



# MELISSA WILK

## ALAMEDA COUNTY

### AUDITOR-CONTROLLER/CLERK-RECORDER

*Fall 2022 Newsletter*

## *Message from Melissa*

Dear Alameda County,

Happy Autumn - I hope this Newsletter finds you and your families all doing well! The Fall season is upon us and once again we're bustling with back-to-school activities, preparations for the holiday season, and gatherings with family and friends.

My staff and I are also keeping very busy with the wide variety of services that we are privileged to provide to the community - from disbursing funds for the County's Small Business Recovery Program, to providing levy and bond rates to the Treasurer-Tax Collector to issue the annual property tax bills, and certifying local businesses in the County's Small, Local, Emerging Business program. Read more about our services below!



Since my last Newsletter I have had the continued honor of meeting and interacting with many of you at recent community events throughout the County. My team and I were thrilled to participate in the Healthy Living Festival recently presented by the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County - one of the largest senior events in the area. We were also at the Science in the Park, a fun-filled family event held in Hayward that focuses on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math), the environment and health. And, as we are actively recruiting to fill Agency positions, we were fortunate enough to be able to meet and provide information to the many who attended two recent Career Fairs at Bay Area universities. I am looking forward to participating in more of these events including next month, in honor of Veteran's Day, when I will be joining Supervisor Richard Valle at the Veterans Arts Partnership exhibition at the Hayward Public Library - it is truly a pleasure to be a part of these events, meeting community members and sharing information about our services!

As I have previously mentioned, I am proud to serve the rich diversity of communities throughout Alameda County. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15), and October's LGBTQ+ History Month, and Filipino American History Month celebrating the cultures, achievements, and contributions of the generations of these and so many other Americans that enrich our community.

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Lastly, I want to remind everyone to exercise their civic duty to vote in the General Election coming up on Tuesday, November 8. The [Voters Choice Act](#) has been adopted in Alameda County, which provides more flexibility and convenience to residents. Voters now have more days to vote, and are not restricted to voting at one specific polling location. You can drop off your ballot at any of the County's many designated polling sites or at a ballot drop box or mail your ballot by November 8. To locate a polling site or ballot drop box near you and to learn more, please see the link provided in the article below.

Thank you for allowing me to share our Agency news, updates and information, and I hope that you enjoy reading this Fall's quarterly Newsletter. For more information about our services, please visit our [website](#). I wish you all a joyful Fall and holiday season, and look forward to connecting with you again in 2023!

Best,

*Melissa Wilk*

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## **Annual Property Tax Bills**

Many of you have likely received your property tax bills for the 2022-23 tax year.

The annual property tax bills are prepared and mailed by the Treasurer-Tax Collector and include information provided by my office. The Auditor-Controller's Tax Analysis Unit is responsible for applying the 1% general levy and applicable voter-approved debt service rates (such as from school bond measures) to all property tax assessments in Alameda County. The Tax Analysis Unit also applies fixed charges and special assessments (such as city library services and sewer services) from the various districts that you see on your tax bill. If you have questions about your property tax rate or the apportionment of your property taxes, please give us a call at [\(510\) 272-6564](tel:5102726564) and we'll be happy to help you. We're available Monday through Friday 8:30am-5:00pm.



At times, the County may need to adjust your previous tax bill, and you may be entitled to a refund. This typically happens after the County Assessor or Assessment Appeals Board determines that your property should have been valued lower. If this happens, the County Assessor and the Auditor-Controller's Tax Analysis Unit would be happy to assist you - our refund service is provided directly to property owners at no cost!

