



# Supervisor Keith Carson

## District 5 News and Updates

### Release Date: November 17, 2011



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The Fifth District includes the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville and Piedmont; the West Oakland, North Oakland, Rockridge, Grand Lake, Manzanita, Dimond District communities and portions of the Fruitvale neighborhood.

Dear District 5 Resident,

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season.

This holiday season I am reminded more than ever of our collective responsibility to support those in need. As the safety net in government, counties are on the front lines providing food, shelter, health care and social services to our community.

At the beginning of this year, a homeless count was carried out in Alameda County. As of January 2011, 4,178 people were homeless on any given day. That number represents progress from the 2009 count, but still an unacceptable statistic. Behind those numbers are real people, families and children.

As you celebrate this season, please remember those in need and give whatever you can in time, money or food. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for a list of organizations helping to feed seniors and people in need during Thanksgiving.

Thank you for your generosity and Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,

Keith Carson

Alameda County Supervisor, Fifth District



## Residents Learn about Disaster Preparedness in Berkeley

In the wake of four tremors in the span of less than a week, more than 250 East Bay residents packed into the auditorium at King Middle School in Berkeley on October 22 to hear a series of presentations about how County, City and community agencies are preparing for the next major disaster.

Supervisor Keith Carson, Sheriff Greg Ahern and County Fire Chief Sheldon Gilbert hosted the event in commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oakland/Berkeley hills fire of 1991.

Representatives from the Berkeley and Oakland Fire Departments, Berkeley Public Health Department and Alameda County Public Health Department also presented information about how residents can be proactive in their planning. Residents were encouraged to become involved in Community Emergency Response Teams and take advantage of trainings for neighbors and family members.

“There is no way to prevent the next disaster,” said Supervisor Carson, “but citizens can take steps to better prepare themselves and their families and get informed about the plans that

*Disaster Prep...Continued on page 5*

## Realignment Is Here

### Only Time Will Tell if it is Successful

The shifting of the supervision of non-serious, non-violent and the non-sex offenders from the State to the counties, known as Realignment, has begun. While the County Probation Department and the other Agencies are to be commended for their handling of the issue, it will be months or even years before we know the full effect on the County and our communities.

As of mid November, the County Probation Department was monitoring 73 people who were released from prison who would have been on State Parole prior to Realignment. In addition, people who are newly convicted of the non-serious, non-violent, non-sex offenses are also now the responsibly of the County, and will spend time in jail, on probation or some combination of the two. Alameda County Superior Court has sentenced 37 of those folks already.

It is important to note that no one gets out of prison early as a result of this program—everyone leaves prison on their scheduled release date. When they get to Alameda County, each person is assessed, utilizing a tool developed at U.C. Berkeley and receives an individualized treatment plan, designed to address the client’s most pressing needs. Those who violate the terms of their

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**For more information visit:**

[www.KeithCarson.org](http://www.KeithCarson.org)



Winter is Flu season! You can prevent the transmission of diseases by washing your hands, covering coughs, handling food properly and getting vaccinated. The Alameda County Public Health Department has many [resources](#) to help you acquire the appropriate vaccines. You can reach the Public Health Department at (510) 267-8000.

Click here for a list of Flu Clinic sites, as of November 2:

[http://www.acphd.org/media/144972/flu\\_clinics.pdf](http://www.acphd.org/media/144972/flu_clinics.pdf)



Click below for a list of Alameda County Clinics and Community Health Centers. Services are provided on a sliding scale. Please call to confirm times of operation and services.

[http://www.acphd.org/media/107571/iap\\_clinics\\_community\\_centers.pdf](http://www.acphd.org/media/107571/iap_clinics_community_centers.pdf)

## Holiday Food Referrals

### ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

1-800-870-3663 or 510-635-3663  
7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland, CA 94621  
Thanksgiving Basket registration starts Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Christmas Basket registration starts Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Please call for more details and for volunteer opportunities and to donate.

### ALBANY SENIOR CENTER

Thanksgiving Dinner  
Wednesday, November 23, 3:30 pm  
Admission: \$5  
846 Masonic Avenue, Albany, CA 94706  
510-524-9122

### BERKELEY FOOD AND HOUSING PROJECT (BFHP)

Thanksgiving Meal  
Thursday, November 24, 2pm - 5pm.  
Trinity Church  
2362 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704  
(510) 649-4965 (BFHP)  
No preregistration required. Volunteers may contact Danielle Knutson at [dknutson@bfhp.org](mailto:dknutson@bfhp.org).

