



Alameda County Wins 7 National Awards

Alameda County has been selected to receive seven Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for programs that protect the environment, support vulnerable residents and save taxpayer dollars.

One winner, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office's "Safety Net Program," which works to help youth exploited through the commercial sex trade, was judged "Best of Category" in the Children and Youth Category out of entries from counties across the United States.

The District Attorney's Office also won an Achievement Award for its "Health, Education and Attendance for Life (H.E.A.L.) program, a partnership with the County's Healthcare Services Agency that is effectively addressing the links between health struggles faced by children in local schools and excessive school absences.

Other Alameda County Achievement Award winners for 2016 are: The County's General Services Agency for its "Green & Healthy Events Program, which trained employees on how to put on events that are healthy and sustainable.

The County's Information Technology Department won four awards for a wide range of projects. Winning projects were:

- The "Alameda County Permit Portal," an online tool to help residents obtain a wide range of licenses and permits from government agencies.
- "Innovate AC," an initiative engaging employees on ways to remake the County organization to be more innovative in serving shifting public needs.
- "New Collaboration Tools (SKYPE)," a countywide implementation of Skype to help employees participate in virtual meetings to prevent inefficiencies and costs associated with travel between different County worksites.
- The "Technology Re-use Program," which has created a streamlined process for Alameda County to centrally collect employee computers and other electronic equipment, wipe them of all data and prepare them to be re-used.

Inside This Issue

Alameda County Wins 7 National Awards	1
Promoting Healthy Housing	2
Eden Night Live	2
Budget Approved	3
Summer Reading Game	3
<i>Focus on Innovation</i>	
Registrar Pioneers New Ways to Serve Voters	4
Upgrades Coming to Santa Rita Jail	4

Alameda County Program Recognized for Achievements in Promoting Healthy Housing

The Alameda County Healthy Homes Department (ACHHD), as a member of the California Healthy Housing Coalition (CHHC), was awarded the 2016 Housing and Urban Development Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes. The Award, only three of which are given nationwide, recognizes excellence in healthy housing innovation and achievement.

"I applaud the winners for their commitment to sparking innovative development in their communities," said Secretary Julián Castro of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

ACHHD has actively promoted and participated in the CHHC's work in crafting public policy solutions to address local housing challenges, including:

- Making California the first state in the nation to add visible mold as an enforceable substandard housing condition (SB 655)
- Providing all jurisdictions in California with means to require landlords to address pest infestations (SB 488)
- Supporting code enforcement officers to address substandard conditions that contribute to pest infestations (SB 1167)
- Requiring landlords to provide notification to tenants prior to using pesticides to minimize exposure risk (SB 328)

"I am proud that HUD has recognized the tremendous efforts of our Department and the Coalition in promoting resident health through housing interventions and policy efforts," declared Maricela Foster, Department Director for ACHHD. "This recognition arriving when we are celebrating the first annual National Healthy Homes Month could not have come at a better time!"

The Alameda County Healthy Homes Department has been a national leader in childhood lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes programs, combining health, environment and residential hazard reduction services under one umbrella. The mission of Healthy Homes is to advance an integrated approach for safe and healthy housing, through collaborative community initiatives, applied research and policy development in order to improve the lives of vulnerable populations.

For more information about the Alameda County Healthy Homes Department and its services, visit www.achhd.org.

Eden Night Live Energizes Ashland-Cherryland

On July 1, Alameda County and a host of community partners launched Eden Night Live, a new social space for healthy entertainment, community engagement and business development that will light up Alameda County's Ashland-Cherryland community every Friday and Saturday evening through October.

The free events are taking place between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. each Friday and Saturday night at a newly designed outdoor community space at the corner of Mission Boulevard and Hampton Road in Alameda County's unincorporated Ashland-Cherryland community.

The community event is the 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 initiative is being funded by a \$1 million federal Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) grant. In 2014, the Sheriff's Office received a \$1 million grant from BCJI, which 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.

Partners including the Sheriff's Office, the Eden Chamber of Commerce and the Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Activities League (DSAL) have collaborated to create the twice-weekly family-friendly event, which will be the destination for locals to positively engage with the Ashland-Cherryland community and learn more about local businesses.

For more information about Eden Night Live, call (510) 537-5300 or go to <http://edennightlive.com/>.



Larry Brooks Director of Operations for Alameda County's Healthy Homes Department with HUD Award

Supervisors Approve \$2.97 Billion County Budget, Move to Address Residents' Critical Housing Needs

On June 30, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved a \$2.97 billion County Budget for FY 2016-17. The Final Budget closes a \$72.2 million funding gap without significant program reductions or staff layoffs, while allowing the County to pursue new initiatives to expand affordable housing, augment efforts to fight poverty and address other pressing community needs. The Final Budget supports a County workforce of 9,641 full-time employees, provides modest funding increases to community service providers and allows the County to make further investments in upgrading infrastructure and building its financial reserves.