For more information regarding:

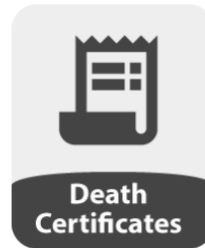
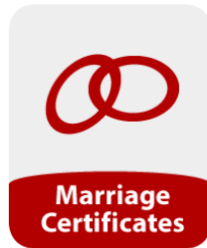
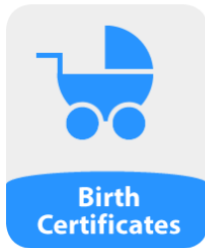
- Who to contact about your property tax statements and bill - visit [treasurer.acgov.org](https://treasurer.acgov.org)
- Who to contact about property tax refunds - visit [acgov.org/auditor/tax](https://acgov.org/auditor/tax)
- How to look-up your refund status - visit [acgov.org/auditor/tax/refund](https://acgov.org/auditor/tax/refund)

For answers to questions about:

- Refunds, tax bill corrections, tax rates, or debt service rates - call the Auditor-Controller's Tax Analysis Unit at [\(510\) 272-6564](tel:5102726564)
- Property values, exemptions, change of ownership, new construction - call the Assessor at [\(510\) 272-3787](tel:5102723787)
- Paying your tax bill, replacement of tax bills, late charges, delinquent tax bills - call the Treasurer/Tax Collector at [\(510\) 272-6800](tel:5102726800)

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## SAVE TIME AND ORDER ONLINE



Need a birth, marriage, or death certificate? Save yourself time and order online! Select our pick-up option, and we can typically turn around your order within a few days.

Once you've submitted your order, you can check the status of your request online. You can then request the document be mailed to you, or you can pick it up from our Office. It's just that easy!

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## Clerk-Recorder Agency Hosts Property Records Industry Association Conference



My office continues to ensure that we are implementing best practices for recording and protecting public records. We look for ways to build industry relationships, solve business issues, and learn about new laws, technologies and processes that apply to the property records industry in our region. On October 4, my Agency was happy to host a regional conference at the Alameda County Dublin Library branch bringing together members of the Northern California Chapter of Property Records Industry Association (PRIA). PRIA is designed to help those involved in

the recording of public records. Topics at the conference included the implementation of Assembly Bill 1466 regarding unlawful restrictive covenants, “getting back to normal” after the pandemic, a presentation on cyber security, and an update from the Alameda County Assessor.

## Small Business Recovery Grant Funding

The Alameda County Small Business Recovery Grant program is providing funding to small businesses in the County that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible brick-and-mortar businesses can apply for a one-time grant of \$10,000, and eligible home-based businesses can apply for \$5,000. Grant funds will not require repayment.

The program was authorized by the [Alameda County Board of Supervisors](#) when it appropriated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in response to and recovery from the public health emergency and negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is open to all eligible for-profit small businesses (1 to 25 employees) and is administered by the [East Bay Economic Development Alliance](#) and the Alameda County Community Development Agency’s [Economic & Civic Development Department](#). Please visit [acbusiness.org](http://acbusiness.org) to learn about eligibility, read the FAQs, and more. The grant period closes on October 31, 2022. Program materials are available in multiple languages.

The Auditor-Controller's Disbursements Division is proud to support the County’s Small Business Recovery Grant Program by establishing payees in our financial system and issuing the grant payments to eligible small businesses.

### ALAMEDA COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANT



GET UP TO **\$10,000** FOR  
YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

Priority funding for impacted communities

*Apply today!*

SCAN HERE

APPLICATION DEADLINE

**Monday, October 31, 2022**



APPLY AT

[ACBUSINESS.ORG](http://ACBUSINESS.ORG)

## General Election on Tuesday, November 8

Mark your calendars for the upcoming General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022! The [Voters Choice Act](#) gives you more flexibility and convenience.

All registered Alameda County voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot. Ballots are mailed approximately one month before the election. You can return your vote-by-mail ballot by mail in the enclosed envelope as long as it's postmarked by Election Day, and received by the Registrar of Voters' Office by Tuesday, November 15. Alternatively, you can drop-off your ballot in-person at a secure ballot drop box or at a Vote Center before 8:00 p.m. on November 8, 2022. If you want to vote in-person, you now have 11 days to vote at any Vote Center throughout Alameda County. So you can vote from home, near your home or work, before Election Day or on Election Day - so many choices!



To learn more about how to register to vote, how to vote by mail, voting locations, and what's on

## Alameda County's Small, Local, Emerging Business Program



Twenty-two years ago the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved the [County's Small Local Emerging Business \(SLEB\) Program](#) to enhance contracting and procurement opportunities for small, local and emerging businesses within Alameda County by providing up to 10% bid preferences on eligible contracts. The program was developed to promote and foster inclusiveness, diversity and economic development, as well as provide on-going

evaluation to ensure that all local businesses are provided equal opportunities in County contracting and procurement activities.

