



*'I think it's always an honor to serve. People have the faith to have me up there.'*

— John Huerta,  
Greenfield mayor

SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Greenfield Mayor John Huerta, who manages a road crew at the Monterey County Department of Public Works, stands Nov. 28 among some of the equipment his crew uses.

# Huerta helps Greenfield grow

*As city's mayor, he works to improve social services*

By **KIMBERLY CHASE**  
The Salinas Californian

As mayor of Greenfield, John Huerta heads up the City Council, running its meetings and trying to make sure local government meets the community's needs.

Huerta has served in city government for seven years: two on the council, two as mayor pro tem and three years as mayor.

"I think it's always an honor to serve," he said. "People have the faith to have me up there."

These days, the council's primary focus is to make sure city services and job creation keep pace with community growth, which means being

business-friendly, particularly to agriculture.

"You want to be open as a city to other businesses," Huerta said.

For the past three years, the council has been working to build a community center, which would gather a combination of programs and social services under one roof. The \$3 million project, supported by both federal and city monies, is expected to be a resource for all of south county, with an emphasis on youth and aid for first-time homebuyers.

Of all the things he's been able to do while in office, Huerta said, he is particularly happy with YouthBuild, a federal program that gives vocational training to people ages 16-24 who are out of the school system. The program teaches participants a trade and helps them enter the work force.

"YouthBuild is a big thing for

## **JOHN HUERTA**

n **AGE:** 43

n **POSITION:** Mayor of Greenfield

n **JOB:** Road superintendent for the Monterey County Department of Public Works.

n **EXPERIENCE:** Two years on the Greenfield City Council, two years as mayor pro tem, three years as mayor.

n **EDUCATION:** King City High School; studied business administration at Hartnell College for two years.

n **PERSONAL:** Lives in Greenfield with wife, Michele, and their three boys, Aaron, 7, Noah, 9, John III, 14.

us, and we want to make sure we continue with the project," he said.

When Huerta isn't watching over Greenfield, he's managing a team of road workers at

the Monterey County Department of Public Works in the Carmel-Monterey area.

One of the challenges of being mayor, he said, is learning to juggle political, work and family responsibilities. And in the time that's left over, he likes to read, jog and play sports with his sons.

"You just learn you have to make a balance," Huerta said.

The mayor said he's happy with the city's progress in the past three years, but he'd like to see more job creation and recreational facilities for youth in his remaining time as mayor. Rather than concentrating on re-election, Huerta said, he's trying to make the last year of his term count.

"I've been busy with trying to accomplish what I've been working on the last three years as the elected mayor," he said. "We'll see when the time comes."

Contact Kimberly Chase [kchase@gannett.com](mailto:kchase@gannett.com).