



## CRIME BRIEFS

### Sun Staff Reports

#### Police Arrest Gas Thief

An Alameda woman was arrested last week for attempting to steal gas from a parked vehicle.

According to Alameda Police Department (APD) reports, on Monday, August 22, police officers responded to the 1700 block of Second Street just after 1:30 a.m., for the report of “sawing” noises coming from parked cars. APD officers located a woman who had drilled a hole into a fuel tank to siphon gas.

According to the APD’s daily activity log, the suspect, Qulee Helm, 38, was charged with theft from a vehicle, vandalism, an outside warrant and child endangerment. Helm is currently not being held at San Rita Jail, according to the Alameda County Inmate Locator database.

APD has been actively conducting operations to address various car-related crimes impacting Alameda residents. In the past week, officers have interrupted an in-progress catalytic converter theft, arrested an individual in connection with a stolen vehicle, located and returned several stolen cars, and removed burglary tools from our streets.

Here are a few things you can do to help minimize your chances of being victimized:

- Avoid parking in secluded and poorly lit areas.

- Install an anti-theft device on your catalytic converter.
- Install vehicle recovery systems to track your car’s movements.
- Keep your valuables out of sight.

#### Man Arrested for Target Store Thefts

A man has been arrested in connection with a string of Bay Area grand thefts.

According to APD, between April and August this year, the Target store in Alameda experienced a series of grand thefts totaling more than \$20,000 in stolen merchandise. All of these incidents had a similar suspect and Modus Operandi. In May, one of these incidents was investigated during APD’s tweet-along. After working with several Bay Area law enforcement agencies, Target’s Loss Prevention Officers, and the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office, a 47-year-old Berkeley man was identified as the suspect. The man has been linked to multiple Bay Area grand theft cases, including the Alameda incidents. Last month, the individual was taken into custody in the City of San Leandro. His name is being withheld.

“We look forward to closing more cases as we continue to work with other agencies and Alameda retailers to address concerns related to theft,” wrote APD in a social media post regarding the case.

## Alameda Point Collaborative Awarded Grant Funding for Respite Center

### Ekene Ikeme

The California Department of Social Services awarded Alameda Point Collaborative (APC) \$15 million as part of its California Community Care Expansion (CCE) Program grant. The announcement was made Wednesday, August 24.

APC will use the CCE grant to finance the development of the 50-bed medical respite center and health clinic at the Alameda Wellness Campus (AWC) on McKay Avenue. APC’s plan to convert the site that housed the former United States Maritime Service Officers’ School into the Alameda Wellness Campus was a perfect match for the grant program’s criteria. Per the program, qualified grantees “shall administer projects for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of property to be operated as residential adult and senior care facilities, or to promote the sustainability of existing licensed residential adult and senior care facilities through the provision of capitalized operating subsidy reserves.”

The medical respite center will provide recuperative care stays with onsite medical and behavioral health care for an estimated 400 unsheltered Alameda County residents yearly.

APC Executive Director Doug Biggs said Alameda County officials asked APC to apply for the grant. “This grant reinforces the commitment from the city, county, state and federal government for making this project happen,” said Biggs. “It will be a huge benefit to the county.”

Alameda Wellness Campus Project Director Bonnie Wolf believes the state awarded APC the grant because of the depth of the



Alameda Wellness Center

Alameda Point Collaborative has received a \$15 million grant that will be used to finance construction costs for the medical respite center at the Alameda Wellness Campus.

project’s goals.

“I think the state felt excited to be partnering on this innovative and exciting housing project in Alameda County,” said Wolf.

Wolf said APC and the state are in ongoing discussions to decide when APC will receive the grant funds and how the funding will be used. Biggs said it should take several months for APC to receive the CCE grant. Biggs said receiving the grant comes with oversight from the state. The state will require APC to work with certain county services in the construction and operation of the medical respite center.

Even with the CCE grant, APC has not reached its funding allocation goals yet but has moved into the final phase of their capital funding campaign. The organization will now turn to private foundations to reach its final monetary goal, according to Biggs. Even though inflation has made raising funds more difficult, Biggs seemed confident APC will meet its goal.

— Bonnie Wolf  
Alameda Wellness Campus  
Project Director

This is the second \$15 million grant APC has received for the campus. Last year, APC received a \$15 million grant from the State of California (“McKay Avenue Wellness Center Receives \$15 Million From State

of California,” July 29, 2021). The campus has also received \$250,000 from Anthem, \$690,000 from Alameda County for predevelopment efforts, a \$5 million fund from Kaiser and more (“Council Decides on New Wellness Center,” Jan. 10, 2019).

The campus was first announced in 2018 after the Federal government declared the 3.65-acre site on McKay Avenue was surplus land and they would convey the property to APC if it was used to address homelessness in Alameda County. In the years since APC announced its development plans, they have faced opposition from Alameda community groups.