I am proud to have the SLEB Certification component of this valuable program within the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency to serve our small business community. We work with other local public agencies in the East Bay Interagency Alliance (EBIA) and share a Common Application to streamline the certification process. Click [here](#) To complete and submit a SLEB certification application and as always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding SLEB certification! The SLEB Certification Unit can be reached at the email address [ACSLEBCertification@acgov.org](mailto:ACSLEBCertification@acgov.org) or by calling [\(510\) 891-5500](tel:5108915500).

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## Alameda County Celebrates National Arts



On October 4, the [Alameda County Board of Supervisors](#) proclaimed October as [Arts and Humanities Month](#) in Alameda County and gave commendations to the 2022 Arts Leadership Award recipients. Standing with the [Proclamation](#) (from left to right) is Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Melissa Wilk, Arts Commission Director Rachel Osajima, President of the Board of Supervisors Keith Carson, and Alameda County Supervisor Dave Brown. Attending the meeting by teleconference

were Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert, appointed members of the [Alameda County Arts Commission](#), and the six Arts Leadership Award recipients: Dennis Baker, Tina Blaine, Anne Giancola, Naomi Johnson-Diouf, Naru Kwina, and Ruey Lin Syrop. [Read more here](#). Congratulations to all of the award recipients!

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## Honoring our Alameda County Veterans

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in





Arlington National Cemetery. Similar ceremonies around the world also took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting on November 11, 1918. The day officially became known as Armistice Day in 1926 through a Congressional resolution, and became a national holiday twelve years later. In 1954, Congress and President Eisenhower renamed November 11 as Veterans Day to honor the service of all U.S. veterans. Alameda County offices will be closed on November 11 to observe this important federal holiday.



**ALAMEDA COUNTY  
VETERANS ART PARTNERSHIP**

Show dates: September 20 to November 28, 2022  
Artists' Reception: Monday, November 7, 2 to 4 PM  
Hayward Public Library Galleries, 888 C Street, second floor

Partnerships with Alameda County Arts Commission, Oakland Vet Center, Hayward Arts Council, and Hayward Public Library



Alameda County Veterans Art Partnership participants with their artwork. Photo by Paul Kuroda.

In honor of Veteran's Day, I will be joining [Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle](#) a Vietnam Veteran, at the Veterans Arts Partnership exhibition at the Hayward Public Library. Supervisor Valle and I will meet with Alameda County Veterans and their family members who created the exhibition artwork through the Veterans Art Partnership program. Since 2015, this unique partnership between the [Alameda County Arts Commission](#) and the [Oakland Vet Center](#) has provided local Alameda County Veterans with an opportunity to express themselves in a supportive environment, learn new art skills, and build community. To view this inspiring exhibition, I invite you to visit the Hayward Public Library Galleries through

November 28. I am so pleased and proud to be a part of the collaboration that makes this exhibition possible between the Alameda County Arts Commission, the Oakland Vet Center, the Hayward Arts Council, and the Hayward Public Library! For more information, [click here](#).

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## Healthy Living Festival



Members of my staff and I joined [Supervisor Nate Miley](#) and [Supervisor David Haubert](#) at the 19th annual Healthy Living Festival, presented by the [United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County](#) (USOAC) at the Oakland Zoo on Thursday, September 29.

Since 1986, the USOAC has served as a voice for older adults and a vehicle for senior empowerment. The USOAC is a grassroots, multi-ethnic, intergenerational nonprofit organization focused on issues that impact Alameda County seniors and their allies.

This year's Healthy Living Festival served as one of the largest senior events in the area, providing a rich source of information and resources, free flu and COVID vaccines, socialization, diversity, live music and dancing, and physical activity for older adults countywide.

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## Science in the Park



**Science in the Park** is a biennial event organized and hosted by **Supervisor Richard Valle**. This year's event was held on October 4 at Cal State East Bay in Hayward to provide an opportunity for the community to learn more about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math), the environment, and health.

