



District 2 Highlights

West County Edition

Supervisor Gayle B. Uilkema, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, District 2
Phone: (925) 335-1046 Fax: (925) 335-1076 Email: gayle@bos.cccounty.us

Spring 2009

Serving: Crockett, Hercules, Pinole, Port Costa, Rodeo, Tara Hills, Tormey

Digital Television Transition: Will You Be Ready?

Your TV signal is switching to "digital." For more than fifty years, TV broadcasters have sent their shows to your TV using "analog" signals. After **June 12, 2009**, most of the old analog signals will be gone and most of the stations you watch will use only the new digital signals.

Why Is The Government Switching to Digital?

- For improved public safety for everyone. The transition to digital will help police, fire and other public safety departments communicate more easily with each other during emergencies.
- For you, digital TV offers better picture and sound, as well as more channels and program choices.

What Does This Mean To You?

- If all of your TVs are hooked up to cable or satellite, you will continue to get your TV after the switch. Just check with your cable or satellite company to be sure.
- If you have a digital TV, you are ready for the switch. (If your TV is more than 10 years old it probably is not digital. If it is less than 10 years old, ask the manufacturer if your TV is "analog-only.")
- If you have an analog-only TV with a roof top antenna or "rabbit ears," you will not be able to watch most TV stations after June 12, 2009 unless you get a "converter box."

Converter Box?

- The converter box will attach to your TV and let you continue receiving free TV.
- With the converter box you can get a better picture and more channels. The antenna you have should work with the box.
- You can buy a converter box at a retail store. The boxes will cost \$40 to \$70.
- You can get two \$40 coupons per household from the US Government to help you pay for up to two boxes. (One coupon per box only.)

For more information about the digital transition call **888-CALL-FCC (888-225-5322) (voice)** or **888-TELL-FCC (888-835-5322) (TTY)** or go to the website www.dtv.gov

For more information about converters and coupons call **888-388-2009 (voice)** or **877-530-2634 (TTY)** or go to the website www.dtv2009.gov



Incoming Hercules Mayor Joe Eddy McDonald and his wife Mary Ann

City Greets New Mayor

In January, the City of Hercules had a "meet and greet" reception for the city's new Mayor. Mayor Joe Eddy McDonald was welcomed by Hercules residents at the Hercules Public Library. Mayor McDonald introduced his fellow Council members and his family to the large crowd.

Mayor McDonald, wife Mary Ann, daughter Meiko and granddaughter Kimaree are longtime Hercules residents. Prior to being elected to the City Council Mayor McDonald served on the city's Planning Commission.

Mayor McDonald is an active member of many community organizations and past President of both the Rodeo and Hercules Rotary Clubs. He is the retired Postmaster of Hercules and Rodeo.

Digital Television – Continued from Page 1

If you decide to replace your old analog TV with a new digital one, here are some things you need to know about disposing of your old TV.

"It is illegal to throw them out. They contain materials that can be harmful to the environment and human health," said Jon Myers, a spokesman for the California Integrated Waste Management Board, a state agency that regulates landfills.

In 2003, a California law took effect which charged anyone who buys a new TV or computer monitor an additional \$6 to \$10. That money goes into a fund that pays private companies 39 cents a pound to collect and recycle the unwanted e-junk. To receive funding, companies must verify they are dismantling the equipment in California, and not shipping it to China, India or other developing countries, where child workers commonly break it apart, without safety gear.

As a result, you have many choices for properly disposing of your unwanted electronic devices.

- Many Goodwill, St. Vincent de Paul or other thrift shops accept old TVs and computers for free.
- To find out where to recycle your TV in Contra Costa County, go to www.cccrecycle.org or call the county recycling hot line at **800-750-4096** (press #2).
- To find out where to recycle your TV for free anywhere in California, go to www.erecycle.org.

Remember, e-waste is more than just TV's and computer monitors. E-waste recycling events are held on a regular basis throughout the county. You can find a schedule of these events and the items they accept at www.cccrecycle.org.



Looking west on Pomona towards downtown Crockett.

Class III Bike Route to be Designated

The County Public Works Department received grant funding from the Transportation Act for a bike lane (Class II) or a bike route (Class III) to be added to Pomona Avenue in Crockett. Public Works staff determined that Pomona was not wide enough to fit both a bike lane and parking and that some street parking would need to be eliminated to install a Class II bike lane.

