



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 17 No. 21  
Feb. 1, 2018

**INSIDE**

**HOMETOWN**

**Fire Wire**  
page 2 **Police Blotter**  
page 3

All the doings of Island safety & law personnel



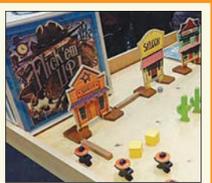
**KIDS PAGE**

**Contest winners** Page 4  
Rotary presents prizes to speech contest winners.

1	2	3	1	4
4	5	9	7	
5	9	3	8	
6	1	7	9	
8	2	4	3	

**PUZZLES PAGE**

**Sudoku & More** Page 4  
Sharpen your pencils for some brainteasing fun!



**LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

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Try out an Old West game at the library and other fun.



**VALENTINE'S DAY**

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Joan Ann Radu/Shapiro

**Alameda Sun Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	07:13	17:32
Feb. 2	07:13	17:33
Feb. 3	07:12	17:34
Feb. 4	07:11	17:35
Feb. 5	07:10	17:36
Feb. 6	07:09	17:37
Feb. 7	07:08	17:38



Among the things the city budget affords local residents are the many varied presentations and programs at Alameda libraries, like the one pictured above.

## City Optimistic About its Financial Future

**Dennis Evanosky**

The city recently released its financial report for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2017. It will present the findings to the City Council at its Tuesday, Feb. 6, meeting. According to the report, the city has been able to maintain General Fund reserves in excess of the City Council's established level.

The City Council established both a 20 percent reserve policy and a 5 percent contingency reserve policy, measured in proportion to the budgeted expenditures and transfers out. As the 2017 fiscal year ended, the General Fund available balance was \$28.7 million — 31 percent of the year's appropriations, or 11 percent contingency reserve — 6 percent higher than the contingency the City Council established.

During the fiscal year ending last June, the total actual revenue and transfers in for the General Fund equaled \$93 million. This exceeded projections by \$4.2 million, or 5 percent. The total actual expenditures and transfers out for the General Fund were \$84.4 million — \$7.3 million, or 7.5 percent, less than the final budget.

Increased home values resulted in corresponding increases in property and transfer taxes. These exceeded the budget by \$3.1 million, the report says. Additionally, revenue from charges for services exceeded projections by \$1 million, due in large part to unanticipated receipt of ground emergen-

cy medical transportation reimbursements by the Alameda Fire Department.

Overall, actual expenditures came in at \$7.2 million below appropriations. The report cites fiscal vigilance across city departments in helping to reduce costs. Personnel vacancies, mainly in the Alameda Police Department, also played a role, the report stated.

The city's economy continues to grow after years of recession. Property values have increased and are expected to grow as a result of the construction of new homes and the continuing appreciation of property values. In addition, the city is forecasting taxable retail sales to increase thanks to new retail developments.

## Council Wants APD to Secure Fixed Readers

**Dennis Evanosky**

At its Tuesday, Feb. 6, meeting the City Council will consider allocating money to acquire 13 fixed-location, automated license-plate recognition systems.

In 2014, the city equipped four marked Alameda Police Department (APD) patrol vehicles with three-camera automated license-plate recognition systems (ALPR). These vehicles and cameras are still in operation. According to the City Council report, these systems have played important roles in identifying stolen vehicles, wanted subjects and people at risk. They have also aided

in providing invaluable leads in solving violent and felonious crimes.

The city now wants to expand this system to incorporate fixed ALPR equipment at the entry and exit points to the city. The city would install these systems — each with two cameras — at locations that include the tubes, the bridges and locations on Bay Farm Island. The total estimate for these systems amounts to \$500,000, paid for with APD's salary savings. The current equipment estimate stands at \$319,632.72. The remaining cost would cover the costs to mount and power the equipment.

A copy of the 204-page report is posted on the city's website at <http://alamedaca.gov/finance>.

