



## CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,  
County Administrator

The passage of Measure AA by Alameda County voters in the June 3 Primary Election is great news for our community's health care safety net. Measure AA's passage means the half-cent sales tax supporting vital health care services will remain in effect for the next 20 years. The measure will provide more than \$100 million annually to safety net services provided through the Alameda Health System (AHS) and an excellent network of community clinics. Three-quarters of Measure AA revenue will go to the operating budget of AHS – which runs Highland Hospital in Oakland, John George Psychiatric and Fairmont hospitals in San Leandro and community clinics in Hayward, Newark and Oakland. AHS also recently took over San Leandro Hospital and Alameda Hospital. The balance will be allocated by our Board of Supervisors to fund a broad array of services through community-based primary care clinics, school health centers and other programs that care for the indigent, uninsured, children and seniors. For example, the sales tax supports thousands of annual visits to the emergency room at Children's Hospital in Oakland, including life-saving trauma care; behavioral health support for students in local schools; counseling services for victims of domestic violence and much more. Failure to renew this important funding measure would have threatened important health care programs and services. The passage of Measure AA is a strong show of support for our efforts to ensure that vital public services are accessible to all Alameda County residents regardless of where they live or their socioeconomic background. We greatly appreciate this support.

## Two Major Architecture Awards for REACH Ashland Youth Center

The California Counties Architects and Engineers Association (CCAEA) in April honored Alameda County with two of its top awards - Public Project of the Year (large counties) and Grand Project Award - for the REACH Ashland Youth Center. CCAEA gave the REACH Ashland Youth Center top marks in its annual awards program honoring municipal public projects that contribute to the community, are environmentally sustainable, provide enhancement to their workforce and boost the local economy. "This project represents the best that public sector collaboration among programs, architects and project managers



do every day for their communities," said Rob Unholz, CCAEA President. The REACH Ashland Youth Center, completed in the spring of 2013, was the fruit of a grassroots community effort that resulted in a dynamic, 31,500-square-foot

marvel of green architecture that includes a community health clinic, library, multi-media room, dance studio, weight room, arts room and a café. Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator said, "This award is a source of great pride to our county and staff. It recognizes our commitment to both sustainability and providing opportunities for positive outcomes in the communities we serve."

## County Administrator Proposes \$2.8 Billion Budget for FY 2014-15

Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi has presented a Proposed County Budget for FY 2014-15 that calls for using savings accrued over the past year and other strategies to close a funding gap of \$67.1 million. Muranishi said the funding gap is the smallest the County has faced in seven years, but that optimism about an economy picking up steam must be balanced with concerns about continued high demand for safety net services and persistent questions about costs associated with health care reform and the ongoing shift of responsibility for thousands of inmates from State to local authorities. Alameda County's Proposed Budget includes cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for most employee labor groups and many community based organizations (CBOs) that provide services under contracts with the County.

County officials credit Governor Jerry Brown for returning the State's finances to more stable footing and, in general, they support the governor's cautious approach that sees him resisting calls for significant new spending now that the State has a sizable budget surplus. But County supervisors

*Continued on page 2*

## Oakland Raiders Team Up with Alameda County Library!

The Oakland Raiders are offering significant discounts on game tickets to supporters of the Alameda County Library Foundation during the upcoming 2014-15 NFL season. Regularly priced tickets can be purchased for as low as \$45 from the Foundation website, [aclf.org](http://aclf.org); use access code ACLF. The Raiders are also offering new seating options to ACLF supporters this year. Proceeds from ticket purchases will help support Alameda County Library programs & services. For Raiders Tickets & Seating Click [http://aclf.org/events\\_current.html](http://aclf.org/events_current.html) or call Katie Hom at (510) 745-1551. For ACLF & Fundraising Info call: Tiona Smith, Executive Director, at (510) 505-7707.



**GO RAIDERS! GO READERS!**

## Budget Hearings Begin June 23

*Continued from page 1*

continue to make their case that – given the hardship that cumulative reductions have had on the poor – the State should restore cuts to poverty-fighting programs like CalFresh food assistance, subsidized childcare and housing assistance for CalWORKs recipients.

Furthermore, Alameda County continues to call for a long-overdue acceleration of reimbursements to local governments for State-imposed mandates. Though the Governor proposes returning \$100 million to local governments in FY 2014-15, the State Legislature appears eager to use these funds for new investments in programs. The Proposed Budget totals \$2.8 billion, an increase of \$86.7 million from the

2013-2014 Final Budget. It supports a workforce of almost 9,500 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, a net increase of 297 FTE. The Proposed Budget recommends the use of \$17.4 million in ongoing strategies and \$49.7 million in one-time strategies, with most of the one-time savings coming from the Fiscal Management Reward (FMR) Program. FMR allows departments to carry over net savings each fiscal year to be used in subsequent years for budget balancing and to help preserve vital services. The Board of Supervisors has scheduled Budget Hearings on June 23 and 24 with adoption of the Final County Budget for FY 2014-15 scheduled for Friday, June 27.

