

Social Services Agency Sponsors Free Lunch Program for Youth

The Alameda County Social Services Agency (ACSSA) is again sponsoring its free lunch program for children in an effort to alleviate the nutrition gap experienced in summer months when students are out of school.

Free lunches for children and teens ages 18 and under are being provided every weekday through August 9th. Lunches are served between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at two Alameda County locations:

- Eastmont Self-Sufficiency Center
6955 Foothill Blvd., Suite 100, Oakland
- Eden Area Multi-Service Center
24100 Amador St., Hayward

The program helps people living in areas where at least half of all students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals at school.

The summer meals program directly addresses childhood hunger and promotes Alameda County's Vision 206 goal of eliminating poverty and hunger.

No advance registration or proof of public assistance status is required and families are also invited to drop in.

According to the California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), more than 30,000 children in Alameda County—74 percent of all children who benefit from free or reduced-price lunches during the school year—miss out on similar lunches during the summer. Lack of nutritious meals during the summer months can contribute to illness, poor academic retention, and other health issues, such as obesity.

"With the high costs of living and housing, family resources continue to be tight for many households," says Lori A. Cox, ACSSA Director. "For the families visiting our offices or living in nearby neighborhoods, our summer lunch program can help them stretch their food dollars a little further. I am proud that the ACSSA is the only social services agency throughout the State of California to offer the USDA summer meals program at our County offices, where so many parents bring their children to access our services. This program helps to ensure that we are meeting the immediate nutritional needs of children."

For more information, visit <http://www.alamedasocialservices.org/public/services/community/summerLunch.cfm>

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CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi
County Administrator

On Friday, June 28th, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$3.5 billion Alameda County Budget for FY 2019-20 that is balanced and closes a \$60.4 million funding gap without significant reductions to services or staff. The Final Budget includes funding increases to community service providers, allows the County to continue building its financial reserves, and supports a workforce of nearly 9,900 employees. The Final Budget reflects the priorities outlined in our long-term Strategic Vision, **Vision 2026**, by supporting efforts to address Countywide challenges such as homelessness, an affordable housing shortfall, and the need to maintain and improve aging infrastructure.

Alameda County continues to devote substantial resources to address the region's worsening homelessness problem. The Final Budget contains \$130.2 million in increased spending on homelessness as called for in the three-year Homelessness Action Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors last year. Under the plan, the County is committed to spending \$340 million over the next three years to address homelessness on multiple fronts. Since passage of the Homelessness Action Plan the County has secured additional funding bringing total spending on homelessness across the three years to \$357 million.

The Final Budget calls for annual spending to grow to \$625 million to nearly 300 CBOs that provide health and human services, housing, community development and public safety services. Alameda County continues to benefit from a strong local economy, with unemployment hovering at an historic low of 2.7 percent as of April. But there are increasing signs of a coming economic downturn that will bring significant new challenges in funding core services for County residents.

The continued strength of the local real estate market has fueled a 7.1 percent increase in the County's assessment roll, resulting in additional funding to support increases to many of the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that receive County support.

Our concerns about a coming recession are heightened by the County's growing reliance on support from State and federal sources, which account for over 60 percent of our General Fund. A recession would likely bring deep State budget deficits, which inevitably lead to cuts to local funding. In addition, historic levels of federal debt would limit the federal government's ability to stimulate a slow economy and could prompt more local funding cuts.

19th Alameda County Citizens Academy

Applications are being accepted for the 19th Alameda County Citizens Academy, which provides residents with a closer look at the impact of Alameda County services in the community and encourages participation in civic affairs. The free program is designed for County residents as well as persons who work or own a business in Alameda County.

This fall's program will consist of six sessions between September 4 and October 30. Each session will provide in-depth information about County services by examining our Vision 2026 10X Goals. The program includes tours of County facilities, demonstrations of special equipment and discussions of ways residents can participate in County activities.

Sessions are held on **Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** at various locations throughout the County, with a light dinner served at 5:30 p.m. Dates for the 19th Alameda County Citizens Academy will be:

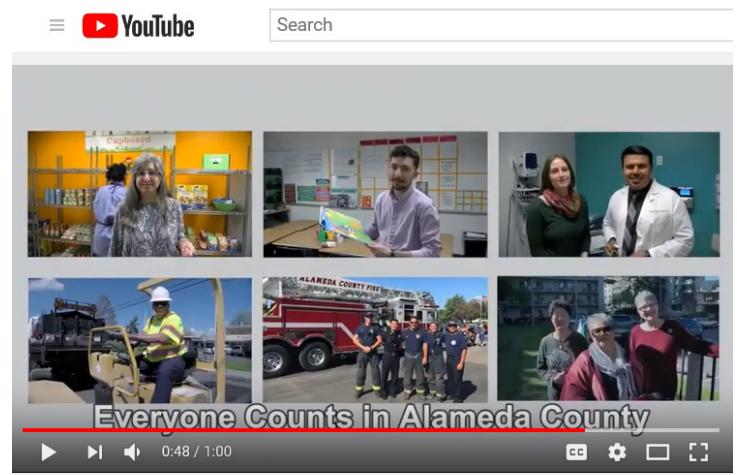
- **September 4**
- **September 18**
- **October 2**
- **October 16**
- **October 23**
- **October 30**

Applications will be accepted between **July 8 and August 5** at www.acgov.org/academies/citizens. Up to 60 participants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis, with consideration given to geographic location in an effort to have countywide representation.

