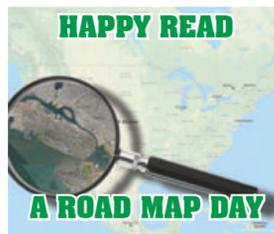


Alameda Sun



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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Alameda Sun Almanac

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Today	06:49	19:35
April 6	06:48	19:36
April 7	06:46	19:37
April 8	06:45	19:38
April 9	06:43	19:38
April 10	06:42	19:39
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Smart Meter Activist Arrested for Blockage

Ekene Ikeme

Alameda police officers arrested an Alameda resident after he allegedly tried blocking the installation of Alameda Municipal Power's (AMP) new smart meters at an apartment building Thursday, March 29.

Alameda resident Christopher Rabe was arrested at 10:30 a.m., according to Alameda Police Department (APD) reports. The incident took place at the apartment building on the 2200 block of Pacific Avenue where Rabe, 39, is a tenant.

Workers from Professional Meters, Inc., which AMP hired to conduct the smart electric meter installations, were attempting to install AMP's new meters at the apartment building. At the residence the workers noticed Rabe was blocking the grid where the meters would be installed. He had also wrapped a chain around his meter.

Even though Rabe opted out of the program, restricting access to the electric meter is against the law. Per the terms of AMP's Rules & Regulations, customers may not obstruct access to metering equipment and the utility has the right to remove any obstructions. Rabe was taken to an Oakland jail and released after posting bond.

The workers were to install five meters at the building, four to residences and one for a commercial meter for the common areas in the

building. Some of the other residents chose to opt out of the new smart meter program and continue with their old meters.

Rabe has been in an ongoing battle with AMP over its new smart meters ("New Smart Meters Raise Radiation Concerns," Nov. 23, 2017). He believes the radio-frequency (RF) levels of the new meters are higher than AMP suggests. He expressed his concerns to AMP in a letter he sent them last year. He also posted a video to Youtube where he used his own RF meter to monitor RF wave transmissions from several smart meters around Alameda last year. In the videos, Rabe stands in front of a smart meter and analyzes how many times his RF meter picks up pulsed microbursts of RF radiation. In the video Rabe believes one smart meter transmits more than 9,000 times per day.

However, according to AMP's website, the smart meters, which are manufactured by Landis & Gyr, a worldwide smart meter and smart grid manufacturing company, emit about 83 seconds of RF frequency waves per day. This comes from 270 maintenance and 1,440 sync transmissions per day.

Calls to the Alameda County District Attorney's office to determine what charges Rabe will face were not returned as of Tuesday.

Contact Ekene Ikeme at eikeme@alamedasun.com.

'Block 9' Heads Before Planning

Revised Alameda Point plan aims to redevelop block near East Gate jet

Dennis Evanosky

On Monday, April 9, Alameda Point's Site A, Block 9 will get a reprise at the Planning Board. The intersection of Orion Street and West Atlantic Avenue approximately defines the block's southeast corner.

The board approved the project's design review last December with the stipulation that Cypress Equity Investment iron out a few details. These included a second look at the project's front elevation facing West Atlantic Avenue; the interior courtyard; the building's roof deck and common room; and the landscape plan.

Cypress informed the city that its design team refined the four areas, "The design team has continued to improve the West Atlantic Elevation to create more visual interest and cohesion in the design," stated Assistant Community Development Director Andrew Thomas in his report to the Planning Board.

The elevation will include a variety of recesses, balconies and sun shades, which will provide deep shadow lines and visual interest. Among the changes to the plan, Cypress' team enhanced the elevation with transom windows to take better advantage of the additional ceiling height and cut down on the visual heaviness of the taller parapet above.

As requested Cypress provided the board with additional drawings illustrating the plan for the interior courtyard. The plan includes columnar trees and bamboo landscape screening to soften the interface of the garage with the internal courtyard.

The team also provided the board with the requested landscape details and more information about the street-tree plan. The

"The design team has continued to improve the West Atlantic Elevation to create more visual interest..."

— Asst. Community Development Director, Andrew Thomas

team's revised plans spell out the types of trees for the four bounding streets: West Atlantic Avenue, Orion Street and well as two yet-to-be defined streets: Ardent Way and Coronado Street. These include black locust, coast live oak and two types of gum trees: lemon-scented and red-flowering.

