



# Supervisor Keith Carson

## District 5 News and Updates

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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.

# Simple Tips For Emergency Planning

The earthquake and tsunami in Japan of this year left many of us worried about when the next disaster will happen here in the Bay Area. No one can predict the actual date and time, but we can be prepared when it does happen. Below are a few easy tips that will help you be better prepared when the next natural disaster occurs.



### Communication Tools

**Permanent marker**—a permanent marker is a useful tool that can help with the identification process during emergencies. Writing your name on your shirt or pieces of your clothing in large letters makes the process of finding people easier and faster.

**Flashlight**—a reliable source of light is important to help find your way in the dark. It helps communicate over distances- like using simple flashing codes-1 for Yes, 2 for No, 3 for Help.

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### Behavioral Health Care Innovative Grants Application due Aug. 19!

Innovative Grants fund the exploration of new ideas that promote the mission of Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) and improve the quality of life of individuals at risk of or those living with serious mental illness and their support networks and families.

The program is funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), also known as Prop 63. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.acinnovations.org/background>

[Click here](#) to apply.

## Realignment 2011: Haven't We Seen This Movie Before?

After much deliberation, California's realignment plan for public safety has reached Alameda and other counties throughout the State. This legislation reminds us of a big budget Hollywood film that spent a long time in pre-production only to flop on opening day.

In January, the Governor unveiled his realignment proposal, which will shift the responsibility of housing and supervising large groups of individuals who were formerly the responsibility of state parole to county probation. All counties will start receiving people on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The philosophy is that serving people closer to their communities will help improve public safety outcomes, including reducing recidivism, the cycle of repeat criminal behavior.

Proper planning and funding could have made this legislation a blockbuster film starring Will Smith and Cameron Diaz. Just imagine being given the time to design programming utilizing newly identified best practices, create new state of the art

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**For more information visit:**

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



## ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

### Hunger Does not take a Summer Vacation

The Food Bank is serving 1 in 6 residents of Alameda County – nearly half of them children and teens. Start a traditional barrel drive at your work, school or organization ... or start a [Virtual Food Drive](#) and multiply your donation.

Call the Food Drive hotline at (510) 635-3663 ext. 318. You can also email ACCFB at [fooddrive@acafb.org](mailto:fooddrive@acafb.org) with questions.

[http://www.acafb.org/food\\_drive.html](http://www.acafb.org/food_drive.html)

### Free Summer Food Service Program in Oakland

Summer time! Some school children have been waiting all year-long for school to get out and for the summer sun. But many children in our community who depend on free and reduced-price meals during the school year lack access to nutritious food during the summer.

From June 20 to August 19, the City of Oakland and the Oakland Unified School District are offering the Free Summer Food Service Program. Over 100 recreation centers, churches and community organizations are sites.

A complete list can be found on the City of Oakland's website:

<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca/groups/dhs/documents/marketingmaterial/oak029762.pdf>

### Berkeley Food and Housing Project

Berkeley Food and Housing Project needs volunteers to serve food Monday through Friday every week until September 6th. They need people to serve between 3:30 pm and 5 pm.

If you can help, please contact them at [volunteers@bfhp.org](mailto:volunteers@bfhp.org)

For more info:

<http://bfhp.org/bfhp-get-involved/volunteer>

### Albany Relay for Life

Albany Chamber of Commerce members will help raise money for cancer research this summer during the inaugural Relay for Life on August 27th and 28th at Cougar Field.

The Relay for Life is a 24-hour relay event to remember survivors of cancer and support the community through raising funds for research.

Visit the Cancer Relay for Life team page at Albany Chamber Relay for Life to learn more and sign up for the Chamber Team.

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr\\_id=34914&team\\_id=970313](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=34914&team_id=970313)

Chamber President Joey Luera is the team captain. Call him at (510) 559-7385 or email [jluera@goldengatefields.com](mailto:jluera@goldengatefields.com) for more details. Chamber Vice President Ellen Graves is the Albany Coordinator for Relay. You can reach Ellen at (510) 526-9276 or



# Youth Search for Roots

Why would I want to research my family history? many youth asked when the Family Journeys project started during Black History Month in February.

Alexis Henry, a former foster youth with two young children, answered that question eloquently after getting hooked on researching her ancestors online. —It's for me, because I want to know, but it's also for my kids, and their kids and their kids so they can know their history."



Young men from Berkeley Technology Academy and their teacher visit the Family History Center at the Mormon Temple in Oakland to carry out genealogical research.

Tyisha Stills, a ninth grader at McClymonds, said —I thought I wasn't going to find anything, but getting on ancestry.com I got all the way back to the 1930 Census. I found my great grandma Lucy and my great grandma Odessa."

