



## NEWS AND UPDATES



November 2008

### Safety Seminar for Senior Drivers

On November 14, 2008 Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) senior volunteer program hosted a seminar for older drivers to promote being healthy, active, fit, and safe so they can keep their car keys longer and continue to enjoy the freedom that driving allows.



Seniors at the North Berkeley Senior Center took part in a peer facilitated seminar about normal age-related physical changes and how to adjust to become better, safer, and more alert drivers. Easy and basic exercises that help with range of motion were among the health tips discussed and practiced during the seminar. Uniformed CHP officers and senior volunteers were on hand to discuss and answer questions.

In 2006, California DMV calculated that people between the ages of 65-85 have the lowest rate of "at fault" accidents of any age group. In 2010, it is projected that in California there will be 4.3 million people over 65 years old and 2.9 million of those people will be licensed drivers. As the 65-85 year old population increases, the rate of at fault accidents should not grow with it.

### Oakland Youth Movement Presents Survey Results

Drugs, violence, trash on the street, and lack of job opportunities for youth are the top problems youth see in their communities today. Oakland Youth Movement (OYM) and their adult allies gave a presentation to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on November 18, 2008 on their findings from their youth developed survey. 1,000 young people in West Oakland, Sobrante Park, Cherryland, and Ashland were surveyed. In West Oakland 91% of youth surveyed said drugs were a problem and 87% said violence was a problem. In Sobrante Park 73% of youth surveyed said violence and drugs were a problem. When asked how violence can be stopped the majority of young people wanted more jobs, sports and dance groups, and a recreation center.



In response to OYM's presentation Supervisor Keith Carson remarked, "Oakland has a lot of brilliance. Many times we only hear about the negative stuff that goes on, but there are so many incredible young people that are out there offering solutions to the challenges that affect all of our communities."

OYM is comprised of youth from East and West Oakland. Their purpose is to get opinions from Oakland's young people about the challenges in their communities and obtain their input about what resources are needed to address these issues. Young people in the organization work with staff from the Alameda County Public Health Department's Community Assessment, Planning and Education/Evaluation Unit. The survey explores what youth think about their neighborhoods, including: what they like, what they want to change, what kinds of resources they need, and how they feel about health and violence in their community.

"The Alameda County Public Health Department uses a positive youth development model," says Evette Brandon, Community Assessment, Planning and Evaluation Program Coordinator, "where we seek to have young people engage in their own development and are positively involved in their communities."

### Alameda County Adopts the Strategic Visioning Initiative

For the next 10 years the top priorities for Alameda County will be the environment and sustainability, safe and livable communities, healthy and thriving populations, transportation, and housing. On November 18, 2008 the Board of Supervisors voted to officially adopt the Strategic Visioning Initiative. The Strategic Vision will act as a guideline for the County when making decisions to change or improve services and programs. The vision contains the values of Alameda County that will support collaboration to drive and make fiscal decisions. Integrity, transparency, fiscal stewardship, customer service, diversity, and compassion are among the core values that have been identified.

Supervisor Keith Carson has led the efforts for the past two years to make this visioning process a reality. Supervisor Carson, along with the County Administrator's Office, has held five town hall meetings where 500 County employees had the opportunity to listen, respond, and participate in the strategic visioning development.

To help carry out the vision the County has collaborated across government lines—working with the Mayor's Conference and the City Manager Association, as well as working with professionals in the areas of business, academics, and community based organizations.

With the current status of the economy and a projected \$28 billion CA State budget deficit in 2009, "we have to do it ourselves," says Supervisor Carson, "Even with the new presidential administration coming into office we can't expect the cavalry to come anytime soon. We have to leverage resources, work across differences, and do it ourselves."

Each of the five board members will lead one of the priorities. County department heads will be instrumental in reviewing, understanding, and implementing the strategic vision plans. The CAO and department heads will present annual reports (at minimum) to provide what progress has been made towards implementing the vision and what milestones have been achieved in an effort to maintain transparency and accountability.