

## Transportation Funding Package Good News for Local Roads

Alameda County leaders say a comprehensive transportation funding package passed by the State Legislature in April will generate much-needed revenue to fix local roads and other aging infrastructure.

The funding package known as SB1 was approved by the State Legislature early April, and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on April 28. It will bring an estimated \$23.2 million annually to Alameda County over the next decade to help pay for road safety improvements, fill potholes and repair local streets, highways, bridges and overpasses.

"This landmark legislation offers counties real hope to catch up on a significant backlog of deferred maintenance," said Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, President of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). "From my home county of Alameda to rural counties like Alpine, we're finally going to be able to start fixing potholes, improving pavement and making sure our bridges are structurally sound."




More about the landmark legislation can be obtained in a press release issued by Governor Jerry Brown, <https://www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=19769>.

County leaders say important road maintenance and repair projects have suffered due to dwindling resources available through a statewide Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA). HUTA funds have long been an important component of these local projects, but have diminished in recent years due to a precipitous drop in gasoline prices and greater automobile fuel efficiency.

According to the Alameda County Public Works Agency, funds generated by SB1 will not only help pay for roadway improvements, they will also enhance the County's chances in receiving matching State grant funds for major transportation upgrades.

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## Warriors Lighting Up Alameda County



June means the days are longer, the school year is ending and, for the third straight year, our **Golden State Warriors** are battling for the National Basketball Association Championship. Once again, Alameda County is rallying behind the Warriors as they chase championship glory. We are lighting up Oakland's iconic Rene C. Davidson Courthouse in blue and gold each night (see picture at right), while several buildings within our Oakland government complex are adorned with "Strength in Numbers" banners to support our team.

In addition, more than a few County workers are emphasizing blue and gold in their work attire. **Go Warriors!**



## Eden Night Live Returns to Ashland-Cherryland

Friday, June 16, will mark the return of Eden Night Live, an innovative project launched last year to provide a social space for healthy entertainment, community engagement and business development in Alameda County's Ashland-Cherryland community.

This year, the free events will occur at a new location at 166th Avenue and East 14th Street, every other Friday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m..

"This project is making the corridor more alive socially and safer," said Hilary Bass, Executive Director of the Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Activities League (DSAL), one of the project's co-sponsors. "It's also helping to incubate new businesses that we hope will grow and bring new economic activity to the area."

The community events were launched as a result of a lengthy planning process led by Ashland-Cherryland Rising, a community-based collective impact initiative involving the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and other public agencies, local business and neighborhood groups.

The project is assisted by a \$1 million federal Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) grant. In 2014, the BCJI program singled out Ashland-Cherryland as one of a select few local communities that can benefit from place-based, community oriented strategies to change neighborhoods of distress into neighborhoods of opportunity.

For more information, go to [edennightlive.com](http://edennightlive.com).

## Local CPA Selected Treasurer-Tax Collector

Henry C. Levy, an accountant and longtime member of Alameda County's Assessment Appeals Board, was selected by the Board of Supervisors to be the County's new Treasurer-Tax Collector.

Levy replaces Donald R. White, who served as Alameda County's Treasurer-Tax Collector for 32 years before retiring from the elected post in late February. Levy will serve out the term vacated by White, which ends December 31, 2018. The post will come up for election again in June 2018.

Levy was chosen from a field of four finalists for the position.

Levy, a longtime resident of Berkeley, founded the Henry Levy Group CPA firm in 1991. He started the business in his home and grew it into an organization with more than 30 employees and offices in six locations. He sold his share of the firm in 2016.

In addition to serving on the Assessment Appeals Board since 2004, Levy is a longtime volunteer Trainer with the County's award-winning Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which provides no-cost tax preparation services to low- and medium-income taxpayers.

"I am committed to doing what I can to educate the public about all the various forms of tax revenues that government depends on," Levy said. "I also plan to work closely with the County Assessor's Office to communicate the importance and legitimacy of property taxes assessed to all citizens of the County."

A native of New York, Levy spends much of his free time umpiring baseball games involving high school teams across Alameda County. He says he believes his experience as an umpire will serve him well in his new post.

"Both jobs involve understanding the rules and making sound decisions," he said.



## Alameda County DSAL Hosts "Summer Night Fights" on July 8

In a makeshift boxing gym in unincorporated Hayward, the Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Activities League (DSAL) is teaching local youth the "Sweet Science" of boxing, along with the valuable lessons about physical fitness, hard work and respect for others. Training sessions run five evenings a week and are free to local youth.