"It is believed the system will bring about reduced crime, increase the number of crimes solved and provide side benefits in being able to locate missing or wanted vehicles or persons," stated APD Chief Paul Roller.

## Celebrate Black History Month with Island Poets on Feb. 7

**Cathy Dana**

Alameda Island Poets' monthly free reading Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 7 to 9 p.m., will celebrate Black History Month with local poets Amos White and Wanda Sabir.

White is an award-winning American haiku poet, author, producer, director and activist, recognized for his vivid literary imagery and breathless poetic interpretations. He has been published in several national and international reviews and anthologies.

White founded and hosts the Heart of the Muse creative's salon. He also produces and hosts the "Beyond Words: Jazz+Poetry" show; produces the Oakland Haiku and Poetry Festival and serves as president and chair of Bay Area Generations literary readings series. White is also a board member with Rhythmix Cultural Works.

Wanda Sabir, recently appointed to the Alameda County Advisory Board for Realignment, also serves as board member for the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, where she participates on legal visiting teams. She is a depth psychologist, college professor, journalist and scholar. Her interests are violence prevention, trauma and trauma healing.

She is a trained facilitator for Alternatives to Violence and Restorative Justice practices as well as Healing from Ancestral and Historic Traumas. She is also trained in theater for social justice, such as Boal Theatre. She believes in the transformative power of art in all its forms and looks for the fissures within and without the standing structures where truth can escape.

Sabir hosted and organized Poetic Protest 2005: Electoral Politics at College of Alameda on Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, 2005. Featured poets included: Sabir, Rafael Jesus Gonzalez, Mary Rudge, Reginald James and others.

She founded and hosts the annual African American Celebration of Poetry and their Poets, which will celebrate 28 years at a separate event at 4 p.m., Feb. 3, at the West Oakland Public Library. This event spotlights poetry, dance, performance and art.

After the featured poets, light refreshments and an open mic will be held. Admission is free, but donations are requested. The reading will take place at the Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St. See [frankbettecenter.org](http://frankbettecenter.org) for more information.

Cathy Dana is one of Alameda's poets laureate.



Courtesy photos  
**Amos White**



Courtesy photos  
**Wanda Sabir**

## Police Provide 2017 Crime Report to Council

**Ekene Ikeme**

Reports of crime in Alameda rose in 2017 compared to 2016, according to the Alameda Police Department's (APD) annual crime update report.

There were 5,075 crimes reported in 2017, compared to 4,514 crime reports in 2016. In fact, 2017 had the most crimes reported in Alameda this decade.

There was a significant increase in reported crimes labeled serious offenses or Part 1 reports as well. There were 2,188 Part 1 offenses in 2016. That number jumped to 2,625 in 2017. Part 1 offenses include robbery, rape, assault, petty theft, burglary, grand theft, auto theft and more. All other crimes are labeled Part 2 offenses. This includes vandalism, forgery, DUI, trespassing and more.

According to the reports petty and grand thefts are the cause for the increase in Part 1 offenses. There were 681 grand thefts reported in 2017, compared to 544 in 2016. Even more significant there were 1,044 petty thefts reported in 2017, compared to 807 in 2016.

The report also identifies the crime rates in different sectors of the city. Sector three, which spans from Willow Street to the Bay Farm Island Bridge, received the most reported crime. This sector received 2,032 crime reports, of which 1,088

were Part 1 offenses. The second-most reports came from Sector 1, which describes the area between Main and Eighth streets. This sector received 1,253 crime reports, of which 632 were Part 1 offenses. The next was Sector 2 (1,072 total, 577 Part 1) between Eighth and Willow streets; Sector 4 (466 total, 236 Part 1) which spans Bay Farm Island; and Sector 5 (228 total, 88 Part 1) which spans Alameda Point.

Last year saw the most reported crime in Alameda since 2009 when there were 5,557 reported offenses. One reason for the increase in crime is population growth in the city. According to the U.S. Census, Alameda saw an increase in residents from 73,812 in 2010 to 78,906 in 2016.

