## CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,
County Administrator

The November 6 election brought some good news for counties, particularly with the passage of State Proposition 30 and the promise it brings of increased financial stability in Sacramento along with Constitutional protection for realignment funding. Proposition 30 was a package of sales- and income-tax increases that was the centerpiece of Governor Brown's efforts to gain some control over the State budget. While the Governor said that Prop. 30's failure would have meant steep reductions to education, there was significant concern that outcry from local schools and public universities would have meant counties, cities and special districts would eventually have been asked to share the pain. That threat seems for now to have passed – though the State's financial woes have clearly not reached their end and we must continue to closely monitor the budget situation in Sacramento. Furthermore, we remain concerned about the potential impacts looming federal funding cuts could have on our programs. The so-called Fiscal Cliff that President Obama and Congress are now trying to avoid could bring steep cuts to Community Development Block Grant, Juvenile Justice Programs, Homeless Assistance Grants, and Labor Training and Employment Services programs that undoubtedly would hit us hard. We will be paying close attention to the negotiations in Washington and will update you on new developments.
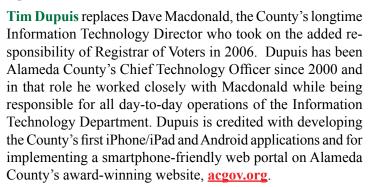
# Alameda County Fills 3 Key Leadership Posts

The Board of Supervisors on December 4 filled three key leadership posts by appointing LaDonna Harris as the County's Chief Probation Officer, Brendon Woods as its new Public Defender and Tim Dupuis as Interim Director of Information Technology and Registrar of Voters.

**LaDonna Harris** was a longtime employee of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office who came out of retirement to assume the post of Acting Alameda County Probation Chief in March. In a memo to her staff, Harris said: "I am very proud to be an active part of this department. I commit to you that I will do everything I can to ensure that you have all of the resources you need to continue to have a positive impact on the community we serve. I will continue to hold you to a high standard because the community is counting on us to deliver and because you have already demonstrated your ability to produce extraordinary results.''

*LaDonna Harris*

**Brendon Woods** replaces Diane Bellas, who served as Alameda County Public Defender for 12 years before retiring in March. He has worked with the Alameda County Public Defender's Office since 1995 and served in several posts in the office before becoming Senior Assistant Public Defender under Bellas. "I am excited to lead the amazing group of lawyers, investigators and support staff that work in our office,'' Woods said. "I am deeply, deeply committed to ensuring that the indigent clients of Alameda County receive excellent representation."

*Brendon Woods*

**Tim Dupuis** replaces Dave Macdonald, the County's longtime Information Technology Director who took on the added responsibility of Registrar of Voters in 2006. Dupuis has been Alameda County's Chief Technology Officer since 2000 and in that role he worked closely with Macdonald while being responsible for all day-to-day operations of the Information Technology Department. Dupuis is credited with developing the County's first iPhone/iPad and Android applications and for implementing a smartphone-friendly web portal on Alameda County's award-winning website, **acgov.org**.

*Tim Dupuis*

# Big Turnout for 2012 Alameda County Apps Challenge

*A* clever mobile app that allows users to check if books are available in the Alameda County library system – and to reserve those books if they are available – was the first-place winner in Alameda County's first-ever Hackathon on December 8 at the Castro Valley Library. The entry called BookIt! was the unanimous Grand Prize selection by judges at the end of the day-long Alameda County Apps Challenge 2012. The Apps Challenge culminated with submissions by 24 teams that each developed apps or concepts by tapping into public records made available by Alameda County. The three creators of the BookIt! app shared the Grand Prize of $3,000. BookIt! edged-out Second Prize-winner, ACPR Finder, a creative app that sifts through County Parks and Recreation Data to provide user-friendly information about local parks. The ACPR Finder app was created by two Castro Valley High School students who shared a $1,500 prize.  A $500 Third Prize was awarded to creators of SNAPMapper, which helps users find stores that accept SNAP, the new federal name for food stamps, by distance, price or quality.  Other apps submitted include one that displays points of interest in Alameda County, another that shows where senior services are available in the County, and another that helps the public find a broad array of services simply by entering a zip code. County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, who presented the awards along with County Supervisor Nate Miley, said the event was extremely successful, with more than 120 participants who helped identify new ways Alameda County government can strengthen bonds with residents. Muranishi said the public should stay tuned for more Apps Challenge events throughout the County in 2013. "These events are a great way to emphasize the many services the County provides and to tap into the vast pool of talent and creativity available in our community," Muranishi said. Supervisor Miley added: "It was amazing to see such a wide range of participants from youth to adults who are passionate about open data and how it can be utilized to improve the lives of our citizens."



