



County Achieves Rare “Triple-Triple” Credit Rating Upgrade

In late February, Standard and Poor’s (S&P) Global Ratings announced it has upgraded Alameda County’s credit to the highest-possible AAA rating. The announcement came as the other two of the “Big 3” rating agencies – Fitch Ratings and Moody’s Investors Service – reaffirmed their AAA ratings for Alameda County. Taken together, the decisions mean Alameda County is one of only two California counties – along with San Diego County – to attain the “triple-triple” designation with AAA ratings from all three credit rating agencies.

“This is a phenomenal achievement,” said Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, who chairs the County’s Budget Workgroup.

Alameda County received these optimal credit ratings because analysts found its fiscal footing to be so sound it has an “extremely strong” capacity to meet its financial obligations. The AAA ratings will enable the County to borrow funds at lower interest rates to fund critical infrastructure needs, saving substantial taxpayer resources over time.

The timing of the ratings upgrade is aligned with Alameda County’s plans to issue the first portion of the \$580 million in general obligation bonds for affordable housing approved by voters in 2016 with the passage of countywide Measure A1. In addition, the County will be in advantageous position as it pursues plans to restructure portions of its existing lease revenue bond debt.

All three credit ratings agencies list Alameda County’s financial outlook as stable.

In announcing the credit ratings upgrade, S&P cited Alameda County’s strong financial management and budgetary performance, including the County Administrator’s implementation of a 5-year forecasting model that is reviewed regularly by the Board of Supervisors. All three agencies called attention to the County’s strong and experienced executive management team, its proactive approach to managing pension liabilities, formalized agreements to limit and reduce its working capital loan to the Alameda Health System (AHS) and sound financial management policies and commitments.

County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi said the ratings upgrade was a significant achievement and long-term goal. It was especially well received given the recent adoption of the County’s long-term strategic plan, Vision 2026, which emphasizes fiscal stewardship as a guiding principle as the County addresses numerous challenges in the coming decade.

Inside This Issue

County Achieves Rare Feat with Credit Rating Upgrade	1
County Mourns Death of Retired Sheriff Charles Plummer	2
New Elections Website	2
“Nature and Abstraction” Art Exhibition	3
Lane Closures Planned for Estuary Bridges	3
Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame 2018	4-5
Lunar New Year	6
Black History Month Celebrated	7
Art IS Education Month	7

County Mourns Death of Retired Sheriff Charles C. Plummer

Retired Alameda County Sheriff Charles C. Plummer, described by many as a larger-than-life figure devoted to his community, died at his home on March 4 at age 87. Plummer had a 54-year law enforcement career and served as Alameda County Sheriff for 20 years until his retirement in 2007.

Shortly after his passing, top County officials took time out from the regular Board of Supervisors meeting to describe the lasting impact Plummer had on his colleagues and the entire County organization.

"We're very saddened by this loss but he certainly lived a rich, interesting life and was very dedicated to this County," Board President Wilma Chan said. "I'm sure he's still protecting and serving from above."

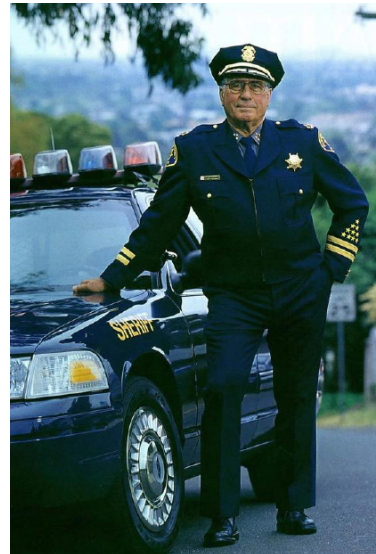
Supervisor Keith Carson said Plummer had a "big heart" and was instrumental in helping him to gain a deeper understanding of law enforcement. Carson also laughed when remembering how Plummer once revved up a chainsaw at a Board meeting to illustrate his displeasure at planned cuts to the Sheriff's Office budget.