### MCGEE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Thanksgiving Dinner  
Thursday, November 24th at 12 pm  
1640 Stuart Street, Berkeley, CA 94703  
510-843-1774  
No preregistration required. If you would like to volunteer, please call ahead.

### CITY OF OAKLAND HUNGER RELIEF PROGRAM

Thanksgiving Meal  
Tuesday, November 22nd, 11am-2pm.  
City Center Oakland Marriott

1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607  
Please call (510) 238-2077 or click here for more details:  
[http://www.keithcarson.org/Oakland\\_Thanksgiving\\_2011.pdf](http://www.keithcarson.org/Oakland_Thanksgiving_2011.pdf)

### LAKE MERRITT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thanksgiving Dinner  
Thursday November 24th, 1pm-3pm (Those who are eating can come as early as noon).  
1330 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606  
510-465-4793  
If you are interested in volunteering, please call the church.

### WILLIE KEYS RECREATION CENTER

Mothers of the Year Give Back: Thanksgiving Dinner  
Saturday, November 19, 11-5 pm  
3131 Union Street, Oakland, CA 94608  
(510) 597-5042  
For details or to help support the effort, contact Mary at 510-891-1395 or [ksaveourkids@aol.com](mailto:ksaveourkids@aol.com).

### COLLEGE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thanksgiving Dinner  
Thursday, November 24, 11 am—1 pm  
5951 College Avenue, Oakland, CA  
510-658-3487 (Mike Castner, Volunteer Coordinator)  
Donations of money and food are welcome. Volunteers can help beginning Monday, November 21.

### ILWU Local 10 Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway

Saturday, November 19, 10 AM  
Morning Star Church, 745 Willow Street, Oakland, CA 94607  
(510) 798-8673 (Derrick Muhammad).  
Donations are welcome.

Please note: This is a partial list.



**A West Oakland Bike Shop  
Transforms the Community**

On a sunny late summer day in August, the Bikes 4 Life shop in West Oakland is abuzz with activity. A young woman in a cropped T-shirt asks owner Tony Coleman for advice about bike maintenance. A high school youth shows up for his shift while an older gentleman from the community hangs around the entrance, chatting up customers.

After two years of operation at the corner of 7th and Peralta, Bikes 4 Life has become more than just a bike shop; it is a community center, a mentoring project and a beacon of hope for West Oakland youth and community members.

The shop is part of a larger project called OneFam, short for One Family. Founded over a decade ago by Tony Coleman, a longtime Oakland resident and community activist, the organization works with formerly incarcerated youth to develop leadership skills and prepare them for employment opportunities. OneFam offers workshops on conflict resolution, the prison industrial complex, juvenile justice issues and studio engineering.

A series of successful bike rides for peace led to the establishment of the bike shop, which opened its doors in December, 2009.

“We started the shop as a way to be a little more self sustaining in running our programs and doing our work,” Coleman explains. The proceeds from the bike sales help to support OneFam’s youth development programming.

The shop itself is a space for youth to learn skills in bike mechanics, retail and small business management. It is also an opportunity for youth to participate in the green economy and learn about environmentalism. As they gain job skills, the youth are also mentored by Coleman and the other adults, some of whom have come into contact with the criminal justice system and can speak to the youth from their own experience.

According to Coleman, OneFam’s success in supporting re-entry young people comes from “building a support system, and building camaraderie amongst people that genuinely understand what they are going through. And the youth genuinely know that they can come and get feedback, nonjudgmental feedback that is coming from a place of love and understanding and respect.”

A conversation with a caring elder can make a huge difference to youth coming out of the juvenile justice system. According to Coleman, he can say to a young person, ““Certain things happened to me, and this is how I dealt with it, and this is how I should have dealt with it”...I can say, „you don’t want to make that same mistake.””

**Calling Young  
Women Leaders!**

The Junior Commission is a project established by the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women to develop leadership ability, to build high self-esteem, to show how government works, and to demonstrate how young women can become empowered by advocating on policy related issues. It strives to promote a leadership development program for young women that allows them to learn more about themselves while impacting their community.

The group meets monthly in Central Alameda County.

The Commission is currently recruiting young women age 14-18 from the northern part of Alameda County (Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, Piedmont and North and West Oakland). For more information about the application process, please visit:

[http://www.alamedacsw.org/?page\\_id=43](http://www.alamedacsw.org/?page_id=43)

Although it is important to give youth space to learn from their own mistakes and find their own voice, “the youth movement needs the elders as models of wisdom, respect, and nurture,” says Coleman.

