



COUNTY OF TULARE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE #8 SEPTEMBER 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Harvesting the fruits of our labor to build a brighter future

On August 25, 2022, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors attended the official groundbreaking for a new housing development called the Neighborhood Village. This project was one of the first permanent supportive housing communities in the State of California which will assist individuals experiencing homelessness. A total of 52 housing units will be constructed along with a community garden, meeting hall, and dog park. The Neighborhood Village will also feature mental and physical healthcare services, financial literacy classes, workforce development trainings, and other programs to uplift and assist individuals experiencing homelessness in Tulare County. The new community will be located on Road 76 between Florence Avenue and Avenue 310 in Goshen.

This project will target the most vulnerable members of our homeless community and help transition them into a safer place to live. The Neighborhood Village is jointly planned and operated by Self Help Enterprises and Salt + Light, certified non-profits who have a history of providing Tulare County residents with much need services.



Larry Micari
District One

Pete Vander Poel
District Two

Amy Shuklian
District Three

Eddie Valero
District Four

Dennis Townsend
District Five

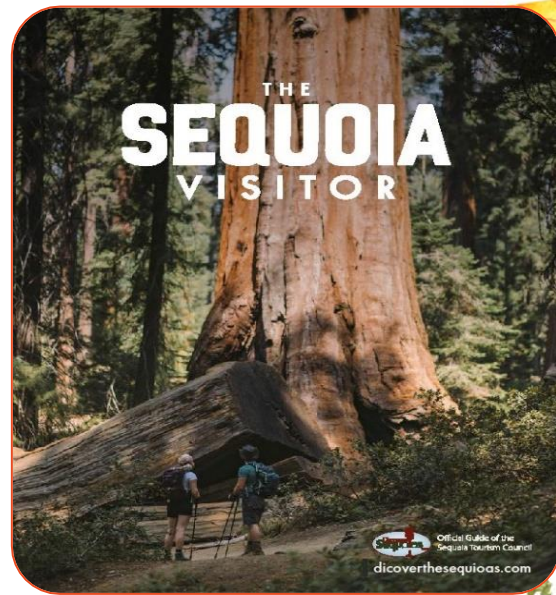
BOARD STAFF: Tammie Weyker Adkins, Chief of Staff ■ Patrick Burks ■ Cameron Pietila ■ Israel Sotelo ■ CLERK OF THE BOARD: Melinda Benton, Chief Clerk

Tulare County Tourism Update

On August 30, 2022, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved the Tourism Travel and Hospitality ARPA Funding Program. The goal of this program is to provide support for county-wide tourism efforts that promote our hospitality industries. In 2021, estimated travel related spending contributed over \$460 million to our local economy, however the total amount received was 30% less compared to travel related spending in 2019.

During the Covid 19 pandemic, many family owned and operated businesses that rely upon seasonal tourism were met with financial catastrophe. The goal of the Tourism Travel and Hospitality ARPA Funding Program is to rehabilitate pandemic impacted hospitality industries, promote safe leisure and travel, coordinate marketing efforts, and increase visitation to our parks, golf courses, restaurants, and National Parks.

To further the impact of this program, the Tulare County Economic Development Office has partnered with the Sequoia Tourism Council, Mighty 190, and the Three Rivers Historical Society to promote activities throughout Tulare County including those found within



The KTHA Point in Time

Each year, the Kings/Tulare Homeless Alliance (KTHA) conducts a Point in Time (PIT) count of the number of individuals experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness within Kings and Tulare Counties. Information and data gathered through the PIT is used by the KTHA and Tulare County to better understand the issues associated with homelessness, including the causes, service gaps, unmet housing needs, and homeless trends.

Most of the 2022 PIT report is good news. A total of 922 people are experiencing homelessness in Tulare County. This is a 7% decrease compared to the 2020 PIT. The number of people experiencing chronic homelessness decreased dramatically by 204 individuals, or a 38.4% decrease. This decrease in the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness may be a result of people recovering from first time homelessness as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic related job losses and county projects such as Roomkey and Homekey.



(Continued on page 3)

Project Roomkey & Project Homekey

Roomkey: provided emergency non-congregate shelter to high-risk individuals experiencing homelessness throughout the pandemic. This program included rooms for temporary quarantine stays. In June of 2022, Roomkey was permanently suspended as the county transitioned over to project Homekey.

Homekey: is a Housing First approach that focuses on converting motels and other properties into permanent supportive housing for individuals who were previously homeless. Many, but not all of the Roomkey participants, will qualify to participate in Homekey. Those that do not qualify are provided with other housing resources.

Tagus Gardens: this site has operated as a Roomkey site since July of 2020 and operated continuously until June 2022. The facility is vacant pending conversion into a Homekey site. Once completed, this property should provide at least 50 rooms of permanent housing.

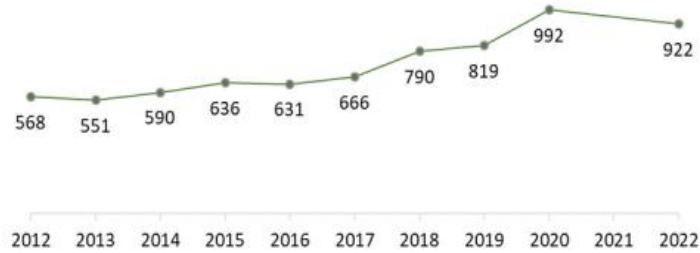
Sequoia Village: this site has operated since December of 2020 and transitioned into a Roomkey site. The property is being renovated into a Homekey site with a completion target of early August 2022.

Homeless MDT: the MDT operates across the entire county and benefits from close partnership with cities, service providers, and other organizations that touch the issue of homelessness. Team members actively deploy to encampments, housing sites, participate in Local Initiative Navigation Center events, and assist other entities in applying for funding.

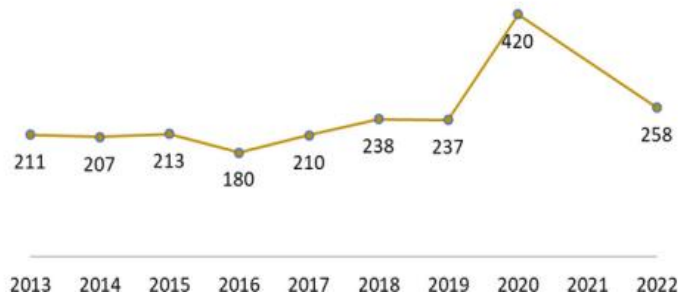
This Rhubarb is not for Pies!

Not everyone likes their vegetable, but this sweet boy just might change your mind. His name is Rhubarb and he is a wonderful Australian Shepherd mix of about 2 years old. He loves playing with other dogs and meeting new people and has quickly become the staff favorite. Please come and meet him at Tulare County Animal Services, he might just change your mind.

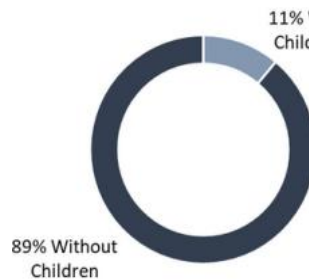
2012-2022 PIT Count Trend



2013-2022 Chronically Homeless Trend



Household Composition



Barriers to Housing

