

Locally Owned, Community Oriented

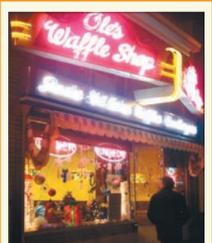
Vol. 12 No. 14
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All the doings of Island safety and law personnel



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HOMETOWN NEWS

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Alameda resident named Raiderette Rookie of the Year.

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Alameda Sun Almanac

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| Today | 07:25 | 17:02 |
| Jan. 4 | 07:25 | 17:03 |
| Jan. 5 | 07:25 | 17:04 |
| Jan. 6 | 07:25 | 17:05 |
| Jan. 7 | 07:25 | 17:06 |
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Above, Historic Alameda High School sported a brand new fence to protect passersby from falling debris during a future earthquake. Below, the city experienced a rather moist Christmas tree lighting this year.

2012: Year in Review

Top stories of the second half of the year from the Sun

July

The city opened the second half of 2012 with the news that it had received a \$200,000 grant from the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Andrew Thomas, the city's planning manager, said that the city would use the money to do a study that would analyze Seaplane Lagoon's feasibility as a "waterfront town center."

The Alameda Fire Department (AFD) also received good news on the grant front. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that it awarded AFD \$1.76 million. AFD will use the money to pay six firefighters for two years.

Alameda celebrated the Fourth of July in style, this year with two mayors gracing the annual parade: Marie Gilmore and Nick Cabral. Gilmore is serving as the city offi-

cial mayor. Cabral sits as the West End's unofficial mayor. Another July 4 tradition, the Ralph Appezato Charity Event (R.A.C.E.) a five-kilometer run along the parade route, raised \$13,000 for charity.

Jeff Cambra became the first to announce his candidacy for City Council. Using the Freedom of Information Act to his advantage, Theo Karantsalis forced the federal government to release information about the Feb. 7, 1973, jet crash in Alameda. The papers put to rest the rumor that the pilot of the jet that crashed caused a fire and the ensuing accident when he lit a cigarette while piloting the plane.

The list of candidates of city council grew as Joana Darc Weber and Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft announced that they were throwing their hats into the ring. Kevin Kennedy and Kevin Kearney took out papers to run for City Treasurer and City Auditor, respectively. Jon Murphy, Michael Robles-Wong, Dennis Spencer and Leland Traiman pulled their papers to run for the school board. Traiman also announced his intention to run for the Healthcare District board.

The Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) announced that the school board voted 3-2 to allow the district to move into new offices at Marina Village. The approval allowed the district to spend \$552,000 a year for six years or plunk down between \$5.1 and \$5.4 million by Sept. 30, 2013, to purchase the building. The decision allowed AUSD to proceed with moving out of Historic Alameda High School.

Just one week after the school district announced its plans to move a fence went up around Historic Alameda High School. Officials explained that AUSD built the fence to protect passers-by from debris that could fall off the building in the event of an earthquake.

Palo Alto police announced that its officers arrested Alameda resident Kariem McFarlin in connection with a July 17 burglary at the home of deceased Apple founder Steve Jobs. The home was undergoing renovation and police said that McFarlin might not have been aware whose home he had burglarized.

Alamedans received the sad news that former Alameda resident Phyllis Diller had passed away at age 95. Diller lived with her husband and children on Fernside Boulevard. She had often entertained the families at Edison Elementary School, where her own children attended school.

City Councilwoman Beverly Johnson announced that she was dropping out of the race for city council. Gov. Jerry Brown had appointed Johnson to serve as deputy director of the state's Office of Administrative Law in Sacramento.

The Alameda Education Association (AEA), which represents the teachers in the city's schools, announced its endorsement of three school board candidates. AEA held a rally in front of Historic Alameda High School to show its support for candidates Trish Spencer, Barbara Kahn and Jon Murphy.

A fire at a home on the 2000 block of Pacific Avenue brought problems at the residence to light. The home has long been the source of complaints of neighbors. Residents have called the Alameda Police Department to the home 71 times in three years. Firefighters from Fire Station No. 3 were the first to arrive on the scene. They rescued a disabled man from the burning building. Some pointed to the timely rescue as a need to keep Fire Station No. 3 open. Critics have called for the station's closure.

September

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In a related story, the city hosted a meeting at Fire Station No. 3 to unveil its plans to rebuild the outdated station and an emergency operations station on a nearby property at Grand Street and Buena Vista Avenue. The city hopes to see the new fire station and operations center up and running by spring 2014.

The city claimed victory against SunCal when Superior Court Judge Charles Breyer announced that the developer was not entitled to recoup the \$17 million it spent in its failed efforts to reach a development deal with the city.

As September wound down Alamedans got a glimpse of the past as the space shuttle *Endeavor* flew over the city on its way to its permanent home at the California Science Center in Los Angeles. The shuttle flew overhead as some in the community were looking to the future at the "parklet" they created on Park Street.

The month ended with Island City denizens getting an earful of a rave concert across the San Leandro

Bay at the Oakland Coliseum. The Alameda Police Department logged some 1,500 calls complaining about the noise. The city of Oakland issued a statement apologizing for the ruckus.

