



January/February 2016

Alameda County Celebrates New Highland Acute Care Tower

On January 29, Alameda County and Alameda Health System (AHS) dedicated the newly completed Acute Care Tower at Highland Hospital, the 9-story centerpiece of the \$668 million, multi-year project to modernize the historic Highland campus in Oakland. The multi-phase rebuild at Highland – the cornerstone of Alameda County’s public health care system - is the largest construction project ever funded by Alameda County. It



also represents a vital public investment in the County’s safety-net health system that will ensure first-rate care is available to all residents – regardless of their ability to pay – for decades to come.

Construction of the upgrades at Highland began in 2010 and will continue into 2017. The project is now moving into its final phase, which includes demolition of Highland’s 1950’s era tower building and construction of a new hospital entrance and courtyard. Statistics show that the new Acute Care Tower’s state-of-the-art services will address important health needs in the community. When it opens in April, the Acute Care Tower will be the new home of Highland’s Family Birthing Center, which welcomed more than 1,000 babies in 2015 and makes continued growth possible into the future. Also located in the Tower will be:

- Highland’s Diagnostic and Interventional Services Center (DISC), which provided nearly 2,000 cardiovascular and interventional radiology procedures in 2015;
- Facilities for occupational, physical and respiratory therapy; and
- Laboratory facilities that provided more than 800,000 clinical lab and blood tests over the past year.

The multi-year construction project has provided thousands of local jobs and continues Alameda County’s commitment to sustainability and “green” building practices. The project includes numerous resource conservation features to minimize operating costs and environmental impacts. In accordance with the County’s Green Building Ordinance, all new facilities at Highland expect to achieve a LEED-Gold rating from the US Green Building Council.



Pictured at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at Highland Hospital are, left to right: Willie A. Hopkins Jr., Director, Alameda County General Services Agency (GSA); Ann Ludwig, GSA’s Medical Facilities Development Program Manager; Delvecchio Finley, CEO of Alameda Health System (AHS); Supervisor Scott Haggerty; Supervisor Wilma Chan; County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi; and Michele Lawrence, President of AHS Board of Trustees.

TWELVE TO ENTER WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME

Twelve outstanding local women will be inducted into the Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame at the program’s annual luncheon on March 19. This year’s inductees are:

- **Victoria Jones**, Business and Professions. Victoria is a Vice President with Clorox Corporation who guides the Clorox Foundation’s grant-making to support strong, healthy communities.
- **Suzanne Barba**, Community Service. Suzanne is a longtime community activist who supports important causes including good schools, healthy neighborhoods and first-rate health care in the County’s unincorporated areas.
- **Sarah Crowell**, Culture and Art. Sarah is Artistic Director of Oakland’s Destiny Arts Center, which provides dance, theater and martial arts training to young people and aims to end isolation and violence in their lives.
- **Stephanie Couch**, Education. Stephanie is Executive Director of the Institute for STEM Education at Cal State East Bay who works to improve education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math provided to youth across the region.
- **Leora Feeney**, Environment. Leora’s efforts to save Alameda’s tiniest endangered bird – the California Least Tern – convinced three federal agencies to create a wildlife reserve at the former Alameda Naval Air Station.



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New Permit Portal Eases Process

for Residents, Business

Alameda County has launched its exciting new **Permit Portal**, a one-stop online guide that helps residents through the permitting process to complete major property upgrades, start businesses or undertake many other tasks. Available at <http://permit.acgov.org>, the Alameda County Permit Portal simplifies the permit process by allowing individuals and business operators to search based on address or need, to browse permits by category and view the most popular permits issued locally. The portal provides information about all locally issued permits – not just those required by Alameda County, but by cities and special districts as well. It's the first new tool to result from Alameda County's groundbreaking partnership with technology-giant Google through company's Government Innovation Labs project last year.

Innovative Tax Assistance Program Honored

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors on January 26 issued a proclamation honoring the Social Service Agency's **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** Program for its 15 years of providing no-cost income tax preparation assistance to low- and middle-income residents. By doing so, the program helps taxpayers to receive larger refunds and build better financial futures. Since 2002, VITA has maintained a team of volunteers who help eligible residents receive larger tax refunds by claiming the credits they have earned. As the countdown begins toward

Earn It! Keep It! Save It!

the annual income tax filing deadline in April, VITA is once again offering its services to residents whose 2015 household income was \$54,000 or less. Approximately 150 volunteers - each of whom has completed training to obtain IRS certification - are participating this year and enabling the program to offer no-cost services at four locations each Monday and Wednesday evening, and for seven hours every Saturday, through April 18.

WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

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- **Tina Raine-Bennett, MD, MPH**, Health. A research scientist and physician with Kaiser Permanente, Tina's work in the areas of contraception and reproductive health has helped to improve the health outcomes of many women – including teens and underserved women.
- **Marcia Blackstock**, Justice. Marcia is the longtime Executive Director of Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR), America's first rape crisis center. Her work has led the criminal justice system to be more accountable to victims of sexual assault.
- **Aloysia Rochon Fouché**, Non-Traditional Careers. Aloysia is one of the country's few female funeral directors. She leads a funeral home that was the first African American-owned business to reach 100 years of doing business in Oakland.
- **Quinn Delaney**, Philanthropy. Quinn founded the Akonadi Foundation, one of the few philanthropies focused on supporting racial justice. Her work has helped transform many lives for the better.
- **Jacqueline Chen, PhD**, Science, Technology, Engineering. Jacqueline, a scientist at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, is a pioneer in using supercomputers to study turbulence-chemistry interactions in gas turbines, automobile engines and other practical combustion devices.
- **Gail D. Hunter**, Sports and Athletics. Gail is Vice President of Public Affairs and Event Management for the World Champion Golden State Warriors. She is closely involved with team initiatives to help underserved youth.
- **Lizbeth Hernandez**, Youth. Lizbeth is a teenager who works to improve her home community of Oakland. She was one of the first participants in Girls Inc.'s Girls Resource Center and devotes ample time to support social justice, food justice and youth transitioning from the criminal justice system.

This year's **Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon and Awards Ceremony** will be at **12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 4700 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland**. The Women's Hall of Fame "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship Fund helps propel young leaders towards meaningful futures in civic engagement. The program also makes contributions to community-based organizations supporting women, youth, and families in Alameda County. Sponsorships are available, providing an opportunity for our business, government and community partners to support our youth. Tickets to the luncheon and awards ceremony are \$85.

Go to <http://whof.acgov.org> for ticket information and online purchase. Sponsors can help youth to attend the luncheon and awards ceremony by going to <http://whof.acgov.org> or by sending an email to countyadministrator@acgov.org.

Volunteer Tax Assistance Program Hours Through April 18

Hours:

- Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Locations:

- Social Services Agency (SSA), 2000 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland
- SSA's Enterprise Office, 8477 Enterprise Way, Oakland
- SSA's Eden Office, 24100 Amador Street, Hayward
- Office of Supervisor Wilma Chan, 15903 Hesperian Boulevard, San Lorenzo
- For more information, go to vita.eitc@acgov.org.

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Disaster Relief Fund Reactivated to Support San Bernardino

Alameda County has reactivated its **Disaster Relief Fund** to enable people in the community to voluntarily donate funds to benefit the victims of the horrific shooting on December 2nd in San Bernardino in which 14 people were killed and 21 others were injured. It is the first time in a decade that the Fund has been activated in response to a domestic tragedy. The Fund facilitates local contributions to help the families of those killed in the shooting and those recovering from their injuries. Some County employees also can donate up to five days of their accrued vacation time,



compensatory time and/or holiday in-lieu time. The Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund was initially established in response to the September 11, 2001

attacks in the United States. The fund was reactivated for the South Asia Tsunami/Earthquake in 2004, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, earthquakes in Haiti and Chile in 2010, the Northern Japan Earthquake/Tsunami in 2011, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013 and the massive earthquake in Nepal in April 2015. All local contributions will go directly to a relief fund jointly established by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and the Arrowhead United Way. Cash and online donations are accepted.

Go to <http://acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm> to donate or to obtain additional information.



Check out the latest installment of *WE ARE AC!* This month, we feature a video about the new San Lorenzo Library, a state-of-the-art facility that is a hub of activity in the unincorporated community. <https://www.acgov.org/about/weareac/>

County Links

Alameda County Government <http://www.acgov.org/government/>
 Alameda County Board of Supervisors <http://www.acgov.org/board/>
 Lookup/pay Property Taxes <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm>
 Awards won by Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/awards/>
 Links to Alameda County Departments and Agencies
<http://www.acgov.org/government/departments.htm>
 Employment with Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/government/employment.htm>
 Alameda County forms <http://www.acgov.org/government/formscenter.htm>
 Alameda County Superior Court <http://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/>

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).