



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY - NOVEMBER 2011

## Supervisor's Message: eTRIP Update



As Tulare County's representative to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) governing board and its current chairman, I would like to provide an update regarding a measure the Air District passed to encourage residents to utilize alternate transportation.

In 2009, the SJVAPCD approved Rule 9410: Employer Based Trip Reduction (eTRIP). This measure requires larger employers - including Tulare County government - to establish employee trip reduction programs. These programs are designed to encourage employees to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips, thus reducing pollutant emissions associated with work commutes.

The eTRIP rule requires employers to implement the plan in three phases during the next three years. Phase I calls for the employer to implement "Marketing & Program Support" strategies. Phase II includes "Services & Facilities" strategies. Phase III includes "Transportation, Alternative Schedules, and Incentives" strategies.

### How will this impact County of Tulare government in 2012?

In 2012, you will notice more information being distributed to you regarding the benefits of carpooling. An eTRIP bulletin board will be posted at your worksite this month and December. This bulletin board will provide you with a quarterly newsletter, transit information, and tips for carpooling and reducing the amount of time you spend in your vehicle. A number of County employees are being trained to help assist you in finding alternative transportation should you be interested.

### Benefits

Under this rule, utilizing alternate transportation is voluntary, but I would like to point out some benefits you may not have considered.

**Money Saver:** The average commuter spends more than \$7,500/year on commuting expenses. This includes the cost of gas, wear and tear on your vehicle, maintenance, and insurance. Simply sharing rides with one person and alternating vehicles can reduce gas consumption and wear and tear by one-half.

**Help the environment:** Mobile vehicle sources are the main source of air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley. Utilizing alternate transportation at least once a week will help.

**Less stress:** Studies have shown that the longer your regular commute is the greater amount of stress you feel. Stress often leads to feeling fatigued, headaches, and irritable moods which can then affect your work performance. If you do have a long commute then you should consider other options such as carpooling or vanpooling. That way you have someone to interact with and you will be able to let them worry about what other drivers are doing.

**Better health:** Long-term commuting has been known to lead to health problems like high blood pressure, back problems, weight gain or loss, and even chest pain. Commuters who use alternate transportation tend to live much happier and healthier lives than those who drive single occupancy vehicles.

Should you have any questions about the eTRIP program, please send an email to [etriptc@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:etriptc@co.tulare.ca.us)

J. Steven Worthley, District Four  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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TULARE COUNTY  
BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS

## County Seeks Qualified Candidates for Board Seats

The County of Tulare Clerk of the Board Office is accepting applications from interested and qualified District One and District Four residents to fill two vacancies on the Tulare County Assessment Appeals Board and a District Three resident to fill one vacancy on the Housing Authority of Tulare County Board.

### Assessment Appeals Board

The purpose of the appeals board is to determine the full value of property or to determine other matters of property tax assessment over which the appeals board has jurisdiction.

A person shall not be eligible for nomination for membership on an assessment appeals board unless he or she has a minimum of five years professional experience in the state as one of the following: certified public accountant or public accountant, licensed real estate broker, attorney,

property appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized professional organization, property appraiser certified by the Office of Real Estate Appraisers, or property appraiser certified by the State Board of Equalization.

The appeals board meets on the third Monday of each month in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers (with the exception of January, February, and December which are adjusted due to County holidays). There are also no meetings scheduled in April or May. Each Board member receives a \$150 stipend per meeting along with mileage reimbursement.

### Housing Authority of Tulare County Board

The Housing Authority of Tulare County Board functions much like the board of directors in a large corporation. The Board is responsible for setting organizational policy and

hiring the Executive Director.

Board members are appointed to four-year terms by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

The board meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Housing Authority office. Each Board member receives a \$50 stipend per meeting and receives \$.22 per mile to and from the meeting.

### Applications

Applications for the Assessment Appeals Board and the Housing Authority of Tulare County Board can be obtained from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors located at the County Administration Building, 2800 W. Burrel, Visalia CA 93291-4582 or you can call (559) 636-5000 and request an application to be mailed to you.

## Parking Lot VI Project Complete



An old building was demolished in July...



to make way for more parking spaces in October.

Residents and employees seeking to park near the Tulare County Superior Courthouse in Visalia should have plenty of parking spaces thanks to the completion of the Parking Lot VI construction project.

The Parking Lot VI construction project, located at the corner of Main St. and Woodland St., started in July 2011 and finished in late October. The public and employees will have access to the parking lot on Monday, Oct. 31.

"Tulare County would like to thank the public, employees and our neighbors for their patience during the construction project," said Kristin Bennett, Assistant County Administrative Officer. "The added 166 parking spaces and the reconfigured layout will ease the Civic Center parking challenges."

The construction project cost \$875,000 and added 166 parking spaces for a total of 468 parking spaces. The lot is designated as "All Day" parking.

During the construction project, a number of alternate parking spaces were provided. In some cases, shuttle service was provided to and from the alternate parking spaces and the courthouse.

## Employee Spotlight: TCAG Award Recipients

The Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) presented its Local Motion Awards in October in 11 categories to people and projects involved in transportation in Tulare County.

Tulare County won three of the categories and shared recognition in one other.

The Tulare County winners were:

**Outstanding Elected Official:** Tulare County Supervisor Phil Cox; for Measure R leadership.

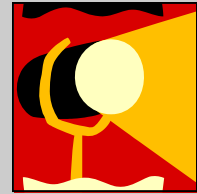
**Outstanding Public Employee:** Britt Fussel, assistant director of the

Tulare County Resource Management Agency; for leadership in public works projects.

