



SSA “Community Ambassadors” Program

The Social Services Agency seeks volunteers willing to give time and compassion to assist those in greatest need. Volunteer “Community Ambassadors” are involved in a variety of tasks that make a meaningful difference, from greeting customers in waiting rooms to distributing critically needed items. Within our fast-paced agency, Ambassadors have the opportunity to open their eyes to new experiences and be part of a collective force to improve the lives of Alameda County residents. Prospective Ambassadors must be at least 15 years of age (10th grade or higher), not a current SSA client, and not a current employee of SSA or the County of Alameda. County retirees and family members of County employees are welcome to participate. Help spread the word! For more information; contact coordinator Andrea Wong at (510) 271-9163 or e-mail: ssavolunteer@acgov.org. To read more, visit: <https://alamedasocialservices.org/public/community/volunteering/index.cfm>

Poll Workers

The Registrar of Voters Department needs Bilingual Poll Workers to work at polling places for the upcoming November 6, 2012, Presidential Election. The Registrar is looking for poll workers fluent in English as well as one of four other languages: Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog (Filipino) and Vietnamese. All poll workers will be paid to attend a mandatory training class prior to Election Day. For an application and more information please contact the Registrar of Voters via email rov_pollworker@acgov.org or phone (510) 272-6971.

CAO’s Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,
County Administrator

On June 28, the Board of Supervisors hosted a special reception for about 150 local residents who serve on a wide array of County Boards and Commissions. The event was a rare opportunity for Board members to express their appreciation to the mostly volunteer contingent for their often-overlooked efforts to provide service that is essential to County operations. There are more than 800 Boards and Commissions members who advise County Supervisors on a wide range of issues, from consumer affairs to public art projects, public health, youth policy, mental health issues and many other important policy areas. The Alameda County Fair Commission, established in 1905, is the longest active commission in the County. It is followed by the Alameda County Planning Commission, established in 1929.

There is an ongoing need for Alameda County residents to apply for positions on County Boards and Commissions. Those interested in serving may find Alameda County’s annual Leadership Academy program to be a great entry point for this kind of service.

The Academy meets each fall for six sessions, and begins this October. In the Academy, top County officials engage participants in interactive exercises to teach leadership skills and enhance public knowledge of the workings of local government.

To learn more about opportunities as a board member or commissioner, or to apply for a specific post, contact the Clerk of the Board’s Office at (510) 208-4949 or go to <http://acgov.org/clerk/apply.htm>. To learn more about the Leadership Academy, visit the CAO website at <http://acgov.org/cao/admin.htm>.



Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson with Marlene Hurd, District 5 Commissioner on the Consumer Affairs Commission.

Volunteer Marriage Commissioners Needed in Alameda County

Volunteers are needed at the Alameda County Clerk-Recorder’s Office to perform Civil Marriage Ceremonies, for a minimum of 2-1/2 hours per week. Volunteer marriage commissioners are needed to perform weddings in the Clerk-Recorder’s Office in Oakland most weekdays. Morning and afternoon slots are available, with the Clerk-Recorder requesting that volunteers serve at least 2 ½ hours each week. People fluent in languages other than English

are encouraged to apply. Volunteers are asked to show a personal commitment to the Clerk-Recorder’s Office, and a desire to provide quality service in helping others. Volunteers must be at least 35 years old and able to read and write in English. Information and applications are available on the Clerk-Recorder’s website at: www.acgov.org/auditor/clerk. For additional information, please contact the Clerk-Recorder’s Administrative Specialist at (510) 272-6787.

Employee Honored for “Heroic” Act

Gibson Douglas, a Bridge Tender for the Public Works Agency, was honored by the Board of Supervisors on July 24 for saving the life of a man who was attempting to leap from the Fruitvale Avenue Railroad Bridge.

Douglas was working on the bridge that connects Oakland and Alameda at about 4 a.m. on May 31 when he encountered a man who was visibly distraught and expressing a desire to end his own life. Gibson called 911 for assistance, but when the man began climbing over the bridge railing Gibson realized he needed to act.

