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District 5 “Quick Bits”

Release Date: March 15, 2011

The Fifth District includes the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, and West Oakland, North Oakland, Rockridge, Grand Lake, and portions of the Fruitvale, Manzanita and Dimond District neighborhoods.

FEDERAL NEWS



California is still growing, but not as fast as it has in the past, according to U.S. Census results released on March 7. The Bay Area grew at its slowest rate since California became a state, the [Contra Costa Times](#) reports.

[Oakland](#) experienced the most dramatic population shift. Among the largest cities in California, Oakland was one of two that lost residents. Nearly a quarter of the city’s African American residents left, or nearly 33,000 people. Asian, Latino, and white populations also increased in West Oakland.

In Berkeley, there was a 9.6 percent population increase, the [Daily Cal](#) reports. There was a slight increase in the city’s Asian population, a decline in the city’s black population, and white residents still constitute a 59.5 percent majority.

Albany’s population increased, reports the [Albany Patch](#), with the largest growth in the Asian population, which now makes up a third of the city’s population. There was also a 30 percent growth in those who identify as multi-racial, compared to 2000 reports.

Piedmont’s population continues to be stable, the [Piedmont Patch](#) reports, adding that the city’s diversity did slightly increase. Emeryville grew by 46.5 percent, according to the [Contra Costa Times](#). Most cities reported an increase in housing available.

The Census is conducted every ten years with the goal of counting every U.S. resident. The data collected determines the number of representatives each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives and is used to determine the allocation of federal funds going to local communities. Loss in population or low levels of participation in the census can lead to reductions in federal funding, which can adversely affect communities already struggling with poverty, unemployment and health concerns.

For more information about Census results for Alameda County, please [click here](#).

LOCAL NEWS



Legal Assistance for Seniors is offering FREE educational seminars on Medicare and scams targeting Seniors at the [North Oakland Senior Center](#) on March 18 and the [Albany Senior Center](#) on March 28.

[Click here for more information.](#)

THE SAN FRANCISCO FOUNDATION



The San Francisco Foundation’s **Non-profit Transitions Fund** helps organizations rethink and regroup in response to the downturn in the economy. The goal of the Nonprofit Transitions Fund is to help nonprofits reduce costs and time spent on administrative work, as well as increase productivity. Grants ranging from \$10,000—\$30,000 will support serious planning efforts, consultants, due diligence, and other expenses. **Due April 25!**

[Click here for more information.](#)

Stanford Youth Empowerment Conference

April 2, 2011, 9 AM—5 PM
Hewlett Auditorium
Stanford University

[For more information click here](#)

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www.KeithCarson.org

COUNTY NEWS



Alameda County Social Services Agency (SSA) is providing **free tax preparation assistance to low and moderate-income taxpayers** through April 13, 2011. Since 2002, SSA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) preparers have helped taxpayers to receive larger tax refunds by claiming the credits they have earned. According to the United Way, refunds claimed through the program in 2010 created 276 Bay Area jobs and \$73.3 million in local sales and wages.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is provided to working families, single or married individuals. Additionally, families and individuals may be eligible for childcare tax credits. To qualify for the EITC you must have earned income of \$48,279 or less during the 2010 tax year. Children are not a qualifying factor for this credit. Undocumented individuals and families can be assisted if Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) are available.

No Appointments Are Necessary! Walk-ins are welcome during the hours of operation:

Wednesdays: 5:30 - 8:30 PM,
Saturdays: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

District 5 location

Thomas L. Berkley, Self Sufficiency Center
2000 San Pablo Ave. Oakland, CA 94612

Read more about the County program:
<http://alamedasocialservices.org/public/features/eitc/index.cfm>

Read more about the Bay Area program:
<http://www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org/>