

July 2, 2015



BOARD FUNDS DIABETES INITIATIVE

Last month, the Board of Supervisors passed its annual spending plan for the new fiscal year that began July 1. I am pleased with this year's budget and the wide range of programs and services it will fund in the coming year. In particular, I am proud that it will include funding a key initiative of mine: the launch of the Diabetes Awareness Campaign and the creation of a new Diabetes Coordinator position.

Based on my track record for championing innovative public health programs, I was asked earlier this year to spearhead a countywide effort to curb the epidemic of diabetes. I proposed that the County engage in a multifaceted awareness campaign involving advertising, public education, and expanded screenings for pre-diabetes and diabetes. In addition, I called for a new Diabetes Coordinator position on the public health staff to oversee these efforts.

Type 2 diabetes is a chronic disease that affects 29 million people each year in the U.S. People with diabetes are at significantly increased risk for heart disease and stroke. The disease is the leading cause of kidney failure, new cases of blindness among adults, and non-traumatic lower-limb amputations.

Eighteen percent of adults in the County are diabetic or pre-diabetic, and countless others could be at high-risk of developing diabetes. Valley Medical Center has more than 35,000 diabetic patients now, compared to 15,700 in 2011, representing a 123% increase in four years.

Diabetes care is one of the major drivers of increased health care costs. If an effective diabetes prevention program for patients of the local health care safety net system could be implemented on a large scale, the potential for financial savings is substantial.

If we are going to slow the growth in health care costs associated with diabetes without limiting access, we need better prevention strategies. Implementation of the Diabetes Awareness Campaign and the new Diabetes Coordinator will go a long ways in allowing us to reach people before they actually become diabetic. The Board's approval of funds for this initiative is a critical investment in the fight against diabetes.

As always, I encourage you to contact my office if you have any concerns or are interested in additional information. You can reach me at 299-5040 or via email at Supervisor.Yeager@bos.sccgov.org.

YEAGER CELEBRATES MARRIAGE EQUALITY

On the morning of June 26, I proudly raised the Rainbow Flag at the County Government Center in celebration of the Supreme Court's ruling on marriage equality. The Court's decision brought joy and relief to millions across the country as same-sex couples in all fifty states were granted the freedom to marry. It was an extraordinary day, one that I and many others never imagined possible. It's a day that we won't soon forget.

Following several months of hearings, the majority of the Court determined that marriage is a constitutional right guaranteed to all citizens regardless of gender. The ruling by the Court immediately invalidated all state bans on same-sex marriage. As a result, the benefits and protections of marriage are now available to LGBTQ couples and their families across the country.

Santa Clara County has long been committed to the rights of same-sex residents, even before California gained full marriage equality. While serving on the San Jose City Council, I led the 2004 effort along with Mayor Ron Gonzales to recognize same-sex marriages of city workers that were performed elsewhere. In 2007, after finding that the County's Wedding Chapel was unfairly priced for same-sex commitment ceremonies, I worked with the Office of the Clerk-Recorder to resolve the inequity. I officiated over the first legal same-sex wedding ceremonies in the County when marriage equality briefly reached California in 2008, and when it returned for good in 2013. Since then, I have officiated over 100 same-sex unions.

I'm proud of the County's early support for marriage equality, and grateful to see this right extended to all LGBTQ Americans. While there are still many challenges ahead, marriage equality is a critical step on the road to full acceptance of LGBTQ people everywhere. The Court's ruling marks a clear and meaningful victory over bigotry and discrimination.

This ruling was particularly satisfying as it came on the heels of the Board of Supervisors' unanimous approval of funds for the Office of LGBTQ Affairs. Earlier this year I proposed the creation of the office, which I envisioned as a hub for LGBTQ initiatives and services through which the County would be able address disparities and coordinate efforts in the community. While many jurisdictions have staff liaisons to and advisory commissions from the LGBTQ community, Santa Clara County will become the first county government in the nation with such an office.