On Saturday, July 8, participants in the the DSAL Boxing Academy will take center stage at **Summer Night Fights**, a series of exhibition bouts that will take place under the watchful guidance of Coach Manny Villalon and Alameda County Sheriff's Sgts. Oscar Perez and Terrance Montigue, co-leaders of the boxing program.

It's the second year in a row that the Boxing Academy has sponsored the local series of bouts. Young boxers from outside the area also will participate, as all the boxers test their skills in USA Boxing-sanctioned bouts.

The DSAL Boxing Academy serves local youth as young as 8. Each boxer must finish their homework and maintain a 2.0 GPA to stay in the program. A row of desks has been set up near the boxing area to allow the youth to complete their school work each afternoon, while their peers can be heard close by doing jumping jacks, push-ups and sparring in the ring.



The bouts will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday July 8 at the Hayward Adult School gymnasium, 22100 Princeton Street, Hayward. It costs \$20 for a ringside seat, with general admission tickets going for \$15. Food and beverages will be for sale at the event.

For more information, go to [acdsal.org](http://acdsal.org).

# 24th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame

Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton

April 1, 2017

Photographs by Jose Z. Lim Jr.

About 450 people attended the 24th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on April 1 in Pleasanton. Proceeds from this year's event went to the Mary V. King "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship Fund, which provided a \$3,000 scholarship to this year's Youth Category Inductee, Lauryn Nguyen of Berkeley. Proceeds also went to four community partners: Calico, Magnolia Women's Recovery, OneChild and the School of Imagination. Live music and great food added to the occasion, which celebrated the accomplishments of 12 outstanding local women who were inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame. Sherry Hu, reporter for KPIX-TV Channel 5, served as Mistress of Ceremony. Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, Co-Chair of the Women's Hall of Fame, also received a special recognition from the Junior League of Oakland-East Bay for her "leadership, service and dedication to promoting the status of women." To learn more about the Women's Hall of Fame, go to: [www.acgov.org/whof/](http://www.acgov.org/whof/).





## Bright Ideas - A Feature Focusing on Innovation

### New Online Assessment Appeals Application Saves Resources, Enhances Customer Service

A new online Assessment Appeals application process saves precious public resources and simplifies how residents do business with Alameda County.

More than 500,000 residential and business property assessments are performed annually by the Alameda County Assessor's Office.

These assessments become the basis for property taxes to be paid by the owners. If property or business owners disagree with the assessed values, they can file an appeal with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Office (CBS) to request a hearing in front of the County's Assessment Appeals Board. Currently about 2,000 appeals are filed annually; however, in times of economic downturn, as property values decline, as many as 20,000 appeals have been filed in a year.

County of Alameda

Assessment Appeal Application

"The new application makes it much easier to initiate an appeal, while enhancing the ability of County staff to track each appeal," said Anika Campbell-Belton, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

The new online Portal for the Assessment Appeals Board System (AAB) was developed by the Information Technology Department (ITD) in partnership with the County Administrator's Office. It allows property owners to complete and submit their appeals applications online, and to sign the application using the County's eSignature technology (DocuSign). Appellants can also upload supporting documents and pay their filing fees online. They also have greater ability to track their appeal status, while County Staff can more easily monitor appeals in the system.

The new AAB system launched mid-way through the 2016 Assessment Appeal period. In the first year, approximately 12 percent of new appeals that were filed made use of the online process, resulting in a significant time savings to the Clerk of the Board Staff. The savings of staff time and level of customer convenience will grow as the public becomes more accustomed to the online system.



Robyn fell in love with fast-pitch softball at age 6, when she joined her first team in the Oakland Girls Softball League (OGSL).

She played catcher and third base all the way through high school. In college she started coaching, an activity she has taken up with great passion. Four years ago, her journey as a coach led her back to where it all started, OGSL, where she coaches two 10-and-under girls teams and also serves as player coordinator for a league that involves about 350 girls.

"Softball has really helped map some of the trajectory of my life," she says. "I know first-hand how the game can help a girl feel confident and strong. I really love the game, and I enjoy doing what I can to help other young women find strength within themselves."

To learn more about volunteer opportunities in the community, go to [acgovcares.org](http://acgovcares.org).

## Volunteer of the Month

**Robyn Levinson**

**H.E.A.T. Watch Program Coordinator  
District Attorney's Office**



Robyn Levinson (far right) poses with players and other volunteers with the Oakland Girls Softball League.

### Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Wilma Chan, President, District 3; Richard Valle, Vice President, District 2; Scott Haggerty, District 1; Nate Miley, District 4; Keith Carson District 5

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