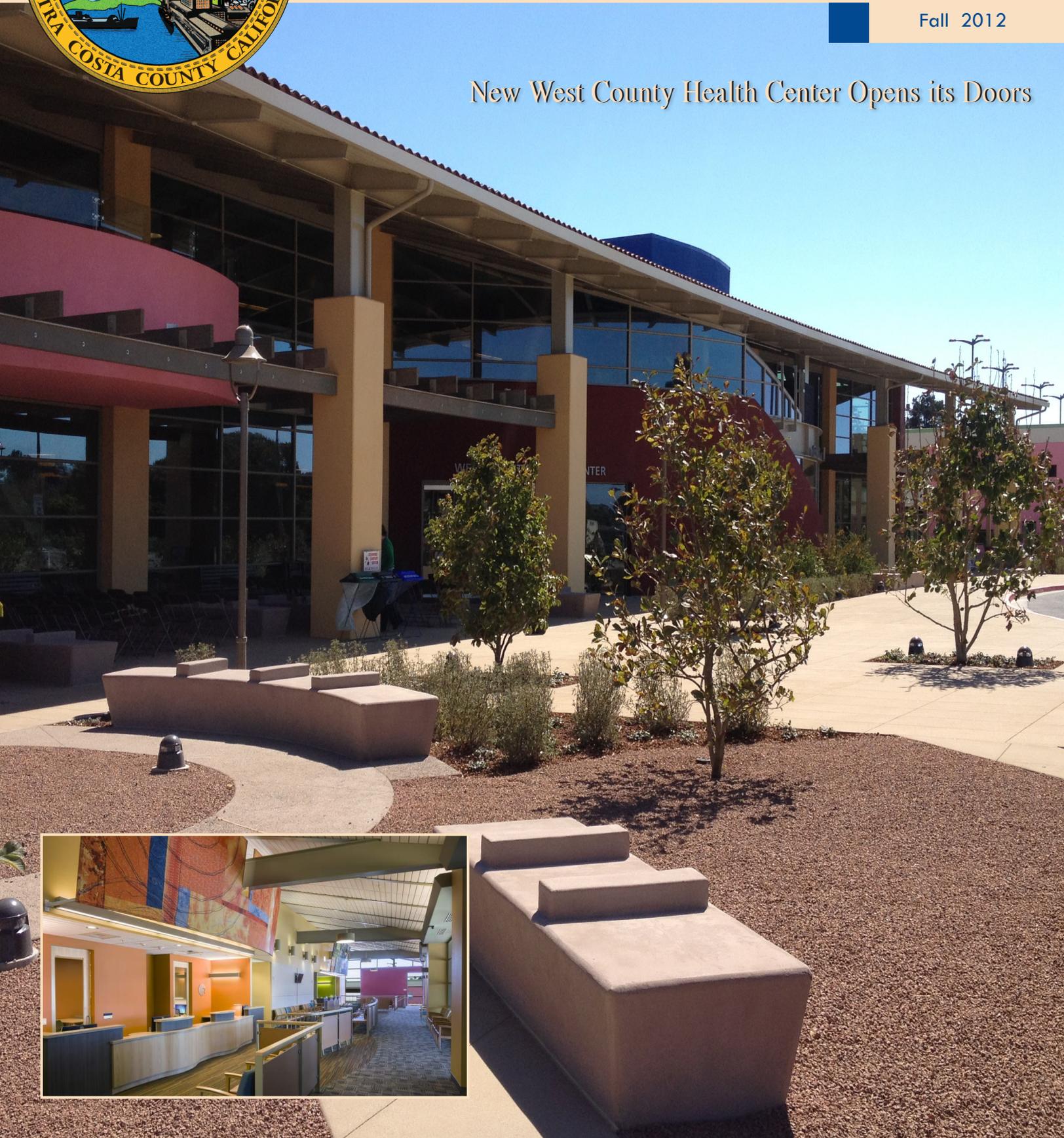


# COUNTY CLIPS

A Newsletter for Employees of Contra Costa County

Fall 2012

## New West County Health Center Opens its Doors



# Message from Supervisor Piepho



## FOOD BANK

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity - especially with the Combined Charities drive winding down this month - as we again partner with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and work to end hunger. The caring and generosity of Contra Costa County employees is amazing.

As funding continues to be cut from County services, many of our neighbors have to rely more and more on community-based groups like the Food Bank. Every cent collected by Contra Costa is given directly to the Food Bank, which uses 95¢ of every dollar donated directly on food programs. One-third of distributed food is fresh produce. One in four emergency food recipients are children.

