



Mayor Updates Community

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Paving the way for De-Pave Park: A World War II-era runway on the westernmost side of Seaplane Lagoon at Alameda Point will eventually be converted into a 12-acre urban park and tidal ecosystem.

De-Pave Park will be an ecological open space designed to sequester carbon and adapt to sea level rise by inundating over time, creating additional wetlands.

A raised boardwalk, trails, and observation areas will provide opportunities, for people of all physical abilities, to view shorebirds, waterfowl, and marine mammals in their natural habitat.

This fall, city staff will ask City Council to authorize staff to submit a new grant application, in October 2021, for a \$1.6 million grant from the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA).

The grant would fund a master planning process to solicit and incorporate design input from Alameda residents, with a focus on equity and inclusion, by reaching out to disenfranchised communities, including Alameda Point residents.

Grant funds would also be used to develop construction documents and secure regional permits for the new park.

The Vision Plan for De-Pave Park was developed by many key stakeholders. These

We are seeing an alarming increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, due largely to the more contagious Delta variant. All Bay Area public health departments recommend that everyone wear masks indoors in public places.

include Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA), Sierra Club's Alameda Chapter, Friends of Alameda Wildlife Reserve, Golden Gate Audubon Society's Alameda Chapter, San Francisco Baykeeper, Alameda Point open space advocates, and Alameda's water sports community.

In September 2020, the City Council, following the Recreation and Parks Commission's recommendation, adopted the vision plan.

In October 2020, Alameda applied for, but wasn't awarded SFBRA grant funding. However, SFBRA staff and grant reviewers were impressed with the City's proposed inclusive public input process and encouraged Alameda to reapply in 2021.

They also acknowledged the City's innovative partnerships, including scientific consultation with the San Francisco Estuary Institute and working with San Francisco-based non-profit Literacy for Environmental Justice to develop a community stewardship program.

SFBRA grant reviewers suggested that a closer partnership with the Veteran's Administration would strengthen a subsequent

grant application since De-Pave Park will connect to the VA wetlands, which will be developed soon. They also noted that while the City matching funds are not required, their inclusion would be viewed favorably.

City staff and council will carefully consider this constructive input. Despite an initial setback, Alameda doesn't give up easily!

COVID Caution: Alameda County's vaccination rate is impressive — more than 71% of County residents 12 years and older are fully vaccinated, and more than 83% have received their first vaccine.

City of Alameda's rates are even higher — as of July 26, almost 77% of residents 12 and older are fully vaccinated, and close to 90% have received their first vaccination

However, we are seeing an alarming increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, due largely to the more contagious Delta variant. As a result, all Bay Area public health departments now recommend that

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Rotary Club of Alameda volunteers and longtime Alameda Sun supporters Susan Jeffries and George Fitzgerald volunteered to work as dinner donors at Midway Shelter.

Rotary Steps up at Midway Shelter

Photo and story by Jimmy Olsen

COVID-19 swept through the United States effectively shutting down all of the Rotary Club of Alameda's (RCA) traditional community service and fundraising activities.

When that happened, the organization could have simply pulled back and waited for the restrictions to be lifted. After all, many people thought the country would be back in business in a few months. Oh, how wrong we all were.

Once it became clear that COVID-19 would continue to alter the way Rotary routinely served the community on an ongoing basis, it was time to brainstorm new and different ways to serve and keep members involved.

RCA's Midway Shelter Dinner Donor Project originally was created to respond to a desperate plea from Building Futures (the nonprofit organization that manages the shelter).

They wanted to recruit dinner donors, community members who prepared homecooked meals for the residents of the shelter.

According to Ana Maria Kahiri, director of development and communications for Building Futures, "Many of our dinner donors were retired community members who no longer felt safe shopping at grocery stores to prepare home cooked meals for shelter residents."

Enter the Rotary Club of Alameda. President Jeff Cambra recalls, "When I read a Building

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Boosters to Induct AHS Hall of Famers

Sun Staff Reports

The fourth Alameda High School Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place in person Saturday Aug. 28, at 5:30 p.m., at the Alameda Elks Club.

In the Fall of 2016, Alameda High established an athletic Hall of Fame. A committee of eight volunteers has taken on the task of meeting regularly and combing through endless articles, websites and nominations to find the most qualified athletes. The committee has decided to induct 10 new members each year and have uncovered spectacular athletes in numerous sports.

The preparation begins each fall, when potential candidates are discussed and nominations are made to the nomination committee for both individual athletes and teams.

Then the 20 to 30 nominations are presented to the selection committee, which chooses 10 individuals early in the year.

Then the national search is on to notify the recipients and family members. All of this culminates in the banquet and induction ceremony. Plaques summarizing the accomplishments of each inductee will be displayed in Alameda High

School's new gym, the Hornets' Nest.

The 2021 Inductees into the Alameda High School Athletic Hall of Fame are:

- Johnny Vergez, class of 1925, baseball
- Herman Pete, class of 1934, basketball
- Dorothy Stolze, class of 1941, baseball
- Bob DeCelle, class of 1963, track
- Mike Amos, class of 1969, football
- Ann Ratto, class of 1983, track
- Trini Sanchez-Blumkin, class of 1984, basketball
- Marta Westernoff, class of 1993, soccer
- Patrick Foster, class of 1993, swimming
- James Hahn, class of 1999, golf

Tickets for both dinner and the induction ceremony are \$60 per person. Pay by check or online: check: make payable to AHS Athletic Boosters — Hall of Fame and mail to PO Box 2586, Alameda, CA 94501.

You can purchase tickets online by visiting the Alameda High School Boosters website: ahsathleticboosters.com.



Friends of Alameda Library

On May 19, best-selling author Paul Madonna joined the Friends of the Alameda Free Library. He spoke about his electrifying mystery novel *Come to Light*. The county's ARTSFUND grant will help the Friends continue to bring presentations like this to Alameda.

Friends of Library Receives Grant

Sun Staff Report

Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FOL) has received a \$2100.00 grant from Alameda County's ARTSFUND program.

The county established the fund to assist nonprofit arts organizations. Alameda County Arts Commission manages the grants under the leadership of Alameda County Clerk-Recorder Melissa Wilk.

FOL will use the money, which runs through June 30, 2023, to pay

for Friends @ Home Art Docent and Author Talk series and the Live @ the Library jazz series.

In response to COVID-19, FOL moved the Art Docent Talks and Author Events to an online format, called "Friends @ Home."

Local authors and art docents share their skills and information via Zoom webinars so you can enjoy these fun and educational events from the comfort of your own home.

FOL will present its next Home Art Docent webinar from 7 to 8 p.m., Monday, Aug. 16. The evening will feature Wangechi Mutu's "I Am Speaking, Are You Listening?"

Founded in 1974, Friends of the Alameda Free Library helps support the library and its programs through volunteer activities and fundraising.

To learn more and to donate or volunteer, visit www.alamedafriends.com.

Railroad Tour This Saturday



Join Alameda Sun publisher and historian Dennis Evanosky to learn the history of the railroads in Alameda. The story began on Aug. 25, 1864, at the foot of Pacific Avenue at today's Central Avenue. That's the locomotive *E. B. Mastick* pulling A. A. Cohen's first San Francisco & Alameda Railroad train onto the wharf and the ferry *Sophie McLean* on the way to carry the passengers on to San Francisco. Nearby rails later served the South Pacific Coast Railroad and the Big Reds. The tour will begin at 9 a.m., this Saturday, July 31. Meet at Pacific and Central avenues.

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Today	6:10	20:21
July 30	6:11	20:20
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