



## Halloween Safety Tips and Best Practices

**Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft**

With Halloween just around the corner, how can we keep Halloween celebrations from becoming “super spreader events?” Fortunately, as of September 27, 81.5% of Alameda residents 12 years and older were fully vaccinated, and 94% had received at least one dose. Additionally, the number of new COVID cases in our community continues to decline. But, we don’t want those numbers to go up again as we navigate the Delta variant, with no vaccination yet for children under 12. Local healthcare providers offer these Halloween Best Practices:

“Halloween can be done safely if people take proper precautions,” says local pediatrician Dr. Lisa Turman Siskind, adding, “The good news is Halloween is mostly outside.” Dr. Bobby Deutsch, an Alameda Health Systems pulmonologist and Dr. Turman Siskind recommend that trick-or-treaters stay outside and not enter homes or indoor parties and activities. Families handing out candy could set up tables outside, maybe at the end of a walk or driveway, so kids don’t even need to go to a door.

Hosts should drop packaged candy into trick-or-treaters’ bags, avoiding hand to hand contact, says Dr. Deutsch who notes that guidelines for Halloween are essentially the same as CDC guidelines for all interactions: maintain physical distance, wash hands frequently, and wear masks.

Trick-or-treating family members and people handing out candy should all wear masks, says Dr. Turman Siskind. Dr. Deutsch reminds parents that a costume mask alone is not sufficient protection: be sure your child wears a mask under any facial costume.

The greatest Halloween risk is to our kids under 12 who can’t be vaccinated yet (hopefully coming very soon), notes Dr. Turman Siskind, so parents of young children should choose wisely. For example, avoid crowded streets and areas like Grand Street and

the “Christmas Tree Lane” block of Thompson Avenue where there are traditionally lots of people.

Ghoulishly good news: Halloween can be done safely this year with everyone masked and outside, and families making smart decisions.

Don’t neglect your health: Dr. Mini Swift, an Alameda Health Systems physician and Mayor’s Vaccine Task Force member, reminds us to schedule health screenings and health maintenance tasks we postponed during the pandemic. This includes mammograms, blood panels, and flu shots, and routine vaccinations for our children. Early detection of any concerning condition allows more opportunities for successful outcomes, so schedule that appointment today. Take care of yourself!

We need to talk about our driving: In early September, 27 year-old Alameda resident Nick Bianchi was killed when a speeding vehicle driven by an individual under the influence ran a stop sign and crashed into his vehicle. In June, 87 year-old Alameda resident Fred Zehnder was crossing the street in a crosswalk when he was struck and killed by a truck driven by a driver under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Both residents leave behind families and friends shattered by the senselessness of their untimely deaths.

What can be done about drivers speeding on our streets, ignoring stop signs, running red lights? How can you avoid causing a tragedy? Alameda Police Chief Nishant Joshi offers these reminders to help us all be safer drivers:

1) Speeding, DUI, and distracted driving are among the top collision factors in the U.S.

2) Alameda Police Department prioritizes public safety and is focused on dangerous vehicle code violations, including speeding. Violators can anticipate speeding citations.

3) With school back in session, more pedestrians and bicyclists are using crosswalks and bicycle lanes. Please be especially cautious when you approach an intersection because it is more difficult to



City of Alameda Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

see a person than to see another vehicle.

4) We can be one of the safest cities in the Bay Area if everyone does their part. This includes better planning: Earlier departure times reduce the stress associated with arriving late, and the temptation to speed. And it is always better to arrive late than to put our community at risk by speeding.

Other cities, including Bend, Oregon are also grappling with driving-related deaths and injuries. Bend Mayor Sally Russell recently observed that last year, her county experienced the most traffic fatalities in more than 10 years, despite a significant drop-off in traffic volumes. Mayor Russell notes that bicyclists and pedestrians are especially at risk of traffic deaths and injuries, as are young drivers. But significantly, statistics show that the risk of fatalities could be reduced by more than two-thirds, if drivers do these four things:

- Slow down
- Drive sober
- Buckle up
- Pay attention

Anyone who operates a moving vehicle has an obligation to do so safely, even when there’s no law enforcement presence. Let’s all commit to being better, more attentive, patient, and calmer drivers. Our lives, and the lives of others, depend on it.