The Final Budget also allows Alameda County to build on a number of innovative programs and facilities upgrades to expand services to County residents. These include:

- Completion of the \$668 million, multi-year upgrade of the Highland Hospital campus in Oakland, the largest construction project in County history.
- Expansion of the County's award-winning Dig Deep Farms and Produce initiative, which provides job training and employment opportunities to youth and low-income residents while making healthy food and produce available to underserved communities.
- Bold new initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and expand sustainable programs and practices. Initiatives include acquisition of new renewable energy systems, expanded recycling and composting programs and new "green" building projects.
- An intensified push to leverage technology and innovation to improve County services, which will include development of new digital tools to engage residents and expand access to resources.

In approving the Final Budget, County Supervisors renewed their commitment to assisting residents squeezed by the region's soaring housing costs. Following months of discussion at public meetings throughout the County, the Board voted to place a measure on the November ballot asking voters to approve up to \$580 million in General Obligation Bonds to support affordable housing and prevent displacement of vulnerable populations, including low-income residents, seniors and the disabled. This decision came in addition to numerous efforts the Board has led to mitigate problems associated with soaring housing costs. The efforts include investing over \$100 million annually in housing programs across various agencies and departments, and committing \$5 million to \$7.5 million per year of limited discretionary funding towards affordable housing programs across the County.

Summer Reading Game Kicks Off at Alameda County Library

The Alameda County Library is hosting its annual Summer Reading Game through August 13. The Summer Reading Game is a nationwide celebration that encourages reading and life-long learning. Summer reading programs engage children and teens with reading and other learning activities over the summer. Research suggests that students who participate in summer reading programs avoid summer learning loss. This year's game "Read for the Win" incorporates a sports and achievement theme and is open to all ages from newborns, children, teens, adults, and seniors. The all-ages game is fun, free, and easy to play.

You can play the game online at <http://summer.aclibrary.org/>, with a game board, or both. Players earn points and prizes by reading and completing various activities. The more you read, the more chances you can win. Teens and adults who complete the game are automatically entered into a drawing to win the following prizes:

- Go-Pro Camera (for teens)
- FitBit (for adults)

Alameda County Library is among one of many libraries statewide participating in the California Library Association's Summer Reading Challenge to get one million Californians reading this summer. Last year, more than 15,000 people signed up for Alameda County Library's Summer Reading Game. You can sign up for the Summer Reading Game now through August 13 online and at all branches of the Alameda County Library system.

For more information, visit the Alameda County Library website at: <http://aclibrary.org>.

Focus on Innovation

Registrar Pioneers New Ways to Serve Voters, Maximize Efficiency of Elections Process

On June 22, Alameda County became just the fourth of California's 58 counties - and the first of the State's large urban counties - to complete its vote count and certify its final results for the Presidential Primary Election on June 7.

Registrar of Voters Tim Dupuis said the dedication and hard work shown by the County's elections staff was a key reason for this accomplishment. He also cited a number of innovations that Alameda County has brought to the elections process to help voters and increase efficiency.

At the top of the list for this election was a network of secure Ballot Drop Boxes that the Registrar set up outside each of the City Halls in Alameda County's 14 incorporated cities. This allowed vote-by-mail voters to drop off their completed ballots at a convenient location in the weeks leading up to Election Day.



The convenience made the drop boxes extremely popular. Deputy Registrar of Voters Cynthia Cornejo said County elections staff collected 39,428 ballots from the drop

boxes - nearly 10 percent of the total number received in Alameda County for the primary election. County elections staff collected ballots from the locked drop boxes each day in the weeks leading up to Election Day, and often found them brimming with ballots. On two occasions, in fact, staff had to empty select drop boxes twice in one day because they had reached capacity.

The "Ballot Drop Stop" in Oakland was one of several innovations unveiled for the June Presidential Primary Election to maximize convenience for voters

Another popular feature unveiled for the June election was a drive-through "Ballot Drop Stop" the Registrar set up outside the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland. Elections staff operated the Drop Stop over two weekends and on Election Day as another way to encourage voters to vote and drop off their vote-by-mail ballots early. Nearly 4,000 ballots were dropped off at the Drop Stop, with almost half of that total dropped off on Election Day.

These offerings not only maximize convenience for voters, they also contribute to making vote processing more efficient overall. When large numbers of ballots are processed on the front end, the Registrar is that much further ahead in the process of certifying the final results when Election Day is over.

Upgrades Coming to Santa Rita Jail

On June 14, the Board of Supervisors approved \$116.9 million in upgrades to Santa Rita Jail, which will provide significant improvements in access for people with disabilities, create a new medical wing to provide greatly improved healthcare and mental health services to inmates, and enhance jail security.

The extensive capital improvement program for the jail includes:

- A \$21.6 million series of improvements and renovations to the jail to meet the needs of people with physical disabilities.
- Construction of a state-of-the-art Health Program and Services Unit (HPSU) to provide a wide array of physical and mental health services to inmates. This will include new space for educational and rehabilitative programs as well as private spaces for individual therapeutic and group counseling. This Unit will be operated in conjunction with County agencies and community based treatment providers. The project totals \$61.6 million, of which \$54.3 million is being funded through a grant from the State of California.
- A \$33.7 million project to replace outdated, 1980s-era security systems at the jail. The project will enhance the safety of inmates, staff and the surrounding community. County officials said the new systems will also save significant staff time that is currently required to maintain the existing security systems.

Alameda County Board of Supervisors

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