

Letters: To the editor for this week

Continued from page 8

candidates effects the odds for the winners. However, the mayor's race is more straightforward and instant runoff could be employed immediately.

In this year's plurality election I have one bone to pick with the characterization of Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft's victory being "just 41.9 percent of the vote."

That is a pretty substantial margin, especially in a race with more than two people. That 41.9 percent happens to be 2,766 more votes than Trish received in her 129-vote, 50 or more percent victory four years ago.

— Mark Irons

Thanks for Park's trees

Editor:

Many local residents, including myself, groused during the holiday season about four years ago when most all the wonderful, old trees on Park Street were removed under the cloak of darkness. The rationale was given they needed to be yanked to make room for new parking meters and bike racks.

At the time, these City Hall excuses didn't sit well with me, especially with store owners and managers saying, "Why do this right before the tree lighting ceremony and our need to have holiday shoppers feel Park Street is a warm and homey place to shop? It looks barren now without any of the trees."

But while photographing them on Dec. 1, I noticed the new replacement trees really have brought East Coast seasonal leaf color change to Alameda. They're just beautiful now, having grown much taller and quicker than any of us naysayers could've predicted. They are loaded with rainbow-colored leaves: yellow, orange and red brilliant leaves that make our Park Street look like New Hampshire or Connecticut in October.

I for one will eat crow (or maybe some of those leaves) since I complained on this very *Alameda Sun* opinion page about the loss of the trees right before the December holiday season.

The trees having filled in and bloomed really give the old boulevard a Christmas-y look. Just look up and you'll see what I mean. Or down, as all the great, colorful leaves are lining the sidewalks like snow.

— Mike Lano

Why Alameda needs rank choice voting

Editor:

As voters, we expect our voices to be heard, our views to be respected and our votes to truly count.

In the November election not one of the candidates running for school board, mayor or city council received 50 percent of the vote, meaning that most of the voters voted against the winner. None of these newly elected officials have a mandate from the voters to do anything yet they will make decisions that will affect all of us.

If the latest polling results are certified, the numbers are as follows: In the School Board Race: Mia Bonta received 35.68 percent, Gary Lym 26.24 percent, Anne McKerghan 19.31 percent and Kevin Jordan 18.33 percent. In the Council race: John Knox White received 25.88 percent, Tony Daysog 22.69 percent, Jim Oddie 19.27 percent, Robert Matz 18.17 percent and Stewart Chen 13.64 percent. In the Mayor's race: Marilyn Ashcraft received 41.96 percent, Trish Spencer 37.45 percent and Frank Matarse 20 percent.

The result is that we will have a City government and School Board stacked with people who were not the first choice of the majority of Alameda voters. Given that Ashcraft's Council seat became vacant with her election to Mayor this is even more egregious as Jim Oddie picks up that seat with more than four out of five voters not casting their vote for him. This needs to change as there are important decisions that will be made that affect the future of Alameda.

The way to remedy this is to adopt Rank Choice Voting which is approved for use in Oakland,

Berkeley and San Leandro. Ranked-choice voting (RCV) makes democracy more fair and functional. It is a simple change that can have a big impact. By all accounts, voters who adopt RCV overwhelmingly found it to be easy and cost-effective. With RCV, you simply rank the candidates in order of preference.

If someone gets a majority after the first count, it's over. If not, the instant runoff kicks in. The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and the ballots of those who selected that candidate as their first choice then go to their second choice.

Everyone else's ballots stay with their first choice. The ballots are then re-tabulated. This continues until there is a majority winner. Given the results of this last election, wouldn't it be great to know that the candidate who was the choice of the majority of Alamedans actually won?

The next election is only two years away and we need to ensure that the next time the true will of the voters is reflected in the candidates that take office.

— Karen Miller

Alameda's Green New Deal

Editor:

On Dec. 3, the World Bank announced that it will invest \$200 billion to tackle climate change. It's a bold and much-needed statement from such a globally recognized entity and a potential source of funding to offset projected City of Alameda investments in infrastructure and climate change resiliency projects and other strategies for the city.

As an island city, Alameda needs to lead the charge in the Bay Area in climate change resiliency projects and strategies if we are to fully realize our future economic potential. No other city in the San Francisco Bay Area faces as great a land mass loss, population displacement or economic loss than Alameda would incur due to sea level rise alone.

Thus, I would propose that Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda and the City of Alameda bid a proposal for World Bank Climate Change funding.

With our future projected economic and housing contributions to the region, Alameda presents a strong case to establish a safeguard to potential future economic losses as a city and region from the projected impact of climate change and sea level rise.

Instead of raising sales taxes or fuel taxes we should pursue avenues of significant funding to protect our city, and enable us to thrive into the future.

— Amos White



Mandar Waghlikar

The paintings of the Bay Farm Bridge, above, and the *USS Hornet*, below, give but a sample of Mandar Waghlikar's talent as an artist.

Paintings Display Artist's Love for the Natural Beauty of His Adopted City

Veronica Hall

Looking for some soothing sights during this busy holiday season? You will be quickly washed away upon seeing the current exhibit at the art studio at Cardinal Point Oakmont Senior Living Center. Alameda's very own local artist Mandar Waghlikar is displaying his artwork during the month of December.

Many of his paintings are inspired by Alameda's natural beauty captured at local yacht clubs, Crown Beach and Shoreline.

