

Alameda Sun

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Maurice Ramirez

Strong winds accompanied an atmospheric river that pounded the Bay Area with torrential rain. The October storm drew attention to some of the hazards that threaten Alameda, hazards addressed in the City's Climate Action & Resiliency Plan.

City Works to Mitigate Future Hazards

Sarah Henry

The City of Alameda's award-winning Climate Action & Resiliency Plan sets the ambitious goal of reducing dangerous carbon emissions by 50 percent below the level they were in 2005 by 2030, through equitable improvements in transportation, buildings, energy use, and waste management.

The City is now updating its Climate Adaptation & Hazard Mitigation Plan, which addresses the hazards of earthquakes, floods, sea level and groundwater rise, tsunamis, heat, smoke, power outages, and dam failure inundation.

To help share this work with you, I talked with Danielle Mieler, the City's Sustainability and Resilience Manager. Here's a summary of the draft plan, with more information online at www.alamedaca.gov/hazardmitigationplan.

What hazards are of the greatest concern for Alameda residents and businesses? Earthquakes and sea level rise are the two hazards with the highest likelihood for consequences in Alameda. We know that an earthquake could occur at any time on a nearby fault and would result in significant damage to many of Alameda's older buildings and infrastructure.

Sea level rise is a slower-moving disaster, but its consequences for Alameda are huge. We anticipate that without significant efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions, water levels could be 3.5 feet higher than they are today by 2070 and reach 6 to 7 feet by 2100. This would cause significant permanent flooding of our shoreline while rising groundwater will cause flooding in the interior of the island.

What is the City doing to prepare for these disasters? As an island community, preparing for disasters is a citywide priority. We've prepared buildings with seismic retrofits, requiring gas shut-off valves, and upgrading air filtration systems at our libraries and the Mastick Senior Center to serve as Cooling/Clean Air Centers on hot and smoky days.

We've prepared our infrastructure, including evaluating and upgrading all estuary crossings, upgrading the Ballena Bridge, constructing a new Emergency Operations Center and Fire Station #3, and purchasing two

water tenders capable of pulling water from the Bay to fight fires.

We've prepared policies that regulate construction in flood zones, require owners of soft-story apartment buildings to have their buildings seismically evaluated with automatic gas shut-off valves installed (so far 164 of 222 apartment buildings in Alameda have been retrofitted).

The city continues to provide home upgrade grants to low-income property owners and property owners that rent to low-income tenants.

We've prepared plans including tsunami inundation evacuation and emergency response plans, an update to the Health and Safety Element of the General Plan, and the draft Climate Adaptation & Hazard Mitigation Plan, with more than 40 strategies to prepare Alameda for disasters.

What can residents do to prepare their homes and families for disasters?

To help prevent damage and keep your household safe, secure movable items in your space, secure or remove brick chimneys, anchor gas appliances, store food and water, and subscribe to AC Alerts, which is how the City will contact you in an emergency, at www.aalert.org. Homeowners can also apply for a seismic retrofit grant at www.earthquakebracebolt.com.

What about in the event of a tsunami in Alameda?

Alameda's most significant tsunami risk comes from distant earthquakes (for example, off the

Around the Island

coast of Alaska), which would not damage the transportation network here in Alameda. Recently updated tsunami maps show that while the probability of a tsunami impacting Alameda is low, the risk of damage could be high.

If there is a tsunami with the need to evacuate residents, the City and Alameda County will work together to issue warnings that alert the public about what to do to stay safe.

We know that Central Avenue is the highest point in Alameda, and community members would be encouraged to walk or bicycle to the center part of the main island or drive/bike beyond I-880. Community members west of Grand Street would exit through the tubes, and east of Grand Street would exit over the Park Street, Fruitvale, and High Street bridges.

Bay Farm Island would exit via Doolittle or Ron Cowan Parkway by car or bus. Community members on Bay Farm Island can also bicycle or walk to the main island. A small tsunami could be caused by a local earthquake. If community members feel a strong earthquake, they should immediately evacuate the beaches and marinas and move inland.

Please visit the website to learn more and to sign up to stay engaged in this work at www.alamedaca.gov/hazardmitigationplan.

Sarah Henry is the Public Information Officer for the City of Alameda.

Firefighters Need Your Help

They hope to help 1,500 kids this year; up from 1,000 last year

Sun Staff Reports

The 2021 Alameda Firefighters Toy Program (AFTP) assures that Alameda's lowest income families can provide holiday toys and gifts for their children as we continue to struggle with the challenge of providing a COVID-19 safe program.

As with last year, program volunteers will hand-deliver \$35 Target gift cards to all children signed up for the program, instead of handing out toys to the younger children as we have in past years.

Staff from the Alameda Food Bank, Alameda Head Start,

Woodstock Child Development Center, Alameda Point Collaborative and Alameda Housing Authority sites are currently signing up their families.

