

Spotlight on:

Animal Services

See page 4



County Clips

Message from the Chair of the Board, Supervisor Candace Andersen



As we begin the new fiscal year, and with our recently approved budget, the Board of Supervisors is looking very closely at the \$272.2 million in deferred maintenance and capital renewal requirements for our county facilities. When money is tight, as it has been since the Great Recession, putting resources towards

building maintenance and new building projects often falls to the bottom of the priority list. As we came out of the recession our Board appropriately prioritized our County staff and provided much needed raises and reductions in health care costs to help our employees. Now it's time for us to look at our County facilities. Just as most of us find that when we don't devote enough to maintaining a house or car, those needs only compound, we're in the same position with our County buildings and infrastructure.

In March of last year, the Board of Supervisors received an updated comprehensive building condition report, which identified a total of \$272.2 million in deferred facilities maintenance needs and capital renewal requirements. The recommended Budget for FY 2016/17 includes \$10 million for major capital improvements, \$1.5 million for minor improvements and deferred maintenance when no other funds are available, and \$750,000 to continue to fund facility lifecycle on a by-building cost-per-square foot basis. In other words, we're starting to step back and take a strategic look at how we can make sure we're not spending more in the long run than necessary on offices and facilities for County staff.

Leading the charge will be our recently hired Chief Assistant County Administrator, Eric Angstadt, whose position was designated specifically for the purpose of updating the County Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He will work with the Public Works Department to help the Board of Supervisors identify and set priorities for the elimination of structurally deficient or no longer needed structures, and look to replace buildings while reducing the backlog of deferred maintenance.

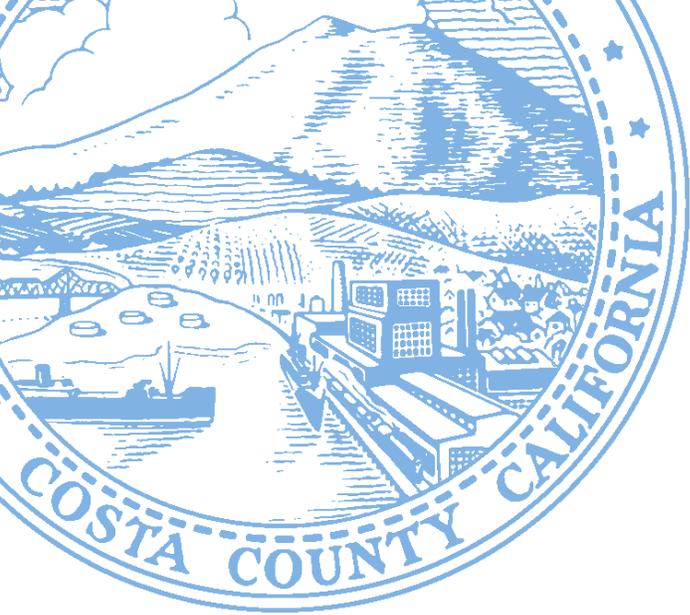
At the top of the list to assess will be the future of the County Administration Building at 651 Pine (also known as the McBrien Administration Building). Plans for the building were completed in 1954 and construction

commenced shortly after that. The building is 12 stories high and approximately 121,000 square feet, with the main tower and north wing constructed at different times. The building has considerable deferred maintenance needs; a 2014 assessment tags the amount at approximately \$22 million. Last year, the Board of Supervisors Chamber was updated with new IT equipment and some additional minor upgrades. The Chamber is used for a variety of meetings and events in addition to meetings of the Board of Supervisors. The building itself, though, currently only houses about 140 employees, including staff from the County Administrator's Office, County Clerk, LAFCO, County Counsel, Sheriff's Office, Human Resources and Supervisor Glover's Martinez office. It also serves as a satellite office for the other four County Supervisors.

Given the unmet maintenance needs and the current use of the administration building, both the County and the City of Martinez have a stake in what will be done with the facility. The Public Works Department is keeping the Martinez City Council in the loop to let the Council know the County is currently looking at underutilized buildings and formulating a strategic plan for some buildings in the downtown area. We are already working to rehabilitate the Finance Building on Court Street, which is wrapped in scaffolding and busy getting a much needed safety overhaul. With the City of Martinez serving as a key partner in our operations in the downtown area, the City and County will keep lines of communication open during discussions about all of our facilities in the area.

The Board of Supervisors is acutely aware of all of the pent-up financial needs of the County coming out of the recession, from a look at employee salaries and services we perform for the public, to the safety and condition of the buildings in which our workforce serves our residents. We believe that by approaching facility maintenance and capital improvements from a big picture, strategic viewpoint, we can make the most of our limited resources.





County Clips

Summer Edition 2016

Spotlight on: Animal Services	4-6
Election News	6-8
Cooperative Extension	9
JetSuiteX	10
Vector Control	11
Spare the Air this Summer	11
Kids at Work Open Enrollment	12
Safe Boating	13
Library News	14-16
Employment & Human Services News	16
Holiday Food Fight Update	17
Comings & Goings	18
Contra Costa Health Services	18
County Service Awards & Retirements	19
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration 2016	20
Cesar Chavez Celebration 2016	21
Congratulations on a Job Well Done	22

Recommendations Please

County Clips is your employee newsletter. Please send us your comments, questions & suggestions.

You can contact us at (925) 313-1180 or email us at christine.wampler@contracostatv.org.

Board of Supervisors Office Locations

**DISTRICT I – Supervisor John Gioia
Sonia Bustamante, Chief of Staff**

El Cerrito Office Information:

11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530
Phone: 510-231-8686 • Fax: 510-374-3429
Email: John_Gioia@bos.cccounty.us

**DISTRICT II – Supervisor Candace Andersen
Gayle Israel, Chief of Staff**

San Ramon Valley Office Information:

309 Diablo Road, Danville, California 94526
Phone: 925-957-8860 • Fax: 925-820-3785
Email: supervisorandersen@bos.cccounty.us

Lamorinda Office Information:

3338 Mt. Diablo Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
Phone: 925-646-6067
<http://ca-contracosta-bosdistrictii.civicplus.com/>

**DISTRICT III – Supervisor Mary N. Piepho
Tomi Riley, Chief of Staff**

Brentwood Office Information:

3361 Walnut Blvd., Suite 140, Brentwood, CA 94513
Phone: 925-252-4500 • Fax: 925-240-7261
Email: Dist3@bos.cccounty.us

**DISTRICT IV – Supervisor Karen Mitchoff
Anne O, Chief of Staff**

Concord Office Information:

2151 Salvio Street, Suite R, Concord, CA 94520
Phone: 925-521-7100 • Fax: 925-646-5202
Email: supervisormitchoff@bos.cccounty.us

**DISTRICT V – Supervisor Federal D. Glover
David Fraser, Chief of Staff**

Pittsburg Office Information:

315 East Leland Road, Pittsburg, CA 94565
Phone: 925-427-8138 • Fax: 925-427-8142
Email: District5@bos.cccounty.us

Martinez Office Information:

651 Pine Street, 4th Floor, Martinez, CA 94553
Phone: 925-335-8200 • Fax: 925-335-8208

Hercules Office Information:

151 Linus Pauling Drive, Hercules, CA 94547
Phone: 510-262-8800 • Fax: 510-262-8808

Spotlight on: Animal Services

Finding Forever Homes for More of Our Shelter Friends

Walk into the Contra Costa County Animal Shelter in Martinez, and you'll notice the staff members are smiling. It's very likely you can attribute their smiles to some of the most engaging clientele County workers can serve – the four-legged variety. You can also credit the new philosophy at the shelter put into action by Beth Ward, who joined the department last fall as the Director.

