Volume 3, Issue 1 Winter 2008



315 East Leland Road, Pittsburg 94565

Antioch \* Bay Point \* Bethel Island \* Oakley \* Pittsburg

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# FROM SUPERVISOR FEDERAL D. GLOVER



Supervisor Federal Glover was sworn in as chair of the Board of Supervisors on Jan. 8. Supervisor Susan Bonilla will serve as the vice chair for 2008.

# A year of new challenges

THE BIGGEST LESSON I learned from 2007 is not to take things for granted. One day you are healthy as a horse, and the next day you are in the hospital ICU.

That is why, one of my first actions as the new chairman of the Board of Supervisors will be the creation of a Public Protection Committee made up of two supervisors. That committee will be able to draw on the expertise of the Sheriff's Office, fire department, emergency services and health services.

In the last 12 months, we made good progress in improving the

District V Supervisor Federal D. Glover

health and quality of life for our County. Our County hospital, one of just eight in California, this year became a leader in patient safety improvement. Our Sheriff's Office launched a website that shows whether registered sex offenders live near your home, or near your child's school. Last year we installed ARIES, the system that allows 48 law enforcement agencies to exchange information – a system created in and by Contra Costa.

We have led the way in public protection. But it is amazing to me that this County has come this far without this committee. We have committees for all sorts of things -- but we don't have a body that would oversee, study, evaluate and recommend to the Board of Supervisors on those matters that concern the safety and well-being of our residents. We live in one of the most beautiful regions in the country but what good is living in a million-dollar house if you are a prisoner of fear and you can't leave your house without looking over your shoulder?

For those of us fortunate enough to live in East County, we are coming together to build a community, working together to solve our challenges and build on our strengths.

Our quality of life continues to improve because of some of the measures we are taking in transportation by securing funding for eBART, nearing completion of the Highway 4 Bypass and continuing to widen Highway 4 and improving safety measures on Vasco Road..

But there are challenges that face us. District V has become a poster child for the problems that face growing communities. Foremost among them is the home foreclosure crisis. East County is Ground Zero for Bay Area foreclosures.

But foreclosures are simply a symptom of what's really wrong. Just as Section 8 is a symptom.

The root reason there is a high concentration of foreclosures and rental units in East County is because of poor planning. To some area leaders, progress was defined by the number of new houses built in their city. In the eagerness to build new houses, they didn't take into account its impact on our infrastructure and our way of life.

It is no secret that I advocate slow, controlled growth. The Urban Limit Line was part of an attempt to reign in growth for growth's sake.

The problems we face now are the consequences of that poor planning.

As difficult and complex as the foreclosure problem is, we can still offer help. I have some things planned that might bring some relief to some homeowners and lenders.

Foreclosures will undoubtedly be a topic of discussion at the Building Community Implementation meeting that will be held Jan. 26 in Antioch. That is where the ideas and issues brought forth by East County residents last year will be presented to our local decision makers

On Feb. 16, Assembly member Mark DeSaulnier and I will jointly sponsor a workshop for homeowners facing the loss of their homes because of foreclosures. It will be held at Pittsburg's City Hall but I urge all residents of District V who are threatened with foreclosure to attend to get valuable information and advice.

We will make progress in 2008 but it won't be without challenges. We need to roll up our sleeves – go back to basics. I challenge all of you to be part of the solution.

We are going to take back our communities by working with our law enforcement agencies and community leaders.

We will provide job-training opportunities to our young people and give them pathways to careers and colleges.

We will seek ways we can safeguard our Delta communities and agricultural lands from weak levees.

County employees will be there as part of the solution. They will be in the middle of it all in trying to help the public and improve their quality of life. The Board of Supervisors will be there helping our communities and constituents. I will be there as chair of the Board, in my role on the various transportation and public safety committees and providing the means in which we can work on our problems together.

Will you be there?

This is a condensed version of the supervisor's Jan. 8 address for the Board of Supervisor's reorganization when he became chair.



# Building Community update, a block at a time

As East County grows and we lose the comfort of the small towns we once lived in, there is an increasing disconnect between the governed and the policy makers, between the bureaucracies and the constituents they are supposed to serve, and between the factions and interest groups that have materialized.

Last spring, I initiated a process intended to encourage wider participation in the community dialogue on issues affecting East County.

I called it Building Community, One Block At A Time because – appropriately – we are trying to build a community among ourselves with a common vocabulary and value system.

Our dialogue began with gathering stakeholders together in May and June of 2007. It was a wide-ranging group of citizens, office holders, business, educators, policy makers and the faith community.

Out of their talks, the CSU professors who facilitated the process wrote up a report. The report was the product of Building Community participants, not of any single individual.

The report was presented to the Board of Supervisors in July. The Board accepted the findings and commented that it was truly a unique way of gathering community input that they would like to do in all of the County's districts.

