



## City of Alameda Announces 4th of July Parade Winners

### Sun Staff Reports

The City of Alameda held an award ceremony for the list of Fourth of July Parade ("Alamedans, Bay Area Residents Enjoy Island Parade After COVID Pause," July 5) winners on Thursday, July 21. Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft presented the winners with a trophy at the event. Alameda Recreation and Parks Manager Pat Russi and Director Amy Woolridge also attended the event. Winners were selected by a panel of judges.

First, second, and third place awards were presented to participants in six categories: Business, Community/Neighborhood, Green Power, Live Music, Movement, and Nonprofit.

Whisk Cake Creations won first place in the Business float category. Tomorrow Youth Repertory won first place in the Community/Neighborhood category. Cargo Bike Brigade won first place in the Green Power category and won the top prize, the Mayor's Trophy. Other first-place floats include Encinal High School Soarin' Jets Band (Live Music), Alameda Vipers AAU Basketball Club (Movement) and Alameda Arts (Nonprofit).

The city presented awards to equestrian riders at the parade. Awards were also presented to the City of Alameda Parade Grand Marshals, Christine Chilcott, Al Mance, Cheryl Taylor, and Jolene Wright, the four members of Alameda's Police Reform and Racial Equity Steering Committee.

Here is the complete list of winners:

- Business**  
**First Place:** Whisk Cake Creations  
**Second Place:** Alameda Theatre & Cinema Grill  
**Third Place:** Alameda Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics
- Community/Neighborhood**  
**First Place:** Tomorrow Youth Repertory



Ekene Ikeme

The Alameda Vipers AAU basketball float at the Alameda Fourth of July Parade.

**Second Place:** Alameda: Mr. Rodgers Favorite Neighborhood!  
**Third Place:** Hello Yellow Tow Truck

**Green Power**  
**First Place:** Cargo Bike Brigade (Mayor's Trophy winner)

**Second Place:** Westside Joe's Bikes  
**Third Place:** Alameda Scouts BSA

**Live Music**  
**First Place:** Encinal High School Soarin' Jets Band  
**Second Place:** Academy of Alameda Band  
**Third Place:** Island City Sound

**Movement**  
**First Place:** Alameda Vipers AAU Basketball Club  
**Second Place:** O Kalani Outrigger Canoe Club  
**Third Place:** Freak Truck

**Nonprofit**  
**First Place:** Alameda Arts  
**Second Place:** West Alameda Business Association  
**Third Place:** Korean Traditional Costumes Parade

**Equestrian categories:**  
**Mounted Group Open**  
**First Place:** Los Amigos Vaqueros



Cathy Vital and Kim Deleon via Alameda Vipers Instagram Page

Alameda Vipers coaches and players pose with Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft after winning the Fourth of July Parade Float Movement award.

**Mounted Posse**  
**First Place:** Alameda County Sheriff's Mounted Posse

**Charro/Cherra Mounted Group**  
**First Place:** Hayward Hills Charros  
**Second Place:** Diablo Roofing Inc.

**Vaquero Working Open**  
**First Place:** Otaez Mexican Restaurant

## Mayor on Mental Health Hotline, City Hall Landscaping and COVID-19 Update

### Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

9-8-8 & the City of Alameda CARE Team: A new nationwide 24/7 phone number for suicide prevention and crisis support was recently introduced: 9-8-8 is a new, easier to remember number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, but the Lifeline's previous number, 1-800-273-8255 will remain available.

9-8-8 callers will first hear an automated greeting with options to select the Veterans Lifeline, Spanish language Lifeline, or remain on the line for English language services. The Lifeline also provides interpretation services in over 250 additional languages.

You'll be connected to a trained crisis line counselor who will provide emotional support, a safety assessment, and safety planning. Their goal is to provide every caller the support and de-escalation needed and make referrals to appropriate available resources. Crisis line counselors will ask where a caller is located and, once they believe an individual is stabilized, most crisis call center counselors will attempt to provide the caller with the phone number of their closest call center.

However, the 9-8-8 system doesn't currently have geolocation capabilities, i.e., the ability to identify a caller's physical location, but relies solely on area code information. In Alameda County, 9-8-8 callers with 510 or 341 area code numbers will be routed to Crisis Support Services of Alameda County (CSS). You can also call



file photo

CSS directly at 1-800-309-2131.

If 988 counselors feel they're not able to deescalate a caller who continues to be a threat to themselves or others, they will call the local 9-1-1 number to request a law enforcement welfare check.

In the City of Alameda, calling 9-1-1 will activate the city's CARE Team, our community-dedicated 24/7 mental health crisis response team for those experiencing a mental health emergency. Specially trained Alameda Fire Department EMT/paramedics, in consultation with mental health professionals from Alameda Family Services (AFS), would provide assistance. AFS also provides case management follow-up for clients after the initial call.