Other officials talked about how Plummer balanced his reputation as a tough-as-nails lawman with deep compassion for others, especially those struggling through hard times.

"He always carried a pocketful of \$2 bills," said Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator. "And anytime he saw a child, he gave them a \$2 bill. He also gave them to those who were on the street— hungry and homeless."

Undersheriff Rich Lucia said he knew Plummer for 42 years and visited him in the final days of his life: "He never changed. His moral compass was always set in the right direction and he expected nothing less of the people who worked for him."

Memorial donations "in memory of Charles C. Plummer" should be mailed to either: the 100 Club, 767 Brannan Place, Concord, CA 94518; or the Salvation Army Hayward Corps, 430 A Street, Hayward, CA 94541.



Bright Ideas - A Feature Focusing on Innovation

New Elections Website – Just in Time for Big Election Year

Just in time for this year's elections: ACVOTE.ORG, the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' new eye-catching and user-friendly website.

Dubbed "the Official Election Site of Alameda County," the new website was developed by the Registrar's Office in collaboration with the Information Technology Department with the simple goal of making the information most commonly sought by voters easy to reach.

With both offices headed by Chief Information Officer/Registrar of Voters Tim Dupuis, it makes sense that the new website would showcase compelling new features that are taking hold with many of Alameda County's online destinations. These features include informative video content, streamlined text menus and a prominent search feature designed to get you the information you need with a few clicks of the keyboard. The new website also makes great strides in serving Alameda County's diverse population, with detailed information in five languages to help voters.

Streamlining the website was Dupuis' number one objective when the redesign project began more than a year ago. The Registrar's first-generation website grew organically over the years, which meant that over many information-heavy election cycles the site grew to mammoth proportions. Not only is the new site streamlined in its presentation, it was built with a cutting-edge content management system that will allow authorized personnel in the Registrar's office to easily update information as election cycles change.



Dupuis said the new site should be a boon to voters as they prepare for big mid-term elections in June and November. By the time of the 2020 Presidential Election cycle, local voters will have had ample time to get familiar with the new website and its handy features.

Nature and Abstraction Exhibition at County Administration Building



Gerald
Thompson

Mercie
Harris

Nick
Calarco

Lynne
Shephard

Niambi
Kee

Debra
Collins

Sally
Lampi

The Alameda County Arts Commission is pleased to present the group exhibition Nature and Abstraction featuring artwork by seven artists featured in recent exhibitions at the Adobe Art Gallery in Castro Valley.

The exhibition is now on view through August 2 at the Alameda County Administration Building, Treasurer-Tax Collector's Lobby Gallery, 1221 Oak Street, 1st Floor, Oakland. The exhibition is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm (closed for County holidays).

The Nature and Abstraction exhibition was coordinated and curated by Adobe Art Gallery Director, Leah Virsik. The exhibition features the work of Nick Calarco, Debra Collins, Mercie Harris, Niambi Kee, Sally Lampi, Lynne Shephard and Gerald Thompson, chosen from two of Adobe Art Gallery's 2017 annual group exhibitions.

The seven artists utilize a broad range of media including acrylic, oil, collage, hand-dyed fabric, experimental photography, pen, ink and watercolor. Their works include representational images from nature and abstracted imagery suggesting the natural world.

Adobe Art Gallery showcases five group exhibits a year with many opportunities for artists to display their work. Adobe Art Gallery is a public fine art gallery, committed to promoting and encouraging visual arts within the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District. For more information about Adobe Art Gallery including calls for entry, visit adobegallery.org.

Inspections to Cause Lane Closures on Oakland-Alameda Estuary Bridges

The Alameda County Public Works Agency will be closing traffic lanes on the Miller-Sweeney Bridge, Park Street Bridge and High Street Bridge during the first two weeks of April to allow engineers to perform bridge inspections. The lane closures will be during non-peak hours and at night. Detour signs will be posted and motorists are asked to drive with caution in these areas.