As you know, Contra Costa County has been engaging Solano County in a friendly competition to raise support for the Food Bank since 2003 and, with all of our contributions, Contra Costa was again the winner last year. And remember, we also have our “friendly” department competition, so Good Luck!

## VOTE!

Make your voice heard – if you are signed up to vote by mail please pull your ballot out of that stack and mail it in! If you aren't voting by mail, please make that calendar entry so you don't forget to make it to the polls on Election Day.

Remember, your vote counts!

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I have very much enjoyed serving as Chair of the Board of Supervisors this year, and am having a hard time believing that this year is almost over! Together we have accomplished a lot, and much of it was difficult, but I believe we have all contributed towards putting Contra Costa County on a better track for the future. Going forward, I look forward to working with all of you in service to our residents. As always please feel free contact my office, that of the incoming Chair, or any of the other members of the Board of Supervisors with any questions or comments you may have. Again, I greatly value and appreciate your daily contributions to our citizens and taxpayers.

Mary Nejedly Piepho, District III Supervisor  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

### Brentwood Office:

3361 Walnut Blvd., Suite 140 Brentwood, CA 94513

### South County Office:

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## Board of Supervisors Office Locations

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#### San Ramon Valley Office Information:

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315 East Leland Road, Pittsburg, CA 94565

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#### Martinez Office Information:

651 Pine Street, 4th Floor, Martinez, CA 94553

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#### Hercules Office Information:

151 Linus Pauling Drive, Hercules, CA 94547

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## County Clips

Fall Edition - 2012

New Health Center	4
Combined Charities	5
2012 Holiday Food Fight	6
Veterans' Day Celebration	7
Library Birthday Bash	8-9
Early Warning	10
Employee Flu Shots	10
Juvenile Hall Holiday Drive	10
Elections	11



## 2013 Ramping up for Golden Guardian

Staff from a variety of agencies throughout the County gathered at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on October 18, 2012, to participate in a tabletop exercise leading up to a major statewide drill coming in May of 2013. May's "Golden Guardian" event will find the Contra Costa participants responding to a catastrophic 7.9 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault. The focus of the exercise is to provide those who respond to an activation of the EOC with an opportunity to improve their understanding of their roles and responsibilities during a significant event. The May 15 exercise will involve a full 8-hour activation. Participants include county staff, and representatives from various cities, special districts, American Red Cross, 211, California's Emergency Management Agency and more.

### Recommendations Please

County Clips is your employee newsletter. Please send us your comments, questions & suggestions.

You can contact us at (925) 313-1180 or email us at [christine.wampler@contracostatv.org](mailto:christine.wampler@contracostatv.org).

# West County Health Center

The new West County Health Center is officially open for business. Patients are no longer being seen at the former Richmond Health Center, which stopped seeing patients October 4. The West County Health Center, operated by our Health Services Department, offers the same great services patients enjoyed at the Richmond Health Center. The only difference is the brand new state-of-the-art facility. Some services offered by the Department's Public Health Division remain at the Richmond Health Center location, including WIC and the walk-in immunization clinic on Monday afternoons. Mental health services also remain at the Richmond facility. All other medical services have been moved to the new Health Center, located at 13601 San Pablo Avenue in San Pablo.



## Health Center Completion was a Collaborative Effort

The West County Health Center represents one of the most significant County capital projects in recent memory. The new 53,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art medical building is adjacent to a new 3-level, 120,000 sq. ft., 310 car parking garage. The \$45 million project was partially funded with \$12 million of federal stimulus money, which in turn required an ambitious completion schedule. What is normally a 4 year project for design and construction in the public sector was completed in a record-breaking 26 months.

Health Services sponsored the project, with major work by the Finance and Hospital & Health Center staff, but it was truly a joint effort of many county staff, including the Capital Projects Management Division of General Services which managed all phases of the project – design, permitting, bid award and construction. The Department of Conservation and Development also contributed by reviewing the building plans for the Health Center and performing necessary inspections.

The collaboration needed to ensure this project got off the ground included elected officials as well, with leadership from Supervisor John Gioia and Congressman George Miller seen as crucial to getting the West County Health Center from an idea to reality. The expectation is that the Health Center will also help alleviate the overuse of the Emergency Room at nearby Doctors Medical Center. Congratulations to all who took part in bringing the much-needed facility to West County!