9-8-8 is an excellent option for anyone experiencing suicidal thoughts. **MAYOR:** Page 10

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 News: (510) 263-1470  
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 Fax: (510) 263-1473

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**Alameda Sun Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	6:09	20:22
July 29	6:10	20:21
July 30	6:11	20:20
July 31	6:12	20:20
Aug. 1	6:12	20:19
Aug. 2	6:13	20:18
Aug. 3	6:14	20:17



Alameda Fire Department

Alameda firefighters try to extinguish a commercial fire on West Ranger Avenue late Monday afternoon.

## Commercial Fire at Alameda Point

### Sun Staff Reports

Alameda Fire Department (AFD) were called to Alameda Point to extinguish a blaze late afternoon on Monday, July 25.

AFD personnel received calls of a greater alarm commercial fire on the 600 block of West Ranger Ave. As of 5 p.m. on Monday, AFD firefighters were engaged in a defensive fire attack in a large commercial dwelling, according to AFD. No other structures were immediately threatened and there were no reported injuries to community members

or firefighters as of 5 p.m. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Oakland Fire Department personnel is providing mutual aid at the scene. Alameda fire stations are being covered by Alameda County Fire Department personnel.

Alameda residents were asked to avoid the area if they can. Nearby residents were asked to close their windows to limit exposure and stay inside if they noticed irritating smoke.

AFD said they will provide more updates when available.

## WETA Seeks Public Input on Future Improvements

### Sun Staff Reports

The Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) and the San Francisco Bay Ferry is seeking input from Alameda residents on its ferry service. WETA has a new collaborative planning effort underway called Bay Ferry 2050. This effort is a unique opportunity to re-imagine water transit and address emerging priorities concerning the environment, mobility, accessibility, equity, economic development, emergency response, and quality of life throughout the Bay Area.

The plan will include the level of service and extent of WETA ferry operations and emergency response, according to the Bay Ferry 2050 website. Currently, WETA is in Phase 2 of the plan. This includes the Service Vision development. This "Service Vision" informs how WETA operates in the future and what changes will need to be made to get there. The vision will serve as the foundation of WETA's Business Plan, which will present the specific strategies and actions required to achieve the 2050 Service Vision. Strategies and goals are divided across six focus areas: Regional ferry net-

work, emergency response, environmental stewardship, community connections, organizational capacity, and financial capacity.

A part of Phase 2 is collecting feedback from the community in the form of a quick priorities poll. In the poll, participants are asked a range of questions from "How often do you use the ferry?" to "How should [WETA] prioritize expanding ferry service?"

Phase 2 is scheduled to be completed in November. Phase 3 will see a draft business plan developed and the implementation of that plan.

To take part in the quick priorities poll, visit [www.bayferry2050.org/embeds/projects/15818/survey-tools/13351](http://www.bayferry2050.org/embeds/projects/15818/survey-tools/13351). To learn more about the Bay Ferry 2050 plan, visit [www.bayferry2050.org](http://www.bayferry2050.org). The San Francisco Bay Ferry Service handles the Seaplane Lagoon, Harbor Bay and Oakland & Alameda ferry services.

In other ferry news, WETA



launched a new integrated ticketing system and smartphone app for San Francisco Bay Ferry on July 19 to improve and streamline the fare payment system for passengers. According to WETA, the app, available on iPhone and Android, was built on Hornblower Cruises' Anchor platform.

The ticketing system allows passengers to purchase ferry tickets for regular service as well as special event service to Oracle Park and Chase Center right from their smartphones in the new San Francisco Bay Ferry app or San Francisco Bay Ferry's website at [www.sanfranciscobayferry.com](http://www.sanfranciscobayferry.com). Anchor now powers the ferry system's paper ticket system as well.

## Gun Violence Vigil Held in Alameda

### Mae Spiegel



Mae Spiegel

Vigil attendees lay flowers down at the altar site next to the Chochenyo Park gazebo to pay homage to victims of gun violence.

On Saturday, July 23, members of Youth Activist of Alameda (YAOA) held a vigil for victims of gun violence in America and to provide a space for the local community to grieve following the mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas and Buffalo, New York, and the murder of Jayland Walker. The event was organized by YAOA members Raquel Williams and Vinny Camarillo.

The vigil began with a moment of silence, followed by a libation ceremony led by Ms. Robbie. The event organizers shared the poem "Nineteen & Two" by Los Angeles-based poet Sofia Aguilar. The poem begins, "I am mourning 19 children I never knew". Peter and Wendy Horikoshi performed a cover of "For What It's Worth" by Buffalo Springfield.

The vigil closed with a candle lighting and flowers were distributed to be laid upon the altar — a space reserved for people to leave flowers and messages to honor those that lost their lives to gun violence. The altar will stay up at the Chochenyo Park gazebo for the next month.

YAOA is a youth-led organization that strives for social justice in Alameda, starting with racial inequality and police reform. To learn more about YAOA, visit <https://youthactivistsofalameda.carrd.co>.

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