



Wildfires Elsewhere Mean Extra Duty for Alameda County Firefighters

So far, it's other parts of the State that have felt the destructive power of the busiest wildfire season in California history. But fires raging in other parts of California are directly impacting the Alameda County Fire Department, which in July and August had between two to three dozen firefighters deployed at any given time to battle wildland blazes in Redding, Mendocino County and elsewhere.

"About July 25th, things got very busy," said Alameda County Fire Chief David Rocha. This year's early wildfire season means Alameda County firefighters worked long hours amid the warm summer weather. On the road, fire crews on wildfire duty usually work in 24-hour shifts; at home, fire stations must remain fully staffed – even when as much as 10 percent of the department's firefighting force is providing mutual aid support outside the County.



It's not like the summer was a breeze for those firefighters who remained on duty here in Alameda County. Crews responded to several blazes in the bone-dry, wind-swept hills at the County's east end. And there were some unusual calls, like the acid spill that closed Interstate 880 on August 24th and the small airplane that made an emergency landing on Interstate 580 on August 11th.

As for shifts away from home, Rocha said the Department was able to staff those deployments with firefighters who volunteered their services and were willing to be away from home for a week, sometimes two.

When those shifts grow longer and more numerous, firefighters start to miss the comforts of home. "When you work 24 hours and 24 hours off, sometimes your off day means you're sacking out on a dirty, dusty lot in 108-degree heat," Rocha said. "That can get old pretty fast."

For firefighters - and the community - there's plenty of upside that come with these "mutual aid" shifts away from home. Firefighters get excellent experience fighting major blazes like the Carr Fire near Redding and the Mendocino Complex Fire. In addition, Alameda County's reliability in these situations means other communities will be there to help us when a major emergency strikes closer to home. "It's like making a deposit in a savings account," Rocha said.

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Ivan Cruz Memorial Scholarship



A scholarship fund to benefit local youth has been established in the name of Ivan Cruz, 14, who was riding a scooter when he was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver in the unincorporated community of Ashland in 2014. Ivan, a San Lorenzo High School freshman at the time of his death, was loved by many people in the Ashland and Cherryland communities who remember him as a happy boy who was always riding his scooter or skateboard. He especially liked to do this at the Jack Holland Sr. Park, next to the REACH Ashland Youth Center.

The scholarship is for juniors in high school to young adults who are planning on or are currently attending college/vocational school (16 to 24 years old) and have a minimum 2.0 GPA. Applicants must participate in the Ashland Cherryland FamFest 5k Fun Run on Saturday, October 13th. They also must have performed some community pride/service volunteer hours. The Ivan Cruz Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to three winners. Each scholarship is \$500 and can be used toward tuition and textbooks. For more information, go to <http://acfamfest.org/scholarship/> or send an email to info@acfamfest.org.

Alameda County Wins Three CSAC Challenge Awards

Alameda County has won three top awards – the most of any California county – in an annual competition honoring the most innovative and cost-effective programs developed by counties across the state. In its 2018 Challenge Awards competition, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) gave Alameda County top honors for efforts representing the broad array of creative solutions the County is bringing to address community challenges. Each of the programs reflects key goals and themes in Alameda County Vision 2026, our long-term vision for keeping our communities vibrant, prosperous, safe, healthy and inclusive.

The winning Alameda County programs are:

- Regional Procurement Coordination, an effort led by the General Services Agency's Sustainability Office to expand public sector use of environmentally friendly products and to boost the local green economy. Reflecting the Vision 2026 theme of Healthy Environment, this effort encourages government partners, universities and other large institutions to adopt our practices of making environmentally preferable choices by purchasing electric vehicles, recycled paper goods and nontoxic cleaning products. The effort led to several large-scale collaborative purchases of environmentally preferable products from local vendors.

- Alameda County Care Partners, a partnership with several community-based organizations that supports the Vision 2026 10X Goal of Healthcare for All by addressing racial and cultural disparities in access to end-of-life planning and hospice care among older adults. With more older adults facing economic hardship amid the meteoric rise in the region's cost-of-living, the program responds to concerns about worsening disparities by training In-Home Support Services (IHSS) providers in advocating for end-of-life services for their clients.