**Connectivity:** Tulare County LOOP Bus Program. Dan Fox, manager of Tulare County Area Transit; for providing free transportation and activities for at-risk youth.

**Economic Development:** Betty Drive Project - Tulare County, City of Visalia, and State Department of Transportation, Omni-Means, California Transportation Commission and TCAG; for improved access to Visalia's business park.

TCAG is an independent regional agency comprising the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and one Council member from Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay, Porterville, Tulare, Visalia, and Woodlake. TCAG is responsible for overseeing and planning projects with the county and each of its cities, helping to bring tax money to fund bus service, road improvements, air quality improvement projects, and more.



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: Brighten a Child's Winter Sky Toy Drive

The Brighten a Child's Winter Sky Toy Drive is conducted every year to provide gifts to Tulare County children within the CWS system, more commonly known as Child Protective Services.

Unfortunately, many of these children are in the CWS system due to child abuse or neglect, but in all cases these children undergo the trauma of disruption to their families.

Last year, due to the generosity of Tulare County employees, community organizations and residents, we were able to distribute more than 2,000 gifts to more than 1,700 children. Their joy of being remembered by their community and opening these wrapped gestures of love was truly a magical moment for these children. Friends of Tulare County and the Toy Drive Committee are hoping that the employees of Tulare County will assist us in our

mission to brighten these children's holiday season by making a donation this year.

The Children's Toy Drive is made possible by employees of Tulare County who have volunteered their time and resources. The Toy Drive Committee consists of staff from various areas of the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency as well as other Tulare County entities such as Probation, County Counsel, Information and Communications Technology, and Friends of Tulare County. Large donation drop off boxes located throughout Tulare County and the gift wrapping of all the donated items will be done by staff from the HHSA Administration Team and TulareWORKs. CWS Social Workers will be delivering all of the donated items to each of the children represented in the Toy Drive once December rolls around.

As in previous years, Friends of Tulare County will be accepting donations for the CWS Toy Drive via mail. Checks made out to Friends of Tulare County may be sent to 5957 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA 93277, Attn: Katie Arnst. Please write CWS Toy Drive in the memo line. Friends of Tulare County, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is the agency that accepts donations on behalf of Tulare County. This allows for donations to be potentially tax-deductible for the donors. The Friends of Tulare County tax identification number is: 84-1635929. To all those who will help the 2011 Toy Drive reach their goal, thank you for helping to provide the disadvantaged children of Tulare County with gifts for the holiday season.



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

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

## Board of Supervisors Appoint Joe Garcia as Fire Chief



The Tulare County Board of Supervisors in October appointed Joe M. Garcia as the Tulare County Fire Department Chief.

Chief Garcia has more than 37 years in the California fire service, starting as a Paid-Call Firefighter in 1974 at the Terra Bella Tulare County station. He also worked with the Porterville State Hospital Fire Department, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and, more recent, was hired as a Division Chief with the Tulare County Fire Department when it was established by the Board of Supervisors in 2006.

"Joe has had a proven track-record of success throughout his fire service career and has a statewide reputation of being an effective leader," said Mike Ennis, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. "We are pleased to fill the Fire Chief position with someone of Joe's caliber."

In Fiscal Year 2006/07, prior to the official start of the Tulare County Fire Department, Chief Garcia developed all aspects of the Fire Prevention Division, which included: the creation of programs, processes, procedures, forms, checklists, standard operating procedures, policies, training, workload analysis, staffing needs and justifications, budget needs, vehicle and transportation needs. In addition, Chief Garcia helped staff and train the Fire Prevention Division.

As the Fire Chief, some of Garcia's responsibilities include: direct and indirect supervision of all Fire Department employees; development of annual plans and objectives; budgeting; long-range planning to provide optimum support for ongoing operations; and direct emergency operations during major events and in other situations as required.

Chief Garcia earned an Associate of Science degree in Psychiatric Technology from Porterville College in 1981 and a Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix in 1990. He will officially started his Fire Chief duties on Oct. 24 and will earn \$115,000 annually.

Chief Garcia and his wife of 39 years reside in Visalia and have two sons and six

grandchildren.

Chief Garcia will replace Steve Sunderland, who retired Aug. 12, 2011 after more than 40 years in fire service.

"I would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their confidence in me and granting me this opportunity. I grew up in Tulare County and I am proud of the many positive aspects that the county offers to both its citizens and visitors," Chief Garcia said. "The last five years have been dedicated to creating the department and establishing a solid foundation. I am glad to be given an opportunity to further edify the department and look forward to the challenges and serving my community."

### 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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### NOVEMBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

#### Meeting: (Date/Time)

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Nov. 1, 8, 15. 9 a.m.  
Tulare County Planning Commission: Nov. 2, 16. 9 a.m.  
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Nov. 2. 2 p.m.  
Tulare County Water Commission: Nov. 14. 3 p.m.  
Tulare County Youth Commission Meeting: Nov. 21. 3 p.m.

#### More Information:

559/636-5000  
559/624-7000  
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559/636-5005  
559/636-5000

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



**Places to Go Play:** Cutler Park is located 5 miles east of Visalia on Hwy. 216 as you drive toward the community of Ivanhoe. The 50-acre park was founded in 1919 and is home to a large stand of heritage-quality Oak trees. The park has a large playground and several picnic areas. Learn more about Cutler Park and other places to "Go Play" at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).