



# Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker Newsletter

December 2008

Alameda County, District 3

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## Special Events/Save the Date

**Monday, January 26th**  
**State of the County**  
**7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**San Leandro Main Library**  
**300 Estudillo Ave**  
**San Leandro, CA 94577**

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## Resources for Businesses & Workers in Tough Economic Times

Each day we are painfully reminded that current economic conditions are very serious and unsettling. Alameda County businesses in construction, real estate, financial, retail, and other business sectors are in a difficult situation. Economists are projecting many months of wrenching adjustments and these "adjustments" will come with unfortunate costs to businesses, workers and families.

In times such as these employers, consumed by the crises of their businesses, often have difficulty finding the time to tend to the needs of those who will soon be laid off. Yet a history of plant closures has taught us that it is critical to start providing information and advice to workers while they are still employed. Once workers have lost their jobs, they commonly lose their work identities, their self-respect, and a large part of the initiative needed to find new work.

Thankfully, there are free resources available to help employers in planning a layoff or reduction in force, and to assist their employees with the daunting task of seeking new employment. Through the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board's Rapid Response Program, a team will provide job information and counseling to your employees on your company's premises. An employer planning a layoff will need to call the WIB office, issue a WARN notice per state and federal law, or contact their local elected official giving notice that a layoff is impending. These activities will trigger free layoff assistance to both employers and their workforce.

Any worker can access free services regardless of their employer's financial situation anytime through EASTBAY Works, which offers a full spectrum of employment-related services. Go to [www.eastbayworks.org](http://www.eastbayworks.org) and choose any one of fourteen different locations in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. There are eight centers located in Alameda County alone where job-seekers will find services to help them learn skills such as writing resumes, interviewing for a job, and conducting research, as well as employment resources such as reference materials, computers, Internet access, job listings, fax machines and phones.

Alameda County is now facing job losses at more than twice the rate of last year and it is critical that we make use of all the resources at our disposal to help our businesses, our workers and our communities through these difficult times.

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

**You can see many of the County's press releases on the web.**

If you see a news article or feature about the County, its services, or programs, you may be able to directly access the press release the County sent out. This will give you more background and contact information if you wanted to get further information. You can find the Press Releases at:

[http://www.acgov.org/news\\_app/news/index.jsp](http://www.acgov.org/news_app/news/index.jsp)

## **Comcast Show**

From where Dave Kears and Yolanda Baldovinos stand, California's budget deficit isn't just a problem to solve; it's a reality to experience. Dave is the Director of Health Care Services and Yolanda is the Director of the Social Services Agency. They are on the frontline defending Alameda County's 'safety net'. Together their programs account for approximately half of the county's budget, and with budget cuts looming, they see tough times ahead.

Currently, Health Care Services provides for all of our essential emergency needs through programs such as Medical Care, Behavioral Care, Public Health, Agency Administration and Finance, and Environmental Health. The impact these programs have on our lives is enormous. From emergency treatment and indigent care, to behavioral health and alcohol and drug support, Health Care Services makes a difference in all of our lives.

Meanwhile, the Social Services Agency assists approximately 11 percent of Alameda County's residents, and touches the lives of thousands on a daily basis. Every month, more than 52,000 people receive CalWORKs, Food Stamps and General Assistance. Its benefits programs contribute over \$278 million to the local economy through cash assistance and Food Stamps.

Dave and Yolanda believe the goal is to provide at least as much assistance to the average citizens as we are giving to the corporations, but it's going to take discipline, community collaboration, planning, innovation, and education to make it through the tough times ahead. Despite the stormy clouds ahead the two of them remain hopeful. If you would like to learn more about Health Care Services and Social Services, then tune into my show "County Business". The show will begin airing Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of December.

## **County Librarian Given Award**

I am proud of Amy J. Cheney of the Alameda County Library as she was recently named one of ten librarians recognized as winner of the prestigious Carnegie Corporation of New York/New York Times I Love My Librarian Award. This is an especially great honor as community members make the nominations for this award. More than 3,200 library users nationwide nominated a librarian. Each of the ten award winners received a \$5,000 cash award and were honored at a ceremony & reception in New York on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Cheney provides library services to incarcerated youth at the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center. She is known as an advocate of these youth with a dedication to providing great reading choices, well-know author presentations and workshops that influence the youth's ability to make good choices after incarceration.

## **Alameda Bridges Work Soon To Begin**

As some of you may know the Alameda bridges (Park Street, Fruitvale and High Street) are the responsibility of Alameda County. In a few months Alameda County Public Works will begin seismically retrofitting the Park Street and High Street bridges. The bridges will be brought up to a "no collapse" standard that will ensure that the bridges do not fall into the Estuary during a major earthquake. The Fruitvale Bridge will

## ***My Boards & Commissions***

Board of Supervisor's Health Committee (Chair)

Board of Supervisor's Social Services Committee

Unincorporated Services Committee (Chair)

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (Chair)

Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council

Alameda County Sexually Exploited Minors Network

East Bay Economic Development Alliance

Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Joint Powers Authority

Bay Area Partnership

Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Tobacco Control Coalition

also receive this retrofit work in the near future.

Because the bridge retrofit will lead to some lane closures, I want to provide as much information along the way to all residents. Earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors awarded the contract for this work to Golden State Bridge, Inc. Our Public Works staff will be establishing specific dates and times with the contractor on lane closures and expect more information next month.

## **Holiday Open House**

I want to thank you all for coming out to my Holiday Party on Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup> at my San Lorenzo District Office. Despite the cold weather, the evening was full of holiday warmth. People from all over the district came by to wish me, my staff, and our neighbors a happy holiday season.

I am especially grateful for all the canned food and other non-perishable goods that many of you brought to this event. Our barrel for the Alameda County Community Food Bank is now overflowing with all your donations. In addition we collected \$600 in checks for the Food Bank. For every dollar the Food Bank receives it's able to buy \$7 worth of food meaning \$4,200 worth of food will be provided! Thank you for your generosity!

Below are some photos of the event for you to enjoy. Once again, Happy Holidays!



## Board and Commissions Vacancies for District 3

Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to Ruben Briones, Deputy Chief of Staff, via email ([ruben.briones@acgov.org](mailto:ruben.briones@acgov.org)) or mail at 1221 Oak St. Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612.

### Arts Commission

The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors concerning the arts and cultural environment in the County. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month in Oakland.

### Fire Advisory Commission

The Commission's objective is to provide an advisory role to the Alameda County Fire Department. Terms are four years and meet every third Thursday of the month in San Leandro.

### Human Relations Commission

To prevent discrimination in housing, employment and education the Board of Supervisors appoints 16 members to the Commission. Terms are three years and meets the first Wednesday of the month.

### Mental Health Board

The Board's purpose is to perform advisory functions in all matters relating to mental health services. It reviews and evaluates the community's mental health needs, services, facilities and special problems. Terms are three years with regular meetings held once a month.



## Community Events / Announcements

Homecare Worker Program for English Language Learners - The San Leandro Adult School will offer a course for individuals who want to begin working the health care industry. Students will learn how to provide in-home patient care. This class will be geared towards individuals who need a slower-paced course because they may not be fluent in English. The cost of this course is \$35. For more information, please call (510) 667-6287 or visit [www.sanleandroadultschool.org](http://www.sanleandroadultschool.org).

Alameda County Supervisor's ARTSFUND Grants Program – The Alameda County Supervisor's ARTSFUND Grants Program supports all type of arts programming such as dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual arts, and multidisciplinary arts programs presented in Alameda County by Alameda County nonprofit organizations. For more information about the grants, contact Rachel at (510) 271-5162.