



November/December 2014

CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,
County Administrator

In 2014 Alameda County again drew national attention for its leadership in lessening the environmental impacts of government operations, while raising the profile of innovative County efforts to provide healthy food to under-served communities and job skills to youth and others facing employment challenges. In January, we honored seven adults with developmental disabilities who graduated from their year-long County internships as part of our pioneering **Project SEARCH** program. In April, Alameda County was selected the Bay Area's **Most "EV Ready" Large Community** as part of the 2014 Ready, Set, Charge! Bay Area Electric Vehicle Readiness Awards, which recognized our visionary efforts to incorporate electric vehicles (EVs) into our operations. The recognition came at a time when Alameda County added a substantial number of EV charging stations and expanded its vehicle fleet to more than 50 all-electric vehicles by joining with other regional governments and **leading the nation's largest municipal procurement of EVs**. This year also saw the launch of our successful **"Farm Stand"** initiative, which brings locally grown fresh produce to neighborhoods where this kind of healthy food may not be readily available. We also saw our unique **Dig Deep Farms & Produce** initiative win the **California Counties Innovation Award** – the top honor presented by the California State Association of Counties in its annual Challenge Awards program. Dig Deep Farms & Produce grows and distributes healthy food in the community, while providing job opportunities to those who otherwise may face employment challenges. Lastly, our **2nd Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition** surpassed the County's all-time record for holiday donations to the Alameda County Community Food Bank. These are but a few of our many accomplishments in 2014, as we showed once again that by working together we can accomplish great things! Happy Holidays!

COUNTY CELEBRATES UPGRADED PERALTA OAKS FACILITY



Taking part in a ribbon-cutting at the remodeled Peralta Oaks facility in Oakland on November 25 were (left to right): Aki Nakao, Director, General Services Agency; Sheriff Gregory Ahern; County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi; Dr. Erica Pan, Director of Communicable Disease Control; and Supervisor Nate Miley, District 4.

Alameda County is celebrating the completion of a major retrofit and redesign of its three-story Peralta Oaks complex in Oakland. Starting in January, the facility will be the new home of the County Coroner's Bureau, the Public Health Department Laboratory and the Sheriff's Office's Crime Lab. That means the three County offices will no longer have to struggle with aging facilities and inadequate space. "This new dedicated space is critical to ensuring that County departments are operating at the highest level," said Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, whose district includes the new Peralta Oaks facility. Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator, said, "Our residents can now be certain that vital services and important laboratory work we provide are being

Auditor-Controller Patrick O'Connell Retiring

*Longtime Deputy Auditor Steve Manning
Elected Successor*

Patrick O'Connell, Alameda County's Auditor-Controller/Clerk Recorder for the past 28 years, has announced his plans to retire early next year. Steve Manning, longtime Deputy Auditor, was elected in June to serve as the next Auditor-Controller/Clerk Recorder. "I feel ready to do the job because I've worked for Pat, who is the best teacher and mentor that anyone could ask for," said Manning, who has worked for the Auditor's Office for 27 years and for 12 years as Deputy Auditor. O'Connell was first elected Auditor-Controller in 1986 and was re-elected six times.



O'Connell

Continued on Page 2

Patrick O’Connell Retiring; Steve Manning to Take Over As Alameda County Auditor-Controller in January

Continued from Page 1

When he officially steps down in early January, O’Connell will end a 45-year career with Alameda County – all of which has been based on the second floor of 1221 Oak Street, Oakland. “It’s time for me to enter into another phase of my life,” O’Connell said. He said he hopes the next phase will include plenty of travel with his wife, Julie, as well as time to visit with his children and two grandkids. O’Connell said his department has changed since the day he first reported to the County’s Internal Audits division in 1969. The department didn’t use computers in those days; auditors instead entered their calculations into large log books or by using unwieldy punch card machines. O’Connell said he came to Alameda County believing he would leave for greener pastures after a couple of years. Instead he moved from Internal Audits to the Tax Division to Payroll to Accounting to Administration. “Just when I had done a job long enough to begin to lose interest, along came another interesting challenge,” he said. “Things have changed a lot around here over the years, but the County’s always been a great place to work.”



Manning

FOOD DRIVE SMASHES COUNTY RECORDS

Alameda County employees showed their creativity and generosity again this year by contributing to a record-breaking effort in the County’s **2nd Annual Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition**. This year, Stone Soup smashed the County’s all-time records for employee donations to its annual Holiday Food Drive to support the Alameda County Community Food Bank. County employees donated **more than 16,000 pounds of food and over \$8,000 in cash to nearly double the County’s previous record**, set last year. The food drive created friendly competition between County departments, which were urged to rise above their peers in terms of total donations raised and to test their artistic know-how by creating compelling sculptures/art pieces using donated food cans, boxes and packages. The displays in the County’s public buildings all focused on the theme of hunger. A panel of five judges reviewed the entries made by 14 County departments and bestowed several awards. Winners included the District Attorney’s Office, which won the “Most Innovative Award” for its model of Oakland’s Rene C. Davidson Courthouse (pictured here), which was built with more than 1,300 pounds of food and rose more than six-feet high.



WE ARE AC!

Check out our latest installment of **WE ARE AC!** a regular series highlighting the vital work performed by County employees and departments. This month we feature a video about Alameda County’s record-breaking Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition. Fourteen County departments participated, donating more than 16,000 pound of food and over \$8,000 in cash to the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Employees also built inspired models with cans, boxes and packages of donated food, displays that focused on the theme of hunger. To see the video, go to <http://www.acgov.org/about/weareac/>.



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Day of Remembrance



Alameda County District Attorney Nancy E. O'Malley and the Alameda County Family Justice Center hosted the 12th Annual Day of Remembrance on October 24 to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives as a result of domestic violence. The event featured moving displays (above) commemorating the 175 people who have died as a result of domestic violence in Alameda County since 1996.

County Wraps up November Election

Final Alameda County results for the November 4 General Election show that 366,599 of the County's 814,009 registered voters cast ballots, bringing overall voter turnout to 45.04 percent. The Vote-by-Mail option continues to grow in popularity in Alameda County, with 62 percent of voters in the General Election choosing to mail in their ballots rather than vote at a designated Election Day polling place. Alameda County also hired more than 5,000 poll workers to work at polling places and return centers on Election Day. This number included a record total of bilingual poll workers fluent in English and one of eight other languages – Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Hindi, Khmer, Korean or Japanese. The Registrar operated nearly 800 polling places on Election Day.

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).