After reviewing the bike lane proposal, Supervisor Uilkema determined that the Crockett community needed to have input on the project. She noted the many problems that might arise by reducing parking on Pomona which provides the only parking for the town's Community Center, several businesses, two churches and some homes.

The community input the Supervisor received showed little favor for removing the parking on Pomona and a very favorable response to the Class III bike route. The Class III bike route would not eliminate parking and will provide signs and pavement markings designating Pomona a bike route. Based on the community input and with the Supervisor's support, Public Works is moving forward with a Class III bike route.



The friendly County vs County Food Fight between Contra Costa and Solano counties had a true winning outcome for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. The final combined tally of the two counties was \$114,779. The employees of Contra Costa averaged \$9.93 per employee, raising over \$68,000, while members of the community, including West County, added another \$18,760.

Thank you all for your generosity!



Looking east on Pomona Avenue near the new Post Office location.



Kaiser Permanente Opens in Pinole

Supervisor Uilkema, with Pinole and Kaiser officials, tossed the first shovels of dirt in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Kaiser facility less than two years ago. The charming new medical facility, located at 1301 Pinole Valley Road, officially opened January 12th with a grand celebration.

The facility displays an old town architectural touch in historic Pinole, and will bring approximately a hundred new jobs to the area. West County residents will enjoy a full range of primary care services including adult primary care, family practice, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, radiology, lab services, pharmacy, and health education. The new building has many “green” features that stress water and energy conservation, and natural light. Used recycled barn wood materials from the Faria family farm, which was originally located at the site, were used in the construction.

Mayor Mary Horton gave her welcoming remarks along with those of other local government and Kaiser officials. The ribbon cutting was followed by guided tours of the facility. The Pinole Valley High School Jazz Band provided the music for the festive occasion.



Pinole Mayor Mary Horton steps down from podium as the Pinole Valley High School Jazz Band plays in background.

West County School Closures a Reality

With the national financial meltdown and the State budget crisis, West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) must address a structural deficit and has adopted a budget that includes school closures for 2009 -'10 and 2010 -'11. The WCCUSD Board approved closure criteria in December and then formed a Closure Committee with 279 members of the community. Supervisor Uilkema attended a joint meeting to help find a solution in keeping WCCUSD financially viable. The meeting was an open exchange of ideas and strategies among all stakeholders. The City of Richmond adopted a motion specifying \$1.5 million to keep open two elementary schools, Olinda and Grant, and Kennedy High School for 2009 -'11. In the February 11th special board meeting, closure of Adams Middle, Castro and El Sobrante elementary schools was approved. The San Pablo City Council agreed to give WCCUSD \$600,000 to keep Lake Elementary open for two years. District staff contends that closing under-enrolled and worn-down schools will result in significant savings annually.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrated

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s effective leadership and exceptional power of speech inspired people to have the faith and courage to keep working peacefully for social reform.

To commemorate his legacy, the Hercules/Pinole/Rodeo and Richmond branches of the NAACP sponsored their 13th annual celebration of Dr. King's birthday. The Hercules Middle School cafeteria was packed with revelers and the event was emceed by Hercules Mayor Joe Eddy McDonald. The featured keynote speaker, Contra Costa Community College President McKinley Williams, focused on this year's theme: "Martin's Dream and Change We Can Believe In."

The Men's Chorus of St. John Missionary Baptist Church provided musical selections. Supervisor Gayle B. Uilkema, represented by staff, presented a certificate acknowledging the work of the NAACP branches.



The St. John's Missionary Baptist Church Men's Chorus performs for the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

Board of Supervisors Actions

November '08 - February '09

Kick off the "Contra Costa County Cares" Holiday Food Drive.

Report regarding review of Interim Rate Application submitted by RSS; Approve solid waste collection service rate increase of 4.46% for customers in unincorporated areas served by RSS.

Recommendations of the Public Protection Committee on allocation of Housing and Economic Recovery Act, Neighborhood Stabilization Program Funds.

Cost reduction options to rebalance the 08/09 budget to reflect state cuts; Provide direction to staff on additional action to be taken.

Conference with Labor Negotiators

Recognize Charleen Raines for her service as Hercules City Council member, by Supervisor Uilkema.

Approve/Authorize app. to CA Dept of Community Services and Development, Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program for energy assistance and weatherization services; Accept funding.

Approve/Authorize a standard agreement with the CA Dept of Public Health, Office of AIDS, to pay CCC for the County's AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

Approve/Authorize contract with Community Violence Solutions for Safe Havens Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program.