With all of these successes come challenges as well. Bikes 4 Life the business is able to pay bills but cannot meet payroll. Instead of hiring the youth from his programs, Coleman must get creative and offer other incentives. The grant funding landscape is also challenging, with stiff competition from larger nonprofits that are more politically connected in the philanthropic community. Coleman’s goal is to “be 70% sustainable by our own hands” and receive the rest through foundations and grants. Community members can support the store by buying new bikes there for the holidays or by bringing bikes in for repair and service.

Coleman rises as the young man finishes his shift and comes to check in. The teenager has worked enough hours to earn himself a new bike. A wide grin crosses his face as he picks out a bike with a purple frame and orange rims.

For more information about Bikes 4 Life, how to donate, and how to visit the store, please call 510-452-BIKE (2453) or visit: <http://www.bikes4life.com/>



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probation are disciplined with punishments ranging from a reprimand to retuning to County Jail.

There are a total of 848 people that have been identified by the State that will be supervised by Probation instead of Parole in Alameda County as a result of Realignment and we are expecting to get 577 by the end of this fiscal year. There were approximately 20,000 people on County Probation before Realignment started, so this group is a small percentage of the people that we supervise now.

Most of those involved with this new process will tell you that things are going about as well as can be expected. In addition, the Realignment program has allowed the County Departments to increase their collaborative working relationships, most notably, Probation, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, the Courts, Social Services and Mental Health Services. Since we are just starting this program, it is similar to a first date. Only when we are in the relationship for a long time and are "married" to the realigned population will we know if it is successful.



**Protect the Environment and Your Family!**

**Safe disposal of unwanted and leftover medicines will help protect your family, your community and the public water supply.**

Click here for a list of locations for safe medicine disposal:

[http://keithcarson.org/Safe\\_medicine\\_disposal\\_2011.pdf](http://keithcarson.org/Safe_medicine_disposal_2011.pdf)



**Building on Our Assets:**

**Economic Development & Job Creation in the East Bay**

**East Bay Economic Development Alliance Report, October 2011**

The East Bay must continue to invest in education, advanced manufacturing, research and development and infrastructure upgrades to remain competitive as we emerge from the Great Recession, according to a recent report commissioned by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (EDA). Supervisor Carson is Chair of the East Bay EDA.

The East Bay's strengths as a region lie in a highly skilled workforce, cutting edge research institutions and labs, a high concentration of innovation industries attracting venture capital, an extensive transportation infrastructure, and a diverse housing stock.

The report, entitled *Building on Our Assets: Economic Development & Job Creation in the East Bay*, was commissioned by the EDA in partnership with the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County, the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board, the Oakland Workforce Investment Board, and the East Bay Community Foundation. [Click here](#) to read the full report.

Driven by the presence of the University of California, Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories, growth in the professional, scientific and technical services (PSTS) industries has led to 80,000 jobs. Start-ups and established companies working in the areas of engineering, life sciences, biotechnology, renewable energy and green and clean technology are attracting high levels of venture capital and investment. According to the report, the East Bay is 53% more concentrated in the PSTS sector than the typical U.S. region.

Despite losses in the manufacturing sector overall, advanced manufacturing is still of vital importance to the East Bay, according to the report. Specialized manufacturing of semiconductor, electronic component and medical instrument technologies comprise the main areas of growth in the manufacturing sector.

Mirroring national and California trends, the East Bay will also see future job gains in the health care, social services and educational services sectors.

Although business leaders have raised concerns over state regulations, the state's budget crisis and local permitting processes, companies are not leaving the region en masse as

*Building on our Assets...continued on Page 6*



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are in place for government agencies to respond to emergencies.”

Sheriff Ahern and Chief Gilbert kicked off the event with a detailed explanation of the County’s role in coordinating mutual aid resources after cities and local jurisdictions have reached capacity in the aftermath of a disaster such as a fire, earthquake or terrorist activity. Both officials have leadership roles in coordinating disaster response for numerous Bay Area and coastal counties stretching from Monterey to Del Norte.

Under Sheriff Ahern’s leadership, Alameda County for the past four years has conducted a tactical training exercise called Urban Shield, which provides first responders the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the unique geographical and logistical challenges at the site of potential terrorist targets and disaster events. Recognized as a model in regional response, Urban Shield has attracted participants from as far away as France and Israel.

Later in the day, residents interacted with the experts directly in workshops run by 211 (an organization designed to help residents with non-life threatening emergencies), American Red Cross, Montclair Veterinary Hospital, Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disaster (CARD) and the Berkeley and Oakland

Public Schools.

