



Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker Newsletter

June 2007

Alameda County, District 3

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Special Events/Save the Date

Monday, July 9th – Falls Prevention Workshop for Seniors

10:00 a.m., Fruitvale Senior Center

Staff

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San Lorenzo Projects Moving Forward

San Lorenzo Town Square

Our main project in the San Lorenzo redevelopment area is re-use of the former Mervyn's property at Hesperian and Paseo Grande. We have been working with Civic Partners of Huntington Beach and the Bohannon Company to secure a new full service grocery store, add housing and new retail to the area.

I drove to Modesto in April with three County staff members and two representatives of the San Lorenzo Village Homes Association. We toured their new impressive new Save Mart's store in Ripon and met with Save Mart's Director of Real Estate. It was a positive meeting and we expect a Letter of Intent from Save Mart for a new San Lorenzo store this month.

Lorenzo Theatre

The Lorenzo Theatre is a 1940's era single screen theatre that once anchored the San Lorenzo community. It has been closed since 1982 and for ten years the Lorenzo Theatre Foundation has been raising money and awareness of the need to save the theatre.

Last year, I met with the Foundation, the San Lorenzo Village Homes Association and Dr. Salwan, the property owner, about a contract to allow if the Foundation to buy the theater if they can raise \$300,000. In May, that contract was signed and the Foundation has until July 2008 to raise the needed money. After buying the theatre, the Foundation hopes that foundation, government and corporate grants would be easier to obtain towards the needed expected \$6 million renovation cost. For more information or to contribute, contact the Foundation at www.savethelorenzo.org, PO Box 193, SLZ CA 94580 or 510-247-2245.

Village Walk

For many years, two run down shopping centers on Bockman Road were a source of frustration for the community: empty stores fronts, burned out buildings, graffiti and no landscaping. The Olson Company proposal for 100 town homes prompted a vigorous debate in San Lorenzo. The Board of Supervisors eventually approved 80 town homes and 7500 square feet of retail. Earlier this year, the abandoned and fenced properties were experiencing a high level of trash and graffiti. I worked with the Olson Company to demolish the buildings and asked County staff to move their permits forward. I have also asked the EBMUD to expedite their needed water plan approvals. Grading and site work are progressing and Olson hopes to have models up by the end of the year.

Let's keep moving San Lorenzo forward!

DID YOU KNOW?

That Alameda County Fair is celebrating its 95th Anniversary this year?

The Alameda County Fair is back from June 22nd to July 8th with lots of special events, concerts, & activities. For more information visit their website at:

www.alamedacountyfair.com

Special days to remember include:

June 28th is Oakland & San Leandro Day

July 2nd is Alameda & San Lorenzo Day.

Wednesdays are Senior Days (June 27 & July 4th)

Fridays are Kids Free Days (June 22, June 29, & July 6)

Soda-Free Summer

I want everyone, especially our young people, to think about joining the Soda Free Summer Campaign that the Alameda County Department of Public Health has begun.

The amount of sugar in soda is the leading source of sugar in the average American's diet. An excess in sugar consumption can lead to many health-related problems such as diabetes and heart disease.

If you sign up with the Soda Free Summer Campaign, you can be eligible to win a \$500 healthy grocery shopping spree! For more information, you can visit their website at www.acphd.org or call the Department of Public Health's Nutrition Services at (510) 595-6454.

Budget Time Again

Alameda County, like other government agencies is in the midst of determining the budget for next year. The bad news: the County must absorb another deficit, this year to the tune of \$52 million. The good news is thanks in large part to department savings the County should be able to balance its budget without any layoffs or major service changes. This is still contingent on how the state and federal government finalize their financial situations. Meanwhile I invite you to attend our budget hearings starting on June 26 at 1:30 p.m. at the Board Chambers. You may also send me any questions you have regarding our budget.

Community Events / Announcements

Alameda County Arts 2007 Leadership Award – The Alameda County Arts Commission is seeking nominations for the 2007 Arts Leadership Award. Each supervisorial district will recognize one individual for their outstanding achievements & contributions impacting the arts community and residents of Alameda County. Nominations must be submitted by August 15, 2007. For more information or to nominate someone, please contact the Alameda County Arts Commission at (510) 208-9646.

Alameda Mayor's 4th of July Parade R.A.C.E. A Ralph Appezzato Charity Event. - This race is a five kilometer (3.1 mile) **run & walk** through Alameda starting at 9:45AM just before the 4th of July Parade. Proceeds from this event benefit various charities in Alameda. For more information, visit their website www.AlamedaRACE.com or call (510) 523-2647.

Give the Gift of Sight – From June 25th through June 29th, Native American Health Center is partnering with the Gift of Sight Project and Unity Council to provide FREE comprehensive eye exams & FREE glasses (if prescribed) for uninsured or under-insured school age youth (ages 5-18). Appointments are limited. For appointments and registration forms, call (510) 535-4400 ext. 217 from 2-4 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit their website at www.nativeamericanhealth.org.

Parent Workshops – The California State Parent Information and Resource Center INSPIRE Project is offering a series of 1.5 hours summer module workshops for parents in order to support a home environment that encourages learning and becoming involved in their children's education at school. All Workshops are free and will take place at the Alameda County Office of Education in Hayward. For more information contact Adrian at 510-670-4573.