



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 16 No. 17
Jan. 19, 2017

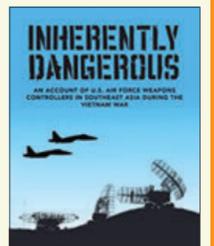
INSIDE

HOMETOWN

Fire Wire
page 2

Police Blotter
page 3

All the doings
of Island safety
& law personnel



HEALTH MATTERS

Book reviews Page 9

Local authors pen books on
health, staying out of danger.



PUZZLES PAGE

Sudoku & More! Page 4

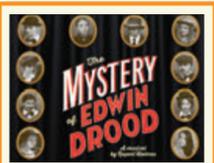
Sharpen your pencils for that
newspaper tradition.



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Event Calendar Page 8

Ever heard of Turmeric Golden
Milk? You have now.



HOMETOWN NEWS

Kids' Theater Page 4

Help choose the ending of
Dickens' unsolved mystery.

CONTENTS

HOMETOWN NEWS... 2

PUZZLES/KIDS... 4

SPORTS... 5

OPINION... 6

CLASSIFIED... 7

LOCAL HAPPENINGS... 8

HEALTH MATTERS... 9

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

Visit us Online at
www.AlamedaSun.com
Like or Friend us
on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter
at Alameda_Sun



JoanAnn Radu-Simak

**Alameda Sun
Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	07:22	17:18
Jan. 20	07:21	17:19
Jan. 21	07:21	17:20
Jan. 22	07:20	17:21
Jan. 23	07:20	17:22
Jan. 24	07:19	17:23
Jan. 25	07:18	17:24

Facebook Comments Stir Debate on Councilwoman

Dennis Evanosky

Bay Area landlord Doug Smith sent the *Alameda Sun* a copy of a letter he wrote to City Councilwoman Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft. The letter expressed his concern about comments he's been privy to as a friend of an insider at the Alameda Renter's Coalition (ARC) private Facebook page.

"I would like to share with you some information that the ARC is disseminating among their members and supporters," Smith wrote to Ezzy Ashcraft. "It appears that they feel you are the key vote on getting rent control in Alameda."

Smith is the president of Fuller Enterprises, a Livermore-based company that manages rental units throughout the Bay Area, including Alameda. He currently sits on the board of directors of the Southern Alameda County Rental Housing Association, a landlord advocacy group affiliated with the Sacramento-based California Apartment Association.

In his missive to Ezzy Ashcraft, Smith requests that "the City Attorney look into this matter. For a group like ARC to try and influence a sitting Councilmember to further their cause is criminal."

The public, including landlords, should not construe comments on

News Analysis

a private Facebook page as ARC policy. In addition, influencing City Council and its decision-making process is hardly criminal and is nothing out of the ordinary.

It is part of the democratic process and happens at City Council meetings in Alameda and beyond. The unions have made a practice of doing this for years. Their mailers recently helped unseat Tony Daysog.

Community groups engage in the same practice all the time. One ad hoc group stopped Tim Lewis Communities from developing the property at the foot of McKay Avenue. A second group influenced how housing development would unfold at Alameda Point. A third group is hoping to influence how the city should fund the animal shelter. One needs to look no further than this week's opinion page to watch that unfold. A fourth group is hoping to prevent a property owner from taking down some oak trees on private property.

Democracy flourishes because individuals engage the democratic process, hoping to turn things their way. There is nothing wrong with that; it is certainly not "criminal."

Review Point Plans Jan. 23

Sun Staff Reports

There are three public hearing agenda items regarding new development at Alameda Point at the upcoming Planning Board meeting Monday, Jan. 23 at City Hall.

The Planning Board will consider recommending to the City Council approval of the Main Street Neighborhood (MSN) Specific Plan.

The MSN Plan fulfills the City's objectives for a transit-oriented, mixed-use, mixed-income neighborhood with diverse housing options, parks and open spaces, neighborhood serving businesses and transitional commercial uses, according to a memorandum from the redevelopment project manager.

The board will also consider a proposed parcel map for creation of a single 6.76-acre parcel consist-

ent with the Town Center plan, Alameda Point Master Infrastructure Plan and Alameda Point Zoning Ordinance. Once the plan is authorized, the city will sell the parcel to Bladium, a commercial sports facility on West Tower Avenue.

Lastly, the Planning Board will consider approval of final design details for the Site A Waterfront Park and neighborhood parks and provide comments on design concepts for the Waterfront Park Pavilion. The board approved the design review application for the Site A Neighborhood Park. However, the board still had questions about the landscaping, lighting and bicycle facilities. As a result, Alameda Point Partners added new details to the design.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at 7 p.m.



A group of demonstrators met and emphasized the need for social justice for people of color last Saturday at the corner of Santa Clara Avenue and Park Street.

Alameda for Black Lives Expands Efforts in Town

Sun Staff Reports

Members of local activist and education organization Alameda for Black Lives (A4BL) joined Alameda residents in creating a 50-person human billboard vigil at the corner of Park Street and Santa Clara Avenue in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day last Saturday.