Dr. Gary Richter spoke with a group of concerned pet owners about animal behavior during emergencies. “Even a pet who has never said a mean word can act differently during an emergency,” Dr. Richter said. “When scared, animals can act aggressively or bite their owners.”

For information and pictures from the event, please visit: <http://www.keithcarson.org/disasterprep>

To see the slide show from the event, click here:

[http://keithcarson.org/Disaster\\_Prep\\_Presentation\\_102211.pdf](http://keithcarson.org/Disaster_Prep_Presentation_102211.pdf)

*Photos courtesy of Mark Coplan*



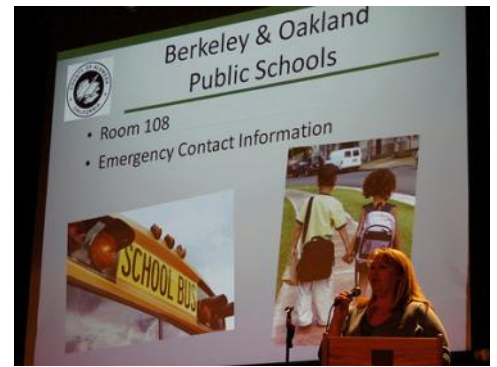
*Residents listen to advice from an American Red Cross of the Bay Area Volunteer at the Disaster Preparedness Workshops in Berkeley on October 22, 2011.*



*John Sakai of KTVU Channel 2 interviews Alameda County Sheriff Greg Ahern.*



*Fire Chief Sheldon Gilbert speaks with residents about emergency preparedness.*



*Terry Garrison of the Alameda County Office of Emergency Services discusses school plans.*



*A Bay EMT youth directs a resident to a workshop*



*Over 250 residents packed the King Middle School auditorium.*



*Learning how to make a kit.*

*Building on Our Assets...continued from page 4*

feared. On average, the region is losing 5,400 jobs per year, less than 0.5 percent of all jobs. Overall, the East Bay is a net importer of jobs, especially from the neighboring region of Santa Clara County.

The East Bay's workforce is both its greatest asset and the source of much concern for local job developers and policy makers. The current workforce is on average highly educated and well positioned to support the needs of high tech companies. As the Baby Boomer generation retires, however, employers will need to replace those workers with equally skilled employees.

But the state of education in the East Bay and California raises alarm bells. High school graduation rates in Alameda County fell from 89 percent to 81 percent between 2003 and 2010. Contra Costa County's rates of graduation also declined, from 92 percent to 85 percent in the same period. Only about half of students who do graduate from high school in the region meet the UC/CSU requirements to attend college.

Careers in the sciences are key to the East Bay's success, but the future workforce is not prepared to take advantage of those opportunities. A [recent study](#) by UC Berkeley researchers found that time spent on science education at the elementary school level has greatly diminished in California schools. Sixty percent of districts have no staff focused on elementary science education. When surveyed, more than 85 percent of elementary teachers said they were given no science-related professional development in the past three years. California's fourth-graders scored at the bottom in national science tests, along with students from Alabama, Mississippi and Hawaii.

Finally, transit and infrastructure play a key role in facilitating job growth and economic development. The Port of Oakland and the 580/80 trucking corridor support a thriving goods movement industry that takes advantage of the confluence of manufacturing, agricultural production and warehousing capacities in the East Bay.

Although more than 25 percent of the region's employees currently work near BART and rapid transit stops, recent job growth near BART and bus stops has stagnated. In other words, job growth is taking place away from transit hubs, leading to the need to build new transit lines or create incentives for employers to locate businesses near transit.

The East Bay is rich in social, economic and cultural resources that will help the region weather the economic downturn, maintain its competitive edge and continue to attract skilled workers. Policy makers and business leaders must continue to work in coordination to retain businesses,



Please Join us  
At Our  
**Annual Holiday Party**  
&  
**Food Drive**

**Free!**

Thursday, December 15th, 2011  
5:00pm-8:00pm

Everett & Jones BBQ  
126 Broadway, Oakland

Light refreshments will be served.  
Please Bring Canned Goods for Donation!



**Job opportunity:  
Advocacy and  
Administrative  
Associate**

Click here for the job description:  
[http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/  
file/1102295448815-40/  
Advocacy+Admin+Assoc+Job+Descript.pdf](http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102295448815-40/Advocacy+Admin+Assoc+Job+Descript.pdf)

educate the future workforce and create sustainable transit systems to connect the East Bay's populations with centers of job creation and growth.

For more information about the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, please click here:

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