The trees "aim to provide character, color and a sense of place along the street frontages," Thomas stated in his report.

The Planning Board also asked Cypress to explore increasing the size of the roof deck. The net total floor area of the roof deck and resident lounge is (now) approximately 1,400 square feet, which can accommodate up to 95 occupants at one time. "The plan also includes a large door between the lounge and roof deck to allow occupants to comfortably spill out from the lounge onto the roof deck," Thomas stated.

"Taken together, all of these design modifications add up to an improved project that staff is recommending for Planning Board approval," Thomas stated.

The Planning Board will consider this new plan at its next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 9, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Contact Dennis Evanosky at editor@alamedasun.com.



This view of Block 9 at Alameda Point's Site A looks south on Orion Street toward today's West Atlantic Avenue. If all goes as planned, a 200-unit apartment complex with 10,000 square feet of commercial space will occupy the site.



Joe Woodard

Baseball Season On

Sun Staff Reports

Mayor Trish Spencer invited a few of her friends — all baseball fans — to join her on the City Hall steps last Friday for the annual celebration of the start of the baseball season. The United States Conference of Mayors invited Spencer and other mayors to "Play Ball" in a joint program coordinated by Major League Baseball and USA Baseball. Above all, "Play Ball" hopes to reach out to kids who don't normally play the game. The program aims to energize communities like Alameda and generate support and love for baseball and softball.

Bridge Inspections, Closures Continue

Sun Staff Reports

The Alameda County Public Works Agency (ACPW) will close traffic lanes on the Park Street Bridge and High Street Bridge on different days beginning in April. The closures are necessary for engineering teams to perform bridge inspections. The lane closures will be during non-peak hours and at night. Detour signs will be posted. Motorists are advised to use caution when driving through the area.

ACPW coordinated with local, state and federal agencies to gain permission for highly special-

ized bridge experts to conduct the inspections. Bridges will be assessed for safety in both day-to-day operations and during an emergency.

High Street Bridge

Today, Thursday, April 5, and tomorrow, Friday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, all lanes will be closed on the High Street Bridge. A detour will be posted.

Park Street Bridge

From Monday, April 9, through Thursday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, lanes will be

closed on the Park Street Bridge. Motorists may only have access to one lane of traffic. On Wednesday night, April 11, all lanes will be closed from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. A detour will be posted.

Inspections on the Miller-Sweeney (Fruitvale Avenue) Bridge was completed earlier this week.

Alerts regarding the closures will be posted at www.alameda.ca.gov and on social media. For updates on this project and others, visit www.acpwa.org. If the closures pose a special hardship, residents may call Alameda County Public Works at 777-2390.



Courtesy Chabad of Alameda

Left to right: Rabbi Yosef Romano, director of the Jewish Learning Institute of Berkeley; Rabbi Meir Shmotkin, director, Chabad of Alameda; Rabbi Shimon Grusman, director, Chabad of Castro Valley; Nate Miley, Alameda County Supervisor District 4 and Rabbi Gil Leeds, director, Chabad Jewish Center of UC Berkeley.

Education and Sharing Day Marked Locally

Sun Staff Reports

Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer declared Tuesday, March 27, a "Day of Education and Sharing" in honor of the legacy and birthday of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson (the Rebbe), leader of the Chabad movement. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors marked the day with a similar proclamation.

These local proclamations took place alongside those given by governors in all 50 states including Gov. Jerry Brown.

Established in 1978 by a joint Congressional resolution and recognized annually by every U.S. President since, Education and Sharing Day focuses on the foun-

ation of meaningful education: instructing youth in the ways of morality and ethics.

In recognition of the Rebbe's outstanding and lasting contributions toward improvements in world education, morality and acts of charity, he was (the only Rabbi to be) awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Congress established his birth date as a national day to raise awareness and strengthen the education of children.

The Rebbe, a global spiritual leader, dedicated his life to the betterment of mankind. A tireless advocate for youth around the world, the Rebbe emphasized the importance of education and good character, and instilled the hope

Courtesy photo
Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson



for a brighter future into the lives of countless people in America and across the globe.

The Rebbe established 5,000 educational centers (Chabad houses) in each of the 50 states of the U.S. and in 100 countries on six continents.

Mayor Spencer read the proclamation at Alameda City Hall at the request of Rabbi Meir Shmotkin, director of Chabad of Alameda.