

Dorothy Freeman

Alameda youth spread dirt around the Monarch Butterfly habitat as part of the volunteer park beautification program, Operation Green Sweep, this summer.

Community Pitches in to Create Butterfly Garden

Sun Staff Reports

Volunteers from Jean Sweeney Park Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Alameda and the Alameda Rotary Club planted 31 California native plants to attract Monarch butterflies to the open space park Saturday, Aug. 21.

The group placed nectar plants in the newly established butterfly habitat along the Sherman Street entrance to the park. Nectar plants provide nourishment for Monarch Butterflies. The next step will be to grow milkweed plants which is the only source of food for the Monarch caterpillar. There are also

plans to install a small telescope at the perimeter so children can see the development of the butterflies from larvae to maturity.

Jean Sweeney Park will now be able to register with the Monarch Waystation Program, which was established in 2005 to provide information about how to create habitats for monarchs.

The Alameda Recreation and Parks Department (ARPD), board members of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park Fund and the Alameda community all contributed to create the Monarch Butterfly habitat. Dorothy Freeman, board director of

the Jean Sweeney Park Foundation, proposed and researched the project, including which plants to grow and their distribution around the space by mature height.

The habitat would not have been built as fast without the help from ARPD staff. ARPD provided information about how to create habitats for monarchs.

The drip irrigation system is vital to ensure the habitat's viability. The irrigation system was built by ARPD staff and 30 tweens and teens as part of the

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Park Workers, District Reach Agreement

Ekene Ikeme

East Bay Regional Park District (EBPRD) workers will receive salary increases that will be on par with the median salary of similar Bay Area public agency employees after reaching an agreement with the EBPRD Board of Directors.

The new agreement was reached on Aug. 31 after eight months of negotiating, according to a press release from the People for East Bay Park Workers. Park workers voted to ratify the new contract on Sept. 1.

"By coming together, we've won an historic agreement to bring respect and fair pay to 600 hard-working people who proudly keep East Bay Parks clean, safe and open for all to enjoy," said Chris Newey, who works as a park supervisor at Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area in El Sobrante.

Newey is also the president of the EBPRD workers' union, AFSCME 2428. Park employees still worked while their previous deal expired months ago.

The deal calls for EBPRD's workers to see a significant pay raise. For example, park rangers will get a 5.75 percent salary increase per year and more than 17 percent over the course of the three-year contract. Some Park rangers will get an additional \$500 a month starting in November. The total value for the three-year agreement is more than \$29 million over the contract's duration, according to a press release.

"This is not only good for park workers, it's also good for our communities," said Ross Mitchell, who works with underserved youth at Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park in Oakland. "More money in the



East Bay Park Workers

Anja Brey, water-quality professional for the East Bay Regional Park District, is among the employees benefiting from the agreement reached on Tuesday.

pockets of workers means more spending at small businesses, lifting up our local economies."

The new deal comes after workers threatened to strike, which could have impacted Labor Day Weekend festivities at the park district's 73 parks. Park employees were scheduled to hold a strike vote last weekend ("Park District Workers Vote on Strike," Aug. 26). However, at an emergency district board meeting Thursday, Aug. 26, board members presented park workers with a new proposal, breaking the current impasse and returning both sides to the negotiating table. More than 250 park workers and supporters spoke during the meeting's public comment session,

dragging the meeting into the next morning. Park employees decided to suspend the strike vote while the two sides continued negotiating.

"We are grateful to the Park District's new management and the Park Board for their leadership," said Meadow D'Arcy, an administrative analyst for the parks. "They moved quickly and professionally to recognize the value of all of the people who make East Bay Parks the crown jewels of our region."

Park employees demanded the board raise their pay to meet the median wage levels of similar workers within the region. The union hired Ralph Andersen & Associates

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Feds Provide Rental Help

A visit to Corsair Flats and caution about the COVID-19 Delta variant

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

Good news for Alameda tenants and landlords! The U.S. Supreme Court recently ended the pandemic-related federal moratorium on residential evictions issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in September 2020 to slow the spread of COVID-19 and prevent homelessness.

However, Alameda renters can't be evicted for non-payment of rent owed through Sept. 30, if they've submitted a financial distress declaration to their landlords and paid 25% of rent owed since September 2020.

On Oct. 1, Alameda residential tenants must resume regular rent payments, but fortunately, rental assistance funding is available for income-eligible households and their landlords from the U.S. Treasury Department's Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and the State of California.

Alameda County administers these funds through the Alameda County Housing Secure Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ACHS-ERAP) which is accepting applications now.

These funds help income-eligible households pay rent (up to 12 months of past due rent, and up to 3 months of future rent) and utilities. Rent payments are distributed directly to landlords.

