

13 Named to Women's Hall of Fame

Thirteen women representing the region's rich diversity and a remarkable range of achievement were inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame at its 26th Annual Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on March 30th in Oakland.

"Celebrating the inspiring achievements of this outstanding group of women was the perfect way to recognize National Women's History Month in March," said County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, Co-Chair of the Women's Hall of Fame.

The program, co-sponsored by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the County's Commission on the Status of Women, once again raised funds to support important local partners serving women and families in Alameda County. In addition, it supported local girls' academic pursuits through the **Mary V. King "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship Fund**, named after the former Alameda County Supervisor and Women's Hall of Fame co-founder who passed away in 2015.

For the first time, there were two honorees in the Youth category, both local high school seniors who have made a difference volunteering in the community while excelling academically. Both received \$5,000 scholarships from the Youth Scholarship Fund.

The two Youth honorees were:

Laura Savio, a senior at Mission San Jose High School in Fremont. In the face of significant challenges at home, Laura has become a community leader by educating others about teen dating violence and healthy relationships, as well as other issues affecting teens such as depression, anxiety, academic pressure and stress.

Akemi Williams, a senior at Dublin High School. Akemi is a seasoned volunteer who has given her time to community projects throughout Alameda County, and in Haiti and Ghana. When her school faced racial and social justice challenges, she organized a program to educate students about diversity and inclusion.



Laura Savio



Akemi Williams

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This year's inductees were honored at an inspiring awards luncheon attended by about 450 people on March 30th at Oakland's Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Longtime Bay Area television personality Valerie Coleman Morris served as Mistress of Ceremony.

In addition to Laura and Akemi, this year's inductees were:

Kristin Groos Richmond, Business and Professions. Kristin is co-founder and CEO of Revolution Foods, an Oakland company that serves 2 million healthy, affordable meals a week in 2,500 school and community sites. Her mission is to transform the way America eats by providing access to healthy, affordable meals.

Moina Shaiq, Community Service. After mass shooting tragedies, Moina, a Fremont resident, launched the "Meet a Muslim" program to dispel common misunderstandings about the Islamic faith. The program began in a Fremont coffee shop, but has grown to reach at least 4,000 people in nine states.

Margaret Dixon, Education. Margaret parlayed her love for teaching and police work into a career serving residents of her native Oakland. One of Oakland's first black women police officers, Margaret now chairs the Administration of Justice department at Merritt College, preparing a new generation for careers in criminal justice.

Kimberly Larson, Emerging Leader. Kimberly is an Alameda County firefighter who volunteers all over the West Coast mentoring young women interested in careers in the fire service. She is described as a "textbook firefighter" who is devoted to her career, her family and mentoring others to follow her path.

Erica Mackie, Environment. Erica is co-founder and CEO of GRID Alternatives of Oakland, the nation's largest nonprofit installer of solar power equipment. Through GRID, Erica works for economic and environmental justice by making renewable energy technology and job training accessible to underserved communities.

Maria G. Hernandez, Ph.D., Health. Maria is President of Impact4Health, an Oakland consulting firm that leverages innovation, strategy and community engagement to address healthcare disparities. She is also lead consultant for the Alameda County Pay for Success Asthma Initiative, which addresses high asthma rates in lower-income communities.

Spojmie Nasiri, Justice. Spojmie is a leading immigration attorney who conducts pro bono clinics in jails and in the community, while representing immigrants in federal detention and people affected by the federal travel ban. The Pleasanton resident's experience as a first-generation immigrant from Afghanistan gives her a deep understanding of the challenges faced by her clients.

Thi Bui, Non-Traditional Careers. Thi Bui is an award-winning cartoonist and author whose debut graphic memoir honors her family's immigration journey from war-torn Vietnam to the United States. She is a former public school teacher and one of the founders of Oakland International High School.

Peggy Saika, Philanthropy. Peggy is the CEO of the Oakland-based Common Counsel Foundation, which provides philanthropic support to grassroots organizations helping low-income people, women, youth, people of color, indigenous peoples and others working for justice, equity and a healthy, sustainable environment.