*Creators of the winning app, called BookIt!, receive their $3,000 Grand Prize from County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, Board of Supervisors President Nate Miley and Tim Dupuis, Interim Director of Information Technology.*



*These "hackers" were among 24 teams who created apps during the Alameda County Apps Challenge 2012 on December 8 at the Castro Valley Library*

# Alameda County Wins Big in "Best of the Web" Contest

*I*f you have not yet visited **www.acgov.org**, then you should take a quick virtual stroll on over to see what the buzz is about.  In August, Alameda County was announced as the 3rd Place Winner in the County Portal Category for the Best of the Web contest.  The Best of the Web is a joint endeavor of Government Technology and the Center for Digital Government that surveys all participating US State, county, and city websites. While a beautiful looking website provides a good first impression, the Best of the Web judges are also looking for sites that are functional, economical, and utilize innovative technology and concepts to make information and services accessible to the population they serve.  Showcasing its "less is more design," Alameda County's new website provides better navigation and accessibility for residents to easily locate County services, search for information, and conduct business transactions online, as well as leveraging several social media tools to enhance communication with the public. Harnessing the design talents and creativity of ITD's award-winning Web Team, the County's new portal provides citizens easy access to services and resources provided by Alameda County, and provides local businesses the opportunity to participate in providing materials and services to the County.



*Howard Hill (left) and Michael Rock (right) of the Information Technology Department accept the Best of the Web Award from Kristy Fifelski of the Center for Digital Government.*

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# Standing up to Domestic Violence

*M*ore than 100 people turned out on October 26th for the 10th Annual Day of Remembrance to honor those who have been killed as a result of domestic violence. This year's event was co-hosted by the Alameda County Family Justice Center, County Supervisor Richard Valle and District Attorney Nancy O'Malley. O'Malley said the annual event aimed not only to honor the victims of domestic violence but also to bring the community together to "reaffirm our commitment to end domestic violence in Alameda County." The program took a solemn turn when participants read aloud the names of more than 150 people who have died in domestic violence incidents in Alameda County since 1996. As each name was read, a memorial bell rang mournfully. The proceedings ended on a hopeful note, as singers Ria Ramirez and Marielle Athenna offered an inspiring performance of "The Greatest Love of All," and Cherri Allison, executive director of the Family Justice Center, said that efforts to combat domestic violence can only help to bolster the fight against violent crime in the community as well. "It all begins in the home," she said.

# "Let's Move!" Campaign

*A*lameda County officials joined representatives of Oakland-based Revolution Foods at an Oakland school on October 31 to officially launch the County's "Let's Move" campaign to promote healthier food choices and exercise as the keys to wiping out the epidemic of childhood obesity. Alameda County is one of the first counties in California to officially join "Let's Move," a campaign founded in 2010 by First Lady Michelle Obama that is dedicated to solving the problem of obesity within a generation. Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator, touted Let's Move! as the latest in a string of opportunities the County has seized to partner with local business to support youth, healthy eating and local workforce development. County Supervisor Keith Carson, said he hopes to use his position on the Executive Board of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) as a platform to persuade other California counties to join the Let's Move! campaign to build a comprehensive plan to decrease rates of childhood obesity.

## *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).