Approve/Authorize contract to provide routine street sweeping services once per month for all curbed streets in unincorporated CCC.

Approve/Authorize agrmt with the VA, NoCA Health Care System, to provide dermatology services for patients referred for treatment by CCRMC physicians.

Continue emergency action by BOS on 11/16/99 re: homelessness in CCC.

Adopt Redevelopment Agency Budget for FY 08/09.

Establish \$275 fee charged/collected when CCC removes from public or private property an abandoned vehicle that has been declared a public nuisance.

FY 08/09 budget reductions to adjust for the impact of State/local revenue losses; approve appropriations/revenue adjustments to rebalance 08/09 Budget; acknowledging further economic impacts will require budget adjustments.

Approve/Authorize contract for public education/industrial outreach activities mandated by Joint Municipal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits issued by SF Bay/Central Valley RWQC Boards.

Ordinance designating Sheriff, Dept of Conservation & Dev. as officials authorized to enforce Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance; Fix 12/16/08 for adoption.

Appropriations/Revenue Adjustment authorizing revenue from "Avoid the 25" Grant; appropriate it to fund DUI prevention/interdiction ops.

Authorize letter to CCC's congressional/state legislative delegation regarding economic stimulus proposals and suggestions for expediting local projects.

Approve/Authorize grant from US Health & Human Services, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Svcs Admin. to continue ops of Transition Homes Program.

Approve/Authorize contract for continuation of Prevention & Treatment Program.

Approve/Authorize application/acceptance CA OES, CA Multi-Jurisdictional Meth Enforcement Team grant for investigation of meth-related crimes.

Approve/Authorize contract w/CC Community College District to pay CCC for off-campus child care provided to CalWORKs participants at CC College.

Authorize disbursement from Dougherty Valley Enhancement Designation to John Swett High School Careers Academy, New Horizons Career Dev. Center, Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center to provide industrial education/vocational training to West County youth, by Supervisor Uilkema.

Special Meeting on Legislation

Transfer of Court facilities in CCC from the County to the State, consistent with the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002.

Recommendations to improve consistency in composition, powers, ops among CCC's MACs; adopt boundary changes and approve related follow-up actions.

Accept as complete work performed for Crockett Area Reconstruction Project.

Municipal Climate Action Plan which includes municipal emission reduction targets, quantifies greenhouse gas reductions from existing municipal programs as well as identifies potential reductions from the implementation of additional measures; Direct the Climate Change Working Group to work with the CAO/county departments to identify/evaluate other measures that could be implemented to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions in CCC.

Accept as complete contracted work for '08 Slurry Seal Project, Rodeo.