Susan Hubbard, Ph.D., Science, Technology, Engineering. Susan is the Associate Laboratory Director for Earth and Environmental Sciences at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. She is an internationally recognized earth and environmental scientist who has dedicated her career to tackling some of the world's most critical challenges, including climate change.

Teri Johnson, Sports and Athletics. Teri, is a teacher and coach at Union City's James Logan High School and a legendary figure in high school and youth softball coaching. In 32 years of coaching, Teri has led her teams of girls to nearly 700 victories and a winning percentage of .805.



Stone Soup Food Drive 2019 Fighting Hunger....One Can at a Time



The compassion, creativity and community spirit of Alameda County employees were on full display on Tuesday, April 9th, as the County wrapped up its 2019 Stone Soup Food Drive and Design Competition.

Taking time out from its weekly meeting, the Board of Supervisors handed out awards to 16 employee teams that participated in Stone Soup by building creative public displays — focused on the themes of hunger and helping others — with boxes, cans and sacks of non-perishable food items donated by County workers. Pictures of some of the winners can be seen on this page.

In total, County employees donated more than eight tons of food and more than \$13,000 cash to the Food Bank in this year's Stone Soup Food Drive. That cash figure equates to nearly \$100,000 worth of food for residents struggling with food insecurity — because the food bank can convert every \$1 donated into \$7 worth of nutritious food items.

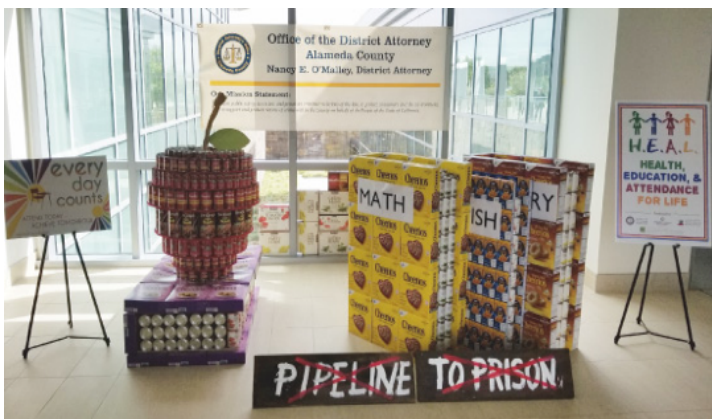
The Stone Soup effort is central to Alameda County's quest to eliminate poverty and hunger, one of six primary goals stated in Alameda County Vision 2026.

This was Alameda County's 6th annual Stone Soup Food Drive, but 2019 marks the first time the effort has taken place outside the end-of-the-year holiday season. The timing was changed because the Food Bank typically finds it difficult to provide food for hungry residents during the first months of the year — after receiving an annual surge of donations during the holidays.

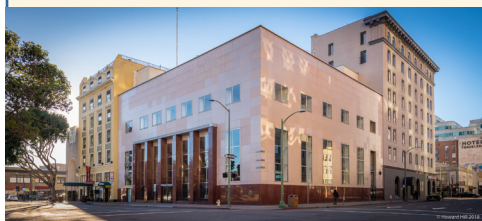
In 2012, Alameda County used the old fable of Stone Soup — which celebrates generosity and collaboration in difficult times — to put a new spin on its annual holiday food drive to support the Food Bank. Though the timing of the annual effort has changed, the spirit of compassion that inspires it is stronger than ever.

The Alameda County Community Food Bank accepts donations year-round to help the community's less fortunate. To donate, go to:

<http://www.accfb.org/>.



County Celebrates Information Technology Department's New Headquarters



Board President Wilma Chan and County Administrator Susan Muranishi led a special dedication event in December to celebrate the opening of the new Information Technology Department (ITD) headquarters in downtown Oakland.

A 15-month renovation project converted the 1950s-era bank building into a futuristic workspace designed to facilitate ITD's collaborative support of all County agencies and departments.



"What was once a fairly typical office building has been transformed into an eye-catching model of a 21st century activity-based workspace," Muranishi said.

By "activity-based workspace," she was referring to the modern office design concept that inspired the renovation. This design approach relies on an open layout where assigned workstations are deemphasized in favor of meeting areas to promote a collaborative team environment.



