



CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,
County Administrator

We were relieved that Congress reached an eleventh-hour agreement to avoid the “fiscal cliff” that many said would send the country spinning back into recession.

But with the short-term relief comes long-term concern, as many experts indicate the deal didn't solve underlying problems the “fiscal cliff” was set up to address. And it seems likely that the agreement has only kicked the issue a few months forward, as Congress and the White House prepare for what could be an even bigger fight over the debt ceiling in February.

There also are significant concerns with the “fiscal cliff” deal itself. Some people are upset because President Obama and the Democrats agreed to reduce the amount of new revenue by raising the earnings-threshold for higher taxes to \$400,000 for individuals and \$450,000 for couples. Others dislike the deal because it in effect raises taxes imposed on upper-income Americans but deferred decisions on possible spending cuts for two months. And that's the focus of our concern, because we won't know what the impact on Alameda County will be until Congress decides on those spending cuts. Our objective now will be to remind the decisions makers in Washington that any spending cuts they enact will impact important programs helping people in our community.

Alameda County Names New Fire Chief



Demetrious N. Shaffer has been appointed Alameda County Fire Chief. Chief Shaffer's appointment was made official by the Board of Supervisors in late December. He served as Interim Fire Chief since June 2012, following former Fire Chief Sheldon Gilbert's resignation. “We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Demetrious Shaffer, who we believe will be an outstanding Fire Chief for Alameda County,” said Nate Miley, President of the Board of Supervisors. “I also want to extend my sincere thanks to Chief Shaffer, who served with great distinction over the past six months as our Interim Fire Chief.” Shaffer began his career as a firefighter in Mountain View and steadily moved up the ranks before being appointed as the Newark Fire Chief in 2005, and is the current president of the California Fire Chiefs

Association. He has successfully demonstrated his leadership during challenging financial times, and has been integral in consolidation efforts geared at achieving regional efficiencies in the delivery of fire services. Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator, said, “We look forward to working with Chief Shaffer and know that the department and the County will benefit from his past experience as a chief and his statewide leadership role.”



20th Anniversary Celebration

10 Inductees to be Honored

The Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame will celebrate its 20th Anniversary by honoring 10 new inductees at a luncheon in Oakland on March 23. This year's inductees are Ophelia Basgal of Oakland, Business and Professions; Gilda Gonzales of Oakland, Community Service; Rita Sahai of Berkeley, Culture and Art; Ruth B. Love, Ph.D. of Oakland, Education; Carolyn Bloede, Director of Alameda County's Sustainability Program, Environment; Sherry Higgs of Fremont, Health; Sandra Pitts-Johnson of Oakland, Justice; Debra Pryor, City of Berkeley Fire Chief, Non-Traditional Careers; Hope A. Michelsen, Ph.D., of Livermore, Science; and Alice V. Deng of Pleasanton, Youth.

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Women's Hall of Fame

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"Each of these outstanding inductees contributes to life in our community in ways that help make Alameda County a place that is second-to-none in terms of its vibrant culture and rich diversity," said Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, an event co-chair. To learn more about the 2013 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 23, 2013, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 4700 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. The event will be hosted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women. The program raises money for local charities providing needed resources to women and children in our community. The Women's Hall of Fame also sponsors a Youth Scholarship to help a young woman further her education or training. Tickets to the luncheon and awards ceremony are \$75. For sponsorships and tickets, visit <http://www.acgov.org/cao/halloffame/>.

Special Election on March 5 in Piedmont

The Registrar of Voters Office is conducting a special election on March 5 in the City of Piedmont, where voters will be asked whether to approve a parcel tax to raise funds for city schools. Poll workers hired by Alameda County will operate six polling places in Piedmont on Election Day. The deadline for voters to register for this election is February 18. Voters will also be allowed to request Vote-By-Mail ballots between February 26 and March 5. These ballots must be received by the Registrar by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Alameda County Employees Walk the Extra Mile for Heart Association

The American Heart Association is congratulating Alameda County for its extensive participation and fund-raising efforts as part of the Bay Area Heart Walk in September 2012. A total of 77 Alameda County employees participated in the 5-K, noncompetitive event and raised \$3,286 to help the Heart Association in its efforts to promote healthier living and eliminate cardiovascular diseases and stroke. The Association extended sincere appreciation to three County employees who served as Heart Walk Team Captains: Vangie Brennan of Behavioral Health Care Services, whose team raised \$1,392; Andrea Askew of the Probation Department, whose team raised \$540; and Kelly Miles of the Sheriff's Office, whose team raised \$430. Three individuals also raised more than \$200 on their own: Brennan, who raised \$529; Askew, who raised \$411; and Emilia Sanders of the Social Services Agency, who raised \$225.



HEART WALK

Project Search Graduates Stand Tall

Nine adults with developmental disabilities were honored on January 31 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. These nine special individuals made up the third graduating class of the County's Project SEARCH Program. Project SEARCH allows interns to develop their job skills by becoming fully immersed in



a large workplace 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. Twelve members of the first and second graduating classes were placed in permanent employment following their Project SEARCH internships, while two members of the latest graduating class have already secured permanent jobs. Overall, five interns from the first three graduating classes have secured permanent jobs with Alameda County, including one of this year's graduates who has begun working for the Auditor-Controller's Office. County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, one of the driving forces behind Project SEARCH, continues to urge County department heads to consider Project SEARCH graduates when looking to fill administrative support positions. To provide the interns with a range of experience, the program called for each of the interns to complete assignments with three different County departments during their year-long stints. For those interested in participating in the Alameda County Project SEARCH program, contact the County's Diversity Program at (510) 272-3895, or visit <http://www.acgov.org/cao/diversity>.

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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/>

**March is
Art IS Education Month in
Alameda County**



every child, every school, every day

In celebration of Art IS Education month in March, the Alameda County Library and Alameda County Arts Commission are presenting a special series of free arts events for youth and families at all ten library locations plus the bookmobile. This series of 100 free arts events is titled "Libraries + Art = Infinite Possibilities" and includes a wide range of arts opportunities for youth and families including workshops, performances, concerts, exhibitions, and story time activities. Workshops cover a broad range of art forms including origami, kirigami, recycled book art, jewelry, scrapbooking, pastel drawing, puppetry, knitting, and digital photography. Interactive performances include poetry nights, story nights, and sing-alongs. All library locations are presenting free Mandala Community Quilt workshops where community members of all ages will create paper quilts that express what is important to their community. The quilts will be exhibited at the library locations during March. A complete list of events is available at www.aclibrary.org.

**County Offices closed for Four Holidays in
January and February**

Alameda County offices will be closed:

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 21 - Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
- February 12 - Lincoln's Birthday
- February 18 - Washington's Birthday

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).