



Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund Reactivated in Response to Wildfires

On November 20th, the Board of Supervisors reactivated the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund to support people affected by wildfires in other parts of California that have taken numerous lives, destroyed thousands of homes and devastated communities at both ends of the state.

The Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund allows County employees and people in the community to voluntarily make cash and/or online donations to benefit people directly affected by natural and human-caused disasters.

The Fund has been reactivated to support communities affected by the Camp Fire in Butte County, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history; and the Woolsey Fire, which has scorched about 100,000 acres in Southern California.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors established the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund in response to the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States. The Fund has been reactivated numerous times and drawn strong community support in response to tragedies including Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Northern Japan Earthquake/Tsunami in 2011 and the Ghost Ship warehouse fire in Oakland in 2016.

All current contributions to the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund will go directly to victims of the wildfires in Butte and Los Angeles counties.

Cash donations may be contributed by sending a personal check payable to the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund, c/o the Auditor-Controller Agency, 1221 Oak Street, Room 238, Oakland, CA 94612.

Credit card donations can be made through the [Disaster Relief Fund website](#). County employees may also have the option to donate up to 5 days of their accrued vacation time, compensatory time and/or holiday in-lieu time.

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Alameda County Mid-Term Voter Turnout Shatters Records

Alameda County voters cast ballots in record numbers for the November 6th General Election, with the number of participating voters surpassing the County's previous record for a mid-term election by nearly 20 percent.

This year's vote represents a voter turnout of nearly 67 percent of the County's 879,912 registered voters. That is more than 20 percent higher than the turnout recorded in the last mid-term, the 2014 General Election.

The latest unofficial results show a total of 587,146 ballots cast in Alameda County. That number is 18.8 percent more than Alameda County's previous record for a mid-term, 468,483 ballots cast in November 2010.

As of November 17th, the number of vote-by-mail ballots counted was 427,646, which represents about 73 percent of all ballots cast in Alameda County for this General Election. The vote-by-mail total this year was just shy of the 444,988 vote-by-mail ballots cast in 2016, and shatters the County's previous record for a mid-term election by more than 174,000 votes.

Only about 18 percent of registered voters chose to cast their ballots at one of the 815 polling places set up across the County on Election Day. Alameda County hired and trained about 5,000 temporary workers to operate those polling places, which as usual were open and receiving voters from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 6.

The Registrar of Voters Office plans to certify its final results for the election by December 6th.



Look to **ACGOV Cares** to Spread Some Cheer During the Holidays - And the Rest of the Year

As the holidays approach, Alameda County is renewing its commitment to helping the less fortunate through charitable efforts and volunteerism. The County's collective belief in giving back prompted us to establish **ACGOV Cares**, our multi-tiered initiative to enlist support for a wide range of efforts that are improving our communities by helping our neighbors in need. As 2018 winds to a close, we remind you that you need look no further than **ACGOV Cares** (www.acgovcares.org) to get inspired about helping others.

ACGOV Cares contains the latest details about our innovative Alameda County community support efforts, including our Adopt-A-Family program, which allows you to select families here in our community whose holidays you can brighten through gift-giving. **ACGOV Cares** is also the place to go to donate to our Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund, reactivated by the Board of Supervisors in November to support communities affected by the disastrous recent wildfires in Butte and Los Angeles counties.

Looking to volunteer? **ACGOV Cares** works in partnership with Volunteer Match to help you find the volunteer opportunity that matches your skills and interests. This way, the time and energy you give will have the greatest possible impact in helping others.

Lastly, if you know you want to give back but are seeking inspiration to take the first step, **ACGOV Cares** is just the place for you. That's because the **ACGOV Cares** website features many moving stories about Alameda County employees – ordinary people like you! Who knows, the next volunteer story may be about you!

Don't forget to make **ACGOV Cares** part of your holiday plans!

Nominations for Women's Hall of Fame

Nominations are being accepted for the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, which in 2019 will celebrate its 26th year of honoring extraordinary women making a difference in the community. Honorees will be celebrated at the 26th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame luncheon and awards ceremony on Saturday, March 30, 2019, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland.

