



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY - OCTOBER 2011

## Supervisor's Message: Help Those in Need



For several years there were two trees in my front yard. One a shade tree in the center of the lawn, the other an ornamental tree on the far edge. Every morning as I would leave for work, I would wash off my truck with the garden hose and throw the running hose at the base of the shade tree right before turning it off. This happened for several years and just became a habit. It gave me pleasure to watch the shade tree grow and benefit from the daily watering.

Last week I was asked to speak at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the Central Valley Recovery Services organization which provides services to those battling with addiction and mental health issues. There was a diverse group of people in

attendance. I call it the group of judges to addicts. Steve Ford, actor and son of President Gerald and Betty Ford was also a speaker. He spoke of his battle with alcohol addiction and also the effects his mother's addiction had on their family.

I couldn't help but think of those two trees in the front yard. One watered and cared for each day, and the other tree off to the side, seldom seen, rarely watered and almost never thought about. My goal had been to nurture this shade tree and help it become the best it could be, (providing shade for the house and my family).

Serving as a Supervisor for Tulare County has helped strengthen me as an individual in many ways. Learning about programs and services the County and other agencies provide to people struggling with addiction or mental health issues has opened my eyes that there is another tree in my front yard that needs attention. That little tree eventually was removed because it just did not grow,

it did not get the care it needed. There are people living here in Tulare County, our friends, neighbors and family members who need that daily attention and care.

My hat is off to the many agencies and programs in Tulare County that spend the time with those who need the most attention. The vulnerable, the abused and the forgotten. People like Ramona Robertson with Central Valley Recovery Services make miracles happen every day. There are too many names to mention in this venue, but God bless you for all you do. You never know someone's potential until you give them the attention they need and deserve. I feel we all have the responsibility to help those in need so that they can some day grow into their full potential.

Phi Cox, District Three  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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## Tulare County Snap Shots: Oct. 4 Board of Supervisors Meeting



Supervisor Ennis presents Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the Oct. 4 Supervisors' meeting.



Tulare County 4-H was recognized and honored at Oct. 4 Supervisors' meeting.

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## Tulare County Passes Balanced Budget

“Tulare County will continue to spend within its means and provide a balanced budget. I want to thank all employees who have continued to provide excellent service through these tough times.”  
Board of Supervisors  
Chairman Mike Ennis

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors on September 20 unanimously approved a \$953.8 million balanced spending plan recommended by County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau for Fiscal Year 2011-12.

“Tulare County will continue to spend within its means and provide a balanced budget,” said Mike Ennis, Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. “I want to thank all employees who have continued to provide excellent service through these tough times.”

The 2011-12 Recommended Budget reflects a \$5.6 million increase over last year’s adopted budget. The increase in funding can be attributed to:

- Suspension of furlough program: Tulare County employees will receive a total of \$2 million due to the suspension of the mandatory 40-hour furlough program, which equated to 1.923 percent in salary reductions. To date, Tulare County has reached side letter agreements with 9 out of the 10 represented employee groups. Tulare County is continuing negotiations with SEIU regarding the proposed side letter agreement. The terms proposed to SEIU mirror those presented to the Board for adoption for the unrepresented as well as the represented employees.

- Increase in retirement costs: \$2 million

- Increase \$1 million in contingency.

- Marijuana Enforcement: \$600,000 will be spent on adding additional staff members to the Sheriff’s

Department, District Attorney’s Office, and Resource Management Agency for code enforcement and to investigate and eradicate illegal marijuana grows on the San Joaquin Valley floor.

Entering the budget process, Tulare County faced a \$4.3 million General Fund budget deficit. County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau said \$2.3 million in across-the-board spending cuts by county department heads and \$2 million in revenue - including Williamson Act legislation funding - were used to close the deficit.

Chairman Ennis said he was pleased with the high level of performance from County staff during the last year. Highlights from County staff included:

- The Tulare County Sheriff’s Department decreased gang crime by 16 percent.

- Led by the District Attorney’s Office, the Tulare County Regional Auto Theft Team made 236 arrests for auto theft and chop shop operations and recovered 275 vehicles with a value of more than \$3.1 million.

- Tulare County Library expanded services in unincorporated communities and signed up more than 3,000 children for the Summer Reading Program.

- The Resource Management Agency established a project review committee to create an easier process for residents seeking to implement planning projects.

Some of the goals of county staff for the next fiscal year include:

- Applying gang injunctions to high crime unincorporated communities.

- Identifying and eradicating illegal marijuana grow sites on the Valley floor.

- Developing and implementing a Countywide Customer Service Program.

- Updating the County Strategic Business Plan and Management System.

“Tulare County’s employees should be commended for setting and achieving high goals from year to year,” Chairman Ennis said.

The Board of Supervisors is responsible for reviewing and approving budgets for all County operating funds, internal service and enterprise funds, County Service Areas and dependent special districts. The Board also sits as the Redevelopment Agency and is responsible for those budgets. The State Controller issues guidelines for the organization and presentation of county budgets so that they are standardized among all counties.

Tulare County’s Recommended Budget for the 2011-12 Fiscal Year is available for review online.

The budget document includes department accomplishment and goals, budget information and more.