Contra Costa's Animal Shelter has seen an upswing over the past few years in matching animals with forever homes. In 2011, we were able to place 47% of the animals into homes – that 47% figure is known as our "live release" rate. In 2015, the number reached 75%, and this year looks to be on track for even greater success. Ward says the key to the new philosophy is collaboration, intervention and a commitment to saving more lives.

Municipal shelters have a different mandate than rescue and other animal welfare organizations. We don't just take the cutest, most-adoptable animals; we have an open door for just about any animal that comes our way. That means the shelter population can be anywhere between 150 and 300 on any given day, including our second facility in Pinole. A key to success is in reducing the number of animals that come into our care, as well as collaborating with other organizations and the animal welfare community to help achieve the best outcomes.



Left: Animal Services medical staff performing an examination

Spotlight story continued on page 5



Above: One of Animal Services' Registered Veterinary Technicians prepping a dog for surgery

The focus of the new philosophy in Animal Services is collaboration, intervention, and a commitment to saving more lives. That requires the County to work more closely with our transfer partners (rescue groups,) animal welfare organizations, our contract cities and other shelters, and the public in general. Some people believe that municipal shelters are in competition with rescue organizations or human societies. On the contrary, we work together to try to save as many animal lives as possible.

Another common misconception about Animal Services is that it is just another government agency staffed by bureaucrats. Each member of the department's team has a deep passion for animals; many of our workers come from ranching and farming families. Others have worked in the animal welfare and shelter industry for years. The

staff's high degree of compassion for animals and dedication to their jobs allows the department to provide high quality care, expertise and understanding. That was recognized in 2015 by the organization/publication known as Bay Woof, which honored our Shelter as the Best Municipal Shelter in the Bay Area.

The workforce at Animal Services is 82 people strong, including field staff, shelter staff and medical professionals. While shelter operations tend to come to mind first for the public, the Department plays a significant role in public safety enforcing laws regarding animal cruelty and neglect, as well as investigating cases of dangerous animals and nuisances such as barking dogs. Beyond the employed staff, the shelter has a robust volunteer program. Animal Services relies upon a dedicated team of volunteers to help with dog and cat socialization, lost and found animals, animal grooming and fostering, and providing support during pet adoptions.

Contra Costa County's Animal Services Department is on the leading edge with programs to involve the public. An innovative partnership between kids and



animals is the popular “Book Buddies” program, which invites school age children to come to the shelter and read to the animals. It’s great for the animals that get quality interaction outside of their kennels with kids, preparing the four-legged friends for life in a forever home. And the kids get to improve their reading skills along the way. Book Buddies takes place on the second Saturday of each month.

Some of the innovations are more technology based, such as the “Adopt Me” app that leverages photos and videos of our animals interacting with staff. To help market our adoptable animals, the pictures and videos are pegged to a Twitter feed for each one of the animals, allowing the public to see and share the stories of each furry critter. Contra Costa is proud to be the first municipal shelter to use the “Adopt Me” app.

The success in the shift in focus of our shelter operations has resulted in stronger community and rescue partnerships, and a better rate of adoption for animals at our shelters. Director Beth Ward and her team are looking forward to continuing those trends in the years to come. For more information about the Animal Services Department, please visit our website at <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/59/Animal-Services>.

New Leadership for Animal Services

Following the retirement of Glenn Howell as Director of Animal Services, Contra Costa County has welcomed Beth Ward to serve as the new department director.

Beth brings more than 30 years of experience in animal service and welfare to the position, having served as the Vice President of the Humane Society Silicon Valley and as the Director of Animal Care for Peninsula Humane Society. As a Brentwood resident, she not only gets to reduce her commute, but she is very familiar with the issues facing the Department, as well as key stakeholders throughout our area.

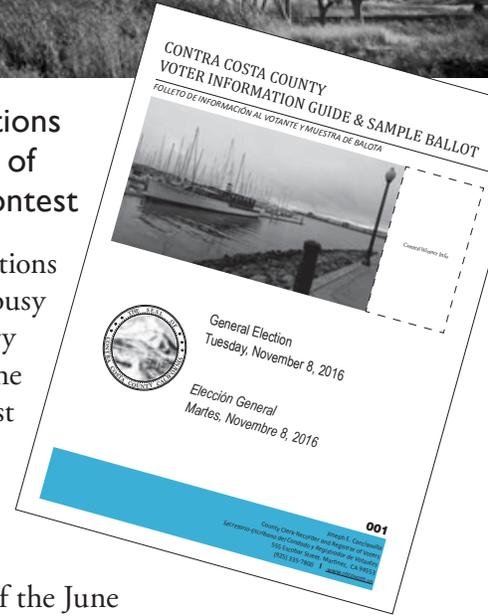


She’s excited to have the opportunity to expand and enhance the Department’s efforts to place animals in loving homes, and improve relationships with all of the community partners that play a role in animal welfare in Contra Costa County. Beth holds a bachelor’s degree from California State University, Fresno, with an emphasis of study in recreation administration and animal science pre-vet. She possesses a wealth of management and leadership skills, and has a proven track record of community engagement.



Contra Costa Elections announces winners of first-ever Photo Contest

The Contra Costa Elections Division kicked-off a busy year for voting in a very scenic way, as it held the first-ever Photo Contest for the cover of its Voting Information Guide. The division received a total of 45 entries for the covers of the June and November guides, with photos ranging from various scenes of Mt. Diablo, the Antioch Bridge, Briones Regional Park and other Contra Costa vista points.



Michael Cohen of Walnut Creek had his picture of a windmill at the Dow Wetlands Preserve chosen for the June cover. Cohen said that he took the picture while participating in a local photography group tour of the land near the Pittsburg/Antioch waterfront.

Richmond’s Silvia Ledezma took the photo which will be on the cover of November’s guide. Ledezma, who sits on the City of Richmond’s Arts and Culture commission, took a photo of the marina to show its significance to the City’s past and future.