The Women's Hall of Fame is accepting nominations in 13 categories: Business and Professions; Community Service; Culture and Art; Education; Emerging Leader; Environment; Health; Justice; Non-Traditional Careers; Science, Technology, Engineering; Sports and Athletics; Philanthropy; and Youth.

The deadline to submit nominations in any of these 13 categories is January 31, 2019. Go to <http://www.acgov.org/whof/> to submit a nomination today.

More than 200 women have been inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame since the program was launched in 1993. In addition to honoring extraordinary women leaders from Alameda County, the annual event raises funds for youth scholarships and helps support local nonprofit community partners serving women, youth and families.

The Women's Hall of Fame is a countywide event held in conjunction with National Women's History month in March. In 2019, we expect another sellout with more than 500 people on hand to recognize the achievements of our inductees and to contribute support to our youth and community partners.

The next group of Women's Hall of Fame inductees will be announced in early 2019. Visit our website at <http://www.acgov.org/whof/> to learn more, or call (510) 272-6984.

Thanks for Serving Our Communities



Longtime Alameda County activists Toni Shellen (third from left) and Freddy Davis (second from right) were honored by the Board of Supervisors on October 2nd for their work supporting social justice, nonviolence and youth. Shellen is a longtime elementary school teacher in Fremont and a leader in area efforts to fight gun violence. Davis is the longtime Hayward and South Alameda County Chair of NAACP who founded a mentoring program for at-risk youth and low-income families. Both received commendations authored by District 2 Supervisor Richard Valle for work in the central and south County areas.

Alameda County Citizens Academy Celebrates Graduation



The 2018 Alameda County Citizens Academy wrapped up on November 7th, when 39 local residents graduated from the program that provides an in-depth look at Alameda County government, the impact of County services and ways residents can effectively participate in civic affairs. Wednesday night sessions this year included an overview of the County budget process, a look at how the County conducts local elections, presentations by public safety agencies at the County Office of Emergency Services in Dublin, discussions of Alameda County's sustainability programs and the many ways technology is empowering the community by enhancing access to vital public services. This year's Academy program wrapped up with a mini-hackathon in which graduates worked in teams to develop ideas for helping the County address the 10X Goals established in its long-term strategic vision, known as **Vision 2026**. Those goals are Eliminate Poverty and Hunger; Employment for All; Accessible Infrastructure; Crime Free County; Eliminate Homelessness; and Healthcare for All. Go to: <http://acgov.org/academies/citizens/> for more information about the Alameda County Citizens Academy.

Youth Leadership Academy Wrapping up for 2018

Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, at right, spoke to members of the 2018 Alameda County Youth Leadership Academy on November 17th as the group toured one of the showpieces of his district: the REACH Ashland Youth Center. It was the fourth of five Saturday morning sessions for the Youth Leadership Academy, an annual civic engagement program led by the County Administrator's Office that educates high school juniors and seniors about community service and leadership development. This year's program has included tours of the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center in San Leandro, a visit to the San Lorenzo Library and presentations by County leaders. The 2018 Youth Leadership Academy is scheduled to conclude on December 15th with a mini-hackathon and graduation ceremony. For more information about the Youth Leadership Academy, go to: <http://www.acgov.org/academies/youth/>



Leadership in Preventing Childhood Lead Exposure



The Board of Supervisors recognized National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in October by commending local efforts to prevent childhood lead exposure. Over the past 5 years, more than 5,000 children in Alameda County have been exposed to lead, most often from sources such as old paint, water and soil. But efforts to fight lead exposure are showing great progress in curbing the problem. Pictured above, left to right: Katherine Taylor, Chief of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Southwest Region; Cecilia Sevilla, Board Member with California Association of Code Enforcement Officers; Larry Brooks, Director of Alameda County Healthy Homes Department; Board President Wilma Chan; and Chris Bazar, Director of Alameda County Community Development Agency.