To find out more about the West County Health Center, visit [http://cchealth.org/topics/west\\_county\\_center/](http://cchealth.org/topics/west_county_center/)

# 2012 Combined Charities Campaign

The 2012 Annual Combined Charities Campaign – “**Helping the Community**” is a Contra Costa County tradition that allows employees to make charitable contributions via payroll deductions throughout the course of the year to support their favorite charities. If you’ve put off making your 2012 donation decisions, the time is now to take another look at the Resource Guide listing hundreds of worthy causes. This year’s campaign wraps up on Halloween, and it only takes a few moments to sign-up.

Even during these difficult financial times, County employees were generous in 2011 and donated \$197,867 to charities, many of them local. All of last year’s contributions came from just 828 County employees – if we could get at least 1,000 employees to donate this year we would probably be able to surpass last year’s total and hopefully top \$200,000 in donations. Many employees have made the commitment to donate every year, and we are grateful for your contributions. Our goal this year is to bring in more first time donors. It’s important to remember that every dollar counts; small donations from many people add up quickly. Setting your contribution up as a payroll deduction makes it easy for you, and gives charities the security of knowing what money will be coming in during 2013 for their planning purposes.

## 2012 Contra Costa County Combined Charities Campaign



You will notice in the information that you received that there are 13 local County non-profits that you can donate to that are administered by the County and assist local charitable causes. Please review the information about these County non-profits and decide if you would like to make a donation to one of them.

This year’s Campaign Chair is Gus Kramer, Contra Costa County Assessor. If you have any questions about the campaign, you can contact Debra McClanahan at (925) 313-7508 or [debra.mcclanahan@assr.cccounty.us](mailto:debra.mcclanahan@assr.cccounty.us).

You can also find out more on the County’s intranet by checking the campaign website: <http://combinedcharities.contra-costa.org/>.

Thank you for “**Helping the Community!**”



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CARES

HOLIDAY

FOOD FIGHT

2012

Over the past decade, county employees have opened their hearts and wallets to support the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, demonstrating a commitment to feed the hungry. As this year's Food Fight swings into action, an exciting milestone is within our reach. If we keep up the 2011 pace of giving, we will cross the million dollar mark in cumulative donations.

MAKE IT

\$1,000,000



The need is greater than ever with so many families seeking help to put food on the table. Last year, the Food Bank fed more than 22,000 children and distributed more than 10 million pounds of food in Contra Costa County alone. Last year's \$94,000 in donations on behalf of Contra Costa County employees made a huge difference in the Food Bank's ability to support those who need it. More importantly, our years of raising funds have helped the Food Bank expand its programs to include Farm 2 Kids (fresh produce weekly for more than 9,000 children in 79 after school programs in Contra Costa & Solano counties); the Community Produce Program (free produce provided twice a month in low-income communities); and Summer Food for Kids, working with the agencies served by the Food Bank.

What began with modest expectations in 2003 has become a source of pride in our departments, where friendly competitions are already in the works for 2012. This year's Food Fight begins in just a few weeks, with department leads finding out the latest tricks and treats at a kickoff breakfast set for Halloween. You'll be hearing soon how you can join in on the fun. In addition to our own contributions, from now until mid-November, family and friends can support us by donating online at [www.foodbankccs.org](http://www.foodbankccs.org) and writing in "Contra Costa Holiday Food Fight" in the box labeled "Food Drive or Special Event."

Beginning November 19, there will be a special link on the Food Bank's website that will take you to the "Counties Care Holiday Food Fight." Once there, a drop-down menu will allow you (and your friends) to specify whether you're an employee or a friend of the county

drive, and, as an employee, you can write in your own department to ensure proper credit.

Many employees are facing difficult times financially as well, and we recognize that you're being asked to give at a time when that may be difficult. Donations of time and creativity for this year's Food Fight are welcome, too, as we set our sights on crossing the million dollar threshold.

**For further information,** please contact Kate Sibley at **925-335-1032** or at [ksibl@lafco.cccounty.us](mailto:ksibl@lafco.cccounty.us).

# Veterans' Day Celebration Invitation November 13th

**W**hether you are a veteran, have a family member or friend who is a veteran or even if you are just a patriotic American, the Board of Supervisors would like to invite you to attend the 4th Annual Veterans' Day Celebration. The celebration will be held at **11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 13th**, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers located in the County Administration Building at 651 Pine Street in Martinez.

The event will include a presentation of colors by the Concord Marines, singing of the "National Anthem," greeting and acknowledgements by the County Veterans Service Office, guest speaker 1st Sgt. Simon Sandoval, presentation of proclamations by Supervisor Mary N. Piepho and the celebration will conclude with "America the Beautiful." Please consider joining us for this Annual Celebration of our veterans to show that Contra Costa County values their service and understands that freedom isn't free.