The top handful of photos were selected by representatives from a diverse group of County agencies, including staff members from the County Board of Supervisors, the County Clerk-Recorder’s Division, the Contra Costa Community College District, the Contra Costa Office of Education and the County’s Elections Citizens Advisory Panel.

Elections office staff members picked the winners from the panel’s recommendations. The top three winning photos will also be showcased in the Elections Division’s lobby and on its Website at www.contracostacore.us. The Elections Office is looking forward to continuing the photo contest in future years as a way to encourage ongoing civic participation.

Pulling back the curtain on CCTV's Election Previews

Two days, ten races, thirty candidates and dozens of topical questions – put them all together and you have a recipe for voter education, courtesy of Contra Costa Television (CCTV), the Elections Division and the League of Women Voters. CCTV gave local voters a front row seat to issues and candidates from the June 7 ballot with Election Previews airing on CCTV and online.

Contra Costa Television (CCTV) has partnered with the Elections Office and the League of Women Voters for more than two decades to offer Contra Costa County voters a chance to hear first-hand from candidates for local office. This year, the League of Women Voters from Diablo Valley and West County partnered to coordinate the countless details that culminate in very busy days for CCTV crews taping the events. Retired Elections Chief Steve Weir served as moderator for the first day of interviews, with educator and West County community leader Latressa Alford posing the questions of candidates on day two.

This year's previews featured candidates on the ballots for Congressional Districts 9 and 11, State Senate Districts 3, 7 and 9, Assembly Districts 11, 14, 15 and 16, and County



Candidate debate for District III Supervisor's seat

Supervisorial Districts 3 and 5. Many of those races will continue on with runoffs in November, and another set of Election Previews will be taped and broadcast in the weeks prior to that election.

As the Elections Division has now certified the June vote count and is gearing up for November, there's a new online tool that's been launched to help you find out more about the candidates. The information is all on a new website sponsored by the League of Women Voters of California called "[Voter's Edge](#)." The site enables you to find your polling place, get more in-depth candidate information and track prior elections. Another great resource is the County's [Election Office website](#).

Prepare over summer for the fall races by visiting the Elections site, where you'll find out if you're registered to vote, how to vote even before election day, what will be on your ballot and much, much more.



CCTV's staff in the Control Room during video-taping of candidate debates. Right: Fera getting ready to use equipment during candidate debates



Contra Costa Elections Division Makes It Easy for Residents to Volunteer

One of the seemingly never-ending tasks for elections officials is finding residents to volunteer on Election Day. With that in mind, Contra Costa's team is trying new approaches to make the application process as simple as possible for those interested civic-minded folks.

Over the past few months, the Elections Division has worked on several methods to draw interested residents, particularly the younger crowd. The main change has been simplifying what had been a lengthy application process. Today, interested residents just have to submit their name, phone number and email to get their foot in the door. They can contact our office via text message or email to sign up.



Above: Election Command Center; Left: The "vote by mail" ballot sorting underway; Below: Processing returns from polling places.



"We want to try to make it as easy as possible for residents to become poll workers," said Scott Konopasek, Assistant Registrar of Voters. "This new process provides instant gratification. It makes it easier for people to quickly sign-up so that they don't have to remember to complete the process at a later time." The new configuration will be especially appealing to younger Contra Costa residents and Millennials, Konopasek said.

Poll Worker Quick Facts:

- Bilingual citizens are strongly encouraged to volunteer.
- No prior experience is necessary to be a poll worker and training is provided.
- Poll workers receive a stipend for their service, which includes attending mandatory training and being present from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm on Election Day.
- There are two chances for Contra Costa residents to work in 2016; June and November.
- Participants are awarded the commemorative election pin denoting their service.
- County and State employees, and high school students who are at least 16 may also apply.



You've probably noticed the small signs throughout the County asking residents to "Be a Part of Our

Election Team," or the advertisements at local movie theaters.

In addition to the new approaches, the Elections Division has also asked some of its longtime poll workers about how they find value in their service. The responses range from raising money for philanthropic causes, the fulfillment of being a part of the community or because they are civically active and want to be a part of history.

One example of those workers is Julie Southern of Antioch. "I enjoy being involved in the democratic process, and there's no better way than being a poll worker because you're involved in the nitty-gritty," Southern said. "I can say I'm a part of history."

For more information about being a poll worker or to sign-up, email the Contra Costa Elections Office at eo@vote.cccounty.us.



4-H in Contra Costa County

California is the number one state in agricultural food production, yet, today's youth are often disconnected from growing food. Addressing this issue, the 4-H youth development program is the foundation of the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) youth education effort whose focus is to help "raise the next generation" of farmers, ranchers, and agriculturists – feeding the state and the world.

Contra Costa County has 9 local 4-H clubs (see UCCE – Contra Costa Website below), with Knightsen 4-H Club having the distinction of being one of the oldest 4-H clubs in California, and the country. The CA 4-H program was also one of the first federal youth programs to integrate groups (e.g., race, gender) into a single club in the 1960's. Now over 100 years strong, the 4-H Youth



Development Program incorporates citizenship, leadership and life skills development using experienced-based or "hands-on" educational youth projects. Proudly based in Agriculture, we offer 170 local 4-H projects including raising livestock (i.e., swine, beef, poultry, etc.), vegetable gardens and crops, farm machinery, to food preparation, food science, robotics, rocketry, and more.

Results from a 5-year study show that 4-H youth are:

- 1.8 times more likely to go to college
- 4-H girls are 2 times more likely to have plans to pursue science careers
- 25 percent more likely to contribute to their families, themselves, and their communities
- 41 percent less likely to engage in risk/problem behavior.

WE ARE OVER 700 AND GROWING IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY:

Serving 192 adult volunteers, 129 youth volunteers and 564 youth and their families.

For more information, visit <http://ucanr.edu/sites/contracosta4h/>.

Also, learn more about our UC Cooperative Extension County-based Programs at:

UCCE Contra Costa County: <http://cecontracosta.ucanr.edu/>
On Urban Ag: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanAg/>

JetSuiteX

Brings Affordable Luxury Flights to County Residents



Want to avoid Transportation Security Administration (TSA) lines, big parking fees and the hassle of getting to Bay Area airports for your flights to Southern California? Take a look at the new opportunity to fly to and from our own Buchanan Field! JetSuiteX launched daily service between the County's airport in Concord and Burbank, offering a high-quality jet experience for not much more than a Southwest price. The company has also added Friday to Sunday service to and from Las Vegas. This represents yet another convenience for County residents using Contra Costa airports. For more information, visit the [JetSuiteX website](#). Find out more about services and programs at our airports in Concord and Byron by visiting the [Airports Division website](#).



Above: Supervisor Mary N. Piepho is among those cheering on Supervisor Karen Mitchoff's ceremonial ribbon cutting; Top right: JetSuiteX flight attendants prepare for the inaugural flight.; Middle: Supervisors Mitchoff and Piepho, top of stairs, get ready to tour the new aircraft with airline and local dignitaries; Bottom right: Supervisor Mitchoff welcomes those attending the JetSuiteX kickoff news conference.

