

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

JUNE 2005

Greeting from Supervisor Carson

The District 5 E-newsletter is designed to keep the residents of Alameda County's Fifth District informed about important issues in our communities. Today it is even more important that we all have up to date information on important issues that affect our lives.

I hope District 5 News is a useful and engaging resource for you.

County Budget Impacts on Services

As Chair of the Alameda County budget workgroup I am working hard to protect funding for vital programs throughout the County. While the need for services is steadily increasing, the state and federal government continue to cut funding for county programs and services. By law the county must provide mandated services, providing critical assistance in areas such as health care, social services and public protection but often funding for these mandated programs are cut, leaving the county with increased obligations but less money. The proposed 2005-06 state and federal budgets attack county reimbursement rates and help fuel the counties current \$92 million deficit.

The 2005-06 Governor's May Revise includes over \$6 billion in additional revenue, mostly attributed to personal income tax revenue growth. Despite restoration to some of his proposed January cuts the Governor's proposal is far from adequate in funding to health care, education, and important social services.

Alameda County is in the process of conducting a series of public budget hearings before we must adopt our final budget at the end of June.



Supervisor Keith Carson

President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. District 5 includes the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont and large portions of Oakland, namely West Oakland, North Oakland (Rockridge and Montclair), and the Fruitvale and San Antonio districts.

Re-entry Programs Make Our Communities Stronger

Imagine being released from prison to the same community in which you committed the crime, with no home, no job, no family support, a criminal record, and only \$200. You look for help with the current community services that are understaffed and under funded, leaving you with no alternatives or help. This is the plight of many new parolees returning to our communities. According to the California Department of Corrections, over 60% of people who have been released from the State Prison re-offend within 3 years of their release due to a lack of support services.

I worked with State Assemblywoman Wilma Chan to help introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 629. This bill enables men and women paroling to Alameda County to participate in a program that provides parolees with job training within a year of their release. This program also monitors and makes sure that parolees have adequate housing and rehabilitation services when they are released. AB 629 recently passed through the Public Safety Committee and is being considered by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. With this and other legislative, policy, and community efforts we can work to address the revolving door of incarceration that effects so many of our community members and create safer more productive neighborhoods.



Enjoy Farmers Markets in Your Neighborhood.

Eat Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Better Health!

Farmers markets are available all around District 5. Support local farmers on Saturdays in Berkeley at Center Street, Grand Lake Plaza in Oakland, and Mandela Parkway in West Oakland. Sundays at Fruitvale Transit Village, and Jack London Square. There are also markets available during the week in North and South Berkeley and Old Oakland. For more info and a complete listing of farmers markets call County Nutrition Services at (510)595-6450 or visit the website www.acphd.org/AXBYCZ/Admin/Publications/farmers-market.pdf

Alameda County Goes Green

The county celebrated the 35th Anniversary of Earth Day this year by dedicating the largest solar electric tracking carport in the nation at a county facility in Hayward. This project adds to the counties green building ordinance program and continues the board's commitment to renewable power and clear air for residents. The county now has seven energy saving systems that will reduce air pollution and generate solar energy for county buildings. The Board just voted to approve the construction a fuel cell energy system at Santa Rita Jail by next summer. Once up and running, it will meet 50% of the jail's electricity needs and 18% of it's heat needs, saving the jail \$864K per year and reducing global warming gases by 1700 cross country car trips a year. To meet the county's 2010 goals we are taking system wide steps to be more earth conscious:

- We purchased 37 low-polluting hybrids for the County's motor vehicle fleet.
- Using low-polluting paints, switching to low mercury lighting, and using goats instead of herbicides for fire control out at our larger campuses.
- Purchasing environmentally preferable goods

Last year we recycled about 2 million pounds which generated \$167K in revenue for the county. Through the Green Building Ordinance implementation and the greening of our operation the county is working to save resources and taxpayer dollars.



Contact us with your Feedback: dist5@acgov.org or call (510) 272-6695.
Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, President