

Vol. 14 No. 36
June 4, 2015

INSIDE

HOMETOWN

Fire Wire
page 2
Police Blotter
page 3

All the doings of Island safety and law personnel



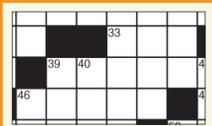
ISLAND ARTS

Photography Page 11
Local shutterbug earns story telling award at the Bette.



SPORTS

Golf Page 8
The Fry Brothers golf tourney champions awarded.



PUZZLES

Crossword Page 9
Sharpen your pencils for that famed newspaper tradition.



HOMETOWN NEWS

Local leaders Page 12
Earhart Elementary students finish second — in the world.

CONTENTS

- HOMETOWN NEWS...** 2
- OPINION** 4
- CLASSIFIED** 6
- PUZZLES**..... 7
- SPORTS**..... 8
- REAL ESTATE** 9
- LOCAL HAPPENINGS** . 10

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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	05:48	20:26
June 5	05:48	20:27
June 6	05:48	20:28
June 7	05:47	20:28
June 8	05:47	20:29
June 9	05:47	20:29
June 10	05:47	20:30



City of Alameda

Affordable Senior Housing Near Del Monte Moves Forward

Dennis Evanosky

The Planning Board gave a tentative nod to the affordable senior housing planned for property at Buena Vista Avenue and Sherman Street. If the plan moves forward the 32-foot tall building, pictured above, would stand cheek-on-jowl to the Del Monte warehouse building.

As part of the \$125 million Del Monte development, Tim Lewis Communities agreed to build 55 units of affordable housing. The apartment complex under consideration by the Planning Board would contain 31 units. Lewis will also provide 24 more units for moderate-income residents in the main building.

The Alameda Housing Authority would oversee the construction of the complex. It would then own and manage the one-bedroom apartments once the project is completed. The apartments range in size from 537 square feet to 793 square feet; most would have own patio or balcony.

The board's approval came with conditions that included increasing parking for the disabled, as well as amending parts of the plan that pertain to the building's windows, elevator and landscaping. The plans would get one more look by the Planning Board. If they meet with the board's approval, they would move forward for City Council approval.

AUSD, Teachers Reach Tentative Agreement

Sun Staff Reports

The school district announced on Tuesday that its negotiators have reached a tentative agreement with the teachers' union.

The Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) and the Alameda Education Association (AEA), which represents the teachers have agreed on an ongoing 4 percent raise in salary starting with the next school year.

Negotiations began last Nov. 18, when both sides unveiled their respective contract proposals. The district and the union began formal negotiations in January, meeting 15 times.

AEA's Facebook page stated on Tuesday that "both sides have pledged to remain at the table until we have finished negotiating the four remaining open articles — teaching hours, class size, child development centers and special education."

In its press release announcing the tentative agreement, the district stated that it was providing a 1 percent salary boost that the union chose to use to increase both the hourly rate for teachers and stipends for speech and language pathologists.

The district will also contribute to the cost of dental insurance for teachers. In addition, the district agreed to cover the state-mandated

increase in teachers' contributions to their pensions.

"The two sides also agreed to establish committees to plan and establish school calendars, as well as collaboratively review the process for teacher evaluations," AUSD stated in its press release announcing the tentative agreement.

AEA members and AUSD's board of trustees will now vote on whether to ratify the agreement. Union members will vote from June 8 to June 11. The trustees will vote whether to ratify the agreement at its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 23.

"I am grateful we were able to come to this agreement with our teachers," said AUSD Superintendent Sean McPhetridge.

"I want to thank the AEA bargaining team and executive board for all of their hard work on behalf of our members," said AEA President Audrey Hyman. "I believe these negotiations mark a turning point for the union's relationship with the district and I look forward to continuing the spirit of collaboration that has begun between both parties this year."

Hyman called this "a banner moment for AEA." It marks the first time in more than a decade that both sides have been able to come to a tentative agreement before the current contract expired.