Rain Eases Drought Concerns

But the Return of Rain Means the Resurgence of Mosquitoes and other Bugs



Now that we've had a somewhat normal rainy season in 2016, it's time to get back to basics when it comes to mosquitoes. Walking around your front and back yard every two to three days and dumping out any standing water is an important way to prevent mosquitoes and the diseases they can spread.

To bring us up to date on what we need to know about this year's mosquito season as well as the other bugs we are seeing, we've called on the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District's entomologist and Scientific Program Manager Steve Schutz, Ph.D. to answer a few key questions.

1. Are mosquitoes more active this year?

This is the first year in the past several that we have had a 'normal' amount of rainfall, and mosquito populations have taken advantage of it, returning quickly to pre-drought levels.

2. Do we have Zika virus in Contra Costa County?

So far, there have been no reports of anyone becoming infected with Zika within the United States, with the exception of a few cases of sexual transmission from partners who were infected overseas. There have also been several cases of travelers already infected with Zika virus returning to Contra Costa County from trips to affected countries. Keep in mind that the species of mosquitoes known to transmit Zika (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*) have not been found in Contra Costa County, although they are in Southern California and parts of the Central Valley. Since these mosquitoes prefer to lay eggs in small, water-filled containers in and around homes, such as cans, bottles, cups, and plant saucers, county residents can help to reduce the risk they will become established here by getting rid of any sources of standing water on their property, regardless of how small, and reporting mosquito problems to the District, especially if you are being bitten during the day. These simple measures will also help to reduce the risk of diseases that are already here, like West Nile virus.

3. What are the best repellents?

Studies have shown that repellents containing the ingredient DEET provide the longest-lasting protection against mosquitoes. Other products containing Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be equally effective, but may need to be re-applied more frequently. Electronic repellent devices and mosquito-repellent wrist bands have not been scientifically proven to be effective. When using any repellents, always follow the directions on the label.

4. Are there mosquitoes that don't bite? I'm seeing swarms of them, but I don't seem to be getting bitten.

There are certain mosquito species in our area that prefer to bite only birds or amphibians (frogs). There are also many species of small flying insects (gnats, midges) that superficially resemble mosquitoes, but do not bite people. Gnats and midges often form swarms over or near the bodies of water where they lay their eggs and may be attracted to patio lights and windows at night.

Spare the Air in the Summer

During the Summer months when ground-level ozone, or "smog," becomes a pollution problem, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District issues "Spare the Air Day" alerts for days on which air quality is forecast to be unhealthy.

There have already been several of them this Summer, and you can find them posted on the [District's website](#) along with daily air quality forecasts. The District also announces them using their 1-800-HELP-AIR phone line, and the County provides alerts on our own site as well. You can also register for email notifications through the District's "EnvrioFlash AirAlert" system.

In the Bay Area, the Summer Spare the Air season generally runs from April through October when clear skies, hot temperatures, lighter than usual winds, and strong temperature inversions combine to create smoggy conditions. Spare the Air Alerts are declared for days forecast to have ozone concentrations that exceed federal health-based standards.

On Spare the Air days, the District urges residents to cut back on any activities that cause pollution, such as driving, using oil-based paints, gasoline-powered lawn mowers, or household aerosol products like hair sprays. People who are sensitive to unhealthy air should limit their time outdoors, especially in the afternoon hours.

You can find a wide variety of information about the health effects of ozone, what you can do to help spare the air, research and reports about our air quality and more on the [District's site](#).



Kids at Work Open Enrollment

Kids at Work was established in 1997 and has provided quality infant, toddler and pre-school care and education for children of Contra Costa County employees since its inception. The affordable rate structure includes nutritious, child friendly meals, experienced nurturing teachers and a fun, hands-on educational program.

Parents have peace of mind knowing that their children are in a safe and nurturing environment while they are at work. And, with a central location on the Public Works Department property at 255 Glacier Drive in Martinez with easy access to Highway 4, many parents can check on their children during their lunch hour. At the end of each day teachers share with you your child's activities, as well as a daily communication report that is sent home to keep you informed. Developmental Progress Reports and conferences are also held during the year to share about your child's individual progress.

Additional activities and services offered at Kids at Work:

- Professional portraits offered twice per year.
- In-house fieldtrips and guest speakers, fire truck, police car, bubble shows, music programs, dentist visits, ventriloquists, etc.
- Birthday Parties – Let us organize and throw a class party for the birthday child. They will even frost their own cakes!
- Parent Events, including B.B.Q.'s, luncheons, open house, and an annual costume parade. These events are a great way to meet your child's friends and other parents.

For more information please contact Lori Sullivan, at 925-313-2380 or email kaw@pw.cccounty.us.



Our parents, teachers and children love our school!

"Your staff are awesome! Dylan was so excited when I told him that he got to go to KAW this morning. He ran from my truck to the door with a huge smile on his face!! Thanks again for all you have done for him and all the children at KAW! You and your excellent team of teachers rock!!" - Derek, parent, coach and professor

"My daughter loves it here! Teachers are great and everyone is friendly." - Scott, parent

"I love spending my day with the children. The joy I receive daily being with them is awesome!" - Ms. Katie, teacher

"I appreciate our environment. The children and teachers are happy and we all help each other." - Ms. Stacey, teacher

"I like coming to school and eating yummy lunch." - Lily, Kids at Work student

"I like playing with toys and all my friends." - Giselle, Kids at Work student



Tips for Boating Safely

Significant numbers of boaters are expected to be on the water during the summer months, especially on the weekends, to go fishing, boating or take part in other recreational activities like water-skiing. The Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff Marine Services Unit would like to remind all boaters to be safe, alert and obey the rules. Here are some important ones:



- All vessels must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket for each person. The life jacket must fit the person intending to wear it. Children under 13 must always wear a life jacket while aboard any vessel, regardless of length, unless they are surrounded by an enclosed cabin or bulkhead.
- You must be at least 16 years old to operate a power boat or personal watercraft. All persons on a personal watercraft are required to wear an approved life jacket.
- Boats over 16 feet are required to have an approved throwable flotation device which must be readily accessible.
- Always travel at a safe speed. Slow down in narrow channels and blind areas and navigate on the right side of the waterway. At a cross waterway, the boat on the right has the right-of-way.
- Blue Light law — Any vessel approaching, overtaking, being approached, or being over-taken by a moving law enforcement vessel operating with a siren or an illuminated blue light, or any vessel approaching a stationary law enforcement vessel displaying an illuminated blue light, shall immediately slow. Boaters cannot make a wake near a law enforcement vessel displaying a blue light.
- Always have an emergency kit that includes a flashlight, warm clothing, cell phone, VHF radio and chart. Boaters are encouraged to call Sheriff's Dispatch at (925) 646-2441 for emergencies on the water. Be sure to file a float plan before you depart.