Delexes Woods, a former foster youth who is a peer advocate at Beyond Emancipation, relayed his frustrations in running into roadblocks during the search process. —If you can't find much, don't give up," he told the crowd.

Supervisor Carson shared the story of his parents who migrated from Texas in search of work. —I am not just a person who lives in the present. I am a person who lives in the present but is made up of the past," he said. —I thought I was a person of South Berkeley origin only, but I now know that I am a person of the



Delexes Woods of Beyond Emancipation speaks about his experience during the panel.

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The Family Journeys Ancestry Project culminated in a moving event in early June that showcased the stories, pictures and video interviews collected by the youth. On a rainy Saturday at Malcolm X Elementary School in Berkeley, family and community members were treated to over 20 posters displaying family trees, childhood pictures and thoughts about family. Five young people from McClymonds High School, Beyond Emancipation and Berkeley Technology Academy spoke on a panel about their experiences interviewing relatives and sorting through birth, death and census records.



Youth and staff from the Culture Keepers program at McClymonds High School and Hoover Elementary School in Oakland celebrate after "Who am I?"

Photos courtesy of Nicka Smith



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facilities and hire a crop of eager newcomers that would bring new energy to providing services for our residents.

The estimates of the number of people that will now be the responsibility of the county started trickling in at the beginning of July, and the funding is far less than what the State spends on this population. The Legislature's proposal does not give us adequate funding or allow for proper planning. This leaves us with a B-rated action flick where the best material is on the cutting room floor.

**What this really means for local government and communities**

After October 1st, people being released from state prison who have not committed the most violent crimes will be supervised by the Alameda County Probation Department instead of State Parole. In addition, people who commit new "non-serious, non-violent, non-sexual offenses" will no longer be eligible to go to state prison; their sentencing options will be county jail, supervision in the community by Probation, or some combination of the two.

Finally, parole violators will not be revoked to state prison; instead, they will now spend up to 180 days in county jails, be supervised in the community by probation, or some combination of the two. These changes will require the County to provide a higher level of resources, including increasing services that address the specific needs of the clients and hiring more public safety and other staff members. The chunk of money the state has allocated to Alameda County is not sufficient to support that higher level of service as we move forward.

Part of the reason for that short fall is the formula the state uses to determine how much money each county receives. The formula favors Los Angeles and smaller counties at the expense of Alameda and other urban counties in the Bay Area.

In addition, the source of the funding for the realignment program is unstable. The current source of funding is a portion of the sales tax, which fluctuates with the economy. If Californians are tightening their belts and spending less, then there is less revenue to pay for the needs of the formerly incarcerated people now served by

our county.

The Realignment proposal is a major cost cutting measure to help the state close its \$26.6 billion budget hole, masquerading as a progressive policy change that attempts to curb recidivism and serve people in their communities. Many of us in Alameda County know the majority of people involved in criminal activity have serious drug and alcohol issues and/or mental health challenges, for which treatment is more effective than incarceration. Inadequate time for planning and resource development makes it questionable if the new legislation will be a roadmap to increased public safety, improved outcomes for drug and alcohol patients and reduced recidivism. Despite being asked to do more with less, our County Department Heads, community-based organizations and other decision makers are working to make lemonade out of these lemons.

Realignment is more than just another bad summer film. Over the years, I have written about how the State Budget routinely short changes counties, asking local government to do more with less or to be more innovative. This time, there is the danger that the effects will be more permanent when the dollars fall short and there is insufficient money for programming, treatment or incarceration. The people who are losing out will not be celluloid heroes or villains, they will be members of our communities and the continuing responsibility of local government.



**Preserve the Good Times:  
Get Checked, Get Treated**

African American men comprise 46.9% of the people living with HIV/AIDS in Alameda County.

African American women comprise 67.5% of the women living with HIV/AIDS in Alameda County.

Have your free and confidential HIV screening done today.

1-888-8END-HIV

<http://www.officeofaids.org/hivtesting/>

# County News

## Consumer Website for the Uninsured in Alameda County

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

In January 2009, the Alameda County Access to Care Collaborative issued a report entitled "Increasing Access to Health Care for Low-Income Uninsured Residents of Alameda County, California." The report outlined some key barriers to care for uninsured residents, such as lack of information, inaccurate information, and disorganized and hard to find information.

The Collaborative is a joint project of Alameda County, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, Alameda County Social Services Agency, the Alameda County Public Health Department, the Alameda Alliance for Health, the Alameda County Medical Center and the Alameda Health

Consortium.

In order to respond to these barriers, the Access to Care Collaborative developed a comprehensive website for residents of Alameda County [www.ACHealthCare.org](http://www.ACHealthCare.org) to find information about free and low cost health care as well as information about qualifying for health insurance. The website also offers guidance on how to learn about other resources such as food and housing.

