

PHONG LA

ALAMEDA COUNTY ASSESSOR



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Message from Assessor La

Dear County Residents,

As we close out the second month of the new year, I hope everyone is staying healthy and well through this cold and rainy winter.

This past month, we celebrated Lunar New Year. Year of the Cat and/or Year of the Rabbit depending on your community.

This month, February is Black History Month. We celebrate and recognize the triumphs of the African American community. We also celebrate diversity and inclusion within our community.

We also celebrate Presidents Day which honors all U.S. presidents who served our country.

Community Engagements:

Last month, I attended the Alameda County Bar Association's Board of Directors Installation and Distinguished Service Awards event at the Asian Cultural Center in the City of Oakland. Congratulations to all the 2023 directors and this year's award recipients.

In honor of the Lunar New Year, my staff and I attended two big Lunar New Year events in the community:

The Oakland Chinatown Improvement Council hosted a Lunar New Year Parade that my staff and I participated in with our Assessor's Office banner. Organizers streamed the short parade online as participants and spectators celebrated the diverse Asian cultures and importance of the Lunar New Year. It was great seeing so many community members in the crowd celebrating with us.

Alameda County District 5 Supervisor Keith Carson and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Collaborative sponsored their Annual Lunar New Year event at the Lincoln Recreation Center also in Oakland. This was their first year back in-person since COVID. This event had singers, dancers, dragon performers, and special speeches from Alameda County Administrator Susan Muranishi and Alameda County District 3 Supervisor Lena Tam. My staff enjoyed attending this event to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit with the community.

My staff attended several grand openings and ribbon cuttings around Alameda County. Congratulations to all the new businesses in our County that officially opened this month.

The San Leandro Chamber of Commerce celebrated their 100th anniversary on January 26th. My staff attended their momentous celebration and presented their office with a certificate of recognition. Congratulations to the San Leandro Chamber on this centennial milestone.

Look below at the Assessor in the Community section to see what community events my staff and I participated in.

Please let the Assessor's Office know if your organization is hosting an in-person or virtual event that you would like the Assessor's Office to attend. If there is a specific topic you would like to see covered in a future webinar, I encourage you to fill out the poll with possible topics [HERE](#).

Keep an eye out for our upcoming programs and tell others to [sign up for our newsletter](#) to stay up to date on our events, important dates, and deadlines.

Free Legal Clinic to Help Answer Questions:

The Property Transfer Clinic (PTC) is here to help! The PTC is a free legal clinic available to assist property/business owners and constituents on the third Friday of each month. I continue to work with the Alameda County Law Library, the Alameda

County Bar Association, Legal Access Alameda, and the Alameda County Library to maintain this clinic and to make it available for Alameda County residents, who do not have access to an attorney. Sign up [HERE!](#)

As always, we remain committed to serving the residents of Alameda County.

Sincerely,
Phong La
Alameda County Assessor

A Tribute to Supervisor Richard Valle



The Assessor's Office mourns the sudden passing of Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle, District 2.

Since 2012, Supervisor Valle represented District 2, which includes Hayward, Union City, Newark, and parts of Fremont. Throughout his years in office he fought tirelessly for his district, ushering change for the betterment of all.

Supervisor Valle also served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. After his military service he attended Chabot College and California State University East Bay, graduating with a Bachelor's in Sociology and a Master's in Public Administration.

Supervisor Valle remained a longtime resident of Union City, serving on the City Council for 13 years. His service to the city included supporting affordable housing and advocating for students in the New Haven School District.

Outside of public office, he was founder and president of Tri-CED Recycling, one of California's largest non-profit recycling organizations. He co-founded *Centro de Servicios*, one of the area's oldest Hispanic social services agencies.

As a dedicated public servant, he advocated for young people in Alameda County, prioritized the health and safety of the community at large, and worked to make a difference in his district.

Supervisor Valle will be deeply missed.

Assessor in the Community



Photo from Mind Coffee's grand opening and ribbon cutting in the City of Berkeley. Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce and Mind Coffee for putting together such a wonderful grand opening event.



Photo of a traditional Chinese Lion Dance captured at Alameda County District 5 Supervisor Keith Carson's and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Collaborative's celebratory Lunar New Year Event, inside at the Lincoln Recreation Center in Oakland.



From left to right: Assessor Phong La, Alameda County District 3 Supervisor Lena Tam, Assembly Member Evan Low, Mayor Sheng Thao, Council Member Nikki Fortunato Bas, and a representative with the Mental Health Association for Chinese Communities at the Oakland Chinatown Improvement Council and the Toishan Benevolent Association's Lunar New Year Parade in Oakland Chinatown.



Photo of Assessor staff, Samantha Hing, and the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce President, Emily Griego, at the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce's 100th anniversary celebration to honor the history and centennial milestone of operations achieved by the Chamber.

Dates & Deadlines

February 1 - First day of Black History Month

February 12 - Lincoln's Birthday

February 13 - Alameda County Offices are closed in observation of Lincoln's Birthday.

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 20 - Presidents Day (Alameda County Offices are closed.)