- Measure A1 Rental Housing Emergency Funding, provided by Alameda County amid expanding numbers of homeless residents and growth in the number of renters facing significant economic hardship to remain sheltered. Stepping in to support the Vision 2026 10X Goal of Eliminating Homelessness, Alameda County provided \$25.6 million in proceeds from Measure A1 - the affordable housing bond measure approved by voters in 2016 - to rescue local projects that will bring more than 500 units of housing reserved for low-income households.

Wilma Chan, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, said the awards illustrate the County's success in maintaining robust core services while also quickly and effectively responding to emerging community challenges.

"For our entire Alameda County team, it is a point of pride that our organization can take bold, decisive action to help our residents in times of need," she said.



Stirred Up About STEM



Staff from the Information Technology Department (ITD) work with local youth at the 3rd Annual Math & Science FAIRyland at Children's Fairyland in Oakland on September 14th. The event, sponsored by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA), is a local government collaboration with business to teach young children about the excitement and rewards of education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math).

New Website Highlights Review of Disaster Risks

Alameda County's recently updated **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)** website provides important details about the County's latest reassessment of risks posed by natural and human-caused disasters and ways to reduce those risks.

The County completed its first LHMP in 2005 to accompany the Bay Area mitigation plan developed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and updated its LHMP in 2010. The County then completed its own standalone mitigation plan in 2016. Regular plan updates are required by the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, under which the County maintains eligibility to receive certain forms of federal disaster assistance.

The latest LHMP was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in January 2016 and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the following October. It was the result of an extensive planning process that included public presentations and other outreach designed to draw input from residents about risks included in the assessment and areas requiring additional scrutiny. The final plan guides the County in prioritizing future actions to reduce risks and will be cited in requests for federal assistance for risk-reducing actions.

For the first time, the County's LHMP incorporates climate adaptation planning by addressing the hazard of climate change and how climate change affects other hazards. It also supports the County's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) program by addressing the program's Floodplain Management Planning activities.

In addition, the website has added a new feature – a series of interactive maps. Users can navigate through these maps by zooming in or out, or by entering a specific address into the "Search" field at the top of each map. They also can click on various features and mapping layers to view more information specific to an area or site.

To see the 2016 Mitigation Plan and access the interactive maps and other features of the site, you can visit the website at: <https://lhmp.acgov.org/>.

15th Annual Healthy Living Festival



Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley (red hat) speaks to constituents at the 15th Annual Healthy Living Festival (HLF) on September 13th. More than 2,000 seniors attended the event at the Oakland Zoo. Organized by the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County, HLF is a free health resource fair for seniors known for engaging older adults in advocacy and civic engagement.

Alameda County Announces 2018 Arts Leadership Awards Winners

Seven individuals have been named the 2018 winners of the Alameda County Arts Leadership Award for their contributions to the arts in Alameda County. The Alameda County Arts Commission selected winners in each of the five supervisorial districts in Alameda County. The Board of Supervisors will recognize the winners at their meeting on Tuesday, October 2. The awards will be presented as part of the County's celebration of National Arts and Humanities Month in October.

Winners of the 2018 Alameda County Arts Leadership Awards are:



Paula Chenoweth and Mary Galde, of Fremont, District 1. Paula and Mary are co-founders and co-directors of Broadway West Theatre in Fremont, which presented theater performances to the local community for 21 years until its closure this past June. Broadway West Theatre presented six full productions annually, as well as short plays and stage readings in the summer months.

Jonathan "Bionic" Bayani of Fremont, District 2. Jonathan is a dancer, performing artist, arts educator and event organizer with Mighty4 Arts Foundation in Union City and All The Way Live in Hayward. A champion dance performer, Jonathan gives workshops and lectures to inspire Bay Area youth about dance.