## County Helps Seniors During Elder Abuse Awareness Month

In recognition of June as **Elder Abuse Awareness Month**, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and the Alameda County Social Services Agency have joined forces to organize a series of free workshops to provide safety tips to seniors. This series, entitled "An Ounce of Prevention," will provide valuable information, resources and expertise in all areas of elder abuse prevention. Participating will be representatives from the DA's Office Elder Protection Unit, Adult Protective Services, local law enforcement, U.S. Postal Inspectors, Legal Assistance for Seniors and the Superior Court Investigators Office. The workshops are in keeping with the mission of the District Attorney's Office and the Social Services Agency to ensure the safety and well-being of the elder community of Alameda County.

Upcoming workshops will be held in Oakland and San Leandro. For more information, go to [www.alcoda.org/victim\\_witness](http://www.alcoda.org/victim_witness).

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS WRAPS UP JUNE 3 PRIMARY

Results from the June 3 Primary Election in Alameda County have been finalized after County elections staff completed two weeks working long hours to complete ballot processing and a State-mandated manual audit of the results. The election was a major undertaking for Alameda County, which operated about 800 polling places and hired about 4,500 poll workers. Marquee races in Alameda County included the election for Auditor-Controller, which was won by longtime Deputy Auditor Steve Manning. Also victorious at the polls was Measure AA, the half-cent Alameda County sales tax for health care. The success of Measure AA the sales tax to support important health care services in Alameda County will be in place until 2034. Voter turnout in Alameda County was just under 26 percent, which is low by historical standards but was still higher than the turnout statewide. The Registrar of Voters office also continued its record of excellent customer service by processing the election results in a timely and efficient manner. The Registrar updated its website to show the latest vote tallies several times on Election Night and frequently in the following days. In addition, the Registrar certified its Final Results ahead of most large California counties. With the June Primary now wrapped up, the Registrar already has started to prepare for the November General Election. To inquire about being a poll worker in November, call (510) 272-6971.

## ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS

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1221 Oak Street, Suite 536      4501 Pleasanton Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94612      Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Phone: (510) 272-6691      Phone: (925) 551-6995  
Fax: (510) 208-3910      Fax: (925) 484-2809

[district1@acgov.org](mailto:district1@acgov.org)

### **SUPERVISOR RICHARD VALLE, District 2**

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536      Southland Drive, Suite 101  
Oakland, CA 94612      Hayward, CA 94545  
Phone: (510) 272-6692      Phone: (510) 259-1097  
Fax: (510) 271-5115      Fax: (510) 259-0860

[district2@acgov.org](mailto:district2@acgov.org)

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1221 Oak Street, Suite 536      15903 Hesperian Blvd.  
Oakland, CA 94612      San Lorenzo, CA 94580  
Phone: (510) 272-6693      Phone: (510) 278-0367  
Fax: (510) 268-8004      Fax: (510) 278-0467

[district3@acgov.org](mailto:district3@acgov.org)

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1221 Oak Street, Suite 536      20993 Redwood Road  
Oakland, CA 94612      Castro Valley, CA 94546  
Phone: (510) 272-6694      Phone: (510) 670-5717  
Fax: (510) 465-7628      Fax: (510) 537-7289

4501 Pleasanton Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Phone: (925) 803-7959

[district4@acgov.org](mailto:district4@acgov.org)

### **SUPERVISOR KEITH CARSON, District 5**

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: (510) 272-6695  
Fax: (510) 271-5151

[bosdist5@acgov.org](mailto:bosdist5@acgov.org)

## County's Farm Stand Program Expands to New Oakland Location

Alameda County's successful "Farm Stand" program, which brings locally grown fresh produce to neighborhoods where this kind of healthy food may not be readily available, is expanding with the launch of a fourth weekly Farm Stand in the County. The new Farm Stand, which opened June 24, will operate Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the County Administration Building at 1221 Oak Street in Oakland. The Farm Stand program was launched last year through a unique partnership involving the Alameda County Social Services Agency and Dig Deep Farms and Produce. Dig Deep Farms is a venture started by the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League (DSAL) that aims to prevent violence and crime through the creation of jobs growing, harvesting and distributing healthy food. Over the past year, weekly Farm Stands have been launched at three County facilities where they provide fresh, locally grown produce at "dirt cheap" prices: the Eastmont Self-Sufficiency Center in East Oakland (Mondays); the Eden Area Multi-Service Center in Hayward (Thursdays); and the Thomas Berkeley Self-Sufficiency Center on San Pablo Avenue in Oakland (Fridays). The fourth Farm Stand in the plaza area of the County Administration Building is being launched in collaboration with Alameda County's New Beginnings Initiative, which provides vocational training, on-the-job experience and mentorship to local at-risk youth. Among other ventures, New Beginnings operates several Fresh Start Cafes in Alameda County that employ youth from the juvenile justice and foster care systems. Local youth from both New Beginnings and Dig Deep Farms/DSAL are expected to be involved in operating the new Farm Stand. In addition, the Social Services Agency will continue to utilize the Farm Stand program to provide employment and job training opportunities to CalWorks participants.

The Farm Stands are open to the public. Cash, credit cards and EBT cards are accepted.

### *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).