



## Caltrans to Repave, Enhance Encinal Avenue



The project will reduce the existing two through lanes to one through lane in each direction, a center two-way left-turn lane, two Class II bicycle lanes, and parking within the project limits.

### Sun Staff Reports

Starting in June, Caltrans will begin an improvement project on Encinal Avenue between Broadway and Sherman Street.

The project calls for repaving and making other upgrades to the street, which is along California State Route 61, that will provide motorists with a smoother ride and enhance safety for pedestrians and wheelchair users, according to a City of Alameda press release. Project details include upgrading existing curb ramps, enhancing crosswalk markings, upgrading signals with accessible pedestrian signals, and installing vehicle speed feedback signs.

The city said Caltrans will also incorporate Complete Streets elements, which includes the conversion of the existing two through lanes to one through lane in each direction, a center two-way left-turn lane, two Class II bicycle lanes, and parking within the project limits.

The project is expected to be complete by the November 2023, with work starting at the Encinal and Broadway intersection and moving north along Encinal.

Caltrans will make every effort to minimize inconvenience as the project moves along. Traffic advisories, social media and signage updates will be utilized.



The project calls for repaving of Encinal Avenue along State Route 61.

The project is part of Caltrans' four-year State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP). The 2020 SHOPP is the State Highway System's "fix-it-first" program that funds the repair and preservation, emergency repairs, safety improvements, and some highway operational improvements on the State Highway System (SHS).

For the 2020 SHOPP, Caltrans will implement \$17.4 billion in projects from Fiscal Years 2020-21

through 2023-24.

According to the 2020 SHOPP report, which was modified and adopted by the California Transportation Commission on March 17, the Encinal Avenue pavement rehabilitation project will cost \$9.88 million. The original 2020 SHOPP allocated close to \$830 million to Alameda County improvement projects.

For more information on the project, visit the City of Alameda website.

## Mayor Gives Message on Mental and Public Health After National Tragedies

### Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Words can't capture the horror of the two most recent mass shootings in our country in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, NY, but last weekend, a poignant memorial to the children and teachers killed in Uvalde appeared on the steps of Twin Towers Methodist Church, and spoke volumes. Nineteen child-size chairs and two folding chairs held signs with the name and age of each victim. Passersby left bouquets, and apples on the teachers' chairs. The memorial was created by Twin Towers Pastor Emily Lin and her twins, who are close in age to the children who perished in Uvalde.

Incredibly, it appears that a majority of U.S. Senators are not similarly moved by the killing of elementary schoolchildren and teachers in Uvalde, and the racially motivated slaying of African Americans



Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

in a Buffalo grocery store. Last week the U.S. Conference of Mayors re-issued a letter sent to the U.S. Senate on Aug. 8, 2019, following mass shootings in El Paso, Texas

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## June 7 Primary Election Guide

### Sun Staff Reports

Alamedans will be asked to vote on several races in the June 7 Primary Election.

### Measure B

The major issue directly involving Alameda homeowners, educators and students is Measure B. Measure B would authorize \$298 million in bonds to upgrade local classrooms, math/science labs, technology, college/career training facilities for high quality academic education; improve accessibility, earthquake safety, school security, water quality/plumbing systems; renovate, acquire, construct, classrooms, sites, facilities/equipment for the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD). The measure would raise approximately \$14.7 million annually by levying, on average, a property tax increase of \$45 per \$100,000 assessed value to property owners.

Supporters of the measure say, "Good schools are a part of what makes Alameda a great place to live, whether or not you have school-aged children." While opponents say an additional \$670 a year in property taxes would be a hardship for many Alameda homeowners who already pay over \$1,000 per year for AUSD Measures B1 and A parcel taxes.

Voters already approved Measure I, a \$179.5 million infrastructure bond, to upgrade and modernize Alameda school in 2014 and two parcel taxes, Measure B1 and Measure A, in 2016 and 2020, respectively. Measure I bonds have already been issued to the school district.

Measure B needs 55% YES votes to be approved.

### Alameda County Board of Supervisor, District 3

Four candidates will vie for the Alameda County Board of Supervisor seat that was vacated by the death of Wilma Chan last November, ("Farewell, Wilma Chan," Nov. 9, 2021).