Council Considers Police Body Cameras

Michele Ellison
The Alameda

The City Council took up the issue of body cameras for the Alameda Police Department (APD) on Tuesday. Councilmembers also discussed access to a system that store the video the cameras record.

APD Chief Paul J. Roller is asking the city to spend \$424,752.61. APD plans to pay for the cameras using state grant money and unspent funds from its current-year budget.

The money would pay for 80 AXON Flex cameras made by Taser International, as well as use of the company's secure servers for storage and management. The contract would be in effect for five years.

In a report to the Council, Roller said officers who tested the cameras found they could help resolve criminal cases without a trial. The camera would also help make subjects more compliant and reduce complaints against officers. Studies of departments that use the cameras showed a reduction of use-of-force incidents and complaints against officers. They also helped reduce lawsuits and overtime costs associated with officers having to spend time in court, Roller said.

A rash of officer-involved shootings in cities across the country has prompted calls for officers to begin wearing the cameras to record interactions with police, and on May 1, the federal government announced a grant program that could help a handful of departments cover some of their cost.

The International Association of Police Chiefs has sanctioned officers' use of the cameras; a recent study published in the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* based on a randomized trial found that officers using the cameras documented half the number of force incidents as those who didn't and had only a tenth of the number of personnel complaints.

But even proponents note that the cameras could raise concerns about privacy and about how the information they capture will be shared with the public.

Roller said the department is drafting a policy that will address this and other issues.

Alameda police have used digital audio recorders since 2006, and the department has been testing different digital cameras since 2012. In his report, Roller said the cameras the department wants to buy are smaller than other models officers tested, and can be worn on an officer's head to offer video from his or her point of view. The company's storage web-

site shows a camera attached to the side of a pair of glasses.

The cameras are continually recording and will capture 30 seconds of video before an officer turns them on, the staff report to City Council says. The video is uploaded directly to Taser's cloud-based storage system, its website says.

If approved, the cameras, which are one of several tools the department wants to implement to reduce and better track its use of force in the field, could be in use by the end of the summer, Roller said.

A spate of deadly police shootings in cities across the country — and the city's recent settlement of an excessive force case here at home — have prompted questions about when and how police use force.

In a recent interview with the Alameda, Roller said that he sees the cameras as a way to reduce officers' use of force.

"More often than not, (the cameras are) going to be able to show the public in certain circumstances when officers are acting professionally versus not professionally," he said. "People have a tendency to check themselves when they are being taped."

Alameda police used force during one out of every hundred arrests between 2010 and 2014, data provided by the department show. And the department's chief said that it has systems in place to train and guide officers in their use of force and to monitor whether officers used too much force during a call.

"Use of force is not something that is casually looked upon at the police department," Roller said. "There's a huge responsibility that goes with the powers that we're given. We don't take that lightly."

"People have a tendency to check themselves when they are being taped."

— APD Chief Paul Roller

Still, he said, officers need to be given the discretion to decide whether force is needed and if so, what type is needed, to overcome resistance and control situations that could result in injuries to the officer or a member of the public.

"There are certain things that you try to do on every arrest. But when you're talking about the decision to use force, every single call is different," Roller said.

Roller said Alameda police rely on everything from their physical presence and verbal commands to control holds like wrist locks, striking a suspect and use of a baton or pepper spray. The department's policy also authorizes trained officers to use pain-compliance techniques and a carotid control hold, which slows blood flow to the brain and can temporarily knock an aggressive suspect out. Alameda's officers get quarterly, in-house training on defensive tactics.

Of the 34 use of force incidents reported in 2014, for example, 20 involved a control hold; 17, physical contact like a strike or kick; eight involved baton strikes; four, dogs; two, pepper spray; and one, a carotid hold. Data offered by the department show (officers may use more than one method to control a subject during a single call). The department's officers haven't fired a shot at an arrest subject in five years, the data show.

