

January /February 2015

CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator

Some very exciting milestones await us in 2015 as Alameda County anticipates progress in priority areas such as sustainability, improved customer service and upgrades to aging County facilities. In January, three vital County services will begin operations in the new Peralta Oaks facility in Oakland. The County Coroner's Bureau, the Public Health Laboratory and Sheriff's Office Crime Lab will share the renovated County-owned facility, where they will have additional space to serve the public and access to state-of-the-art equipment. Construction of the 9-story Acute **Tower at Highland Hospital in Oakland** will also complete its final stages as we head toward the new facility's scheduled opening in 2016. Later this year we will celebrate the **reopening** of the San Lorenzo Library branch after a renovation project that will more than double the amount of library space in San Lorenzo. That project's completion will coincide with construction of a new San Lorenzo Village Plaza that will include seating, landscaping and an open area for community events near the upgraded library. The Plaza is scheduled for completion in 2016-17. The County also will be bringing significant new facilities to the unincorporated community of Cherryland. Construction of a new Cherryland Fire Station is scheduled for completion in Spring 2016, while we are moving full-steam ahead on a new Cherryland Community Center slated for completion in Fall 2016. Throughout 2015 we expect to finalize several projects as part of the **Regional Renewable Energy Procurement** project (R-REP). Alameda County is leading the project, which will bring renewable energy upgrades to more than 180 sites in four Bay Area counties. As many as 19 Alameda County sites will receive upgrades as part of this project. In all, these and other initiatives suggest 2015 will be another exciting year for Alameda County.

TWELVE TO ENTER WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

7welve outstanding local women will be inducted into the Alameda



County Women's Hall of Fame at the program's annual luncheon on March 21. This year's inductees are:

- **Shirley Nelson**, Business and Professions. Shirley founded Summit Bank in Oakland and the Summit Bank Foundation, which gives scholarships to youth to enable them to attend college.
- **Gladys Green**, Community Service. Gladys has led efforts to feed the hungry, grow local business and curb violence in her hometown of Oakland.
- Sherry Hu, Culture and Art. Sherry is a retired Emmy Award-winning news reporter who helps students in Oakland to produce a student newscast and website.
- Elñora T. Webb, Education. As President of Laney College in Oakland, Elñora has overseen extensive campus upgrades and strengthened partnerships with local business to bolster vocational training and employment opportunities for students.

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District Attorney O'Malley Honored for Fight Against Human Trafficking

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley was honored in



Sacramento on February 5 as one of five recipients of the 2015 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award. This prestigious award recognizes innovative leaders advancing breakthrough solutions to critical issues facing California. Each recipient's organization is awarded \$200,000 to advance his or her work, along with additional support. O'Malley was honored for her leadership as the head of an office that leads the State in human trafficking prosecutions. In 2005,

O'Malley created the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Watch program, the first of its kind in California and the first to operate within a public prosecution office in the United States. H.E.A.T. Watch brings prosecutors, investigators and victims' advocates together to address the needs of those who have been exploited, while working to ensure their exploiters are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

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WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

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- Jenny Fang, Environment. Jenny, a student at San Leandro High School, inspired her school to adopt more sustainable practices. She helped establish a school recycling program and a garden providing fresh produce to students on campus.
- Ann Petru, Health. Dr. Petru is Director of Infectious Diseases at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and a pioneer in the treatment of pediatric HIV/AIDS.
- **Peggy Bristol,** Justice. Peggy is an immigration attorney who has adopted innovative approaches to helping children seeking Special Immigration Juvenile Status and Asylum in the United States.
- Rhonda Wood, Non-Traditional Careers. Rhonda, owner and winemaker for Wood Family Vineyards in Livermore, has found success in an industry where women are underrepresented.
- **Bobbi Silten,** Philanthropy. Bobbi is President of the Gap Foundation and Senior Vice President of Global Responsibility for Gap Inc., overseeing volunteer programs and ensuring that Gap invests in humane business practices and quality workplace provisions.
- Natalia Zaitseva, Science, Technology, Engineering. Natalia is a staff physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory who developed a method for growing crystals at unprecedented speeds, contributing to fusion research at the lab.
- Michelle Smith McDonald, Sports and Athetics. Michelle is a sportswriter who has spent her career with leading Bay Area and national publications telling the stories of women who have transformed sports.
- Farmaan Judge, Youth. Farmaan is a student at Newark Memorial High School who started *Education 2 Future*, which raises money to provide educational opportunities for children living in poverty.

