



# COUNTY OF TULARE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

# NEWSLETTER

Administration Bldg. 2800 West Burrel Visalia, CA 93291 TEL: (559) 636-5000 FAX: (559) 733-6898

ISSUE #6 March 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



## Sowing the Seeds of the Future

Tulare County is the home of the world’s largest annual outdoor agricultural exposition, the World AG Expo. This year’s exposition opened on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and featured 1,272 exhibitors and hosted 98,387 attendees over the three day event. Tourists, farmers, and agribusiness professionals representing 49 states, and 34 countries, formed closer business ties, located new clientele, and celebrated the wonder that is agriculture. Jennifer Hawkins, the world ag expo marketing manager, says the world ag exposition is not just a county fair or convention, it is “where buyers and sellers meet to get the work of agriculture done.”



Exhibitors were satisfied with the foot traffic and interest of the public. Farmers and ranchers returned in large numbers for the 2022 show after the event went digital in 2021 due to the COVID 19 pandemic. World Ag Expo is one of the first large Ag events of 2022 offering opportunities to learn about the newest equipment, services, and technology available. More than 100 educational seminars, demonstrations, and workshops were held that covered a variety of topics ranging from irrigation to dairy, livestock to professional development. According to Jennifer Fawkes, close to 20% or more of the exhibitors and attendees are locals of Tulare County, and many of those businesses who are out of state have an office in the county.



Ag tech was the highlight of the event and showed the advances Agriculture has made in the last two years. Nine of the ten winners of the 2022 Top-10 New Products contest were “tech-forward items”. Many exhibitors took larger spaces to offer demonstrations of their equipment and provide guests with ride and drive opportunities. Other popular attractions at the 2022 World Ag Expo included the Big Idaho Potato, the Fresno State WET Center Innovation Pitch Event, and the WW Livestock Demonstration Pavilion.



The 2023 World Ag Expo will be held February 14-16. Space renewals are currently being accepted from 2022 exhibitors. Potential exhibitors can begin requesting space on March 1, 2022, at [www.worldagexpo.org](http://www.worldagexpo.org).

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 ■ CLERK OF THE BOARD: Melinda Benton, Chief Clerk



## Tulare County’s Future Ag Leaders

At the March 1<sup>st</sup> Tulare County Board of Supervisors’ meeting, the Board recognized our county’s local Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapters and their students who competed at the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual National FFA Convention.

At the National FFA Convention, FFA Chapters across Tulare County proved their agricultural aptitude by competing with fellow chapters and scoring high in the national championships. Tulare Union FFA students scored 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation for Ag Issues. Dinuba FFA students placed 7<sup>th</sup> for Nursery and Landscape category and Woodlake FFA students placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the Meats Evaluation and Technology category.

Tulare County FFA students also scored high in the Agricultural Proficiency Awards and the Ag Science Fair Awards. We congratulate our students, members, and faculty for their hard work, and we would like to thank the Future Farmers of America Organization for guiding the next generation of Tulare County Farmers and leaders.



## Adoption Option

Tulare County Animal Services is looking for a loving family to adopt Humphrey. Humphrey is a big one year old mixed breed pup that came into Animal Services severely injured with a broken hip. The Animal Control officer found him hiding under a bus crying in pain, scooped him up and brought him to the shelter where he immediately saw our veterinarian. Animal Services’ staff and medical team triage dozens of injured and sick stray animals every week, and the new clinic allows us to do lifesaving medical work. Humphrey will have surgery to remove his badly broken leg and will be searching for a wonderful new home where he can recover in luxury! For more information you can call Tulare County Animal services at (559) 636-4050 or email [tcanimalservices@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:tcanimalservices@tularecounty.ca.gov)

## Animal Services New Spray/Neuter Clinic

Tulare County Animal Services (TCAS) recently opened a low-cost Spay/Neuter clinic. It has performed over 800 spay and neuter surgeries and nearly 600 vaccinations since October 1<sup>st</sup>. Plans to launch online appointments for the public should go into effect in the next couple of months. At this time, TCAS is performing public surgeries for those who have need and call the shelter at 559-636-4050 as appointments become available.



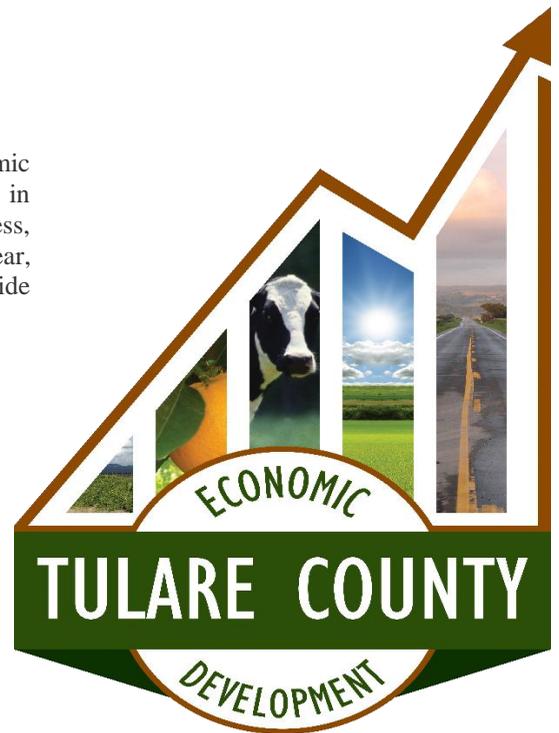
## Building a more Equitable Future

The Economic Development Office (EDO) was established within the Economic Development and Planning Branch of the Resource Management Agency (RMA) in 2012. Since its inception, the EDO has achieved measurable growth in agribusiness, renewable energy, healthcare, retail, commercial, industrial, and tourism. This past year, EDO helped set in motion numerous projects throughout the county that will provide more jobs and economic growth opportunities to many of our isolated communities.



### Salt & Light

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved a conditional use permit and affordable housing regulatory agreement in March of 2021 that will bring 52 modular homes to Goshen for affordable permanent housing. The new community will be located on Road 76 between Florence Avenue and Avenue 310 in Goshen. It will include private streets, a central park, dog park, community garden, maintenance building, and community building, also known as the Unity Hall, which will include offices, a kitchen, and central meeting space.



### Rexfield Solar Project

In August of 2021, the Tulare County Planning Commission unanimously approved environmental documents for the Rexford Solar Farm in southeastern Tulare County. The project will cover 3,600 acres near the town of Ducor with enough solar panels to produce up to 700 megawatts (mw) of energy in addition to storing 700 megawatts of energy, enough to provide 100% of the power needed for 180,000 homes each year.



### Housing in Strathmore, Goshen, and Orosi

Construction is underway in the Community of Goshen. Smee homes is bringing the Cross Creek Bend to the community and providing much needed housing to the area. A new housing development recently received approval to connect to water and sewer in the Community of Strathmore. We look forward to seeing construction begin later this year. Self Help Enterprises is also in the planning process of bringing a 40-unit development to Orosi.



### Valley Fuel Travel Plaza

Completed in 2021, Valley Fuel is a great stop along the highway for travelers and residents of the area. Not only does it provide fuel, but it includes a Subway and the first Starbucks built in the County. The project was finalized when Burger King opened its doors in the Winter.



### Elderwood Bridge Project

The Avenue 364 Bridge over Cottonwood Creek Project is located approximately 3 miles northwest of the City of Woodlake. The project served to replace the structurally deficient and functionally obsolete single-lane bridge, which provides access to the south end of the Elderwood community.