Boating under the influence (B.U.I.) enforcement is a high priority. Those arrested for B.U.I. will face the same consequences as those who drive a motor vehicle under the influence, including fines and possible incarceration.

The 'ABC's of Boating', a handbook of boating rules, is available from most boating shops. Boaters can go to the California Division of Boating and Waterways website at www.dbw.ca.gov for more boating safety information.

"By following the rules, having proper gear and equipment and boating safely, everyone can enjoy the Delta," said Lieutenant Jose Beltran of the Marine Services Unit.

If anyone has any questions about boating, please contact the Marine Services Unit at (925) 427-8507.

Learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math (STEAM) and have fun at your local Library

Many children grow up with dreams of becoming a firefighter, an actor or an athlete, but convincing kids that a fun and successful career awaits them in a science or engineering field can be a tough sell. Jobs linked to fields like math and technology don't always appeal to children and teenagers. Parents and educators have to work hard to convince children that smart jobs can be cool, too.

In 2016, the Contra Costa County Library is celebrating the "Year of STEAM." Programming at all 26 Library locations across the county will engage students and Library



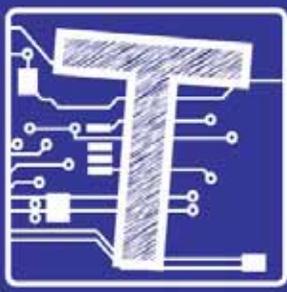
visitors in new, fun activities designed to introduce them to science, technology, engineering, art and math. Activities include a wide variety of programs like STEAM storytime for tots, reptile and insect discovery, origami, LEGO challenges and paper airplane engineering, just to name a few. Some Library branches offer three-dimensional printing classes where Library visitors can design projects and learn the pitfalls and successes of using a 3-D printer first-hand. Sixth grader Ashton Lozneau has been working on his own version of a Rubik's Cube. "Next I will be printing part five of the Rubik's Cube, because the last time I tried to print it, it failed," he said. "Sometimes, if the 3-D printer moves, it will shut down the printing of the object."

As technology has advanced, Libraries have worked to ensure that it is incorporated into programs and every day Library usage. It has become increasingly vital that Libraries grow their virtual presence and offer programming and services that

interest patrons of all ages, particularly in areas involving technology. Many Libraries now offer laptop or tablet lending services, large e-book and audiobook collections and classes to learn HTML coding or how to create your own video game.

"I think about technology and how it relates to our vision statement which is about being the pulse of our community, inspiring people and sparking imagination," says Deputy County Librarian Chad Helton. "STEAM is a really great collaboration of those two things."

Continued on page 15



Engage. Inspire. Succeed.

The library also blended the STEAM theme into Summer Reading

From June 1 to July 30, participants tackled new reading challenges as well as STEAM-based activities and online learning exercises to earn points and badges. Those who completed the challenge received a free book and raffle entries for prizes.



“We are incredibly excited about Summer Reading because we expanded our goals to include a wider range of Summer learning ideas,” says Youth Services Library Specialist Amy Mockoski. “In addition to keeping track of the time they spent reading, we also asked participants to complete experiments, visit local science museums or tweet about a book they’ve enjoyed.”



In the Fall, the Libraries in Hercules, Orinda and Pittsburg will host Exploration Stations

Authors, scientists, educational groups and museum staff will be set-up throughout the Library locations. Families will have the opportunity to visit each station, learn about STEAM topics and take part in activities. Themes for the events include life sciences, rad tech and earth and space science.

There is a shortage of highly skilled workers in the United States and by 2018 the country may be short as many as three million. Many parents, educators and librarians recognize the need to encourage children to pursue interests in science, technology and math fields, but some local high-school students are also showing kids it is fun to be smart.

Sai Maddike, Laura Maule and Anthony Medvedev are seniors at College Park High School in Pleasant Hill and they teach science to kids. All three students are members of the Catalyst Club, a group for teens with an interest in science. The teens give science presentations and do experiments with elementary age kids at the Library and at schools in the area.

“Our demonstrations are about capturing interest from an early age through something as captivating or mesmerizing as an explosion or other cool reaction,” 18 year-old Medvedev says. “But really just getting that spark going so as they pursue their academic interests they really have a focus that can ultimately drive success.”

Summer Learning at your local library ALL AGES

June 1 - July 30
CCCLIB.ORG/SUMMER

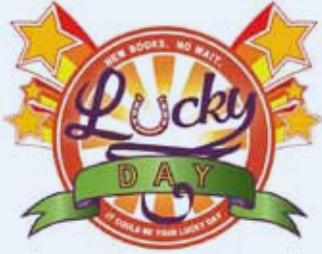
PRIZES

ccclib.org
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY
Bringing People and Ideas Together

STEAM
Engage. Inspire. Succeed.

Introducing the “Lucky Day” Collection

The Contra Costa County Library’s new “Lucky Day” collection includes many of the hottest, new best-selling books. This first come, first-served collection is not available for holds and cannot be renewed. It gives more Library users more opportunities to find the newest titles just waiting on the shelf. All 26 County Library locations will receive new titles on a regular basis, so visit your local branch to find out if it is your lucky day.



Year of STEAM Continued from page 15

Launching of STEAMbank

In an effort to help high school students take what they have learned about STEAM beyond their local branches, the Contra Costa County Library is launching STEAMbank. It is a tool designed to allow students to track their participation in STEAM related learning and enrichment opportunities that take place outside the classroom. Traditionally, there has been no way to track these informal learning experiences. STEAMbank is an application where STEAM providers such as libraries, museums, and non-profit education groups can provide information on their STEAM programs. Students in grades nine through twelve can review the entries, attend and receive a report for potential classroom credit or career-related experience.

The Year of STEAM will give all Library users the opportunity to stretch their minds in new ways while still having fun. The variety of activities help students like fifth-grader Andrew Wason dream about a different kind of career. “I want to be a hacker for the CIA,” he says.

For more information about the Contra Costa County Library and the Year of STEAM, please visit www.ccclib.org/steam.

EHSD News

School Supplies for New Kindergarteners Needed

The Employment and Human Services Department’s (EHSD’s) Community Services Bureau (CSB) recently partnered with the National Charity League volunteers to help fill kindergarten readiness bags with school supplies for over 900 Head Start children transitioning to kindergarten. A total of eight volunteers donated their time to fill kindergarten readiness bags and the group was committed to returning year after year! Supplies included pencils, crayons, rulers, and scissors. Although the volunteer commitment was very strong, CSB used limited program funds for the materials and small reusable bags, instead of backpacks. Donations



of backpacks is always greatly appreciated to allow program funds to purchase even more developmentally appropriate materials for kindergarten-bound Head Start children. It is CSB’s goal to return to providing backpacks full of school supplies, by relying on donations from the community. If you are interested in donating, please contact Christina Reich at creich@ehsd.cccounty.us or 925-681-6345.

