project that will eliminate 312 parking spaces during a two month period.

At least one alternate parking spot - a lot near the Tulare County Administrative Office - has been identified during the construction of the Parking Lot VI project. Parking Lot VI is located just north of the Tulare County Main Jail and will add 166 parking spaces for a total of 478 spaces.

Tulare County Capital Projects Manager Brian Summers said transportation will be provided to residents and employees who utilize the alternate parking site. There will be no charge to use the transportation. The online survey will determine when and how frequent transportation will need to be provided. Identifying additional alternate parking is also underway.

“This construction project will create an inconvenience for people who are accustomed to parking around the courthouse and main jail,” Summers said. “We want to make sure that we make

every attempt to lessen the impacts of this construction project and provide convenient alternatives.”

Residents can visit <http://ow.ly/5iLep> to take the survey or by visiting [www.aroundtularecounty.com](http://www.aroundtularecounty.com).

Notification and a survey have also been sent to Tulare County employees regarding this matter.

The total cost of the Parking Lot VI construction project is \$875,000. Upon completion, the project will add an additional 166 parking spaces for a total of 478 spaces.

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### RMA Committee to Improve Project Planning Process

“This committee will help the project review process go more smoothly and save both time and money for the development community.” Ben Kimball, RMA Chief Planner.

Residents seeking to implement planning projects in Tulare County should have an easier time doing so thanks to a new project review committee, Resource Management Agency (RMA) officials announced.

RMA officials said the purpose of the Tulare County Project Review Committee is to review development project applications prior to formal submittal to help identify potential issues and guide customers through the process.

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors voted on March 22, 2011 to establish the Project Review Committee, which includes the Public Works Director, Planning Director, County Health Officer, County Fire Chief, the County Building and Housing Manager, and other

designees. The Project Review Committee officially began reviewing applications on May 23.

“This committee will help the project review process go more smoothly and save both time and money for the development community,” said Ben Kimball, RMA Chief Planner. “The applicant and their agents will have an opportunity to hear staff’s concerns and suggestions, as well as seek answers to their questions regarding the projects.”

Kimball said the pre-application review will provide information on relevant general or specific plan policies, zoning and subdivision regulations, development standards, building and fire codes, and procedures related to projects pursuant to the

adopted County Zoning Ordinance and policies.

Kimball said the committee will review development proposals through a mandatory pre-application process. Examples of proposals include: changes of zone; development agreements; general plan amendments and variations; preliminary site plans; special use permits; tentative parcel maps, and more.

The cost of the process is \$750. RMA officials said the up-front cost should save the applicant money because the pre-application process should lower the amount of staff hours charged to projects with hourly rate fees and later flat fees will be reduced to reflect the lower costs.

## Employee Spotlight: Mike Dickerson



Mike Dickerson, green shirt, pictured with the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

Mike Dickerson, a Tulare County Capital Projects/Facilities Division facilities specialist, has been selected as the 2010 Tulare County Employee of the Year, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors announced on June 28.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Mike Ennis said more than 125 County of Tulare employees were nominated from 16 departments. The Capital Projects/Facilities Division is a branch of the Tulare County Administrative Office.

“Being recognized as the employee of the year of an

organization that employs thousands of people is an outstanding honor,” Chairman Ennis said. “I commend Mike and all other nominees for making a difference and taking pride in their work.”

Tulare County Assistant Administrative Officer Kristin Bennett said Dickerson was nominated for his strong work ethic and ability to generate revenue saving ideas.

“Mike is a dedicated employee, and is well respected by his staff, peers and the customers who use the facilities assigned to him,” Bennett said. “Mike’s work habits, personal traits and characteristics truly exemplify what it means to be an employee of the year.”

Bennett credits Dickerson for: saving the county \$44,000 annually by identifying inefficiency in the way time cards were picked up and dropped off and developing a comprehensive training program for new and existing facilities staff.

