

Rafi Avededo Jr.

The setting sun painted wildfire smoke with a tinge of red on Sunday evening near Alameda's picture-book Victorian-era home at San Jose Avenue and Willow Street.

Wildfires Cover Bay Area with Smoke

Air quality listed as unhealthy several days

Dennis Evanosky

The smoke lingering over the Bay Area is coming from fires burning both to the north and south of Alameda. Lightning strikes from Tropical Storm Fausto — which was churning the waters of the Pacific more than 1,000 miles away — caused most of the fires. Fausto sent a plume of clouds our way accompanied by thunder and lightning from Sunday, Aug. 16, into the early morning hours of Aug. 17.

Calfire responded in force on Aug. 17, to what it is calling the "August Lightning Siege of 2020." Calfire named the fires after its organizational units (see the map accompanying this story.) Calfire added "Lightning Complex Fire" to the descriptions of the three units where Fausto's lightning strikes had started the wildfires:

■ The Santa Cruz Unit (CZU) includes Santa Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. The fires here have burned 78,869 acres and are 17 percent contained as of 8 a.m., Tuesday.

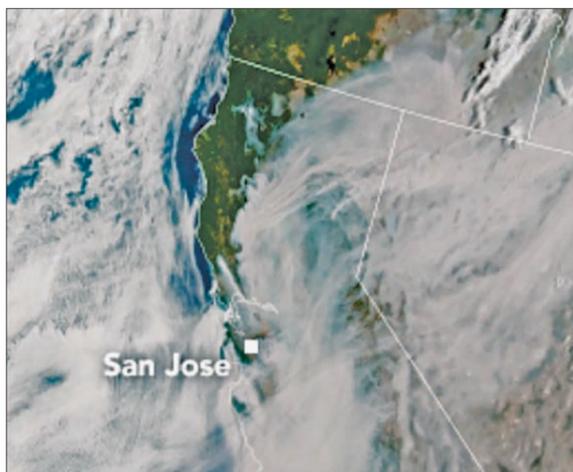
■ The Santa Clara Unit (SCU) includes Santa Clara, Alameda and Contra Costa counties. At 8 a.m., Tuesday, Calfire reported that the fires here have burned 363,772 acres and are 15 percent contained.

■ The Lake and Napa Unit (LNU) includes Lake, Napa and Solano counties. At 9:36 a.m., Tuesday, Calfire reported that the 12 fires burning in this unit are 27 percent contained after consuming 352,913

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Calfire

Above right, this map shows how Calfire divides the state into units. The fires whose smoke affects the Bay Area burn in LNU to the north, CZU southwest of here and SCU southeast of Alameda.



National Aeronautics & Space Administration

This GOES 17 Weather Satellite photograph shows smoke covering the Bay Area from the fires around Vallejo and Fairfield (top right) and from fires in Santa Cruz County, bottom left. The East Bay Hills have captured a finger-like portion of smoke that continues to linger over Berkeley, Oakland and Alameda.

Mayor Offers View on Latest Developments

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Longing for a breath of fresh air: It's been a tough summer, to say the least. Now, as we work to stop the spread of COVID-19, we must also protect ourselves from poor air quality resulting from widespread fires. The Alameda County Public Health Department offers these important tips for residents to minimize the impact of wildfire smoke:

- Stay indoors with windows and doors closed, where air quality is better.
- Keep indoor air cool or visit an air-cooling center.
- Set home and car ventilation systems on re-circulate to prevent drawing in outside air.
- Stay hydrated by drinking water.
- Limit or avoid outdoor recreational and sports activities.
- Use an air filter, especially if there are household members with heart disease, asthma or other respiratory conditions, or elderly persons and children.
- Avoid using wood-burning stoves or fireplaces, lawn mowing, leaf blowing, smoking, burning candles and incense, and barbecuing.
- If possible, leave the affected area for the duration of a heavy smoke event.

The Alameda Free Library, 1550 Oak St., will open a "clean air shelter" in the back cafe area and Stafford Room on days when air quality is forecast to be at unhealthy levels. Everyone will be screened for COVID symptoms, including a temperature check, before entering and masks must be worn inside the building. Check the City's website for operating hours, www.alamedaca.gov.

