



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY – NOVEMBER 2012

Supervisor's Message: County Recognized for Road Projects



Each year your local government is hard at work transforming how we live, work and travel by planning and maintaining Tulare County's transportation network. A robust transportation network is one key to economic development, safety, and self-sufficiency for our residents.

In October, the Tulare County Association of Governments hosted its second annual Local Motion Awards luncheon to acknowledge the projects, citizens, public officials and plans that have contributed to transportation planning in the region.

I'm pleased to announce that out of 11 categories, four Tulare County projects won recognition and two received honorable mentions. The categories the County won include:

Led by the Resource Management Agency (RMA), Tulare County's Share the Road Committee won in the **Bike or Pedestrian Project** category. The purpose of the committee is to bring together all the stakeholders associated with biking and pedestrians, including bike clubs, runners groups, local schools, city officials, Tulare

County Sheriff's Office, the CHP, Tulare County Association of Governments and various divisions of the Tulare County government to identify remedies to the pedestrian, bike and vehicle conflicts on County roads.

RMA also played a big part in the Road 80 project, which takes it from a two lane undivided road to a four lane divided road from Visalia to Dinuba. This project received accolades in the **Outstanding Road Project** category. In addition to the road being widened, five new traffic signals are being installed, six existing traffic signals are being upgraded, three bridges will be widened, two railroad crossings are being modified, and curb, gutter, and sidewalk will be installed in Dinuba.

RMA also led the Road 108 widening project and received recognition in the **Connectivity** category. This project will provide enhanced access between Visalia and Tulare by increasing the capacity of the roadway, improving safety, and will facilitate the movement of goods, services and people between the two cities. Upon completion the project will improve access for the "farm to market" routes within the County.

Last, but not least, the Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update received recognition in the **Sustainability**

category. The County's General Plan provides a comprehensive, long-term plan for land use and physical development in the unincorporated areas of the County. The County's General Plan consists of development policies that set forth objectives, principles and standards that guide land use decisions within the County.

In addition to the winners, there was one employee and one project that received honorable mention.

RMA's Dave Bryant received an honorable mention for **Outstanding Public Employee** for his tireless work on many major projects, including the General Plan Update.

Tulare County Area Transit received an honorable mention for the **Transit Award** based on its recent expansion of services.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, we would like to commend all the folks at RMA and other departments who helped make each project a success.

Steve Worthley, District Four
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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District Attorney Announces Retirement

“I would like to thank District Attorney Cline for his years of leadership and commend him for his innovation. Tulare County has been very lucky to have Phil Cline as District Attorney.”
Chairman Allen Ishida

Tulare County District Attorney Phil Cline formally announced at the Oct. 9 Board of Supervisors meeting his intentions to retire from office on December 15, 2012 and made a recommendation to fill his position for the last two years of his current four-year term.

On Oct. 16, the Board of Supervisors appointed the District Attorney's recommendation, Assistant District Attorney Tim Ward.

“I'm very, very proud of all of the people who have worked for me as District Attorney and who I've worked with as District Attorney. It's been something that has made me a success. It's not due to my efforts as much as it is to their support of me. I honor this Board and thank this Board for supporting me,” said District Attorney Cline as he addressed the Board of Supervisors.

District Attorney Phil Cline's current term began on January 3, 2011 and was set to expire January 5, 2015. The District Attorney's position will be up for reelection in 2014. District Attorney Cline began his career in this elected position when he was appointed in 1992 to complete the term of his predecessor, Jerry Sevier.

During his address, District Attorney Cline recommended that the Board of Supervisors appoint Tulare County Assistant District Attorney Tim Ward as his successor based on his success as a prosecutor and his administrative experience background, particularly with administering the department's budget.

Ward was hired as a Tulare

County Deputy District Attorney in 1999. In 2006, he was hired as Supervising Attorney and was later promoted to his current position, Assistant District Attorney, in April 2011. The Assistant District Attorney position serves as an assistant department head and assists in the planning, organization, coordination and direction of the legal and administrative functions of the department.

The Board of Supervisors has the authority to appoint all vacancies in any office filled by the appointment of the Board and elective officers, except Judge of the Superior Court and Supervisors.

“I would like to thank District Attorney Cline for his years of leadership and commend him for his innovation. Tulare County has been very lucky to have Phil Cline as District Attorney,” Chairman Ishida said.

Accomplishments

Since taking office in 1992, Phil Cline initiated numerous programs that enhanced public safety and addressed the needs of victims of crime. Some of those programs include:

Established the Violent Crimes Division, which includes specially assigned prosecutors and investigators to handle homicide, career criminal, major narcotics, and gang cases.

Creation of the first County Gang Task Force. The DA's office still coordinates multi-agency anti-gang operations around the County as well as high profile patrols that reduce gang presence and violence at family and community events such as the

county fairs, holiday parades and car shows.

Creation of a Family Protection Division with specially assigned prosecutors and investigators to handle Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse, and Child Abduction cases. As part of this effort, he introduced the Child Abuse Response Team (CART) program to insure child victims were not re-victimized by repeated and unnecessary examinations and interviews.

An especially important accomplishment involved Mr. Cline personally creating the State's first multiple County Rural Crime program to protect the agricultural industry from crime. He traveled frequently to Sacramento and Washington D.C. in order to obtain funding for the program and eventually oversaw the creation of Ag Crime task forces in each of the Counties in the Central Valley. The ACTION project (Agricultural Crime Technology, Information and Operations Network), a conceptual offshoot of the Rural Crime Program, introduced high technology to the fight against agricultural crime and was used to link each County task force in the Central Valley.

To read more about District Attorney Phil Cline's accomplishments, please visit: <http://bit.ly/TJWIR>



District Attorney Cline made his retirement announcement at the Oct. 9, 2012 BOS meeting.