Census 2020: New Video Explains Why Everyone in Alameda County Should Be Counted

Even though 2020 is still several months away, the Alameda County Complete Count Committee is already working hard to make sure every County resident participates in next year's national Census.

The Committee's latest effort to get the word out is a compelling 1-minute video that hammers home a very important reason why everyone needs to participate: federal funding for health care, housing, education, transportation and social services is distributed based upon the Census count. That means our communities could lose billions of dollars over the next decade if even small segments of the local population are missed in the Census count.



Census 2020 in Alameda County

Alameda County Complete Count Committee

See the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Zlxp4aACKI&feature=youtu.be>. Learn more about local efforts to ensure an accurate Census count at <http://acgov.org/census2020/>.

Youth Leadership Academy 2019

Local High School Juniors and Seniors Encouraged to Apply

Applications are being accepted for Alameda County's 2019 Youth Leadership Academy (YLA), a free educational program for local 11th and 12th grade students interested in learning about local government, developing leadership skills and networking with peers from throughout the County.

Youth from high schools across Alameda County will participate in five Saturday morning sessions in September and October, 2019. Sessions will allow young leaders to learn about County programs, engage with County staff and elected officials, and build leadership skills to help solve community problems.

Applications will be accepted from July 15 through August 16. To apply for the 2019 Youth Leadership Academy, or to learn more, go to <https://www.acgov.org/youthleadership/>.

The 2019 Alameda County Youth Leadership Academy will be held on the following dates at facilities throughout Alameda County:

- **September 14**
- **September 21**
- **September 28**
- **October 12**
- **October 19**

To be eligible, applicants must live in Alameda County and be a junior or senior at a school within the County.

Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with consideration given to geographic location to ensure representation of students from throughout Alameda County.

County Celebrates Program Supporting Local Veterans Through Art



Alameda County Supervisor Valle hosting commendation event for the Veterans Art Project. Pictured (from left) are Rachel Osajima, County Arts Commission Director; Paul Wilson, spouse of Veteran; Oley Jones, Veteran; Fanny Garcia, Veteran; Gloria Wilson, Veteran; Richard Garber, Oakland Vet Center Counselor; Emma Morton, Veteran's Spouse; Jack Morton, Veteran; Dr. David Joseph, Oakland Vet Center Director; Raul Valle, Veteran and father of Supervisor Valle; Richard Valle, County Supervisor; Sean Gibson, Oakland Vet Center Outreach Coordinator; Christine Ralls, Veteran's Spouse; Laurina Sousa, Cal Veteran Services Center Peer Advisor; Doug Thompson, Veteran; Ed McKay, Veteran; Kimberly Kitano, Veteran's Spouse; Henry Newton, Veteran; Violet Juno, Arts Commission Coordinator; Kevin Hing, County Chief Deputy Auditor-Controller. **Photograph by Paul Kuroda.**

On July 10th, Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle presented a commendation to honor local veterans and the Oakland Vet Center for their participation in the Veterans Art Program. For the last four years, this program has brought creative expression workshops to the Oakland Vet Center to support the crucial services provided to our Alameda County veterans and their families.

"I am pleased to present this commendation to the Oakland Vet Center to honor the artistic accomplishments of local Veterans participating in the Veterans Art Project and to honor the Oakland Vet Center's commitment to providing innovative care for our Veterans," said Supervisor Valle. "This partnership project demonstrates that creativity and art are a vital part of Alameda County's resilient and thriving community."

The Veterans Art Project is coordinated by the Alameda County Arts Commission in partnership with the Oakland Vet Center. The goal of the Veterans Art Project is to provide Veterans with opportunities to express themselves in a supportive environment, explore visual art techniques, and engage in community building. This innovative program is part of a statewide initiative for Veterans and active military funded by the California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Artworks created through this program are currently on view as part of the Arts Commission's Art In Public Spaces program in the Board of Supervisors Lobby Gallery on the 5th Floor of the Alameda County Administration Building at 1221 Oak St., Oakland. The public is encouraged to visit the exhibition that will be on view through Thursday, August 1. This exhibition is free and open to the public during open hours. For more information about the exhibition, please call (510) 891-5716 or (510) 272-6984.

This exhibition features three projects conducted at the Oakland Vet Center in Oakland and at the Cal Veteran Services Center on the UC Berkeley campus. Participants include 15 Veterans who served during the Vietnam War, 13 Veterans who served during the Global War on Terror or other conflicts, and 6 partners of Veterans. Art projects on display include painting, photography, collage and writing.