Safety first!

COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus with no vaccine to offer protection yet. Please follow the County Public Health Officer's order to wear masks whenever you leave home and stay 6 feet away from people who don't live in your household. And wash your hands frequently and stay home if you're sick.

The County Public Health Officer also recommends getting a flu shot as soon as possible because flu season is just around the corner. We don't need a flu epidemic on top of a pandemic. Protect yourself, protect others!

Power to the People:

Recently many Californians, including approximately 3,500 of Alameda's West End residents, experienced rolling blackouts due to extreme heat that caused demands for electricity that exceeded supply. Alameda Public Utilities Board President Ann McCormick and

As global warming causes more extreme temperatures we must anticipate more power outages.

Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) staff were my guests at a recent Mayor's Town Hall and explained that the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) manages the grid that transmits electricity from AMP's clean sources to its customers, balancing supply and demand. When demand begins to exceed supply CAISO issues "flex alerts," telling utilities to conserve energy.

On Aug. 14, CAISO issued a rare Stage 3 alert, advising AMP that it could not meet AMP's demand and some service had to be dropped immediately. This is why, regrettably, AMP customers did not receive prior notice of the power shut-off. In the event of another rolling blackout, the next service interruption will begin in central Alameda.

As global warming causes more extreme temperatures we must anticipate more power outages, but you can help reduce the need for rolling blackouts by not using major appliances like dishwashers and washing machines, or charging your electric vehicle during peak energy-use hours, from 4 to 9 p.m. More information is available at AMP's website, www.alamedamp.com. Recordings of past Mayor's Town Halls are available on the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/cityofalameda.

Some good news

On August 21, the Alameda County shelter-in-place order was modified to allow outdoor pools to reopen, as well as personal service providers, including hair and nail salons, to now operate outdoors. The order was relaxed because the rate of increase in new Alameda County COVID cases has stabilized and the positivity rate (percentage of positive tests of overall tests performed in the County) has dropped to 5 percent.

Your perseverance and diligence helped contribute to this progress. Keep doing what you're doing to stop the spread of COVID-19 so more sectors of our economy can reopen, people can go back to work and our children and their teachers can return to school safely.

Be smart. Be safe. Be Alameda Strong!

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft is the Mayor of Alameda. She can be reached at (510) 747-4745 or mezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov.

History of Place Formerly Known as Jackson Park

Dennis Evanosky

Attorney Alfred A. Cohen dreamed of attracting the well-heeled to swanky, exclusive environs on the Alameda peninsula. He had already moved here with his family. They lived at "Fernside," a 109-acre estate. In the early 1860s, Cohen organized and built a railroad and a wharf and started a ferry service that connected the sleepy peninsula town to the outside world. Now he wanted to invite the wealthy to move in. He first built the Alameda Park Hotel on property bounded by Webb

Avenue, Everett Street, Central Avenue and Park Street.

He next planned to build a residential area for the well-to-do. To that end, he hired civil engineer Robert L. Harris to survey property — about 50 acres bounded by Central Avenue, the old bay shore near today's Otis Drive, Park Avenue and Regent Street — near "Fernside..

Harris laid out a street down the center of the tract that ran toward the bay. Cohen dubbed it Park Avenue — perhaps to echo

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Date	Rise	Set
Today	6:35	19:46
Aug. 28	6:36	19:45
Aug. 29	6:37	19:43
Aug. 30	6:38	19:42
Aug. 31	6:38	19:40
Sept. 1	6:39	19:39
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The Beat Goes On

Photo and text by Jimmy Olsen

Rob Dillinger and the Alpha Rhythm Kings perform on a "virtual stage" for the 21st Annual Concerts at the Cove. Producer Jeff Cambra assembled the team and filmed the Kings' performance in front of a green screen, which allowed the editor to drop in numerous scenes from the real concert including the crowd clapping. The virtual Concert at the Cove premiered Aug. 21 and can still be viewed at www.coveconcerts.com.

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