Douglas reached out and wrapped his arms around the man and prevented him from jumping off the bridge, which rises 65 feet above the Oakland Estuary. He then engaged the man in a conversation that urged him to consider his faith and the suffering his death would cause to his friends and family. This allowed enough time to pass for the Alameda Police to arrive at the scene and help to detain the man.



Gibson Douglas of the Public Works Agency (left) stands with Supervisor Wilma Chan at Board of Supervisors meeting on July 24th.

To the roaring applause of a packed Board chamber, County Supervisors paid tribute to Douglas for his “heroic and compassionate ac-

tions.”

“This was an extraordinary act of heroism,” said Supervisor Wilma Chan, who presented Douglas with a written commendation.

Douglas said his actions reflect a commitment he shares with County colleagues to the people he serves. “We’re public workers; we’re all very much about public safety,” he said. “I didn’t do anything that any of my co-workers wouldn’t have done.”

Landmark Medication Disposal Ordinance Approved

OAKLAND, July 24, 2012 — The Alameda County Board of Supervisors in July passed a new policy, the first in the country, requiring drug companies to pay for collecting and disposing of leftover drugs they manufacture. The unanimous decision positions the County as a national leader for its producer responsibility approach on addressing the problem of what residents should do with their unused and expired medications. Currently, there are 28 med collection sites throughout Alameda County, which dispose of discarded medications at a cost of \$40,000 per year. The collection sites are operated by 10 different organizations and labor is donated by many participating organizations such as East Bay Municipal Utility District, Union Sanitary District and the City of San Leandro. Of the annual \$186 million in profits generated by drug companies in Alameda County, officials say the projected cost of a comprehensive producer-funded program would be about 1 cent for every \$33 of pharmaceuticals sold in the County. The landmark ordinance mandates that pharmaceutical companies design, operate and fund a collection program. The effort has attracted wide support from a variety of cities and agencies throughout the Bay Area and across the country struggling with the same issue.

Seven visitors from Taoyuan County, Taiwan, met with Alameda County officials in June in a visit to Oakland that aimed to strengthen ties between the two “Sister Counties.” Pictured with the Taiwan delegation are Charles Johnson of the Clerk-Recorder’s Office, Lauren Baranco of the New Beginnings Program, County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, Supervisor Wilma Chan and Laura Lloyd-Jenkins of the County Administrator’s Office.

Students from Taiwan Visit County

A delegation from National Sun Yat-sen University in Taiwan visited Alameda County offices in June to learn about County operations and explore ways to strengthen our Sister City ties with Taoyuan County, Taiwan. Six students and a university staff person toured several different County departments to look at how Alameda County optimizes services during difficult financial times. The students were particularly moved by their meeting with Charles Johnson, a former foster youth whose success through Alameda



County’s New Beginnings program led first to an internship with GSA, then to his current job in the Clerk-Recorder’s Office. New Beginnings’ mission to provide opportunities for at-risk youth was a topic the students continued to discuss after their visit, said Sabine Y.C. Lin of

the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco. “Maybe the ideal and practice of social enterprise is likely to provide some exchange and cooperation opportunities between Alameda County and Taiwan,” she said.

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County Library Foundation Teams with Oakland Raiders to Support Local Libraries

The Oakland Raiders are offering *significantly discounted* game tickets for the **first 5** home games of the 2012-2013 NFL season to all Alameda County Library Foundation supporters!! From the Foundation website www.acclf.org regularly priced \$76, \$71, \$61 and \$56 tickets can be purchased for \$60, \$55, \$45 and \$40. These are **AWESOME seats!** **50% of the proceeds** from each ticket purchased will help support Alameda County Library programs and services. **ACLF** is the fundraising arm of the Alameda County Library. We support 10 library branches and the Bookmobile and work closely with our system libraries to generate financial support for programs, services, collections & capital. To learn more go to http://acclf.org/events_current.html or contact Katie Hom at 510.745.1551



COUNTY CONNECTIONS

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County Links

Alameda County Government <http://www.acgov.org/government.htm>
Alameda County Board of Supervisors <http://www.acgov.org/board/>
Lookup/pay Property Taxes <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm>
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Links to Alameda County Departments and Agencies <http://www.acgov.org/departments.htm>
Employment with Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/employment.htm>
Alameda County forms <http://www.acgov.org/formcenter.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).