Continued on page 5

County Contacts

Supervisor Gayle B. Uilkema	(925) 335-1046
Abandoned Vehicles	(925) 313-2500
Adult Protective Services	(925) 313-2659
Agricultural Department	(925) 646-5250
Airport, Buchanan Field, Keith Freitas	(925) 646-5722
Animal Services Dept., Martinez – Glenn Howell	(925) 335-8300
Animal Services Dept., Pinole	(925) 374-3966
Area Agency on Aging, John Cottrell	(925) 313-1700
Auditor-Controller, Stephen Ybarra	(925) 646-2181
Building Inspection Division, Jason Crapo	(925) 335-1108
Building Application & Permits	(925) 646-1609
CCTV, Patricia Burke	(925) 313-1180
Children's Services – Adoptions	(925) 313-7770
Children's Protective Services – Central County	(925) 646-1680
Children's Protective Services – West County	(510) 374-3324
Clerk-Recorder, Stephen Weir	(925) 335-7899
Code Enforcement, Central County, Tim Honea	(925) 335-1128
West County, Tyrone Ridgle	(925) 335-1147
Lamorinda, Greg Wixom	(925) 299-0116
Community Development Division, Aruna Bhat	(925) 335-1221
Community Services, Pat Stroh	(925) 646-5990
Community Substance Abuse Services	(925) 313-6300
County Employment Information	(925) 335-1701
Contra Costa Health Plan, Milt Camhi	(925) 313-6000
Contra Costa Regional Medical Center	(925) 370-5000
County Administrator, David Twa	(925) 335-1086
County Assessor, Gus Kramer	(925) 313-7400
County Librarian, Ann Cain	(925) 927-3205
Central Library	(925) 646-6434
Library –Crockett Branch	(510) 787-2345
Library –Hercules Branch	(510) 245-2420
Library –Lafayette Branch	(925) 283-3872
Library –Martinez Branch	(925) 646-2898
Library –Moraga Branch	(925) 376-6852
Library –Orinda Branch	(925) 254-2184
Library –Pinole Branch	(510) 758-2741
Library –Rodeo Branch	(510) 799-2606
Library –Walnut Creek Branch	(925) 646-6773
County Road Maintenance, Joe Yee	(925) 313-7000
District Attorney, Robert J. Kochly	(925) 957-2200
Employment & Human Services, Joe Valentine	(925) 313-1500
Environmental Health, Sherm Quinlan	(925) 646-5225
Fire District of Contra Costa, Chief Keith Richter	(925) 930-5500
Crockett-Carquinez Fire Protection Dist.	(510) 787-2717
Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection Dist.	(925) 258-4599
Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection Dist.	(510) 799-4561
First Time Home Buyers	(925) 335-7235
Grand Jury	(925) 646-2345
Hazardous Materials Ombudsman, Michael Kent	(925) 370-5020
Head Start Programs	(925) 646-5540
Health Services, William Walker, MD	(925) 370-5003
Homeless Programs	(925) 313-6736
Household Hazardous Waste	(800) 750-4096
Housing Authority, Joseph Villarreal	(925) 957-8011
In-Home Support Services	(925) 313-1770
Juvenile Hall	(925) 646-4800
LAFCO, Lou Ann Texeira	(925) 646-4090
Law Library	(925) 646-2783
Legal Assistant for the Elderly	(510) 374-3712
Martinez Detention Facility, Inmate Info	(925) 646-4495
Medi-Cal Services Eligibility	(925) 646-2941
Mental Health Services, Donna Wigand	(925) 957-5150
Mosquito Abatement/Vector Control	(925) 685-9301
Office of Emergency Services	(925) 646-4461
Private Industry Council	(925) 646-5239
Probation Department, Lionel Chatman	(925) 313-4023
Public Defender, David Coleman	(925) 335-8000
Public Works, Julie Bueren	(925) 313-2202
Retirement Office	(925) 646-5741
Sheriff-Coroner, Warren Rupf	(925) 335-1500
Superior Court, Clerk of the Court	(925) 646-2951
Superior Court, Jury Services	(925) 646-2002
Superior Court, Richmond	(510) 374-3800
Superior Court, Richmond, Jury Info	(510) 374-3803
Treasurer-Tax Collector, William Pollacek	(925) 646-4122
Veterans Service Office, Phil Munley	(925) 313-1481
West County Detention Facility, Inmate Info	(510) 262-4200

Additional county departmental information can be found on the county website: www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/

Board of Supervisors Actions *(continued)*

Resolution implement Tactical Employment Team Program, whose objective is to mitigate negative impact anticipated layoffs will have on CCC's workforce; Authorize deletion/addition of positions; CAO return to BOS w/additional information regarding short/long-term budget balancing options and report from Assessor on assessment activity; Acknowledge further State reductions/economic impacts will require adjustments to FY 08/09 Budget.

Approve '08 Tara Hills Drive Curb Ramp Project contingency fund increase; Approve/Authorize Contract Change Order for retaining walls, additional curb ramp, additional sidewalk to meet ADA compliance, Pinole.

Report dated October '07 regarding survey/analysis of the commute habits and alternatives of CCC employees; Award departments that have exhibited highest utilization of commute alternatives.

Approve/Authorize on behalf of CCC, cities, and other homeless service providers, a Consolidated Application for the '08 McKinney-Vento Assistance funding, along with the necessary certifications and assurances, to HUDD to provide supportive housing and services to homeless individuals and families.

Special Meeting: BOS Operating Procedures/Communications; Committee Procedures/Operating Guidelines; Key Issues for 09/10; CAO's Priorities and Structural Reorganization Opportunities; CAO's Organizational Structure; Expectations of CAO.

2009 Reorganization of the Board of Supervisors

Recommendations for BOS appointments to local, regional and statewide boards, committees and commissions for 2009.

Prohibit parking of vehicles 6' + in height (including any load thereon), or 20' + in length on the south side of San Pablo Avenue east of Kay Road.

Report on federal and state review process for proposed Indian gaming casinos in CCC.

Approve/Authorize letters to State Senator and Assembly Members outlining impact on CCC on Freezing Bond Revenue.

