



# District 5 Newsletter

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The District 5 e-newsletter is designed to keep 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 portions of Oakland, namely West Oakland, North Oakland, Rockridge, the Fruitvale District, and the Dimond District.

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

## Going Green on a Budget

Earth Day reminds me that being environmentally friendly or green hasn't always been in the forefront of people's minds. The first Earth Day was in 1970 and started as a nationwide grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment and had the participation of millions of people and thousands of schools and communities. As a result of Earth Day the United States Environmental Protection Agency was created to

work for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American People. Now Earth Day is an international event and provides a good time for people worldwide to think about their own impact on the earth and take part in personal and community projects.

Right now everywhere we look there is information about climate change protecting our environment and being green, and business has seen

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## Parole Realignment This Is Not the Way to Do It

Budget deliberations are in full swing in Sacramento, and there is no shortage of "realignment" proposals designed to assist the State in closing their gapping \$14.5 billion budget deficit. The Parole Realignment proposed by the Legislative Analysts Office (LAO) is somewhat perplexing. The LAO is known for her politically independent and fiscally sound judgment, yet this proposal has a questionable funding stream

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## Is your Child Ready for Kindergarten?

The first day of learning is not when children enter a kindergarten class in the beginning of the school year but it happens on a daily basis. For example, eating a meal, driving in a car or even going to the park. Research has shown that ninety percent of a child's brain develops before the age of 5.

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## Going Green on a Budget ...

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a market full of consumers ready to buy their way to a smaller carbon footprint. With all of the marketing of green lifestyles and green products, people that live on a budget can sometimes feel left out and that greening their life just isn't an option. But, being green doesn't have to cost a lot of money.

Some of the greenest things a person can do to their life are free or cost very little. For example walking instead of driving on short trips, saving your grocery bags and reusing them or bringing your own, drinking tap water instead of bottled and of course recycling.

Another great way to be green that is cost effective is making your own cleaning supplies; it's much healthier for people, pets and the water supply and uses things most people already have at home. For example, baking soda is great for scrubbing and if mixed with white vinegar or lemon it fizzes which speeds up the cleaning

*Some of the greenest things a person can do to their life are free or cost very little.*

time. White vinegar is a disinfectant and breaks up dirt; don't use red wine vinegar or apple cider vinegar, it may stain. Lemons cut grease, olive oil especially the cheaper ones picks up dirt and polishes wood. Instead of paper towels save old towels or wash cloths to clean with and old tooth brushes are great for scrubbing. If you have space for a composting bin, recycling your own food

scraps and plant debris is great way to keep things out of the landfill; and if you don't have space you can still recycle food scraps with worm composting in a compact bin. As an Alameda County resident you're eligible for discounted top of the line bins from the Alameda County Waste Management

Authority. For more information and to get your bin visit [www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org).

In addition to greening yourself, a free and great way to green our community is to participate in earth friendly community service projects. For a listing of events please check our community calendar at [www.acgov.org/board/district5](http://www.acgov.org/board/district5).

## *Is your Child Ready for Kindergarten? ...*

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That is why it is critical that children are prepared for education as early as the day they are born.

School readiness means making sure children are emotionally and physically healthy for school. The role of parents, caregivers and children's first teachers is crucial to a child's development. Each person involved in a young person's life should have an active role in what a child learns on a daily basis, increasing the possibility that it will remain with them during their educational years and beyond. Below are some things that you can to help prepare your

child for an exciting learning experience:

- Taking your child to the doctor for general health care checkups, including oral, vision and hearing check ups
- Ensuring your child receives all required immunizations
- Enrolling your child in a quality pre-school program
- Reading to your child on a daily basis, routine trips to the library for story time and to borrow books
- Helping your child to read and write their first and last name
- Assist them with indentifying the first ten letters in the alphabet

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## Parole Realignment ...

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and would pit local governments against each other; I cannot support the proposal in its form at the time of writing.

**THE PROPOSAL:** The LAO's Parole Realignment is a response to the Governor's ill conceived early release of non-violent prisoners which provided no additional funds to local government for the direct and essential supportive services to assist the clients with their needs. In short if Parole Realignment is implanted over 71,000 people will be released from State prison and placed on county probation in counties across the state. At the heart of the proposal is the theory that local government and those in the community are more vested in the success of formerly incarcerated people that are re-entering our communities; and that those at the local level and closest to the issues should have flexibility in implementing programming. Philosophically the LAO is correct, but the structure of this proposal is questionable. In the current form, there are three funding streams, siphoning \$188 million in property tax dollars from waste and water enterprise special districts, shifting 6% (\$178 million) of Proposition 13 sales tax dollars from cities to

counties and redirecting \$130 million in Vehicle License Fee (VLF) dollars from the DMV to counties. This is a recipe for disaster, which would result in local governments fighting with each other over crumbs. There are other challenges. The population is called "non-violent" yet if they are on parole they are most likely highly in need of drug and alcohol and other mental health services. The proposal does not provide funding for expanding capacity in these areas.

Most Probation Departments, including Alameda County feel that they can do a better job than the State in helping formerly incarcerated people in their efforts to become contributors to our communities, if they are given the proper resources. While the LAO does estimate local government would be given slightly more money than the State spends on these services under this proposal, many fear the proposed blend of funds is a house of cards. The solution to our budget deficit is not the continuous "shell game" the Governor and unfortunately now the LAO seems to suggest we continue to play. We don't have a spending problem as the Governor asserts, we have a revenue problem and an archaic tax/funding structure which needs to be addressed. As long as short sighted solutions are proposed for long term problems the people of California will continue to pay the price.

## *Is your Child Ready for Kindergarten? ...*

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- Teach them how to count to ten and recognize the numbers by site
- Name and recognize the basic colors
- Teach them self help skills (brushing their teeth, toilet needs, how to call 911 in an emergency situation)

Understanding that learning does not only happen in the classroom is a significant part of how children will succeed academically. As you begin to look forward to summer, incorporate

learning in your daily routines so that your children, grandchildren or even neighbors are prepared to be successful in school.

The Kindergarten enrollment process has already begun. For information on Kindergarten enrollment contact your local school district:

- Albany Unified School District 510-558-3776
- Berkeley Unified School District 510-644-6504
- Emery Unified School District 510-601-4907
- Oakland Unified School District 510-879-811
- Piedmont Unified School District 510-594-2600

## Internship Opportunity

The Fifth Supervisorial District offers internship opportunities for college and high school students year round. Our internships provide individuals with a chance to learn how the Board of Supervisors creates public policy and become involved with Alameda County services such as: health care, social services, public protection, youth, the environment and other public policy issues. In addition, working in the District 5 office gives individuals a chance to see how county government functions and the connections with federal, state and other local levels of government.

The internship provides valuable experience that employers look for and presents an opportunity to network with some of Alameda County's key decision makers including elected officials, community and business leaders.

Some of the duties include but are not limited to: constituent outreach and problem solving, attend meetings on various issues, data entry, issue research, writing letters and commendations, and a variety of other tasks consistent with a political environment.

Individuals interested in applying for an internship with the Fifth Supervisorial District should submit a cover letter and resume to:

Irmina Sanchez  
Office Manager  
Supervisor Keith Carson's office  
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510-272-6687 phone  
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