

COVID Testing Site Shuttered

Ekene Ikeme

After reports of confusion and setbacks, the COVID-19 testing site in Alameda conducted by CityHealth Urgent Care has been permanently shut down.

The free testing site, located at 300 Wind River Way at The Research Park inside Marina Village, was closed on July 31, according to Alameda City Manager Eric Levitt. Levitt said he is unsure why the site closed, but said the City withdrew support for the project.

"That support was withdrawn when certain protocol concerns from Alameda County were brought to our attention," wrote Levitt in an email.

The Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) sent a letter to CityHealth CEO Sean Parkin admonishing them for improper protocols they witnessed at the former site. ACPHD listed five violations County representatives observed during visits to the testing site.

First, CityHealth staff did not follow proper infection control procedures. ACPHD said they witnessed staff not keeping proper distance from one another and not changing gloves in between testing different individuals.

Second, CityHealth did not provide a safe environment for testing participants. ACPHD reported testing individuals were not kept six feet apart and several individuals were not wearing a face mask.

Third, CityHealth failed to provide individuals with information on isolating and quarantining even after County staff delivered materials for distribution.

Fourth, CityHealth failed to report test results through the state Electronic Laboratory Reporting system to ACPHD (or the health jurisdiction of the patient's residence) as required by law.

Lastly, CityHealth used an inadequate testing procedure to gather individual's COVID-19 results. ACPHD said CityHealth used an antigen test instead of a molecular test.

The letter stated due to the lower sensitivity of antigen tests relative to molecular tests, "antigen tests should only be considered for use in situations where a positive result would indicate immediate, specific clinical action." It went on to say that antigen tests should not be used for the "screening of asymptomatic individuals; screening of healthcare workers, emergency responders and other essential personnel; and testing of underserved or marginalized populations where access to testing is limited."

Antigen tests produce more false negative results due to their low sensitivity, and false positive results when the disease prevalence is low than molecular tests, according to the Association of Public Health Laboratories. The Center of Disease Control and Prevention recommends

the use of rapid antigen tests only to inform treatment decisions (i.e., prescription of antivirals), aid in ongoing outbreak investigations or to direct infection control actions.

The rapid antigen test is cheaper and gets faster results. ACPHD did not say when representatives visited the site.

The testing site originally opened on July 22. It was planned to be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week until September 22. CityHealth said it would administer 500 tests a day and individuals would be given test results within 15 minutes. However, the site temporarily closed on July 23 after CityHealth said it administered more than 1,000 tests on the first day causing a backlog ("COVID-19 Testing" July 28). There was also a problem with CityHealth using individuals' health insurance on the first day. CityHealth billed individual's health insurance companies. Those without insurance had their bill paid for by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The site transitioned from a walk-in testing format to an appointment-only format as of July 24, according to the CityHealth website. But appointment booking on the CityHealth website was deactivated as of July 28.

The City has not formally announced that the site has closed. To view a list of COVID-19 test sites in Alameda County, visit <https://covid-19.acgov.org/testing.page>.



Courtesy APD

This still from a nearby surveillance video shows a juvenile firing a weapon near Park Street last week.

APD Responded to Pair of Shootings Last Week

Ekene Ikeme

Washington Park

The Alameda Police Department (APD) responded to two shooting incidents in consecutive days last week resulting in three arrests and two people being treated for gunshot wounds.

The first shooting occurred Thursday, Aug. 6. APD received a call at 9:16 p.m. of a reported shooting at Lower Washington Park. APD officers arrived at the park to conduct an area search, but could not locate the victim or the suspect, according to an APD report.

Shortly after, APD received a call from a local hospital that a gunshot victim was in their care, according to reports. Additional officers went to the hospital to speak with the victim. Officers confirmed that the individual was the victim of a shooting at Lower Washington Park and determined the victim's injuries were serious but non-life threatening.