31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration and Humanitarian Awards Ceremony

Auditor-Controller report containing property tax-related costs of the Assessor, Tax Collector, Auditor and Assessment Appeals Board for 07/08 FY; Fix 3/3/09 for public hearing on determination of property tax administrative costs; notify affected local jurisdictions; prepare/publish required legal notice and make supporting documentation available for public inspection.

Appoint Supervisor Gayle B. Uilkema alternate rep. to WCCIWMA BOD.

Approve/Authorize grant for the County's Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Initiative from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement for the Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Regional Program.

Approve/Authorize contract w/HA to provide law enforcement services.

Approve/Authorize contract w/YMCA, Asian Pacific Psychological Services, West Contra Costa Youth Service Bureau, Bay Area Community Resources, Inc, to provide school-based mental health services to seriously emotionally disturbed students in West County.

Approve/Authorize contract amendment to allow contractor to continue the preparation of an EIR for the "Praxair, Inc. Contra Costa Hydrogen and Natural Gas Pipeline Project".

Approve/Authorize allocation from Crockett Co-Gen Property Tax for projects.

Report regarding review of Interim Year Rate Application submitted by Crockett Garbage Service; Approve solid waste collection rate increase of 3.49% for customers in unincorporated areas served by Crockett Garbage Service.

Modification to T Hangar, Shade Hangar, Large Hangar Rental Agreement to delete requirement that tenants carry aircraft physical damage insurance; Amend existing hangar rental agreements to effect same change to insurance requirement for specified Buchanan Field Airport tenants, Pacheco.

Designate 3/17/09 for FY 09/10 budget hearings; 3/24/09 for adoption of FY 09/10 County and Special District Budgets.

Note: this is a partial list of Board activities. A complete record of Board activities can be found at the County's web page: www.co.contra-costa.ca.us

Volunteer Opportunities

Have you been looking for an opportunity to become more involved in your community? Are you interested in meeting new and interesting people? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then here is your opportunity!

County Service Area R-10 CAC

Applicants must be from Rodeo. This Committee serves to advise and make recommendations to Supervisor Uilkema and the administrative departments of the county regarding the desires of the Community of Rodeo in the area of local parks, recreation facilities and youth programs. Meets the second Monday of each month at 7pm at Lefty Gomez Recreation Center. Term is two years.

Rodeo Municipal Advisory Council

Applicants must be from Rodeo. This Council serves to advise the BOS on land use and planning matters affecting the Rodeo Community, represents the Rodeo Community before the County Planning Commission Zoning Administrator, and the Board of Supervisors on such land use, planning and zoning matters. The Council may also request related County assistance concerning the foregoing planning matters. The duties of the former Rodeo Redevelopment Project Area Committee have also been transferred to the Rodeo MAC. Meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Rodeo Senior Center.

Montalvin Manor Redevelopment Advisory Committee

Applicants should be business or property owner or their representative from Tara Hills Shopping Center. This committee serves to advise the RDA and the Board of Supervisors on issues related to redevelopment in the Montalvin area and unincorporated San Pablo.

Contra Costa County Library Commission

Serves to advise and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the County Librarian as to the needs of the public as well as to develop and recommend proposals for the betterment of the County Library including such efforts as insuring a stable and adequate funding level for the libraries in the County; to provide a link between the community and the Library System; and to establish a forum for the community to express its' views regarding goals and operations of the County Library. Meets monthly on the 4th Thursday at 7pm.

Womens Commission

The Commission serves to identify major economic, educational and social concerns of women in CCC as well as to reach and inform all women on a variety of issues. Meets in Concord, 3rd Tuesday at 3pm.

Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board

Applicants shall have a professional interest in, or personal commitment to, alleviating problems related to drug abuse and inappropriate alcohol use in their community. Any individual who is a paid employee of or a paid consultant to any agency which contracts with the County on behalf of its Health Services Department for any drug or alcohol-related programs is prohibited from serving on this Board. Any individual who is a volunteer member of the Board of Directors of any agency which contracts with the County on behalf of its Health Services Department or any drug or alcohol-related program is discouraged from serving. Meets the 4th Wednesday from 3:45-6:15pm.

Contra Costa County Mental Health Commission

Serves to review and evaluate mental health needs, services, facilities, and special problems; advise the governing body and local mental health director; review performance outcome data and communicate findings to the State Mental Health Commission; assess impact of realignment of services delivered to clients and the local community. Meets in Martinez, 4th Tuesday at 4:30.

Application forms available from Supervisor Gayle B. Uilkema's office at 925-335-1046, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office at 925-335-1900 or can be downloaded from the District 2 website at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/dis2/