



Coronavirus Updates

Alameda, nation recovering slowly

Eric J. Kos

As of this writing, America once again leads the world in coronavirus cases. Brazil has seen a rapid spike and now holds the second-highest case total in the world. Through a consistent, concerted, unified effort some nations have drastically reduced the number of new cases daily. Some Americans continue risking their lives in the endless pursuit of currency, freedom and entertainment.



Americans are divided on the topic of coronavirus along political lines. Some still refuse to wear masks in public while others feel they need more than 6 feet of social distance to be comfortable. It is a confusing time with lots of conflicting information.

As of this writing, Alameda County's shelter-in-place order remains in effect until Sunday, May 31. Masks are required in public and in stores. Please don't squander the sacrifice many have already made in the effort to stop the spread of this disease. Stay home, stay safe and follow official guidelines.

Slow streets expanded

Last month, Slow Streets Alameda temporarily reconfigured Pacific Avenue between Grand and Oak streets and Versailles Avenue between Fernside Boulevard and Central Avenue to discourage through traffic and provide more space for residents to walk, run, bike, scooter and roll at a safe distance from one another.

On May 19, City Council approved expanding the program, and as of May 26, residents have found Slow Streets on Pacific from Grand to Ninth Street and Santa Clara Avenue from Sixth Street to Pacific.

Take a survey about the new effort at www.alamedaca.gov/alerts-covid-19/slow-streets-alameda.

Commercial Streets on tap

Another City of Alameda program related to social distancing



Commercial Streets Alameda, will temporarily reduce a section of the existing four travel lanes on Park and Webster streets to two lanes. The two inside lanes will be used for automobile traffic, and the two outer lanes will be repurposed for parking, pick-up and loading zones and bus turnouts.

The existing curbside parking lane and sidewalks will be used to expand space for pedestrians and commercial business operations, such as waiting areas and outdoor seating. The city is also exploring temporarily closing select side streets.

Oakland Airport notes near total loss of passengers

A steep decline in air travel is one of many shifts in culture caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic. With states under shelter-in-place orders since mid-March, Oakland International Airport (OAK) now reports that it experienced a 96 percent decline in passenger traffic during the month of April, compared with April 2019.

April 2020 represented the first full month of COVID-19 impact, with 45,819 total pas-

sengers at OAK. This is a 90 percent decline when compared with 451,799 passengers served in March 2020, and a 96 percent decline from the 1,136,370 passengers served in April 2019.

Kids still need donations

Sisters Mya Nguyen, a ninth-grader at Alameda High School, and Amy, a seventh-grader at Wood Middle School, have a medical supply system currently underway. The teenagers are seeking donations of new N95 or surgical masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectants and wipes for cleaning, disposable gloves, protective goggles or isolation that they will then supply to healthcare workers and first responders.

Drop off donations at Alameda Police Department, 1555 Oak St. The goods will be distributed to Bay Area hospitals, clinics and first responders.

See the sisters' video appeal at <https://vimeo.com/410415630>. Cash donations can be made at www.allgoodlivingfoundation.org/donate and designate "PPE drive."

The deadline to donate has been extended to Monday, June 1.

Illustrator offers free coloring book

Bay Area native and Alameda resident Meg Adler is both an educator, and a small illustration business owner. The mission of her business, Letters, Aligned, is three-fold:

It aims to inspire awe and imagination, embrace imperfection and connect people through collaborative art and support local business.

Adler just debuted her new coloring book, *Outside the Lines: A Coloring Book for Rebels*. The book, printed by Solstice Press in Oakland, is available for free as a download from Adler's website.

The coloring book is based on what Adler would see along her commute from Alameda to San Francisco. It is not an ordinary coloring book but one that asks its owner to complete the image.

"The book is a chance for people of all ages to add their imagination to classic scenes from the Bay," stated Adler. "I want to share my art with the world because it connects people through creativity, invites us to access our sense of awe and teaches us to keep going, even when we make mistakes. Not to mention, art is so good for the spirit — something we all need right now — a little boost of joy!"

Download a copy at www.lettersaligned.com.

All Dressed Up

Alana Luchtman

All dressed up On a Saturday night the hair's looking alright but the skirt is on straight and I'm eager to be out I grab the mask, the purse head for the door and then it hits — I've nowhere to go.

Photos top to bottom: Skeletal social distancing on San Jose Avenue by Eric J. Kos; Ferguson family's message on Bayview Drive; Alameda masks by Maurice Ramirez.

Latest from Mayor

Doing our part; Caring for others; We're Alameda Strong

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

"All of us can do our part to be successful in confronting this global challenge and return to some form of normality," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and member of the White House coronavirus task force, as he addressed graduates of his alma mater, College of the Holy Cross. Noting that the number of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. is approaching one million — with almost 100,000 lives lost so far — Dr. Fauci declared, "We must be united in our efforts to prevail."

Alameda residents are doing their part to confront and slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Whenever I'm out on a bike ride or early evening walk, the vast majority of people I see are wearing masks and face coverings and maintaining 6 feet of social distance as they walk, ride bikes and pick up their purchases — curbside — at local retail stores, and take-out food and beverages from local restaurants.