Based in Alameda, Waghlikar is inspired by the magic of nature. He is said to have found his creative inspiration on his daily walks and

bike rides by the bay as he witnesses the quiet morning sunrises and the popular Alameda sunsets. The eye catching colors featured in his paintings are the work of acrylic and soft pastels. His work has landed him features in two recent publications, *Alameda Magazine* and *Alameda Architectural Preservation Society's* quarterly newsletter. He was also the winner of the People's Choice award at the 2017 Plein Air Paint Out event in Alameda.

Although Waghlikar worked in the corporate world for 16 years and was formally trained as an MBA and a mechanical engineer, he has been an artist all his life. After more than a decade of living and working



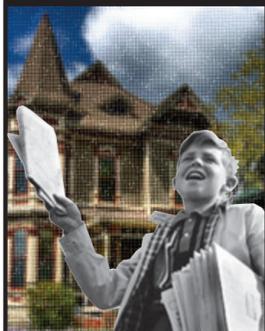
in New York, Waghlikar moved to Alameda in 2015 and was taken aback by the beauty of the island. He began taking art classes and his new life as an artist officially started. Waghlikar now teaches students of all ages and skill levels. In his demonstration led classes, he strives to enable students to tap into their own creative spirit. He currently offers art workshops at Frank Bette Center for the Arts and Cardinal Point Oakmont Senior Living Center.

His students have enjoyed his classes and found them to enrich their own artistic experiences through his teachings.

He plans to offer a painting class at Otis Elementary School through the Alameda Education Foundation program in the New Year. He will also be offering regular weekly classes for kids and adults alike at his art studio. Check out his website to sign up at mandarfineart.com and message him at mandarfineart@gmail.com for inquiries.



Official Subscription Ticket - Clip & Send



Subscriptions to the *Alameda Sun* are just \$25 per year for Alameda residents. Clip the coupon below and mail it with a check and any special instructions to the address on the coupon.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Alameda Sun
3215 Encinal Ave. Ste. J • Alameda, CA 94501

A Monthly Feature only in the *Alameda Sun*

Celebrating the Island's Business Professionals of Note

the third Thursday of every month

Let the Sun help write your story: Call Cindy for details at ... 263-1824

Diane Hayes Owner

As the proprietor of one of the last original shade shops, Diane Hayes has continued the family business with resounding success, offering a wide range of authentic Victorian window shades both locally and nationally with the aid of her website, shadeshop.com. Her business prides itself in its offering of a wide range of antique and modern styles reflecting the local flora of tastes, and its dedication to customer service. Diane's background as a machinist and her contractor's experience ensures that she will not sell a product that she does not stand behind. Besides her hand-crafted roller shades, Diane's shade shop offers all forms of window coverings to her local customers - anything from drapes to verticals, and everything in between. Because of her investment in the community, Diane urges customers to come into the shop and see for themselves her full and stunning gallery of window coverings.

Alameda Shade Shop • 522-0633
914 Central Ave. • www.alamedashadeshop.com

Diana Redding Attorney-at-Law

Diana Redding, J.D., L.L.M., M.B.A. is an Attorney who practices law in the areas of Estate Planning, Probate, Trust and Probate Litigation. Diana offers practical advice to assist her clients. Diana is a member of the Alameda County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service (LRS). Most LRS referrals are low income which gives Diana an opportunity to give back to her local community. Diana provides a free initial half hour consultation. Diana attended Golden Gate University in San Francisco, where she received her J.D., M.B.A. and L.L.M. degrees. Diana holds a black belt in Karate and is also an avid runner.

Diana Redding Law • 426-8744
2500 Santa Clara Ave. • diana@dianareddinglaw.com

ISLAND CITY BUSINESS PROFILES

Dennis Evanosky Publisher

Alameda residents know Dennis Evanosky as the Publisher of the *Alameda Sun*. He is the author of 13 local history books, many of which are for sale at the *Alameda Sun* office or at alamedasun.com/bookstore. He is also the president of Alameda Museum. Dennis helps local business owners promote themselves in the Alameda community through advertising in the *Sun* and can help in other ways as well. Dennis and his business partner Eric Kos will happily read over any written correspondence to help ensure its professionalism, or review articles and manuscripts from budding writers. The duo has also begun offering research services for investigations into local family history using the many tools at their disposal. Want to know more about your ancestors or the people who built the house you live in? Dennis (and Eric) can help. To find out more about these new services, call 510-263-1470 today.

Alameda Sun Editorial Services • 263-1470
3215 Encinal Ave # J • www.alamedasun.com

Larisa Flint Snyder Leather Bag Designer & Shop Proprietress

After 17 years in the fashion industry designing leather and textile purses and doctor bags, Larisa brings her workshop to Alameda. Her passion for fashion and vintage treasures can be found at 918 Central Avenue. Larisa takes pride in creating timeless, beautiful, quality leather doctor bags, purses, back packs, satchels, totes, wallets, clutches and notebooks. Custom bag orders? No problem. Her in-depth knowledge of fashion, design, history and restoration enhance the "Offhand nature" of this shop's curated collection. Stop by for well made, beautifully up-cycled, second hand and vintage clothing, jewelry and accessories Made in Alameda for both men and women. Keep coming back to benefit from Larisa's creative stylist abilities and peruse her fresh new finds. Monday - Friday 11-5 and Saturday 10-5, early morning appointments available M, W, & Th.

Offhand Designs • 363-7797
918 Central Ave. • larisasnyder@gmail.com