Officers at the scene of the crime were able to locate evidence that a shooting did occur at Lower Washington Park. Police believe the shooting took place near the picnic tables, just behind the baseball field, between 5 and 9 p.m.

APD has not made an arrest in the shooting and are still searching for more evidence. They ask anyone with knowledge of the incident or the identity of the suspect

to come forward and call APD Sgt. Alan Kuboyama at 337-8538.

Downtown

The second shooting took place Friday, Aug. 7, a few minutes past noon, outside the Airloom Deluxe apparel store at 2322 Santa Clara Avenue in downtown Alameda, just a block away from APD. Officers were notified of a shooting involving juvenile boys. A surveillance camera from a barbershop next door captured the incident. The video has been made public.

In the video, two male teens were waiting in line in front of Airloom when they were approached by a group of five male teens and an argument ensued. Quickly thereafter the two teens pulled out firearms but did not appear to fire their weapons initially.

One of the teens, wearing a black hoodie and white baseball cap, escaped down Santa Clara toward Park Street. The other teen, wearing a yellow hoodie and black baseball cap, tried to run inside the Airloom store, but could not get in. Then a member of the other group pulled out what appeared to be an assault rifle and shot at the teen wearing the yellow hoodie. The rest of his group ran from the scene.

Surveillance footage appears to show the teen in the yellow hoodie return fire. There were several

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Witnesses said they heard between 20 and 30 shots.



Dennis Evanosky

Webster Gets Makeover

Dennis Evanosky

The city recently restriped and reconditioned Webster Street to better accommodate shopping and dining. Tenants in the Stier's Building on the 1400 block converted parking spaces in front of their businesses. Read more in the West End section on page 9.

Local Death

Carol Wallace

Carol Wallace did not wear jewelry, but she did wear a delicate gold necklace that held a single charm in the shape of a swimmer, given to her by a child she had coached. Those who loved her recall a woman who was "honestly the greatest person that I have ever met" and a person "who made a kid feel good about being a kid," and a "gracious lady who was inspirational." These might seem like exaggerated statements, but when it came to Carol, they spoke the truth. Carol's energy touched countless young Alamedans over a 50-plus year career.



This means that if you lived in Alameda between 1960 and 2010, and your feet touched the water of any one of Alameda's private and public pools, then chances are you knew "Coach Carol". Carol courageously left this world for a better one on Tuesday, July 28th, after a long and fiercely fought battle with ovarian cancer. She was 81 years-old.

Born at Alameda Hospital on March 17, 1939, with the luck of the Irish, Carol was the daughter of Sarah (Sally) Krusi Pollard and

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Caught in the Act

Sun Staff Reports

The Alameda Police Department (APD) is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the two individuals (pictured here) involved in the Thursday, Aug. 6, burglary of Monkey

King and The Hobnob restaurants on the 1300 block of Park Street.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call APD's Detective Park at (510) 337-8559 and reference case #20-03351.

Alameda Peeps has organized a Cash Mob for today, Thursday, Aug. 13, to help the victims. Learn more at <https://facebook.com/events/s/we-3-hobnob-cash-mob/407345666908294/?ti=cl>

Meet 'Sweet 16'

This colorized postcard depicts legendary aerial photographer Clyde Sunderland's snapshot of the China Clipper as it flew over San Francisco. Pan American personnel called the plane "Sweet 16" after its registration number NC14716. Read about the plane and its first home base now buried under the runway at the former Naval Air Station in town.



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INSIDE

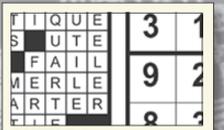


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Poet Laureate shares view on this unusual school year.



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A fresh batch of the usual puzzles to conquer this week.



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New seed library open on San Jose Avenue.

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Aug. 14	6:24	20:04
Aug. 15	6:25	20:02
Aug. 16	6:26	20:01
Aug. 17	6:26	20:00
Aug. 18	6:27	19:59
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