Resource

Tax Saving 101 for New Homeowners

Becoming a new homeowner is both exciting and overwhelming! Once you become a homeowner there are numerous questions that may arise, including how to determine your assessed value and how to lower your tax bill.

How to estimate your new assessed value:

If you recently purchased your new home at market price, your new assessed value will likely be the purchase price. However, if you purchased the new property for below market price, the new assessed value will be the market value. Market value can be estimated by looking at the recent sale prices of comparable properties in the same area.

If you disagree with the assessed value of your new property and believe it should be lower, you can formally appeal the assessment to the Assessment Appeals Board (AAB). Appeals of regular assessments must be filed between July 2 and September 15. Appeals of Supplemental or Escape Assessments must be filed within 60 days of the date of "Notice of Supplemental Assessment" or "Notice of Enrollment of Escape Assessment" or the postmark date for that notice, whichever is later. All appeal applications must be filed with the Clerk of the Board. These forms may be obtained by calling (510) 272-6352 or by visiting the Clerk's website [HERE](#).

The AAB will consider all evidence presented by the property owner and the Assessor's Office at a formal hearing. The AAB will determine the value of the property in question. For information on how to prepare and present your assessment appeal, visit the California State Board of Equalization website and view a [video](#) segment or review the ["Residential Property Assessment Appeals"](#) brochure.

How does making changes to a newly purchased home impact your assessed value:

Under California state law, your property tax may increase due to "New Construction" activity. "New Construction" refers to any improvements to your home other than normal maintenance or repair. When construction is performed, the changed or new portion of your home may be reassessed at market value, thus increasing your property's assessment value.

If you make changes to your home that are not exempt from reassessment or part of normal maintenance, then your tax may be increased, and you will be required to report your new construction to the Assessor's Office. This report will allow the Assessor to adjust your assessment based on the improvement at market value, which will be added to your existing value.

Property tax savings programs available for new homeowners:

There may be property tax savings programs available to you as a new homeowner, such as the Homeowners' Exemption and the Disabled Veterans' Exemption. For specific information and forms required to claim these exemptions, please visit my website [HERE](#).

How to obtain ownership information:

Ownership information is available free of charge by visiting our Public Records section during normal business hours. Public Records is located inside the County Administration Building, 1221 Oak Street, Room 145, Oakland. [Directions to our office](#).

Ownership information for a limited number of parcels may be obtained by calling (510) 272-3787. Property ownership is also available in writing for a fee. Please call (510) 272-3787 for further information.

We are often asked why ownership information is not posted on our website since property ownership is part of the assessment roll, which by law is a public document. With the introduction of the Internet, government is faced with the issue of balancing public information requirements with the privacy rights of individuals.

The Assessor is legally prohibited from posting the home address of any elected or appointed official, including safety officers and retired officials, on the Internet. As

the cost and effort to continuously update this information is prohibitive, we do not display the names of any property owner on our website.

Profile Newark Chamber of Commerce



Incorporated in 1946, the Newark Chamber of Commerce's location is in downtown Newark, next to the Newark Community Center Park. It plays a huge role in the success of local businesses. The Chamber's early beginnings date back to the early 1900's as a driving force for industrial and economic growth. As an ad hoc city council, the Chamber had the responsibility of forming policies and resources for the fast developing city. They were the deciding vote for the 1955 incorporation of the City of Newark.

The main core values of the Newark Chamber are strengthening the local economy, promoting and connecting the community, and representing businesses.

The Newark Chamber is a membership business organization that supports and provides programs, events, and resource services to business and community leaders.

Apply to join the Newark Chamber of Commerce [HERE](#).

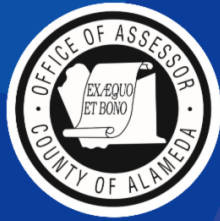
For more information on the Newark Chamber of Commerce, click [HERE](#) to visit their website.

CHAMBER ADDRESS:

<https://www.newark-chamber.com/>

CHAMBER ADDRESS:

35501 Cedar Blvd.
Newark, CA 94560



Property Transfer Clinic

Do you have questions about:

- The Assessment Process in Alameda County
- Transferring property to family members
- What happens to property after the death of a loved one
- Common exclusions from reassessment

Talk with a volunteer attorney for a
FREE 30-minute consultation.

Clinics are held every third Friday of every month. Visit
<https://appointments.aclibrary.org/appointments/lawyers>



Upcoming Dates:

March 17th, 2023
April 21st, 2023
May 19th, 2023

Appointments begin at
12:30PM.

The Property Transfer Clinic is a partnership between the Alameda County Library, the Alameda County Law Library, and Legal Access Alameda. It is funded by the Alameda County Assessor's Office.

The next Property Transfer Clinic will take place on March 17th. Please visit the link [HERE](#) to make an appointment with a volunteer attorney for a free 30-minute consultation.



MPX VACCINATIONS

Where?

