

Alameda Sun

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, ALAMEDA!



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

Vol. 15 No. 20
Feb. 11, 2016

INSIDE

HOMETOWN

Fire Wire
page 2

Police Blotter
page 3

All the doings of Island safety & law personnel



SPORTS
Young skier Page 10

Eight-year-old Alamedan takes to the slopes with ski team.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE
And Sudoku Page 7

Sharpen your pencils for that newspaper tradition.



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Succulents 101 Page 8
Ploughshares Nursery teaches and other Alameda events.



FUR, FINS, FEATHERS

Toya's story Page 4
Remembering how one sweet face can make a difference.

CONTENTS

- HOMETOWN NEWS...** 2
- FUR, FINS & FEATHERS...** 4
- OPINION.....** 6
- PUZZLES.....** 7
- EVENT CALENDAR....** 8
- CLASSIFIED.....** 9
- SPORTS.....** 10

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



#120 by JoAnnArmiRadioShack

Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	07:04	17:42
Feb. 12	07:03	17:43
Feb. 13	07:02	17:44
Feb. 14	07:01	17:46
Feb. 15	07:00	17:47
Feb. 16	06:59	17:48
Feb. 17	06:58	17:49



Dennis Evanosky

A cyclist on Central Avenue shares a lane with traffic in the street's current configuration. Changes to Central may be approved at the Feb. 24 city council meeting.

Central Ave. Plans Go Before Council

Ekene Ikeme

City Council is asking Alameda residents for their input on a concept to make Central Avenue, between Main Street/Pacific Avenue and Sherman Street/Encinal Avenue, safer at the Feb. 24 City Council meeting. City staff's goal is to make Central Avenue safer for Alamedans traveling by car, bicycle or on foot.

City staff has already created a design proposal and is requesting the Council's approval at the Feb. 24 meeting. However, the council wants input from the community before they approve the plan.

The city chose this stretch to rebuild because a Central Avenue study concluded there was a disproportionate number of injuries from collisions there compared to other streets in the city.

One of the recommendations is to change the road from a four-lane roadway — two lanes in each direction — to a three-lane roadway — one travel lane in each direction — that will include a two-way left-turn lane. The proposal states adding the left-turn lane would reduce rear-end, sideswipe and left-turn collisions by at least 19 percent.

Staff believes with the turn lane there will be an improvement in speed-limit compliance by three to five miles per hour and travel flow since through vehicles are separated from left-turning vehicles. Both will de-

The plan looks to build two, five-foot-wide bike lanes, one on both sides of the street.

crease the chances of a possible collision.

Other proposed improvements will help bicyclists and parking. The plan looks to build two, five-foot-wide bike lanes, one on both sides of the street. This will not only help bicyclists, but those who park along Central Avenue as it will be easier for drivers to exit their vehicles without the threat of oncoming cyclists colliding with their car doors.

There will be an extra cycle track — a two-lane roadway for bicyclists — from the Central/Main/Pacific intersection to Fifth Street. This is designed to increase the space for bicyclists near school zones around Encinal High and Paden Elementary schools.

Other improvements include more visible crosswalks, more space for AC Transit bus stops and improved landscaping.

This corridor concept proposal is funded by Caltrans through a community-based transportation planning grant. The local match is paid for by the Alameda County Transportation Commission

through Measure B — Alameda County's transportation sales tax.

For more information on the Central Avenue Concept design, contact Gail Payne, transportation coordinator, by phone at 747-6892 or by email at gpayne@alamedaca.gov.

Contact Ekene Ikeme at eikeme@alamedasun.com.

Rent Ordinance Comes Before Council Feb. 16

Dennis Evanosky

The City Council is scheduled to consider the Rent Stabilization and Tenant Protection Ordinance at its Feb. 16 meeting. If passed, the ordinance would require landlords to offer one-time, one-year leases to prospective or in-place tenants. The new ordinance would not allow landlords to increase rents more than once in a 12-month period.

The ordinance would not place a cap on maximum-allowable rental increases. If the rent increase is 5 percent or less, the ordinance would require landlords to notify tenants of the availability of a review process using the Housing Authority's Rent Review Advisory Committee (RRAC).

An increase of more than 5 percent would require landlords to notify the Housing Authority and would trigger a hearing before RRAC. Landlords could not increase rents until the review process is complete. If landlords fail to properly notify tenants and the Housing Authority, the ordinance would not permit them to increase rents for 12 months.

Not all rental units would be subject to the new ordinance. The state of California's Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act (Costa-Hawkins) exempts single-family homes and condominiums from rent increase limitations but only if the tenancy commenced on or after Jan. 1, 1996. The act would not exempt these dwellings from the ordinance's just-cause eviction provisions.

The ordinance does put an appeals process in place. If the landlord or a tenant does not agree with

RRAC's decision and the rental unit is not exempt under Costa Hawkins, either party can file a petition to have a neutral hearing officer consider the rent increase. The officer's decision would be binding.