District Attorney O'Malley Honored For Fight Against Human Trafficking

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A 2012 report from the California Attorney General stated that O'Malley's office has prosecuted 46 percent of all human trafficking cases in California. O'Malley is committed to extending the impact of her work. "We need a meaningful and substantive dialogue among law enforcement, public welfare, juvenile justice and other leaders to chart a course for how California's public systems should best handle and care for victims of human trafficking and abuse," she says. "By coming together, working collaboratively and providing a comprehensive response, we will save lives and we will be more effective at preventing child sex trafficking."

Project SEARCH Graduates Celebrate a Year of Accomplishment



Twelve people graduated in January from Alameda County Project SEARCH, a year-long internship program providing employment training and opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities. The graduates were lauded for the positive attitudes and dedication that enabled them each to provide first-rate public service.

OPEN BUDGET ALAMEDA COUNTY *New Website Focuses on County Spending Priorities*

Alameda County launched its new "Open Budget Alameda County" website in February to promote greater understanding of how the County finances a broad range of programs and services. The new budget website, available at <u>http://</u> <u>budget.acgov.org</u>, was created by Alameda County in partnership with the Seattle-based cloud software company Socrata, which focuses on expanding access to government data. Alameda County is the first county in California to launch a site using Socrata's customer-friendly Open Budget format, which uses charts, graphs, images and other tools to make government budget data easier to understand. The site is part of a long-term effort to make the Alameda County Budget more accessible to County residents. The website accomplishes this goal by breaking down the annual budget in ways that appeal to users with a wide range of interests. The Open Budget site also links to a large quantity of additional budget information the County has posted online to provide a more detailed view of the County's spending priorities.

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS Contact Your Supervisor

SUPERVISOR SCOTT HAGGERTY, District 1

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

<u>district1@acgov.org</u>

SUPERVISOR RICHARD VALLE, District 2

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536 Oakland, CA 94612 Phone: (510) 272-6692 Fax: (510) 271-5115

 uite 536
 Southland Drive, Suite 101

 2
 Hayward, CA 94545

 5692
 Phone: (510) 259-1097

 15
 Fax: (510) 259-0860

 district2@acgov.org

SUPERVISOR WILMA CHAN, District 3

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536 Oakland, CA 94612 Phone: (510) 272-6693 Fax: (510) 268-8004

uite 53615903 Hesperian Blvd.2San Lorenzo, CA 945806693Phone: (510) 278-036704Fax: (510) 278-0467district3@acgov.org

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

4501 Pleasanton Avenue, 2nd Floor Pleasanton, CA 94566 Phone: (925) 803-7959 <u>district4@acgov.org</u>

SUPERVISOR KEITH CARSON, District 5

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536 Oakland, CA 94612 Phone: (510) 272-6695 Fax: (510) 271-5151 **bosdist5@acgov.org**

Effort to End Hunger In Alameda County by 2020



Supervisor Wilma Chan (center) is joined by Lori Cox (left), Director of the Alameda County Social Services Agency, and Suzan Bateson (right), Executive Director of the Alameda County Community Food Bank, at a news conference to launch a new initiative to end hunger in Alameda County by 2020.

Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan was joined in January by her fellow Supervisors, the Alameda County Community Food Bank and community food advocates in launching a full-throttle effort to end hunger in Alameda County by 2020. Chan said the initiative, ALL IN TO END HUNGER 2020, will be a sustained effort focusing on food system inefficiencies, public policy reforms, economic development, and community involvement. Currently one in five County residents is served by the Alameda County Food Bank and one in three children faces the threat of hunger. The initiative recognizes that – with more than 200,000 County residents living below the poverty line - it will take a community-wide collaboration to end hunger in Alameda County by 2020. "We are creating something bigger than ourselves with this collaboration," Supervisor Chan said. "Our partners, private donors, businesses, and County agencies are all coming together in concert to meet the challenge of ending hunger."

County Links

Alameda County Government <u>http://www.acgov.org/government/</u> Alameda County Board of Supervisors <u>http://www.acgov.org/board/</u> Lookup/pay Property Taxes <u>http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm</u> Awards won by Alameda County <u>http://www.acgov.org/awards/</u> Links to Alameda County Departments and Agencies <u>http://www.acgov.org/government/departments.htm</u> Employment with Alameda County <u>http://www.acgov.org/government/departments.htm</u> Alameda County forms <u>http://www.acgov.org/government/formscenter.htm</u> Alameda County Superior Court <u>http://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/</u>

For а calendar of Alameda County events, visit the County website at http://www.acgov.org/government/calendar.htm Also check the websites of the members of the Board of Supervisors (listed under Board contacts on the left side of this page).