My staff participated in this event with an information booth and a fun hands-on watercolor activity presented by the Arts Commission. The overall event included a wide variety of hands-on STEAM activities for youth and families. Community members enjoyed participating in the long-standing egg drop challenge as well as designing and launching paper rockets. Other activities included a bicycle repair station, art activities, and health screenings. Many County agencies were in attendance to provide community members with information about services and answer questions. The Raising Leaders Program participants were an important part of the event, providing support throughout the day. Our office was delighted to participate in this important community event.



## Career Fairs and Internship Opportunities

Staff from the Auditor-Controller Management Services Division recently participated in Career Fairs at two local universities to share information about job and internship opportunities. On October 5, they met with students from Saint Mary's College at their Career, Internship, Graduate and Law School Career Fair, and on October 13, they attended Cal State East Bay's Business, Science and Technology Career Fair. Visitors to the Agency's information booth learned about the essential role our Agency plays within Alameda County government, and in addition to discussing our Agency's Internship Program and job opportunities, attendees were invited to learn more about Countywide opportunities and job



resources by visiting the Alameda County [website for more information](#).

Our Agency's Internship Program offers a wide range of job assignments, from conducting audits of County programs to working on arts related projects, and assisting the local community in obtaining their public records. Full-time, part-time and short-term internships are available with flexibility for current students. To apply, please submit your resume with a cover letter telling us about your educational focus, and why you are interested in working with the Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency. Applications should be emailed to [hr.auditor@acgov.org](mailto:hr.auditor@acgov.org). To learn more about the Internship Program watch this [short video](#).

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## Celebrating Leadership

On October 5, I was very happy to recognize the achievements of the county-wide [Raising Leaders Program](#) that would not be possible without the enduring support of [Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle](#). As part of the "Adopt-a-Block" program, Supervisor Valle was honored by dozens of Raising Leaders, and local public and elected officials as a block within Hayward was named in his honor.



Raising Leaders was founded in 2017 by Davida Scott and is a program that provides free workshops to students that focus on employability skills, financial awareness, career exploration and educational opportunities. The program provides opportunities to students who may be in alternative education schools, foster care, are low-income, or are otherwise at an academic disadvantage. Students in the Raising Leaders program receive five school credits, updated résumés and 16 hours of community service upon completion, along with the opportunity to interview for a paid internship. My Agency is proud to participate in and support the Raising Leaders program and has placed many interns at our Agency.

[Hayward's "Adopt-a-Block" Program](#) encourages community members to get involved in community service by taking care of the community by keeping a designated block clean and litter free. This program helps improve the appearance of our community while also helping to reduce environmental pollution and prevent crime.

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## Jeopardy Champion Marries at the Clerk-Recorder's Office

Oakland resident [Amy Schneider](#), who made history on "Jeopardy!" and won more than \$1 million, said that she and her partner Genevieve Davis secretly wed in May at





the Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's Office. Amy shared the news on her Instagram sharing photos from the wedding. Amy achieved a 40-game winning streak on "Jeopardy!" and is second only to winner-turned-host Ken Jennings.

Amy is also the first transgender qualifier for the Tournament of Champions. She was [invited to the White House](#) on March 31, 2022 to help mark [Transgender Day of Visibility](#), an international day of awareness for trans rights. She also encouraged other trans people to follow their dreams. "Specifically to trans people out there, anything you wanted to do before, you can still keep chasing those same dreams," Amy said.

I want to extend my personal congratulations to Amy and Genevieve, and thank them for letting us be part of their special day!



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## Visiting the Oakland Clerk-Recorder's Office

The Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's Office has two locations, one in Dublin and one in Oakland. For information about each location, and a list of our in-person services currently available at each Office, please visit our [website](#).

The Oakland Office is located at 1106 Madison Street in Oakland and has an outside lobby located through a side entrance on 11th Street. There, you will see a sign directing you to our covered patio area to obtain a service ticket.