Alameda's policy requires an officer's supervisor to report

CAMERAS: Page 2

News in Brief

Sun Staff Reports

Donate to Sweeney Park When Shopping Online

The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate an amount equal to .5 percent of the purchase price to the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Fund (JSOSPF) when you buy selected items from <http://smile.amazon.com>. The donation doesn't cost anything extra.

When you make your purchase simply select "JSOSPF" as the nonprofit you want to receive your donation. The fund is a 501c3 charity that provides funding assistance to the Alameda Recreation and Parks Department for the creation of Jean Sweeney Open Space Park.

Power Rate Hike Up for Discussion

The Public Utilities Board (PUB) will vote on whether to increase Alameda Municipal Power's (AMP) electric rates on residential and commercial customers at its Monday, June 15, meeting.

If the measure is approved, electric rates in the city will increase by an average of 4.56 percent and will take effect on July 1. AMP officials proposed the rate increase at the April 20 PUB meeting. The new rates are designed to meet the rising power costs, the increased operating expenses and the lower electricity demand.

The percentage of the increase will vary depending on the customer's rate class. Small commercial customers on the A-1 scale will see

a 6.4 percent increase, while customers on the A-2 scale would see a three percent increase. However, large commercial customers on the A-3 scale will see a 6.2 percent increase.

The board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the City Council Chambers in City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Ave., and is open to the public. To learn more about the proposed increases, visit www.alamedaamp.com.

Auto Service Shop Closes after 47 years

A fixture at the corner of Grand Street and Buena Vista Avenue since 1968, Whitmore's Auto Services announced it has closed for business. The combined auto shop and U-Haul rental business is well known to neighbors and residents.

"Hate to see the place go," stated Barbara Archibeque in an email. "I always knew and fully trusted he would take care of my cars. What was even better is we live close enough to push our car there if needed."

In recent years Louis Whitmore ran the family business, located across the street from the city's planned Emergency Operations Center and Fire Station No. 3. Prior to 1968, the business operated from the corner of Oak Street and Lincoln Avenue.

Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal Named

The Mayor's Fourth of July Parade committee recently

announced Richard Bartalini will serve as the parade's Grand Marshal for 2015.

Bartalini has given more than 25 years of service to the local community. He has been a deputy district attorney of Alameda County, as well as a judge in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. He serves as an attorney and counselor of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Bartalini has been a strong supporter of Alameda schools and is the past president of the Alameda Unified School District. He served as chair of the Alameda Housing Authority and board president of both the Alameda Boys and Girls Club and Kiwanis Club of Alameda. He represented Alameda regionally and nationally, serving as one of the national directors for the Jaycees.

In 2014 Bartalini received the first City of Alameda Lifetime Achievement Award.

Meeting on Central Avenue Project is Tonight

Public Works will host a second community workshop tonight on the Central Avenue Complete Street Concept Proposal, which affects the area between Pacific Avenue and Sherman Street/Encinal Avenue.

The workshop will be held tonight, Thursday, June 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Encinal High School's cafeteria at 210 Central Ave. A third community workshop is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, write gpayne@alamedaca.gov.



Ed Jay Photography

Ralph Appezato Charity Event invites runners and walkers on a five-kilometer trek along the parade route on July 4.

Sign Up to R.A.C.E.

Sun Staff Reports

It's time to sign up for this year's Ralph Appezato Charity Event (R.A.C.E.), which takes place just before the Fourth of July Parade, Saturday, July 4.

The first 300 to register will receive free race T-shirts. Last year more than 550 runners and walkers participated in the event. This year Mayor Trish Spencer will be one of the participants.

The top-three men and top-three women in four age categories — 18 and under; 19 to 35; 36 to 49; and 50-plus. The race is a five-kilometer (3.1 mile) run/walk through Alameda.

Tickets are \$25 for adults (\$30 the day of the race) and \$15 for youth 18 and under. Sign up online at www.alamedarace.com or register by mail at Alameda RACE, Island City Runners, P.O. Box 1493, Alameda, CA 94501.

Proceeds benefit the Alameda Midway Shelter for abused and homeless women and children.