Tim Ward to Serve As District Attorney



On October 16, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors appointed Tim Ward to serve as District Attorney.

The appointment comes as a result of longtime Tulare County District Attorney Phil Cline announcing his retirement earlier in the month. District Attorney Cline, scheduled to retire on December 15, 2012, recommended Assistant District Attorney Tim Ward be appointed to fill the remainder of his term.

District Attorney Phil Cline's current term began on January 3, 2011 and was set to expire January 5, 2015. The District Attorney's position will be up for reelection in

2014. District Attorney Cline began his career in this elected position when he was appointed in 1992 to complete the term of his predecessor, Jerry Sevier.

District Attorney Cline recommended that the Board of Supervisors appoint Tulare County Assistant District Attorney Tim Ward as his successor based on his success as a prosecutor and his administrative experience background, particularly with administering the department's budget.

"Tim is eminently qualified and ready to serve the mantle of District Attorney," District Attorney Cline said.

November 2012 marks Ward's 13th anniversary with the Tulare County District Attorney's Office. Tim was promoted to Assistant District Attorney in April 2011 and is in charge of the Bureau of

Administration, overseeing all logistical operations of the largest law office in Tulare County.

Since joining the District Attorney's Office, Tim has held numerous assignments varying from Felony Trial Division, Juvenile Division, and the Porterville Division. He has completed a number of special prosecution assignments where he prosecuted Agricultural Crime, Career Criminal, and Homicide cases. In 2005, Tim was promoted to Supervising Deputy District Attorney and has supervised both the Juvenile Divisions and Porterville Divisions. In addition, he has supervised the Operations Division consisting of the Support staff, I.T., Fiscal, Special Programs, and the Victim Advocate units.



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

Program Spotlight: Safe Food Handling Awards

Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency's Environmental Health Division, in coordination with the California Restaurant Association (CRA), Central Valley Chapter, launched the Excellence in Safe Food Handling Awards Program in March 2010.

Tulare County restaurants and retail food establishments that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to food handling safety are awarded a Certificate of Excellence.

In an effort to shine the spotlight on consistent safe

food handling practices Tulare County Environmental Health has initiated an awards program to acknowledge food facilities that have received three consecutive routine inspections scores that are 95% or higher.

To commend restaurateurs for the sustained effort needed to maintain such high standards a certificate of recognition suitable for framing and a gold seal to display in the window will be awarded.

The award rewards consistent safe food handling

procedures in local food establishments. Winning food establishments are presented with a certificate and window display to promote their food safety record to the public.

This is an ongoing program and will focus on lowering the risk of food related illness. It is HHSA's hope that recognizing the efforts required to maintain these high standards will encourage others to emulate safe food handling practices.

For a list of recipients, please visit: <http://bit.ly/WYrLsN>

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

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

Did you know?

The Tulare-Kings County Restaurant Association actively promotes facilities that have earned this honor. The names of award winners are posted and forwarded to local media for additional recognition.

For more information on the Excellence in Food Safety Awards, or information on Environmental Health Services Division, call 559-624-7400.

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County to Crack Down on Walnut Thieves

“County staff will be actively enforcing the new ordinance by conducting compliance checks at places where walnuts are sold to ensure that [stealing walnuts] stops.” Marilyn Kinoshita, Ag Commissioner

Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner Marilyn Kinoshita announced the walnut-buying period will begin November 1 and the County’s newly amended nut theft ordinance will be enforced.

“Many people look forward to selling and buying walnuts in Tulare County,” Kinoshita said. “Unfortunately, some people steal them from orchards and sell the walnuts illegally on the streets. County staff will be actively enforcing the new ordinance by conducting compliance checks at places where walnuts are sold to ensure that this practice stops.”

On August 28, 2012, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved amendments to an existing nut theft ordinance to assist with an issue that has long plagued the walnut

industry. Walnuts are typically shaken from the trees and left unattended until workers can gather them up, making them prime targets for overnight heists.

One amendment to the ordinance mandates that non-processing walnut-buying stands shall not operate within the boundaries’ of Tulare County until a “Walnut Buying Period”, as established by the Agricultural Commissioner, is in effect.

Kinoshita said that after reaching consensus with growers, it has been determined that the walnut-buying period is November 1.

Documentation required to sell walnuts at a non-processing walnut-buying stand

The County’s nut theft ordinance states:

Upon probable cause to believe any amount of walnuts regulated pursuant to this ordinance is in unlawful possession, proof of ownership shall be made available for inspection upon request of the commissioner or any peace officer. The record shall contain the following information:

- Name, address, driver’s license number, telephone number, signature of seller.
- Name, address, telephone number, and signature of buyer.
- Vehicle license plate number of the seller.
- Common or generic name and quantity of the commodity involved.
- Date and time of the transaction.

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)

More Information:

Board of Supervisors’ Meeting: Nov. 6, 13. 9 a.m.	559/636-5000
L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Nov. 7. 2 p.m.	559/624-7274
Tulare County Water Commission: Will not meet in November.	559/636-5005
Tulare County Planning Commission: Nov. 14, 28. 9 a.m.	559/624-7000
Tulare County Association of Governments: Nov. 19. 1 p.m.	559/624-7274



Places to Go Play: Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club has a 7,482-yard championship golf course created by noted golf course designer John Fought. This golf course boasts one of the longest par fives in California, measuring out at a massive 653 yards. This 18-hole public premium golf course features the largest driving range west of the Rockies (more than 25 acres) as well as Three Finger Jack’s. Learn more about Ridge Creek Dinuba Golf Club and other places to “Go Play” at www.tularecountymap.com.