October

A city pension task force wrapped up its work with a report to the City Council. The task force recommended that city workers wait until they are 62 for full retirement benefits. Currently workers can retire at age 55. On a similar note Alameda teachers learned that effective Jan. 1, they will have to be 65 before receiving full benefits. In 2012 teachers could retire at age 62.

The city will sit back and watch while Caltrans makes significant changes to traffic patterns across the Oakland Estuary on 23rd and 29th avenues. If all goes according to plan, traffic coming into Alameda could face significant delays.

West End students took a politically active role during the 2012 campaign season. They hosted the West Alameda Candidates' Forum and rallied against state lawmakers' plans to deny and divert funds necessary for afterschool programs.

City staff and members of the Restoration Advisory Board took the Navy to task for its less-than-extensive clean-up at Alameda Point. Criticism focused on radiological contamination. The Navy denied taking any shortcuts in its cleanup efforts. The concern came just as the city got news that the state of California was placing Alameda Point's waterfront in a public trust.

A test case for the city's new Housing Element arose when the Planning Board opened discussions on a plan to build 89 homes at the Chipman warehouse site on Buena Vista Avenue. The plan could set a precedent for other sites ripe for building on the island. These include the Boatworks on Clement Avenue and Alameda Landing near the Posey Tube.

November

News broke that the East Bay Regional Park District had filed a

YEAR: Page 11

Lincoln Park Memorial for Newtown Victims Set Up

Stephan Pippin

More than 20 Alamedans gathered in the rain on Christmas Day to remember the children and educators killed at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn. nearly two weeks ago. They planted more than 50 tulip bulbs in a small bed near the rose garden in Lincoln Park and used metal flower markers to acknowledge the names of each of the 26 victims of the shooting.

"This tragedy shocked my community. I needed the Newtown community to know that they are not alone, and wanted to do something to redirect my feelings of grief and helplessness," said event organizer Lara Pippin.

"Gathering as a community to plant something beautiful that will

PARK: Page 12

Next Steps in Navy Cleanup

Richard Bangert

Cleanup activity at Alameda Point in 2012 started where it left off in 2011 — at the Seaplane Lagoon. The lagoon's northwest corner was the site of the second and final phase of dredging there and targeted contaminated sediment near storm drain outfalls. With dredging completed by spring, the sight of Americas Cup racing yachts arriving at their temporary dock in the lagoon seemed a harbinger of the approaching end of the Superfund era at the Point.

Just outside the Seaplane Lagoon, another dredging operation was started and finished at one of the maritime ship piers where the *Cape Orlando* had been docked. By November, the massive ship was back at dockside, hull lights glowing at night.

In one of the most complicated and contaminated areas east of the Seaplane Lagoon, cleanup work began at an area 30 feet below ground where a cleaning solvent used on aircraft parts had seeped into the groundwater. After driving a series of metal bars down to the contaminated area, the soil, groundwater, and solvent were heated to just below simmering by means of electricity. This turned the water and solvent into vapor, which was

Point Update

then vacuumed out into a filtering system through a series of pipes.

At the far end of Alameda Point on the northwest landfill, the Navy relied on chemicals, rather than heat, to do the cleanup on a small portion of the site. Dozens of hoses snaking around the site to the injection wells delivered an oxidizing mixture of neutralizing chemicals into a pocket of solvents. Without this remediation, the solvents had the potential to reach the Bay.

The year ends with a cloud of controversy over the Navy's plan for leaving drain pipes under the old Naval Air Rework Facility — Building 5. Letters from both the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and the city call for the complete removal of any lines containing radium paint waste. The Navy ruled out a more costly alternative that would remove all the contaminated pipes. The city challenged this decision, in part, on the grounds that the Navy's cost estimates for a thorough job are inflated and have asked that they reconsider.

Also in Building 5, plans to remove above-ground radium

NAVY: Page 11



The Seaplane Lagoon is one of the most polluted areas of San Francisco Bay. The Navy continues to make progress on reducing the lagoon's contamination. Above, a dredger removes some heavy material from a lagoon in 2012.

Crime Briefs

Dennis Evanosky

Carjackers End Up in Alameda

On Dec. 22, at 10:28 a.m., Oakland police officers responded to a report of an armed carjacking on the 900 block of 56th Street. When officers arrived on scene, the victim provided descriptions of his vehicle and the suspects.

One hour later, Alameda police officers responded to a report of a hit and run in their city. When they arrived on scene, the officers learned that the vehicle involved in the hit and run belonged to the carjacking victim. Witnesses directed officers to the suspects who had fled from the vehicle.

The officers arrested two

male juveniles, who are Oakland residents, in connection with the armed carjacking and the hit and run.

Christmas Day Violence

Alameda police arrested a female suspect, and Alameda Fire Department paramedics transported four stabbing victims to area hospitals on Christmas Day.

Police said Tiffany Gayle Thomas, 42, stabbed four people — two adult females, her 16-year-old daughter and an adult male — with a box cutter during an argument. Police were called to the scene at the Shinsei Gardens Apartments on the 400 block of Willie Stargell Avenue, where they arrested

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