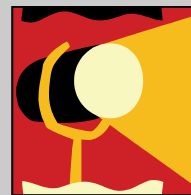
Some of the duties a Tulare County facilities specialist include: provide direct oversight in the planning, direction and supervision of the Facilities Division of the County Administrative Office in the operation, maintenance and repair of County facilities; to advise and assist management to establish project and funding priorities and maintenance service levels; administration and implementation of various facility construction and major maintenance projects.

Dickerson has worked for Tulare County for 10 years.

Tulare County employs approximately 4,000 employees.

Send Mike a congratulations note at:

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



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: Summer Reading Programs

Two summer reading programs for youth and adults kicked off in June at the Tulare County Library Branch in Visalia.

### Youth Program: Summer Reading Program

Tulare County Deputy Librarian Jeff Scott said the Tulare County Summer Reading Program is designed for children and encourages them to read through an incentive program. For every five books read, at home or at the library, participants will receive educational toys, trinkets, and other items.

Youth participants will receive a “Library Champion Sign” for reading 25 books this summer.

“Our Summer Reading Program encourages kids to read,” Scott said. “Keeping a child’s mind active during the summer improves tests scores and overall school performance.”

### Adult Summer Reading Program:

Scott said dozens of adults attended a kick off event for the Adult Summer Reading Program.

Novel Destinations is the theme for this year's program at the Tulare County Library. Watch a foreign film, read an international book, learn travel tips or plan a dream vacation. The 2011 Summer Reading Program is open to adults ages 18 and older with programs, prizes, films, book discussions and special events.

For more information visit Tulare County Library’s website at [www.tularecountylibrary.org](http://www.tularecountylibrary.org).



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

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

AROUND TULARE COUNTY - BACK PAGE

"Jeff's decades of public service in the San Joaquin Valley make him a great addition to the Tulare County team," Board of Supervisors Chairman Mike Ennis

**Tulare County Names New HR&D Director**

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors today appointed Jeff Cardell as the Human Resources & Development Director.

Cardell has more than 25 years of human resources experience in the public sector, where he has worked with the Fresno Housing Authority, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Westlands Water District, and the City of Madera.

More recent, Cardell has served as the personnel and risk management manager with the City of Clovis' General Services Department. In this capacity he has also served as the President, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management Authority. He has served as the Past President, President, Vice-President and Treasurer of the Local Agency Workers' Compensation Excess Joint

Powers Authority. He served a one year term as an Alternate Board Member for the CSAC-EIA and has been the Treasurer of the Central Valley Chapter of the Public Agency Risk Managers Association.

"Jeff's decades of public service in the San Joaquin Valley make him a great addition to the Tulare County team," said Mike Ennis, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

As the director of human resources and development, some of Cardell's duties include: provide overall administrative and program direction in various human resources areas; recommend to the Board of Supervisors and/or County Administrative Office proposed policies, rules and procedures; prepare, present, and administer department budget; manage various employee benefit programs;

and oversee employee relations functions.

Cardell earned a degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fresno in 1986 and a Masters of Public Administration from National University in 2008. He will officially start on July 18, 2011 and earn \$126,000 annually.

Cardell and his wife Cheryl of 23 years reside in Fresno and have two children; Evan, 18, and Chad, 16.

Cardell will replace Tim Huntley, who retired Dec. 17, 2010 after six years of service with 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 Jed Chernabaeff or Jeff Forbes.

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**JULY COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS**

**Meeting: (Date/Time)**

**More Information:**

L.A.F.C.O. Meeting. July 6. 2 p.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Water Commission: July 11. 3 p.m.	559/636-5000
Board of Supervisors' Meeting: July 12, 26. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: July 13, 27. 9 a.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Youth Commission: July 20. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
T.C.A.G. Meeting: July 25. 1 p.m.	559/624-7000

For more information, visit: [www.co.tulare.ca.us](http://www.co.tulare.ca.us) and click on "County Calendar"



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