The toy program was able to serve more than 800 children and youth last year, but more than 1,000 are already signed up this year. The firefighters expect that number to grow to 1,500 meaning they need to raise more than \$50,000 to meet their goal.

AFTP expresses its thanks to the organizations who have already stepped up as sponsors

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Trumark Homes

Developer Trumark Homes plans to build 64 Townhomes at the site that once housed the Pennzoil store at 2015 Grand St.

Plans afoot for Pennzoil Site

Ekene Ikeme

A housing developer submitted a preliminary application to transform the former Pennzoil store site at 2015 Grand St. into a townhome development. The project application, filed by San Ramon-based Trumark Homes, was submitted to the city's Planning, Building & Transportation Department on Oct. 11.

Trumark will build 90 townhomes on the 4.1-acre site at the intersection of Grand and Fortmann Way. The south end of the development sits at the intersection of Ellen Craig Avenue and Hibbard Street, while the west end spans from Clement Avenue to Paru Street.

The project description includes a mix of two- and three-bedroom townhomes ranging from 1,600 to 2,000 square feet. The plan also includes a 40-foot by 115-foot onsite parking facility, two-car garages for every townhouse and a pocket park.

Trumark Homes stated in its application the project will help connect the Cross Alameda Bike Route between Park Street and Seaplane Lagoon and help fulfill the city's housing goals in its Housing Element.

The property is still owned by motor oil manufacturer Pennzoil, a subsidiary of Shell Oil Co. Pennzoil has owned the property since 1951, according to a site cleanup report from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board). From 1951 to 1995, Pennzoil blended and packaged petroleum-based products at the site. From 1995 to 2020, the site served as a

Pennzoil distribution center. The facility once consisted of 29 oil storage tanks and held 48 above-ground bulk storage tanks ("Plans for Pennzoil Moving Forward" Oct. 8, 2020). In 2002, spills from some of the tanks on the property called for the removal of some 410 cubic yards of soil. Complaints to the city about rusting, above-ground storage tanks led to Pennzoil removing 37 tanks, leaving just 11 tanks on the property.

In February, Shell Oil demolished all the buildings and removed the remaining above-ground tanks ("Pennzoil Demolition Paves Way to Future" Feb. 9). Shell planned to do the remediation necessary to prepare the property for sale. This involved excavating some 11,400 cubic yards of soil from the property and sampling the remaining soil to ensure workers removed all pollutants.

Trumark has the option to purchase the site from Pennzoil, according to a report from the *San Francisco Business Times*.

Water Board needed to approve the site's air and water quality before a sale could be completed. In the Water Board's Pennzoil report, it stated that Pennzoil's cleanup requirements have been "satisfactorily completed." The property's zoning already allows for medium-density residential use.

Trumark Homes has already developed the 64-unit Leeward Townhomes and the 124-unit Crest Townhomes at Alameda Point.

The application is still under review from the city. The project's architect is KTG Architecture.

Menorah Lighting at Point

Sun Staff Reports

On Sunday, Nov. 28, Chabad of Alameda hosted a Hanukkah celebration with the lighting of a 7-foot Hanukkah menorah built entirely out of Legos at Rittler Park.

The evening included traditional Hanukkah treats such as latkes, donuts and chocolate gelt coins. Entertainment includes a fire juggling show, a "make your own menorah" station, photo-ops with "Dreidel Man," and balloons.

This year's menorah lighting — the fifth annual menorah lighting hosted by Chabad of Alameda — is done with the recognition

as many are still experiencing the hardships of the pandemic.

"The menorah reminds us of the unity that makes us strong," said Rabbi Meir Shmotkin, who co-directs Chabad of Alameda with his wife Mushki. "The flames of the menorah shine out into the night, reminding us of the faith that unites us as a people, and sharing a message of freedom of religion for all."

This year, the holiday comes as a spotlight has been shined on Chabad's impact on Jewish life, as the recent Pew Portrait of Jewish Americans showed that 38% of all American Jews have participated

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All the doings of Island safety & law personnel



HANUKKAH

Menorah Lighting Page 3
California Attorney General Rob Bonta in attendance.



BIG FIRE

Park street's woes Page 10
A fire ripped through Alameda over 100 years ago.



KETCHUP IN SPACE

Heinz for Mars Page 11
Condiment company positions itself for Mars and beyond.

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Betty Young

Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	7:06	16:50
Dec. 3	7:07	16:50
Dec. 4	7:08	16:50
Dec. 5	7:09	16:50
Dec. 6	7:10	16:50
Dec. 7	7:11	16:50
Dec. 8	7:12	16:50

Smoke still pours from a fire that destroyed much of the neighborhood east of Park Street along Santa Clara and Webb avenues on Jan. 7, 1920. This is a detail of a panorama taken from Webb by an Oakland Tribune photographer. The building in the background center of this detail served as the Southern Pacific Railroad station and is now the site of Oil Changers. The story begins on page 10 with another detail of the panorama and continues on page 12 with a look at the entire photo.



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