



CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,
County Administrator

Alameda County employees are spreading the holiday cheer by generously giving and volunteering in our community. Just off our record-setting Combined Charities campaign, which netted a total of \$457,338 for 651 charity organizations, Alameda County launched its **2011 Alameda County Employee Holiday Food Drive** in early December. We are once again working with the Alameda County Community Food Bank to help provide nutritious food to people in need in our community. You can help by dropping off food at one of 20 locations throughout the County. A list of dropoff sites is at <http://bit.ly/alcofooddrive>. Giving the Food Drive a big boost is the Alameda County Library and its "Food 4 Fines" program, which allows Library patrons to subtract \$1 in overdue fines per non-perishable food item donated to the food drive, up to \$10. The holiday spirit is also in abundance within the Alameda County Fire Department, which is moving full-bore on its **Annual Holiday Toy Drive**. The Toy Drive provides gifts to children who might not otherwise get anything under the tree. To get the word out, Santa Claus made several stops to meet boys and girls at County fire stations this month. Toys can be dropped off at any County fire station. For more information, call 510-618-3479 during business hours. We wish you and your family a Happy Holiday season and a wonderful 2012!



Children and Family Services Recognized for Adoption Efforts

The Alameda County Social Services Agency and its Department of Children and Family Services received some well-deserved recognition during National Adoption Month in November by being presented with the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's All Children-All Families Seal of Recognition. Awarded days before Alameda County hosted its 12th Annual Adoption Day ceremony – during which 37 local foster youth had their adoptions finalized – the Seal of Recognition recognized the department's pioneering efforts to promote and support foster and adoptive parent opportunities in the lesbian,

gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Alameda County is only the second county in the nation to earn the Seal of Recognition, an achievement that highlights the County's active efforts to work with LGBT foster and adoptive families that reach back more than three decades. This effort has served to strengthen Alameda County's commitment to working with all capable families to find safe, permanent and nurturing homes for the nearly 3,000 youth living in foster care in Alameda County. The Department's accomplishment underscores how helping children and families is one of our top priorities.

Golden State Warriors Support Kids at County Family Justice Center



Pictured, left to right: Cherri Allison, Executive Director, Family Justice Center; Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney; Rick Welts, Warriors President and COO; Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator, at the dedication of the new Reading and Learning Center at the Alameda County Family Justice Center.

Golden State Warriors legend Alvin Attles and Warriors President Rick Welts were on hand November 29 as the Warriors unveiled a new Reading and Learning Center at the Alameda County Family Justice Center (FJC) in Oakland. Attles and Welts joined Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley

and County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi to dedicate the new center, a refurbished version of the FJC's Kids Corner. Thanks to the team's Season of Giving campaign, kids served at the FJC will now have access to upgraded educational materials, books, photos and other items in a family-friendly space.

New Monument Recognizes Every Alameda County Supervisor

A magnificent new granite monument recognizing Alameda County's rich history – and every County Supervisor who has served over the past 156 years – has been unveiled at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. The monument and its nearly 54 tons of granite grew from Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty's idea to restore a flagpole that for many years adorned a gazebo area near the horse track at the historic Pleasanton fairgrounds. The idea evolved into the monument's current circular configuration, with a flagpole at its center erected on a pentagon shaped granite base, and five granite monoliths and five granite benches adorning the circle's periphery. Each of the five sides of the flagpole's granite base represents a county district and is engraved with names of the supervisors who served in Alameda County from 1855 to 1885. The five monolith slabs surrounding the pentagon carry the names of all the supervisors serving from 1885 to the present.

The monument is being financed entirely through private donations. The public can support the project by purchasing



bricks or benches, upon which their names will be engraved. To learn more about purchasing a brick or bench, email the Alameda County Fair at marketing@alamedacountyfair.com or call (925) 426-7565.

Help for Low-Income Taxpayers

The Alameda County Social Services Agency is teaming up with the United Way on the Earn It! Save It! Keep It! Program to help taxpayers capture the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, which can result in substantially larger tax refunds. The program offers trained tax preparers free of charge to help low-income taxpayers take advantage of tax credits and maximize their annual tax refunds.

To be eligible for the program, taxpayers' 2011 income must be less than \$50,000.

Tax preparation services will be available at three Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites: the North Oakland Self Sufficiency Center, 2000 San Pablo Ave., Oakland; the Enterprise Medi-Cal Office, 8477 Enterprise Way, Oakland; and the Eden Multi-Service Center, 24100 Amador Street, Hayward. Hours will be on Wednesdays between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays between 9 a.m. and Noon, starting on January 28 and running through April 14, 2012.

Walk-ins are welcome!

For more information, call 211 or visit www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org.

Agriculture Canine Inspection Team Protects Local Environment

With the help of a black dog named "Cosmo," the Community Development Agency's Agriculture Canine Inspection Team continues to intercept unmarked parcels containing agricultural commodities infested with harmful exotic pests that can damage local agricultural and natural environments. These parcels enter California through a variety of shipping terminals, several of which are located here in Alameda County. Recently, Agricultural Biologist and Canine Handler Lisa Centoni, and her canine partner 'Cosmo', a black lab mix, intercepted a 13 lb. box of Florida origin *Annona squamosa* fruit (commonly known as 'sugar apples') at one of the terminals. Tests later showed the package also contained several insects known as "mealybugs" deemed to be potentially harmful to local agriculture. To learn more about the canine inspection program, go to: <http://bit.ly/acdogteam>



*Wishing you a Healthy
and
Happy 2012!*




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Realignment Plan Passed in Alameda County

Responding to its new State-mandated responsibility for lower-level felony offenders, Alameda County has approved a new Public Safety Realignment Implementation Plan that aims to ensure public safety, reduce recidivism, and promote community-based alternatives to incarceration. The plan was developed by the County's Community Corrections Partnership (CCP), a group of top Alameda County and local municipal officials that met regularly over several months. CCP developed a plan that complies with a new State law that shifted responsibility for lower level felony offenders from the State to the counties effective October 1, 2011. The plan seeks to ensure public safety while addressing the needs of distinct new populations to be served under realignment: those released from State prison to community supervision, those who previously would have been sent to State prison upon conviction for specified crimes, and a majority of parole violators. In addition, Alameda County must manage this new criminal justice population with fewer resources than most other similar sized counties. The State's funding formula put the County at a disadvantage due to its successful history of keeping most lower-level offenders at the local level, which the new legislation seeks to do statewide.

"Food 4 Fines" at Alameda County Library Branches

The Alameda County Library and the Alameda County Community Food Bank are teaming up to bring Food 4 Fines to Alameda County Library card holders this holiday season. From December 17-31, for each non-perishable food item brought to the library \$1 will be subtracted from overdue fines to a maximum of \$10. The program serves library patrons who, due to overdue fines, have stopped coming to County library branches. It also helps meet the needs of hungry residents in our community. Ten Alameda County Library branches are taking part in Food 4 Fines: Albany, Centerville, Fremont, Newark, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley, Dublin, Irvington, Niles and Union City. The Alameda County Library system services a community of over 500,000 customers; the Alameda County Community Food Bank serves over 49,000 people each week. Together we can make a difference! Only non-perishable, un-expired, store-sealed items will be accepted. No glass, please!

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>
Traffic Tickets https://www.acgov.org/mvp_app/CitationServlet
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).