The group has planned several events designed to engage the Alameda community into taking action and getting educated about dismantling white supremacy on the Island and beyond:

■ Saturday, Jan. 21, Oakland Women's March: Shuttle, education and buddying-up for the march. A4BL will be shuttling those who need transportation from central Alameda to Fruitvale BART and back again. The group's aim is to help those interested but who might not otherwise get to participate to attend this march. Attendance at the march is estimated to be in the millions in cities all around the country. A4BL is also provid-

ing training, legal information and a "buddy system" for attendees who may be new to direct action and have never been at a protest.

■ Tuesday, Jan. 24, and every last Tuesday of the month, A4BL will host an anti-racism study group and book club. Open to all and free of charge, this group meets monthly to read books on topical subjects around the Movement for Black Lives, understanding racism and the like. Meetings take place at Books, Inc. 1344 Park St.

■ Thursday, Jan. 26, and every fourth Thursday of the month, A4BL will hold its monthly general meeting, which is free of charge, open to all and takes place at the Alameda Yacht Club, 1535 Clement Ave.

■ Saturday, Feb. 4, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Fundraising House Party at a private home in Alameda. A4BL will host a fundraising house party with snacks, wine and coffee to learn more about the organization and the Movement for Black Lives and raise money for the Black



An Alameda firefighter is illuminated against the night sky as he works to put out a fire at one of Alameda's longest-standing and most-popular Japanese restaurants.

Favorite Sushi Spot Scarred by Flames

Restaurant owner, 93, says this will make her stronger

Dennis Evanosky

Faith Akiko Yamato will celebrate her 93rd birthday in March. Instead of looking forward to the occasion, though, she will be spending her time helping rebuild Kamakura restaurant that she's owned since 1981.

According to Alameda Fire Department (AFD) Capt. Jim Colburn, at 4:13 a.m., Friday, Jan. 13, 21 firefighters responded to the report of a fire at the restaurant located at Santa Clara Avenue and Broadway. It took them 10 minutes to get the fire under control, and an additional 20 minutes to extinguish the blaze.

The fire damaged the kitchen and smoke played a role in further damaging the popular restaurant.

According to Colburn, smoke also damaged some adjacent businesses. The fire did not spread beyond the restaurant, however.

AFD is still investigating the cause of the fire, which may have started either in a malfunctioning ice-making machine or in a nearby refrigeration system. The cost to repair the damage also remains unknown.

No one was injured, Colburn said.

The family is not sure when the popular restaurant will reopen. A Go-Fund-Me page has been set up to help the Yamatos and their employees. See the related story below.

Update to Cab Driver Rescue Story

The *Alameda Sun* received additional information on last week's story regarding an AFD water rescue team's efforts to rescue a local cab driver who had driven off the road.

Smoke also damaged some adjacent businesses, but the fire did not spread beyond the restaurant.

On Sunday, Jan. 8, members of the Alameda Fire Department (AFD) and the Oakland Fire Department (OFD) responded to the report of an occupied vehicle in the water off Doolittle Drive at Langley Street near Oakland International Airport.

Rescue swimmers from AFD entered the water and were able to locate and remove Jarnail Singh, 57, from his submerged vehicle.

Singh, who lived in San Leandro, was unresponsive when the swimmers pulled him out of the water. Emergency personnel transported Singh to Highland Hospital, where he later died.

The San Francisco Fire Department also responded with rescue divers.

Help Faith Restore Kamakura

Sun Staff Reports

In the wake of the fire at Kamakura, Christine Gonsalves and Steve King, owners of the local gift store Whales & Friends, have started a Go-Fund-Me account.

They not only want to assist the restaurant's owner, Faith Yamato, in restoring the restaurant, but will use the money to help her employees cope while the restaurant is closed.

"We just feel terrible and

wanted to do something," Gonsalves said. "I am sure Faith has fire insurance, but I think there is always something that isn't covered. We wanted to provide support to her employees as well. She is amazing. In an interview after the fire she said the unfortunate event will only make her stronger."

Alameda Sun readers are invited to help at www.gofundme.com/kamakura-restaurant-restoration.

News in Brief

Save Money on Saving Water

The East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) recently announced a pilot program to help property owners of multi-family residential and commercial buildings retrofit their structures.

The EBMUD WaterSmart Retrofit Program assists property owners in retrofitting all sanitary fixtures, devices and landscape irrigation at no cost upfront. The utility will then take the payment via the property owners' monthly water bill.

The payback period must be less than five years. If the property owners are able to upgrade their properties, they can save significant amount of water, thus cutting utility cost.

Questions about the program can be directed to Joseph Lerma in EBMUD's Water Conservation Office at 986-7611.

Webster and Posey Tubes Close for Cleaning

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced recently that it will close the Webster and Posey tubes in mid and late January for cleaning. Cleaning for the Posey Tube was completed earlier this week.

The Webster Tube, entering Alameda, will be closed as follows:

- Monday, Jan. 23, from 10 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. the following morning
- Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 10 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. the following morning
- Wednesday, Jan. 25, from 10 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. the following morning.

Questions or information about tube closures should be directed to Tony Padilla, Caltrans, Tunnels & Tubes, at 286-0315.