Friends of Crab Cove — the campus is adjacent to the Crab Cove Visitor Center — acquired enough signatures to place a measure on the April 9, 2019, special election ballot

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## State Review Finds Alameda’s Draft Housing Element in Compliance

### Sun Staff Reports

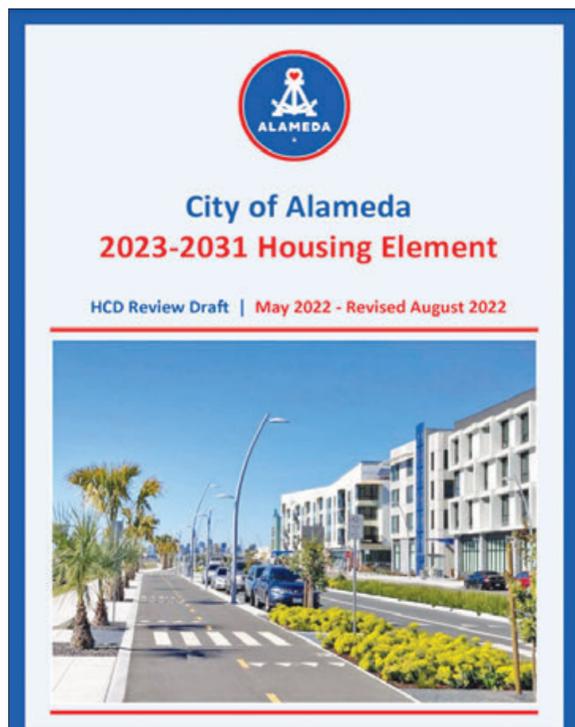
On August 25, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) notified the City of Alameda that its draft General Plan Housing Element is in substantial compliance with State Housing Element Law.

In a letter addressed to Andrew Thomas, City of Alameda Director of Planning, Building and Transportation Department, the HCD thanked the city for submitting their draft Housing Element and draft housing revisions. They also applauded the city’s leadership for taking significant steps forward to affirmatively further fair housing and accommodate the future housing needs of all segments of the community.

“The positive response to the draft Housing Element from the State of California is a reflection and validation of the hundreds of hours that the Alameda Planning Board and the Alameda community put into creating a plan that carefully balances the requirements of State Housing Law with local goals and preferences as to where and how to build housing in Alameda over the next eight years,” said Thomas. “It is quite an achievement.”

HCD is anticipated to certify the Housing Element pending the City Council’s adoption of the plan and key programs by January 31, 2023. Before the certification, the city must complete numerous zoning actions to accommodate the regional housing need allocation (RHNA), including lower-income households to facilitate and encourage a variety of housing types. The zoning actions will allow the development of housing units and/or more housing units at Alameda Point, shopping centers, commercial transit corridors, residential districts and large sites and multifamily districts, according to the letter from HCD Senior Program Manager Paul McDougall.

In its review of the city’s housing plan, HCD said it has also considered comments from the Alameda Housing Element Working Group, Alameda Architectural Preservation Society, Alameda Citizens Task Force and Alameda resident Paul S. Foreman. They



City of Alameda

The City of Alameda draft Housing Element was declared in compliance by the state of California.

also considered the city’s written response to Foreman’s public comment. HCD urged the city to continue to engage with the public in finalizing the Housing Element.

“Public participation in the development, adoption and implementation of the housing element is essential to effective housing planning,” wrote McDougall. “The city must continue to engage the community, including organizations that represent lower-income and special needs households.”

City staff has conducted numerous discussions with Alameda residents about housing this year. A May 24 public forum at the Jim’s on the Course at the Chuck Corica Complex on Bay Farm Island turned contentious when about 200 residents voiced their displeasure about the city’s housing development plan with Thomas who was the speaker at the event (“A Conversation About Housing with Andrew Thomas,” June 2).

The Housing Element is an eight-year plan (2023-2031) to help the city advance its goals of meeting the housing needs of current and future Alameda residents and providing fair housing options for all.

The plan was developed in collaboration with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders, and provides the city with a roadmap to increase housing production to meet the projected demand by the Association of Bay Area Governments of 5,353 new housing units. The plan will also increase housing affordability, improve housing conditions, and facilitate the development of housing for all income levels and household types, according to a statement from the City of Alameda.

The draft Housing Element that was shared with HCD will be presented to the Alameda Planning Board at its Sept. 12 meeting. To learn more, visit [www.alameda2040.org](http://www.alameda2040.org).

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Betty Young

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### FUN IN THE SUM

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Sharpen your pencils and your wits with this week’s puzzles.

### Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	6:45	19:18
Sept. 2	6:46	19:17
Sept. 3	6:46	19:15
Sept. 4	6:47	19:14
Sept. 5	6:48	19:12
Sept. 6	6:49	19:11
Sept. 7	6:50	19:09



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