If a rental unit is exempt under Costa Hawkins, RRAC's recommendation is non-binding. Parties may appeal RRAC's decision to the City Council but that recommendation is likewise non-binding.

All rental units in Alameda, including those exempt under Costa Hawkins, would be subject to the new ordinance's limitations on evictions. The ordinance allows landlords to evict tenants "for cause." These causes include failure to pay rent, breach of lease, nuisance and failure to give access. No relocation assistance and no limitation on rent increases for new tenant apply in "for-cause" evictions.

The ordinance also defines "no-fault" evictions. These include an owner moving into the property, an owner demolishing the property, or the owner substantially rehabilitating the property. The latter would be subject to an approved capital improvement plan.

Finally, the ordinance allows landlords to evict for "no cause." However landlords must reimburse the tenants. The ordinance also limits rent increases for new tenants and puts the brake on the number of "no-cause" evictions landlords could enforce in a 12-month period.

If passed the ordinance would sunset on Dec. 31, 2019.



Eric J. Kos

The Alameda Spelling Bee's top five spellers, left to right: Liam Foster, Hazel Purins, Elizabeth Tsyvinsky, Katie Angstadt-Leto and Alyanna Manzano. For more photos from the 2016 bee, visit www.alamedasun.com.

Island's Best Spellers Compete in City Bee

Sun Staff Reports

The second annual Alameda Spelling Bee took place last Saturday at Otis Elementary School. Liam Foster, a ninth-grader at Alameda Community Learning Center (ACLC), was named the top speller on the Island. This year's bee was open to students in both elementary and middle schools. Foster was also named the top middle-school-age speller.

Hazel Purins, last year's top speller, a sixth-grader at Lincoln Middle School (LMS), came in second place overall, and was the top elementary school-age

speller. (The county bee categorizes up to sixth-graders in the elementary school division.)

Other top spellers were LMS sixth-grader Elizabeth Tsyvinsky, third overall; Katie Angstadt-Leto, sixth-grader at Nea Community Learning Center in fourth overall and Alyanna Manzano, sixth-grade, ACLC, fifth overall.

Rounding out the top 12 and also representing Alameda at the Alameda County Bee in March are Lee-John Majerus, Liam Hofmann, Artemis Edison, Sunny Zhu and Maxwell Hayden with alternates: Theo Hartlaub and Sophia Cooke.

Hosting the bee is a passion for local parent Chuck Kapelke who has organized the event the past two years. *Alameda Sun* Publisher Eric J. Kos and Alameda Poet Laureate Julia Park Tracey served as judges with UCSF Economics Professor Michael Jonas as spell master.

The Alameda Elks Lodge provided financial support. *Alameda Sun* served as the media sponsor. In-kind donations were given by Alameda Awards & Advertising and other local business sponsors.

Find out more about the bee at alamedaspellingbee.com.



Dennis Evanosky

ARPD Holds 15th Annual Father-Daughter Dance for Valentine's

Sun Staff Reports

Above, Jesse and Olivia Aney of Alameda dance together at the Alameda Recreation and Parks Department's (ARPD) annual Father-Daughter Dance Party, held last Friday for the 15th year. The event, put on in association with Girls Inc. of the Island City, gives girls and their favorite male role model a chance to dance, create arts and crafts, enjoy refreshments and other fun together. The dance, held on the weekend prior to Valentine's Day, is extremely popular and often sells out well in advance. This year was no exception.

Sun Staff Reports Posey Tube to Close Next Wednesday Night

Caltrans announced that it will close the Posey Tube for inspection and maintenance from 10 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 17, to 5 a.m., the following morning. The tube, built in 1928, carries traffic from Alameda into Oakland.

Contractors currently working on a second project to rehabilitate the tube will continue with their work as scheduled. This includes repair, not maintenance work, and involves replacing guardrails and sidewalks, repairing and installing lighting and closed-circuit televisions, as well as rehabilitating the tube's superstructure.

Alameda Tweeted from Space

The runways of the former Alameda Naval Air Station appear just peeking into the top of a photograph taken from outer space by International Space Station Commander Scott Kelly on Super Bowl Sunday.

Kelly posted the image with the message, "#GoodMorning #SanFrancisco! Hoping for a great day today! #SuperBowlSunday #SuperBowl #YearInSpace."

The image can be viewed at espn.com or via Kelly's twitter account: @StationCDRKelly.

Public Servants Wanted

The City Council is soliciting applications from residents who would like to serve on the

Commission on Disability Issues and the Rent Review Advisory Board.

The Commission on Disability Issues meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of every other month. The Rent Review Advisory Committee meets the first Monday of the month as needed.

Application forms for either position may be obtained from the Office of City Clerk, City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Ave., Room 380, on the city's website or by telephoning the City Clerk at 747-4800. Persons appointed to these positions will serve partial terms.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit applications to the Office of the City Clerk by Tuesday, Feb. 23.