The “Big Apple” will keep its home in Contra Costa County



2015 Holiday Food Fight Results Show the Caring and Compassion of County Employees

Another round of “thank you” goes out to the countless Contra Costa County employees who stepped-up their giving in 2015 to set an all-time high per-person contribution in our ongoing effort to support the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. Over the life of the campaign, our workforce has raised more than \$1,144,000 to help put food on the table of those who need it most in our community.

Above: The Board of Supervisors thanks the heart and soul of the Food Fight, Kate Sibley from LAFCO.

Right: Health Services staff accept award for the large department winner in the County department competition

Below: County Counsel staff cheers for one of their own: “24 Carrot Salute” honoree Michelle Mauer



The fundraising drive, which also includes a friendly competition between us and our counterparts in Solano County, resulted in more than \$98,000 raised by Contra Costa staff alone. That put the per employee total at \$13 per staff member, an all-time high, over the 13 years of organized giving. At a special awards ceremony before the Board of

Supervisors on February 9, Food Fight organizer Kate Sibley shared her thoughts about the importance of the effort, noting that 96% of the money raised goes directly into feeding families in Contra Costa and Solano Counties. She noted that the need is still on the rise, and that she continues to be amazed at the energy and passion shown by County staff finding new ways to help year after year.

Food Bank Executive Director Larry Sly joined her at the podium, and acknowledged the unparalleled contributions of time, energy and heart that Kate has poured into our annual food drives. While planning is already underway for the 2016 effort, it will be the last one that Kate leads, making way for other team members to carry on the mission. Contra Costa County is grateful to Kate and the entire team for inspiring county staffers and the public alike to find it in their hearts to support such a worthy cause.

You can visit the County’s website to watch the entire presentation of awards from the [February 9 Board of Supervisors meeting](#). (From the homepage, select the Public Meetings icon, then 2016, and navigate to the February 9, 2016, meeting video.)



Comings & Goings

The County welcomed two new Chief Assistant County Administrators this Spring. Allison Picard comes to Contra Costa with more than 3 decades of experience in administration in Los Angeles and Kings counties, focusing on the areas of budget, labor negotiations and human resources. Picard is pleased to be back in County government. “After the last two years at BART as Assistant General Manager,” Picard noted, “I’m happy to be back working for a County where our broad array of services directly impacts our communities.” Her commute will be easier, too; she’s a Martinez resident. Picard currently oversees Human Resources, Employment and Human Services, the Library, the Clerk of the Board and the Office of Communications & Media.



*New Chief Assistant County Administrators
Eric Angstadt and Allison Picard*

Eric Angstadt joined the County Administrator’s Office from the City of Berkeley, where he was the Planning and Development Director for the past four years. He held a similar position in the City of Oakland before that. Angstadt, also a Contra Costa resident living in Richmond, is equally happy to be living and working in the same County. “My main focus is on helping the County to plan strategic investments in new and renovated facilities,” Angstadt added, “so that we can better serve our communities.” He’s overseeing the Agriculture, Animal Services and Veterans Services Departments.



Following the retirement of Chief Probation Officer Philip Kader at the end of March, Assistant Chief Todd Billeci took the helm on an interim basis, and was appointed on Tuesday, August 9, to serve as the County’s Chief of Probation. Billeci began with the Department as a Probation Counselor back in 1991, working at the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility. He’s worked extensively in both the juvenile and adult divisions over the years.

Change is also in the air at the Contra Costa Library. Terry Speiker, who previously served as the Chief Assistant County Administrator, returned from a brief stint at retirement to fill in a leadership gap at the Library. Former County Librarian Jessica Hudson left in May for a similar position in Fairfax County, Virginia. A recruitment has been launched to find a replacement for Hudson.



*Above: Todd Billeci,
Probation Chief and
Phil Kader, former
Probation Chief*

*Right: Anne O, New Chief
of Staff District IV Office*

In Supervisor Karen Mitchoff’s office, new Chief of Staff Anne O has begun her position overseeing operations of the staff for District IV. Anne comes to the County from the East Bay Economic Development Alliance with a wealth of experience in economic development, evaluation and research. “It’s a joy to be part of Supervisor Mitchoff’s District IV team,” O said. “The ability to provide public service within the County where my family and I reside is extremely rewarding.” She added that she’s been inspired by the expertise and commitment found in the County workforce.

Welcome to Allison, Eric and Anne; congratulations to Todd, and welcome back, Terry!

Health Services News

A big thank you goes to three specialists from Contra Costa Environmental Health who spent two weeks in April conducting health inspections in San Bernardino as that county’s Office of Public Health continues to restore services following the December terrorist attack. Zack Kheir, Priscilla Ruiz and Joseph Pham all worked in parts of San Bernardino that had been previously served by inspectors who had been killed or injured in the mass shooting. State emergency funds covered the time and expenses of the workers. In addition to helping with backlogged work, our inspectors also connected with other staff members and the county’s food permit holders who continue to grieve.



Agriculture/Weights & Measures

Mangini, Eugene P 20 Years

Animal Services Department

Anderson, Nancy C 25 Years
Grimley-Beason, Cynthia 20 Years

Assessor's Office

Waters, Elizabeth D 35 Years
Picard, Robert A 25 Years

Auditor-Controller's Office

Romero, May S M 25 Years
Tourigny-Fleming, Nancy 25 Years
Morant, Dhana M 20 Years

Child Support Services

Ortland, Rosanne 30 Years
Williams, Terry 30 Years
Winger, Lisa E 30 Years
Griffin, Naomi R 25 Years
Kidd, Rebecca A 25 Years
Osuna, Marie L 25 Years
Diwa, Divina L 20 Years
Quintero-Mendoza, Rosa 20 Years

Conservation & Development

Smith, Sharon A 25 Years
Baligod, Nestor C 20 Years
Dingman, Deidra M 20 Years
Faria, Gary 20 Years

Contra Costa Fire District

Galvan, Nick 30 Years
Gonzales, Edward R 25 Years
Graham, Gillian P 25 Years
Harless, Roger V 25 Years
Hern, Gary W 25 Years
Johansen, Donald M 25 Years
Johnson, Lynne S 25 Years
Manzo Jr., Louis 25 Years
Reshatoff, Lars E 25 Years
Revives, Claudio A 25 Years
Thomas, Charles 25 Years
Verderame, Jack O 25 Years
Au, Big L 20 Years
Baio, Danny 20 Years
Burris, Jeff T 20 Years
Foster, John T 20 Years
Gonzalez, Jake C 20 Years
Spediacci, Steven U 20 Years