[ACHealthCare.org](http://ACHealthCare.org) is not only a resource for consumers but also a comprehensive tool for social service workers, teachers, librarians, etc. and a complement to the County's existing telephone-based information and referral service, 2-1-1. The 2-1-1 service is a free, non-emergency, confidential, 3-digit phone number and service that provides easy access to housing information and critical health and human services.

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**Whistle**—a whistle is a useful communication tool in all types of emergencies. The sound of the whistle travels farther than most voices and it is lightweight and can be carried in pockets, purses or other convenient locations. You can also use the same codes as a flashlight for assistance.

### Contact Lists and Meeting Locations

In addition to having the necessary supplies, you need to capture important information somewhere that is easily accessible at the time of a disaster. Just as important as contact information is a designated meeting place for you and your family to congregate in case your home or area is not accessible.

**To do:**

- Record all important contact information for your immediate contacts
- Store this information with all your other emergency supplies
- Select a meeting location or home that is most likely

out of the immediate area of the disaster. Also select a back-up location just in case.

- Give a list of all the contact information and meeting locations to your family members for them to keep a copy as well. You can't solely rely on technology during an emergency so keeping a hard copy is very important.

Preparing yourself and your family members for emergencies by being proactive is essential. Doing some of the suggested tips if not all of them will help you better manage an already stressful situation.

For more information, please visit:

Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters: <http://cardcanhelp.org/>

Be Prepared California: <http://bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov/epo>

Ready America: <http://www.ready.gov/>

Create a kit: <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html>



**It's Time to Organize Your Block Party!**

Organize a block party, barbecue, ice cream social, or other outdoor event that brings your neighbors together.

**Albany:** Tuesday, August 2nd · 6 PM-8 PM

For more information on organizing your block:  
<http://www.albanyca.org/index.aspx?page=903>

**Berkeley:** Tuesday, August 2, 2011 · various times

For more information on organizing your block:  
<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=71394>  
 (510) 981-6674

**Oakland:** Tuesday, August 2, 2011 · 7 PM—9 PM

For more information and to register your party online:  
<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/nno>  
 (510) 238-3091

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world. I am a citizen of not only this country, but a citizen of the continent of Africa as well.”

Dr. Wade Nobles, an expert on the Black family and Black psychology, spoke to the audience about genealogy as a vehicle for discovering what makes African Americans unique. “It’s not just filling out a family tree, it’s finding out our values and beliefs, what allowed our people to do what they did.”

For more information about the project, please visit [www.keithcarson.org](http://www.keithcarson.org) or call (510) 272-6695.

**Multi-lingual Services in Alameda County**

Over 80 languages are spoken in Alameda County, one of the most diverse counties in California. The Asian Community Collaborative (ACC) and other community-based organizations provide much needed multi-lingual services in a culturally and linguistically sensitive way to Limited English Speaking (LEP) and low income residents of Alameda County.

The following is a short list of providers that offer multi-lingual services in the East Bay:

**Alameda Alliance for Health**  
 475 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 730  
 Oakland, CA 94612  
 (510) 747-4500  
<http://alamedaalliance.org/>

**Bay Area Legal Aid**  
 405 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Oakland, CA 94612  
 (510) 663-4755  
<http://www.baylegal.org/>

**BANANAS, Inc.** –child care services  
 5232 Claremont Avenue  
 Oakland, CA 94618  
 (510) 658-7353  
<http://www.bananasinc.org/>

**East Bay Community Law Center**  
 2921 Adeline Street  
 Berkeley, CA 94703  
 (510) 548-4040  
<http://www.ebclc.org/>

**East Bay Korean American Senior Services Center, Inc.**  
 1723 Telegraph Avenue  
 Oakland, CA 94612  
 510-763-0736  
<http://www.manta.com/c/mm41gzmz/east-bay-korean-senior-citizen>

**Korean Community Center of the East Bay-** citizenship, immigration, and other social services  
 4390 Telegraph Avenue, Suite A  
 Oakland, CA 94609  
 (510) 547-2662  
<http://english.kcceb.org/index.php?c=who&sc=mission>

**J-Sei** - senior services  
 2126 Channing Way  
 Berkeley, CA 94704  
 510-848-3560  
<http://j-sei.org/>

**Eden I & R** - all social services referral services  
 570 B Street  
 Hayward, CA 94541  
 Dial 2-1-1

**Multicultural Institute**— Day laborer program, job placement, health screenings  
 1920 Seventh Street  
 Berkeley, CA 94710  
 510-848-4075  
<http://www.mionline.org/>

For more information on other multi-lingual service providers, please visit our website at: <http://www.acgov.org/board/district5/acc.htm>