Because you've been careful and conscientious, our city's per

capita number of COVID-19 cases is one of the lowest in Alameda County, but our city and our county still haven't stopped the increase of new COVID cases, that is, we haven't "flattened the curve." (You can see case numbers and other data at www.acphd.org) So we must continue to exercise caution.

Although we are now in early Stage 2 of Gov. Gavin Newsom's four-stage plan to reopen California — curbside pick-up from retail stores is now allowed — the Alameda County Shelter-in-Place Order (SIP) remains in effect. Everyone should continue to stay and work at home as much as possible, wear a face covering outside their homes, and stay at least 6 feet away from people outside their households. This may mean avoiding the beach on a warm day.

County public-health officials will assess the rate of new cases two weeks after the May 18 modification of the SIP order, because the incubation period for COVID-19 is up to 14 days. If the anticipated increase from relaxing the order is not too steep, more types of

"Now is the time, if ever there was one, for us to care selflessly about one another."

— Dr. Anthony Fauci

businesses and activities will be allowed to open. If we "flatten the curve," then send it downward, we won't overwhelm our hospitals and medical workers, and more businesses and activities can open, and stay open.

"Now is the time, if ever there was one, for us to care selflessly about one another," Dr. Fauci told Holy Cross graduates, noting the school's Jesuit emphasis on social justice and service to others.

In Alameda we show our care for one another by conscientiously following the SIP order. We also reach out to help others in times of need, even those we don't know. Now you can help others who have experienced serious financial loss as a result of COVID-19.

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City Launches Community Relief Fund

Ekene Ikeme

The City of Alameda is currently soliciting donations from the community to help those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At its May 19 meeting, the City Council unanimously approved the "Alameda Strong" community relief fund. The fund, which will be financed solely by community donations, will provide grants to small businesses, nonprofits and renters financially affected by the shelter-in-place order due to the coronavirus.

Small businesses and non-profits will receive up to \$7,500 — sole proprietor businesses will receive a maximum of \$3,750. Alameda renters will receive one-month's rent, not to exceed \$3,500. The amount of grants allocated will depend on the amount raised.

City staff met with 11 business association representatives, including the board members and executive directors from the Downtown Alameda Business Association, the

West Alameda Business Association and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss creating the community fund. One of their concerns was how the money would be allocated.

City staff recommended 60 percent of money donated be allocated to small businesses, 20 percent to nonprofits and 20 percent to renters. The business leaders felt this may unintentionally divide the community over how to distribute the limited funds.

City staff wrote in its report to the Council that the business community felt the Council should create three separate funds (renters, businessowners, nonprofits) and prospective donors should choose which fund they would like to contribute to. However, Councilmember Jim Oddie expressed concern that if three separate funds were created, one of the funds may not receive enough money to offer grants. Council decided to offer the three different options to donate to.

The "Alameda Strong" com-

munity fund comes after the City Council approved the \$600,000 small business relief grant program in April. The program is offering 80 small business owners one-time grants of \$7,500 each. The city received 238 requests by the application deadline of May 7.

Businesses that receive this grant will not be eligible for the "Alameda Strong" grant. The city also plans to approve \$600,000 via the Community Development Block Grant CARES Act for emergency rent relief available to low-income tenants at its June 2 meeting.

The city and members of the business association community will help market the "Alameda Strong" fund.

To contribute to the fund, visit alamedastrong.org. The city is looking to raise more than \$1 million. Donors can contribute to one or all of the three relief funds.

Contact Ekene Ikeme at eikeme@alamedasun.com.

Thousands of Students Could Be Required to Retake AP Tests

At-home Advanced Placement testing not without issues

Giovanna Ledesma

Taking an Advanced Placement (AP) test can be challenging. Experiencing technical difficulties while trying to submit a test is another issue. Last week, more than 10,000 high-school students nationwide ran into technical problems while taking their exams. Students were unable to submit their responses due to the inability to upload images.

"I finished the AP chemistry test with five minutes to spare but I had to upload all my answers via photo upload," said Encinal High senior Max Onaga. "Unfortunately, I was unable to figure out how to upload the photos so I submitted nothing. Zilch."

The College Board, distributors of AP tests, claim the error was a result

of students using outdated Internet browsers. However, the testing portal only accepted JPEG or PNG files, while many iPhones now use HEIC as the default photo format.

Uploading photos for submission wasn't the only problem students faced. With students testing at home, time management made the process even more stressful.

"I don't think it was enough time for people who aren't tech savvy to upload their photos or documents," said Onaga. "You had to keep track of your time to consider uploading. So even if you had five minutes left with only two questions, you'd have to decide whether to upload what you had done or risk working on those last two questions and maybe not upload them in time."



Helene Onaga

Max Onaga runs into an error while trying to submit his AP test

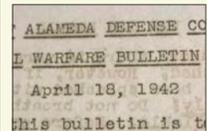
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