County Administrator's Office

Perry, William L 20 Years
Wampler, Christine S 20 Years

County Clerk-Recorder's Office

Mangewala, Jeanine M 25 Years

Employment & Human Services

Do, Ninh D 35 Years
Martin, Frances 35 Years
Gutierrez, Leslie D 30 Years
Pharn, Saenyuan T 30 Years
Sittser, Debbie 30 Years
Barrett-Gabriel, Crystal 25 Years
Brand-Lawson, Juanita 25 Years
Clark, Ronda L 25 Years
Delaney, Constance 25 Years

EHSD continued

Delchiaro, Sherri K 25 Years
De Sanchez, Miriam R 25 Years
Foust, Jacqueline D 25 Years
Galaviz, Maria T 25 Years
Griffin, Mark A 25 Years
Knoll, Kathleen L 25 Years
Kuppe, Karyn B 25 Years
Lacy, Vanessa A 25 Years
Lazorik, Cheryl A 25 Years
Lofton, Jo-Ann M 25 Years
March, Karen F 25 Years
Miller, Tiffany 25 Years
Osenga, Phyllis L 25 Years
Rose, Julie A 25 Years
Stuscavage, Julie M 25 Years
Swinney, Khristandra R 25 Years
Tapia, Yolanda 25 Years
Tomy, Lin J 25 Years
Adams, Terrie L 20 Years
Bhambra, Jagjit S 20 Years
Bokelman, Carol M 20 Years
Brown, Beverly Y 20 Years
Buttrick, Janet D 20 Years
Charles, Kathryn A 20 Years
Duong, Victoria T 20 Years
Flores, Judith V 20 Years
Foster, Rachel 20 Years
Gomez, Enriqueta 20 Years
Gonzalez, Esmeralda 20 Years
Hertweck-Lommel, Hollie 20 Years
Jones, Kenya R 20 Years
Lira, Celso 20 Years
Mazone, Yvette R 20 Years
Morris-Milum, Michelle 20 Years
Nahe, Rosie F 20 Years
Odusanya, Vincent 20 Years
Orta, Yesenia 20 Years
Owens, Felisha D 20 Years
Reynolds, Denise P 20 Years
Russo, Diane R 20 Years
Saucer, Latonya L 20 Years
Vohra, Munisha 20 Years
Wintermantel-Stanley, H. 20 Years
Youngblood, Cassandra 20 Years

Health Services Department

Cooper, Zabeth Y 40 Years
Aguigui Jr, Vincente 35 Years
Decesare, Janie H 35 Years
Hill, Luwanda 35 Years
Farley, Susan D 30 Years
Johnson, Phyllis M 30 Years
Linton, Carol A 30 Years
Moody, Benet A 30 Years
Pierson Brown, Leigh 30 Years
Villarreal, Patti L 30 Years
Arends, Ronda R 25 Years
Bennett, Cathy C 25 Years
Brown, Tonya J 25 Years
Byrd, Katrina L 25 Years
Ching, Lani 25 Years
Clarke, Phillip G 25 Years
Dela Cruz, Rosario 25 Years
Delgado, Martha C 25 Years
Forman, Stuart 25 Years
Garro, Donna M 25 Years
Linares, Jo-Anne Y 25 Years
Loor, Chungpei W 25 Years
Lopez, Kimberly D 25 Years

Health Services Dept. - Cont'd

Mac Donald, David J 25 Years
McDowell, Ingrid R 25 Years
Martinez, Roberta M 25 Years
Mendoza, Mariano O 25 Years
Peng, Yueh-Kuang 25 Years
Pigg, Jacqueline D 25 Years
Robbins, Margaret D 25 Years
Ruiz Casillas, Maria A 25 Years
Williams, D Michelle 25 Years
Abejuela, Ernesto R 20 Years
Bhatt, Veda S 20 Years
Blank, Erik F 20 Years
Brossa, Blanca 20 Years
Buoncristiani, Amy C 20 Years
Carone, Lori A 20 Years
Carpiso, Betty A 20 Years
Crockett, Frances M 20 Years
Custer-Ortega, Julie E 20 Years
Davis, Latonya 20 Years
De Vera, Anita M 20 Years
Derita, Lisa S 20 Years
Dimas, Ofelia M 20 Years
Easley, Laura C 20 Years
Felix, Lisa M 20 Years
Furtado, Marcia L 20 Years
Garcia, Elizabeth M 20 Years
Gill, Lianne M 20 Years
Heard, Deadra M 20 Years
Henderson, Dawna M 20 Years
Howell, Cindy J 20 Years
Huynh, Jennifer T 20 Years
Kelly, Tracy J 20 Years
Llamas, Manuel L 20 Years
Martinez, Pedro A 20 Years
Ohanele, Chisara 20 Years
Padilla, Maria T 20 Years
Peschel, Denise M 20 Years
Petite, Luisa F 20 Years
Riwkes, Edna 20 Years
Rodriguez, Lucy 20 Years
Sahagon, Jason A 20 Years
Sandoval, Rosemarie 20 Years
Sullenger, Jennifer 20 Years
Suniga, Irma L 20 Years
Thomas-Franklin, Marilyn 20 Years
Wong, Haydee 20 Years

Library

Alexander, Diane A 40 Years
Carlson, Rotha G 35 Years
Prickitt, Yvonne E 30 Years
Schluter, Wendy M 30 Years
Chase, Charles C 20 Years

Probation Department

Monares, Sara 30 Years
Aquila, Frank A 25 Years
Roquemore, Ervin L 25 Years
Calbert, Arthur S 20 Years
Smith, Andrew L 20 Years
Zamora, John A 20 Years

Public Works Department

Burton, Stanley 35 Years
Ramos, Richard 30 Years
Capozzo, John B 25 Years
Dahl, Kenneth A 25 Years
Edmunds, Jann E 25 Years
Fahy, Jerome R 25 Years

Public Works Dept. Cont'd

Mangabay, Mariliza E 25 Years
Reed, Sherri A 25 Years
Rothschild, Samuel L 25 Years
Warden, Peter J 25 Years
Abraham, John H 20 Years
Sandate, Raul 20 Years
Shirley, Thomas 20 Years
Simmons, Mark 20 Years
Vine, Christopher 20 Years

Sheriff-Coroner's Office

Bennett, Neva B 30 Years
Beard, Paul A 25 Years
Andrade, Irma C 25 Years
Maldonado, Vickie L 25 Years
Pickett, Antoine R 25 Years
Souza, Anthony P 25 Years
Vaisima, Manitepi F 25 Years
Warren, Elise M 25 Years
Yates, Sean G 25 Years
Anderson, Heike G 20 Years
Andrews, Stephen D 20 Years
Bivens, Gregory 20 Years
Marenger, Darryl 20 Years
Mariner, Daniel M 20 Years
Vannoy, Christopher 20 Years
Williams, Christopher M 20 Years

COUNTY RETIREMENTS 20+ YEARS of SERVICE

Public Works Department

Capozzo, John 25 Years
Graydon, Kenneth 24 Years

Office of the Sheriff

Pendleton, Jane 33 Years
Warren, Leslie 24 Years
Gomez, Daniel 23 Years
Chelini, Keith 22 Years
Watts, Delvin 21 Years
Mariner, Daniel 20 Years

**Information as reported to County Clips by departments and Human Resources. All departments were invited to submit recent retiree information, some departments may not have done so.*



My Dream Is...

