



CAO's Corner By Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator

We received word this month that our funding gap for FY 2013-14 is projected to be \$80.2 million, our lowest funding gap in five years but still a significant shortfall to close. The work of closing this funding gap will be carried out over the next several weeks as we work toward our final budget hearings in June. As we assess Alameda County's financial situation, we can be proud of some great things the County has accomplished while traversing some turbulent economic terrain. Earlier this month we dedicated the new Highland Care Pavilion in Oakland, the completed first-phase of the \$668 million Highland Acute Tower Replacement project that marks the County's largest-ever construction project. The new Pavilion will provide our community a huge boost by expanding patient access to care through specialized medical services and a Same Day Clinic that will be a convenient alternative to the Emergency Room. Later this month, we will host Alameda County Apps Challenge 2013.1 in Berkeley, the secondever County-sponsored Hackathon to bolster community engagement and promote our Open Data Initiative for greater government transparency. Next month we will celebrate the opening of the new REACH Ashland Youth Center, which will greatly expand our County's commitment to local youth by providing a broad-array of services to young people in the Ashland area. These projects represent some of the ways Alameda County is maximizing its resources by attending to its priorities and initiating new ways to reach the residents we serve.

Highland Care Pavilion is Completed

On April 17 Alameda County and the Alameda Health System dedicated the new Highland Care Pavilion, a state-ofthe-art facility that is the completed first phase of the \$668 million Highland Hospital Acute Tower Replacement project and campus redesign. The project is a rebuild of the historic hospital's main facilities that marks the



Participating in a ribbon-cutting ceremony were, left to right, Ann Ludwig, Project Manager; Aki Nakao, Director, General Services Agency; Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator; Wright Lassiter, CEO, Alameda Health System; Donna Linton, Assistant County Administrator

largest construction project ever undertaken by Alameda County. Completion of the entire project is scheduled for 2017.

The Highland Care Pavilion, which will open for business in May, is a pivotal piece of the ongoing rebuild of the Oakland medical center that is the linchpin of Alameda County's public health system. The Pavilion not only offers state-of-the-art facilities for some of Highland's most important medical services, it promises to take pressure off Highland's emergency care services and serve a vital function in the hospital's new model for care under health care reform.

Supervisor Keith Carson, whose district includes Highland Hospital, said: "Through this project Alameda County is ensuring that this community will have a first-rate health care delivery system for decades to come, a system that provides exceptional care to all residents of Alameda County regardless of their ability to pay."

Special Vote-By-Mail Election May 7 for City of Pleasanton

The Registrar of Voters office will conduct a Special Vote-by-Mail Election on Tuesday, May 7, to fill a vacant seat on the Pleasanton City Council.

Because there will be no polling places, voters are asked to mail in their ballots so that they are **received by the Registrar no later than 8 p.m. on May 7**.

No postage is necessary. Voters are reminded that they must sign the back of their Vote-By-Mail return envelope. Failure to do so will invalidate their ballot.

Ten Inducted into Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame



Ten outstanding local women were inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame on March 23 at a luncheon in Oakland. The inductees, left to right, were: Hope A. Michelsen, Ophelia Basgal, Gilda Gonzales, Debra Pryor, Alice V. Deng, Sherry Higgs, Dr. Ruth Love, Carolyn Bloede, Rita Sahai and Sandra Pitts-Johnson. About 500 people attended the event, which raised money for local charities and a youth scholarship.

Alameda County Firefighter Tests the Limits of Physical, Mental Strength

*H*lameda County Firefighter Paige Bowie in March became the first woman to complete a grueling two-day endurance challenge designed to crack Special Forces trainees by overwhelming their physical fitness and mental strength. Bowie ran, hiked and ground out muscle-busting military-style exercises -all while toting a 50-pound rucksack – during her 50-hour odyssey in the Marin Headlands, becoming one of only 13 people to complete the ultraendurance test known as the GORUCK Selection. "I've always wanted to push the limit, to test myself," said Bowie, who works out of County Fire Station 24 in Ashland. Bowie and five other athletes, all men, set out on February 28 to complete the challenge. After 24 hours, she was the only challenger who remained, refusing to be undone by the various commands barked at her by the two-person cadre that led her through the 2-day meat-grinder. Bowie, who played basketball and softball at Cal, said she prepared for the test by ex-



Alameda County Firefighter Paige Bowie (center), flanked by her two-person cadre on March 2 after becoming the first woman to complete the 2-day GORUCK Selection endurance test.

panding on her regular workout routine and practicing meditation to visualize success. When the ordeal was over, she was left to ponder a new challenge. "I woke up the next day and asked myself, 'now what?" Happily, she has found the answer: Bowie has decided to train for a long-distance bicycle tour through eastern California this July. True to form, the ride Bowie has chosen involves ascending some of the state's tallest peaks – more than 15,000 feet of climbing – and is affectionately known as the "Death Ride."

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Check Out New Alameda County Property App

The Alameda County Assessor and Treasurer-Tax Collector are unveiling a groundbreaking new mobile application that will allow property owners and others to quickly obtain a wealth of information about any property in the County on-the-go.

The mobile app can be downloaded to your iPhone

for free from the iTunes App Store. Alameda County is believed to be the first county in California to offer the mobile property app.

With the new Alameda County Property app, mobile phones and other mobile devices can be used to: search for any property in Alameda County, by parcel number or address;



save a list of Alameda County properties, so that you can easily check later on for changes to each property; make notes on each of your saved properties; view street maps and get the Google Street View for a property; view Assessment information; view tax information; view printed Tax Bills; pay taxes by credit card; view County parcel maps (PDFs); get help with contacting County offices, including driving directions and automatic phone dialing.

Exciting opportunities in the Arts

By Area artists are invited to apply for inclusion in the 2013 Artist Registry, a prequalified list of artists who will be considered for upcoming public art opportunities. Specific project sites include: San Lorenzo Library Expansion Project and East County Hall of Justice. Application deadline is April 30th. Visit <u>www.acgov.org/arts/opportunities</u>. The Commission also is accepting nominations for the 2013 Alameda County Arts Leadership Awards, which recognize individuals from each of the five Board of Supervisors districts for outstanding contributions to the arts. Nomination deadline is May 29th. <u>www.acgov.org/arts/awards</u>

County Links

Alameda County Government <u>http://www.acgov.org/government/</u> Alameda County Board of Supervisors <u>http://www.acgov.org/board/</u> Lookup/pay Property Taxes <u>http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm</u> Awards won by Alameda County <u>http://www.acgov.org/awards/</u> Links to Alameda County Departments and Agencies <u>http://www.acgov.org/government/departments.htm</u> Employment with Alameda County <u>http://www.acgov.org/government/departments.htm</u> Alameda County forms <u>http://www.acgov.org/government/formscenter.htm</u> Alameda County Superior Court <u>http://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/</u> For a calendar of Alameda County events, visit the County website at http://www.acgov.org/calendar. Also check the websites of the members of the Board of Supervisors (listed under Board contacts on the left side of this page).