



District 5 Newsletter

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For a complete listing of events in District 5, visit my [Community Calendar](#).

My District 5 e-newsletter is designed to keep *you*, the residents, of Alameda County's Fifth District informed about important issues in our communities. The Fifth District includes the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, and large portions of Oakland, namely West Oakland, North Oakland, Rockridge, and the Fruitvale and San Antonio Districts.

Contact me with your feedback by e-mailing dist5@acgov.org or by calling (510) 272-6695.

Albany Green Business Program – 1st Anniversary Celebration Event

Join me, the Albany Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Albany in celebrating the 1st Anniversary of the Albany Green Business Program.

Celebrate the success of restaurants on Solano Avenue and San Pablo Avenue in diverting over 600 tons of food waste from landfills by composting food scraps.

I helped bring Alameda County Waste Management, the Albany Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Albany together to increase compost pick-ups.

When: Tuesday, May 30th, 3:30 pm

Where: Albany City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Avenue

For more information, please contact Andy Katz, my Community Liaison at (510) 272-6695 or Andy.Katz@acgov.org

Everyday is Earth Day

While we publicly celebrated Earth Day on Saturday, April 22nd this year, many of us are “earth conscious” every day. As April winds to a close, I wanted to reflect upon the idea that Earth Day is everyday. We recycle at home, we turn off lights when not in use and we don't let the tap water run while we brush our teeth. In this article, I hope to leave you with 4 easy things you can do this week to help better the environment in honor of Earth Day and beyond.

[Read the full story.](#)

The Long Road to Equity in Public Contracting

In 2003, Alameda County retained Mason Tillman and Associates (MTA) of Oakland to conduct an Availability Study. The purpose of the Study was to review the County's procurement activities to ensure that contracting opportunities are accessible to the entire local business community. The study reviewed the County's outreach and contracting practices in the areas of Construction, Architecture and Engineering, Goods and Other Services, and Professional Services by examining contractors that received payment from the County from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2003. Some of the initial recommendations provided by Mason Tillman include the development of a Countywide Compliance Office and providing numerous support services for smaller construction companies.

[Read the full story.](#)

Foster Parent Appreciation

Alameda County is one of the most ethnically and economically diverse communities in the state and possibly the country. According to the current census data, the population in the County is estimated to be about 1.4 million residents. About 19% of the population is children under the age of 14 and about 15% or 40,654 of children aged 6-14 live in poverty. Another staggering number is the number of children who are in Alameda County's Foster Care system. It is estimated that there are about 3,200 children in the foster care system. About 60% of the children in care are African American. One of the major factors contributing to youth coming into the foster care system is poverty.

[Read the full story.](#)

California's Public Schools: Are More Storm Clouds Looming on the Horizon?

Californians have serious concerns about our educational resources. The need for more teachers is certainly a critical concern and California is not producing enough teachers to fill our classrooms. Our State must make sure we have teachers to ensure the success of our 6.3 million students. My staff attended the California Budget Project in Sacramento, on March 16, 2006, and the question was asked: "Are More Storm Clouds Looming on the Horizon?" Margaret Gatson, the Executive Director of the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning (CFTL) raised the issue. Gatson later asked, "What are we going to do for those in the classrooms?"

[Read the full story.](#)

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