Contra Costa County Pays Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Keynote address by Philip Arnold



Former Probation Chief Phil Kader



Singer Faye Caro



Keyboardist Joe Warner



Student Humanitarian Davis Bullock



Humanitarian of the Year Terri Porter

County employees and area residents gathered on Tuesday, January 19, to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was Contra Costa County's 38th annual MLK Day commemoration, and featured something new – a “My Dream Is...” wall outside the Board of Supervisors Chamber where people posted their own thoughts in a collage of inspiring messages.

Former Probation Chief Phil Kader hosted the event with Board Chair Candace Andersen, and it featured a keynote address by community activist and leader Philip Arnold, along with entertainment from keyboardist Joe Warner and singer Faye Carol.

A highlight of each year's ceremony is the presentation of Humanitarian and Student Humanitarian of the Year honors to two local residents. Educator and workforce innovator Terri Porter was selected as Humanitarian of the Year. She's the force behind Mt. Diablo School District's “Visions of Success” program.

Our student winner was California High Senior Davis Bullock, who has excelled in the classroom, on the soccer field and in the community. He has turned his personal battle with cancer into an opportunity to raise awareness and funds to support blood marrow donations.

The event was rounded out by another incredible lunch buffet. County employees are welcome to submit their own nominations for adult and student Humanitarians of the Year. Watch for submission information in the next edition of County Clips for the 2017 event.

A special thanks goes out to the following sponsors of the celebration: the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors; the MLK Committee members; the County Administrator's Office; the Probation Department; the Public Works Department; the Human Resources Department; the Martinez Police Department; Contra Costa Television (CCTV); the Employment and Human Services Department; and the Community Services Bureau Head Start Central Kitchen.

23rd Annual Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Celebration



On March 29th, the County held the 23rd Annual Cesar E. Chavez Commemorative Celebration. Robin Lipetzky, Public Defender, was the Mistress of Ceremonies and the welcome was provided by Candace Andersen, Chair, Board of Supervisors. The audience was entertained by both the music of the Mariachi Nueva Leyenda and the dancing of the Ballet Folklorico Netzahualcoyotl. An inspiring speech was given by Blanca Hernandez an immigrants' rights activist who is herself an undocumented immigrant to the United States. Ms. Hernandez encountered a number of roadblocks in her life due to her undocumented status. Undeterred, Ms. Hernandez worked within the system to go as far as possible in her education, ultimately receiving a B.A. degree in Chicana/o Studies in 2008 from UC Davis. In 2013, she moved to Washington D.C. to further her legal career. And, for her work on immigrants' rights, Ms. Hernandez has been recognized by the Chicana Latina Foundation, Centro Legal de La Raza, UC Berkeley Labor Center, and named on the "Top Ten of Who Made a Difference" by Latino Magazine in 2014.



The 2016 Youth Hall of Fame Honorees were presented with their certificates. The honorees were: Valiant Volunteer, Fadia "Kimmy" Quemlie Farjat, 12th grade, College Park High School; Good Samaritan, Daisy Poblano, 12th grade, Freedom High School; School Leadership, Lindsey Parnas, 12th grade, San Ramon Valley High School; Sports Leadership, Frank McNulty Bedde IV, 9th grade, Freedom High School; Artiste, Lauren Furman, 12th grade, Monte Vista High School; and Cesar E. Chavez Outstanding Youth Honoree, Christopher Hou, 11th grade, Monte Vista High School.



Above: Dancers from Ballet Folklorico Netzahualcoyotl performed. Left: Outstanding Youth Honoree, Christopher Hou, received his awards.



This commemorative celebration was made possible by the following sponsors: The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, the Cesar Chavez Organizing Committee, the County Administrator's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Clerk-Recorder-Elections Department, the Contra Costa Health Services Department, the Contra Costa Employment and Human Services Department, the Contra Costa Public Works Department, the Sheriff's Office, AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 159, and IBEW Local Union 302. Thank you to the following: Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County; Los Panchos Restaurant; Granshaw's Flowers; Contra Costa Television (CCTV) for visual support services; and Raymond Martinez for display services.



Photos on the left from the top down: Robin Lipetzky, Public Defender, was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Second photo: Ms. Blanca Hernandez delivered the keynote address. Bottom two photos: Mariachi Nueva Leyenda performed.

Contra Costa County's **Public Works Department** took top honors in February from the American Public Works Association by winning the "Project of the Year" award for its North Richmond Pump Station Water Diversion Project. The Project examines a



Public Works Department staff who worked on the North Richmond Pump Station Diversion Project.

new method of storm water treatment, which will potentially help to protect connected waterways from pollution and help Contra Costa County and the City of Richmond adhere to a higher standard of storm water quality.

It's been a banner year for staff in the **Department of Child Support Services (DCSS)**. In February, the department received significant recognition from the California Department of Child Support Services. Our team won the Director's Excellence Award for outstanding support of the DCSS 2015-2019 Strategic Plan by improving the reliability of child support payments to families. The Department's success stemmed from an average increase of 4% or more in total distributed collections, the amount of support paid,

and the percent paid every month during 2015. They also received the Innovation Award in recognition of their success in improving customer service and program performance by developing and sharing a tool that automates case reassignments.

In early May, at the California Child Support Directors Association annual conference, Contra Costa was honored with the Outstanding Program Award. This award recognizes a local child support agency that has consistently exemplified providing quality child support services to its constituency and its community. Congratulations to Contra Costa County's Department of Child Support Services!

Contra Costa Television (CCTV) and the **Veterans Service Office** won two second place States of California and Nevada Television Access Recognition (STAR) Awards from the States of California and Nevada chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (SCAN/NATOA) for two video programs submitted. The two videos were both part of the newest talk show program sponsored by the Veterans Service Office and made possible by a grant from the California Department of Veterans Affairs called Veterans' Voices. The two programs that won were *Veterans' Voices: The Vietnam Special* under the Live Programming category and the *Veterans' Voices: Women in the Military Special* under the Talk Show category. Both of these award-winning programs, as well as other episodes, can be viewed at <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/5163/Veterans-Voices> under Previous Shows.

Contra Costa County Supervisor, Karen Mitchoff, was one of twelve county officials throughout the State to earn the distinction of becoming a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Fellow at the CSAC Conference in May. In order to become a CSAC Fellow, Supervisor Mitchoff completed additional coursework, participated in the intensive Fellows Seminar – examining enduring problems facing California Counties – and will participate on the faculty of upcoming CSAC Institute courses.