Janet Koike of Alameda, District 3. Janet is founder and artistic director of Rhythmix Cultural Works in Alameda. An accomplished Taiko Drummer, Janet founded Rhythmix to bring people of all ages together to experience and explore music, dance, visual art and cultural education opportunities.

Gerald and Winifred Thompson of Castro Valley, District 4. Gerry and Winnie, both visual artists who exhibit their paintings at many local arts venues, have been avid supporters of local artists and arts organizations that enrich the community. They are board members of A.R.T., Inc. where they work closely with the Adobe Art Center in Castro Valley to help coordinate the annual Members' Show and the annual Area Artists' Juried Exhibition. They are also longtime board members of the Hayward Arts Council.



Deborah Vaughan of Oakland, District 5. Deborah is the co-founder and artistic director of Dimensions Dance Theater in Oakland, which recently celebrated its 45th anniversary. Deborah has studied numerous dance traditions in Africa, the Caribbean and Brazil, and brings her knowledge to educating East Bay youth about traditional and contemporary dance forms. Through years of collaborative effort, Dimensions has brought artists together in creative partnerships linking choreography and storytelling with the visual arts, theater, and music.



Public Celebration for Vector Control District's New Offices and Laboratory in Alameda

The Alameda County Vector Control Services District recently celebrated the opening of its new offices and state-of-the-art laboratory in Alameda.

About 150 people attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new facility on Harbor Bay Parkway. The festivities included remarks by Wilma Chan, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and Rebecca Gebhart, Health Care Services Agency Finance Director.

There were also tours of the lab facility and live exhibits of creatures including Madagascar Cockroaches, mosquito fish, a lizard and a tarantula. In addition, there were insect displays and microscope stations where visitors viewed vectors such as bedbugs.

In keeping with the event's creepy, crawly theme, hors d'oeuvres included edible crickets! (The Honey-Tuscan oil-flavored critters taste like barbecue potato chips, according to sources).

The Board of Supervisors established the Vector Control Services District in 1984 to prevent the spread of vector-borne disease, injury and discomfort to residents by controlling insects, rodents and other vectors. The District focuses its activities on eliminating causal environmental conditions through education, and through integrated pest management practices. The District is funded through a benefit assessment charge to each property parcel tax.



(Above) Wilma Chan, President of the Board of Supervisors, speaks at the public celebration of the Alameda County Vector Control District's new offices and laboratory in Alameda.

Youth Scholarship Fund Established in Honor of Alameda County Employee Killed in July Traffic Accident

Alameda County has established a new youth scholarship fund in honor of Esther Concepcion, a longtime County employee who was killed in a traffic accident in Hayward in July.

The Board's action authorized the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller to establish the Alameda County Youth Leadership Academy Scholarship Fund, to provide \$7,500 in initial funding from savings accrued in the Board and CAO budgets and to accept additional donations.

The Scholarship Fund is named after the Alameda County Youth Leadership Academy (YLA), an award-winning annual civic engagement program for local high school juniors and seniors that was established by the County Administrator in 2002.

Esther, a longtime Office Manager for the Board of Supervisors, was a key player in developing and managing the YLA program over the past 15 years – with 567 students participating in the program through 2017. A spinoff internship program was established in 2006, with 210 YLA graduates working as summer interns with 14 County departments over the past 12 years. Esther was a key organizer of the summer internship program, too.

The new scholarship fund will support YLA graduates to further their education and to pursue their commitment to public service. It is a fitting legacy for Esther, whose work had a significant positive impact on local youth.



Send donations to:
Alameda County Youth Leadership Academy Scholarship Fund
In Memory of Esther Concepcion
c/o Steve Manning, Auditor-Controller
1221 Oak Street, Suite 249
Oakland, CA 94612

Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Wilma Chan, President, District 3; Richard Valle, Vice President, District 2; Scott Haggerty, District 1; Nate Miley, District 4; Keith Carson District 5

County Administrator
Susan S. Muranishi

Editor: Guy Ashley guy.ashley@acgov.org