## **DID YOU KNOW THAT?**

- Contra Costa County is home to over 65,000 Veterans.
- Over 500 service members annually return home to Contra Costa County after completing their military service.
- Living Veterans have served during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Peacetime ERAs.
- There are over 13 unique Veterans Service Organizations in Contra Costa County.
- Veterans share a common experience and identity by having worn a uniform, taken an oath to protect the constitution, and having served throughout the world.
- Contra Costa County is home to 2 Blue Star Mom's Organizations, representing hundreds of currently serving military service members.
- The Board of Supervisors Veterans' Day Ceremony is an important way for Contra Costa County to recognize and honor the service of Veterans.

# Veterans Day

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED  
NOVEMBER 11

# Contra Costa Library Turns 100!

## Break out the Candles

### Contra Costa Library Turns 100!

On July 21, 1913, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors authorized the establishment of the county's Library system. Within five years, there were 33 branches throughout the county and dozens of schools affiliated with them as well. By the mid-50s, the Library was already bringing information to the community with a Bookmobile service. In 1985, it reached another milestone, having purchased more than one million volumes. Within just the past year, more than 7.5 million items were checked out from community libraries.



[ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org)  
CONTRA COSTA  
COUNTY LIBRARY  
*Bringing People and Ideas Together*

*Continued on the next page*



## Contra Costa Library Turns 100!

Just shy of a century old now, Contra Costa Library has been recognized repeatedly with major state and national awards for its innovative methods of bringing library services to the people. "Technology is a means to an end," says County Librarian Barbara Flynn. "And the end here is reaching our community and customers." The Library created "Snap & Go," a mobile device application that allows library cardholders to read e-books on their phones. New this year is "Discover & Go," which connects library users with downloadable discount passes to museums and galleries throughout the bay area.

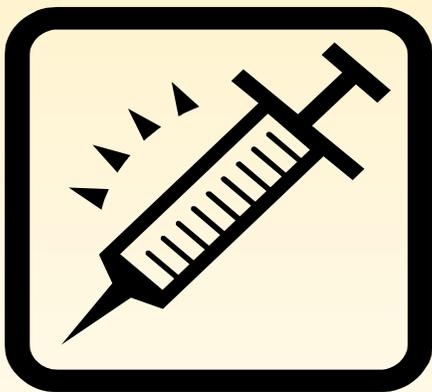


All branches of the Library will be taking part in next year's festivities recognizing the 100th birthday, with kickoff events being planned for January, and culminating in a birthday bash on July 21, 2013.

# Flu Vaccinations for County Employees

Flu season is returning. To help stay healthy, it is recommended that everyone get a flu vaccine each year. It is particularly important for health care workers and people who work with the very young or very old to get vaccinated against the flu.

For your convenience, Contra Costa County employees can get their flu vaccine at Vista Oaks Occupational Medicine, located at 10 Douglas Drive, Suite 110 in Martinez. No appointment is necessary. There is no charge for employees with the Contra Costa Health Plan, simply bring your teal CCHP card. For employees with other health insurance, flu vaccine is \$25, payable by cash, check, credit card (VISA and MasterCard) or debit card.



To help kick off the flu vaccine campaign, flu vaccine was offered at Vista Oaks during extended hours on October 5, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. After October 5, flu vaccine will be offered Fridays from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This opportunity is for employees only. Family members should check with their regular health care provider for flu vaccine. Flu season often peaks in January/February and can last until May. It's never too late to get flu vaccine. For more information about the flu, visit [www.cchealth.org/flu/](http://www.cchealth.org/flu/).

## Juvenile Hall Holiday Drive



### Make a Difference: Juvenile Hall Auxiliary Closet Donations Welcome!

As we get ready to jump into the holiday season, it's worth taking a moment to consider those who won't be chopping down a tree or lighting candles. More than 300 teens will spend the holidays this year in our juvenile detention facilities. While the choices they made to end up in custody weren't good ones, the choices they will make in the future can be. At the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary, staff and volunteers are ramping up to make the holiday season a bit brighter for those kids. As they work to help the youths change the habits that led them to Juvenile Hall, they're asking the community to help as well. Contributions or donated gift items can go a long way towards reminding the kids that they aren't forgotten.

The gifts don't need to be expensive, and both practical items (such as socks, scarves, gloves, etc.) and personal items (body wash, deodorant, combs, brushes, etc.) are welcome. To find out more about what you can donate and how, please contact Janet Young at 925-957-2718.

Your financial contribution or unwrapped gift can make a tremendous impact on the kids who are at Juvenile Hall.

## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY'S Community Warning System



### MAKE SURE YOU'LL GET THE CALL!

When fire broke out at the Chevron Refinery in Richmond on August 6, many people got the word first through a phone call. Community Warning System (CWS) managers are hoping you'll take a few minutes to register your telephone numbers so that you can get an early heads-up if something happens near your home or office.

The telephone notification is just one of the methods CWS uses to alert county residents of a potentially dangerous situation, and combined with sirens located near major industrial facilities, they can reach tens of thousands of residents quickly. CWS is now offering real-time information through social media, using Twitter and Facebook to extend the outreach effort.

The warning system is triggered when there is an imminent threat to life or safety, and being able to get the message in as many ways as possible is important. By logging onto [www.CoCoCWS.us](http://www.CoCoCWS.us), you'll have the opportunity to register for alerts in as many distinct areas of the county as you'd like. With areas broken down by zip code, you can get alerts for your home, your office, your kids' school and other neighborhoods that matter to you. You'll also see a map that outlines the boundaries of any incident, including those that result in a shelter in place message.

Take a few minutes now to register your phone or update your preferences on the website to include more locations. It only takes a few minutes at the keyboard now to make sure you'll get the call when you need it most.



# ELECTION DAY

*Be Where the Action Is!*

You've registered to vote, seen and heard (or tuned out) the ads, and plan to drop your ballot in the mail or vote in person on November 6. There's another step you can take to show your civic pride, and help out a County department in need of extra hands. You may find a one-day job assignment at a polling place!

The Board of Supervisors has approved a program that allows department heads to release available employees to help staff polling places and serve other support roles



during elections. Last June, 70 employees stepped up to assist during

the primary election, and even more will be needed in November. County Clerk-Recorder Steve Weir says there is a good fit for just about anyone who wants to help, whether you would like to be a clerk, an inspector or someone who pitches in at election headquarters after the polls close. "We manage a variety of local elections every year, but the ballots are longest and most complex during Presidential elections," Weir notes. "We provide training to our recruits, and have come to rely upon them to help us on our busiest day of the year."

Permanent employees who are registered to vote are eligible with department head approval, and you can receive a stipend between \$80 and \$100, plus additional funds depending upon what role you fulfill. While getting a firsthand look at democracy in progress is exciting, it isn't exactly an easy day off work. "We field our crews before the polls open at 7:00 a.m., and they're still there after they close at 8:00 p.m.," Weir added. "It's a long day, and then our Elections staff ramps up even more to begin the ballot counting. We're in high gear for days after an election, but having the support of County staff on Election Day itself makes a huge difference for us."

If you're interested in participating, your first step is to talk to your supervisor. Once you have department head approval, find out more by calling the Elections Office at 925-335-7873, or drop them a note at [EO.Recruitment@vote.cccounty.us](mailto:EO.Recruitment@vote.cccounty.us).

# Election Preview 2012

## cctv

### Candidates & Issues Highlighted on CCTV

Tune into Contra Costa Television for a full line-up of election forums.

More than 130 candidates for local city councils, school boards and mayoral seats filed through Contra Costa Television's studios over a busy 3-day period in September. Contra Costa Times political columnist and reporter Lisa Vorderbrueggen moderated 27 separate candidate forums, deftly switching focus from one city's issues to the next with only brief breaks in between the tapings to allow CCTV's technical crew to set up for the next group. An hour-long debate on Contra Costa Fire Protection District's Measure Q parcel tax proposal was also included in the lineup.

In its 18th year of production, the CCTV roundtables have given candidates a chance to speak directly to voters in discussion guided by the veteran journalist, while giving voters an opportunity to see and hear them address issues outside of campaign events.

CCTV Production Manager Chris Verdugo praises the longtime partnership of the co-sponsors, including the League of Women Voters, the Contra Costa Times and the County's Elections office. "With some staff support from the cities of Walnut Creek and Concord, we assembled a top notch crew and recorded back-to-back, more than two dozen individual shows over a 3-day period," Verdugo added, "but it takes a bigger team to make these successful. The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, the Contra Costa Council and the Contra Costa Times all stepped-up with a combination of funding, staff support and promotion. The track record of high voter turnout in Contra Costa County, we believe, is proof that our work pays off."

This year's Election Preview was dedicated to Contra Costa Clerk-Recorder Steve Weir, who has announced plans to retire before the next wave of candidate forums. You can find a full rundown of the broadcast schedule on CCTV's website at [www.contracostatv.org](http://www.contracostatv.org). You can also watch them with the click of a mouse anytime; you'll find the videos available online at the elections section of the Contra Costa Times website at [contracostatimes.com](http://contracostatimes.com). Even more election information can be found at [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org).

