



CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,
County Administrator

Governor Brown's January budget proposal is raising concern for Alameda County due to its focus on deep cuts to welfare, health care, child care and in-home care programs that will disproportionately impact the community's most vulnerable residents. We are aware that tough times continue for government at all levels and in principle we support the Governor's balanced approach of voter-approved tax increases and program cuts to close the State's \$9.2 billion shortfall through FY 2012-13. But we also know Alameda County has faced deficits totaling more than \$465 million over the past three years – shortfalls resulting in part from State cuts to local government funding – and we have responded in some very creative ways to maintain essential services to low-income families, the frail and the elderly. With little flexibility left, we worry the latest proposals would severely impair programs addressing critical needs in our community. Governor Brown's budget plan calls for \$4.2 billion in spending cuts this year to the CalWORKs welfare program, state-subsidized child care, In-Home Support Services and other vital programs. Our office is making new efforts to gauge and clearly articulate the impacts the proposed cuts could have on residents in our community. We reported on these efforts at a pair of budget forums in February, and will continue to update residents regularly. We will keep you posted with the latest budget details as we receive them.

Project SEARCH Holds Second Graduation

Seven young adults with developmental disabilities were honored at a graduation ceremony on January 27 for completing year-long internships with Alameda County as part of a special collaboration that provides on-the-job experience for individuals with special needs. The graduates are the second group to complete their internships with the County as part of its Project SEARCH Program, which allows interns to develop their job skills and opens the door to possibilities for gainful employment. The program is a partnership between Alameda County, East Bay Innovations and the Oakland Unified School District. Seven of the 10 members of the first graduating class of Alameda County's Project SEARCH program transitioned into permanent public- and private-sector jobs after completing the program in January 2011. Already, one of the latest graduates has secured a full-time job and several others are pursuing some promising leads. Project SEARCH began in 1996 at Cincinnati's Children's Hospital and has since become a national program



championing work opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The Alameda County program was launched in October 2009 as the first public sector Project SEARCH program in California. Later this year, the program will be receiving an award from International Project SEARCH for its 70% job placement rate for 2011. County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi is encouraging County department heads to consider hiring a Project SEARCH graduate when looking to fill administrative support positions. Potential employers in the community are encouraged to contact Project SEARCH when looking for employees with strong work habits and first-rate office support skills. To learn more, call Lori Kotsonas at (510) 618-1580 ext.15 or go to eastbayinnovations.org.

Library "Food 4 Fines" a Success

We wish to express our thanks to everyone who participated in the Alameda County Library's "Food 4 Fines" program over the holidays. This creative idea allowed library patrons to deduct \$1 in overdue fines for every food item donated to the County's Annual Holiday Food Drive (up to \$10) – and it turned out to be a massive success.

"The Food 4 Fines barrels outside of all of our libraries filled up quickly and frequently," said Jean Hofacket, Alameda County Librarian. "I heard

lots of great compliments from library members about Food 4 Fines and many asked when we'd be doing it again." Hofacket said the program created a strong community spirit in and around the County Library's 10 branches.

Library staff felt the program went smoothly – and they felt wonderful doing it. One clerk noted: "The more you give the more you receive. This is the Library giving to the community, and I know the community will give back to the library."

11 Women to be Inducted into Alameda County



Eleven outstanding women will be inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame at a luncheon in Oakland on March 31. They are:

- **Terry Alderete of Newark, Business and Professions.** Terry is a festival and event organizer and the driving force of Oakland's Dia de los Muertos festival and other popular Bay Area events.
- **Barbara Bernstein of Berkeley, Community Service.** Barbara has devoted more than 40 years to managing programs assisting those in need and now heads program linking people to vital services.
- **Mildred Howard of Berkeley, Culture and Art.** Mildred is visual artist renowned for integrating recycled materials and other objects into stunning works of art. Her works are seen in some of the region's finest museums.
- **Oral Lee Brown of Oakland, Education.** Oral's foundation has sent almost 200 at-risk youth to college. She began by "adopting" a class of first graders and financing most of them through college.