Also last month, I was recognized by the California Legislature's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus as a part of its annual Pride Ceremony. The ceremony was held at the State Capitol in Sacramento, where I was joined by several other LGBTQ leaders from around the state. It was a wonderful honor to be recognized for my many decades working for LGBTQ rights in the County.



Supervisor Yeager was honored by the California Legislature's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Caucus on June 22 in Sacramento. Pictured left to right: Assemblymember Kevin Mullen, Assemblymember Susan Eggman, Supervisor Ken Yeager, Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins, and Assemblymember Rich Gordon.

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY RAISES AWARENESS

July 28 is World Hepatitis Day. This is a great opportunity for residents to learn and share information about Hepatitis B, a preventable but widespread viral infection that can lead to liver cancer. As roughly two thirds of those who are chronically infected with hepatitis B do not know their status and are not connected to care, there is always more work to be done in spreading awareness.

Last year, I led the initiative to create a Hepatitis B Prevention Coordinator position at the Department of Public Health, the first of its kind in the nation. The Prevention Coordinator works with healthcare delivery systems and community partners to address the barriers to prevention and find opportunities for the screening and treatment. The position, along with countywide awareness campaigns in recent years, has proven critical in curbing infection rates in the County.

There are 1.4 million people in the U.S. living with the hepatitis B virus, which is responsible for 80% of liver cancer cases. Hepatitis B can be transferred through blood transfusions, shared or reused tattoo needles, or unprotected sex. However, the most common way hepatitis B is transferred is from mother to baby during childbirth.

Chronic hepatitis B infection is the third most commonly reported communicable disease in the County. Undiagnosed and untreated chronic hepatitis B is a major public health threat for Asians and Pacific Islanders, given higher rates of both hepatitis B and liver cancer relative to the general U.S. population. In the County, the liver cancer death rate among Vietnamese residents in 2007 to 2009 was more than four times higher than the rest of the county population.

Most people with hepatitis B are not receiving treatment for their infection due to a lack of awareness or access to care. By addressing this issue collectively, we can identify undiagnosed cases, provide chronic disease management and treatment to those who need it, and ultimately reduce rates of preventable liver cancer. I encourage residents to use this World Hepatitis Day to spread knowledge on the issue and help end hepatitis B in the County once and for all.

For more information on hepatitis B and World Hepatitis Day, visit www.worldhepatitisday.org.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

In November 2014, County voters approved Measure Q, a \$24 annual parcel tax for Open Space Authority projects and programs. The Measure calls for an Expenditure Oversight Committee to ensure accountability, transparency, and independent public supervision for all collected funds. The Authority is now accepting applications for the Committee.

Applicants should reside within the Open Space Authority's jurisdiction, which encompasses San Jose, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Campbell and unincorporated Santa Clara County. The Committee will consist of seven at-large members who will represent the jurisdiction. Each member will contribute unique talents including an understanding of budgets and audit reports. The Committee will meet no more than four times per year in order to review expenditures and the annual audit, and to submit an annual oversight report of the Measure Q funds.

The Authority covers over 16,000 acres of protected open space, natural areas, watersheds, and wildlife habitat. Through an extensive community engagement process, the Authority developed the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint, a 30-year vision for open space protection. The goals of Measure Q follow the priorities of the Greenprint, which include the preservation of our region's heritage, protection of water supplies, and an increase in easy public access to Authority land.

Applications are available at www.openspaceauthority.org/about/mqexecoversightcomm.html until 5 p.m. on July 6. To learn more about the Expenditure Oversight Committee, call 408-224-7476 or email contact@openspaceauthority.org.

FREE MEALS FOR KIDS DURING SUMMER

Many children rely on their schools to provide them with meals. During the summertime, however, when school is out of session, it's often a challenge for these children to access the nutrition they need. Fortunately, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers free meals throughout the summer at a number of locations in the region.

The Summer Food Service Program provides free nutritious meals every day while schools are out. There are dozens of meal sites in the County where children and teens ages eighteen and younger can receive free breakfasts or lunches, depending on the site. To locate your nearest meal site, use the Summer Meal Site Finder at www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks.