Efforts to Prevent Lead Exposure Rewarded with \$25,000 Grant

The Alameda County Healthy Homes Department was awarded a \$25,000 grant in October from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) trainings. Training sessions will teach local code enforcement officers to incorporate lead safety requirements into their inspections, respond to unsafe renovation complaints and improve compliance with lead-safety regulations.

The grant was made as part of Children's Health Month to highlight the EPA's commitment to reducing childhood lead exposure. Lead exposure can cause a range of adverse health effects and is particularly dangerous for children under 6 because their nervous systems are still developing. Lead exposure can cause behavioral and learning problems, slowed growth, hearing loss and diminished IQ. Exposure to lead can be detected with a simple blood test.

The Alameda County Healthy Homes Department will work with the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers to provide at least three RRP training courses to 120 code enforcement officers in different regions across California.

"Early detection of elevated blood lead levels is extremely important, but we must also take a more proactive position to identify and remediate lead sources before children are poisoned," said Larry Brooks, Director of the Alameda County Healthy Homes Department. "Our best line of defense for preventing these unfortunate and devastating situations from occurring is code enforcement and that is why this partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers is so important."

More information about EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting Program can be found at www.epa.gov/getleadsafe.



Office of Public Affairs
and Community Relations

County Partnership Brings FREE Symphony Tickets to Public Assistance Recipients



The Oakland Symphony has launched **Hall Pass**, a program that provides free concert tickets and increased access to families, children, and adults from our community to attend the Symphony's diverse and critically acclaimed programming.

A partnership with our Social Services Agency (SSA) means households currently receiving public assistance through any SSA department can receive up to four (4) FREE tickets for all Oakland Symphony performances through the Hall Pass program.

As one of the Oakland Symphony's primary partners, SSA wants to ensure that all clients who wish to attend have access to tickets through the Hall Pass program.

SSA customers who are interested may contact **Sylvia Soublet, Director of Public Affairs** at ssoublet@acgov.org

Hall Passes are limited and requests will be processed first come, first served. Performance tickets are subject to availability and are issued by the Symphony box office. Read more about Hall Pass [here](#).

FY 2018-19 Property Tax Bills Distributed

More than 430,000 secured roll property tax bills – totaling \$4.06 billion – were mailed out in October by Alameda County Treasurer-Tax Collector, Henry C. Levy, to all real property owners in Alameda County.

The secured roll taxes for the 2018-19 Fiscal Year are payable in two installments. The first installment is due on November 1, 2018 and is delinquent at 5 p.m. December 10, 2018, after which a 10% delinquent penalty attaches. The second installment is due on February 1, 2019, and is delinquent at 5 p.m. April 10, 2019, after which a 10% delinquent penalty and \$10 cost attaches. Both installments may be paid when the first installment is due.

There are several payment options:

- By eCheck, available free of charge 24 hours a day online at www.acgov.org/treasurer/.
- By credit card, available 24 hours a day by telephone at 510-272-6800, online at www.acgov.org/treasurer/, or mobile property app at www.acgov.org/mobile/apps/.
- By mail or in person at the County Tax Collector's Office, 1221 Oak Street, Room 131, Oakland, CA 94612. The Office is open weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., holidays excepted.

Submitting payments online, by telephone or by mail is recommended to avoid delay at the cashier's window.

Real property owners who do not receive their tax bills by November 16 should contact the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office at (510) 272-6800, or download an internet copy at www.acgov.org/treasurer/.

Tax bills received for property no longer owned should be forwarded to the new owner or returned to the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office.



Henry C. Levy

Spread Holiday Joy

Support 2018 Adopt-A-Family Holiday Gift Assistance Program

Alameda County's **Adopt-A-Family** Holiday Gift Assistance Program is seeking donors to support one of our community's most effective public-private collaborations to help the less fortunate during the holidays.

The Social Services Agency helps to match donors with low-income families in our community who could use some extra support and an infusion of holiday joy.

There are many deserving low-income families who would greatly appreciate your generosity. The **Adopt-A-Family** program is open to all who want to share the joy of the season with those less fortunate. Go to http://alamedasocialservices.org/public/applications_cfw/adoptafamily_donors/new to adopt a family this holiday season.

Happy Holidays!