The next step was to present the report to the decision makers of the various communities that make up East County. A planned meeting in the Fall was postponed because of the Supervisor's illness.

Invitations were sent out for a Jan. 26 meeting. Twenty-seven people representing various agencies and policy-making bodies attended this meeting at the Antioch Maintenance Services Building. The majority of the audience did not attend the 2007 Building Community sessions.

CSU professors Jay Umeh and Michael Moon gave the background and methodology of the Building Community process.

During the discussion that followed, I emphasized that I have deliberately kept a low-key presence so that the outcome would really come from the people.

The absence of some local officials made it impossible to proceed with the original goal, which was to let those policymakers bring the report back to their agencies. Instead, the group decided that a regional task force needed to be formed that will proceed to

publicize the Building Community findings to other agencies and to local officials. Individuals in the group indicated their interest to serve on the task force

My office will be calling a meeting for the task force members in the near future.

I believe that for solutions to take root, the people with the most to gain or lose must buy into the solutions as if they were their own.



One of the breakout groups from last spring's Building Community sessions in Antioch.

Building a community is a

difficult and long process in our area but it is a task worth taking . With current trends of outmigration, sprawl, rural-flight, urban decay, and increased mobility, many people don't have that strong connection to their communities.

A strong community values the uniqueness of these different interest groups and diverse religious traditions. A strong community also recognizes their interdependency.

It takes many elements to foster a sense of community. Besides shared values, rights and responsibility, we also need an atmosphere of civility, trust and respect along with opportunities for networking and active participation.



OAKLAND attorney John Burris and KGO reporter Alan Wang (front row, foreground) were keynote speakers at the Martin Luther King, Jr. ceremonies held at the Board of Supervisors' chambers on Jan. 22.

# Remembering the legacy of the Rev. King

The birthday of Martin Luther King, Jan. 21, was a day to remember the legacy of the slain civil rights leader. Dow Chemical honored to local residents who exemplified the spirit of Dr. King through their community work: Dow Employee awardee Rosa Sanchez-Yokoyama and community awardee German Medina of Bay Point.

A march from Pittsburg's City Hall to the Pittsburg High School Creative Arts Building occurred later that day where East County youth presented skits, sang and danced to honor King's memory. Supervisor Glover and

SUPERVISOR Glover was the master of ceremonies at the Martinez observance.

community activist Willie Mims were surprised as they were cited with brass plaques citing their contributions to justice and equality in East County.



On July 22, the Board of Supervisors took a break during their meeting to conduct their annual tribute to King in their chambers with guest speakers Oakland attorney John Burris and KGO-TV reporter Alan Wang.

SUPERVISOR Glover (right) talks to some marchers prior to the Pittsburg event.



DOW CHEMICAL'S Human Resource director Lucia Watson and Dow site leader Todd Sutton pose with MLK awardees Rosa Sanchez-Yokoyama and German Medina. Supervisor Glover, (right) presented the plaque to Medina in the King Day ceremonies on Jan. 21.

# **NEWS YOU CAN USE**

# Sandbag distribution points in East County

It is that time of year when winter storms bring their moisture to East County farms, replenish our reservoirs and turn the Sierra into our bank of fresh water when the snows begin to melt.

Unfortunately, the combination of wind, rain and high tides also bring dangers of creeks spilling over its banks, gutters and drains overwhelmed and the fear of crumbling levees.

You can pick up sandbags at the following locations:

- **ANTIOCH:** Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10<sup>th</sup> St. 1000 sandbags are stored in the loft inside the maintenance shop. The sand cradle is located north of the maintenance facility, its storage area. **Bring your own shovel.**
- ANTIOCH: Maintenance Service Center, 1201 W 4th St. Staff and do-it-yourself. Limit of 20.
- BETHEL ISLAND: Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District, 3085 Stone Road

- **BYRON:** Byron Airport, 3000 Armstrong Road. 1000 sandbags stored in pump house at the junction of Byron Hot Springs Road and Holey Road. The pump house is locked and alarmed. Contact airport personnel to open. Dispatch would have the on-call person's number. To the west of the pump house is the sand cradle. **Bring your own shovel.**
- **BRENTWOOD:** Public Works Dept., 2201 Elkins Way No limit. \$1 a bag after first 10 free. Do-it-yourself.
- **PITTSBURG:** Corporation Yard, 357 East 12th Street. No charge. Limit of 10 unless circumstances require more.

#### Sale of tobacco to minors on the increase

After a number of years of encouraging signs that merchants weren't selling tobacco products to minors, health officials in Contra Costa County are disturbed about an increase in illegal sales to young people under 18 years old.



Contra Costa Health Services reports that before the county passed an ordinance requiring stores that sell tobacco to get a license and providing suspension of that license if

tobacco sales laws are violated, the rate of illegal sales to minors was 37%. The rate dropped to a remarkable low of 2% in 2005-2006 but has surged to 34% in the past six months.