The inspection work is part of the County's regular maintenance program for the three drawbridges. Detour signs, roadside advisories and changeable message signs will alert motorists ahead of time to the scheduled work.

For updates on this project and others, please visit the Public Works Agency's website at www.acpwa.org. For questions regarding the work, please call the Alameda County Estuary Field Bridges office at (510) 777-2390.

25th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame
Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Oakland
March 24, 2018
Photographs by Paul Kuroda

A record number of honorees and the launch of the new Mary V. King "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship Fund Endowment were some of the highlights of the 25th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame. The event celebrated the achievements of 13 inductees whose contributions are leaving a lasting positive impact on the community. For the first time, the program included a new inductee category, Emerging Leader, which celebrates young women representing a new generation of trailblazing leaders. That honor went to Hilary Bass, Executive Director of the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League. With District Attorney Nancy O'Malley serving as Mistress of Ceremony, this year's program also drew record sponsorship support. A generous donation from Kaiser Permanente, this year's Presenting Sponsor, allowed the program to launch the Mary V. King "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship Fund Endowment, which aims to provide a sustainable pool of funds from which the program can award youth scholarships every year. This year's Youth Category honoree, Roxana Perez, 17, of Oakland, was awarded \$5,000 in scholarship funds to help her with her future educational pursuits. Event proceeds also went to four nonprofit community partners: the East Bay Community Recovery Project, Love Never Fails, WestCoast Children's Clinic and Hack the Hood. To learn more about the Women's Hall of Fame, go to: <http://www.acgov.org/whof/>.



Lunar New Year Celebration

Hundreds of schoolchildren, seniors and others from the community turned out for the 13th Annual Lunar New Year celebration co-hosted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on February 21st. Board President Wilma Chan and Supervisor Keith Carson were among a host of local officials who took part in the uplifting event, which featured lion dancing, a Kung Fu exhibition, Korean singing and other activities reflecting the Bay Area's diverse Asian American and Pacific Island communities. 2018 is the Year of the Dog. People born in the Year of the Dog are said to be honest, friendly, faithful, loyal, smart, venerable and have a strong sense of responsibility.

Photos by Emma Ishii





Four Leaders Honored at Black History Month Celebration

On February 27 the Board of Supervisors celebrated Black History Month by honoring four African American leaders for their numerous achievements and contributions to the community. The honorees were:

- **Captain Randall West** of the Alameda County Fire Department (pictured far left) for his many efforts to mentor and support local youth.
- **Carol H. Williams**, (second from left) a local business pioneer who has displayed a longtime dedication to public service.
- **Dr. Earl Clifton Stuckey, Sr.**, (third from left) Pastor of Progressive Missionary Baptist Church in Berkeley, for a lifetime of contributions to public service, the faith community and the community at large
- **Nyisha Moncrease**, (far right) for her devotion to local youth as Founder and CEO of Pink Panther Sorority Inc., which supports young women of color.

Art IS Education Month



On February 27, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors recognized March as Art IS Education month and took time to celebrate a number of free art events taking place across the County to promote art as an essential component of a quality education.

Board President Wilma Chan used the occasion to commend San Lorenzo High School arts programs and Art Teacher Mary Ann Davis. Supervisor Chan was joined by Penny Peck, San Lorenzo School Board Vice-President; Dr. Fred Brill, San Lorenzo Unified School District Superintendent; Cindy Chadwick, Alameda County Librarian; Mary Ann Davis, San Lorenzo High School Art Teacher; and sixteen San Lorenzo High School Students whose artwork is featured in a youth art exhibition on the 5th floor of the Alameda County Administration Building in Oakland.

In 2000, Art IS Education was launched by the Alameda County Office of Education and the Alameda County Arts Commission to celebrate youth arts education throughout the County. This is the 8th year that the Alameda County Library has partnered with the Alameda County Arts Commission to present free arts events at twelve Library locations across the County.