Assessor Delivers 2019-20 Fiscal Year Assessments

On July 10th, newly elected Alameda County Assessor Phong La released information about the 2019-20 local assessment roll, which reflects assessments of 518,600 taxable properties across the County. La said the gross value of all taxable property in Alameda County is a record \$321.5 billion, an increase of \$21.4 billion or 7.13 percent over 2018-19.

Crediting the recovering economy and increase in real estate values, La said, "the revenue generated by the Assessment Roll continues to support schools, public safety, parks, roads, and other essential services."

Other factors leading to this year's total assessed value growth included the 2% mandatory inflation index being applied to all properties' assessed values that were not affected by assessment declines in prior years. This factor added \$5.6 billion. Sales/transfers of real estate also added \$11.3 billion and new construction activity added \$2.5 billion. Many companies in Alameda County have flourished, becoming a key factor in the growth in the Assessment Roll, as these company's business personal property assessments have increased by \$1.1 billion. Since 2014, the assessment roll has increased 35% or \$73 billion.

Of the 14 cities and unincorporated areas within Alameda County, the City of Oakland remains the highest assessment jurisdiction in Alameda County with a total assessed value of \$68.8 billion. The City of Fremont continues to have the second highest assessed value of \$55.4 billion. The City of Dublin received the highest percentage increase in assessed value from the prior year at 10.3%.

With Alameda County's historic unemployment rate of 2.7%, lower than both the state and national averages, the future of the County appears optimistic, but Assessor La cautions that "there are indicators that this tremendous growth in the economy may be coming to an end. It's better to begin preparing for a potential recession now rather than having it come as a surprise. We also need to deal with the fact that residents can no longer afford to live in our County."

Notifications of this year's individual assessments are being mailed to all secured roll Alameda County property owners, as of July 8th, 2019. If property owners have questions regarding their property assessment, they are encouraged to call the Assessor's Office at (510) 272-3787 (real estate assessments) or (510) 272-3836 (business personal property assessments) or visit us online at <http://www.acassessor.org>. As indicated on these notifications, formal appeals of the 2019-2020 assessed values must be made between July 2nd and September 16th, 2019, with the Clerk, Board of Supervisors, Assessment Appeals Unit, on their Assessment Appeal Application. For your convenience, the application and instruction booklet can be viewed and printed from their webpage at <http://www.acgov.org/clerk/assessment.htm>.

Property tax bills for fiscal year 2019-20 will be mailed by the Alameda County Tax Collector in October and will be based upon the Assessor's 2019-20 assessed values.

Probation Department Honored



The Board of Supervisors honored Chief Probation Officer Wendy Still (holding proclamation) and many of her colleagues to mark Alameda County's celebration of "Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week" in July.

3rd Annual Back to School Drive



The Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) and the Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League (DSAL) are co-sponsoring their 3rd Annual Back to School Drive this summer, taking donations of school supplies that will be given to local children whose families may not be able to afford the tools necessary to help them succeed in school.

From July 1st through August 12, the Back to School Drive will be accepting donated school supplies at five locations conveniently located throughout the County. Those locations are:

- The Eden Township Substation, 15001 Foothill Boulevard, San Leandro
- The DSAL Boxing Gym, 22100 Princeton Street, Hayward
- Santa Rita Jail, 5325 Broder Blvd., Dublin
- ACSO Headquarters, 1401 Lakeside Drive, 12th Floor, Oakland
- ACSO Regional Training Center, 6289 Madigan Road, Dublin

The Back to School Drive will culminate in a **Backpack Giveaway on August 16 at the DSAL Soccer Park, 16640 East 14th Street, San Leandro.** See below for more details.

3RD ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

DONATION DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

July 1, 2019 - August 12, 2019

- Eden Township Substation
- DSAL Boxing Gym
- Santa Rita Jail (Alcove)
- ACSO Headquarters (12th Floor)
- Regional Training Center (Dublin)

Donation Options

- Backpacks
- Crayons
- Erasers
- Folders
- Glue Sticks
- Index Cards
- Highlighters
- Lunch Boxes
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencil box/pouch
- Pens
- Rulers
- Scissors

Backpack Give Away

August 16, 2019
DSAL Soccer Park

For further information, please contact Deputy Jessica Ignont at
JIgnont@acgov.org
DSAL at (510) 481-4515 or agil@acdsal.com

Volunteer of the Month is a regular feature of **ConnectAC**. Its goal is to inspire volunteerism within the Alameda County workforce and to raise awareness of **ACGOV Cares**, a website highlighting volunteer opportunities to help strengthen our communities.

Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Richard Valle, President, District 2; Keith Carson, Vice President, District 5; Scott Haggerty, District 1; Wilma Chan, District 3; Nate Miley, District 4

County Administrator

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