"We are very concerned about this," says Public Health Director Wendel Brunner, MD. "Young people are the prime target for the tobacco industry. Most of the people who become addicted to tobacco begin smoking when they are teens. That's why we need every merchant in the county to obey the law and be sure their clerks don't sell to minors."

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance in 2003 requiring all of the approximately 100 stores in the unincorporated areas of the County that sell tobacco to obtain a license. Store clerks who sell to minors can be cited and fined up to \$350 under state law. Owners of stores where illegal sales are conducted can have their license to sell tobacco products suspended or even revoked for repeated violations. Since the ordinance passed, there have been more than 450 inspections of retailers and 54 merchants have had their licenses suspended. The law allows for license suspension for up to 30 days for the first offense.

"We clearly have a problem," said Brunner. "We know that stores experience turnover among their staff and we're calling on local merchants to be sure they conduct regular training to remind their employees what the law says about checking IDs."

According to Brunner, Health Services' Tobacco Prevention Project is mailing educational materials to merchants in the unincorporated county and has training

materials, including a quiz for clerks, available on its website at <a href="http://cchealth.org/groups/tobacco\_project/">http://cchealth.org/groups/tobacco\_project/</a> Besides the Contra Costa County ordinance, several cities in the county, including Concord and Richmond, have similar tobacco retailer license requirements.

# New information and referral phone service available

<u>The United Way</u> is celebrating "2-1-1 Day" on Feb. 11 to formally mark the regionwide expansion of 2-1-1 phone service in the Bay Area. It's a toll-free, easy-to-remember phone number that connects people in need with local community services, such as child care, youth programs, job training, senior services, immigration assistance, counseling, food, shelter and much more.

The 2-1-1 service is available 24 hours a day in multiple languages, seven days a week in various languages in seven Bay Area counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, Santa Clara and Solano. Plans to bring 2-1-1 to Sonoma and San Mateo are actively underway. The basis for 2-1-1 is the Contra Costa Resource Online Database (CORD), which contains hundreds of records about programs and services.

To check the accuracy of your program's information on CORD, visit <u>crisis-center.org</u> and click on CORD.

#### **SERVING YOU**

# Free tax program: Resist early return trap

Every tax season many hardworking people make the same costly choice. They pay a commercial tax preparation company to do their taxes when they could have had them done for free and gotten more money back.

The annual Contra Costa Earn It! Keep It! Save It! (EKS) free tax preparation program helps families and individuals claim tax refunds and access asset development resources. Millions of dollars in credits go unclaimed in Contra Costa County every year, said EKS Campaign Manager Lloyd Madden.

"Many people are unaware of the program and we're trying to reach out to people who qualify in all areas of Contra Costa County. Tax refunds can difference for folks who often are struggling to make ends meet." Madden

make a huge difference for folks who often are struggling to make ends meet," Madden said.

To qualify for EKS, household incomes must have been less than \$42,000 in 2007. The program runs Jan. 22 through April 15 at locations throughout the Bay Area. (For site locations call 1-800-358-8832 or visit cchealth.org. A podcast about EKS by Contra Costa Health Services Director William Walker also is available at cchealth.org)

Last tax season, EKS program helped 2,148 low to moderate-income families and individuals in Contra Costa receive more than \$2.4 million in total tax refunds and credits, Madden said. But as much as \$15 million in federal Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) and Child Tax Credits (CTC) went unclaimed in Contra Costa in 2002, according to the Internal Revenue Service. Residents in Pittsburg lost out on \$2.3 million, Concord \$2 million, San Pablo \$1.6 million, Martinez \$546,000 and Pleasant Hill \$291,000.

EITC can amount to up to \$4,700 per family with two or more qualifying children. CTC provides up to \$1,000 for each dependent under 17, Madden said.

Sponsored by Contra Costa Family Economic Security Partnership (FESP), the EKS program is working to increase awareness about these tax credits. FESP is a nonprofit, public and private collaboration dedicated to helping low-income Contra Costa residents increase their financial knowledge, well-being and assets, said Sean Casey, FESP chair and Executive Director of First 5 Contra Costa.

"The Earn It! Keep It! Save It! program helps to provide a financial boost to residents and the local economy. We want our hardworking residents to keep more of their money now, as well as build up their financial futures," Casey said.

# **COMMUNITY EVENTS**



Feb. 5, All Day
California Presidential Primary
Get out and vote!

Feb 7, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Health Fair Pittsburg Health Clinic, 2311 Loveridge Road, Pittsburg Speakers about HIV/AIDS in East County and prevention

Sponsored by Sup. Glover and the East County HIV/AIDS Task Force. Free. Call 925-427-8138.

Feb. 9, 7 p.m.