Additionally, you can use the new SMS texting function to locate meal sites. Text the word "food" for a response in English, or "comida" for a response in Spanish, to 877-877. The reply message will contain address and program information for sites closest to you. You can also locate meal sites by calling the National Hunger Hotline at 866-3HUNGRY (866-348-6479) or 877-8HAMBRE (877-842-6273).

For more information about the USDA's Summer Food Service Program, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program-sfsp>.

COUNTY FAIR STARTS JULY 30

There's nothing quite like the Santa Clara County Fair, where warm summer nights are filled with laughter, live music, roaring rides, and savory aromas. It's a place where families and friends can go to enjoy the best treats and thrills our county has to offer. With a number of exciting new attractions, the 2015 County Fair is not to be missed.

The 2015 County Fair will take place at the County Fairgrounds at 344 Tully Road in San Jose. The Fair will run from July 30 through August 2 at the following times:

- Thursday, 1 to 10 p.m.
- Friday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Sunday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.thefair.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Everyone loves a parade!

Come see Krazy George create the world's longest Wave along the route of this year's parade!

CLICK FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM!



from Lincoln High to The Alameda
Saturday, July 4, 2015
Parade 10 am • Festival 11 am - 3 pm
www.rosewhiteblueparade.com

Community Forum to Discuss County Jails

What: All are invited to a community forum with Sheriff Laurie Smith, Chief John Hirokawa, and other staff from the Department of Corrections regarding the County Jails. Family and friends of those currently detained are encouraged to attend and share thoughts. The event will be facilitated by Reverend Jeff Moore.

When: Sunday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: True Vine Baptist Church, 505 S. White Road, San Jose

More Information: Call the Sheriff Media Relations Unit at 408-808-4900.

Free Ukulele Lessons

What: Bring your ukulele and learn how to tune, play chords, and strum. Regardless of experience level, participants will learn how to play songs on the ukulele. The classes will focus on beginner basics in the first hour and song practice for the remainder of each lesson. Space is limited.

When: Tuesdays, July 9 through July 28 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Ave.

More Information: Visit www.sccl.org.

Silicon Valley S.T.E.A.M. Festival

What: Hot San Jose Nights presents its second annual Science and Aviation Festival. This free, family friendly event features a display of hundreds of vintage and exotic cars, as well as rare airplanes, warbirds, and helicopters. There will also be more than 100 exhibitors with fun hands-on activities, live music, gourmet food, and more. Parking is free, and all are welcome.

When: Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Reid-Hillview Airport, 2500 Cunningham Avenue, San Jose

More Information: Visit www.svsteamfest.com.

Campbell Roots

What: Come learn about Campbell's rich history of building community and maintaining a sense of township. The event will detail Benjamin Campbell's founding of the community his adventures as an American pioneer. Attendees will come away with an appreciation for Campbell as a vital part of the Valley of the Heart's Delight and its role today as a local hot spot within Silicon Valley.

When: Wednesday, July 22 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Campbell Library Community Room, 77 Harrison Ave.

More Information: Visit www.sccl.org.

5th Annual Silicon Valley Bike Summit

What: The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and Stanford Health Care present their annual gathering of active transportation leaders. Participants will hear fresh ideas about the future of safety and bicycling in Silicon Valley. There will also be a post-summit happy hour during which participants can mingle with colleagues and friends. The keynote speakers will Nuria Fernandez, CEO of Valley Transit Authority and Jim Hartnett, CEO and General Manager of the San Mateo County Transit District. Tickets are \$35, which includes a light breakfast, lunch, and happy hour. Scholarships for attendance are available to those in need.

When: Wednesday, August 26 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto

More Information: Visit www.bikesiliconvalley.org/bike-summit-2015.

This is an informative newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date on issues that I am working on, local updates, events in District 4, and County resources. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please hit the "reply" button and put the word "remove" in the body of the email. To receive a text-only version of the newsletter, please hit the "reply" button and put the words "text only" in the body of the email. To change the email address where you receive your newsletter, please hit the "reply" button and indicate the old and new email addresses in the body of the email. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an e-mail to supervisor.yeager@bos.sccgov.org with the subject: "Add."