Tenants are encouraged to apply, but alternatively, landlords may apply on behalf of tenants who need assistance applying for funds. You may apply for



City of Alameda

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft

ACHS-ERAP funds even if you received funds from the City of Alameda's Emergency Rent Relief Program.

You're eligible to apply if one or more individuals in your household

■ Are residential tenants in Alameda County

■ Have qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19,

■ Can show a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability

■ Have a combined household income that is not more than 80 percent of the Bay Area median income: \$76,750 for a one-person household; \$87,700 for a two-person household; \$98,650 for a three-person household; \$109,600 for a four-person household). The combined household includes anyone who shares a rental obligation for the unit.

To help streamline the application process and accelerate

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News Briefs

Sun Staff Report

Libraries Open

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, all three Alameda Free Library locations will resume their full service hours. The community will once again have access to in-person services such as holds pickup at the branches, access to study rooms, computer drop-in assistance, computer courses, in-person programs for adults and teens, and limited children's in-person programming.

The Stafford Community Room, Dewey's Café, and in-person children's storytimes will be available at a later date. For the safety of staff and the public, a face mask covering the mouth and nose is required at all times for everyone two years old and older.

Library Locations & Hours:

■ Main Library: 1550 Oak Street, Mon-Tues: 12 to 8 p.m.; Wed: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thurs-Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun: 1 to 5 p.m.

■ West End Library: 788 Santa Clara Avenue, Mon: 12 to 8 p.m.; Tue & Wed: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thurs & Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fri & Sun: Closed

■ Bay Farm Island: 3221 Mecartney Road, Mon: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tue: 12 to 8 p.m.; Wed: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thurs & Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fri & Sun: Closed

Temple Israel's High Holy Days Services all online

Temple Israel, a Reform congregation, has announced, due to the Delta Variant, that it has moved its services to all online like last year.

In an Aug. 24th email to the community, the Board of Directors wrote, "With a heavy heart the Board of Directors and our clergy have decided to move our High Holiday Services to Zoom only (also streamed on Facebook). We considered several variations, but even if we kept the attendance down to 30 or less per service, we only have one set of restrooms, one lobby, and the threat of spread is just too great. In making this decision we looked also at what other congregations are doing, and they are also moving to streaming their services."

All services are free, but attendees must register in advance to receive the links to join. Visit templeisraelalameda.org/high-holy-days for schedule.

The High Holy Days begin with Erev Rosh Hashanah on Sept. 6, concluding on Sept. 16 with Yom Kippur. Services will be led by Rabbi Steven Chester and Cantor Amy Daniels. Youth services will be led by Jenn and Miriam Levine and the early childhood services by Melita Silberstein of Octopretzel fame.

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All the doings of Island safety & law personnel



FOOTBALL

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Both Alameda and Encinal high school win openers.



AUSD Briefing

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Superintendent Scuderi gives a snapshot of the district.



NOT 'VICTORIANS'

Era Homes Page 10
A quick guide to the local Victorian-Era style homes.

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Alameda Sun is a publication of Stellar Media Group, Inc. 3215J Encinal Ave. Alameda, CA 94501
Locally Owned, Community Oriented
News: (510) 263-1470
Ads: (510) 263-1471
Fax: (510) 263-1473

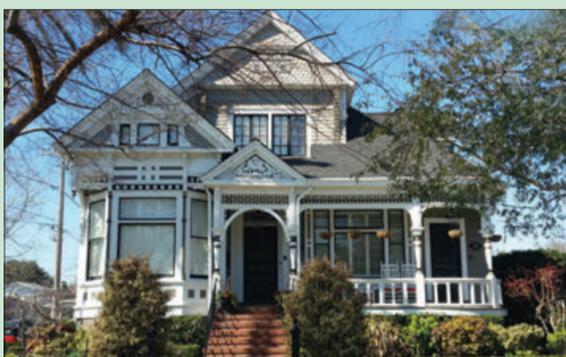
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Alameda Sun Almanac

Date	Rise	Set
Today	6:40	19:38
Sept. 00	6:41	19:36
Sept. 01	6:42	19:35
Sept. 02	6:42	19:33
Sept. 03	6:43	19:32
Sept. 04	6:44	19:30
Sept. 05	6:45	19:29

There Are No 'Victorians' in Alameda



There are homes built in seven Victorian-era styles. Each blossomed and faded during Queen Victoria's reign from 1837 to 1901. Alameda's examples begin with the Gothic Revival and end with the Craftsman styles. They include the Queen Anne, like the one on the left. Read more about this on page 10. Then join Dennis Evanovsky for a firsthand look at most of these styles. Meet Dennis at Franklin Park at 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 11.

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