

Crossing guards assigned at 8 Tulare city school sites



Luis Hernandez, lfhernan@visaliatimesdelta.com 8:10 p.m. PDT August 12, 2014



(Photo: Steve R. Fujimoto/Tulare Advance-Register)

Alpine Vista School, Tulare's newest school, will have a crossing guard when instruction starts Thursday, welcoming an estimated 850 students back to school.

The 2014-15 school year is Alpine Vista's second. Last year, the school's inaugural, parents brought up safety concerns, pointing out to a lack of a crossing guard and a sidewalk portion.

Twelve months later, school district administrators said safety concerns are behind them. Alpine Vista is one of eight locations the city school district will staff with a crossing guard. Tulare City Engineer Mike Miller said school officials also responded to the lack of sidewalk, buying additional right-of-way property and building on Alpine Avenue, starting at Montana De Oro Street.

"Those issues have been dealt with. It shouldn't be an issue," said Willard Epps, school board member. "The safety of our students is top priority."

Epps, the Tulare Fire Department chief, represents the district that includes Alpine Vista.

Late last school year, the Tulare Police Department announced it would stop administering the school district's crossing guards, ending a lengthy relationship.

The district hired All City Management Services, a company that specializes in the training and administering cross guards for school districts. For this year, the district will have crossing guards at Maple, Cypress, Kohn, Live Oak, Heritage/Los Tules, Roosevelt and Wilson schools, in addition to Alpine Vista.

Director of Marketing Harlan Sims said All City Management Services, based in Southern California, will work with the crossing guards from last school year, seeking to maintain continuity.

"They know the intersections. They know the neighborhoods. They know the school. They know the kids," Harlan said.

In adding a crossing guard, the school district is taking a step toward increasing pedestrians' and students' safety, Harlan said.

"We care about the safety of the community," he said. "We care about providing a safe passage."

Assistant Superintendent Phil Pierschbacher said the district's contract with All City Management is for \$89,000. All City Management, which dubs itself as "The Crossing Guard Company," has been in business for 30 years and has recently expanded to Nevada and Kansas.

Harlan said All City Management welcomes the chance to start a working relationship with the Tulare City School District.

"We are excited to start working with the city of Tulare," he said. "We're looking forward at serving the community."

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www.thecrossingguardcompany.com

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