



CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi
County Administrator

Budget season is in high gear as we address the challenges we face in preparing our FY 2015-16 Alameda County Budget. On April 15, our Budget Workgroup held its second meeting of the season, during which it was announced that our budget gap for the coming fiscal year is \$65.1 million. It's true that an improving economy is having a positive effect on our finances by boosting our limited share of sales- and property-tax revenues, but persistent high poverty rates mean the demand remains troublingly high for the safety-net services we provide. Furthermore, one-time allocations we made in 2014-15, as well as cost increases for employee salaries and benefits, in-home support programs and grants to community-based organizations are among many factors impacting our bottom line. There also are significant statewide challenges that will complicate efforts to maintain our fiscal health and preserve quality County programs. Opportunities for restored funding to programs hit hard by the cuts of the Recession years are undermined by Governor Brown's hard line on spending and the priority he places on building a State Rainy Day Fund. Also, State requirements that excess revenues go mainly to public education diminish support for County programs. Our department heads have already participated in Early Budget Work Sessions designed to provide details on their Maintenance of Effort budgets for the coming year. For the next two months, you can be sure we will all be focused on developing an Alameda County Budget that continues to provide vital services while keeping County government on solid financial footing.

12 Honored at 2015 Women's Hall of Fame



More than 500 people attended the 22nd Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame celebration on March 21 in Oakland. Pictured above are 2015 Inductees, L-R: Sherry Hu, Elñora Webb, Gladys Green, Ann Petru, Bobbi Silten, Shirley Nelson, Rhonda Wood, Jenny Fang, Farmaan Judge, Michelle Smith McDonald, Peggy Bristol and Natalia Zaitseva.

More than 500 people attended the 22nd Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame celebration on March 21 in Oakland, enjoying the inspirational stories of 12 outstanding inductees and helping to raise money for four important community organizations and the "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship Fund. To learn more about the Women's Hall of Fame program or to see pictures of the event, go to whof.acgov.org.

Art IS Education Celebrated



Members of the Flute Quartet at Wells Middle School in Dublin performed for the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on March 3rd to celebrate the Board's declaration of March as **Art IS Education Month**. Sponsored by the Alameda County Arts Commission and several community partners, **Art IS Education** promotes the premise that arts learning is fundamental to quality public education.

Year of the Ram



Alameda County sponsored a Lunar New Year celebration on March 4th in Oakland. The event was co-hosted by District 5 Supervisor Keith Carson and BART. Pictured with the Lion Dance performer (center) are (left to right): Marcia deVaughn and Julie Yim of BART; Mina Sanchez, District 5 Senior Aide; and Supervisor Carson.

High Street Bridge Closed Weekdays for Repairs



The Public Works Agency is performing rehabilitation and bridge deck repairs on the High Street, which connects Oakland and Alameda. The work means the bridge will be closed to traffic from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each weekday through April 28. Detour signs are in place to advise motorists about alternate traffic routes. When the bridge is fully operational, approximately 30,000 vehicles cross it each weekday. For more information about the bridge project, go to <http://bit.ly/1Nlf3B>

Alameda County Apps Challenge 2015.1

April 25 in Union City

Alameda County Apps Challenge 2015.1, the fourth County-sponsored Hackathon to expand community engagement and raise awareness about efforts to increase access to County data, will be held from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at James Logan High School in Union City. The event is expected to bring together software developers, community members, activists and entrepreneurs for a full day of creativity, collaboration and innovation. The upcoming Apps Challenge is being co-hosted by the offices of Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi and County Supervisor Richard Valle, whose district includes Union City. The event is being produced and managed by Alameda County's Information Technology Department. "This event will offer a new opportunity for us to raise public awareness about the many facets of County government," Muranishi said. "It's also an exciting way we can leverage the vast pool of talent and creativity available in our community to enhance the services we provide." Added Supervisor Valle, a James Logan High School graduate: "These Apps Challenge events reflect some of the great new approaches we in local government are taking to engage the public. These efforts are opening doors to new ideas on how we can better meet the needs of the people we serve." A Grand Prize of \$3,000 will be awarded to the most inventive and user-friendly app that benefits Alameda County residents, businesses and visitors. The County has held Apps Challenge events in each of the past three years, each time drawing more than 120 participants who have built a wide range of clever and user-friendly apps. The cost to participate in Alameda County Apps Challenge 2015.1 is \$15 for general admission and \$10 for students and seniors. Government employees can participate for free. For more information, visit: <http://code.acgov.org>

Alameda County Wins Award to Repair Homes

The Community Development Agency's Healthy Homes Department has been awarded \$3.4 million by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help make homes healthier in areas hardest hit by the housing crisis. With the shortage of housing and skyrocketing rents, Alameda County's most vulnerable populations, including seniors and families with young children, are finding it increasingly difficult to find safe and affordable housing. "Substandard housing has become the affordable housing option for low-income families and seniors. This puts our vulnerable residents at increased risk of housing-related health problems including respiratory illness, lead poisoning, and serious injuries," states Maricela Foster, Director of the Healthy Homes Department. Alameda County was awarded funds to reduce lead hazards and increase the supply of healthy affordable housing over the next three years. The focus will be on low-income families with children under six years old and pregnant women living in housing built before 1978, the year that lead in paint was banned. For more information, call the Alameda County Healthy Homes Department at 510-567-8280 or visit www.achhd.org

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Weekend Hours Allow Couples to Tie Knot on Valentine's Day

The Alameda County Clerk-Recorder opened its offices in Oakland on Saturday, February 14, to accommodate the many couples who made Valentine's Day their day to tie the knot.

The decision was well received. In five hours of unusual Saturday operations, staff issued 60 marriage licenses and performed 40 weddings in the office's Wedding Room at 1106 Madison Street, Oakland.

"Given the large numbers of folks who came down on a Saturday, I think we made the right decision to open our offices," said Steve Manning, Alameda County's Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder.

Manning added: "I would like to express a special thanks to members of our staff who were willing to give up their own time on a weekend so that we could serve our customers on the big day."



New Report Highlights County's Green Transportation Success Story

The Alameda County General Services Agency's Transportation Services Unit has published its second annual Sustainability Report. Learn about how Alameda



County is making it easier to visit our facilities by bicycle, leading the adoption of electric vehicles in the Bay Area, and operating one of the greenest vehicle fleets in the country. To learn more, go to <http://alcotransportation.weebly.com/>

County Links

Alameda County Government <http://www.acgov.org/government/>
Alameda County Board of Supervisors <http://www.acgov.org/board/>
Lookup/pay Property Taxes <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm>
Awards won by Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/awards/>
Links to Alameda County Departments and Agencies
<http://www.acgov.org/government/departments.htm>
Employment with Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/government/employment.htm>
Alameda County forms <http://www.acgov.org/government/formscenter.htm>
Alameda County Superior Court <http://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/>

For a calendar of Alameda County events, visit the County website at <http://www.acgov.org/government/calendar.htm> Also check the websites of the members of the Board of Supervisors (listed under Board contacts on the left side of this page).