**Literacy Project performance featuring Faye Carol and Marcus Shelby**Creative Arts Bldg., Pittsburg High School, 250 School St., Pittsburg
Co-sponsored by City of Pittsburg, Pittsburg Unified School District, County Library.
Call 925-432-4992

#### Feb. 16, 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

#### **East County Homeowners' Workshop**

Pittsburg City Hall, 65 Civic Avenue, Pittsburg

Foreclosure prevention, alternate strategies, working with lenders

Sponsored by Sup. Glover, Assemblyman Marc DeSaulnier, State Sen. Tom Torlakson Free. Bring financial paperwork. Call 925-427-8138



Feb. 18
President's Day. Office is closed.

Feb. 27, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Grant Writing Seminar

Humphrey's On The Delta, 1 Marina Plaza, Antioch Sponsored by Sup. Glover

Must register in advance. Call 925-427-8138

Feb. 28, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. "Marketing to Government"

Walnut Creek City Hall sponsored by Rep. Ellen Tauscher

RSVP or info, call 925-932-8899

#### March 11, 7 p.m. Bethel Island Town Hall

Scout Hall, 3090 Ranch Lane, Bethel Island Sponsored by Sup. Glover and the Bethel Island Municipal Advisory Council Call 925-427-8138

#### March 18, 7 p.m. Bay Point Town Hall

Ambrose Recreation and Park Center. 3105 Willow Pass Road, Bay Point Sponsored by Sup. Glover and the Bay Point Municipal Advisory Council Call 925-427-8138

April 26, All Day Annual Youth Summit Freedom High School, Oakley

Workshops, games, entertainment Free. Call 925-427-8138.



The 2007 Youth Summit was held at Los Medanos College and sponsored by Supervisor Glover. This year it will be held at Freedom High School in Oakley.

#### **GOVERNMENT MEETINGS**

#### **ANTIOCH**

Antioch Unified School District: 7 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays, district offices, 510 G St. 706-4100.

Antioch Area Public Facilities Financing Agency (Mello-Roos District): 7 p.m., Antioch Unified School District boardroom, 510 G Street. 776-2030. Meets every other month, first Monday. Call to confirm meeting date.

City Council: 7 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays, City Hall, Third and H streets. Parks and Recreation Commission: 7 p.m., second Thursday, City Hall, Third and H streets. 779-7070, Ext. 0.

#### **BAY POINT**

Municipal Advisory Council: 7 p.m., first Tuesday, Ambrose Community Center, 3105 Willow Pass Road. 458-1601.

Ambrose Park and Recreation District, 7 p.m., second Thursday, Ambrose Center: 3105 Willow Pass Road, Bay Point. 925-458-2457

#### **BETHEL ISLAND**

Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District, 3 p.m., third Thursday, 3085 Stone Road, Bethel Island.

Municipal Advisory Council, 7 p.m. second Tuesday, BIMID office, 3085 Stone Road.

#### **OAKLEY**

City Council: 7:30 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays, 3231 Main St., Oakley. 625-7000.

Liberty Union High School District, 7:30 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays, District Offices, 20 Oak St., Brentwood. 634-2166

Oakley Unified School District, 7 p.m., third Wednesday, District offices, 91 Mercedes Lane, Oakley, 925-625-0700

Ironhouse Sanitary District: 7:30 p.m., first Tuesday, district offices, 450 Walnut Meadows Drive, Oakley. 625-2279.

Planning Commission: 7:30 p.m., first and third Mondays, 3231 Main St. Oakley. 625-7000.

#### **PITTSBURG**

City Council: 7 p.m., first and third Mondays, council chamber, third floor, City Hall, 65 Civic Ave, 925-252-4850.

Planning Commission: 7 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays, City Hall, 65 Civic Ave. 252-4920.

Pittsburg Unified School District, 7:30 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays, 2000 Railroad Ave.

#### **COUNTY & REGIONAL**

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors: 9 a.m., first four Tuesdays, Room 107, County Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. 646-2371.



Delta Diablo Sanitation District: 5:30 p.m., second Wednesday, district offices, 2500 Pittsburg-Antioch Highway, Antioch, 778-4040.

Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission: 1:30 p.m., second Wednesday, room 107, County Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. 646-4090.

State Route 4 Bypass Authority: second Thursday, Tri Delta Transit building, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. Call for starting time. 925-686-0619.

East County Transportation Improvement: second Thursday, second Thursday, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. Call for starting time. 925-686-0619.

East Contra Costa Fee & Financing Authority: second Thursday, Tri Delta Transit building, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. Call for starting time. 925-686-0619.

Transplan: 6:30 p.m. second Thursday, Tri Delta Transit building, 801 Wilbur Ave., Antioch. 925-335-1201.

## **CONTACT THE SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE**



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#### **ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please click here, provide necessary information and send.

http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/dis5/contact.htm