



## CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,  
County Administrator

On June 28 the Board of Supervisors approved a Final Alameda County Budget for FY 2013-14 that is balanced and calls for eliminating 44.5 vacant funded positions and other reductions to close a funding gap of \$80.2 million. The funding gap is only the second shortfall under \$100 million in five years, but closing a deficit this size required some sacrifice. Slow economic growth, continued high demand for County safety net services and reduced funding from the State and federal governments suggest the financial challenges we have faced for the past several years will likely continue. For the first time in five years, the Final Budget includes cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for most employee labor organizations and for many eligible community-based organizations. While our financial picture looks better than in recent years, we still face many uncertainties surrounding State and federal funding, which together provide more than half of the funding for the County General Fund. Recently approved federal spending caps and the sequestration of funding will negatively impact federal revenues received by the County, while we fear plans outlined by the Governor will undermine important local initiatives including preventive care programs that help residents avoid serious health issues. As the year progresses, we will keep you posted on all developments affecting our finances.

## REACH Ashland Youth Center Opens to Great Fanfare

The REACH Ashland Youth Center opened to great fanfare in May, a triumphal moment in the decade-long effort to bring new services and opportunities to youth living in Ashland, a small community between San Leandro and Castro Valley. The \$23 million redevelopment project offers a multitude of youth-oriented programs including job training, educational assistance, art and cultural programs, recreation, and health and wellness services. The Youth Center, which provides all services free of charge, is managed by the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, with partners including La Clinica de la Raza, the San Lorenzo Unified School District, the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, the Alameda County Library and the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League. "This facility really is a beacon of hope for the entire Ashland community," said Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, whose efforts in collaboration with local youth were critical in seeing the project to completion.



Ashland-area youth present artwork to Supervisor Nate Miley to thank him for spearheading an effort to bring the REACH Ashland Youth Center to their community

## Graduates of Innovative Master's Program Honored



Forty-eight Alameda County employees from 15 County departments were honored at an uplifting graduation celebration on April 24 as they earned their diplomas as the first graduates of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program the County co-sponsors with California State University, East Bay.

Graduates expressed a strong sense of excitement, but also of relief, recalling the many nights and weekends they spent studying and completing homework assignments, on top of their regular jobs as County employees. "There were a lot of missed dinners, canceled weekend plans, vacations we couldn't take," said graduate Michael Little, from the Social Services Agency.

Supervisor Keith Carson and County Administrator Susan Muranishi, along with CSUEB President Leroy Morishita, were on hand to congratulate the

Continued on page 2

# “Breathmobile” Brings Relief to San Lorenzo

Building on efforts to raise awareness of high asthma rates in Alameda County, Northern California’s first “Breathmobile” made a stop at Bohannon Middle School in San Lorenzo last month. A custom-built Winnebago RV, the Breathmobile is a mobile pediatric asthma and allergy clinic that includes a small waiting area, a testing area and two exam rooms. It is staffed by an “asthma team” that includes a pediatric allergist or pulmonologist, pediatric nurse practitioner, and registered nurse. Through school visits to Alameda County communities hit hard by asthma, the Breathmobile has saved an estimated \$1.47 million in local health care costs and reduced school absenteeism from 613 missed days to 38 since 2009. Partnering with the San Lorenzo Unified School District and the Prescott-Joseph Center for Community Enhancement, which operates the local Breathmobile, Supervisor Wilma Chan spearheaded the Middle School visit to shed light on San Lorenzo’s persistent problem with asthma. San Lorenzo ranks above average for asthma-related emergency room visits and hospitalizations in Alameda County, which has the second highest rate of asthma in California. “It is critical that we promote comprehensive asthma management care programs like the Breathmobile in order to prevent negative impacts to the health and well-being of students and their families at home and school,” Supervisor Chan said.



Supervisor Wilma Chan (left) observes as Spencer Weir, Registered Nurse with the Prescott Joseph Center’s Breathmobile, checks the breathing of Bohannon Middle School student Josh Crenshaw during a visit of the Breathmobile to the San Lorenzo school in April.

## Improved Stanley Boulevard Unveiled

An upgraded Stanley Boulevard was unveiled to the public in April as Pleasanton and Livermore residents celebrated improvements to the vital link between the two communities. New bike lanes and bus shelters, roadway improvements and more than 10,000 plantings along this 3-mile stretch of roadway will make traveling this vital thoroughfare a pleasant experience for everyone. With an emphasis on recycled materials and resource conservation measures, the project also is one of Alameda County’s first green roadway projects. New bike lanes now provide the vital cycling link between the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton. A new multi-modal pathway also was installed along the 3-mile project for cyclists looking for a more casual biking experience. The pathway is separated from the main roadway by a guardrail. Funding for this \$2.4 million project was provided by funds from Measure B, Alameda County’s half-cent transportation sales tax, as well as the Highway User Tax Account, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Stopwaste.org, and several utility companies.



Left to right, Pleasanton City Councilman Jerry Pentin, Livermore Mayor John Marchand, Alameda County Public Works Director Daniel Woldesenbet and Supervisor Scott Haggerty celebrate improvements to Stanley Boulevard

## Oakland Raiders Support the Alameda County Library!



The Oakland Raiders are offering significant discounts on select tickets for some home games this fall to supporters of the Alameda County Library Foundation (ACLF)!! TICKETS GO ON SALE IN JUNE and can be purchased from the ACLF website, <http://www.aclf.org>. This offer means some regularly priced tickets can be purchased for as low as \$45 by supporters who use access code ACLF. Proceeds will help support Alameda County Library programs & services. ACLF is the fundraising arm of the Alameda County Library, helping to support 10 library branches and the Bookmobile. For more information, call ACLF Executive Director Tiona Smith, at (510) 745-1542. For Raiders Tickets & Seating Chart log on to [http://aclf.org/pdf/raiders\\_flyer.pdf](http://aclf.org/pdf/raiders_flyer.pdf) or call Katie Hom at (510) 745-1551.

**GO RAIDERS! GO READERS!**

## CSU Program Graduates Honored

*Continued from page 1*

congratulate the graduates. “You are all enriching our County and the County organization with the knowledge you have acquired in your 2 years of sacrifice,” Supervisor Carson, a CSUEB alum, told the graduates. Brian Edwards, County Library, spoke of our roles as “public servants, those who deliver democracy, fostering environments for successful communities.”

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**Public Works Wins Big in  
Awards Program**



*Improvements to Lewelling Boulevard earned Alameda County a national award*

The Public Works Agency received the Northern California American Public Works Association's (APWA) highest honor for its Lewelling Boulevard Improvement Project. Named the "2013 Feature Project of the Year," the project transformed the Ashland/Cherryland Communities by reducing congestion, improving safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists, beautifying the area, and preserving the area's history. "The project's positive transformative effects are very apparent," said Daniel Woldesenbet, Alameda County Public Works Director. As the 2013 Feature Project of the Year, the Lewelling Boulevard Improvement Project will represent Northern California in the national APWA awards program. The Agency also received a "Project of the Year – Structures" award for its Alameda Creek Levee Repair Project. This project accredited the Alameda Creek levees by bringing them to the new FEMA standards. Additionally, Moses Tsang, Supervising Civil Engineer, and Reid Penland, County Surveyor, won "Manager of the Year" awards for their excellent work.

*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/calendar>. Also check the websites of the members of the Board of Supervisors (listed under Board contacts on the left side of this page).