Surlene Grant is a decade-long San Leandro City Councilmember. Grant served

as San Leandro Vice Mayor and the chair of the Alameda County Housing Authority. If elected, Grant said her priorities would include expanding access to housing of all types, prioritizing renewable energy and establishing more effective mental health services.

David Kakishiba, a longtime resident of Oakland, served for the past 40 years as the executive director of the East Bay Asian Youth Center and a dozen years on the Oakland Unified School District board. His priorities include funding to eradicate homelessness, county sheriff oversight and establish universal family access to early childhood education.

Rebecca Kaplan is Oakland's at-large councilmember, representing all of Oakland since 2008. Kaplan is currently the senior member of the Oakland City Council. Kaplan has served on the Alameda County Transportation Commission, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Coliseum stadium joint powers authority and the AC Transit board. Kaplan's priorities are community safety, eradicating homelessness and more.

Lena Tam is a former Alameda councilmember and vice mayor. She served as president of the city of Alameda Health Care Board and chair of the Alameda County Planning Board. She is currently a manager of the East Bay Municipal Utility District's water planning department. Her list of priorities includes safe and sustainable transportation and environmental protection.

### Alameda County District Attorney

Current Alameda County District Attorney (DA) Nancy O'Malley decided to retire.

Pamela Price is a civil-rights attorney. If elected, she intends expand the office's integrity unit, so it has the capacity to examine allegations of prosecutorial misconduct.

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## Alameda Celebrates Memorial Day

### Sun Staff Reports

Multiple Memorial Day celebrations took place on the Island Monday, May 30.

The Vietnam Veterans Chapter 400, American Legion Posts 9 and 647, as well as Elks Lodge 1015 hosted the annual Memorial Day Ceremony



Alameda Fire Department

Alameda Fire Department personnel attended the Memorial Day Ceremony hosted by Alameda Elks Lodge and other veterans organizations at Veterans Memorial Park.

at Veterans Memorial Park at the intersection of Doolittle and Island drives. KTVU's Sal Castenada took on his usual role of Master of Ceremony. Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft and Capt. Jackie Leverich, Commanding Officer of the United States Coast Guard Base, spoke at the event.

More than 300 people attended the event including councilmembers Tony Daysog and Trish Herrera Spencer,



USS Hornet Museum

Memorial Day ceremony organizers at the USS Hornet Museum pose at the event on May 30.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta and his wife, California Assemblymember Mia Bonta.

Alameda Fire Department (AFD) personnel also had a strong presence at the event. AFD Chief Nick Luby along with Engine and Medic 4, Truck 1, and Battalion 1 attended the ceremony.

The USS Hornet Museum also held a Memorial Day celebration. At their ceremony organizers did a wreath toss into the bay.

Also, original USS Hornet crewmember, Gene Millen, spoke to the crowd via Zoom about his experiences in World War II.

Lastly, authors of the new book, *The Silver Waterfall: How American Won the War in the Pacific at Midway*, Brendan Simms and Steven McGregor conducted a Q&A from attendees.

To reach Sun staff, contact editor@alamedasun.com

## Church Pastor Creates Seat Memorial for Uvalde Shooting Victims

### Sun Staff Reports

Twin Towers United Methodist Church Pastor Emily Lin found a unique way to memorialize the 21 victims who died in a domestic terrorist incident Tuesday, May 24, at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas.

Lin placed 19 school seats on the front steps of the church at 1411 Oak St. to represent the 19 elementary school children killed by gunman Salvador Rolando, 18. Lin also placed two folding chairs to represent the two teachers who died last Tuesday. One name of a victim is posted on each seat.

The memorial was set up shortly after the incident took place. Since then, people have added to the memorial by placing flowers and balloons on the front steps of the church. Also, someone left a bag of Oreos near one school seat and an apple was put on each folding chair.

The signage display in front of the church reads, "Let us transform our tears into action," which is attributed to Lin.

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft wrote in her message to Alameda residents that she was part of a group of more than 200 mayors across the country that re-issued a letter to the U.S. Senate calling for immediate passage of the Bipartisan Background Check Act and Enhanced Background Checks Act.



Ekene Ikeme

Alameda residents placed flowers and balloon around a memorial for the victims of the Uvalde, Texas school shooting.

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