Stay safe and healthy this Halloween season and beyond. And stay Alameda Strong!

## Alameda Family Services to Assist City in Responding to Mental Health Crises

**Karin Kim Jensen**

At the September 21st City Council meeting, the Council authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with Alameda Family Services (AFS) to provide clinician services to the City’s mental health crisis support pilot program.

Like other cities, Alameda is exploring a different way of responding to individuals in mental health crises. Currently, sworn Alameda Police Department (APD) personnel are the sole authority who may assign a 5150 psychiatric hold.

A 5150 hold refers to the California Welfare and Institutions Code that allows a qualified officer or clinician to confine a person involuntarily (against their will) if they are experiencing a mental disorder that makes them a danger to themselves or others.

In July, the City Council authorized the City Manager to start a pilot program of alternative responses. As a result of this:

■ Eighteen firefighters are receiving mental health response and crisis intervention training.

■ AFD and APD are coordinating appropriate dispatch.

■ The City will procure a low-profile vehicle labeled Alameda Mobile Crisis Unit.

■ The City is working with County Behavioral Health Services to authorize Alameda Fire Department (AFD) firefighter-paramedics to assign 5150 holds. Authorization is contingent on the City contracting with a licensed clinician.

In August, City staff issued a Request For Proposal (RFP) to secure clinician services. The City received one proposal from Alameda Family Services (AFS).

The AFS proposal’s goals are to:

■ Develop a working relationship with and training for the AFD.

■ Link individuals in crises with services.

■ Follow up to ensure individuals engage with services.

■ Reduce the number of 5150 holds.

■ Reduce calls to 911 or other hotlines.

■ Reduce incarceration of callers experiencing mental health crises.



Alameda Family Services

The purpose of the Council meeting was to decide whether to go forward with Alameda Family Services as the clinician provider. AFD staff would manage crises; however, the clinician would provide real-time consultation, including for 5150 holds and client follow-up care.

City Staff recommended that Council authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with AFS for an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for one year, with an option to extend for an additional year for a total amount not to exceed \$1,000,000. This money would fund clinician services with 24/7 availability.

Mayor Ashcraft expressed concern that there was only a single proposal and suggested delaying the process to improve the RFP process to elicit further proposals. However, a dozen speakers, including a licensed clinical social worker, spoke compellingly in favor of Alameda Family Services, their qualifications and strong relationships in the community.

Since this is a pilot project, many further argued that staff could repair any program weaknesses found over the two years. Several speakers argued for the need for this program to proceed without further delay. Some invoked the memory of Mario Gonzalez, an unarmed 26-year-old Latino man, who died while under APD custody as evidence.

These arguments ultimately persuaded the mayor. The full Council unanimously voted to approve authorization along with amendments proposed by Councilmember John Knox White intended to ease tweaking the program as needed. The City now plans on collaborating with AFS and other experts to define metrics that will allow them to evaluate the pilot program’s success.

## Gov. Newsom Greenlights Skinner’s Carbon Removal Bill

**Sun Staff Reports**

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed Senate Bill (SB) 27, a bill by California State Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) that is designed to accelerate the removal of climate-harming carbon from the atmosphere.

SB 27 will expand California’s carbon removal capability, also known as sequestration, as well as improve the carbon retention of the state’s natural and working lands.

The governor signed SB 27 as part of a package of climate and budget legislation that included a record-setting \$15 billion in funding for climate, wildfire and drought resilience, along with unprecedented investments in zero-emission vehicles and sustainable farming practices.

The climate and wildfire package are included in SB 170, signed last week. SB 170 was the product of a collaboration of the Senate Budget Committee, for which Skinner is chair, the Assembly Budget Committee and Newsom’s administration.

“Gov. Newsom’s signature of the \$15 billion climate and wildfire resilience package represents the largest investment California, or any state, has ever made in the effort to stave off the most catastrophic impacts

of climate change,” Skinner said. “And my bill, SB 27, which was included in the package, will maximize our capacity to use nature’s own carbon-reduction tools through capture in soil, grasslands, farmland, wetlands, forests and other natural systems, as well as explore cutting-edge technology like Direct Air Capture that mimic this natural process.”