When visiting the Oakland location in-person:

- Consider commuting by bus, BART, bike or getting dropped off and picked up. We are a five minute walk from the Lake Merritt BART station, and served by ten AC Transit bus lines.
- Park at our limited metered street parking in the area, or at the ALCOPARK parking garage that is conveniently located nearby at 165 13th Street (entrance on Jackson Street).
- Advise the Clerk-Recorder representative of everything that you need to complete during your visit; your visit may require multiple tickets.
- Ask about our mobile ticketing system; our system can send text alerts to your phone.
- Enjoy waiting in the outside covered patio area until your number is called.
- Please let us know what we can do for you. We have forms and services available in multiple languages; restrooms are available while you wait; and we even have face masks in case you left yours at home.
- Please pay with cash, checks or debit card; we do not accept credit cards.
- Note that our busiest times are 11:00am-2:30pm, especially on Mondays and Fridays. If you have any questions prior to your planned visit, please give us a call us at [\(510\) 272-6362](tel:5102726362).

Visiting us online:

- Use our online system to obtain a birth, death, or marriage certificate, or copies of an official record.
- Once you've submitted your online order, you can check the status of your request online. You can then request the document be mailed to you, or you can pick it up from our

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## Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month and *Día de los Muertos*



Each year, Americans observe [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

[Día de los Muertos](#) is a time to honor and remember our loved ones who have passed and who live in our memories. Observed on October 31st and November 1st in Mexico and other Latin American countries as well as the U.S., families build home altars, known as *ofrendas*, as a way to remember and welcome the spirits of the departed. The *ofrendas* often

include photos, favorite foods and beverages, candles, *cempazúchitl* (marigold flowers), *papel picado* (cut tissue paper designs), and sugar skulls. The days involve the gathering of family and friends to share stories and memories.

In the Bay Area, Chicano and Mexican-American artists in the 1970's introduced altar-making beyond the home as a means of artistic and cultural expression. Today, many local museums such as the Oakland Museum of CA and neighborhoods throughout the Bay Area observe *Día de los Muertos* as a day to unite the community, to remember the departed, and to appreciate this cultural tradition.

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## Supporting Local Nonprofit Organizations

On October 12, I visited the [Oakland Museum of California](#) and met with Lori Fogarty, Director and CEO of the Museum. We toured the outdoor garden and galleries with Rachel Osajima, Director of the Alameda County Arts Commission. The Oakland Museum's outdoor garden provides a great place to take a walk and get some fresh air! It's free to visit the garden and it is open during the Museum's regular hours. Located just around the corner from the County Administration Building, the entrance is on Oak Street between 10th and 12th Streets. The Museum's open hours are Wednesday – Sunday from 11:00am to 5:00pm with every Friday night open until 9:00pm. On the terraced garden, you can take in the view of Lake Merritt, while enjoying the newly renovated garden and outdoor seating. Town Fare, the café at the Museum, is open with the new chef and manager Michele McQueen, formerly of Gussie's Chicken and Waffles.



The Oakland Museum was established in 1969. The Museum shares the stories that comprise California, creating the space and context for greater connection, trust, and understanding between people. The Museum's ongoing stability and contributions to the community are vital to

ensuring access and appreciation of the arts throughout Alameda County. In August 2022, the Museum, along with 181 other County arts and cultural organizations, received a grant through the Alameda County Arts Relief program.

*"The Oakland Museum of California and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations throughout Alameda County greatly appreciate the County's Arts Relief grant program. The Covid recovery grant received by OMCA was extremely helpful in enabling us to retain staff and resume programming following several difficult months of closure. The grant support reflects that the leadership of Alameda County understands and supports the importance of arts and cultural organizations throughout this region. Thank you Melissa for your leadership and support!"*

- Lori Fogarty, Director and CEO of the Oakland Museum of California

## QUESTIONS FOR OUR AGENCY?

Are there upcoming community events that you would like us to attend? Do you have a specific question you would like to ask? Is your community or organization interested in a presentation about the services provided by the County and the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency?



Email Melissa Wilk at [ACCR.info@acgov.org](mailto:ACCR.info@acgov.org) to let her know what questions we can answer and how we can support your efforts. We look forward to sharing upcoming news with you in the Fall as we move to a quarterly schedule for our newsletter.

## STAY IN TOUCH

If this email was forwarded to you, subscribe to our newsletter by emailing us at [ACCR.info@acgov.org](mailto:ACCR.info@acgov.org).

Visit our Website

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