Photographs by Howard Hill

The 4-story building is packed with modern meeting rooms and "huddle spaces" to emphasize the collaboration that is central to ITD's mission of assisting all partner agencies/departments to optimize their operations and services through technology.

"Through its partnerships with partners across the County organization, ITD is at the forefront of all of our efforts to transform local government services through innovation," Muranishi said.

Supervisor Chan, whose district includes downtown Oakland, said she was very pleased by the building upgrade and the balance it strikes by providing the modern features of a 21st Century workspace while still paying homage to the downtown area's rich history.

"Alameda County is excited to be part of an exciting revival taking place in downtown Oakland," Chan said. "We are investing in the future of the downtown in a way that recognizes the city's illustrious past," she said.



Valle New Board of Supervisors' President; Carson Vice President

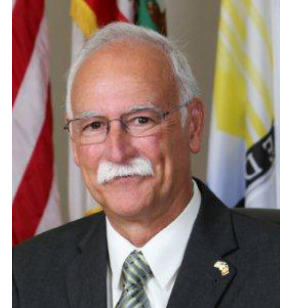
The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has elected Supervisor Richard Valle, District 2, to serve as President of the Board for the next two years. The Board elected Supervisor Keith Carson, District 5, to serve as Vice President.

At its January 15th meeting, the Board elected both Valle and Carson to the positions by unanimous vote. Valle responded to the vote by presenting a plaque to Supervisor Wilma Chan for leading the Board as President for the past two years. Chan, in turn, presented Valle with a certificate commending his service as Board Vice President since 2017.

Supervisor Valle is a former Union City Councilmember who was appointed to the Board of Supervisors in June 2012, winning election to the post five months later. He's led several initiatives in his district, including Science in the Park, which makes science and healthy living fun for youth. He's also been successful in increasing opportunities for local District 2 businesses and in efforts to stabilize St. Rose Hospital. Valle serves as Chair of the Board's Public Protection Committee and its Ad Hoc Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

Supervisor Carson is the longest-serving member of the Board, having served as District 5 Supervisor since 1993. His areas of focus include access to health care; ending poverty, crime and homelessness; business retention; and addressing the scarcity of jobs in our communities. He is the longtime Chair of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA) and leads the Alameda County Budget Workgroup and the Board's Personnel, Administration and Legislation (PAL) Committee.

As President, Valle will preside over board meetings, appoint members to Board committees and sign contracts, leases and other Board-approved documents. As Vice President, Carson will assume these duties in Valle's absence.

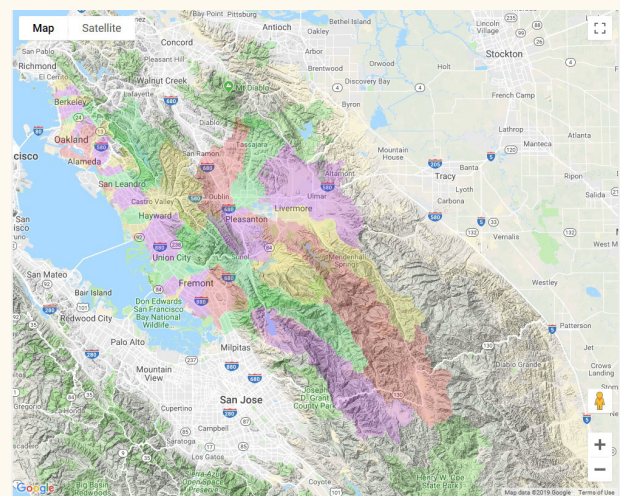


Flood Control District Unveils New Interactive Maps of Every Alameda County Watershed

The Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has created full-featured, interactive maps of every watershed in Alameda County. The maps are designed to help professionals, educators and outdoor enthusiasts explore and learn more about the region's watersheds.

Users of Google Earth Pro may easily download KMZ watershed map files to use with the software.

Each of the shaded areas in the map at right represents a watershed area that can be examined closely by using the new map tools. Information provided about each watershed includes details about geology, hydrology, creeks, trails, and parks. Maps of the watershed areas also include information on restoration efforts and volunteer opportunities.



The maps can be found at www.acfloodcontrol.org/resources/explore-watersheds/.