Every Thursday

Skywest Golf Course Facility

Free of Charge

1401 Golf Course Rd. Hayward, CA 94541

9:00am-3:00pm

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Gay, bisexual, and other men or trans-persons who have sex with men
- Sex workers of any sexual orientation or gender identity
- Persons who have had close contact with someone with suspected/confirmed MPX within the past 14 days
- Persons who had close contact with others at an event or social gathering where a suspected/confirmed MPX case was identified within the past 14 days
- Laboratory workers who routinely perform MPX virus testing
- Clinicians who have had a high-risk occupational exposure (e.g., examined MPX lesions or collected MPX specimens without using recommended personal protective equipment)

BOOK AN APPT.

**Vaccinations are available
by appointment only**

Scan to book:



tinyurl.com/MPX-Skywest

For More Information Please Contact us at (510) 954-0560



Funded by Alameda County Measure A1
and approved by Alameda County taxpayers

Ready to buy your first home? Down payment assistance is available!

AC Boost provides financial assistance to middle-income working households to purchase a home in Alameda County. The program offers **shared equity loans of up to \$210,000** to first-time homebuyers who live, work, or have been displaced from Alameda County.
Application deadlines apply!

Learn more at acboost.org



¿Listo para comprar tu primera casa?

AC Boost ofrece préstamos de asistencia para el pago inicial de hasta \$ 210,000 para compradores de vivienda por primera vez que viven o trabajan en el Condado de Alameda o que han sido desplazados del Condado de Alameda. Asistencia en español está disponible.

Bạn đã sẵn sàng để mua ngôi nhà đầu tiên?

AC Boost cung cấp các khoản vay hỗ trợ thanh toán trước lên tới 210.000\$ cho những người mua nhà lần đầu sống hoặc làm việc tại Hạt Alameda hoặc những người phải chuyển nhà khỏi Hạt Alameda. Có hỗ trợ bằng tiếng Việt.

準備購買你的第一間房屋嗎？

AC Boost 提供 \$210,000 首期貸款幫助，給予首次買屋者。購房者要在亞拉米達縣 (Alameda County) 居住或工作，或在亞拉米達縣流離失所者。有中文提供幫助。

Handa na bang bumili ng unang bahay ninyo?

Ang AC Boost ay nag-aalok ng tulong sa paunang pagbayad na mga pautang ng may hanggang \$210,000 para sa mga unang-beses na mamimili ng bahay na nakatira o nagtrabaho sa Alameda County o sinumang napaalis mula sa Alameda County. May pagtulong sa Tagalog na magagamit.



acboost.org
(510) 500-8840
acboost@hellousing.org



AC Boost is funded by Measure A1 Affordable Housing Bond funds and administered by nonprofit organization Hello Housing on behalf of the County of Alameda.

The County of Alameda and Hello Housing do not discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, source of income, genetic information, medical condition, physical disability or mental disability, or any other category protected by law.

Ver. 7/12/2021



COVID-19 Updates

Covid-19 Testing

Interactive map to find testing sites and schedule appointments - [HERE](#).

Vaccine Distribution

All Alameda County residents, ages 5 and older, are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Alameda County.

- Pfizer is approved for all individuals, ages 5 and older.

- Johnson & Johnson and Moderna are approved for all individuals, ages 18 and older.

For more information on the Pfizer children's vaccine, click [HERE](#).

A comprehensive list of vaccination sites in Alameda County can be found [HERE](#).

Booster / Additional Dose Information

Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson are available as boosters and as additional doses for eligible individuals.

For those individuals who first received a Johnson & Johnson vaccination, a booster shot is recommended by the CDC after 2 months. Here are the current CDC recommendations:

For the first booster, an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) is preferred in most situations. The second booster must be an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

Booster shots are recommended to help restore protection and provide further protection from newer variants of the virus.

Please speak with your health care provider and learn if you are eligible for a booster by visiting the California FAQ page on boosters [HERE](#).

Disclaimer:

The contents of this article are intended for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing medical advice.

Alameda County Supervisors' American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Supervisorial District Community Needs Cash Aid Grants - [HERE](#)

Housing Assistance

OAKLAND - [HERE](#)

EMERYVILLE - [HERE](#)

LIVERMORE - [HERE](#)

Child Care

For Child Care in Alameda County - [HERE](#)

Food Distribution

Interactive map to find food, testing, and services in Alameda County - [HERE](#)

Employment

Alameda County Workforce Development Board - [HERE](#)

Agencies

California Small Business Development Center - [HERE](#)

California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development - [HERE](#)

Alameda County Workforce Development - [HERE](#)

Business Resources by City

ALAMEDA - [HERE](#)

ALBANY - [HERE](#)

BERKELEY - [HERE](#)

DUBLIN - [HERE](#)

EMERYVILLE - [HERE](#)

FREMONT - [HERE](#)

HAYWARD - [HERE](#)

LIVERMORE - [HERE](#)

NEWARK - [HERE](#)

OAKLAND - [HERE](#)

PIEDMONT - [HERE](#)

PLEASANTON - [HERE](#)

SAN LEANDRO - [HERE](#)

UNION CITY - [HERE](#)