- **Connie Galambos Malloy of Oakland, Environment.** Connie is a central player in a program that prepares low-income and people of color to serve on boards making key decisions impacting the environment.
- **Pamela Arbuckle Alston, DDS, of Oakland, Health.** Pamela is Dental Director at the Eastmont Wellness Center and a longtime provider of dental services to underserved and disadvantaged communities.
- **Jocelyn Larkin of Berkeley, Justice.** Jocelyn is an attorney at the center of landmark employment discrimination cases who has helped protect and create new opportunities for women in the workplace.
- **Nicole Taylor of Oakland, Philanthropy.** Nicole has led the East Bay Community Foundation in a dramatic expansion of its ability to raise and distribute millions of dollars to help people train for and find productive jobs.
- **Dawn Shaughnessy of Livermore, Science.** Dawn is a scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory who leads a team that has discovered six new elements on

the periodic table – the heaviest elements found to date.

- **Debby De Angelis of Hayward, Sports and Athletics.** Debby is athletic director at Cal State East Bay who has overseen an expansion of CSUEB's sports programs and its elevation to a Division II program offering scholarships to student athletes.
- **Arooj Haq of San Leandro, Youth.** Arooj, 17, is a senior at San Leandro High School and an aspiring nurse who participates in programs that teach children and teens to make healthy lifestyle choices.

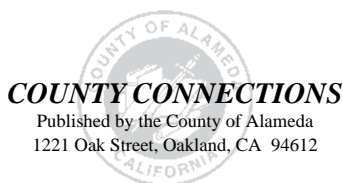
To learn more about the 2012 inductees to the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, go to <http://www.acgov.org/cao/halloffame/>. This year's Women's Hall of Fame luncheon and awards ceremony is set for 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, 2012, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 4700 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. Tickets to the luncheon and awards ceremony are \$75 each. For tickets, call (510) 272-6510 or visit <http://www.acgov.org/cao/halloffame/>.

Daniel Woldesenbet named President COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

On December 2, 2011, Daniel Woldesenbet, Director of Public Works, was installed as President of the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC). CEAC represents county engineers, public works directors and county road commissioners from California's 58 counties. Through its policy committees that include Transportation, Flood Control and Water Resources, Land Use, Solid Waste, Surveyor, and Oversight and Special Tasks, CEAC seeks to inform and influence local, regional and statewide legislative and policy initiatives. CEAC also provides the platform for discussions, and dissemination of best practices and innovations in public works and local government administration. As President, Daniel will continue



to advance the collaborative efforts of California's public works professionals in their exchange of ideas aimed at improving public service.



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**Alameda County's New "Voter
Profile" Feature a 1st in State**

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters has launched a new online "Voter Profile" feature that allows registered voters in the County to review all aspects of their voter status with the click of a button. The new feature is available at the Registrar of Voters website at: www.acgov.org/rov.

Alameda County is believed to be the first county in California to offer this voter-friendly online feature, which allows voters to quickly review and update key aspects of their voter status with Alameda County. The Voter Profile is available in five languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

By typing in their address and date of birth – an approach that offers ease-of-use and voter security - users of the new feature will be able to quickly access their Voter Profile, which allows them to:

- Learn if their registration is current
- Verify their political party affiliation; the Voter Profile also provides easy information on how to change this affiliation if desired
- Find the date they registered to vote in Alameda County
- See if they are registered to vote-by-mail
- See the preferred language in which they are signed up to receive voting materials. The new website allows the voter to easily change their preferred language if they choose to do so
- Find how they are signed up to receive sample ballots and other key elections materials. The website also allows voters to easily change how they prefer to receive these elections materials.

The voter profile also lists all federal, State and local districts in which the voter is eligible to cast a vote. During election season, the feature also lists the date of the next election and the location of the voter's registered polling place.

For tickets to this year's **Women's Hall of Fame luncheon and awards ceremony on Saturday, March 31, 2012** call (510) 272-6510 or visit

<http://www.acgov.org/cao/halloffame/>

County Links

Alameda County Government <http://www.acgov.org/government.htm>
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/departments.htm>
Employment with Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/employment.htm>
Alameda County forms <http://www.acgov.org/formcenter.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).