Visit the link to review: <http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/pdfs/20112RecBudget.pdf>

## Employee Spotlight: Brett Taylor



**Name:** Brett Taylor

**Title:** Appraiser II

**Years of Service:** 2

**Duties:** I am currently in charge of appraising single family dwellings in the southern part of the county.

**Family?** I have been married to my wife Dolores for five years and we have

two children Luciana (3yr) and Christian (1yr).

**Hobbies?** I like camping, fishing, hunting, and watching football. I also enjoy doing volunteer work.

**Clubs/Organizations?** I am currently serving on the North Visalia Neighborhood Advisory Committee and the Tulare County Youth Commission. I am also active in my church.

**What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?** The great thing about my job is that I get to meet a lot a great people.

**Please tell us something other employees might not know about you?**

I attempted to grow a giant pumpkin this year for Halloween. Although I did not grow a giant pumpkin I did get some very nice looking pumpkins.

**Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?** I enjoy going up to the Mountains.



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: Detection Program

**Editor's Note: Submitted by Ag Commissioner's Department.**

With increased movement of people and commerce, the exposure of our ag industry to exotic pest infestations will also continue to rise. In response, we have a detection system in place to keep such costly pests from entering the state and threatening our local economy.

The Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's detection program is designed to ensure rapid discovery of new infestations, before becoming established. Our Trappers are trained, not only about trap placement, baiting techniques and host suitability, but also about their critical role in our grower's ability to move commodities to both domestic and export markets. Tulare County is the #1 exporter of agricultural goods in the

nation, and most of our 82 trading partners expect negative trap data as proof that commodities come from an area free from exotic pests.

Our "regular" detection program, aimed at exotic fruit flies, runs from mid March through October. Periodic relocations of pest-specific traps are critical so that sufficient coverage can be achieved. Our trappers are always in search of the perfect host tree. Pest identifications are performed by our Staff Biologist, Dennis Haines.

European Grape Vine Moth (EGVM) and Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) are two relatively new pests that have been added to our program. The 2010 EGVM quarantine in Fresno County not only caused a hardship for several of their growers, but also for packing sheds located in Tulare County. Our trappers

deploy 1 trap for every 40 acres of commercial grapevines, equaling 1,862 traps. Similarly, commercial citrus producing counties in the San Joaquin Valley have a year-round detection program for ACP. Not only does Tulare County lead the state in citrus production, but also in the number of citrus packing operations, state-wide. Our ACP panel traps are placed at residential properties within a 3-mile radius of commercial citrus plantings, as well as high risk locations.

Our Trappers are encouraged to have a strong concept of public relations and education in order to maintain support for our detection efforts.



Tulare County Ag Commissioner's pest detection trapper team.

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

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

## New Supervisorial Lines Approved

“I want to thank the Redistricting Committee for spending valuable time on this important process.” Mike Ennis, Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors

In September, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved a new voter district map for the County.

The Supervisors chose to adopt one of three maps - Plan B - developed by the 2011 Advisory Committee on Redistricting.

Plan B included changes for the following communities:

- **Woodville:** Was in District 2, will now be in District 1.

- **Cotton Center/Poplar:** Was in District 1, will now be in District 5.

- **Richgrove:** Was in District 2, will now be in District 5.

An ordinance approving the boundaries of the map still has to be approved by the Supervisors at a meeting in October.

Tulare County supervisorial district lines are reviewed and redrawn every 10 years

based upon United States Census information. These district boundaries define the political representation on the Board of Supervisors. Per state law, the new district boundaries must be approved by Oct. 31, 2011. The three proposed maps were created and submitted for possible adoption by the Advisory Committee on Redistricting - a group of 11 residents appointed by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors - on July 26, 2011.

The Redistricting Committee received input from the public on sample maps during five outreach meetings, one in each Supervisorial district. The committee took five scenarios to the public outreach meetings, and received five additional proposals from members of the public. After the public outreach forums, the committee met four times to review the public comments

and ultimately decided to recommend three scenarios to the Board of Supervisors for possible adoption.

At three separate public meetings in April and May, residents were asked to provide their input on what criteria should be used to draw Tulare County’s supervisorial lines. Criteria that were selected include: topography; geography; continuity and compactness; avoid dividing cities wherever possible; and avoid dividing urban growth areas, among others.

“I want to thank the Redistricting Committee for spending valuable time on this important process,” said Mike Ennis, Chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

### 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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### OCTOBER COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

#### Meeting: (Date/Time)

Board of Supervisors’ Meeting: Oct. 11, 18, 25. 9 a.m.

L.A.F.C.O. Meeting: Oct. 5. 2 p.m.

Tulare County Water Commission: Oct. 10. 3 p.m.

Tulare County Planning Commission: Oct. 12, 26. 9 a.m.

T.C.A.G. Meeting: Oct. 17. 1 p.m.

#### More Information:

559/636-5000

559/624-7000

559/636-5005

559/624-7000

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:** The 150-acre Mooney Grove Park is home to one of the largest native stands of Valley Oaks in California. The park also includes a lake, playground areas, two 18-hole championship level disc golf courses, a historic Boy Scouts log cabin, 18 large covered picnic arbors, and the recently opened Tulare County History of Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum. Learn more about Mooney Grove Park and other places in Tulare County to “Go Play” at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).