SB 27 won bipartisan approval from the state Senate on a vote of 34-4 Sept. 9, after winning a unanimous 75-0 vote in the state Assembly. SB 27 goes into effect Jan. 1, 2022.

Scientists on the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have concluded that stopping the worst impacts of climate change will require not only swift cuts in global carbon emissions, but also deploying land use practices and technology that can directly remove heat-trapping CO2 from the air.

SB 27 directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to include carbon sequestration targets in the next Assembly Bill 32 Scoping Plan. And, it directs the Natural Resources Agency to establish carbon sequestration goals for natural and working lands by July 2023, create

a registry of carbon sequestration projects for potential public and private investment and track the carbon benefits of the projects.

The \$15 billion climate and wildfire package includes:

■ \$1.5 billion to support comprehensive forest and wildfire resilience, including for strategic fuel breaks and fuels reduction, home hardening, and healthy forests

■ \$5.2 billion over three years for water and drought resilience investments

■ \$3.7 billion over three years for climate resilience, including investments to address the impacts of extreme heat and protect our coasts from sea level rise

■ \$3.9 billion to accelerate California’s transition to zero-emissions vehicles

■ \$1.1 billion to support climate smart agricultural practices

■ \$270 million for the state’s circular economy

Skinner represents the Ninth Senate District, chairs the Senate Budget Committee and is vice chair of the Legislative Women’s Caucus. She represents Alameda, Richmond, Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro.

To reach Alameda Sun staff, contact editor@alamedasun.com.

## APD Wears Pink Patches

**Sun Staff Reports**

The Alameda Police Department (APD) is helping to bring awareness to the fight against breast cancer by supporting cancer research organizations combating this devastating disease.

Members of APD will wear pink shoulder patches or lapel pins in hopes of sparking dialogue within the community about the importance of early detection and treatment in the fight against breast cancer.

APD will also be selling pink shoulder patches and lapel pins for \$10 throughout October, with all proceeds going to the HERS Breast Cancer Foundation. HERS is a non-profit organization headquartered in Fremont, CA, dedicated to providing post-surgical products and services to breast cancer patients.

Patches and pins are available for purchase at APD headquarters at 1555 Oak St. Upon arrival, please call APD’s front desk and indicate a Pink Patch purchase. An APD team member will assist with your purchase at our front counter. If you are unable to stop by, please reach out to Technician Parker to coordinate payment and pickup/delivery at mparker@alamedaca.gov.

To find out more about HERS and their important services, visit www.hersbreastcancerfoundation.org.



Alameda Police Department

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM), an annual campaign to raise awareness about the impact of breast cancer. The NBCAM organization is a partnership of national public service organizations, professional medical associations, and government agencies working together to promote breast cancer awareness, share information on the disease, and provide greater access to screening services. NBCAM began in 1985 as a partnership between the American Cancer Society and the pharmaceutical division of Imperial Chemical Industries. To learn more about NBCAM visit nationalbreastcancer.org.

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Alameda Sun is a publication of Stellar Media Group, Inc. 3215J Encinal Ave. Alameda, CA 94501  
Locally Owned, Community Oriented  
News: (510) 263-1470  
Ads: (510) 263-1471  
Fax: (510) 263-1473

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Date	Rise	Set
Today	7:04	18:55
Oct. 1	7:04	18:53
Oct. 2	7:05	18:52
Oct. 3	7:06	18:50
Oct. 4	7:07	18:49
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## ‘Victorian’ Architecture in Alameda — the Stick Style

Three types of Stick-style houses have been identified: gabled roof, towered and townhouse. Each of these types had appeared in Alameda by the mid-1880s when this “modern” style had gained popularity. Decorative detailing — evident on Alameda’s Stick style homes — defines the style, whether with “characteristic multi-textured wall surfaces” or with “roof trusses whose stickwork faintly mimics the exposed members of medieval half-timbered houses.” Unlike the wooden elements that builders of Italianate style home shaped to resemble stone, the Stick style builders shaped porch posts, brackets and other support beams square with beveled edges. Read more about the Stick style on page 10.



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Alameda Sun  
3215J Encinal Ave.  
Alameda, CA 94501