In its report, APD included steps the department is taking to combat the increase in crime. They have transferred three detectives into patrol units. They increased probation and parole searches of known criminals and introduced the Sharing Electronic Evidence program. Finally, they are trying to repair the department's automated license plate readers.

APD will give a presentation of the annual crime update report to City Council at its next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Contact Ekene Ikeme at [ekeme@alamedasun.com](mailto:ekeme@alamedasun.com).



Alameda Police Department

Alameda Police Department Officer Vanessa Dubon stands at the ready with her Police Service Dog Argo — a German Shepard from Slovakia. Dubon and Argo have worked together for more than four years. They are certified for both patrol tactics and narcotic detection.

## News in Brief

**Sun Staff Reports**  
**Annual Sewer Replacement Project Commencing**

The City's annual sewer replacement project will begin in late January 2018 and is estimated to be completed by September 2018. Construction work hours are restricted from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. near school locations, Monday through Friday. The work will consist of replacing aging sewer mains, laterals and manholes at the following streets. The streets below are listed west to east across the Island:

- 600 block of Taylor Avenue from Sixth Street to Webster Street.
- 900 block of Taylor from Ninth Street to Caroline Street.
- 1700 block of Jay Street from Pacific Avenue to Buena Vista Avenue.
- 1700 block of Stanton Street from Pacific to Buena Vista.
- 1500, 1600 and 1700 blocks of Paru Street from Santa Clara Avenue to Buena Vista.
- 1700, 1800 and 1900 blocks of Pacific from Grand Street to Chestnut Street.
- 1500, 1600 and 1700 blocks of Schiller Street from Santa Clara to Buena Vista.
- 1700 and 1800 blocks of Eagle Avenue from Grand to Schiller.
- 2100 and 2200 blocks of

Buena Vista from Willow Street to Oak Street.

■ 2300, 2400 and 2500 blocks of Eagle from Oak to Broadway.

■ 1900 and 2000 blocks of Cambridge Drive from Fernside Boulevard to Marina Drive.

■ 900 and 1000 blocks of High Street from Otis to Fillmore Street.

■ 400 block of Melrose Avenue from Camden Road to Mecartney Road.

Construction will be phased by block and every effort will be made to minimize disruptions to neighborhoods. Sewer service will not be interrupted. Motorists and residents may experience minor changes to traffic, temporary loss of on-street parking or an increase in noise levels and dust.

Advanced notice and no-parking signs will be provided 72 hours in advance of planned work.

Questions regarding the project should be directed to Flavio Barrantes at 747-7952.

**See Super Bowl 52 on Big Screen for Free**

This Sunday, Feb. 4, football fans can watch Super Bowl 52 live at the Alameda Theatre & Cineplex for no charge. The theater will present the live simulcast of the Philadelphia Eagles vs. the New England Patriots on the 50-foot screen in the Historic Theatre.

Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are available only at the Theatre Box Office on a first-come, first-served basis. A \$5 donation is requested per ticket to benefit a local charity.

The theatre snack bar will be open for hot dogs, beer and wine. No outside food or beverages allowed.

For more information, visit [alamedatheatres.com](http://alamedatheatres.com).

**Spelling Bee Set for Saturday**

This Saturday, Feb. 3, marks the fourth year of the Alameda Spelling Bee. The contest to prove the best student speller in town takes place at 9 a.m. at Otis Elementary School, 3010 Fillmore St., and is open to Alameda students in grades 4 through 9.

The top spellers receive trophies courtesy of Alameda Awards & Recognition and sponsorship to county-level competition courtesy of the Alameda Elks Lodge.

The bee is a project started by local parents Chuck Kapelke and Michael Jonas with some help from local sponsors. Alameda Sun Publisher Eric J. Kos will serve as spell master and Alameda Poets Laureate Cathy Dana and Gene Kahane will serve as judges.

Register to compete and find more information at [alamedaspellingbee.org](http://alamedaspellingbee.org).